Finding facts when memories fail

Useful links to find out and verify details when telling a life story.

<Ancestry.com.au> (library edition available) great for checking electoral rolls and births, deaths and marriages certificates.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers> Loads of newspapers up to 1954

[Newspapers.com](newspapers.com) (international and Australia. More modern than Trove.

[Austlii](http://www.austlii.edu.au/) – government records, legislation, court hearings. Clunky but accurate.

Union and business records can be found at the [Noel Butlin Archives](https://archives.anu.edu.au/collections/noel-butlin-archives-centre) – ANU Canberra.

Some state libraries have specific interests, not just state-based (aviation history, State Library NSW, SLQ). Often have digitised maps of areas.

Between University of Melbourne Archives and the State Library of Victoria they have digitised much of the [Sands & McDougall business directory.](https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/victorianancestors/directories)

University of Melbourne has child welfare records, student cards, some union cards, workplace records for some companies and [collections](https://library.unimelb.edu.au/asc/collections/archives/collection-areas) of notable people. Register for a good look, order and make an appointment at the Baillieu Library.

Companies, hospitals, charities, try Google the name and the word “history”.

When pages disappear from the web, try the [Way Back Machine](http://web.archive.org/web/20220000000000%2A/google.com) .

[National Archives of Australia](https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/BasicSearch.aspx) can give arrival records, war records, repatriation records, plus other government department correspondence.

[Public Records Office of Victoria](https://prov.vic.gov.au/) has fascinating files on schools and correspondence, apprentice cards, crime, legal, probate, wills, divorce cases, maps ([some digitised](https://mapwarper.prov.vic.gov.au/))

[Australian Dictionary of Biography](https://adb.anu.edu.au/) – brilliant resource for the famous and forgotten. Captains of industry, arts, politicians. Well researched.

Women’s Biographical Dictionary – [Victoria](https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/search-collection/rhsv-womens-biographical-dictionary/).

[National Library](https://www.nla.gov.au/) – join, it has an excellent collection. Gives good access to international papers not covered by newspapers.com, archived websites.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in your state. Ask you client, do they want to pay for $20 for a record.