

CULTURAL FACILITIES

They point out that it is highly desirable for additional space to be as close to the present area as is possible. Apart from the increased transport and traffic problems created by separation, it has been proved in other cities that the student stands to lose much of the benefits of university life by being segregated from the main centre of university activity. However, in spite of this, the authorities agree that if adequate space is not possible nearby, some sections of the academic work could be placed outside the present area, although the complete removal from the present site is undesirable.

Residential Needs

Approximately three-quarters of the students live at home and one-quarter are accommodated either in the University colleges or in lodgings. At the present time about 1,200 students or 16% of the total require lodgings and it is this section that creates the main problem. The majority of them are from the country, interstate or overseas and for obvious reasons it is desirable that they be housed as close to the University as possible. The University authorities suggest that two large hostels, one for each sex, to accommodate 500 students each would solve the problem at the moment. All the old professorial residences within the University grounds are now being used for teaching and will eventually be replaced by new academic buildings.

Sporting Needs

The present facilities of some 16 acres are completely inadequate for the numbers now attending the University and result in many students having to forego sport. These facilities were originally designed for a university one-tenth its present size. Grounds for Saturday sport have been hired in various parts, but these are much inferior to the University's own playing areas and some are too distant for regular use during the week. At least 100 acres is now required to meet current and future needs. Difficulty of obtaining such an area in close proximity is fully realised, but it is

pointed out that the value of such an area to the great mass of students decreases the more distant it is from the academic centre.

Conclusions

It is apparent that it is most desirable for additional space to be provided adjacent to the present site if such is at all possible. The University is an entity in a very real sense and if any parts are completely cut off, that affects the welfare both of the general body and the sundered parts. The University of Melbourne is now a University of world standing and deserving full consideration as such.

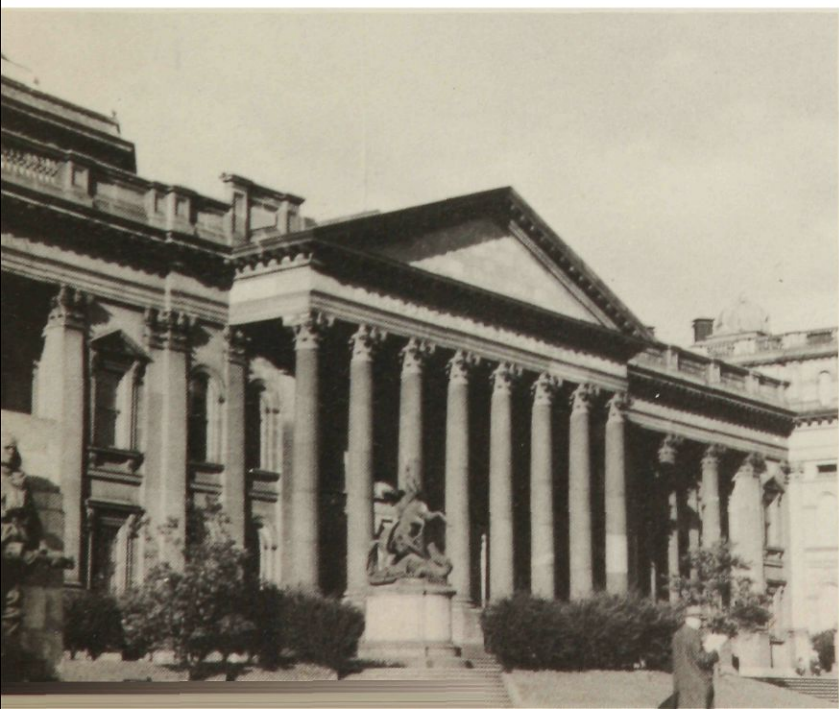
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Melbourne is the centre of learning and culture for the whole of the State of Victoria. Apart from its University and other educational and research institutions, its cultural facilities include a National Gallery with the finest collection of art treasures in the Commonwealth, a National Museum and Public Library, all of which are at present located on the one central city site of 4½ acres.

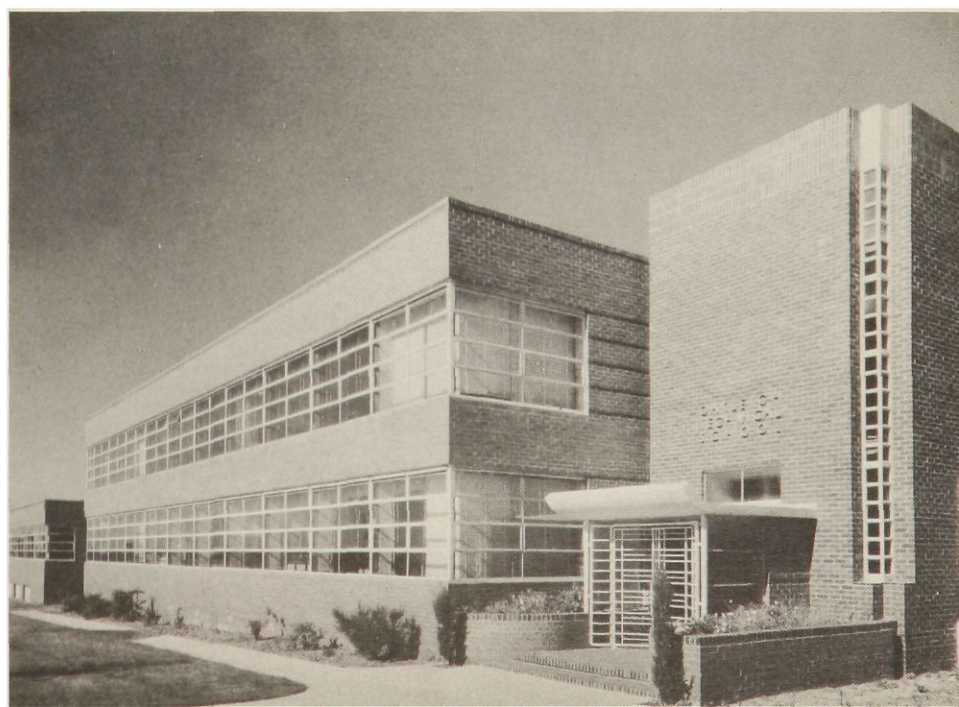
New sites have been reserved by Parliament for a modern National Gallery, Art Museum and Lecture Theatre on the western side of St. Kilda Road near the approaches to Princes Bridge and for a modern National Museum in the Domain. The new National Gallery site comprises 8.4 acres and the National Museum site 6½ acres. The eventual transfer of the gallery and museum to their new sites will leave the Public Library and Technological Museum to expand their activities on the present site.

The principal deficiency with regard to Melbourne's cultural facilities is the lack of a national centre for music and dramatic art. In addition to providing for other civic needs, the Melbourne Town Hall is the present centre for musical performances, while the presentation of opera is confined to commercial theatres.

Melbourne Public Library



A State technical school





A children's ward in Prince Henry's Hospital