

# Research Matters

News from the Department of Sustainability and Environment's Urban and Regional Research

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## Projections Projections Projections

### Why produce local population projections?

The simple answer is: *because they are about us* – people, that is, and they help plan the services we will need in the future.

Knowledge of how our population is changing:

- Where is it growing and declining?
- How young or old will our population be in the future?

These are important to making informed decisions about the future. Whether you are a government or community service provider looking to service a particular population, or a commercial enterprise wanting to know where your target markets will be living in the future, population projections point the way to our future in a variety of ways.

While gaining an understanding of how the population will grow across all of Victoria is useful and interesting, the real value comes when we can look down at the local area level. Different suburbs, towns, urban centres and rural areas all change in different ways and for different reasons.

For example, some of our strongest growing local government areas last year were the Shire of Melton, the City of Melbourne, and the Shire of Bass Coast, but each grew for different reasons. Melton is home to a number of typical "new" suburbs – with strong growth in young family households. Melbourne attracts young adults for education, jobs and lifestyle and has grown in the 20 to 30 year age groups. Bass Coast, however, has attracted a mixture of retirement migration and people looking for the lifestyle advantages that a coastal region has to offer.



### Why use DSE population projections?

Understandably, there can be confusion over population projections when there is more than one set available. Some people are still using *Victoria in Future 2000*, the ABS has just released their national and state projections (cat no. 3222.0 Population Projections Australia) and some local councils produce their own local-level projections.

We believe that DSE population projections combine an independent, non-parochial view of population change across all LGAs in Victoria, and our expert knowledge of Victoria and these small areas within the State.

### Which population projections should I use?

Urban and Regional Research are currently working on a comprehensive update to *Victoria in Future 2000*; this work is likely to be completed in early 2004. Meanwhile we are recommending that for small areas in Victoria people use our *Interim Projections*. These projections use the ABS revised Estimated Residential population (ERP) for 30 June 2001, and these are available by contacting Urban and Regional Research. Our 2004 projections will be based on the final ERP for 30 June 2001.

### Inside

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1971                                     | 2 |
| What's New:                              |   |
| Towns in Time 2001 – a new approach      | 3 |
| New population projections for Australia | 3 |
| The Travelling Research Team             | 4 |
| Urban and Regional Research Online       | 4 |

## 1971

Many remember 1971 as the year that Hawthorn football club won their second premiership. Many other Victorians have even better cause for celebrating 1971, as it was the year when they were born. In fact, there were more Victorians born in 1971 than any other year, previously, or since.



Victorian Arts Centre Model 1971  
Source - NAA: A6180/1, 29/10/71/48

1971 was a year for many interesting events for Australia:

- Compulsory seat belt laws were introduced in Victoria (world first);
- McDonalds opened its first Australian store (in Sydney);
- Australians dominated world tennis – Evonne Goolagong won Wimbledon for the first time (defeating Margaret Court) and John Newcombe won the Wimbledon men's;
- Anti-apartheid demonstrations occurred as the South African Springboks toured Australia;
- Billy McMahon became Prime Minister, but Sonia's dress received all the attention when he visited the White House to see Nixon;
- Following the 1967 referendum, ending the constitutional discrimination against Aboriginal Australians, Aboriginal people were counted in the 1971 Census for the first time.

For many other reasons, 1971 is a year to remember as there was a spate of events that continue to impact on Victoria's, and more particularly Melbourne's, future.

### Demographic

Amongst the many retrospectives that occurred at the end of the millennium, some historians chose the introduction of the oral contraceptive as one of the major turning points for the human race. For the first time many women had the ability to control the number and timing of conception. Although 'the pill' had been in use in Australia for some years before, 1971 was the year that it was included on the medical benefits list, both reducing its price and enhancing its social acceptance. The result: fertility rates fell in Victoria from 2.9 in 1970 to 1.8 by 1980. They have now fallen to 1.6 and have, more than anything else, created a long term scenario of declining population growth rates and ageing population distributions.



Melbourne CBD c.1971

### Economic

1971 was also a year of economic change. The Vietnam War, which was to contribute to the inflationary spiral of the next twenty years, was at its peak. There were the first rumblings from OPEC which was to lead a price hike in the oil-dependent advanced economies and to a recession by the mid 1970s. The long post-war economic boom was at its end. Manufacturing industries, particularly the white goods industries, were facing restructuring as many of their products reached market saturation. Melbourne was to lose 100,000 manufacturing jobs over the next 25 years although growth in business and personal services more than compensated for these losses.



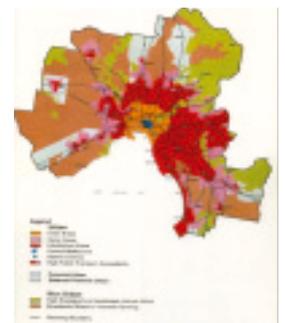
Royal Melbourne Show 1971  
Source - NAA: A6180, 7/10/71/15

### Social

In 1971 Gough Whitlam, the 'virtual prime minister-in-waiting', visited China symbolising the end of the White Australia policy. Although that policy had been officially buried a few years before, Whitlam's trip was followed a year later by his ascendancy to prime minister and his government's recognition of the Peoples Republic of China. In 1970, only 4% of Australia's migrants came from Asia. Twenty years later it was close to 50%. Australia's population policies were therefore coming to match its economic reality - that its main trading partners were now no longer Europe or even the USA, but its Asian neighbours.

### Metropolitan

The Victorian planning landmark of 1971 was the publication of the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works' (MMBW) *Planning Policies for Metropolitan Melbourne*. This was the start of the process to enshrine the corridor green wedge concept, first touted in the MMBW's *Future Growth of Melbourne* report in 1967, into the metropolitan planning scheme. This concept of outward growth was to receive bi-partisan political support for the next thirty years and was re-affirmed in the four metropolitan strategies of 1980, 1987, 1996 and 2002.



### Regional

1971 was a Census year and a turning point in Melbourne's relationship with Regional Victoria. Before 1971, Victoria experienced urbanisation, after 1971 'counter-urbanisation' prevailed. Between 1966 and 1971, Melbourne gained 20,000 through migration from Regional Victoria. Between 1971 and 1976, the flow was reversed to a 6,000 gain to regional Victoria, a figure that was to increase to 30,000 between 1986 and 1991.

1971 was therefore a turning point in Melbourne and Victoria's development. Its impacts are still to be felt, reflecting the old adage that the past can be a guide to the future.

# Matters

## What's New

### Towns in Time 2001 – a new approach

The new 2001 Census update of *Towns in Time – Data* is finally available. However, some of our readers may be disappointed to learn that it is only available on our website.

While our previous edition of *Towns in Time* was a hard copy publication, which was greeted with much positive feedback, we have found that the increasing resources and cost required to produce such large hard-copy publications has made it impractical to do so.



The good news is that we have expanded the number of towns covered in *Towns in Time – Data* to 396 and we have included populations for some of the smallest of towns in Victoria – towns with populations of less than 200 people. We have retained the data pages for the 54 rural areas and the eight local government areas in NSW that border the Murray River.

We have also expanded the scope of the data available to include additional data on occupied and unoccupied private dwellings, and tenure for households. Also, we have increased the detail level in the household size table, and we increased the range of years presented, so we now cover five Censuses, from 1981 to 2001.

*Towns in Time – Data* remains a truly unique and invaluable resource for regional Victoria.

*Towns in Time – Data* is now available as a series of Adobe® PDF files, each with the data for one town, rural area, or NSW LGA. We have tried to keep the size of the files to a minimum to ease downloading; however we recognise that many of our users may have limited access to the internet. If you are unable to access *Towns in Time – Data*, please contact Urban and Regional Research and we will do our best to provide you with printouts of selected towns, however due to the level of demand, we will have to place limits on how many towns we can provide.

*Towns in Time – Data* is available at [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)

Then follow the links to Research then Urban & Regional, and then Towns in Time.

### New Population Projections for Australia

In early September, the ABS released a new set of population projections for Australia, States and Territories. These replace projections published in August 2000. They utilise the latest information on demographic trends including the results of the 2001 Census.

There are some new techniques used in these projections. For the first time we have two mortality assumptions. Given that the last set of projections failed to anticipate some short term trends (such as the size of growth of the Victorian population), the ABS now has 72 projections based on four different overseas migration assumptions, three interstate migration and fertility assumptions and two mortality assumptions.

Like previous publications, the ABS whittles a large number of projections down to three main series A, B and C. Series B the medium projection is likely to be the one most used and quoted. What do these projections, and more particularly Series B, tell us about the future?

- Looking at all projections, Victoria's population in 2051 will range somewhere between 7.9 and 3.8 million. The highest projection assumes high overseas migration and fertility, small interstate migration gains and continuing increases of life expectancy. In contrast the low figure is based on no overseas migration gains, much lower fertility, large interstate migration losses and only a small gain in life expectancy.
- Under Series B, Victoria's population is projected to grow from 4.9m in 2003 to 5.9m in 2031 and 6.2m in 2051.
- In all projections, the age structures of the population become more skewed to older age groups. Under Series B for instance, Victoria's median age increase from 35.3 in 2002, to 42.4 in 2031 and 45.5 in 2051. The number of children would drop by 38,000 by 2031 and 57,000 by 2051. Contrast this with the over 60 population – projected to grow by 480,000 by 2031 and by over 600,000 by 2051.
- In all projections, population growth rates fall over time. Given that assumptions are expressed as constant numbers (in the case of migration) or, after the first few years, constant rates (in the case of fertility and mortality), population growth rates are bound to fall owing to ageing populations and below replacement level fertility rates.

For more information, see ABS catalogue no. 3222.0 Population Projections, Australia, 2002 to 2101

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## The Travelling Research Team



Ivars Satins, manager of the Housing research team in Urban and Regional Research recently travelled to Nagasaki, Japan to represent the Department of Sustainability and Environment at the Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Housing (EAROPH) annual seminar. EAROPH is an NGO which was founded in 1954 and is dedicated to the study and promotion of better housing and human settlements in the Asian region.

Ivars commented that, "It was interesting to learn that the planning and housing issues concerning our Asian neighbours are very similar to those occupying our attention, although often on a different scale. The seminar covered issues such as the importance of maintaining the viability of regional areas, the revitalisation of cities and the significance of public transport. In all of this, the importance of real community involvement and ensuring that development was in harmony with nature came through strongly."

The next EAROPH World Planning and Housing Congress will be held in Melbourne from 19 – 22 September 2004 on the theme of Reform and Change in Housing and Planning – Towards Sustainability in the Asia Pacific. This congress will be combined with an Australia-wide housing conference and should be very stimulating and informative. Details can be found on [www.rmit.edu.au/earoph2004](http://www.rmit.edu.au/earoph2004).

Meanwhile Jeremy Reynolds, manager of the Demographics research team has just returned from Turkey, representing the Department at the Metropolis organisation conference in Istanbul. We will include a report in the next edition of *Research Matters*.

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## Urban and Regional Research online

The Urban and Regional Research page can be accessed via [www.dse.vic.gov.au/research/urbanandregional](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/research/urbanandregional). Our core sections are Population, Housing, Land Development, Employment & Economic Activity and Metropolitan & Regional Research. Other standard sections like Publications, Glossary, Related Sites and Contacts remain. The Urban Development program section is a new addition that can be accessed via [www.dse.vic.gov.au/urbandevlopmentprogram](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/urbandevlopmentprogram). This section includes an overview from the Urban Development Forums of residential and industrial land demand and supply in Melbourne and Geelong.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment website will undergo an upgrade over the next few months. During the upgrade there will be a freeze on publishing to the website, and we will be emailing our bulletins like *Research Matters*, *Residential Land Bulletin* & *Local Connections* to customers.

### Know Your Area

*Know Your Area* can still be accessed via [www.doi.vic.gov.au/knowyourarea](http://www.doi.vic.gov.au/knowyourarea) or by visiting [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au) and clicking under the heading of online services or going to Research. 2001 Census data for Australia, States, Capital Cities, Statistical Divisions and Local Government Areas is now available at Know Your Area. If you would like to be notified when new data sets are added to Know Your Area join the mailing list by contacting Christina Inbakaran on tel. 9655 6054 or [christina.inbakaran@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:christina.inbakaran@dse.vic.gov.au).

### LGRN

The Local Government Research Network (LGRN) webpage can be accessed via [www.dse.vic.gov.au/lgrn](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/lgrn). The next edition of *Local Connections* online will be released in October via email. The edition focuses on changing perspective's on managing the local impacts of water consumption and re-use. Local Government Housing Strategies and Council Project Lists can be viewed from the LGRN website. To update your Housing Strategy or project pages please email [christina.inbakaran@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:christina.inbakaran@dse.vic.gov.au) or [christine.kilmartin@doi.vic.gov.au](mailto:christine.kilmartin@doi.vic.gov.au).

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