

Where on the Net?

Presented by Lynne Bradley and Heather Arnold at the South Eastern Historical Association Seminar, 'Stuff you need to know 2', on July 29, 2018

This session is about free local and family history information on the Internet. We also looked at some free creative design tools - Canva and Gimp.

- **Family History Records**

- Wills and Probate - on-line from 1841 to 1925 at the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV) <https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/wills-and-probates>
- Inquests - on-line at PROV from 1840 to 1925 <https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/inquests-and-other-coronial-records/inquests-deaths-deposition>
- PROV also has lots of other resources - this is a good place to start <https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-archives-topic>
- Free Births, Deaths and Marriages - Victoria <https://online.justice.vic.gov.au/bdm/indexsearch.doj>
- For information on Births, Deaths and Marriages in other States read Kerry Farmer's guide *Handy guide: Births, Marriages and Deaths in Australia*. You can download it for \$3.95 at <https://www.gen-ebooks.com/unlock-the-past/australia.html>
- Ryerson Index - index to Australian Death notices published in newspapers <https://www.ryersonindex.org/>
- Cemeteries - access cemetery records and photos of graves
 - Billion Graves - <https://billiongraves.com/>
 - Find a grave - <https://www.findagrave.com/>
 - Australian Cemeteries <http://www.australiancemeteries.com.au/>
 - Springvale Botanical Cemetery (or The Necropolis) records are also on-line, including those for people who were cremated but who don't have a memorial at the cemetery <https://sbc.smct.org.au/>
- Family Search database. Similar to Ancestry, but free! <https://www.familysearch.org/>
- Military records
 - Australian War Memorial <https://awm.gov.au/>
 - National Archives of Australia <http://www.naa.gov.au/>
- Post Office Directories – show you who lived where and also have an occupation/trades list <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/search-discover/popular-digitised-collections> Check out other digitised collections at the State Library including the Football Record and the Victorian Historical Journal at <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/search-discover/popular-digitised-collections>
- National Archives of Australia has lots of family history resources such as Migration records and Naturalization records <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/family-history/your-family/index.aspx>

- National Library of Australia also has family history resources
<https://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/family-history>
- Electoral Roll - Australian Electoral rolls from 1903 to 1980 are available on Ancestry database. Most public libraries subscribe to Ancestry, so check with your local library before you subscribe!

- **Land Records** - who owned what and where.
 - Place to start is the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV) – ‘Explore the Collection - Land records’ <https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/researching-land-and-property> This section has links to City of Melbourne Plans, Parish Plans, Pastoral Runs, MMBW plans, Rate books etc.
 - PROV have published a book on researching land records - *Lands guide: a guide to finding records of crown land at Public Record Office Victoria* by Phillipa Nelson. It is 400 pages long!
 - Rate books - the PROV has some rate books on-line through Ancestry database. See list at the bottom*.
 - There are plenty of Rate books which are not online – Casey Cardinia Libraries have the Shire of Berwick and Shire of Cranbourne ones. Eastern Regional Libraries have a list of the location of Rate Books from the Shires of Fern Tree Gully, Knox, Ringwood, Croydon, Healesville, Lilydale
<https://www.yourlibrary.com.au/local-history/> It is worth checking out the local library or Historical Society in the area you are interested in.
 - Soldier Settlement records – digitised by the PROV and available on the Battle to Farm website. <http://soldiersettlement.prov.vic.gov.au/>

- **Maps**
 - Parish Plans - show you the owner of land after the Crown or the owner of land purchased under schemes such as the Soldier Settlement scheme or Closer Settlement Board schemes. Many have been digitised and can be downloaded at PROV <https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/> and State Library of Victoria www.slv.vic.gov.au
 - Local Historical Societies often have old maps of the area. Find a local historical society through the Royal Historical Society website
<http://collections.historyvictoria.com.au/rhsvdatabases/societies.htm>
 - Street Directories – the State Library of Victoria have digitised some of their collection <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/search-discover/popular-digitised-collections> and Melway Edition 1 from 1966 is available here
<http://melwayed1.melway.com.au/mwyedn1.htm>
 - To get current Crown Allotment numbers - <https://maps.land.vic.gov.au/lassi/>

- State Library of Victoria have digitised Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works plans - <https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/MMBWplans> Best way to search for them in their catalogue is to type in mmbw and two intersecting street names in your area of interest.
- Have an interest in railways? Check out these maps - Victorian Railway Maps 1860 – 2000 <http://www.vrhistory.com/VRMaps/>
- **Information about towns**

Here are some sites that give authoritative information about towns

 - Trove <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> Just type the name of the town you are interested in and you are bound to find something.
 - The New Zealand Trove is Papers Past <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>
 - Victorian Places <http://www.victorianplaces.com.au/> This is a website containing the history of all the places in Victoria (Australia) that have now or once had a population over 200 at any time since the establishment of Victoria as a British colony. The project is a joint initiative of Monash University and the University of Queensland.
 - Encyclopedia 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 look at 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.
- **Photographs of places**
 - State Library of Victoria www.slv.vic.gov.au Has thousands of photographs and maps digitized. <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/search-discover>
 - MuseumsVictoria <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.
 - 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. Check out Graeme Butler's photos. Graeme is a Heritage Architect and did the original City of

Melbourne Heritage Study around 1980 and has his photos on-line
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/7849945@N02/albums/>

- Public Records Office of Victoria www.prov.vic.gov.au Has specific collections – Public Transport, 1956 Melbourne Olympics and School buildings - <https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/photographic-collections>
- National Archives of Australia
<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/PhotoSearch.aspx>
Includes a large collection of Post Office photos and other Federal Government organizations.
- You Tube - www.youtube.com never know what you might find from your area.
- **Historical Societies and other Historical focused websites - here are just a few**
 - Wyndham History - Werribee, Hoppers Crossing and surrounds
<http://www.wyndhamhistory.net.au/>
 - Stonnington History - Malvern and Prahran -
<http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History>
 - Wikinorthia - resources on the Northern suburbs -
<http://www.wikinorthia.net.au/>
 - Dandenong & District Historical Society <http://ddhs.com.au/>
- **Railways**
 - Mark Bau's Victorian Railways website – lots of great photos and railway information. <http://www.victorianrailways.net/>
 - Weston Langford Railway photography <http://www.westonlangford.com> 38,000 photos from the 1960s onwards - not just trains and trams - also shows street scenes
 - Museum Victoria <https://museumvictoria.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>
 - Victorian Railway Maps 1860 – 2000 <http://www.vrhistory.com/VRMaps/>
- **Facebook** - There are lots of Facebook sites devoted to historic photos-
 - Lost Melbourne, Lost Country Victoria, Gippsland History, 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

- **Tools**

- Canva https://www.canva.com/en_au/ Create amazing graphic design for free!
- Gimp <https://www.gimp.org/> Image manipulation program

*Rate Books – These Victorian Rate books are available on-line through Ancestry www.ancestry.com You need to subscribe to Ancestry or check out your local public library – they usually subscribe and you can use it there for free.

- Borough of Creswick, 1864-1933
- Borough of Sebastopol, 1906-1938
- Borough of Stawell, 1870-1920
- City of Brighton, 1861-1900
- City of Broadmeadows, 1863-1899
- City of Caulfield, 1857-1955
- Shire of Camberwell 1857-1927
- City of Coburg, 1863-1900
- City of Collingwood, 1864-1900
- City of Fitzroy, 1858-1900
- City of Footscray, 1864-1900
- City of Hawthorn, 1868-1901
- City of Kew, 1862-1899
- City of Malvern, 1856-1933
- City of Moorabbin, 1862-1900
- City of North Melbourne, 1894
- City of Northcote, 1883-1901
- City of Port Melbourne, 1860-1901
- City of Prahran, 1856-1900
- City of South Melbourne, 1855-1900
- City of St Kilda, 1859-1900
- City of Williamstown, 1858-1902
- Shire of Creswick, 1869-1938
- Shire of Stawell, 1861-1949
- Shire of Waranga, 1863-1960
- Shire of Waverley 1857 - 1927
- Shire of Wimmera, District of Horsham, 1863-1940