

VICTORIAN  
YEAR BOOK  
1973

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*Centenary  
Edition*

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This edition marks the centenary of the first official year book to be published in Australia. To commemorate the *Victorian Year Book* of 1873, the Victorian Office of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics has prepared an account of the State's development which covers the saga of settlement until 1971.

Officers of the Bureau have co-operated with over two hundred contributors and consultants from academic, business, and public life to produce a book, much of which is based on first hand knowledge of Victoria over the last fifty years.

The result is an informative 750 page text describing the demographic, rural and urban, economic, social and political, and scientific and technological development of Victoria. This is supported by some 350 pages of statistics updating the 1972 edition (including a statistical summary extending, in some cases, back to 1836), 250 illustrations and maps, and a chronology, bibliography, and detailed index.

The book is a unique and important reference work on the State of Victoria, past and present, and includes much information unavailable elsewhere. It will be a useful and necessary publication for libraries, institutions, schools, businesses, and government departments and authorities as well as for the general reader.

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VICTORIAN YEAR BOOK 1973

*Centenary Edition*

Number 87

(Front endpaper) S. T. Gill's view of Lydiard Street, Ballarat, from Bath's Hotel, first published in 1857.

*La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria*

(Back endpaper) A 1972 view of Melbourne, north-east from B.H.P. House, showing the eastern end of Bourke Street, Parliament House, and St Patrick's Cathedral on the right.

*The Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd*

(Frontispiece) The central city area and inner eastern suburbs of Melbourne viewed from the west on 14 May 1972.

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# VICTORIAN YEAR BOOK 1973

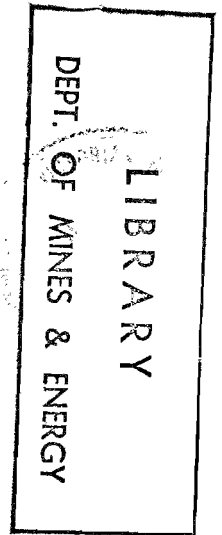
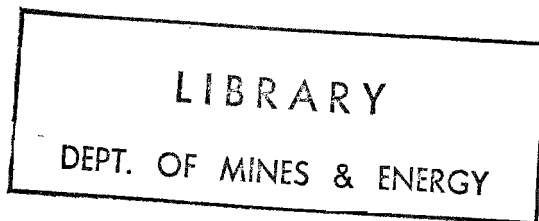
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*Centenary Edition*

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V. H. ARNOLD, F.I.A.

DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN  
AND VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT STATIST



NUMBER 87

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS  
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FOREWORD

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Readers of this centenary edition may be interested to know how the book came to be produced.

I suggested that a new approach to the *Year Book* be adopted when Mr H. L. Speagle became Editor of Publications in 1959. Each year since 1961, when the first of the new series of the *Victorian Year Book* was issued, we have included new material by adding a major article describing some aspect of the State's natural history and shorter articles on many other topics. These changes have been supplemented by the use of illustrations and were introduced to enhance the book's interest generally and to present a clearer and more comprehensive picture of Victorian activities.

The centenary edition of the *Year Book* traces the major environmental, social, economic, and technological factors which have affected the State. These have been put into historical perspective by covering the main developments that have occurred since settlement. This treatment, having a coherence of its own, led naturally to the separation of statistical tables from text and hence the book is published in two segments.

The decision to embark on the project in the first place was made in 1965. Once agreement was reached on the general outline of the book—and here a great debt of gratitude is due to the late Sir Samuel Wadham for his advice and foresight at the time—the Editor then set about the task of inviting contributors to give of their time to write the various articles. I am deeply grateful that most accepted the invitation enthusiastically, even if the actual task of doing the writing became somewhat of a chore for some. The problem of getting the articles on time from over two hundred contributors was not the least of the Editor's preoccupations.

Once the articles were received they had to be edited to achieve some uniformity of presentation. At this stage of the project we were fortunate in obtaining the advice of the Commonwealth Statistician and his staff as well as of other consultants whose knowledge, experience, and judgment enabled them to make many valuable suggestions. The Editor then had to piece the book together—a somewhat difficult task—as he endeavoured to soothe authors who felt aggrieved at having their work edited and to evaluate the comments of his colleagues and other consultants.

The preparation of this centenary edition has been a challenging project as it is the first book of its kind to be published in Australia. It has taken almost eight years to translate the initial concept into the finished article and this has been made possible only by the help, encouragement, and specific assistance of many persons and institutions. I am especially grateful to the Editor, Mr H. L. Speagle, M.A., B. Ed., for his wholehearted devotion to the task and

perseverance through all the inevitable crises which occurred. He has been ably assisted in this by the staff in the Publications Section.

I wish also to express my appreciation to the Assistant Deputy Commonwealth Statisticians, Mr N. Bowden, B. Ec. and Mr R. O. Spencer, for their advice and assistance in planning the whole project and to the staff generally. The Branch Supervisors, Mr J. F. Clark, B. Com., Mr J. Curtain, B. Com., Mr N. L. Dunstan, Mr R. A. Hamilton, B. Com., Mr D. J. Hourigan, M.B.A., B. Com., A.A.S.A., and Mr W. N. B. Pratt, B. Com., Dip. Pub. Admin., A.A.S.A. *p.s.a.*, and their staff have not only compiled statistical tables and text but have helped in the editing of contributed articles and in other material ways.

I am glad to express my thanks to all contributors and consultants as well as to the persons and institutions who supplied illustrations (many of which, for reasons of space, could not be used) and helped with the physical preparation of the book. The printing was carried out by the Victorian Government Printer and his staff, with the typographical advice of Mr Norman Quaintance. The book itself bears witness to the high standards of their work. I am grateful to the Melbourne University Press who generously gave permission to include the quotation in the introduction to this *Year Book*.

V. H. ARNOLD

*Deputy Commonwealth Statistician  
and Victorian Government Statist*

*April 1973*

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## PART ONE DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT

|   |  |
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## PART TWO RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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| Captain J. K. Crone                             | Ministry of Fuel and Power                               |
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| Forests Commission                              | Postmaster-General's Department                          |
| Gas and Fuel Corporation                        | Premier's Department                                     |
| Geelong Harbor Trust Commissioners              | Road Safety and Traffic Authority                        |
| Mr J. Y. Harvey                                 | Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria                   |
| Housing Commission                              | Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of Victoria |
| Mr C. E. Howlett                                | State Electricity Commission                             |
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| Hon. Sir Chester Manifold, K.B.E.               | Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board               |
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| Melbourne Harbor Trust                          | Victorian Railways Historical Society                    |
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\* Names of Commonwealth Departments are as at 30 November 1972.

### PART THREE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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### PART FOUR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

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 Board  
 Vickers Ruwolt Pty Ltd  
 Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of  
 Medical Research  
 Mr L. W. Weickhardt

## INTRODUCTION

---

Work on this special edition of the *Victorian Year Book* began in 1965 when I felt it would be appropriate to commemorate the centenary of the book in 1973. Henry Heylyn Hayter's first volume covered the year 1873 although it was not published until the following year.

There are various reasons for commemorating the event. Victoria was the first of the Australian colonies to publish a year book, and incidentally to win wide acclaim for doing so. The centenary of the *Year Book* falls at a time when the State is in the course of major social changes. Thus, the publication of a centenary edition covering activities in Victoria since settlement is not only timely but should also be rewarding in providing material for scholars and planners in all walks of life. Furthermore, there are many persons in positions of responsibility whose personal knowledge of events extends at least fifty years. Consequently it has been possible to obtain a first hand account of many changes which have occurred over the latter part of the period covered. To reveal the State in full perspective the coverage of the book starts prior to the first permanent European settlement in 1834.

The basic concept around which the book has been planned is that of Victoria's development. The result is the fruit of eight years work by Bureau officers as well as, notably, by over two hundred outside contributors and consultants from academic, business, and public life, all of whom contributed their time and abilities in an honorary capacity. This they did as a public service, and I offer my sincere thanks to them in detail in the acknowledgments and my apologies to any whose names have been inadvertently omitted.

The book is divided into two segments: one descriptive, the other statistical. The descriptive segment includes the contributions of the various authors and consultants in five parts: Demographic, Rural and Urban, Economic, Social and Political, and Scientific and Technological Development. The final form of this segment represents an edited consensus of information under the guiding principles that it should be as perceptive, authentic, and accurate as possible. Supporting and illustrative statistics appear in the selected historical tables and in greater detail in the statistical segment. This latter updates the regular annual tables in the sequence in which they have appeared in previous editions, and hence maintains unimpaired the statistical continuity of the *Victorian Year Book*. To summarise: the book has been designed in two segments so that readers will not be confused by the different character of the historical material of this centenary edition and to ensure that the statistical segment will be seen as a clear complement to its

historical companion and to the *Year Books* of previous years. The contents have been carefully checked throughout but I shall be grateful to those who will be kind enough to point out defects or make suggestions for future editions. In the *Victorian Year Book* 1974 it is proposed to revert to the previous presentation of contents.

In preparing this *Year Book* a number of problems had to be faced. Important among these was the problem of what was to be included. Obviously it was neither possible nor desirable to note every aspect of the State's development, as the size of the book limited the range of detail which could be included. Accordingly the selection of information has been made on the criteria of overall significance when viewed in the context of Victoria's past and the availability of reliable data. Omission of a subject has usually been prompted by one or other of these considerations.

Two other editorial problems encountered were repetition and differing styles in the treatment of information. The book was not planned as a chronological history but as a survey of five areas of development. Inevitably facts common to differing contexts are repeated. However, to prevent the risk of a stilted narrative no attempt has been made to avoid this. Thus, repetition has been permitted if it illuminates different contexts with additional understanding. The reader can therefore take up each part as a self-contained unit. Touching the second problem, contributors naturally wrote about their subjects in different styles. The book has aimed to steer a middle course between rigid conformity of style on the one hand and unbridled diversity on the other.

All authors and consultants in this, as in previous *Year Books*, were selected for their intimate knowledge of their subject. Nevertheless, a book with a coverage as wide as this centenary edition is likely to include historical information which, however well accepted and authenticated at present, may be revised in the light of future research. Moreover, the extensive study of Victoria's history from primary sources is a relatively recent and encouraging phenomenon and limitations in knowledge now apparent to the editor and authors will probably be removed by the efforts of later scholars in various fields.

The reader should bear in mind three technical considerations when interpreting *Year Book* information. First, rounded figures sometimes cause small discrepancies between totals and the sum of components. Second, the type of currency most appropriate to the context has been used. For historical tables and comparatively recent periods all values are stated in decimal currency, but where the context obviously demands citation in the old currency, this has been done. The use of decimal currency in all historical tables follows Bureau practice; the reader must make allowance himself for such matters as exchange rates and the value of money. Third, dates of origin used are those considered most appropriate to their context.

The statistical tables in the second segment give the latest figures available at the time of going to press and the book has generally aimed to include information up to June 1971. However, because of the time required for various phases of editing and printing, later and more detailed information on a particular topic is generally available in other Bureau publications which enable specialist readers to pursue a subject further. These publications are listed in Appendix C on page 1161 and are available from the Victorian

Office, which also provides library facilities where the public may consult a wide range of statistical references. Readers requiring the main statistical information of the *Year Book* in a concise form are referred to the *Victorian Pocket Year Book* which is usually published in July of each year. Copies can be obtained from the Victorian Office of the Bureau.

In conclusion a gentle caveat may well go with a historical volume of this kind. Notwithstanding the care taken by all who have contributed to this *Year Book*, one may perhaps recall the sobering reflections on history by a distinguished Victorian and Australian, Alfred Deakin, who as Prime Minister of Australia for the third time in 1909 wrote :

Having now seen history in the making for thirty years I am amazed to find how plastic the past becomes in the hands of its recorders and how all its figures changing every day under our imperfectly observing eyes change finally for the student of future times into forms and colours borrowed from prejudice, presupposition and ignorance until they throw the true story of any developments out of focus and the relation of events out of gear . . . for me the effect of my life experience is to discredit most of the personal estimates of history and many of its interpretations of times . . . tho—when men have done or written or said much—their orbits can be fairly estimated, their endless variations of mood and temper, of credulity and scepticism, and the cross currents of influence to which they have been subject are so numerous [that] no man knows himself thoroughly, or anyone else more than superficially, except by accident or by inspiration. \*

\* Quoted by J. A. La Nauze in *Alfred Deakin : a biography*. Melbourne University Press, 1965, page 572.