

# 14

## RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Melbourne has many fine recreation facilities including public parks and gardens, the bay foreshore, sports fields, cultural and entertainment venues. There is much that can be done to extend and improve these facilities so as to add to the recreation resources of the metropolitan area.

For many years the Board has provided financial assistance to councils for the acquisition of open space land and there is an ongoing programme of land acquisition and development of the five metropolitan parks.

Recreation resources have been developed by all levels of government and by commercial interests to cater for an increased variety of recreational activity. Whilst the amount of open space per head of population has more than doubled in the last 25 years, recreation resources currently available are unevenly distributed in number, size and quality.

### 14.1 Recreation Trends

Recent trends in the recreation pursuits of Melbourne people which seem likely to continue include:

- increased participation in outdoor unstructured activities such as surfing, power boating, and skiing, notably in semi-natural and wilderness areas - although the increasing cost of petrol may modify this trend
- increased use of local and regional open space
- relative decline in team sports
- greater variety of home based pursuits
- greater participation in a variety of indoor and individual sports and cultural activity



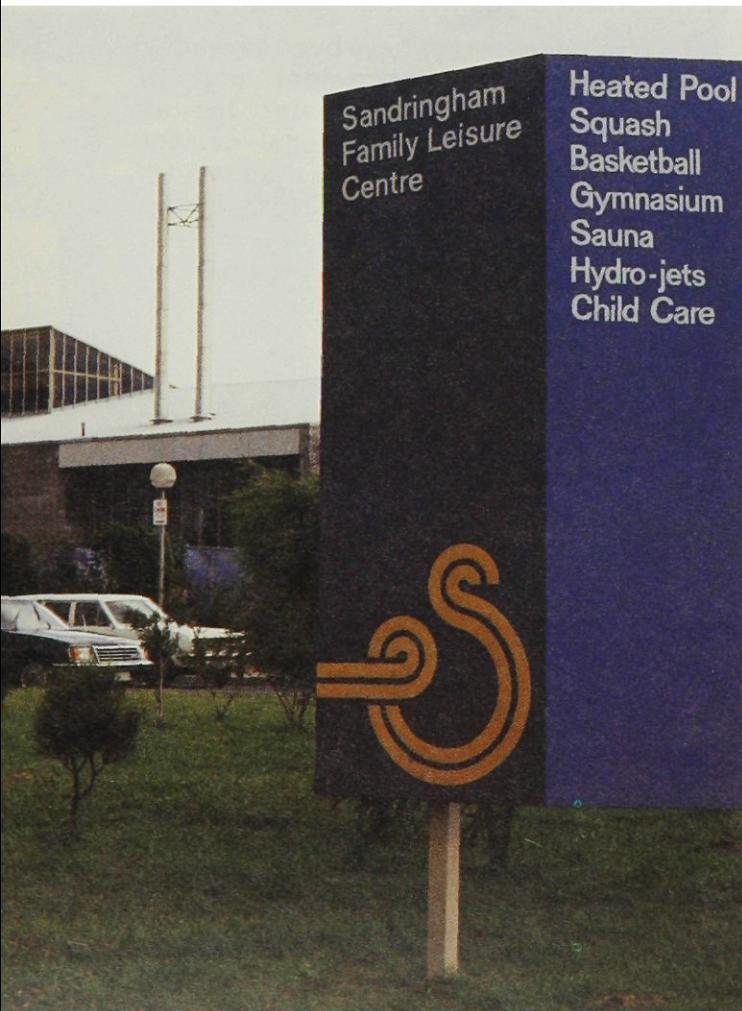
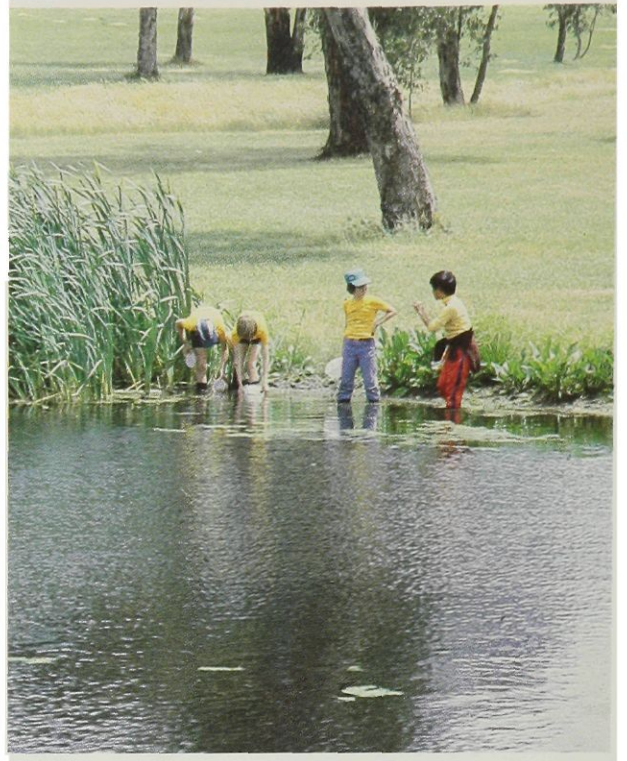


- increased commercialism of recreation and leisure, particularly sport
- more time available, potentially for leisure activities
- increased awareness of recreation opportunity for groups such as housewives, low income earners, the elderly, the handicapped, migrants and the unemployed
- continued impact of technology on the use of leisure time and equipment.

## 14.2

### Recreation Provision

All levels of government should clearly define their roles in providing a comprehensive range of open spaces and recreation facilities for the community. Until now, provision for recreation has mainly taken the form of playing fields for team sports and playgrounds for children. This neglects a sizeable part of the community and takes little account of changing trends or community need. Planning at all government levels should provide open space and recreation facilities of the right kind, the right amount, and in the right places to meet the diverse needs of the people of Melbourne.





Guidelines for developing and managing open space and recreation facilities, and for selectively funding and establishing a range of metropolitan facilities are needed. Initiatives of the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation are helping to create and fund more diverse recreation opportunities. Making better use of opportunities such as undeveloped open land, or supporting public and private sector co-operation in developing the recreation and open space system, would benefit the community and enhance our quality of life.

The Board will

- further develop its metropolitan parks programme as part of a recreation and open space network
- monitor recreation trends to help meet changing community needs
- continue to assist councils in the purchase of open space for local needs
- encourage better use of recreation resources
- encourage co-operation and co-ordination between all levels of government and the private sector, particularly in siting commercial recreation facilities.

