

covered by municipal planning schemes. As these centres must be fairly close to the home, the municipal authorities should secure the necessary sites before the locality is fully built up and the opportunity lost.

State Primary Schools

The Education Department has stated that the desirable number of pupils for a primary school is 500 and that a site area of at least five acres is advisable. After allowing for children likely to receive their primary education at schools conducted by religious or other private organisations, the following standard was adopted as a general guide to the selection and location of State primary school sites:

- (a) One State primary school for each of the following number of persons in the future population:
 - Northern and western suburbs 6,000 persons
 - Eastern and southern districts 6,500 persons
 - Central suburbs 7,500 persons
- (b) A minimum site area of five acres suitable for development for school and recreational purposes.
- (c) Schools to be within reasonable walking distance of the home.
- (d) Schools to be located so that children will not be required to cross main or secondary traffic routes on their way to and from school.

At this stage in the development of the city, the difficulty in securing areas of adequate size has prevented the standard being adhered to throughout. Further variations have been made as warranted by differences in local community structures.

In some areas now fully developed additional schools may be necessary in the future. In such cases it generally happens there is no vacant land of suitable area and location, and, if additional schools are needed, land now occupied by buildings will have to be acquired. In these cases, no sites have been reserved, as the zoning provisions of the scheme will ensure that, when the time comes, a site can be secured at the same relative cost to the community as if it were now acquired.

In some cases where existing schools are located on inadequate sites, and where the existing condition of adjoining

development is favourable, it has been considered expedient to reserve additional areas for school purposes.

The sites reserved have been selected in consultation with the Education Department, although it has not been practicable to obtain the official approval of the Department of all the sites suggested. It is appreciated that the Department have to consider many factors, including finance, before deciding to establish a new school. However, as in many localities there are few suitable sites from which to choose, it has been considered desirable to look further ahead than the Department, because of its financial commitments, is able to do now, and to reserve all sites which appear necessary and suitable.

Existing and proposed State primary school sites are shown in map 15.

State Secondary and Technical Schools

Generally, secondary schools provide for the needs of young people from 12 to 18 years of age. In Victoria the compulsory age limit for school attendance is 14 years, but many children, on attaining this age, do not have the desire and the opportunity of continuing day-time studies. The survey showed that the percentage of children in any age group beyond 14 years who continue with day-time education declines progressively as the age increases. At the present time only about 3.5 per cent. of the population attend secondary schools compared with 10.5 per cent. attending primary schools. It has been shown by the survey that in planning for the future a considerable increase in this percentage must be anticipated. The reasons for this are the relatively large number of children now in the pre-school and primary age groups, the possibility of an increase of the school leaving age, which in Victoria is lower than in some other Australian States and in Britain, and the general world trend for an increasing percentage of the population to receive a secondary education. A detailed consideration of all these factors indicates that long-range planning for the needs of secondary education should be based on the assumption that 7 per cent. of the population must be provided for in either technical schools or in high schools and private secondary schools.

Table 6

ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

District	Estimated Future Population	Estimated No. of State Secondary Schools Needed	Secondary School Sites provided in Planning Scheme			
			Existing	New		Total
				Proposed by Department	Proposed by Board	
Central	250,000	16	10	—	—	10
Western	210,000	18	6	2	5	13
Northern	550,000	46	8	3	8	19
Eastern	630,000	55	7	8	10	25
Southern	790,000	65	10	9	13	32
Total	2,430,000	200	41	22	36	99

SCHOOLS

The requirements for State secondary and technical schools will differ in different parts of the metropolitan area with the varying social structure, and will depend on the percentages of the population who are likely to want secondary education, the proportion attending State and privately owned schools respectively, and the percentage desiring technical education which it has been assumed will continue to be provided by the State. The estimated future needs for each statistical district, allowing for these variations, is shown in Table 6.

The factors controlling the siting of secondary schools differ considerably from those for primary schools. Firstly, the school does not need to be within walking distance of the home, as pupils are older and can use bicycles or public transport. Secondly, the site area for a school of 600 students (which is the number favoured by the Education Department) should be 15 to 20 acres, which must include an area suitable for a sports ground. The difficulties in site selection introduced by this second factor largely offset the greater flexibility given by the first.

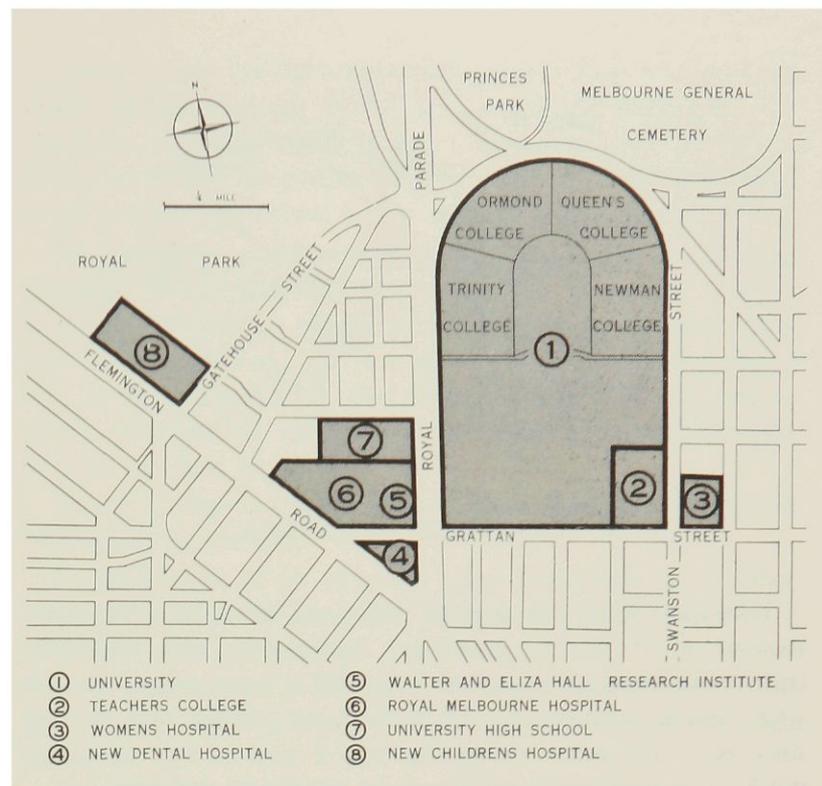
The planning scheme provides for 58 new secondary school sites. Another ten, or thereabouts, can be suitably located in the various living zones. When these are planned in detail, assuming that the desirable standard of 600 scholars a school is not exceeded, these sites, with the existing schools, will enable secondary education in State-owned schools to be provided for slightly more than double the number of scholars attending such schools in 1951. Even with the present compulsory school leaving age of 14 years, and without any increase in the percentage of primary school pupils proceeding to secondary schools, and assuming private schools continue to play their part in secondary education, this will only meet the demand until about 1965. It is clear that one of the greatest problems confronting the community is the provision of sufficient facilities to permit the children who are growing up to receive a proper secondary education. This emphasises the importance of reserving all secondary school sites. Table 6 and map 16 summarise the provisions of the scheme in this respect.

Provision, within the future urban area, of secondary school sites beyond the number reserved in the planning scheme, can be achieved only by acquiring existing buildings, or by building schools in suitably located park-lands. In view of the generous provision for additional open space which has been made in the planning scheme, this latter solution would not be unreasonable.

Should these two possibilities fail to provide for future needs, additional secondary schools can be located within the rural zone close to the urban boundary and suitable road transport provided to them if necessary.

THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS ENVIRONS

The University of Melbourne provides higher educational and professional training for the whole of Victoria, and plays an important role in the future development of the State.



17 THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS ENVIRONS

Moreover, it is a university of world standing, and it should be given the facilities for maintaining this status.

The increasing importance of tertiary education is emphasised by the remarkable increase in the enrolments at the University since the last war. After allowing for the influx of ex-servicemen, enrolments in recent years have been about double those of the immediate pre-war years, and the authorities expect that by about 1965 the number of students who will have to be provided for will be 15,000 or nearly double the number for 1952. They have considered means of making the fullest use of the present limited site of 45 acres available for academic purposes. Their ideas provide for new buildings to be located around the perimeter of the site to save the space otherwise required for internal roads, and wherever possible for such buildings to be from five to seven storeys in height to make the most economical use of the available area. However, they consider that an additional 100 acres will ultimately be required for academic purposes, including a site for the eventual establishment of an Institute of Technology which should be in close proximity to the University.

As well as space for academic needs, provision must be made for hostels, staff residences, and for recreation. To provide adequately for all these the following additional areas will be required:

Academic needs	100 acres
Hostels	20 acres
Staff residences	20 acres
Recreational activities	100 acres
Total	240 acres