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REGIONS, HERITAGE, AND PLANNING

MELBOURNE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Melbourne was founded 150 years ago when permanent settlers seeking pastoral land crossed Bass Strait and occupied the site of the future city. A plaque in the footpath at the corner of Flinders and William Streets proclaims that John Batman landed near here in June 1835, and records his diary entry of 8 June 'this will be the place for a village'.

Although there had been earlier settlements on the coast – in 1803 at Sorrento, in 1826 at Western Port, and in 1834 at Portland – it was this incursion of pastoral settlers from Van Diemen's Land that founded the metropolitan area. In the 1891 Census Report (p.4) the Government Statist of Victoria wrote that 'the first permanent settlement of Victoria (then the Port Phillip district of New South Wales) was by John Batman, who arrived on the 29th May, 1835, and was shortly followed by John Pascoe Fawkner'. In a footnote he recorded that 'Mr Edward Henty had established a station on Portland Bay in the previous November, but this can hardly be said to have led to the permanent settlement of the colony, which was due to the enterprise of the parties led by Batman and Fawkner'. There has been considerable controversy about who was the founder and which date should be celebrated.

The development of the State and its capital was the work of many people who overcame much hardship to cultivate agriculture, husband stock, prospect and mine for gold, and provide factories and services. While it was still the Port Phillip District many institutions had been established. The first census was taken in 1836 when the settlement numbered 142 males and 35 females. In the year of Queen Victoria's accession, 1837, the town of Melbourne was named. Robert Hoddle surveyed the site of the present inner city after a design by Robert Russell that showed great vision in its grid of wide streets. The first Post Office was opened in 1841. Gradually settlement spread out from the centre to form suburbs. In the sixteen years between settlement of the district and separation of the colony of Victoria from New South Wales, the township had become the hub of a largely pastoral area, banks and insurance offices had opened, newspapers were begun, churches, schools, hospitals, theatres, taverns, and bridges were built, and the Botanic Gardens laid out. Melbourne was incorporated as a town in 1842, and was proclaimed a city by Royal Letters Patent in 1847.

Almost concurrently with separation in 1851, the discovery of gold in Victoria brought an influx of diggers from all parts of the world that hastened Melbourne's growth. By the census of 1854 its population totalled over 50,000. In the fifties Cobb & Co. coaches were operating, law courts were established, a railway ran to Sandridge (Port Melbourne) on Hobsons Bay, and a university, a public library, an art gallery, and a museum were founded, workers won the 8 hour day, distance was conquered by telegraph, and a town water supply was ensured by the Yan Yean Reservoir. Although attempts to make the district a penal colony were unsuccessful, gold inevitably led to a spate of bushranging, and in the turbulent times Melbourne witnessed the struggles of a frontier to become civilised, which was epitomised in the tragedy of the Burke and Wills exploring expedition that had left Melbourne in 1860.

During the next three decades the colony consolidated its position on the foundation that gold had laid. Industries diversified, a stock exchange and a mint were begun in Melbourne, and education was made free, compulsory, and secular. The Melbourne Cup was first run in 1861 and the first cricket test between England and Australia held in Melbourne was in 1877, while Australian Rules football was evolving from a local inter-school game to become more recognisably the sport of later years. The demise of bushranging followed the capture of Ned Kelly in 1880. Melbourne's solidity was exemplified in the expansion of the eighties that saw many great technological advances, including an

extensive cable tram network that spread throughout the city and suburbs from 1885, and operated in parts as late as 1940. Architectural developments included the building that housed the International Exhibition of 1880.

The city had grown from 'the place for a village' to 'Marvellous Melbourne' in only 50 years with about 300,000 inhabitants, tall buildings, busy factories, and a bustling commercial sector. Stone government buildings in Italian Renaissance style reflected a civic opulence that rivalled the ostentation of rich citizens whose mansions stood in spacious grounds. Gaslit streets and bridges, and horse drawn carriages and cabs in tree-lined avenues and boulevards, were reminders of other great river cities such as London and Paris.

Between 1885 and 1935 Melbourne shared the suffering that accompanied economic depression and war. The maritime strike of 1890, the bank crash, and seven years of drought from 1895 to 1902 made the approach to the twentieth century a marked contrast from the boom years. Federation in 1901 coincided with the end of the Victorian era and the emergence of the motor car age in the Edwardian era. Melbourne, with half a million people at the turn of the century, became the capital of Australia until 1927, when the seat of Federal government transferred to Canberra. In the First World War, Melbourne was shocked at the loss of many citizens in battles at Gallipoli and on the Western Front.

After the war the suburban rail network was electrified from 1919, enabling the growing population to spread to more distant suburbs. The twenties were a time of comparative optimism that saw the advent of broadcasting and the building of palatial cinemas. The early thirties were the reverse with high unemployment in the Great Depression. Melbourne was a city of a million people when it celebrated its centenary and dedicated its Shrine of Remembrance.

Since 1935 Melbourne has experienced the Second World War and the boom period of post-war recovery. The stimulus of war on its existing strong manufacturing base gave the opportunity to turn to new commodities that later facilitated the mass production of motor vehicles. The motor car, in turn, made possible the establishment of outer suburbs to accommodate the expanding population resulting from the post-war migration programme. The last fifty years have seen Melbourne's population almost treble to about three million, ten times that of a century before.

Planners have determined where growth should occur and freeways and bridges were built to allow rapid movement of goods and people. Natural gas from the Bass Strait oil fields became available from 1969. Tullamarine was the site for an international airport which opened in 1971. Public transport was upgraded to include the underground rail loop, opened in 1981. The Port of Melbourne is the busiest container port in Australia. New universities and colleges were opened to cater for the greater need for higher education.

The city has the reputation of being cosmopolitan, with ethnic festivals and restaurants adding variety to traditional social activities. In 1956 Melbourne enjoyed the international spotlight as host city for the Games of the XVIth Olympiad, which coincided with the introduction of television. Its Arts Centre, consisting of the National Gallery, the Melbourne Concert Hall, and the Theatres Complex, has given Melbourne world class cultural facilities on the river, not far from where the city began a century and a half ago.

PLANNING IN VICTORIA
Ministry for Planning and Environment

The Ministry for Planning and Environment was created on 1 September 1983, as part of a restructure of government departments in which the Department of Planning and some sections and agencies of the Ministry for Conservation and the Department of Crown Lands and Survey were consolidated in one ministry.

The new Ministry is concerned with managing and controlling the use of land, safeguarding and improving the environment, and protecting the heritage of Victoria.

Restructure

The 1983 restructure was part of the Victorian Government's plan to reduce the number of separate ministries and departments. Four departments – Planning, Conservation, Forests, and Crown Lands and Survey – were consolidated into two – the Ministry for Planning and Environment, and the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands. The Ministry for Planning and Environment was created to eliminate areas of overlap and duplication; to integrate more effectively land-use, development control, and emission control; and to relate land-use policy more closely to environmental planning and to bring together the various bodies concerned with protection of heritage sites.

The new Ministry consisted of:
    Department of Planning *   — from the Department of Planning
    Planning Appeals Board
    Historic Buildings Council

    Environment Assessments, Planning
        and Policy   — from the Ministry for Conservation
    Environment Protection Authority
    Victoria National Estate Committee
    Victoria Archaeological Survey
    Victoria Conservation Trust
    Land Conservation Council

    Port Phillip Authority **   — from the Department of Crown Lands and
                                             Survey
    Coastal Management and Co-ordination
        Committee
    Landata (in January 1984)***

A further restructure was to take place in 1985 when the Planning Branch of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works was to be amalgamated with the ministry and a new Metropolitan Planning Division established.

Functions and responsibilities

Land-use planning

The Ministry's programme of land-use planning, management, and control aims to ensure the balanced use of land throughout Victoria, and to provide for efficient and equitable allocation of resources to meet the community's present and future needs. It is implemented through strategic and statutory planning, and special projects to put plans into effect in key areas.

The Ministry works with local and regional authorities to prepare and implement regional and sub-regional strategy plans, which give local councils and other agencies direction and a basis for consistent decision-making within a region. It also assists regional and local authorities responsible for preparation and administration of statutory planning controls which regulate land-use in different parts of each municipality. The Minister retains many significant powers including the power to accept or reject any proposed scheme or scheme amendment and the power to introduce schemes, amendments, and interim controls on his own account. Most of Victoria is now covered by government approved planning controls.

In some cases where proposed developments are not permitted or not allowed for in planning schemes, the Minister may amend the schemes, after public consultation, to allow the developments to proceed. This allows flexibility and encouragement of special projects where appropriate. An important part of this system is the right of objection to proposed changes to planning schemes, and the right of appeal to the Planning Appeals Board against decisions of responsible authorities.

As well as its basic statutory responsibilities under the Town and Country Planning Act, the Ministry has a co-ordinating role in land-use planning for major projects. This includes co-ordinating government responses to private development proposals, and working with other government agencies, local authorities, community groups, and individuals to prepare development plans. It also assists private landowners with the restructure of inappropriate subdivisions.

The recent restructure has extended the land-use planning programme to include public lands. The Land Conservation Council is responsible for carrying out investigations and making recommendations to the Minister on the balanced use of public land in Victoria.

Environment protection and improvement

The Ministry aims to protect and improve the quality of the environment by developing State environmental policies and strategies, providing technical advice, and increasing community awareness of environmental issues. A new Environment Division was set up as part of the 1983 restructure.

Ministry priorities include the development of a State Conservation Strategy, preparation of a State

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* Abolished by an Amendment to Schedule Two of the *Public Service Act* 1974 on 1 September 1983.
**Abolished on 3 June 1984 when a sunset clause in the *Port Phillip Authority (Amendment) Act* 1980 came into effect.
***Transferred to Department of Property and Services in 1985.

of the Environment report, and development of coastal planning and management. A major objective is to achieve better integration of land-use planning and environment protection.

Where development proposals involve projects that could have a substantial impact on the environment, such as major engineering works or tourist centres in ecologically sensitive areas, the Minister may require the proponent to prepare an Environment Effects Statement. The statement is examined by all appropriate authorities, and after allowing time for public submissions, the Minister's assessment of the proposal is then prepared and provided as advice to the decision maker. It is also made publicly available.

Through its Environment Division, the Ministry advises developers and government agencies on the environmental effects of works proposals, including reviews of the works programmes of various government agencies.

Following the restructure, responsibility for planning and management co-ordination of coastal lands (except major ports and national parks) was transferred to the Minister. A new Coastal Unit was formed to take over the functions and resources of the Port Phillip Authority and the Coastal Management and Co-ordination Committee. The unit will co-ordinate planning, management, works, funding and protection of coastal resources, and help prepare management plans, in conjunction with other government agencies, committees of management, and coastal municipalities. The Minister is responsible for approval of management plans, changes to plans and changes in use and development, and approval of leases, licences, and permits.

Pollution prevention and control, and protection and improvement of air, land, and water environments are the responsibility of the Environment Protection Authority. Recent changes to the Environment Protection Act give the Authority a more positive role in pollution control, requiring companies to obtain works approvals from the EPA at the same time as obtaining building approvals. This means that the EPA is involved at the stage when factories or plans are designed, instead of relying largely on licensing of discharges from premises to set allowable limits of pollutants.

Heritage conservation

Through its cultural heritage programme the Ministry aims to control and co-ordinate conservation of significant historic buildings, sites, and areas; to identify, research, protect, and manage archaeological sites; and to provide educational material to the public.

The protection and conservation of Victoria's cultural heritage involves a number of government and community groups. The 1983 restructure brought together in one Ministry the Heritage Unit and Historic Buildings Council from the Department of Planning, and the Victoria National Estate Committee, Victoria Archaeological Survey, and the Victoria Conservation Trust from the Ministry for Conservation. Each deals with aspects of the heritage programme.

The Ministry administers protection legislation and a system of advisory services and financial assistance to encourage conservation and restoration projects. During 1984, it put particular emphasis on the conservation of historic areas, as distinct from individual buildings, in both country towns and inner suburbs of Melbourne. This has been put into effect through planning controls.

A major report entitled *Victoria's Heritage: A Future for the Past* dealing with the present stage of heritage protection in Victoria was released for public comment in March 1984 under the auspices of the National Estate Program. It discusses the need to co-ordinate heritage protection and to develop a comprehensive strategy to manage the State's heritage resources.

Area improvement

The Ministry is becoming increasingly involved in area improvement projects designed to ensure more equitable as well as more efficient distribution of resources and facilities. As well as planning these projects it is now more directly engaged in getting them on the ground and taking active steps to bring about desired change.

This new development offers the opportunity to put concepts into practice and build up a new range of skills, such as designing and carrying out landscaping works, establishing parks, developing interim land purchasing arrangements, and setting up administration systems such as the Western Suburbs Area Assistance Program. This approach is being applied to the development of metropolitan and district centres and to townscape improvement in country towns and cities.

The area improvement programme aims to benefit communities by providing facilities, improving urban design, and stimulating private sector development. Through the Commonwealth Government's Prices and Incomes Accord and Community Employment Programs it also enables the long-term unemployed to work on community projects and receive training and work experience to

improve their chances for permanent employment. During 1983-84, 32 projects with a value of $6.6m were funded, including establishment of parks, bicycle paths, and coastal improvements.

Research and information

The Ministry conducts research into the social, economic, and environmental factors underlying land-use change to enable better understanding of the causes and effects of urban and regional development and formulation of better planning policies at State level. It is developing systems for monitoring key elements of land-use change, including housing, retailing, offices, and factories, and publishes results in reports and bulletins.

In January 1984 the Landata project was transferred to the Ministry. This will eventually provide ready access to information on every block of land in Victoria.

The Ministry also provides specialist advisory services and publications to assist the planning work of local government, community groups, and other government agencies.

Structure of the Ministry

The central Ministry consists of an executive and seven divisions, which are responsible to the permanent head, the Secretary for Planning and Environment.

Port Phillip Division

The Port Phillip Division is responsible for developing planning strategies for the Port Phillip District and implementing these strategies through special projects.

It advises and assists metropolitan and regional authorities, commissions, and committees, and reviews the policies and planning controls developed by these bodies. The division consists of five regional groups, each responsible for the day to day management of a defined area, and a number of task groups set up to handle Ministry projects. The Western Port region is administered through an office at Cranbourne.

Country Victoria Division

Statutory work in the Country Victoria Division differs in nature and scale from that of the Port Phillip Division. Expert advice is needed by the many municipalities that lack specialised planning skills. The Division helps regional authorities and municipalities to prepare and amend planning controls, and provides key information for land-use planning through such programmes as rural land mapping and townscape improvement.

The Ministry has regional offices in Ballarat, Bendigo, Traralgon, Warrnambool, and Wodonga. The East Gippsland, Goulburn, and Northern Mallee regions are administered from head office.

Special Projects Division (Deputy Secretary's Division)

This includes the Executive Support Unit, Legal Section, Panel Co-ordination, Planning Appeals Board staff, Area Improvement (including Melton-Sunbury Growth Centres), Heritage Unit, Victoria National Estate Committee, and Victoria Archaeological Survey. It provides specialist services to other divisions, to statutory bodies, and the general public.

Planning Services Division

The Planning Services Division consists of six groups – Advisory Services, Policy Analysis and Research, Public Affairs, Urban Design, Library, and Cartography and Graphics. These groups provide services to the Ministry, municipalities, other interest groups, and the public.

Environment Division

The Environment Division is responsible for developing environmental policy and strategies for safeguarding the environment. The Division's four groups are responsible for assessing the impact of major works on the environment, developing environmental policies, and ensuring that environmental input is provided in land-use planning. Another major responsibility is coastal planning and management of Victoria's public coastal lands and waters. The Division is also concerned with involving the public in the environmental aspects of planning and assisting with environment education and information programmes.

Landata Division

The Landata project is to create a computer-based land information system for Victoria. It was initiated within the Department of Crown Lands and Survey, and transferred to the Ministry in January 1984. Landata aims to co-ordinate the land information records and systems of various government agencies, and to provide ready access to information on each block of land in the State. Access to this information at present involves cumbersome procedures and expensive delays.

Administrative Services Division

The Administrative Services Division provides management and administrative services to support the work of the Ministry as a whole. It consists of Finance, Personnel, and Information Management Services Sections.

Statutory authorities

A number of statutory authorities are responsible to the Minister for Planning and Environment. Their work is co-ordinated with the work of the central Ministry, and in some cases Ministry staff provide support services.

Environment Protection Authority

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) was established under the *Environment Protection Act* 1970. It is responsible for protecting and improving Victoria's environment through waste management, noise control, and pollution prevention. The EPA develops State Environment Protection Policies to provide objectives and guidelines for environmental management and to form the framework for waste discharge control. It controls, licenses, and monitors waste discharge, investigates complaints about pollution, and conducts research in pollution and environmental management.

Historic Buildings Council

The Historic Buildings Council was established under the *Historic Buildings Act* 1981, superseding the Historic Buildings Preservation Council established under the Act of 1974. In 1983 it took over the functions of the Government Buildings Advisory Council.

The Council is concerned generally with the built heritage of Victoria, reporting to the Minister on all matters covered by the Act. It makes recommendations on buildings of historic or architectural importance that should be added to the Register of Historic Buildings and the Government Buildings Register. A permit from the Council is required for demolition, subdivision, or alteration of registered historic buildings, and the Minister's approval is necessary for demolition or alteration of registered government buildings. The Council provides advice and technical assistance to owners of registered buildings, and may recommend government financial assistance in various forms. The Council's functions also include heritage planning advice and production of educational material relating to preservation.

Land Conservation Council

The Land Conservation Council was established under the *Land Conservation Council Act* 1971. Its main function is to carry out investigations and make recommendations to the Minister on the balanced use of public land in the State. It also recommends areas to be proclaimed as water catchments, and advises the Soil Conservation Authority on land-use policies in these areas.

Planning Appeals Board

The Board was established under the *Planning Appeals Board Act* 1980 to hear and determine appeals formerly heard by the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal, the Environment Protection Appeal Board, the Drainage Tribunal, the Local Government Arbitrator, and the Port Phillip Authority.

Victoria Conservation Trust

The Trust was established under the *Victoria Conservation Trust Act* 1972 to encourage and assist in the preservation of areas of ecological significance, of natural interest or beauty, or of historical interest; the preservation of wildlife and native plants; and the preservation and creation of areas for scientific study relating to any of these matters. The Trust also receives and manages property and money donated to the community for conservation purposes.

Regional planning authorities

Victoria has a system of regional planning authorities established to deal with matters affecting whole regions as well as the individual municipalities within them. The powers and responsibilities of these bodies vary considerably.

Albury-Wodonga (Victoria) Corporation

The Corporation was established under the *Albury-Wodonga Agreement Act* 1973. It is responsible for undertaking, in conjunction with the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation and the Albury-Wodonga (New South Wales) Corporation, the development of a growth complex at Albury-Wodonga. The Corporation is responsible to the Minister for Industry, Commerce and

Technology, but may act as a responsible authority under the Town and Country Planning Act. (See pages 186-7.)

Geelong Regional Commission

The Commission was established under the *Geelong Regional Commission Act* 1977 and is responsible to both the Minister for Planning and Environment and the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Technology.

Its functions are to plan and manage development within the Geelong area; to protect areas of natural beauty which are of special significance to the region; and to provide services and facilities for the people in the Geelong area. The Commission is also responsible for ensuring that the community is involved in the planning of future developments within the region. (See pages 185-6.)

Latrobe Regional Commission

The Latrobe Regional Commission was established under the *Latrobe Regional Commission Act* 1983. It is basically responsible to the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Technology, but is also responsible to the Minister for Planning and Environment for the preparation of a regional strategy plan.

Its other responsibilities are:

(1) to co-ordinate the planning of economic, physical, environmental, and social development of the La Trobe region;

(2) to improve the co-ordination, and to facilitate the development, of major projects in the region;

(3) to assist implementation of State policies in relation to the region and to involve the community in decision-making;

(4) to assist in economic development of the region; and

(5) to give effect to Statements of Planning Policy.

Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority

The Authority was established under the *Town and Country Planning Act* 1961. Twenty municipalities are represented on the Authority. One of its main functions has been to prepare a regional strategy plan. The Authority administers an interim development order over the Bendigo-Whipstick area, an area of regional conservation significance. Ministry staff assist in servicing the Authority.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is the responsible authority for the preparation and submission for approval of any planning scheme in relation to the Melbourne metropolitan area and is responsible for metropolitan parks. Those aspects of the Board's activities which relate to planning come within the administration of the Minister for Planning and Environment. The Board is also responsible to the Minister of Water Supply. In 1985 the Board's Planning Branch will be amalgamated with the Ministry for Planning and Environment.

Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority

The Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority was established under the *Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority Act* 1976 to implement Statements of Planning Policy for the Yarra River and Dandenong Ranges, and prepare and review a Regional Strategy Plan.

The Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Regional Strategy Plan was approved by the Victorian Government in 1982 and councils in the region are required to prepare planning schemes to implement it.

The Authority is required to involve the public in planning matters and to review permit applications on matters of regional significance.

Western Port Committee

The Western Port Committee was established under the *Town and Country Planning (Western Port) Act* 1981 to advise the Minister on planning matters within the Western Port region, which covers the Shires of Flinders, Hastings, and Mornington, and parts of the Shires of Cranbourne, Bass, Phillip Island, and French Island. The Committee is staffed by the Ministry's Cranbourne office.

Major current projects

Legislation review

A major Ministry priority is the simplification and rationalisation of planning legislation and

procedures. A complete overhaul of the Town and Country Planning Act began in 1983, and a discussion paper was widely distributed. Submissions have been considered and draft legislation is being prepared.

Land acquisition and compensation legislation and procedures are also being reviewed, and a draft proposal for new legislation has been released for public comment.

The Environment Protection Act has been reviewed and further work is proceeding. The Environment Effects Act is to undergo a thorough review in 1985.

Working groups have been established with the Local Government Department to review submissions on the report of the Subdivision of Land Task Force and to investigate pre-selling of allotments shown on plans of subdivision.

Central city planning

On 24 November 1982, the Victorian Government, through the Minister for Planning, assumed direct responsibility for planning in the Melbourne Central Business District by Governor in Council approval of the City of Melbourne (Central City) Interim Development Order – the first detailed planning control for this area. Under this Order the Minister has ultimate responsibility for all development control in the area bounded by the Yarra River, Spencer Street, Dudley Street, Capel Street, Victoria Street, Landsdowne Street, and Jolimont Road. Planning and design guidelines have been prepared to go with the Order to assist people preparing proposals in the central city, by clearly setting out the quality levels desired by the Victorian Government in order for a proposal to be approved. During 1983-84, 313 permits were issued for central city projects and between January and June 1984 major projects worth more than $350m were approved by the Victorian Government.

The Ministry is responsible for major strategic planning projects in areas of the city where the Victorian Government has significant under-utilised land holdings – La Trobe Central (above Museum station and including RMIT, the State Library, Museum of Victoria, and Queen Victoria Hospital); Jolimont railyards; Southbank; the Flagstaff precinct; and Station Pier.

It is also responsible for developing, in close consultation with the Melbourne City Council and other interested groups, the Victorian Government's $1m Melbourne improvement programme, which includes riverfront improvements, landscaping some of the city's little streets and lanes, better city signs, mural painting, and a city tourist bus service.

Riverside improvements

Southbank

Over the past three years the Victorian Government has been developing plans to improve the surroundings of the Yarra River, to encourage better use of riverside land. On 22 June 1983 the government introduced the City of South Melbourne (Southbank) Interim Development Order giving the Minister planning control over all development on land bounded by the Yarra River, the southern approach to the Johnson Street Bridge, Lorimer, Maffra, and Sturt Streets, and the rear of the Melbourne Concert Hall. The Order places strict controls over development in the area to ensure it is compatible with the river environs and relates in scale and type to the proposed recreation/tourism use of the area.

The Southbank area is now used mainly for warehouses, light industry, showrooms, railways, and roads. The Victorian Government owns about 80 per cent of the riverside land in the area, and plans are being developed to make better use of this prime location. Over a period of years the area will be redeveloped to provide riverside living, recreation, tourist, and trade activities. Plans include road closures, diversion of through traffic, landscaping of major roads and riverbanks, and construction of a riverside promenade. The Ministry is now directly involved in design and implementation of landscaping work along the river edge and roads in Southbank.

Lower Yarra Project

Design and development of parklands along both banks of the Yarra River from its junction with the Maribyrnong River to Port Phillip Bay is being undertaken as part of Victoria's 150th Anniversary Lower Yarra Project. Landscaping will link the individual parks – Westgate Park, Stony Creek Park, Stony Creek Backwash, Newport Park, and Greenwich Reserve. An urban forest will be established, and a landscape corridor will link Westgate Park to the river. The project is due to be completed late in 1985. The project's committee includes representatives of the Ministry for Planning and Environment, Victorian Tourism Commission, Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, the Board of Works, State Electricity Commission, Port of Melbourne Authority, Victoria's 150th Anniversary Board, and Port Melbourne, Footscray, and Williamstown Councils.

Metropolitan strategy

In September 1983 the Victorian Government approved Part 1 of Amendment 150 to the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme. The amendment, which was exhibited in 1983, further develops the strategic framework for the planning of Melbourne of a corridor/green wedge policy established in the 1970s. The amendment seeks to contain urban growth and to make optimum use of existing resources and of the substantial private and public investment in the metropolitan area. In introducing the amendment the Victorian Government recognises the role of central Melbourne as a major activity centre of the metropolitan area and the need to make it a more exciting, interesting, and attractive place. It also recognises that the majority of the population lives in the suburbs and that an increasing proportion of the population also works in the suburbs. Consequently, the need to organise suburban growth and to improve the suburban environment is a key factor of the strategy.

Parts 1 and 2 of the amendment which were approved during 1983-84 introduced substantial changes to the planning scheme.

Part 1 introduced a series of objectives and a strategic framework. An essential part of this framework is the designation of 14 district centres: Box Hill, Camberwell Junction, Cheltenham/Southland, Dandenong, Footscray, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Greensborough, Moonee Ponds, Oakleigh, Prahran, Preston, Ringwood, and Sunshine.

These are to be community centres second only to the central business district, providing a range of facilities and services to people living in surrounding regions. Government offices, shops, personal and business services, libraries, and other municipal facilities will be encouraged by direct government action where appropriate.

Part 2 of the amendment restricts the establishment of offices in industrial zones generally to a maximum of 500 square metres. Central Melbourne is seen as the preferred location for major head office development, with regionally oriented offices being located in the district centres. The restrictions do not however apply where the office development is part of a larger industrial undertaking.

Other parts of the amendment to be considered in the coming year relate to such matters as dual occupancy, the hierarchy of roads, new zones in North, West, and South Melbourne, new non-urban zones and controls, changes to existing commercial zones to recognise the Victorian Government's broad strategy for the location of major retail and commercial uses, and the introduction of metropolitan uses.

Area improvement

Western Suburbs Action Program

Programmes to improve the western suburbs of Melbourne have been a major ministry priority for the past two years. The Victorian Government established the Western Suburbs Action Program in 1982 in the municipalities of Altona, Footscray, Sunshine, Werribee, Williamstown, and parts of Keilor and Essendon (St Albans and frontages to the Maribyrnong River).

The programme is being run by the Ministry in conjunction with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, the Environment Protection Authority, the Western Region Commission, and the municipal councils.

The main purpose is to identify planning and environmental issues from the community's point of view and to find practical ways of improving living conditions and the environment. The first stage, issues identification, was completed in March 1983.

The Stage 2 Progress Report was released in September 1983 and recommended actions to help overcome problems that had arisen from past planning and development, to prevent such problems from arising in future, and to encourage future development and enhancement of the west. Since its release projects worth more than $7m and creating a large number of new jobs are under way or to begin in the western suburbs.

The Stage 3 Implementation Report was released in November 1984. It reported on the implementation of projects arising from recommendations in the Stage 2 Report and provided further recommendations for improving the physical environment in the western suburbs.

Lynch's Bridge

One of the largest urban redevelopment projects in the west is Lynch's Bridge, about four kilometres from the centre of Melbourne. Possibilities for future use of approximately 80 hectares of land along the Maribyrnong River in the Footscray-Kensington area have been investigated by the Ministry in conjunction with the Ministry of Housing, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of

Works, Footscray and Melbourne Councils, and local community representatives. Four redevelopment options, all of which included a mix of public and private housing, recreation areas, and improved access to the riverside, were publicly exhibited early in 1984. Recommendations incorporating community views are currently under consideration by the Victorian Government.

Strategies for country areas

Because of the general trend towards rural depopulation and small town decline many areas in country Victoria are facing problems or issues which go beyond local boundaries and need to be dealt with at regional or State level. The Ministry is assisting a number of local and regional authorities prepare strategies for guiding future development, and improving co-ordination of local government services.

The Ballarat Area Strategy Plan

The Ballarat Area Strategy Plan was prepared by the Ballarat Area Planning Committee, and was launched in December 1984. The Plan deals not only with land-use, but with development trends in other sectors, and takes into account such issues as changes in population, provision of community services and facilities, employment, transport and communication, future use of Crown land and tenure, retailing, and commercial development. One of the basic requirements is to match areas for development with economic provision of public utilities. The Plan also incorporates the findings of the Ballarat Conservation Study.

Loddon-Campaspe Regional Strategy Plan

The Loddon-Campaspe Regional Strategy Plan was exhibited in 1984 and following public submission will be revised and modified before adoption by the Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority and presentation to the Minister. The Plan deals with promoting economic growth and employment in the Region; the role and relationships between urban centres and the provision of community services; the need for better management of the physical environment and better utilisation of existing water resources; promotion of tourism and the need for a goldfields tourism and conservation plan; and promotion of regional identity.

When completed, these plans will provide a basis for co-ordinating the policies of government and regional organisations and indicate regional priorities for expenditure and implementation of policies.

Townscape improvement

Another project designed to improve both economic viability and the environment in country towns and cities is the Townscape Advisory Service. Since it was set up within the Ministry in late 1983 a large number of Victorian communities have asked for assistance.

The service provides townscape analysis, improvement proposals and designs, assistance with funding applications, and in some cases, carrying out works through the Community Employment Program (CEP).

Urban Conservation Areas and Melbourne Metropolitan Planning
Scheme (MMPS) Amendment 224

Although it has been possible for the last ten years to protect important individual buildings under the Historic Buildings Act, conservation of single buildings has not prevented unsympathetic development from altering the character of surrounding areas.

The Ministry has taken a number of steps in the past two years to assist in the conservation of urban areas of special significance. To encourage responsible authorities to exercise their powers under the Town and Country Planning Act to protect these areas, the Act was amended in July 1982 to clarify that compensation was not payable to owners of property in areas designated of special significance.

In November 1982 heritage controls were introduced to protect historic areas in central Melbourne, and the Department produced *Heritage Guidelines* to accompany the Central City Interim Development Order, illustrating the type of sympathetic development that would be appropriate.

A major amendment to the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme (Amendment 224), prepared by the Ministry and the Board of Works was approved in April 1984, designating 34 areas in the inner suburbs as Urban Conservation Areas. Planning controls now protect the historic and architectural character of these areas by ensuring that any changes or new developments are in harmony with their surroundings. Controls operate in parts of Brunswick, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Richmond, South Melbourne, St Kilda, and Williamstown.

The areas designated contain some of Melbourne's earliest residential and commercial buildings, as well as the major metropolitan parks and boulevards.

Two more amendments are being prepared to extend the conservation areas in Melbourne, South Melbourne, Fitzroy, and St Kilda. Further studies are now being completed in Northcote, Essendon, St Kilda, Melbourne, Brunswick, Hawthorn, Prahran, Richmond, and Williamstown. Similar work is being done in country areas with major efforts in Port Fairy, Portland, Warrnambool, Queenscliff, Bendigo, Echuca, Walhalla, Talbot/Clunes, and Ballarat.

National Estate Grants Program

The Victoria National Estate Committee receives and assesses applications for funds made available through the Commonwealth National Estate Grants Program.

Grants are made available to projects which assist the conservation of places in, or nominated for, the Register of the National Estate. In 1983-84 this included 32 projects with grants totalling $446,666. Projects ranged from an Aboriginal rock art survey of the Grampians to restoration of Newman College. Also included was a survey of 20th century buildings and establishment of a Register of Rare and Endangered Plant Species. The Committee is administered through the Ministry's Heritage Unit.

Victoria Archaeological Survey

The Victoria Archaeological Survey was created by the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act* 1972. It is responsible for investigation, protection, and management of archaeological resources in Victoria. Under the Act it is an offence to deface, damage, buy, or sell Aboriginal relics.

Activities of the survey involve investigations to identify, catalogue, preserve, and protect sites of importance associated with Aboriginal history and culture, early European settlement, and coastal shipping.

The Survey maintains a register of all known archaeological sites in Victoria and has developed a State wide warden and inspector scheme for regular inspection of registered sites and identification of new ones.

Victoria is being progressively surveyed so that important sites can be identified and management plans formulated. Site surveys in 1984 included sites of Aboriginal culture in the Bellarine Peninsula and Aboriginal art in the Grampians.

Historic shipwrecks

The Maritime Archaeological Unit co-ordinates the surveillance of sites declared 'Historic Shipwrecks' to ensure that protection is effective. It administers the *Historic Shipwrecks Act* 1981 (Victoria) for Victorian waters and is the delegated authority administering the *Historic Shipwrecks Act* 1976 (Commonwealth) for offshore waters.

Throughout the 1983-84 summer months the Unit carried out wreck inspections on the following vessels: *Loch Ard, Schomberg, Children, La Bella, William Salthouse, City of Launceston,* and *Clarence.*

Conservation strategy

The State Conservation Strategy will provide a strategic approach to the protection and management of nature and natural resources. It will give private organisations and individuals an understanding of the Victorian Government's conservation policies and suggested guidelines for their own conservation and development activities. A report outlining the Strategy for the next four years was released towards the end of 1984.

GEELONG REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Geelong Regional Commission was established in August 1977 by the Victorian Government through the proclamation of the Geelong Regional Commission Act. The Commission was created to give effect to the State Government's decentralisation policies and in particular, Statement of Planning Policy No. 7 (Geelong). The Policy recognises Geelong's position in relation to the economy, population distribution, and industrial location.

The Geelong region is some 2,500 square kilometres in area, covering nine municipalities and had a population of 177,230 as at June 1983. As such the Geelong region is one of the largest provincial regions in Australia. Each municipality has a representative on the Commission along with five Governor in Council appointees, one of whom is the Chairman and Chief Executive.

The industrial and community infrastructure in the Geelong region is comprehensive and has grown significantly in recent years. Non-residential development in the Region has averaged $1m per week

for the three financial years to 30 June 1984. The Commission attracted a significant number of these developments to the region. In 1983-84 the Commission contributed directly to the establishment of 13 projects representing some $78m of development.

In its first seven years the Commission has assisted eighty-two companies to establish in the Geelong region.

Manufacturing in the Geelong region is very significant, representing 26.4 per cent of the total labour force of 71,405 persons in 1981.

The region's industrial activities have a widespread influence extending beyond its boundaries as its products serve local, national, and international markets.

The Port of Geelong is a major focus for trade in western Victoria, being Australia's second largest grain shipping centre. Australia's largest wool storage facility is located at Lara, near the Port. The Commission has been active in gaining many port-related industries for the region.

The Commission is also working with local organisations to gain a commercial airport at the Avalon Airfield. The establishment of this facility is of great importance to the future of the region's export and tourism industries.

The Geelong region encompasses many tourist features which include the Otways, Bells Beach, and Queenscliff. The Commission is active in gaining tourism investment for the region.

The most significant endeavour of the Commission in the tertiary sector is the development and implementation of the 'Geelong – City By the Bay' Plan for the revitalisation of the central business district of Geelong. This $100m redevelopment programme, which commenced in September 1984, is designated by the Victorian Government as a 'Project of Special Significance' to the economic development of Victoria.

The region includes Deakin University with which the Commission is working to commercialise the technology products developed at the University's School of Sciences. The Commission is active also with the Gordon Technical College and the University in providing the work skill and management needs of the region's industries.

In its development role the Commission owns some 270 hectares of industrial land and some $14m of properties to facilitate the introduction of new companies to the region. The most significant purchase by the Commission to date has been that of the former International Harvester Works at North Shore in June 1983. Within twelve months from the date of purchase this factory complex was fully occupied by three major tenants employing some 300 persons, some of whom were former employees of International Harvester.

In 1984, the Geelong Regional Commission commenced the preparation of the Geelong Regional Strategic Development Plan. This Plan will set the direction for physical, economic, and social endeavour in the region through to 1994. The Economic Development segment of the Plan will give effect in the region to the Victorian Economic Development Strategy and will act as model for other regional economic planning in Victoria.

ALBURY-WODONGA

In recognition of the need to encourage a more balanced development of the Australian continent and to provide an alternative to capital city living for those who seek a different life style, the Commonwealth, New South Wales, and Victorian Governments agreed on 25 January 1973 to plan and develop the twin cities of Albury-Wodonga. On 23 October 1973, the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria confirmed this intention when they signed the Albury-Wodonga Area Development Agreement at Wodonga. The Agreement provided for the establishment of a development corporation as a statutory authority to plan and develop the areas designated for new growth.

The Corporation operates under the overall direction of a Ministerial Council consisting of the Commonwealth Minister for Industry and Commerce, the New South Wales Minister for Industry and Decentralization, and the Victorian Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources.

Since the Growth Centre was established, private sector employment in Albury-Wodonga had increased from 11,500 to 18,300 by 1983. In percentage terms, total employment in Albury-Wodonga has been increasing at about 5 per cent per year.

Population growth in the Albury-Wodonga Statistical District was from 55,780 in 1971 to 73,760 in 1981 – an average annual growth rate of 2.8 per cent over the decade. More recent estimates show an accelerating rate of population growth.

Over the five year period 1981 to 1986 the population of Albury-Wodonga is expected to increase by about 10,000 persons. This represents an average annual growth rate of at least 3.3 per cent. The

long-term population target for the Albury-Wodonga urban area is 150,000 persons by the year 2000.

Capital investment in Albury-Wodonga, in both private and public sectors, has experienced rapid growth in the past few years. In per capita terms, private investment has grown to some 38 per cent above that for Australia as a whole for the eleven years to June 1984. With public outlays by all levels of government significantly above national per capita levels in that period, injection of capital into the region is currently well above that for the rest of Australia.

Emphasis continues to be placed on the attraction of further private sector investment and the Corporation is now actively promoting private sector involvement in its land development activities by way of joint venture arrangements. Marketing activities continue to place emphasis on local promotions, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne, with special attention being given to selected overseas locations and the current business migration programme.

BENDIGO, PREMIER TOWN, 1982 TO 1985
Historical introduction

Bendigo, which won the award of Premier Town 1982 to 1985, is an important provincial centre with a colourful history.

In the 1840s, Mt Alexander Run, later renamed the Ravenswood Run, was established and it was on the northern edge of this pastoral holding that gold was discovered in 1851. The name Bendigo is believed to have originated from one of the shepherds working on the Run. Handy with his fists the shepherd was nicknamed 'Bendigo' after the famous English prize-fighter William 'Bendigo' Thompson. The shepherd had his hut near the creek where gold was initially found, and this area became known as 'Bendigo's Creek'.

For a short time the gold rush settlement was gazetted as Castleton. However, this was changed to Sandhurst, and this name remained until 1891 when by plebiscite the name reverted to Bendigo. In 1855 Bendigo was proclaimed a municipality, a borough in 1863, and a city in 1871.

The gold rush continued well into 1853, alluvial gold being plentiful but fine, with very few large nuggets found. Life on the diggings was harsh, particularly during the hot dry dusty summers, and water to wash the gold-bearing clay was scarce.

In the late 1850s, alluvial mining declined, and many men including Robert Ross Haverfield, first editor of the 'Bendigo Advertiser', agitated for the establishment of quartz reefing or deep gold mining. George Lansell, 'the Quartz King', was the most spectacular of the mining magnates and the prosperity of the Bendigo field owed much to his influence and foresight.

Expansion in Bendigo before the turn of the century was rapid, and many fine buildings were erected, particularly along the main thoroughfare, Pall Mall. At the same time many public amenities were established, such as the first hospital in 1853, the rail link with Melbourne in 1862, and in 1877 the Coliban Water Supply to Bendigo was completed.

Bendigo's status as a major city was further enhanced in the 1890s when a tramway network was developed to serve the growing urban population. By 1903, an electrified service was in operation. Part of that tramway system still survives as a tourist attraction and operates between the Central Deborah Gold Mine, the last working mine to close in 1954, and the Chinese Joss House – a distance of some three kilometres – as a Vintage 'Talking Tram' system.

Mining
Alluvial mining

The richness of Bendigo's shallow alluvial goldfield was rivalled in Victoria only by Ballarat and Castlemaine. Alluvial gold production tapered off rapidly after the initial rushes, but continued on a decreasing scale throughout the life of the field. Total alluvial gold production was about 150,000 kilograms.

Reef mining

Reef mining began in a modest way in 1853, but as the mines probed deeper, the repetition at depth of auriferous saddle reefs was recognised. A deep shaft sinking mania swept the field, and in the late nineteenth century, mining was carried on at depths scarcely rivalled anywhere in the world at the time. The deepest shaft was that of the Victoria Quartz Co. (1,389 metres), and 86 companies had shafts in excess of 500 metres. Bendigo's reef mines produced about 500,000 kilograms of gold, establishing Bendigo as Victoria's richest reef mining centre. Over half of the Victorian mines which produced 1,000 kilograms of gold or more were on the Bendigo goldfield. Geologically, the Bendigo goldfield is noted for its regular system of generally parallel anticlines (upfolds) and synclines

(downfolds) in the Ordovician sedimentary bedrock, with which are associated the saddle reefs for which Bendigo is famous. The richest anticlines were the Garden Gully, New Chum, and Hustlers, but significant gold also came from the Sheepshead, Nell Gwynne, Deborah, Paddys Gully, Carshalton, Christmas, and Birds Lines.

Future and potential

Gold production at Bendigo ceased in 1954. This was due mainly to rising costs overtaking a fixed gold price, not exhaustion of the resource. There is certainly potential for Bendigo to become a significant gold producer again, if the price of gold reaches the point where resumption of mining becomes economic. The Western Mining Corporation has been carrying out a drilling programme at Bendigo since 1979, with results which the company describes as 'encouraging'.

Agriculture

History

Settlers found the northern plains suitable for cereals, and the climate and soils immediately around Bendigo well suited to grape production. Unsuitable varieties and farming techniques caused problems for the early farmers. However, as experience grew and new varieties developed, a pattern of land-use best suited to local conditions and soil type has developed.

Farming

Land-use in the Bendigo area is strongly influenced by topography, climate, soils, availability of irrigation water, and land tenure.

Very broadly, the undulating to steep land is used for mixed grazing of Merino sheep for wool, and beef cattle, while the plains and gently undulating areas support mixed farming – cropping and grazing. A small proportion of the pasture land is irrigated and used for dairying, lamb, and beef production. Irrigation also supports fruit, vine, and tomato growing and some crop production.

The Loddon-Campaspe region, of which Bendigo is the principal city, makes an important contribution to Victorian agriculture. The region contains 10 per cent of the farming establishments in the State, representing 11.2 per cent of the total area occupied. In 1981-82, the gross value of agricultural production in the region was $290m – about 10.25 per cent of the State total.

Field crops

Principal crops grown are the cereals – wheat, oats, and barley. In 1980-81, the region produced 14.5 per cent, 20 per cent and 12.1 per cent, respectively, of the total State production of these crops. Other grain crops include the legumes – field peas and lupins, and the oilseeds – safflower and sunflower. Of these field peas are the most widely grown, but are still only about 1.5 per cent of the area sown to wheat.

Pastures

Pasture improvement, based on subterranean clover, has been the key to the large increases in animal production on dryland that have taken place in the region over the past 20 years. The region, with 4,500 hectares in 1982, is the main lucerne hay producer in the State. Lucerne is also showing its worth as a dryland pasture species. On the northern plains, it is likely to play an important role in both increasing productivity and arresting dryland salinity.

Sheep

Farms in the region carry approximately 3 million sheep – about 12 per cent of the State's total. Some 45 per cent of the sheep are breeding ewes. On the wheat-sheep and irrigation farms to the north, both Merinos and crossbreds are important for prime lamb production. Lamb production is confined to the better soils and irrigation areas where pastures are more productive and reliable.

Beef

The numbers of beef cattle in the region declined by about 40 per cent throughout the 1970s to approximately 185,000 in March 1982. This is about 7 per cent of the Victorian total. Cattle tend to be concentrated in the higher rainfall areas to the south and irrigation areas of the north of the region. About 40 per cent of the cattle are breeding cows and vealer production is the main beef enterprise. British breeds, particularly Herefords, Shorthorns, and Angus are the most common. All are well suited to the short growing seasons. Some crossbreeding using fast growing, later maturing European breeds is common. Most cattle are sold by live auction through the Bendigo Saleyards, but there is an increasing trend for producers to sell direct to meatworks.

Dairy

Over 1,000 farms in the region carry 135,000 dairy cattle, or approximately 9 per cent of the State total. Although the numbers of dairy farms has declined during the past decade, the number of dairy cattle has increased. Whereas in the early 1970s there were significant numbers of dairy farms around major towns, dairying is now cencentrated in the northern irrigation areas. Approximately 16 per cent of the milk produced is sold as liquid milk, the balance is used for manufacture.

New technology has dramatically improved the efficiency of the dairy industry. Artificial insemination, herd testing, effective disease control, and better shed design and equipment have resulted in herd improvement and more efficient labour use.

Pigs

The region has many piggeries which vary in size, but the industry trend is towards fewer but larger units. Numerous industries located in Bendigo provide essential support to the pig industry. An animal feeds company provides prepared feed to piggeries throughout the district and beyond. A local abattoir regularly handles 4,000 pigs per week and processes and packs hams and bacon.

Poultry

Poultry production is still an important industry to the Bendigo region. The number of egg producers has declined markedly in recent years, but the remaining egg farms tend to be larger and include some of the most modern farms in the State.

The area has 30 per cent of Victoria's licensed egg farmers who produce 15 per cent of the State's eggs. The chicken meat industry is also well established.

Horticulture

Overall, the horticultural industries of the region have declined during the past 10 to 15 years. The number of fruitgrowers around Harcourt has dropped from 166 to 32. However, because of increased efficiency, the actual output of fruit has not declined so dramatically. In 1981-82, gross value of fruit produced was about $3m. The export apple industry has ceased and the bulk of the fruit now goes to the Melbourne market.

Berry and vine fruit production has increased and Bendigo is once again an important wine producing area. However, tomato growing around Bendigo has transferred to the lower Loddon and Campaspe River valleys. Hobby farming has largely replaced fruitgrowing, and dairy and tomato farming in the district immediately around Bendigo.

Effects of the 1982 drought

The 1982 drought was the most serious since 1944-45 and particularly severe in the Loddon-Campaspe region. Although farms and farmers were better 'equipped' for this drought, physical and financial losses were still large. Many field crops did not germinate, and of those that did, hundreds of hectares of failed crops were fed to hungry stock. The most fortunate farmers 'got their seed back'. By December 1982, most of the pasture paddocks had been eaten out. Strong winds over summer caused local dust storms resulting in serious losses of topsoil and seed reserves.

Sheep numbers on farms were reduced by approximately 20 per cent. Many unsaleable sheep were shot and disposed of in communal pits. Premature lambs were in oversupply and farmers received very low prices. Most of the remaining sheep on farms were maintained on wheat. Governments assisted with fodder, freight and interest rate subsidies, and short-term loans.

Beef cattle numbers were also drastically reduced. A large number were prematurely sold, but many of the breeding cattle were agisted in other areas, mainly Gippsland. Some producers fed wheat to cattle, but most preferred to feed hay.

The drought was less serious to the dairy industry. Although irrigation water was severely restricted, dairy farmers reduced herd size, used water more effectively, and supplemented paddock feed with concentrates.

Fortunately, the drought broke early and feed came away well. Growing and dry stock recovered condition quickly and breeding stock milked well. The area sown to crop in 1983 increased markedly to offset crop and stock losses.

Secondary industries and commercial development

Manufacturing industries

Bendigo's manufacturing base is a diverse one. The older established industries which have served

as major employers, such as textile manufacture and food processing, continue to produce a wide range of products while providing a variety of employment opportunities for workers of all age groups.

During the late 1970s, a number of firms were attracted to the region in order to acquire decentralised status and the benefits available from the Victorian Government's policy at that time. These firms established manufacturing operations for such items as rubber components for vehicles, heavy duty foundry operations, mining machinery maintenance and production, high quality ceramics (jugs and crockery), and conveyor materials handling systems.

In recent years manufacturers have taken advantage of the agricultural strength of the region. The area is regaining its previous reputation as a producer of high quality table wines (both reds and whites). A large mohair production outlet has been established in recent years which, like the Bendigo Pottery, has established a reputation as a tourist attraction.

A number of industrial estates have been established in the Bendigo area. Fully serviced industrial land is available at prices considerably below metropolitan rates and with a variety of tenure agreements – freehold, leasehold, or leasehold with purchase option.

Commercial development

Demographic results of the Bendigo Statistical District (consisting of the City of Bendigo, Borough of Eaglehawk, and the Shires of Huntly, Marong, and Strathfieldsaye) for the period 1976 to 1981 shows that the average annual population growth rate was 1.16 per cent, while for Victoria as a whole the figure was 0.7 per cent.

Any city with a pattern of steady population growth also requires a concomitant expansion of retail and other commercial services. Bendigo's central shopping area has recently undergone a major transformation with the construction of the Hargreaves Mall, while private developers have undertaken construction of large retail outlets with off-street parking facilities. The city is also well served by a number of outlying shopping centres, the best known being Marong Village which has large chain store outlets, smaller specialty shops, and a market style development.

Tourism

Bendigo has become one of the major tourist destinations for the State, catering for thousands of visitors each weekend. With fifty hotels, twenty-three motels, numerous caravan parks and over forty restaurants, Bendigo is well equipped to cater for visitors. Due to the central location which Bendigo enjoys, it has also become a major centre for conferences, seminars, and State sporting events. In 1985 Bendigo will host the world orienteering championships.

An excellent introduction to Bendigo is a ride on the vintage Talking Tram which commences at the Central Deborah Gold Mine and travels through the heart of the city. The Bendigo Pottery, at Epsom, is Australia's oldest pottery and open for visitors. Sandhurst Town preserves the excitement of the gold era and experiences of our heritage. The Mohair Farm allows visitors to see angora (mohair) and cashmere goats and the processing of wool through to the spinning and weaving of finished articles. Bendigo has recognised tourism as one of the fastest growing industries in the State and has established an extensive promotional campaign to see the industry strengthened locally.

Development planning

The Victorian Government has identified Bendigo as one of the State's growth centres, the intention being one of assisting job growth in locations which have a need and a potential for development. Through the Ministry for Economic Development an initial identification of growth centres was made, using a variety of measures including current population, recent population change, recent patterns of private investment, hinterland commuter populations, and available service infrastructure.

As part of the application of the growth centre concept to Bendigo, the Victorian Government provided funding for the appointment of a full-time Executive Officer for the Bendigo Development Committee. The Bendigo Development Committee, working in conjunction with local government, aims to foster, encourage, promote, and implement programmes directed toward the optimum level of development of the Bendigo region. The Committee has identified opportunities based upon its knowledge of regional needs and resources. Its broad based representation provides a local input to the Victorian Government which is necessary in the implementation of any regional development strategy.

Building and planning

Initially, the buildings of Bendigo were tents and rough huts and the only planning was to concentrate activity around the rich gold-bearing gullies. With the realisation that the field was rich enough to support a permanent population, came the need to set out a proper plan for Bendigo.

In 1854, Richard Larritt surveyed the township and brought a degree of order into the chaos of initial land settlement. Larritt laid out the main commercial area as it was to develop, including Pall Mall with a width of two chains. Residential areas were also established on the ground above View Point and along the southern side of the Bendigo Creek, stretching to Golden Square. Land sales were held in the same year and the pattern of urban development which continues today was established.

To Larritt goes not only the credit of establishing the basis for a city, but also the foresight to cause the area now known as Rosalind Park to be preserved. This area of some 25 hectares provides a public reserve at the city's doorstep. This foresight was also reflected in the City Council's major tree planting programmes which were carried out during the latter years of the nineteenth century. By 1891, one hundred and fifty kilometres of street trees had been planted, the avenue of plane and elm trees along High Street from Golden Square to Pall Mall being particularly noteworthy.

Although significant buildings were erected as early as the late 1850s the real boom in building which has provided Bendigo with its current legacy of magnificent Victorian architecture did not take place until the 1870s, reaching its height in the late 1880s with Pall Mall's fine shops, decorative arcades, and grand public buildings.

The quartz reefs which underlie Bendigo not only created the city's early wealth, but gave the urban area many of its distinctive features. Although Bendigo has a strong and clearly defined central business area which is a focus for the region's social, cultural, and administrative functions, its surrounding residential areas were dictated in their form largely by the location of the wealth beneath them. Residential development did not occur concentrically around the commercial centre, nor was it initially strongly influenced in any significant manner by the topography of the immediately surrounding area. The quartz reefs generally ran at right angles to the series of gullies which were found to the north-west of Bendigo Creek. Along the lines of the reef and around the gullies themselves a series of settlements grew, of which Eaglehawk is the most important, having developed a long and colourful history of its own.

At the height of the quartz reef mining in the 1880s, the urban scene of Bendigo was lines of poppet-heads along the reefs with the cottages of miners and the mansions of the owners, together with the shops and the hotels, grouped around the major concentrations of mines. It was barely possible to build in Bendigo out of earshot of the relentless noise of the crushing batteries. 'Fortuna', the greatest mansion of the best known gold magnate, George Lansell, was surrounded by his own mines.

The legacy of the mining era lasted long after gold ceased to be the main reason for Bendigo's existence. Mullock heaps were scattered throughout the city. They formed barriers to further residential development and in recent years have had to be largely cleared, and have formed the basis for the expansion of industrial areas. Urban development since 1945 has greatly favoured the areas to the east of the city centre where undulating forested areas have proved to be suitable residential land.

For much of the twentieth century it was often said that Bendigo largely stagnated, and population figures tended to confirm that statement. The last twenty years have seen a significant and steady growth and as Bendigo developed its regional service role, industrial development occurred, and government administration and education functions expanded rapidly. This resulted in major redevelopment of the central business area which in recent years has seen the conversion of a section of Hargreaves Street into a Victorian-style pedestrian mall, the building of a multi-storey car park, and a new library.

Much of Bendigo's heritage as a major gold mining area survives today and the wealth that was produced is evident in many of the grand buildings. A renewed interest in Bendigo's architecture has seen the restoration of a number of buildings of which the opulent Shamrock Hotel is one of the best known.

In order to ensure the orderly development of the Bendigo urban area it became necessary to undertake forward planning of the residential, commercial, and industrial areas. The City of Bendigo gazetted a planning scheme in 1970 to cover the whole municipality. Studies of the whole Bendigo sub-region by the Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority which is based in Bendigo have set the framework for sound forward planning particularly in the expansion of retail land-use and residential development in fringe urban areas.

Architectural landmarks

Bendigo is noted for its many imposing public buildings which flank the main thoroughfares of the city, and for the large number of elegant homes to be found within the precincts of the city. Most of the public buildings were erected in the boom era of the 1880s and 1890s and reflect the optimism and opulence of the Victorian age. Pall Mall, where most of the outstanding buildings are to be found, was once described 'as the finest boulevard to be found outside Melbourne'. It is in Pall Mall that the Post Office (1887) and the Law Courts (1896) are to be found. Both buildings were the work of government architect G.W. Watson and with their Italianate style architecture were designed to complement each other.

Close to the Post Office is the Shamrock Hotel, with its highly elaborate architectural style, again reminiscent of the flamboyant Victorian era. The present hotel which was designed by Phillip Kennedy, a native of Bendigo, is the third building to have been erected on the site. Each building in turn was the mecca for entertainment in the city and the Shamrock Hotel was the first hotel in Bendigo to boast a magnificent concert hall where many noted entertainers performed for the boisterous diggers.

Probably considered the focal point of Bendigo is not a building but a fountain: the elegant Alexandra Fountain which was unveiled in 1881 by two Royal Princes and named for their mother, the Princess of Wales. Situated at Charing Cross the fountain stands as a tribute to the workmanship of the many Bendigo artisans who were responsible for its erection.

The Bendigo Town Hall in Lyttleton Terrace is another building of distinction with its fluted columns and richly ornate Renaissance style decoration. Completed in 1885 the present building actually surrounds an older structure which dates from 1859. The building was designed to be 'a more dignified edifice for the seat of civic government'. The Council meetings are held in the modern Municipal Offices nearby, although the original Council Chamber with its period furniture and wall murals is intact. In recent years the building has undergone restoration.

Bendigo was fortunate that in the heyday of architectural planning it was able to call on the services of W.C. Vahland and his partner J. Getzschmann. Vahland migrated to Australia from Prussia in 1854 and soon established himself as Bendigo's leading architect, although William Beebe was also responsible for many fine buildings in the city.

One of the most impressive buildings in Bendigo is the Sacred Heart Cathedral with its magnificent 86 metre spire which dominates the city. Work first commenced on this Early English Gothic Revival style church in the 1890s, but it was not finally completed until 1977.

With its wealth of beautiful buildings, both the National Trust and the Heritage Commission have taken a keen interest in the preservation of these reminders in stone and brick of Bendigo's historic past.

Education

Tents or slab huts were the first school buildings on the goldfields. The earliest recorded were View Point, White Hills, and Golden Square in 1853. By the end of 1854, there were three Wesleyan, one Presbyterian, one Catholic, one Anglican, and two non-denominational schools in the area, but they had only about 240 pupils, although the population was estimated to be about 30,000.

Substantial progress was made thereafter, some twenty schools being listed by 1860. Most of the schools, established by the National and the Denominational School Boards, were absorbed into the State system after the passage of the Education Act of 1872, which made Victorian primary schooling free, compulsory, and secular. Golden Square State School traces its descent from a tent school of 1853 and Eaglehawk State School was once the Eaglehawk tent school of 1854. St Killian's School in Havelock Street was first established in 1858.

In 1870, St Andrew's College and Sandhurst Grammar School were joined by the Corporate High School (established by the Council) thus making three fee-paying secondary schools. The Convent High School for Girls, opened in 1876 by Irish Sisters of Mercy, was replaced by St Mary's College in 1897. Girton College was established in 1884, was taken over by the Anglican Diocese in 1912 when it became the Church of England Girls Grammar School (Girton), being co-educational between 1972 and 1974 and is now again known as Girton College. The Education Department took its first tentative step into secondary education when the Bendigo Continuation School (for intending teachers) opened in 1907. Four years later the Continuation School became the Bendigo High School, and the Corporate High School and St Andrew's, by then amalgamated, closed their doors. The co-proprietors took positions on the staff of the High School. Technical education began in 1873 when the Sandhurst School of Mines was established by the Mechanics Institute. In 1909, a Junior Technical School was

added. The range of post-primary schools was completed when the Bendigo Girls High School of Domestic Arts (1916) and the Marist Brothers College (1918) were established.

In the 1950s, population and social pressures forced an extensive school building programme on successive Victorian governments. Golden Square High School and White Hills Technical School (both 1960), Kangaroo Flat Technical School (1962), and Eaglehawk High School (1962) together with two primary schools at Flora Hill and Comet Hill were built in response to these pressures.

In 1972, Bendigo was chosen as one of three pilot regions of the Education Department. Little real progress towards the goal of decentralisation was made during the first few years but in 1976 the Bendigo High School began its transition into a senior high school. The process, involving a progressive relocation of enrolments among the four State secondary schools in Bendigo was completed in 1979, with Bendigo teaching only Years 11 and 12, and Golden Square, Eaglehawk, and Flora Hill (the successor of the Girls High School) taking Years 7 to 10.

Since the Continuation School opened in 1907 Bendigo has had a long connection with teacher training. In 1926, the Teachers College opened with 54 students and in 1928 it moved from Long Gully State School to the Old Bendigo High School (originally the Supreme Court building) in Rosalind Park. The College closed in 1931 as the Depression worsened, and did not re-open until 1945 when it became obvious that the post-war demand for college places and trained teachers could not be met by Melbourne Teachers College alone.

In December 1965, the Bendigo Technical College became part of the newly established Institute of Colleges. Removed from the control of the Education Department, it became the Bendigo Institute of Technology and the first major autonomous unit of the Bendigo College of Advanced Education (BCAE), while the Bendigo Teachers College became autonomous in 1973. The BCAE offers degree, diploma, and post-graduate studies in Arts, Business Studies, Education, Engineering, and Sciences to some 1,850 students, both full- and part-time. It also conducts short courses for people engaged in local industry who wish to update their knowledge and skills and provides a consulting and research service to industries in northern Victoria. In 1983, the middle level segment of the Technical College separated from BCAE to become the Bendigo College of Technical and Further Education which operates on the Hargreaves Street site. Bendigo is now the headquarters of the Loddon-Campaspe/ Mallee Education Region which has more than 220 State schools, nearly 39,000 pupils, and 3,300 teachers and officers. Its responsibilities are primarily to government schools but it works closely with the Catholic system and with other independent schools.

Voluntary and government welfare services

Bendigo has traditionally had an extensive network of voluntary and government health and welfare services. Available services include health education; medical and dental care; physiotherapy; family planning; crisis intervention; counselling; Family Aid and Family Day Care programmes. The large number of existing services and rapid growth in self-help groups requires regular co-ordination and liaison. This is facilitated by local government and the Bendigo and District Welfare Forum. In recent years this network has been considerably strengthened by the establishment of Community Health Centres at Golden Square/Kangaroo Flat and Eaglehawk/Long Gully.

St Luke's Family Care Council (a voluntary agency of the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo part-funded by the Department of Community Welfare Services) is a major provider of a range of family welfare services to the Loddon-Campaspe region. Services include residential child care; foster care; a guidance group and home-visiting teacher service for pre-school children with special needs; youth accommodation (residential and private board housing); parent effectiveness training; and family counselling.

Pre school facilities include a number of infant welfare centres, playgrounds, and crèches. Seventeen kindergartens ensure access to pre-school education. Enrolment in all kindergartens is co-ordinated by a central enrolment procedure conducted by the City of Bendigo.

Facilities for the aged have been expanded by the construction of the Stella Anderson Wing at the Home and Hospital for the Aged; a twenty unit Society of St Vincent de Paul Village; and Strathhaven Residential Units for the Aged (provided by the Uniting Church). Creative Living Centres are open at different locations each weekday and two Day Hospitals are also available. Six Senior Citizens' Centres exist in the area with new facilities at Kangaroo Flat and Strathfieldsaye being opened in 1983. In 1984 a new Bendigo Senior Citizens' Centre was completed and forms part of a Regional Library and Theatrette complex.

The 1981 International Year of the Disabled provided impetus for the implementation of ongoing projects for the disabled. 'Sandhurst Enterprises', providing employment for the disabled, has

established a community work centre which has received Victorian and Commonwealth Government funding. Plans are well advanced to construct a modern centre in the Long Gully Industrial Estate.

A Social Needs Survey of the Disabled in the Bendigo Sub-region was completed in 1982. This has provided worthwhile information for further initiatives such as the planning of a hostel for physically disabled persons.

A major new Spastic Day Centre was opened in 1983, following provision of Commonwealth Government funds and extensive local fund raising. A regional office of the Mental Retardation Division has been established. The Loddon-Campaspe/Mallee Regional Office was the first to be decentralised in Victoria. The Office is staffed in four teams: Early Childhood Services; Child/ Education Services; Adult/Vocational Services; and Residential Services.

In 1982 an Attendance Centre, which offers an alternative to full-time imprisonment for offenders, was established. It was the sixth to be established in Victoria and the first outside the Melbourne/Geelong area.

A Legal Aid Service is provided by the Department of Community Welfare Services and the Bendigo Law Association which staffs a Duty Solicitor Scheme. A Court Information and Welfare Network provides personal assistance, by request, to any person in contact with the Courts.

Volunteer training is catered for by the various agencies under whose auspices welfare is provided, local government, and the Bendigo College of Technical and Further Education, which also offers a Certificate of Community Welfare Development.

Further references: Bendigo, *Victorian Year Book* 1964, pp. 413-20; Manufacturing developments, 1981, pp. 407-9