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Road districts of Victoria (Australia)

Road districts were established in the colony of Victoria, Australia pursuant to legislation passed in 1853, and were an early form of local government in Victoria. The districts were outside towns which were instead incorporated either as municipalities or boroughs. The road districts were created between 1853 and 1871.

Road districts were established after public meetings to discuss boundaries etc. followed by a petition to the Governor. Upon the proclamation of a district a public meeting was held to elect officers of the Road Board. The board was responsible for the building and maintenance of local roads and bridges and raised finance from rates levied on landowners.

From 1862 many road districts became shires, pursuant to the *District Councils Bill 1862*, with additional responsibilities related to pounds, slaughtering licences, thistles, dogs, licensed publicans, brewer's and spirit merchants' licences, and commons. They were also permitted to borrow money for permanent works.^[1]

Road districts included:

Name	Date proclaimed	Notes	Succeeded by (original LGAs)	Date
Portarlington	1853		<u>Shire of Bellarine</u>	1865
Barrabool	1853		<u>Shire of Barrabool</u>	1865
Hawthorne	1854		<u>Hawthorn municipal district</u>	1860
Epping	1854		<u>Shire of Darebin</u>	1870
Boroondara	1854		<u>Shire of Boroondara</u>	1871
Belfast	1854		<u>Shire of Belfast</u>	1863
Warrnambool	1854		<u>Shire of Warrnambool</u>	1863
Lower Leigh	1855			
Alberton	1855		<u>Shire of Alberton</u>	1864
Portland	1856		<u>Shire of Portland</u>	1863
Bacchus Marsh	1856		<u>Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley Road District</u>	1862
Gardiner	1856		<u>Shire of Gardiner</u>	1871
Templestowe	1856		<u>Shire of Bulleen</u>	1875
Upper Yarra	1856			
Lillydale	1856		<u>Shire of Lillydale</u>	1872
Dandenong	1857		<u>Shire of Dandenong</u>	1873
Willowmavin	1857			
South Barwon	1857		<u>Borough of South Barwon</u>	1863
Dundas	1857		<u>Shire of Dundas</u>	1863
Eltham	1857		<u>Shire of Eltham</u>	1871
Ballarat	1857		<u>Shire of Ballarat</u>	1863
Caulfield	1857		<u>Shire of Caulfield</u>	1871
Hampden and Heytesbury	1857	named from the <u>counties</u>	<u>Shire of Hampden</u>	1863
Broadmeadows	1857		<u>Shire of Broadmeadows</u>	1871
Nunawading	1857		<u>Shire of Nunawading</u>	1872
Great Brighton	1858			
Buninyong	1858		<u>Shire of Buninyong</u>	1864
Flinders	1868		<u>Shire of Flinders & Kangerong</u>	1874
Oakleigh and Mulgrave	1858		<u>Shire of Oakleigh</u>	1871
Woodstock	1858		<u>Shire of Darebin</u>	1870
Creswick	1858		<u>Shire of Creswick</u>	1863
Pentridge	1859		<u>Coburg Road District</u>	1869
Greensborough	1859	United with...	<u>Shire of Heidelberg</u>	1875
Upper Plenty	1859			
Colac	1859		<u>Shire of Colac</u>	1864
Lexton	1860		<u>Shire of Lexton</u>	1864
Cranbourne	1860		<u>Shire of Cranbourne</u>	1868

Name	Date proclaimed	Notes	Succeeded by (original LGAs)	Date
Braybrook	1860		<u>Shire of Braybrook</u>	1871
Yandoit and Franklin	1860			
Heidelberg	1860		<u>Shire of Heidelberg</u>	1871
Amherst and Clunes	1860		<u>Shire of Talbot</u>	1865
Campaspe	1860			
Tullaroop	1860		<u>Shire of Tullaroop</u>	1865
Newstead	1860		<u>Shire of Newstead</u>	1865
Fryers	1860			
Glenlyon	1860		<u>Shire of Glenlyon</u>	1865
Gisborne	1860		<u>Shire of Gisborne</u>	1871
Metcalf	1860		<u>Shire of Metcalfe</u>	1865
Mount Eliza	1860		<u>Shire of Mornington</u>	1871
Mount Eliza	1860			
Mount Rouse	1860		<u>Shire of Mount Rouse</u>	1864
Mortlake	1860		<u>Shire of Mortlake</u>	1864
Winchelsea	1860		<u>Shire of Winchelsea</u>	1864
Carngham	1861		Carngham and Beaufort Road District	1863
Strathfieldsaye	1861		<u>Shire of Strathfieldsaye</u>	1866
Marong	1861		<u>Shire of Marong</u>	1864
Corio	1861			
Ararat	1861		<u>Shire of Ararat</u>	1864
Avoca	1861		<u>Shire of Avoca</u>	1864
Bet Bet	1861		<u>Shire of Bet Bet</u>	1864
Huntly	1861		<u>Shire of Huntly</u>	1866
Grenville	1861		<u>Shire of Grenville</u>	1864
Leigh	1861		<u>Shire of Leigh</u>	1864
Ripon	1861		<u>Shire of Ripon</u>	1863
Shelford	1861			
Stawell	1861		<u>Shire of Stawell</u>	1864
St Arnaud	1861		<u>Shire of St Arnaud</u>	1864
Woody Yallock	1861			
Woodend, Newham and Rochford	1861		<u>Shire of Newham</u>	1871
Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley	1862			
Ballan	1862		<u>Shire of Ballan</u>	1864
Bannockburn	1862		<u>Shire of Bannockburn</u>	1864
Berwick	1862		<u>Shire of Berwick</u>	1868

Name	Date proclaimed	Notes	Succeeded by (original LGAs)	Date
Bulla	1862		<u>Shire of Bulla</u>	1866
Campbell's Creek	1862			
Chiltern	1862		<u>Shire of Chiltern</u>	1874
Horsham	1862			
Kangerong	1862		<u>Shire of Flinders & Kangerong</u>	1874
Kingower and Wedderburne	1862			
Korong	1862		<u>Shire of Korong</u>	1864
Kowree	1862		<u>Shire of Kowree</u>	1872
Melton	1862		<u>Shire of Melton</u>	1871
Moorabbin	1862		<u>Shire of Moorabbin</u>	1871
Oxley	1862		<u>Shire of Oxley</u>	1865
Romsey	1862		<u>Shire of Romsey</u>	1871
Rutherglen	1862		<u>Shire of Rutherglen</u>	1871
Swan Hill	1862		<u>Shire of Swan Hill</u>	1871
Whittlesea	1862		<u>Shire of Whittlesea</u>	1874
Wyndham	1862		<u>Shire of Wyndham</u>	1864
Yackandandah	1862		<u>Shire of Yackandandah</u>	1864
Baringhup	1863		<u>Shire of Maldon</u>	
Bungaree	1863		<u>Shire of Bungaree</u>	1871
Carngham and Beaufort	1863	previously Carngham		
Donnybrook, Wallan Wallan and Bylands	1863		<u>Shire of Merriang</u>	
Glenelg	1863		<u>Shire of Glenelg</u>	1864
Keilor	1863		<u>Shire of Keilor</u>	1871
Maldon	1863		<u>Shire of Maldon</u>	1864
Malvern	1863		<u>Shire of Malvern</u>	1878
Mclvor	1863		<u>Shire of Mclvor</u>	1864
North Ovens	1863		<u>Shire of North Ovens</u>	1867
Pyalong	1863		<u>Shire of Pyalong</u>	1871
Seymour	1863		<u>Shire of Seymour</u>	1871
Waranga	1863		<u>Shire of Waranga</u>	1865
Avon	1864		<u>Shire of Avon</u>	1865
East Loddon	1864		<u>Shire of East Loddon</u>	1871
Echuca	1864		<u>Shire of Echuca</u>	1871
Kyneton	1864		<u>Shire of Kyneton</u>	1865
Bairnsdale	1867		<u>Shire of Bairnsdale</u>	1868
Alexandra	1868		<u>Shire of Alexandra</u>	1869

Name	Date proclaimed	Notes	Succeeded by (original LGAs)	Date
Benalla	1868		<u>Shire of Benalla</u>	1869
Goulburn	1868		<u>Shire of Goulburn</u>	1871
Towong	1869		<u>Shire of Towong</u>	1874
Yea	1869		<u>Shire of Yea</u>	1873
Howqua	1869		<u>Shire of Howqua</u>	1875
Broadford	1869		<u>Shire of Broadford</u>	1875
Coburg	1869	renaming of Pentridge	<u>Shire of Coburg</u>	1875
Rosedale	1869		<u>Shire of Rosedale</u>	1871
Phillip Island	1871		<u>Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai</u>	1874
Connewarre			<u>Town of South Barwon</u>	1874
Morang			<u>Shire of Darebin</u>	1870
Lauriston and Edgecombe			Kyneton Road District	1864
Tylden and Trentham			Kyneton Road District	1864
Carlsruhe			Kyneton Road District	1864
Lancefield				
Wooragee				
Heathcote				
Indigo				
Indented Heads				
North Harrow				
Carisbrook				
Meredith				
Bylands and Glenburnie				

References

- The progress of Victoria: A statistical essay (Intercolonial Exhibition essays, 1866-67)* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=PnBZAAAACAAJ&pg=PA63&lpg=PA62&dq=Road+districts+of+Victoria&source=bl&ots=gAKko4opJ0&sig=4NfCYc1mwCrQDMkAXDIWu5xaaVA&hl=en&sa=X&ei=a6pEU-mKIISfyQGqpoGADA&ved=0CEoQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=Road%20districts%20of%20Victoria&f=false>) by William Henry Archer. ASIN: B0008BRIUG

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1855-6.
VICTORIA.

DANDENONG ROAD.

Return to Address.
MR. CHAPMAN.—12TH FEBRUARY, 1856.

LAI D upon THE COUNCIL TABLE by MR. MURPHY (President of the Central Road Board),
by command of HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT,
and ordered by THE COUNCIL to be printed, 12th February, 1856.

RETURN of Works executed on the Main Dandenong Road, between Melbourne and
Dandenong, during the Years 1853, 1854, and 1855.

All outside the parish of Prahran.							£	s.	d.	
398 Chains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	995	0	0
Repairs to Bridge and approaches at Dandenong	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	0	0
2,325 yards lineal of Drains, and three culverts	...	...	...	...	...	...	349	12	6
TOTAL.						...	£	1744	12	6

No works have been executed in Mornington but the Cannanuke Creek Bridge, connecting
the counties Bourke and Mornington—cost £1960.

The Survey Party at Mount Martha have erected some temporary works.

RETURN of Proceeds of Land sold on the Dandenong Road, and in the County of Mornington,
during the Years 1853, 1854, and 1855, respectively.

WHERE SOLD.				AREA.			AMOUNT.		
				A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Within the Parish of Prahran, for 1853	...	...	...	40	0	0	9398	18	11
„ Dandenong and Mulgrave, for 1853	...	...	...	1445	1	10	7590	9	8
TOTAL				1485	1	10	16989	8	7
Within the Parish of Prahran, for 1854	...	...	...	108	0	2	5176	2	3
„ Mordiallock, for 1854	...	...	...	194	1	15	857	18	0
TOTAL				302	1	17	6033	15	3
Within the Parish of Prahran, for 1855	...	...	...	501	2	19	3400	18	4
„ Mordiallock, for 1855	...	...	...	385	3	29	1592	5	0
TOTAL				887	2	8	4992	18	4
Within the County of Mornington.									
During the year 1853	...	...	...	18522	2	33	30895	9	10
„ 1854	...	...	...	35888	3	15	61147	15	6
„ 1855	...	...	...	16508	0	11	20953	17	4
TOTAL				70914	2	19	112997	2	8

By Authority: JOHN FERRES, Government Printer, Melbourne.