



The University

Conclusions

(a) The problem of providing adequate primary and secondary school facilities for the future population of Melbourne is a major one. Moreover, in the light of present deficiencies, the rapidly expanding population and more particularly, the changing age structure, it is an extremely urgent one.

(b) At the standards considered desirable by the Education Department, 260 new primary school sites, each of 5 acres in extent, will be required for a population of 2,500,000.

(c) On the same basis, 210 new secondary school sites each of 15 acres, will also be required.

(d) Irrespective of the trend in migration and in the birth rate, the number of children already in the pre-school and primary age groups will, within the next 15 years, increase the number of secondary school pupils to about 100,000 compared with 48,000 in 1951. This means that some 90 new secondary schools will have to be provided within this period if the desirable standards are to be adhered to. If in this period the school leaving age is raised to 15 years, the number will be nearer 100 new schools.

(e) If the size of secondary schools were increased to say 900 pupils to each 15 acres (and this is considerably better than most existing standards), then the number of additional school sites would correspondingly be reduced by one-third, i.e., to some 140 new schools for 2,500,000 people and 70 within the next 15 years.

(f) Because of the increasing difficulty of securing suitable 15-acre sites in the urban area, a high proportion of new secondary schools will need to be located in outer suburbs where pupils can travel in comfort in the opposite direction to the peak worker traffic, both in the morning and the evening.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

The University of Melbourne at present occupies a total area of 111 acres bounded by Swanston Street, Grattan Street, Sydney Road and College Crescent, of which the University proper consists of 45 acres, the adjoining residential colleges 45 acres, the Teachers' Training College 5 acres and the recreation ground 16 acres.

Table 66
ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS REQUIRED
FOR A POPULATION OF 2,500,000

<i>Primary Schools</i>					
<i>1951 Population</i>			<i>Population of 2,500,000</i>		
<i>Number of existing schools</i>	<i>Pupils</i>	<i>Average Number per school</i>	<i>Total pupils at 11% of population</i>	<i>Net additional pupils to be provided for</i>	<i>Additional schools required at 500 per school</i>
451	144,702	321	275,000	130,298	260

<i>Secondary Schools</i>					
<i>1951 Population</i>			<i>Population of 2,500,000</i>		
<i>Number of existing schools</i>	<i>Pupils</i>	<i>Average Number of Pupils per school</i>	<i>Total pupils at 7% of population</i>	<i>Net additional pupils to be provided for</i>	<i>Additional schools required at 600 per school</i>
154	47,815	310	175,000	127,185	210

The highest enrolment so far reached was in 1948 when the figure was 9,506. In 1951 the total number of students was 8,216 and in 1952 it was 7,320. The post-war attendance figures are almost double those of pre-war years, and although there was a falling off in numbers over the past two years, as large numbers of post-war rehabilitation students have completed their course, they are now rising in the first-year courses and the University authorities estimate that by 1965 it will be necessary to provide for some 15,000 students.

Compared with most other Australian universities, Melbourne is poorly off with regard to space. Sydney has 140 acres, Perth 165, Brisbane 223, the Australian University at Canberra 250, and the new site in Tasmania 250 acres. Although comparable figures for English universities are not available, it is interesting to note that while some of the provincial universities are cramped for space, at Oxford, one College alone covers 50 acres. In the United States, the universities in general have considerably larger areas than have Melbourne or Sydney.

In a report on the future development of the University of Melbourne the Council stresses the desirability of grouping the following related institutions in the one general area:

The University.

Specialist hospitals necessary for medical training.

Special schools necessary for the training of teachers.

An institute of technology if such were established.

The dental hospital.

Research institutes.

Already near the University there are grouped the Royal Melbourne Hospital, the Women's Hospital, the Children's Hospital, the Teachers' College, the University High School and the five University Colleges. At Royal Park there are the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, the Mental Hospital, the Receiving Houses and the Neglected Children's Home. The new Dental College is to be built on the Haymarket site.

The nucleus of an educational-medical centre is therefore already in existence. The problem is to provide additional land for further expansion as the general area is fairly well built over with the exception of the parklands of Royal Park and Princes Park. The University authorities have considered the possibility of moving to a large site further out, but have come to the conclusion that it is impracticable to move from the present site. Despite the lack of space the present site has many definite advantages for both the full-time and part-time students. Now that the central hospitals have moved to the area as well as the special training colleges, the location is really ideal apart from the space factor. In addition, the University Council feels too much capital has already been invested in the area to warrant a move to another site.

Estimate of Additional Space Requirements

In an assessment of the space required to provide adequately for future expansion, the University Authorities are of the opinion that the following additional areas are desirable.

Academic needs	100 acres
Hostels	20 "
Staff residences	20 "
Playing fields	100 "
Total	240 acres

Academic Needs

The University has drawn up a plan for the economic development of the present site providing for all new buildings to be of from five to seven storeys wherever possible. It is also intended to build on the perimeter so as to save using space on internal roads. However, after allowing for all this it is considered that up to 100 additional acres will ultimately be required, bearing in mind the eventual establishment of an Institute of Technology which the authorities believe should be in close proximity to the University.