THE MELBOURNE REGION

CENTRALLY LOCATED AROUND Victoria's two deep coastal indentations, Port Phillip Bay and **Western Port**, the Melbourne region stretches from near the mouth of the Little River northwest across the **Werribee** plains to touch the western uplands in the area of the Pentland Hills. Following these uplands east to the gap at Pretty Sally Hill, the boundary then swings southeast along the Hume Range and the Kinglake Plateau, and finally south to encompass the **Dandenong Ranges**, the former **Koo-wee-rup** or Great Swamp and the shores of Western Port.

Much of the region is known geologically as a sunkland, a broad downfaulted region which is partially flooded by the sea to form the two bays. However its surface character is not uniform. The plains around **Keilor** and **Werribee** form part of Victoria's western volcanic plains, although the old points of eruption, the lava domes and lava cones, are very low. Rivers cutting through the lava plains, even into the bedrock, have made deep incisions, notably in the Lerderderg Gorge, on Djerriwarrh Creek near **Bacchus Marsh** and on the Maribyrnong River at Keilor.

Further eastwards, the sunkland is largely sedimentary and metamorphosed rock, folded, faulted, tilted, and overlain in places with old sea deposits and veneers of sand and gravel. Flowing generally westwards from its source in the Baw Baw plateau, the Yarra River accepts not only a branching network of mountain creek tributaries, but also Diamond Creek, Plenty River, Darebin Creek and Merri Creek, the major streams flowing southward from the Kinglake Plateau and the Hume Range.

Along the eastern edge of Port Phillip Bay from St Kilda to **Mornington** and extending inland to the line taken by the present Princes Highway as far as Springvale are the sandy ridges and intervening lower areas characteristic of a coastal plain. Across its centre the trapped waters of Carrum Swamp were fed by streams flowing southwestward out of the **Dandenong Ranges** until largely drained to allow development. At the head of **Western Port** the Great Swamp was seven times as extensive, being fed by streams flowing down from the much higher eastern uplands. In contrast, the lower half of the long leg of the Mornington Peninsula between the two bays is an ancient uplifted block which surfaces again on **French Island** and **Phillip Island** in Western Port.

The region was part of the territory of three groups of Aborigines, the Kurung, the Wurundjeri and the Bunurong who, with their judicious appreciation of seasonal resources, enjoyed a comfortable life. In spring and early summer they gathered food unhurriedly each day over a radius of about ten kilometres. At other times, particularly in winter, they lived in semipermanent villages capable of accommodating several hundred people. As well as practising 'firestick farming' to encourage the growth of grass for grazing animals, they arranged fish traps in shallow inlets and made nets to trap birds and animals. On the edge of Koo-wee-rup Swamp, there is evidence that they cut tea-tree in summer, laying it flat so as to raise wide areas above the level of most winter floods. When grassed, these made comfortable campsite areas with quick access to the water and bird life of the swamp.

With such sustaining resources adjacent to the two bays, which also offered shelter from storms at sea, these Aboriginal groups were among the first to suffer from white contact. Sealing parties, escaped convicts and wrecked sailors were regular visitors after 1798,

bringing with them death–dealing guns and lethal diseases, notably smallpox, venereal diseases and tuberculosis. It seems that even before 1835 one subgroup near **Western Port** had been completely wiped out.

Official European settlement was heralded by the penetration of Bass Strait, tentatively begun by George Bass early in 1798 and continued by Bass and Flinders and later by Lieut James Grant in the brig *Lady Nelson* which sailed through from west to east en route to Sydney in December 1800. In March and December 1801, the *Lady Nelson* returned to make official surveys. On the first occasion **Western Port**, the Bass River area, Churchill Island (see Phillip Island) and the coastline to **Wilsons Promontory** were investigated. On 4 January 1802, during the second survey, the tempestuous entrance to Port Phillip Bay was detected and, by climbing the mast, Acting Lieut John Murray was able to see the 'sheet of smooth water of great extent' within. Six weeks later, following the discovery of a channel through the Rip, the *Lady Nelson* passed into the bay and her party spent some time exploring the area near Arthurs Seat on the eastern side and near Swan Bay on the west.

Two months later Matthew Flinders explored the wide southern half of the bay near the end of his initial voyage from England in the *Investigator*. On shore he climbed Station Peak in the You Yangs, combed the **Mornington** area and confirmed the distinction between **Western Port** and Port Phillip Bay. At the end of 1802 Governor King despatched the colonial schooner *Cumberland* from Sydney to investigate the Bass Strait area more closely, shadowing the movements of two French ships, *Geographe* and *Naturaliste*. Charles Grimes, the surveyor in charge of the *Cumberland*, headed the land parties which over five weeks in January and February 1803 explored the perimeter of the bay, going further inland up the Salt Water River (the Maribyrnong R) and the Great River (the Yarra River). James Flemming, an agriculturalist in the party, considered the latter river offered the most eligible site for a settlement, having fuel, wood, fresh water, good pasture, 'fine clay for bricks' and abundant building stone close at hand. The more distant forested hills suggested the presence of good building timber.

Eight months later David Collins, who had been commissioned in England as the lieutenant-governor of a new settlement in Bass Strait, arrived with stores, convicts, soldiers and some civilians to establish it near **Sorrento**. After only sixteen weeks he was granted permission to move to the Derwent River in Van Diemen's Land. Twenty years later pressure from pastoralists prompted further exploration. On 12 December 1824, Hamilton Hume and William Hovell, who had started on a private expedition from the **Yass** plains two months previously, struggled through the gap in the ranges near modern **Kilmore**. Making for what they believed to be **Western Port**, they reached the shore probably near the mouth of the Werribee River on Port Phillip Bay. On their return they reported eagerly on 'ninety to one hundred miles of a square country . . . fit for any purpose of agriculture or grazing'.

Nearly two years later, a short-lived official settlement was founded in **Western Port** at **Corinella**. William Hovell accompanied this party and confirmed his and Hume's suspicion that it was the Port Phillip Bay district that had impressed them so favourably. Whalers and sealers continued to investigate prospects along the shores, while pastoralists sought to extract land rights from an unresponsive British government.

In 1835 several parties took the initiative and made preliminary sorties from **Launceston**. John Batman concluded his 'land treaty' with the Aborigines in June and left a party of men with stock on Indented Head. John Aitken followed in July, and John Pascoe Fawkner's party, with Batman, did so in August. While Batman and Fawkner thereafter contested the position of founding father of **Melbourne**, John Aitken returned in March 1836 with 1600 Saxon sheep which he shepherded overland from Arthurs Seat to the present Gisborne and **Sunbury** area to become its founding European settler.
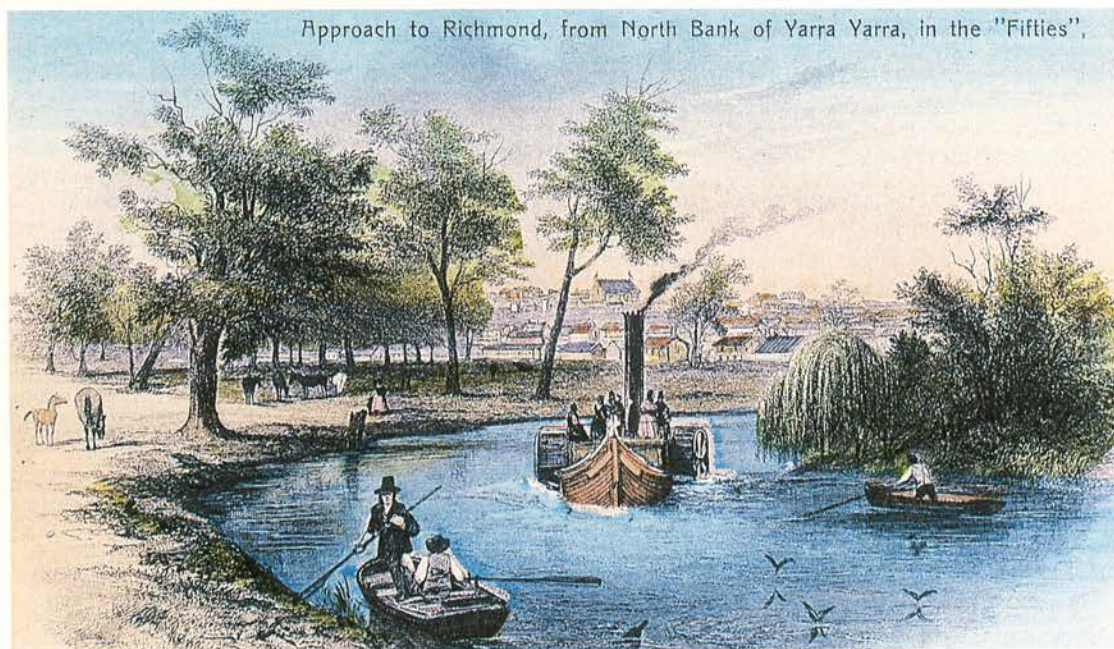
The spread of pastoralism during the following decade was based largely on sheep, which tolerated the drier basaltic plains best. However cattle and some horses bred and grazed profitably in moister hilly country around the **Dandenong Ranges**, **Mount Macedon** and the eastern

end of the region approaching Gippsland. Crop farming, particularly of hay and potatoes for the **Melbourne** market, was confined to the richer soils of river valleys, most of which were to the north and east. Sawyers and splitters of timber moved out beyond that into the ranges country. In later decades mechanised sawmills and the associated timbercutting made a deeper impact through a network of tracks marked for heavier bullock teams and light tramways built for horse teams.

The pattern was thus set from earliest European settlement for the region's role as a supplier of resources to the metropolis. The gold era attracted fossickers, some of whom became settlers, to the **Dandenongs Ranges**, the Blackwood area, the upper Yarra River and Diamond Creek. Public earnings from gold secured funds to build permanent major transport routes, the roads and then railways that radiated from the city. The **Geelong**, the northern and the Gippsland main rail lines opened in 1859, 1862 and 1878 respectively. During the booming 1880s, the South Gippsland branch line through **Cranbourne** and the direct link from **Melbourne** to **Ballarat** through **Bacchus Marsh** and **Ballan** were opened, while the metropolitan railway network was also extended to the rural fringe at Frankston, Lilydale, Coburg, Somerton, Sandringham, Upper Fern Tree Gully (see Dandenong Ranges) and even **Hastings**.

The expanding metropolis demanded water, which was gathered from the abundant stream system of the north and east. The supply originated with Yan Yean Reservoir in 1857, then followed Maroondah (1927), Silvan (1932), Upper Yarra (1957), Greenvale (1971), Winneke (1979), and the Thomson beyond the region's boundaries in 1983. The discharge of wastes through a sewerage system, which was not instituted till 1891, took advantage of the fall of land to the southwest, where **Werribee** became the site for a final treatment station. The galloping expansion of the city to the southeast since World War II dictated a second treatment works at Braeside, close to the drained Carrum Swamp, which came into progressive operation during the 1970s.

Transport links brought in food for the city. Fresh meat, milk, butter and eggs came first from suburban farms, later from those at the extremities of the region. The **Koo-wee-rup**

Approach to Richmond, from North Bank of Yarra Yarra, in the "Fifties",

Punts and a small paddle-steamer on the Yarra River in the 1850s. Richmond is in the background. Postcard.
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

district battled drainage problems, which were not fully solved until the 1940s, to produce milk and potatoes from the time of the first closer settlement in the 1880s. Farms along the Werribee River to the west have also produced food crops, especially since irrigation became available with the completion of the Melton Reservoir in 1916. Apples, pears, stone and berry fruits have come from the hilly country east of the city and from the Mornington Peninsula, while flowers and vegetables, especially the more fragile leaf varieties, have been grown in the sand belt as far east as **Dandenong**. In recent decades suburbanisation has pushed the industry further out to the **Cranbourne** district. Until the 1890s, fine wines were produced in the Lilydale and upper Yarra River districts where the industry has been revived in the last decade. Quarries for building stone, clay, sand and gravel have been specialist industries in the west, along river valleys, in the sand belt and in the hills respectively.
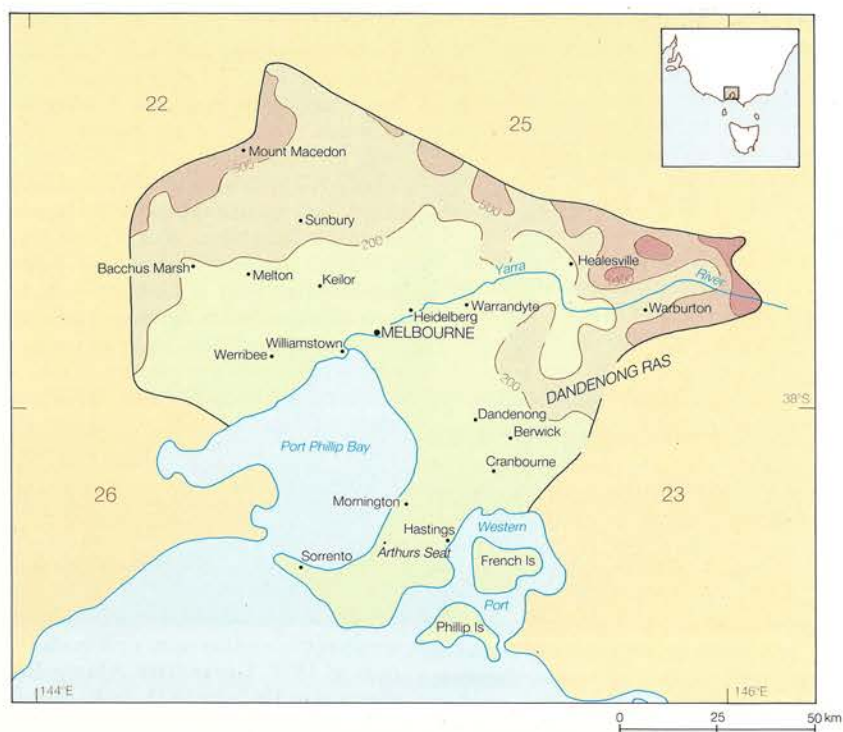
A new profile in Melbourne's expansion since World War II has come from industry moving from its former centre near the seaport at the city's heart to cheap open flat land on the periphery — west of the Maribyrnong River, north from Broadmeadows, east from Oakleigh to **Dandenong**, and down the western shores of the two bays. Such areas have access to the newest forms of bulk sea transport, to freeways for road transport, and to Tullamarine and Essendon airports for air transport. At the same time, city dwellers seeking rural relief took up weekenders, hobby farms, and semisuburban blocks throughout the region.

Possibly the resource of most value to the metropolis has been the recreational opportunity afforded by mountain ranges, forests and the sand belt (for golf courses), the plains and the seashore (for racehorse training), and the bays and ocean shores for marine pursuits. The cultural life of the metropolis has also been enriched by the artists, writers, musicians, scholars and philosophers who sought out the rural environs for their homes. A dozen forest and national parks in the region now conserve some of these areas for the future, while metropolitan parks on the Maribyrnong and Yarra rivers and Dandenong Creek attempt to balance natural landscape and historic remains with city dwellers' demands for playing and picnic areas.

Susan Priestley

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L.J. Peel, *Rural industry in the Port Phillip region, 1835–1880*, Melbourne 1974.

BACCHUS MARSH [37°41′S 144°28′E]

Popn: 695 (1854), 491 (1871), 3288 (1961), 6224 (1981). Named after settler Capt W.H. Bacchus who reclaimed swampy area and estab town in 1838: the Manor (RNE, Nat T) built for Bacchus from c1840. Europeans settled in district from 1837. Border Inn opened in 1850 and thought to have provided first coaching service stop in Vic on first service to **Ballarat** goldfields. Courthouse built in 1858–59, lock-up and National Bank all Nat T. Millbank (RNE) built c1855 using vernacular building techniques. Sandstone bridge of 1858–59 (RNE) restored in 1963. Services in Holy Trinity Church in the early 1870s conducted by Andrew Scott who became Capt Moonlite, bushranger. Factory built in 1890 to produce preserved and concentrated milk. Stibnite mine worked intermittently until 1915 and, with Costerfield, accounted for half Aust's antimony production. Brown coal mined at Maddingley since 1943–44.

BERWICK [38°02′S 145°21′E]

Popn: 302 (1871), 887 (1954), later in Melbourne metropolitan census division. Named after town in Northumberland, England. First European settler in district took up run in 1838. Berwick Agric Soc formed in 1848, the oldest in Vic. Town site surveyed in 1852, proclaimed in 1862. First services at Presbyterian church in 1857; Border Hotel opened that yr, became Old Berwick Inn (Nat T) in 1863. First coach service in 1865. Rlwy opened in 1877. Planned as satellite to **Melbourne** in 1972 with popn of 100 000 predicted for 1985, although growth slower than expected.

Became a city in 1973. Former gov-gen Lord Richard Casey lived nearby for many yrs.

CRANBOURNE [38°07′S 145°19′E]

Popn: 265 (1871), 664 (1911), 531 (1947), 2437 (1971), 9400 (1981). Named after district in Berkshire, England, or after title of Lord Salisbury's son. First European settlers were Ruffy brothers in 1836; they later opened the Cranbourne Inn. Further settlement in the late 1830s and 1840s. Town site reserved in 1852 with some lots being offered, but first surveyed for town lots in 1856. Town gazetted in 1861. Meteorite discov in district in 1860, then thought to be largest in world. Major cattle market from the 1870s. Rlwy opened in 1887. Major market gardening industry developed in district by Italian migrants after World War I. Recent growth has followed expansion of **Dandenong** to north.

DANDENONG [37°59′S 145°12′E]

Popn: 48 (1854), 2824 (1911), 6512 (1947), 27 748 (1954), now part of metropolitan **Melbourne**. Name: Aborig *dan-y-nong* or *tanjenong* = 'high mountain' (e.g., Mt Dandenong). Native police camp estab in 1837, closed in 1839, but attracted European settlers to area. Two hotels built in the 1840s. Starting point for Charles La Trobe's expedition to **Port Albert** in 1845; road to Gippsland followed by 1847–48. Dandenong took on features of town in the 1850s. Market for stock estab c1864, still significant. Rlwy opened in 1879, electrified in 1922. Town hall (RNE) built in 1890. Brick making from 1894; canning factory and foundry estab in 1898, bacon factory in 1912. First

large post-World War II development site in metropolitan area: much Housing Commission development, popn trebled in the 1950s. International Harvester and General Motors-Holden opened motor vehicle manufacturing plants in 1952 and 1955 respectively; H.J. Heinz estab large food processing plant in same period. Aust's largest market for stock built here in 1958. Became a city in 1959. Dandenong Valley Authority estab in 1963 to overcome flooding and drainage problems. Dandenong Nat Pk created in 1941, includes part of police paddocks, site of early police camp: renamed Churchill Nat Pk in 1944 to honour Winston Churchill, enlarged in 1972.

DANDENONG RANGES
[37°55'S 145°21'E]

Vines first planted at Dixons Creek in 1838, grown continuously until the early 1900s; vines planted at Yellingbo by Swiss settlers in 1840. Ranges explored extensively in the early 1840s by Daniel Bunce, botanist; further explored by Ferdinand von Mueller in 1853. Bunce was the first European to climb Mt Dandenong. Land taken up in Ferntree Gully area in 1854. Emerald grew from an 1858 gold discovery on Emerald Creek, but yields small; gold also found at Cockatoo that yr. First section of present Ferntree Gully Nat Pk reserved in 1882, proclaimed as nat pk in 1928. Small sections of area opened for settlement in the 1880s–90s: fruit growing for jam and for **Melbourne** market soon became important and has remained so. Nobelius House was one of first guesthouses in the Ranges, opening in 1888. Rlwy opened to Ferntree Gully in 1889. Monbulk township estab by govt in the 1890s; first shop opened in Olinda in 1893. Narrow-gauge rlwy from Ferntree Gully to Gembrook opened in 1900, closed in 1954, but Puffing Billy Preservation Soc formed in 1955 and line since reopened as far as Emerald Lake. Road to summit of Mt Dandenong made trafficable for coaches in 1904, first motor coaches made ascent in 1922. Silvan Reservoir built in 1932 to supply high eastern and southeastern suburbs of Melbourne. Sculptor William Ricketts bought land at Monbulk in 1935 and sculpted interpretations of Aborig culture: acquired by Vic govt in 1964 as memorial to Ricketts and to Aborigs. Section of narrow-gauge rlwy to Belgrave rebuilt as broad-gauge electrified line in 1962. Home of Edward Henty (Nat T, RNE) (see Portland) erected in Melbourne in 1855, moved to Olinda and restored c1970. Cockatoo and Upper Beaconsfield devastated by bushfires in early 1983.

FRENCH ISLAND
[38°20'S 145°20'E]

Popn: 149 (1911), 228 (1961). George Bass mistook island for promontory when he entered **Western Port** in 1798. Explored by Lieut John Murray in the *Lady Nelson* in 1801 and named Western Island. Later named Ile de France by Nicholas Baudin's 1803 expedition. Mangroves cut for reduction to potash in the 1840s. Inhabited by sealers until settlers leased land in 1854. Chicory grown and roasted as coffee additive from the 1890s. Prison farm developed on island from 1915; closed c1955 and has been revamped as holiday accommodation.

HASTINGS
[38°19'S 145°11'E]

Popn: 388 (1891), 1897 (1971), 5633 (1981). Earlier known as King's Creek; renamed c1860 either after town in Sussex, England, or after Warren Hastings, gov-gen of India. Capt Baxter settled in Mooraduc area in 1840, bred cattle. Eurutta (originally Sage's Cottage, RNE) built in 1853 by district pioneer John Sage. Township estab in 1860. Grew as base for **Western Port** fishermen. Royal Aust Navy base HMAS Cerberus estab in 1933 at Crib Point. Refinery and liquids jetty built at Crib Point in 1965. Esso–BHP petroleum complex developed at Long Island Point in 1967–70 to treat Bass Strait oil production: fractionation plant, liquid petroleum and ethane gas plant, and crude oil shipping facilities. Integrated iron and steel plant estab in 1970–72.
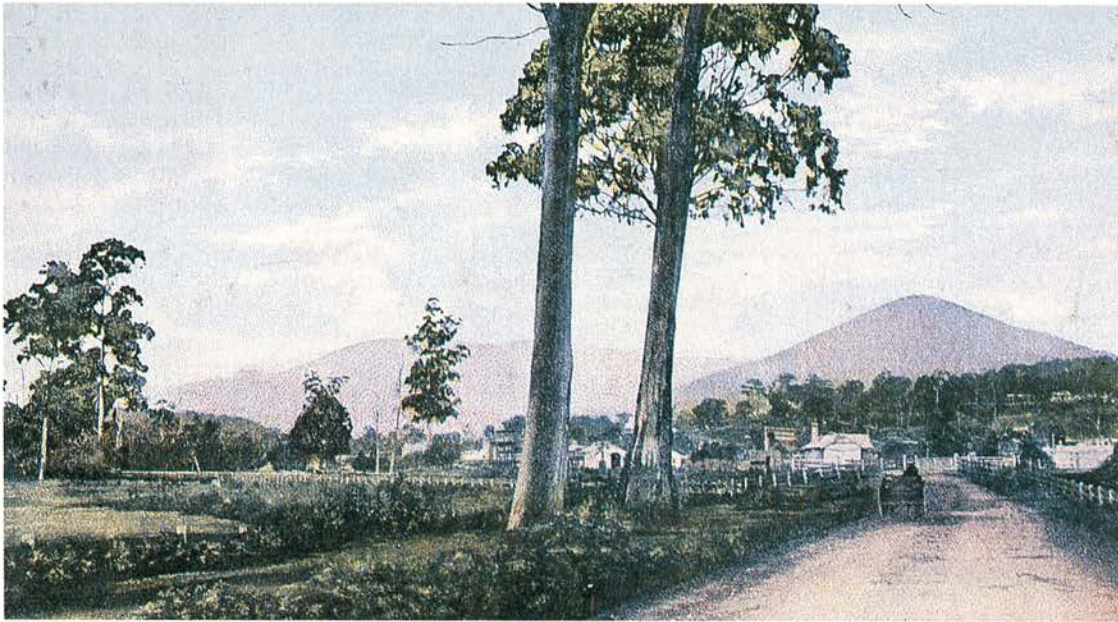
HEALESVILLE
[37°38'S 145°33'E]

Popn: 120 (1871), 1567 (1911), 1330 (1933), 2830 (1947), 2678 (1966), 4526 (1981). Named after premier in 1860–61 Richard Heales. First run in district taken up in 1839. Timbercutting important in the 1860s. New Chum village on creek was busy supplying diggers' needs as situated on route to **Woods Point** goldfield in rush of 1861. Coranderrk Aborig Reserve of 930 ha gazetted in 1863: by 1873, 60 ha cleared for wheat and other crops, 324 ha for grazing; hop kilns added by 1876. New road to goldfield built on higher ground in 1863 and Healesville surveyed in 1864. Land sales, first inn and first sawmill followed in 1865; first school in 1866. New Chum deserted by 1866. Hops grown in district in the 1880s. Rlwy opened in 1889: Gracedale House and other guesthouses opened for tourists as result. New Chum area opened for selection in 1892, 809 ha of Aborig reserve also resumed for selection in 1894. Economic downturn c1901 due to competition from Tas hops and ban on timber industry in water catchment area near Fernshawe. Barak, last leader of Yarra group of Aborigs and one of those present at meeting with John Batman (see Melbourne), died at Coranderrk in 1903. Coranderrk closed in 1922, Aborigs transferred to Lake Tyers, and remaining land subdivided for soldier settlement. Serious bushfires in 1926 and 1939. Acheron Way between Healesville and **Marysville** opened as tourist road in 1929. The Colin Mackenzie Sanctuary opened in 1934, first platypus bred in captivity born here in 1943. Poet C.J. Dennis spent his last 30 yrs at Toolangi to the north and died there in 1938.

HEIDELBERG
[37°45'S 145°04'E]

Popn: 555 (1854), 3976 (1933), now in **Melbourne** metropolitan area. Early land buyer thought setting resembled town of Heidelberg in Germany, hence name. Among oldest Vic communities outside Melbourne Town; land sales in 1838. Charterisville (RNE), Ivanhoe, built for David Charteris McArthur of the Bank of Australasia c1840. Banyule (RNE) built for overlander Joseph Hawdon c1848: annex to National Gallery of Vic since 1977. First macadamised road in Vic was Great Heidelberg Road opened in 1848. St John's opened in 1851 as first permanent

Healesville. Postcard, c1911.
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

Anglican church in Vic outside Melbourne. Former police station (RNE) built c1860. Shire incorporated in 1870, became a city in 1934. Heidelberg School of young Aust impressionist painters, including Tom Roberts, Charles Condor, Frederick McCubbin and Arthur Streeton, was based in district in the 1880s. Many of large estates subdivided after rlwy opened in 1888. Site of athletes' village for 1956 Olympic Games, later used for public housing.

KEILOR [37°43′S 144°50′E]

Popn: 392 (1854), 175 (1891), 432 (1947), now in metropolitan **Melbourne**. Named after village in Angus, Scotland. Surveyor Charles Grimes travelled up the Maribyrnong R in 1803. First European settlers arrived in 1836. Overnewton (RNE) built by early pastoralist William Taylor soon after he arrived in 1849. Town prospered in the 1850s as on route to goldfields. St Augustine's Roman Catholic church built c1858 to replace an earlier timber building. Iron box girder bridge (RNE) built over Maribyrnong R in 1868, replacing bridge built in 1854. When Keilor Skull found in sandpit on river in 1940 it was the oldest archaeological discovery in Aust, being dated at 11 000 BC. Manmade flakes of stone discov at site are twice as old and site now believed to date from about 40 000 yrs ago, oldest in Vic. An almost complete skeleton found in district in 1965, approx 6500 yrs old. Keilor declared a city in 1961: site for rapid suburban development since then.

MELBOURNE [37°49′S 144°58′E]

Popn: c600 (1838), 4479 (1841), 53 235 (1854), 991 934 (1933), 1 911 895 (1961), 2 578 759 (1981). Named after British prime minister, Lord Melbourne, by Gov Bourke in 1837. Earlier known as Bearbrass, Dutigalla and Glenelg. Created a town in 1842, a city in 1847.

Beginnings John Batman sent by Port Phillip Assoc of Van Diemen's Land to negotiate land purchase from Aborigs and 'bought' 243 000 ha for a few trinkets in 1835. Town site chosen by John Batman or by John Pascoe Fawkner in 1835 when latter sailed schooner *Enterprise* up Yarra River: first building was Fawkner's grog shop. Capt William Lonsdale sent from **Sydney** in 1836 to be police magistrate at new settlement of Bearbrass. Robert Hoddle surveyed site and set out rectangular street grid of modern central city in early 1837 and first sales of crown land took place soon afterwards. *Port Phillip Gazette* and *Port Phillip Patriot* published from 1839. First punt over Yarra R in 1838, first bridge (Princes Bridge) opened in 1845. First public building, the customs house, built 1839–42. By 1839 there were 77 warehouses, shops and offices; 89 master tradesmen; and 13 merchants or agents. Mechanics' Inst and Melbourne Club founded in 1839. Post office and general hospital estab in 1840. Jolimont (RNE) built for La Trobe c1840, moved to the Domain and restored by Nat T in 1963. Old Melbourne Gaol (Nat T) built 1841–46. St Francis' Roman Catholic church (RNE) and Scots Church built in 1841 to be replaced in the 1870s. St James Old Cathedral (RNE) built 1839–47, moved to present site in 1913–14. Melbourne Hospital began operating in 1846. Development of Eastern Hill as residential area for wealthy in the early 1840s. Building boom collapsed in mid-1840s. Botanic gardens (RNE) site reserved in 1845, subsequently developed under supervision of Ferdinand von Mueller in the 1850s.

Gold rush era Toorak (RNE) built for merchant J. Jackson c1850, used as residence for govs 1854–76.

Exodus from city after news of gold discoveries at **Warrandyte** and then **Ballarat**. Became capital of new colony of Victoria in 1851. 'Canvas town' to house new arrivals on route to goldfields in 1852. Suburbs of Emerald Hill (South Melbourne), Hotham (North Melbourne) and St Kilda surveyed c1852; Carlton (RNE conservation precincts), Essendon, Flemington and Sandridge (Port Melbourne) laid out in the mid-1850s. Melbourne Cricket Ground estab in 1853. Beginnings of piped water supply with building of Yan Yean Reservoir in 1853–57. Private companies built rlwys to Sandridge (Port Melbourne) in 1854 and to Brighton, Essendon, Hawthorn, Prahran, St Kilda and **Williamstown** in the late 1850s. Como (Nat T, RNE) built for John Brown from 1854, although the kitchen wing remains from an earlier 1840s house; extended by Charles Armytage in the 1870s. Public library building (RNE) begun in 1854, dome added in 1911 and believed then to be largest concrete dome in world. Aust's first telegraph service between here and Williamstown opened in 1854. Melbourne University opened in 1855. Gas works estab in 1856, street lighting from 1857. Parliament House (RNE) begun then, finished in 1930. First official Aust rules football match played in 1858. St Patrick's Roman Catholic cathedral (RNE), designed by William Wardell, built 1858–79, spires added 1936–39. General post office (RNE) begun in 1859, finished in 1867, tower added in 1889. Large Chinatown grew in the 1850s, small area remains in Little Bourke St. Growth and prosperity followed return of large numbers of goldminers and the wealth that poured into city from mines: over 1000 buildings were erected in 1853 alone. Terrace development in **Fitzroy** and other inner suburbs in the 1850s–60s: Clarendon Terrace (Nat T, RNE), East Melbourne, built in 1856–57 is an example.

Marvellous Melbourne The *Age* newspaper was founded in 1854. By 1861 Melbourne was Aust's largest city and remained so until late in the century. First Melbourne Cup run in 1861 and Aust's first public art gallery opened at the Public Library. Aborig camp in Royal Park in the 1860s housed approx 30 survivors of Yarra, Ballarat, Geelong and Goulburn R groups. Aust's first full opera season opened here in 1861. Treasury building (RNE) opened in 1861. Zoo estab in 1862, oldest existing zoo in Aust. Carlton Breweries (RNE) built from 1864, became part of Carlton and United in 1909. Town hall (RNE) built 1867–70; largely rebuilt after fire in 1925. Ripponlea (Nat T, RNE) built 1868–87 for Frederick Sargood. Horse buses from 1869, horse trams from 1873. New customs house (Nat T) built and mint opened in 1872 (both RNE). Government House (RNE) built 1874–76 to design of William Wardell. First Aust–England 11 player cricket match played at MCG in 1877. Melbourne Harbour Trust estab in 1877, commissioned report from engineer John Coode in 1878. As result, Coode Canal dredged to deepen and shorten route to Port Phillip Bay — opened in 1887 and new docks built off river near city centre. Rlwy system of Melbourne and Hobson's Bay United Rail Co bought by govt in 1878. First telephone exchange estab in 1880. Exhibition Building (RNE) opened in 1880 for International Exhibition. First passenger lifts introduced in 1884: by 1889 a 13-storey building, third tallest in world, had been erected. Comprehensive cable tram system built under supervision of Francis Clapp in 1885–91: 17 routes with 71 km of double track. Princess Theatre built in 1887. Centennial Exhibition held in 1888. Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works estab in 1890. St Paul's Anglican cathedral (RNE), designed by Joseph Reed, opened in 1891:

Princes Bridge, the Yarra River and Melbourne's city centre.
Photograph by Leo Meier, 1984.
WELDON TRANNIES

spires added 1926–31. New suburbs of Booroondara (Camberwell), Caulfield, Coburg, Kew, Malvern, Northcote, and Preston opened up by 1891 for the middle class while inner suburbs became increasingly working class.

Difficult times Property and land speculation boom burst and unemployment reached high levels in the early 1890s. Banks crashed in 1893. Victoria Dock opened in 1893 on reclaimed land adjacent to city centre. Electricity supplied to Melbourne and Essendon from 1894. Seat of federal parliament 1901–27. Melbourne Symphony Orchestra formed in 1906. Aust's second worst rlwy accident occurred at Sunshine in 1908 killing 44 people. Flinders Street Station built in 1908. Newport power station built in 1911 for rlwy electrification scheme. First airmail service to **Sydney** began in 1914.

Between the wars Influenza epidemic of 1919 claimed 2391 lives. Essendon Airport estab in 1921. First 'line' radio broadcast in 1921 between Brighton and city; first radio broadcast in 1924. Small petroleum refinery estab in 1923 at Altona. Important industrial development including motor vehicle and aircraft industries in the early 1920s. Police strike, looting, riots and use of temporary civilian constables in 1923. Metropolitan Planning Commission formed in 1923. Electrification of suburban rlwys completed in 1926. Depression of the late 1920s and early 1930s led to one-third of workforce being unemployed: camp for unemployed built at Broadmeadows. Capt Cook's cottage (dating from c1755) transported from England and reassembled in Fitzroy Gardens in 1933. Centenary Air Race from London in 1934. Shrine of Remembrance completed in 1934. General Motors-Holden plant at Fishermen's Bend on the Yarra opened in 1935. Last cable tram ran in 1940 when final line electrified. Melbourne became Allied headquarters for South Pacific in World War II, many Americans based here. Aircraft industry also developed during war.

Post-war prosperity Rapid industrial expansion in the 1950s and new suburban areas developed in such localities as Blackburn, Box Hill, Broadmeadows, Glenroy, **Heidelberg**, Moorabbin, Sunshine and on shores of Port Phillip Bay. At same time many inner suburban areas became home for postwar immigrants, for example, the large Italian community in Carlton. Major new oil refinery built at Altona in 1954–55, petrochemical plant followed. Host city for 1956 Olympic Games: Melbourne Cricket Ground extended, swimming pool, other stadiums and athletes' village built. Myer Music Bowl opened in 1959. Large new Ford motor plant begun at Broadmeadows in 1959. Monash University opened in 1961; La Trobe University in 1964. Became first port in Aust to build special facilities for container ships with development of Swanson Dock in 1966–69. High-rise office development in central city and along St Kilda Rd to the east from the early 1960s. The largest moratoriums against Aust involvement in Vietnam war held here in the late 1960s. New

National Gallery, section of Vic Arts Centre, opened in 1968 to house a collection greatly enriched by purchases from 1904 bequest of businessman Alfred Felton. Tullamarine International Airport opened in 1970 to largely replace congested Essendon Airport. Westgate Bridge built over lower Yarra River from 1968 (see Williamstown), collapsed 1970, opened in 1978. First public access and ethnic radio stations in Aust opened here in 1975–77. Concert hall of Vic Arts Centre opened in 1982, other theatres in complex in 1984. First stage of city underground rlwy opened in 1981, completed in 1985. Suburban expansion has continued in the 1980s despite plans for satellite developments at **Berwick**, **Melton** and **Sunbury**.

MELTON   [37°41′S 144°36′E]
Popn: 205 (1881), 734 (1911), 304 (1933), 920 (1966), 4511 (1971), 18 055 (1981). Named after Melton Mowbray, town in Leicestershire, England. District surveyed in 1839 and settled from that date. The Willows homestead (RNE) built in the 1850s. Town site surveyed in 1852 and town prospered with diggers on route to goldfields. Pastoral and agric district hit by pleuropneumonia and bushfires in 1865. Rapid growth since c1970 as planned satellite residential area for **Melbourne**.

MORNINGTON   [38°14′S 145°02′E]
Popn: 409 (1871), 2656 (1947), 4886 (1961), 7349 (1966), now included in metropolitan **Melbourne**. Named after Earl of Mornington in 1864. Earlier known as Schnapper Point. Matthew Flinders landed at Schnapper Point in 1802. Land taken up from c1838, district surveyed in 1841. Store estab in 1852, hotel c1856; early town surveys in the 1850s. Township officially known as Mornington from 1864. Important seaside resort from the 1880s. Rlwy opened in 1889. The Briars (Nat T, RNE) built c1863 on pastoral holding estab in 1840 and one of earliest on Mornington Peninsula. Many small resorts grew on the **Port Phillip Bay** coastline of Mornington Peninsula in late 19th and early 20th centuries. Rapid development of many towns as dormitories for Melbourne and **Dandenong** since the 1960s, many of which now included in metropolitan statistical division (e.g., Frankston, popn 26 722 in 1961). Industrial development at **Hastings** and Crib Point on **Western Port** since the 1960s.

MOUNT MACEDON   [37°24′S 144°34′E]
Popn: 600 (1871), 1021 (1911), 649 (1981) (all figures include Macedon). Named by Thomas Mitchell who climbed peak in 1836: he glimpsed site of **Melbourne** (perhaps tents of Batman's village) and named district Australia Felix. Frank McCallum, alias Capt Melville, led bushrangers in area c1850. Timbercutting important, but led to calls for controls in the 1870s. Became fashionable mountain resort in the 1870s. State forestry nursery estab in 1872. Devastating bushfires in the district in early 1983 claimed 8 lives, destroyed 399 homes.

PHILLIP ISLAND   [38°29′S 145°12′E]
Popn (Cowes): 132 (1871), 887 (1933), 680 (1947),

Country Homes at Macedon
Government Cottage.

*Since World War II Mount Macedon and its mansions have been a popular
destination for Melburnians on Sunday drives. Postcard, c1910.*
IN PRIVATE POSSESSION

1563 (1981). Named after Gov Arthur Phillip by George Bass when he reached island in 1798. Island explored by Lieuts Grant and Murray in *Lady Nelson* in 1801 and by Nicholas Baudin in 1802. Churchill Is (RNE) reached by George Bass in 1798. In 1801 Lieut James Grant built cottage on that island and planted crops, establishing Vic's first European settlement. Concern over possible French aspirations led to Capt Wright and Capt Wetherall being sent from **Sydney** in 1826. Landing at Rhyll, they established Fort Dumaresq before transferring settlement to **Corinella**. Land on Phillip Island taken up from c1842. Mangroves burnt for soda ash in the 1840s; sponge gathering from island c1857. Woolamai House (RNE) built c1860. Part of island taken up by free selectors by 1869. Isle of Wight Hotel at Cowes estab in 1870: island became increasingly important as resort. Oyster gathering important 1910–15 and 1920–30. In 1948 island was producing 75 per cent of Aust's chicory crop, an industry begun in the 1870s. First long-distance motor road race in Aust held on island in 1928. Suspension bridge from mainland built in 1940, replaced in 1969.

SORRENTO [38°20′S 144°45′E]

Popn: 603 (1891), 1045 (1947), 2152 (1961), now included in metropolitan **Melbourne**. Named after town in Italy, by Charles Gavan Duffy and theatrical entrepreneur George Coppin in 1868. In 1802 new union jack raised for first time in Aust to claim land in district. Next yr Lieut-Col David Collins founded Vic's first, if short-lived, European settlement here on Sullivan's Cove. First recorded European birth, marriage and death in Vic occurred here. Abandoned in 1804 and moved to Van Diemen's Land (see Hobart). Fishing village in the 1870s. George Coppin energetically developed town as watering place during the 1870s–80s. Steam and horse trams ran from pier to surf beach in the 1890s. Quarantine station built at nearby Portsea in 1853 after 170 died of smallpox on the *Ticonderoga* anchored offshore in 1852: station became part of army training camp in 1978. Site of fashionable holiday homes for wealthy from the late 19th century. Prime Minister Harold Holt drowned in surf at Cheviot Beach near Portsea in 1967.

SUNBURY [37°34′S 144°45′E]

Popn: 54 (1854), 1916 (1911), 2228 (1933), 953 (1947), 5098 (1971), 11 085 (1981). Aborig name for creek was *sunburra*; named Sunbury-on-Thames by Jackson brothers of John Pascoe Fawkner's 1835 expedition. The Jacksons and George Evans set out from **Williamstown** in 1836 to find sheep pasture in district. Emu Bottom run taken up by Evans and farmhouse (RNE) begun in 1836, probably oldest homestead in Vic. District surveyed in 1851. Rlwy opened in 1859. Municipality from 1866. Rupertswood (RNE) mansion built on 1874 on the Jacksons' original run for pastoralist William Clarke. Town has grown rapidly since c1965 as outer suburban satellite.

WARBURTON [37°44'S 145°43'E]

Popn: 1241 (1911), 1597 (1947), 1320 (1954), 2009 (1981). Named after Charles Warburton Carr, magistrate. Town founded after gold discov in 1863. Rlwy terminus from 1901, became tourist centre, but this function declined once motor vehicles became common. Town has large Seventh Day Adventist community. **Melbourne** Adventists moved here in 1904 and estab printing works in 1906; sanitorium and hospital in 1910 (moved to present building in the 1920s); health food factory opened in 1923. Both factories moved to higher ground after floods in 1934.

WARRANDYTE [37°45'S 145°13'E]

Popn: 306 (1871), 182 (1891), 3711 (1976), now an outer suburb of **Melbourne**. Name: Aborig *warran-dyte* = 'throw' and 'object aimed at'. Known as Anderson's Creek until town surveyed in 1856; James Anderson had estab run here in 1839. Port Phillip Assoc estab Aborig reserve of 445 ha at Pound Bend in original 1841 survey. Gold found at Anderson's Creek by Louis Michel in 1851: he received one of three govt rewards for first gold find in Vic and area became colony's first goldfield. Yarra River diverted through Evelyn Tunnel by mining company in the 1880s so that ridge in bend of river bed could be mined. Mining in district until World War I. Punt estab in 1856, bridge built in 1861. Rlwy opened in 1902. Developed as artists' colony, then as outer suburban area since World War II.

WERRIBEE [37°54'S 144°40'E]

Popn: 432 (1891), 3146 (1947), 6700 (1954), 5398 (1961), 8228 (1966), now an outer **Melbourne** suburb. Earlier called Wyndham, name changed in 1884. Werribee Plains sighted by Matthew Flinders from the You Yangs in 1802. Werribee R reached by Hamilton Hume and William Hovell in 1824, named the Arndell. First European settlement in district in 1835. Village site proclaimed in 1850. Point Cook homestead (RNE) built for Thomas Chirnside from c1850. Aviation instruction at Point Cook since 1913–14, chosen as first RAAF base in 1921. Werribee Park (RNE) built 1874–76 for Chirnside brothers: Vic's finest colonial homestead, it is now owned by Vic govt and open to public. Work began on Werribee Farm as treatment area for Melbourne sewage in 1892. Farmers from **Ballarat** area moved into district in the 1890s. Vegetable growing began at Werribee South with opening of irrigation scheme just before World War I; soldier settlement after war. State research farm opened in 1912.

WESTERN PORT [38°25'S 145°12'E]

Reached and named by George Bass who spent 2 weeks exploring **Phillip Island** and mainland in 1798. Grant, Caley and Barrallier explored area in 1801–02. Vic's first building erected here in 1801 (see Phillip Island). Hamilton Hume and William Hovell mistook Western Port for Port Phillip Bay, but their reports led to later settlement. Escaped convicts from Tas were living with Aborigs in district in 1824, but sealers and whalers were main visitors until 1826. Very large seal colony reduced to about 100 in 1880, had recovered to about 5000 in 1981. Short-lived settlement at **Corinella** 1826–28. Northern shores explored in 1826, district explored by Paul Strzelecki in 1840. Squatters settled surrounding area in the 1840s. Recent industrial and port development on western side (see Hastings).

WILLIAMSTOWN [37°52'S 144°54'E]

Popn: 2613 (1854), 9034 (1881), 15 960 (1891), now a **Melbourne** suburb. Named after King William IV in 1837. Municipality from 1856, town from 1886, city from 1919. Lieut Robbins and Surveyor Grimes from *Cumberland* in area in 1803. First European settlers arrived in 1835, organised by John Pascoe Fawkner. Melbourne's oldest suburb, estab by Gov Bourke in 1837 as centre for port facilities for Port Phillip district. First land sale in 1837. Store and wooden pier built in 1839. Water police superintendent appointed in 1840. Steamboat Pier built in 1847 and permanent customs house operated from then. Port functions became more important with gold rushes in the 1850s. Penal hulks estab in that period. Lighthouse on Gellibrand Point built in 1852; stockade estab in 1853, observatory and gun battery in 1854. Linked to Melbourne by Aust's first telegraph in 1854. First patent slip built in 1855. First colonial naval vessel HMVS *Victoria* based here from 1856. Rlwy opened in 1859. State shipyard, now RAN naval dockyard, developed from 1864, began operating with graving dock, then largest in Southern Hemisphere, in 1874. New customs house (RNE) built in 1873. Steam ferry at Newport started by council in 1873. Williamstown ferry across lower Yarra River gave more direct access to Melbourne in 1931, replaced by Westgate Bridge opened in 1978 after 35 men lost their lives in construction accident in 1970. Newport power station near western end of bridge subject of environmental controversy in the late 1970s. Crude oil terminal built mid-1950s. Many houses and other buildings from the 1850s remain and are listed on RNE.