

# What is your role in heritage protection?

We can all play a part in protecting our precious heritage.



## Volunteer

One of the best ways to ensure the heritage where you live is protected, is to get involved in local community groups or societies that work to advocate for the care of local heritage. Associations for heritage protection and 'friends' groups are always looking for more members or help from individuals in the community.

## Subscribe, sign-up or donate

Some of the largest contributors to the conservation of heritage are from donations and subscriptions to non-governmental organisations. Local history society members are usually volunteers, and the National Trust relies on community support generated through membership, sponsorship, property admissions, donations and bequests. These organisations advocate for the protection of heritage, focus on community participation, and organise opportunities for the education of locals and visitors.

## Learn, experience and share

Building awareness of our heritage is an easy way to promote community action. Speak to others whenever you can to ensure the right information is being shared. Take time to appreciate your local area, learn about its history, and consider what makes it special. Heritage is all around you, if you look closely we guarantee you will spot things you may have never noticed before.

## Visit heritage

Exploring Victorian heritage sites helps you learn about their history and significance, providing you with a connection to our past. This helps build a wider respect and value for these places, and the stories they tell. A large proportion of admission fees and subscriptions go back into the heritage sites to fund conservation efforts.

## Nominate a place or object to the Victorian Heritage Register

Anyone can nominate a place or object to be included in the Victorian Heritage Register if you think it meets one or more of the criteria for state-level significance. The Victorian Heritage Register only includes places with state heritage values. The threshold for this is very high. Some places may be highly valued within local communities but are not always significant to the whole State of Victoria. Local government Heritage Overlays exist to protect these types of places. If you believe the place is important to your community, you should contact your local council. You are also required to report any discoveries of historical archaeological sites to Heritage Victoria.



## Participate in local heritage consultation

Community consultation plays an important part in your local council's understanding of how and why a place is significant and who values it. Participate in council consultation on heritage matters when the opportunity arises. Your local council has enforcement and compliance powers, so contact them if you notice a problem with a heritage place in your area. You are also encouraged to contact your local council with questions about your own property.

**For information about your local heritage, contact your local council.**

## Own, renovate or restore a heritage place

Living or working in a heritage building or space can be rewarding. Good design and cultural heritage awareness can support the heritage values of a place while also providing a contemporary and environmentally sustainable space for working and living.

Heritage listing of a property may regulate renovation options, but it does not prohibit change. Resources and guidelines are available to help property owners to renovate or adapt their heritage properties, and there may be some financial assistance options, such as grants. If your property is included in the Victorian Heritage Register, you can contact Heritage Victoria for information about permits and the level of change that might be allowed.

Heritage Overlays, particularly over a precinct area, provide greater certainty regarding the level of change that can occur in a neighbourhood.

If your property is protected by a Heritage Overlay, you can contact your local council for information about permits and the level of change that may be allowed.

If you are renovating or restoring a heritage property, you can search the National Trust database of cultural heritage specialists to find one to suit your needs.



**Heritage belongs to all of us. We need to protect it, because if we don't, it's lost forever.**



For more information about Victorian heritage and how it is protected, see all the resources from the Heritage Information Pack, at [heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/heritage-protection/heritage\\_info\\_pack/](https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/heritage-protection/heritage_info_pack/)

