

TOURISM, SPORT, AND RECREATION

TOURISM

General

Tourism is widely accepted as one of the broad industry sectors which offer significant growth and employment potential for Australia. The Bureau of Industry Economics, Canberra, has identified twenty-six industry classifications directly affected by tourism expenditure (air travel and the hospitality sector account for nearly one-half of total expenditure). The Bureau has stated that tourism indirectly affects nearly all industry classifications.

The economic impact of tourism is significant. The Bureau of Industry Economics estimated in 1978 that \$1 of tourist expenditure generates approximately \$2.60 within the Australian economy. Tourism is a generator of substantial employment where job opportunities are expected to grow in line with the trend to increased leisure both in Australia and overseas.

A survey of travel expenditure was undertaken by the Bureau of Industry Economics over the period from October 1981 to September 1982. The total income generated for Victoria was found to be \$2,482m, which represents 7 per cent of the total income of the State. Also the direct, indirect, and induced employment effects generated by this income was found to be 116,820, or around 7.3 per cent of the State total. These figures take into account the expenditure undertaken on day trips as well as overnight trips by Australian and international residents in Victoria.

The table below outlines the results of an analysis of this survey and further analysis of the economic significance of this industry to Victoria carried out by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research on behalf of the Victorian Tourism Commission. The statistics cover travel for holiday, business, and pleasure, with the principal direct effects being experienced in the transport, hospitality, and accommodation industries. As such, they do not encompass the whole Victorian tourism sector but they do represent a guide to the importance of this sector.

EFFECT OF TRAVEL TO/WITHIN VICTORIA, 1981-82

Category of travel	Employment	Output	G.D.P. (Value added)
	persons	\$m	\$m
TOTAL EFFECT			
International travel to Victoria	24,877	803	505
Domestic overnight travel to/within Victoria	72,825	2,460	1,548
Domestic day trips	19,118	715	429
Total	116,820	3,978	2,482
DIRECT EFFECT			
International travel to Victoria	12,329	313	..
Domestic overnight travel to/within Victoria	36,016	998	..
Domestic day trips	8,473	283	..
Total	56,821	1,594	..

Source: Victorian Tourism Commission.

Domestic travel to/within Victoria

Victoria accounts for 24 per cent of the total number of domestic visits undertaken within Australia.

The number of overnight visits by persons aged 14 years and over undertaken to/within Victoria by Victorian and interstate residents is shown below. The table also shows the number of nights spent in Victoria by these travellers.

The major interstate markets for Victoria are New South Wales (53.8 per cent) and South Australia (25 per cent). The proportion of tourists from other States/Territories are Queensland (6 per cent), Tasmania (6 per cent), Western Australia (4 per cent), ACT (5 per cent), and Northern Territory (1 per cent).

NUMBER OF VISITS AND NIGHTS SPENT IN VICTORIA BY TOURISTS (^{'000})

Year	Victorian residents		Interstate residents		Total	
	Visits	Nights	Visits	Nights	Visits	Nights
1978-79	11,476	32,941	2,199	10,971	13,675	43,912
1979-80	11,737	33,200	2,354	10,685	14,091	43,885
1980-81	12,150	35,236	2,423	10,300	14,573	45,536
1981-82	12,151	33,643	2,767	12,383	14,918	46,026
1982-83	11,988	33,714	2,368	10,976	14,356	44,690
1983-84	12,226	33,084	2,274	10,859	14,500	43,943

Source: *Domestic Tourism Monitor*.

Victorian Tourism Commission

The Victorian Tourism Commission was created under an Act of Parliament passed in 1982. As reflected in the *Victorian Tourism Commission Act 1982*, the objects of the Victorian Tourism Commission are:

- (1) to market Victoria as a tourist destination for interstate and international travellers;
- (2) to increase the number of travellers to Victoria, the length of stay of travellers or tourists at destinations in Victoria, and the use of tourist facilities in Victoria;
- (3) to increase the amount of travel within Victoria and the use of tourist facilities in Victoria by Victorians;
- (4) to improve and develop tourist facilities in Victoria;
- (5) to support and co-ordinate the provision of tourist facilities in Victoria; and
- (6) to provide more efficient and effective utilisation of investment in travel and tourism within Victoria.

The following table sets out figures for domestic visits and international visitors to Victoria for recent years.

NUMBER OF VISITORS TO VICTORIA (^{'000})

Category	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Domestic visits (a)	13,675	14,091	14,573	14,918	14,356	14,500
International visitors (b)	186	215	328	(c)334	318	(c)358

(a) Domestic data from the *Domestic Tourism Monitor* incorporates both intrastate and interstate visits, and are on a financial year basis.

(b) International data is supplied by the Australian Tourist Commission.

(c) Estimate.

Victorian Tourism Strategy

On 29 August 1984, the Victorian Government announced its Tourism Strategy, identifying the State's competitive advantages upon which future tourism development in Victoria will be based.

Victoria possesses a great deal of landscape, historical, sporting, and cultural features generally described as uniquely Australian. These major tourism assets exist within relatively short distances from each other and the main gateway into the State at Melbourne. Most of these assets are clustered in seven distinct zones. (See Figure 23 on page 757.)

The Strategy gave examples of the features that are part of Victoria's competitive advantage: more man-made heritage than any other State; the largest area of usable snow slopes for skiing in Australia in areas that are also suitable to year round development; excellent surf and bay beaches, including the internationally renowned Bells Beach; the Great Ocean Road, with its extraordinary seascapes; Australia's greatest variety of flora and fauna; a State border that passes through alpine meadows, rainforest, mountain ash and river red gums, desert mallee and coastal heaths – much of which is preserved as National Parks; the very popular Fairy Penguin Parade at Phillip Island; extensive pioneer country within easy reach of Melbourne, including several heritage parks; a goldrush history

and heritage that has been preserved and, in specific instances, sensitively recreated; nine commercial wine districts spread throughout the State, providing one of the world's finest ranges of quality wines; many rivers flowing to large inland and coastal waterways, such as Lake Eildon and the Gippsland Lakes.

In addition, Melbourne has many strong tourism assets, including its heritage as the centre of the Federation; the careful preservation of much of the city's history and fine examples of Victorian architecture; the atmosphere as one of the world's great cosmopolitan cities; its position as Australia's major sporting centre – in cricket, golf, tennis, and horse racing, together with Australian Rules football; high quality restaurants featuring the cuisines of more than 60 distinct ethnic groups; and the Arts Centre complex just a short walk from the city centre.

The thrust of the Tourism Strategy is to consolidate, enhance, and promote the impressive existing stock of geographically concentrated tourism assets in Victoria, and identify opportunities for new or complementary development.

The expansion of tourism in Victoria has great potential to generate employment in all areas of the State – rural and metropolitan. The more efficient and effective use of the State's tourism assets will also stimulate activity in feeder industries, producing a multiplier effect on the State's level of income and employment.

The main objectives of the Tourism Strategy are to:

- (1) identify Victoria's competitive advantages in tourism journeys and destinations;
- (2) promote more intensive use of these assets;
- (3) enhance their attraction to Victorians, interstate visitors, and overseas visitors;
- (4) improve the management and marketing of tourist attractions; and
- (5) identify opportunities for complementary tourism development.

The Victorian Government's role is to ensure that any existing weaknesses in the development and marketing of tourism destinations in Victoria are identified and assessed and that an efficient and entrepreneurial approach to tourism is adopted to overcome any of these failings. Public sector resources will be targeted to enhance Victoria's competitive strength in tourism by concentrating on asset clusters that consolidate this strength.

The resort zone concept

The major vehicle for achieving more effective use of the State's tourism assets will be through the 'cluster and connect approach' aimed at enhancing the competitive advantages already in place.

Through this approach, the Victorian Government has identified seven zones within which development will be concentrated. Such development has the advantage of being lower cost, while also increasing ease of management and promotion.

It is a significant departure from previous practices which encouraged varying small-scale developments at distant and unrelated locations.

The new zonal concept involves:

- (1) zones where development will be encouraged to concentrate;
- (2) tourism corridors leading to and linking these zones; and
- (3) the supporting hinterland.

The following resort zones (see Figure 23 on page 757) have been identified as development areas for the Tourism Strategy:

- (1) Central Melbourne and selected day trip corridors;
- (2) Goldfields (incorporating the central Victorian goldfield districts of Ballarat and Bendigo);
- (3) Riverland (incorporating the area from Echuca to Mildura);
- (4) North East (incorporating the alpine areas, 'Kelly Country', and North East wineries);
- (5) Grampians;
- (6) Gippsland Lakes; and
- (7) Southern Ocean Zone (incorporating the area from Port Campbell to Port Fairy).

All the above zones, with the exception of the Southern Ocean Zone, were singled out for development in the State Economic Strategy. The Southern Ocean Zone was added after careful and thorough analysis showed that it possessed significant tourism growth potential.

The following criteria were adopted in the selection of resort zones:

Natural resource base. Zones to incorporate areas with high potential for intensive recreation, and generally, natural resources offering potential for the development of year-round outdoor recreation (both active and passive) opportunities.

Attractions/Activities. Zones to contain attractions or activities of such significance as to enable them

to draw upon the Victorian, interstate, and overseas markets. The zones to have the potential for 'Cluster' attractions, which can be promoted as a group to attract year-round visitation.

Image/Geographic homogeneity. Zones to have common features upon which to develop a regional identity (cultural, historical, etc.) which could be readily associated with the geographic area and not other areas.

Basic infrastructure. Zones generally to have available basic infrastructure facilities, e.g. a variety of accommodation to facilitate tourism development.

Principal service centre. Zones to contain or be near service centres which are able to provide services to tourists and to developments within the zones.

Transportation. Zones must have good access from or along major transportation routes, particularly roads. The zones need to contain efficient internal transport networks, or the potential to develop such networks, providing access between attractions, facilities, and service centres.

Population. Zones to be relatively close to major markets, or to be accessible from these markets. This factor also includes access to labour sources to service tourist plant.

Tourism corridors

The development of scenic tourism corridors is an integral part of the Tourism Strategy. Tourism corridors form links between the major tourism centres as identified through resort zones. But these corridors also have great tourism potential in their own right, focusing on passing tourists and business travellers, some having key attractions, such as Coal Creek at Korumburra, Old Gipps town at Moe, and the many La Trobe Valley attractions.

A good example of a tourism corridor is the Great Ocean Road, which offers travellers many opportunities for sightseeing and a continuous run of tourism assets, as well as being considered the best route for joining the Melbourne resort zone with the Southern Ocean Zone.

Another example is that centred around the Hume Highway, linking Melbourne to the North East Zone. Tourists can visit many attractions on this route, including several wineries, townships such as Glenrowan with its Kelly legend, and Benalla with its Rose Festival.

Expanding the tourism market

In developing its Tourism Strategy, the Victorian Government commissioned a major study on the economic significance of the travel industry to Victoria. This study showed that average personal expenditures within Victoria per trip are about \$1,165 for overseas visitors; \$193 for interstate visitors; \$80 for Victorians heading interstate; and \$66 for Victorians touring intrastate. These figures exclude pre-trip and post-trip expenditure and are in dollars of October 1981-September 1982 purchasing power.

Recognition is given to the major part played by international airfares in determining holiday destinations. The Victorian Tourism Commission already has promotional offices in Auckland, Los Angeles, and London, and a General Sales Agent in Canada. The Commission will open new offices in Tokyo and Singapore, and investigate the possibilities for seconding its personnel to other overseas offices of the Australian Tourist Commission.

International visitors to Victoria

During 1983, 318,094 international visitors visited Victoria. These visitors spent a total of just over 4.5 million nights in Victoria. The main source of visitors for Victoria are New Zealand (15 per cent), U.S.A. (19 per cent), U.K. (14 per cent), Japan (11 per cent) and Continental Europe (15 per cent). Victoria attracts close to one-third of all international visitors to Australia.

Day trips

During 1981-82, a total of 23.3 million day trips were undertaken by Victorian residents aged 14 years and over.

The most popular activities were found to be visiting friends and relatives (32 per cent), sightseeing or pleasure drive (25 per cent), picnicking/barbecue (4 per cent), visit to the beach (7 per cent), visit to a national park or state forest (2.8 per cent), and visit to a museum or other man-made attraction (9 per cent).

Survey of Tourist Accommodation Establishments

Introduction

The development of tourism has been a consequence of the increase in mobility, affluence, and leisure time.

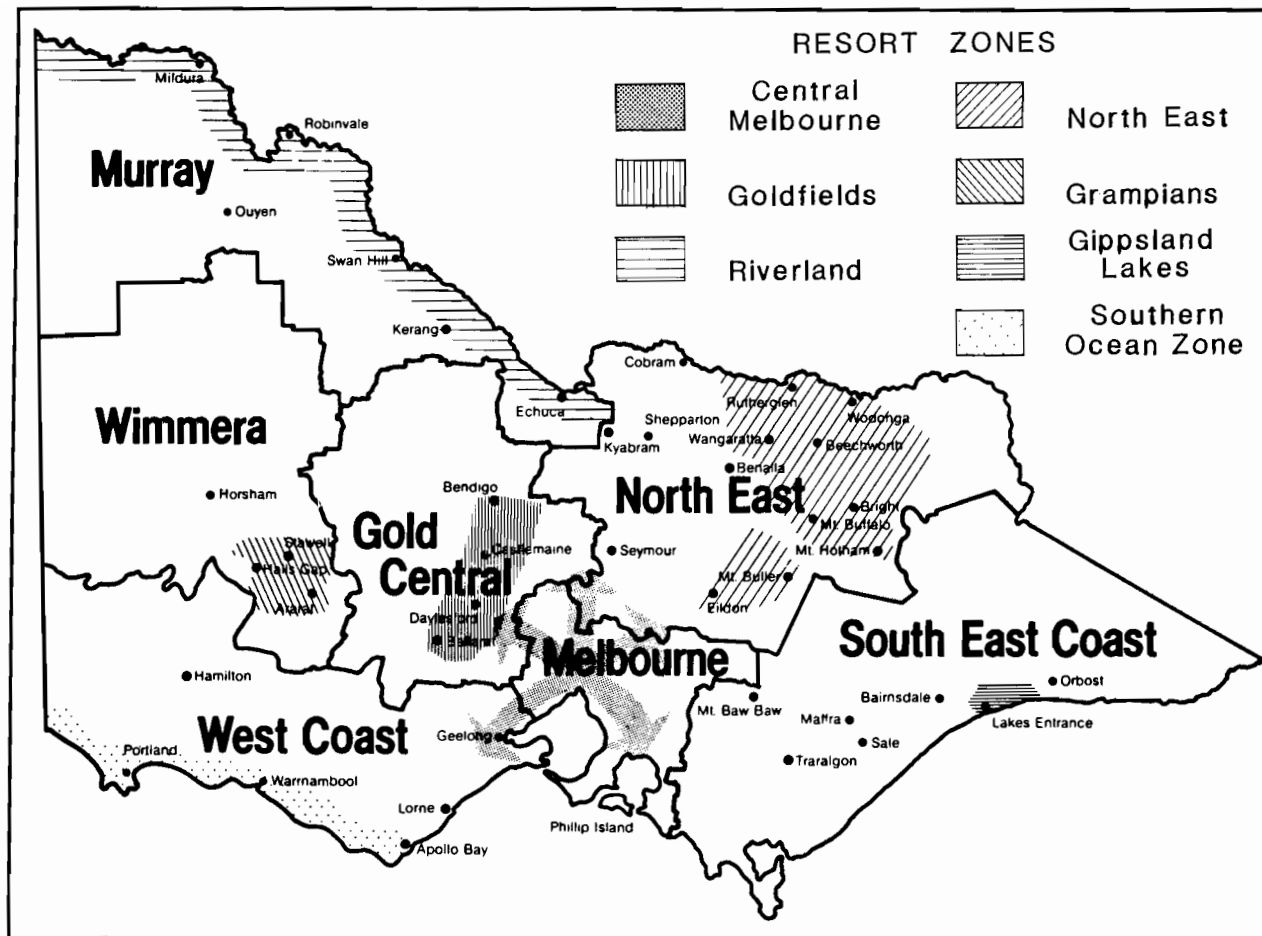


FIGURE 23. Regional boundaries and tourist zones of Victoria.

The growing importance of tourism is now recognised by a wide cross-section of both public and private organisations. In order to satisfy the need for statistics on tourism, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has conducted regular quarterly accommodation surveys from the September quarter 1975.

Type of establishment

The various types of accommodation establishments are grouped in the survey into the following categories:

- (1) *Licensed hotel with facilities.* A tourist accommodation establishment which is licensed to operate a public bar, provides bath or shower and toilet in most guest rooms, and has breakfast available for guests.
- (2) *Licensed or unlicensed motel, private hotel, or guest house with facilities.* A tourist accommodation establishment which provides bath or shower and toilet in most guest rooms and has breakfast available for guests but is not licensed to operate a public bar. This category also includes motels that are licensed to serve liquor with meals.
- (3) *Caravan park.* A tourist accommodation establishment which provides powered sites for caravans and toilet, shower, and laundry facilities for guests.

Definitions

- (1) *Number of establishments.* The number of tourist accommodation establishments within the scope of the survey which operated during the survey period. Establishments comprising more than one type of accommodation activity (e.g. a motel with attached caravan park) are treated as two separate establishments. Included are those establishments which operated for any part of the quarter or which closed temporarily for the quarter because of seasonal reasons.
- (2) *Guest rooms.* The maximum number of rooms, units, suites, etc., available for accommodation.
- (3) *Bed spaces.* The maximum number of guests that could be accommodated in beds normally in place (excepting cots) at hotels and motels with facilities during the survey period. Three-quarter beds are classified as single beds; double beds are counted as two bed spaces.
- (4) *Powered sites.* The maximum number of sites with provision for connection to electric power supply which are available at caravan parks for accommodating paying guests during the survey period. Included are powered sites occupied by on-site vans.
- (5) *Unpowered sites.* The maximum number of sites with no provision for connection to electric power supply, which are available at caravan parks for accommodating paying guests during the survey period.
- (6) *Cabins, flats, etc.* The maximum number of cabins, flats, units, and villas available at caravan parks for accommodating paying guests during the survey period.
- (7) *Total caravan park capacity.* The maximum number of on-site vans, other powered sites, unpowered sites and cabins, flats, etc., available at caravan parks for accommodating paying guests during the survey period.
- (8) *Room occupancy rate.* The proportion of guest rooms occupied in hotels and motels with facilities to the number of guest rooms available during the survey period expressed as a percentage.
- (9) *Bed occupancy rate.* The proportion of bed spaces occupied in hotels and motels with facilities to the number of bed spaces available during the survey period expressed as a percentage.
- (10) *Site occupancy rate.* The proportion of sites occupied in caravan parks to the total caravan park capacity available during the survey period expressed as a percentage.
- (11) *Takings from accommodation.* The revenue received from the provision of short-term and long-term accommodation at the tourist accommodation establishment. Where meals and accommodation are a combined charge, an estimate of takings from meals is excluded. Takings from accommodation for each year represent the takings received during that year. In the case of some establishments, payments may be made in advance of, or may be received after the provision of, accommodation to guests and therefore the annual figure for takings from accommodation may not necessarily bear a direct relationship to the number of guests accommodated during the year. Rental and storage fees paid to caravan parks for the keeping of private vans in parks are included in the takings of the year they are received.

Selected statistics on accommodation

HOTELS, MOTELS, AND GUEST HOUSES WITH FACILITIES: NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS, OCCUPANCY RATES, AND TAKINGS, BY STATISTICAL DIVISION, VICTORIA, 1982-83

Statistical division	Number of establishments (June qr 1983)	Capacity at 30 June 1983		Room occupancy rates (per cent)				Bed occupancy rates (per cent)				Takings from accommodation
		Guest rooms	Bed spaces	September qr 1982	December qr 1982	March qr 1983	June qr 1983	September qr 1982	December qr 1982	March qr 1983	June qr 1983	
												\$'000
Melbourne	185	8,423	21,017	58	62	61	57	35	37	38	34	81,800
Barwon	51	962	2,793	35	49	54	40	20	32	36	24	4,872
South Western	50	1,027	2,937	39	47	55	44	21	27	35	27	4,801
Central Highlands	38	673	1,989	49	54	59	61	30	35	39	39	4,299
Wimmera	37	608	1,864	49	46	48	47	28	27	29	28	2,946
Northern Mallee	51	1,412	4,188	57	48	46	54	36	30	31	35	7,917
Loddon-Campaspe	62	1,003	2,986	49	50	50	53	30	30	32	33	5,338
Goulburn	69	1,133	3,384	46	37	38	42	31	24	24	25	5,529
North Eastern	76	1,428	4,247	53	36	38	45	36	22	25	29	7,411
East Gippsland	51	1,009	2,991	44	50	62	48	28	31	42	31	5,424
Central Gippsland	39	736	2,001	42	44	49	48	22	23	29	27	3,292
East Central	30	579	1,721	31	44	46	37	21	30	34	26	2,661
Total	739	18,993	52,118	51	53	54	51	31	32	35	31	136,291

HOTELS, MOTELS, AND GUEST HOUSES WITH FACILITIES: NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS, OCCUPANCY RATES, AND TAKINGS; BY STATISTICAL DIVISION, VICTORIA, 1983-84

Statistical division	Number of establishments (June qr 1984)	Capacity at 30 June 1984		Room occupancy rates (per cent)				Bed occupancy rates (per cent)				Takings from accommodation
		Guest rooms	Bed spaces	September qr 1983	December qr 1983	March qr 1984	June qr 1984	September qr 1983	December qr 1983	March qr 1984	June qr 1984	
												\$'000
Melbourne	180	8,399	20,943	60	62	63	60	36	38	39	36	90,962
Barwon	50	972	2,821	38	45	59	40	22	27	39	25	5,327
South Western	50	1,035	2,976	37	48	56	45	21	30	36	27	5,231
Central Highlands	37	696	2,081	54	56	62	60	34	37	40	38	4,849
Wimmera	37	608	1,815	46	49	49	49	28	28	29	28	3,298
Northern Mallee	50	1,369	4,166	56	53	52	59	36	33	34	39	8,825
Loddon-Campaspe	62	988	2,935	51	52	56	56	32	33	36	36	6,142
Goulburn	67	1,146	3,467	46	41	45	42	29	24	27	25	6,054
North Eastern	76	1,459	4,255	50	35	38	42	36	22	26	29	8,132
East Gippsland	51	1,020	3,051	42	50	58	46	27	32	41	29	5,684
Central Gippsland	39	738	2,008	42	43	45	43	22	23	28	24	3,215
East Central	30	576	1,725	31	42	52	35	22	28	38	25	3,066
Total	729	19,006	52,243	52	53	56	53	32	32	36	32	150,785

CARAVAN PARKS: NUMBER, CAPACITY, SITE OCCUPANCY RATES, AND TAKINGS FROM ACCOMMODATION, BY STATISTICAL DIVISION, VICTORIA, 1982-83

Statistical division	Number of establishments	Capacity at (June qr 1983)				Site occupancy rates (per cent)				Takings from accommodation (four quarters)
		Powered sites	Unpowered sites	Cabins, flats, etc.	Total capacity	September qr 1982	December qr 1982	March qr 1983	June qr 1983	
										\$'000
Melbourne	60	4,959	1,121	144	6,224	12	30	47	16	3,632
Barwon	46	7,345	1,628	246	9,219	6	18	43	9	3,627
South Western	35	3,561	1,517	45	5,123	7	16	27	9	1,798
Central Highlands	19	1,310	538	9	1,857	13	17	24	19	1,021
Wimmera	21	1,211	859	31	2,101	13	15	17	16	592
Northern Mallee	27	2,147	583	21	2,751	25	25	36	30	2,073
Loddon-Campaspe	31	2,803	841	11	3,655	14	19	26	19	1,435
Goulburn	40	3,254	1,632	20	4,906	11	14	27	16	1,405
North Eastern	34	3,165	1,281	71	4,517	13	13	24	15	1,665
East Gippsland	63	3,412	2,050	120	5,582	8	15	29	12	2,343
Central Gippsland	27	1,649	958	12	2,619	9	13	27	12	799
East Central	27	2,195	349	30	2,574	4	13	34	9	1,234
Total	430	37,011	13,357	760	51,128	10	18	33	14	21,623

**CARAVAN PARKS: NUMBER, CAPACITY, SITE OCCUPANCY RATES, AND TAKINGS
FROM ACCOMMODATION, BY STATISTICAL DIVISION, VICTORIA, 1983-84**

Statistical division	Number of establishments	Capacity at (June qr 1984)				Site occupancy rates (per cent)				Takings from accommodation (four quarters)
		Powered sites	Unpowered sites	Cabins, flats, etc.	Total capacity	September qr 1983	December qr 1983	March qr 1984	June qr 1984	
Melbourne	59	5,087	1,026	117	6,230	15	31	48	19	\$'000
Barwon	47	7,331	1,570	348	9,249	5	16	38	9	4,438
South Western	35	3,574	1,404	50	5,028	6	16	27	11	4,196
Central Highlands	19	1,326	523	9	1,858	15	17	31	20	2,129
Wimmera	21	1,200	911	37	2,148	11	15	19	18	1,060
Northern Mallee	27	2,209	784	35	3,028	23	22	31	30	803
Loddon-Campaspe	30	2,823	852	15	3,690	16	23	26	22	2,258
Goulburn	38	3,148	1,750	33	4,931	11	13	23	14	1,702
North Eastern	34	3,030	1,320	71	4,421	12	13	26	15	1,450
East Gippsland	64	3,469	2,148	126	5,743	9	15	27	13	1,871
Central Gippsland	27	1,665	916	15	2,596	7	12	25	11	2,629
East Central	27	2,234	561	29	2,824	4	13	31	9	754
Total	428	37,096	13,765	885	51,746	10	18	31	15	24,514

SPORT AND RECREATION

Victorian Department of Sport and Recreation

The Department of Sport and Recreation is responsible for promoting the fitness and improving the general health of Victorians, increasing and improving facilities available for Victoria's leisure activities, and overseeing the administration of the racing industry.

Summarised, the Department's objectives are:

Racing and gaming

- (1) to foster the growth and economic viability of the racing and gaming industries in Victoria; and
- (2) to provide within the terms of the *Racing Act 1958*, the *Lotteries, Gaming and Betting Act 1966*, and the *Tattersall Consultations Act 1958*, an effective regulatory oversight of the racing and gaming industries.

Sport, recreation, and leisure

- (1) to encourage participation by all Victorians in all forms of recreation, including sport, and to ensure the maximum diversity of recreation opportunities available to Victorians;
- (2) to allocate resources and influence the provision of recreation, leisure, and sporting facilities so that recreation opportunities are more equitably distributed, particularly for disadvantaged groups;
- (3) to ensure that decisions made by Victorians about their leisure are as informed as possible using processes of consultation, advocacy, promotion, and demonstration;
- (4) to assist voluntary organisations, private enterprise, government departments, public statutory bodies, and municipalities to provide facilities and services for sport, recreation, and leisure in Victoria;
- (5) to assist specific groups within the community (including disadvantaged groups) to improve their access to the community-wide range of sporting, recreation, leisure, and fitness facilities, programmes and services;
- (6) to encourage development of the sporting, recreation, and fitness industries and to foster employment opportunities within those industries; and
- (7) to promote safety in sport, recreation, leisure, and fitness programmes.

To exercise its functions the Department comprises five divisions:

The *Corporate Services Division* provides administrative and information services to departmental staff, the private sector, interest groups, and the general public. Services provided include Personnel, Finance, Stores, Transport, Registry, Publicity and Information, Freedom of Information, and the Library.

The *Racing and Gaming Division* is responsible for administering the racing and gaming industries in accordance with relevant legislation and for co-ordinating government policies in various areas of gaming activity. It is responsible for supervising Tattersall Consultations.

Formerly called the Recreation Development and Youth Affairs Division, the *Sport, Recreation and Leisure Division* is responsible for State wide co-ordination of sport, recreation, and fitness related programmes.

Within the Division, a new Community Recreation Development Unit has been created to provide specialist advice on local government recreation matters and assistance to State wide recreation organisations. The Outdoor Recreation Development Unit with its Camps Administration Section, Camping Advisory Services, and the Bushwalking and Mountaineering Training office, services the needs of outdoor recreationalists and promotes the development of resources and information relating to the outdoors.

Support for community and regional leisure facility management and the involvement with the development of international standard sports facilities is provided through the Facility Planning and Technical Services Unit.

Through the Fitness and Healthy Lifestyle Unit, and in conjunction with the Victorian Council on Fitness and General Health, the Department co-ordinates a programme of education, consultation, and promotion of community health and fitness.

The promotion of increased sports participation, developing employment opportunities in sport and improving skill levels of athletes, teams, and coaches is organised through the Sports Development Unit. Financial assistance is provided to selected individuals, clubs, and other Victorian sports organisations.

Disadvantaged groups are specifically assisted with recreation programmes through the Specific Populations Unit. Specialist recreation consultants provide services to organisations catering for aboriginals, people with disabilities, children, older adults, women, and migrants.

The role of the *Regional Services Division* is to deliver departmental programmes and services at a regional and local level. Regional staff work closely with local government and community agencies. Regional professional staff provide advice on sport, recreation, and leisure services available to municipalities, organisations, and the public, and arrange provision of specialist services to local organisations. They are also able to arrange for advice on the planning and design of facilities.

Strategies used by the Division in carrying out this role are:

- (1) financial assistance to local municipalities for capital works programmes to develop or improve recreational facilities;
- (2) subsidies to enable local councils to employ Municipal Recreation Officers and the provision of advice and support for these officers;
- (3) initiative grants to local government and community groups to generate new programmes and services;
- (4) funding for youth related projects, through Community Youth Grants;
- (5) advice, information, and consultancy services for community organisations with local government as the major client;
- (6) advocacy and the fostering of public awareness on issues relating to sport and recreation; and
- (7) support for the development of local community networks of relevant interest groups.

Municipal Capital Project Grants are paid to local councils for land purchase, open space development, and for construction of, or improvements to, local recreation or sporting facilities. These grants fall into two categories:

- (1) project grants are funded on a dollar for dollar basis over 10 years up to a maximum of \$250,000; and
- (2) grants provide funding up to a maximum of \$50,000 on a dollar for dollar basis for minor recreation facilities and services.

Municipal capital projects funding provides a mechanism by which the Department can facilitate the co-ordinated development of recreation facilities throughout the State.

To complement its head office services, the Department operates offices at Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Bendigo, Berwick, Geelong, Horsham, Morwell, Ringwood, Shepparton, St Kilda, Swan Hill, Wangaratta, and Warrnambool.

The *Policy Co-ordination Division* is responsible for co-ordinating the development of department policy, encouraging the integration of departmental activities with those of other community agencies; facilitating the co-ordination of departmental activities and policies with other State and interstate government departments, and the internal co-ordination of the Department's activities.

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION, PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE, 1983-84
(‘000)

Item	Corporate services	Sport, recreation, and leisure	Racing and gaming	Youth affairs	Total
Recurrent appropriations	1,341	8,388	1,475	2,620	13,824
Works and services appropriations	—	4,944	—	—	4,944
Special appropriation	—	—	1,009	—	1,009
Trust funds	—	416	15,867	—	16,283
Total	1,341	13,748	18,351	2,620	36,060

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION, PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE, 1984-85
(‘000)

Item	Corporate services	Sport, recreation, and leisure	Racing and gaming	Youth affairs	Total
Recurrent appropriations	1,469	9,245	1,539	2,909	15,162
Works and services appropriations	—	7,658	14	—	7,672
Special appropriation	—	—	2,110	—	2,110
Trust funds	—	392	19,738	—	20,130
Total	1,469	17,295	23,401	2,909	45,074

Totalizator Agency Board

The following table sets out the number of agencies and turnover of the Totalizator Agency Board from 1979 to 1984:

TOTALIZATOR AGENCY BOARD,
NUMBER OF AGENCIES AND
TURNOVER, VICTORIA

Year (a)	Agencies	Turnover
		\$'000
1979	472	585,279
1980	471	628,456
1981	465	688,374
1982	436	731,020
1983	423	825,239
1984	425	980,121

(a) At 31 July.

Source: Totalizator Agency Board annual reports.

Forest recreation

General

Victoria's State forests provide diverse opportunities for recreation. The diversity arises from the range of forest types and topography present within the State, and from the differing standards of access and levels of facilities provided in the various forests.

Pleasure driving and picnicking are the most popular activities, but the forests are also used for camping, fishing, hunting, walking, orienteering, rock climbing, fossicking, nature study, skiing, canoeing, four-wheel driving, and horse riding.

Use of the forests for recreation greatly increased during the 1970s, as the community became more mobile, with more leisure time and interest in the outdoors. The Forests Commission estimated that in 1981 about 7 million visitor days were spent on recreation in State forests.

Forest management has responded to the increase in demand by devoting more resources for encouraging the wider use of forests. This involves provision of facilities at appropriate locations, construction of walking tracks, better signposting of forest roads, and the provision of maps and information to assist visitors to the forests.

Increased recreational use has also brought problems; basically these consist of the conflict between different forms of recreation use, and the conflict between recreation use and conservation of the

forest. Management, however, aims to separate incompatible uses, such as trail-bike riding and picnicking, to divert visitors away from sensitive areas, and to control erosion, littering, and pollution of water resources. In intensively used areas, including the forests around Melbourne and in the Grampians, rangers have been appointed to assist visitors to enjoy the forest, while protecting the forest environment.

Areas with particular significance for recreation or conservation may be set aside as special reserves. At 30 June 1983, there were 123 reserves totalling 61,838 hectares, compared with 125 reserves and 96,307 hectares at 30 June 1984. Committees of management and advisory committees have been appointed in relation to forty-five of these Reserves.

Participation in skiing – downhill and cross-country – continues to grow rapidly. The Commission manages two residential resorts, Mt Buller and Mt Baw Baw, and two day resorts, Lake Mountain and Mt Donna Buang. In addition to these resorts, many other areas in the high country are used by cross-country skiers. In the management of the resorts the Commission is assisted by Committees of Management.

In 1982, a poor snow season, there were 300,000 visits to the resorts. In 1983, this number rose to 420,000.

A development plan and environment effects statement for a new ski resort at Mt Stirling, near Mt Buller in the Mansfield district, was prepared for the Forests Commission by consultants.

As a result of the passage of the *Alpine Resorts Act* 1983, it is intended that control of the ski resorts will be taken over by the newly formed Alpine Resorts Commission.

The inaugural Australia Games

The inaugural Australia Games were held in Melbourne between 26 January and 3 February, 1985, and were included in the programme of events to celebrate Victoria's 150th Anniversary. Twenty-two sport which will take place at two yearly intervals. The concept of a national multi-sport festival has been the subject of serious discussion in Australia for some years and, in 1981, the Commonwealth Government in conjunction with the State Governments, resolved to support the staging of such a festival at regular intervals.

Commonwealth funding assisted the establishment of the Australia Games Foundation as a non-profit trustee company and the appointment of a Federal Director in 1981-82. The Foundation was registered as a trustee company in Victoria in March 1983.

The main aims of the Foundation are:

- (1) to benefit young Australian sportspeople by holding regular international-standard competition in Australia, a situation normally precluded by Australia's geographic isolation;
- (2) to encourage the build up of international sporting facilities in each State; and
- (3) to foster a strong national spirit and stimulate interest in sport.

Foundation membership comprises delegates from the following affiliated associations and individuals: The Confederation of Australian Sport, The Australian Olympic Federation, The Australian Commonwealth Games Association, the Commonwealth Minister responsible for Sport (Minister's nominee), and The National Sports Commission (Commonwealth Minister's Advisory Council).

One notable feature of these Games was the inclusion of events for athletes with disabilities and an Australian team, in the 4 × 100m relay for amputees, created a new world record of 48.63 seconds. Disabled athletes also participated in swimming, basketball, netball, weightlifting, and shooting, and a large contingent from Australia and overseas staged a lawn bowls event at Footscray for blind bowlers.

Overall, the sports were divided into high and medium profile. High profile sports included track and field, swimming and synchronised swimming, weightlifting, gymnastics, hockey, boxing, cycling, basketball, diving, water polo, lawn bowls, netball, and surf lifesaving; medium profile sports were badminton, judo, volleyball, softball, wrestling, squash, shooting, and trampoline.

Unlike other Games, competitors were grouped by their sport, not their country. Athletes were housed in several venues with the main Games Village being situated at the University of Melbourne. Other accommodation venues were in the city and suburbs as well as at Geelong. Competition venues were also spread over a wide area allowing many Victorians the opportunity of seeing world class competition live for the first time. Over 300 volunteers were accredited and they helped in many areas including transport, accreditation, media services, and the operation of the Games Village.

Apart from the Commonwealth and State Governments' financial backing six major sponsors contributed towards the staging of the Games as well as several minor sponsors and many

supplementary sponsors of goods and services. A major Australian television network covered events and 70 hours of competition was available to viewers nationally. Print media and radio coverage of Games highlights was also extensive.

The whole event was planned and organised in less than 12 months and was a strong reflection of the Victorian people's enthusiasm for sport.

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