



Melbourne's cultural diversity has helped make it the fine food capital of Australia. More importantly, it has made ours one of the most tolerant and inclusive communities in the world.

- promoting the study of languages other than English and accepting fee-paying students from overseas in Victorian Government schools and tertiary institutions
- highlighting and building on Melbourne's unique cultural and linguistic diversity in tourism and business promotions
- providing grants to enable public libraries to purchase resources in languages other than English.

Creating safer communities

The extent to which people can enjoy the facilities and activities Melbourne has to offer depends to a large extent on how safe they feel. The feeling of safety can be measured by how confident people are in venturing out onto the streets, using public transport or allowing children to play in local parks.

When people don't feel safe in their environment, they often restrict their movements or make other compromises in their daily lives. The safer the city is, the more people can participate in recreational and social activities and the more freely they can access schools, universities, workplaces, shops and other essential services.

The Government has introduced a number of law reforms to ensure that people are safe in their homes and communities. It will go on creating safer communities by:

- introducing further sentencing reforms – all sentences will be reviewed to ensure that they meet community expectations
- making strategies to deal with juvenile crime a priority
- continuing to improve security for the more vulnerable members of the community by reviewing the effectiveness of laws designed to protect them
- reforming the law applying to people held in custody at the Governor's pleasure
- further reforming the Bail Act
- recognising the role drugs play in crime and consulting with interested organisations to improve law enforcement in this area.

Safer communities aren't just created by the police, the courts and the correctional system. Criminal justice agencies need the cooperation of individuals and communities to effectively prevent violence and crime. The Victorian Council Against Violence will continue to work with communities to make Melbourne's homes and streets even safer.



Sculling on the Yarra and fishing off Mornington Jetty. Melbourne's waterways are vital recreational and environmental assets. They must be protected.

Taking full advantage of Port Phillip Bay and the Yarra River to make Melbourne a waterfront city

Port Phillip Bay is a major recreational resource for suburban Melbourne. It also supports a wide range of commercial activities. Integrated management arrangements have been established for the bay, significant waterways like the Yarra, Maribyrnong and Patterson Rivers, and related water catchments. The aim is to maintain water quality and ensure that these assets remain available for a full range of uses.

The Victorian Coastal and Bay Management Council has been established to oversee coastal management. The Port Phillip Catchment and Land Protection Board will coordinate strategic development within the catchments. The community will be involved through new water quality programs like YarraCare and StreamWatch. Together these programs promote community understanding and integrated action to tackle the complex factors that impact on the bay and its waterways.

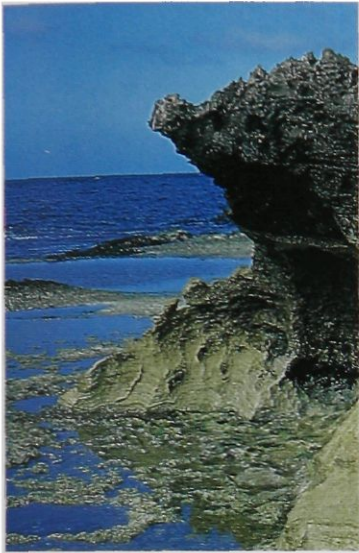
A renewed emphasis on the Yarra River over recent years has seen the stretch of river bordered by the central business district transformed from an industrial wasteland into a thriving and expanding centre of activity.

New destination and access points planned or under construction along the river include the Westgate Park waterfront, the Exhibition Centre Wharves, the Yarra Turning Basin, landing and picnic facilities at Herring Island, the Como Park Tea Rooms, and the restored historic mill at Dights Falls.

When developed, Docklands will be the city's harbourside showplace. This neglected area at the western end of the central city will be transformed into a lively high-technology, industrial, residential, entertainment and recreational precinct. Docklands will be a link between the city, the Yarra and Port Phillip Bay.

The Government will further enhance Melbourne's coasts and waterways by:

- developing a long-term coastal strategy with a clear vision for the future



The intertidal zone at Mt Martha. Port Phillip Bay contains coastal habitats of international significance.

- identifying activity nodes with opportunities for tourism, recreation and links to other attractions
- making better use of piers and jetties like the ones at Patterson River and St Kilda to expand opportunities for recreation and access to the Bay
- continuing the Coast Action community awareness and beach protection programs
- revising State environment protection policies for Port Phillip Bay and the Yarra River, and reviewing the Western Port policy
- extending and upgrading sewerage systems and treatment plants in the Port Phillip and Western Port catchments, and developing new guidelines on ways to improve stormwater quality
- sponsoring community-based programs to develop management strategies and action plans like those for Mordialloc Creek and the Dandenong Valley catchment.

Marketing Melbourne as a world-class tourism destination

Melbourne's attractiveness and its status as Victoria's principal tourist destination doesn't rest on any single feature, but on the diversity of activities the city offers.

Landmark cultural and sporting events, festivals, shopping, entertainment, and restaurants offering cuisines from every corner of the globe all contribute to its ambience. Melbourne's reputation as a safe city is another important asset.

Many of Victoria's most significant cultural and historical sites – including Aboriginal sites – are located either in Melbourne, or in major regional centres within two hours' drive of the capital. A good number of these sites can be reached by bus or train. Improvements to intercity linkages like the new transport interchange in Geelong will make these sites even more accessible and open up further options for tourists.

As well as offering a rich array of experiences, Melbourne's proximity to natural attractions like the Great Ocean Road, the Phillip Island Penguin Reserve, the Victorian high country and numerous quality national parks and conservation reserves make it an ideal base for ecotourism.

These attractions are winning greater national and international recognition, as evidenced by the increasing number of tourists visiting Victoria in recent years and the State's increasing share of the Australian tourism market. A high priority has been given to expanding Government funding and training in the

Melbourne offers visitors more than the usual miscellany of attractions. It offers them a way of life.



hospitality area. Around 8 per cent of Victoria's total training effort is now directed to tourism and hospitality.

The Victorian Government is currently looking at ways to improve tourism infrastructure on public land. It has dedicated funds from the Community Support Fund for community-based tourism infrastructure projects.

The Government will continue to:

- ☐ sponsor a year-round calendar of sporting and cultural events, exhibitions and conventions with national and international appeal
- ☐ develop and promote Melbourne as a centre for the arts, fine food, wine and shopping
- ☐ promote the development of natural attractions.

Developing an open space network of parks, trails, bicycle paths, waterways and habitat corridors throughout the metropolitan area

Melbourne's extensive open space network contains areas of considerable natural and cultural value; it provides opportunities for recreation, tourism and enjoyment; and it contributes significantly to urban amenity. Attractions like the expanded Mornington Peninsula National Park, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Albert Park offer a diversity of experiences. Over 2 million people a year use the cycling and walking trails along the Lower Yarra and Lower Maribyrnong.