Local History sources on the Internet

Prepared by Heather Arnold - Local History Librarian - Casey Cardinia Libraries
heather.arnold@cclc.vic.gov.au

Information

Victorian Places http://www.victorianplaces.com.au
This is a website containing the history of all the places in Victoria that have now or once had a population over 200 at any time since the establishment of Victoria as a colony. The project is a joint initiative of Monash University and the University of Queensland.

Encyclopeadia of Melbourne http://www.emelbourne.net.au/
The print volume of the *Encyclopedia of Melbourne* was published in 2005 by Cambridge University Press. The Encyclopedia is an A to Z reference work covering the city's history from pre-European settlement up to the present day. Alphabetical entries range from short factual summaries about places, institutions and events, through to extended survey articles on key topics such as Architecture, Aboriginal Melbourne, Economy, Foundation and Early Settlement, Law and Order, Literature, Science, Sport, Suburbia, Theatre and Transport. Although Australia has long ranked amongst the world's most urbanised countries, no comparable reference work exists on any Australian metropolis. The online Encyclopedia of Melbourne - eMelbourne - now contains the full text of the print volume, with additional text and digital resources.

Public Records Office of Victoria www.prov.vic.gov.au
Wills, Inquests, Rate books, land ownership records, education records and more. A small part of the collection is digitised. Start at Explore the Collection - https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-archives-topic

Historical Societies
List of Groups is on the Royal Historical Society of Victoria website https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/societies/ Historical Societies are a great source of information and photographs of places and often have material that is not digitised, so worth contacting in person.
Some Historical Societies have websites - here a few
- Emerald Museum and Nobelius Heritage Park www.emeraldmuseum.org.au
- Nepean Historical Society https://nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au/
- Port Melbourne Historical & Preservation Society https://www.pmhps.org.au/

Blogs and similar
- Casey Cardinia Links to Our Past https://caseycardinialinkstoourpast.blogspot.com/
- Koo Wee Rup Swamp History http://kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com/
- Odd Australian History http://www.oddhistory.com.au/
- Wyndham History - Werribee, Hoppers Crossing and surrounds http://www.wyndhamhistory.net.au/
- Wikinorthia - resources on the Northern suburbs https://wikinorthia.net.au/

Trove
Newspapers especially are a great source of information about people, places and organizations. https://trove.nla.gov.au/

State Library of Victoria www.slv.vic.gov.au
Has many digitised records such as Sands McDougall Directories from 1860 to 1974 at https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/search-discover/popular-digitised-collections These directories tell you address, occupations etc and you can search by location, name or street

Prahran Mechanics' Institute https://www.pmi.net.au/
Holds an extensive collection of local histories.

Electoral Rolls
Can be found on Ancestry (available free via your local Victorian Public Library)

Photographs
State Library of Victoria www.slv.vic.gov.au
Has thousands of photographs and maps digitized – either do a regular search via the Search box on the home page or else go to https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/search-discover 'Explore our digital image pool' and you can search for all the images that are out of Copyright.

Museums Victoria https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/articles/2876
The Biggest Family Album in Australia project was undertaken by Museum Victoria between 1985 and 1991. It resulted in the collection of copies of over 9,000 photographs from rural and regional Victoria dating from the 1890s to the 1940s. These photographs continue to be a resource for the entire community, appearing in education programs, history books, exhibitions, student projects, and community projects.

Public Records Office of Victoria www.prov.vic.gov.au
Has specific collections of photos
- Public Transport https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/photographs-and-film/public-transport-photo-collection
- 1956 Melbourne Olympics https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/photographs-and-film/melbourne-1956-olympics   Still in Copyright, so not down loadable.
- School buildings https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/school-photographs-1890-1993/digitised-photographs-school Mainly from 1880s and 1890s.
- Country Roads Board collection at https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/photographs-and-film/country-roads-board-photographic-collection
- They also have other photos – best searched for through a Beta search (top right hand corner of home page.

National Archives of Australia
https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/ Includes a large collection of Post Office photos and other Federal Government organizations

Trove   http://trove.nla.gov.au
Trove is an aggregator and collections photographs from other sites including the State Library of Victoria, National Library of Australia, Museums Victoria and many more.

Flickr www.flickr.com Lots of photos, not organised. Of interest -
- Graeme Butler - Heritage Consultant https://www.flickr.com/people/7849945@N02/
- Melbourne Heritage Action https://www.flickr.com/photos/melbourneheritageaction

Youtube www.youtube.com
You might find a relevant video, especially if you live in Melbourne –
This is a great one of the old Berwick airfield https://youtu.be/xgE-vXjGWw0
Dandenong in 1969 https://youtu.be/e6vj407oAVc

Railways
- Mark Bau http://www.victorianrailways.net/
- Weston Langford Railway photography http://www.westonlangford.com Not just trains and trams - also shows street scenes
- Museum Victoria https://museumsvictoria.com.au/railways/
- Public Records Office of Victoria https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/photographs-and-film/public-transport-photo-collection

Facebook – lots of historical Facebook pages – including
• Lost Melbourne, Lost Country Victoria, Lost Dandenongs, Lost Maryborough, Casey Cardinia Heritage, Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society, Ballarat History, Malvern Historical Society, Our Mallee Life, Fitzroy Historical society, History of St Albans, Gippsland History

Other
River and waterways related photos - the River Basement Management Society -
http://photos.rbms.com.au

Map and Plans
State Library of Victoria www.slv.vic.gov.au
  • Has Parish and township plans
  • Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) plans
    https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/search-discover/explore-collections-format/maps/maps-melbourne-city-suburbs/mmbw-plans
  • Street Directories from 1912 to 1952 https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/search-discover/popular-digitised-collections

Public Records Office of Victoria www.prov.vic.gov.au
Parish and township plans – Series VPRS 16171

Melbourne University Digitised Maps
https://digitised-collections.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/19

Melway – 1st edition
https://melwayed1.melway.com.au/

Victorian Railways Maps http://www.vrhistory.com/VRMaps/   Decade by decade look at the development of Victoria's railways.