

Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes



Victoria's framework of historical themes...at a glance

01

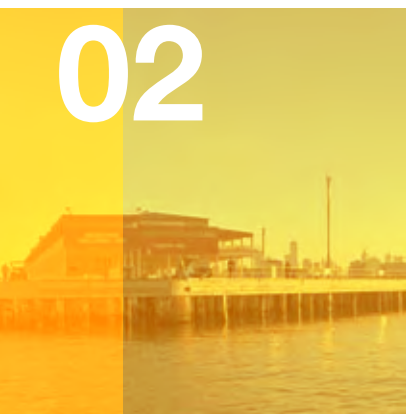


Shaping Victoria's environment

... covers how Victoria's distinctive geology, landscapes, flora and fauna have evolved over millions of years. It traces the factors that have made Victoria's natural variety an important part of Australia's biodiversity, and includes Aboriginal people's traditions about how the land and its features were created – stories that are unique to Victoria, and of great cultural significance.

- 1.1 Tracing climate and topographical change
- 1.2 Tracing the emergence of Victoria's plants and animals
- 1.3 Understanding scientifically diverse environments
- 1.4 Creation stories and defining country
- 1.5 Living with natural processes
- 1.6 Appreciating and protecting Victoria's natural wonders

02



Peopling Victoria's places and landscapes

... is a key theme for understanding the many ways in which people have arrived and settled in Victoria, and the successive waves of migration that have created a multicultural society expressed in the built fabric of our towns and cities. The high points of migration were the gold rush generation that influenced social and economic development until the First World War, and the post World War II migration, when Victoria had more migrants than any other state. This has had an enormous influence on the state's, and also the nation's economic, social and political development.

- 2.1 Living as Victoria's original inhabitants
- 2.2 Exploring, surveying and mapping
- 2.3 Adapting to diverse environments
- 2.4 Arriving in a new land
- 2.5 Migrating and making a home
- 2.6 Maintaining distinctive cultures
- 2.7 Promoting settlement
- 2.8 Fighting for identity

03



Connecting Victorians by transport and communications

Early European routes often followed the pathways by which Aboriginal people moved through country over thousands of years. This theme traces the networks of routes and connections by which goods and people were moved and linked.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Victoria used overseas technologies to build an ambitious rail system serving the entire state. Since the 1950s, cars and road transport have had a huge impact on Victoria's rural and urban landscapes.

- 3.1 Establishing pathways
- 3.2 Travelling by water
- 3.3 Linking Victorians by rail
- 3.4 Linking Victorians by road in the 20th century
- 3.5 Travelling by tram
- 3.6 Linking Victorians by air
- 3.7 Establishing and maintaining communications

04



Transforming and managing land and natural resources

... is critical to understanding how occupation and use of the land, and exploitation of its natural resources, have changed Victoria and produced its varied cultural landscapes. Important aspects are the evidence of a continuing Aboriginal occupation across the state, and the European exploitation of grasslands, minerals and forests, a source of wealth reflected in Victoria's colonial and post-Federation heritage.

This theme also illuminates the historical development of Victoria's distinctive areas of rural development, from the pastoral estates of the Western District to the family farms of Gippsland and the Mallee, and irrigation settlements.

- 4.1 Living off the land
- 4.2 Living from the sea
- 4.3 Grazing and raising livestock
- 4.4 Farming
- 4.5 Gold mining
- 4.6 Exploiting other mineral, forest and water resources
- 4.7 Transforming the land and waterways

05



Building Victoria's industries and workforce

... embraces the development of Victoria's industrial and manufacturing base, and the development of service industries such as banking and finance. This has left a rich architectural and historical legacy, for example banks in every Victorian town and in Melbourne, and also the industrial complexes, large and small, throughout Victoria.

- 5.1 Processing raw materials
- 5.2 Developing a manufacturing capacity
- 5.3 Marketing and retailing
- 5.4 Exhibiting Victoria's innovation and products
- 5.5 Banking and finance
- 5.6 Entertaining and socialising
- 5.7 Catering for tourists
- 5.8 Working

06



Building towns, cities and the garden state

... covers the development of goldrush cities and agricultural service centres, as well as the emergence of Melbourne as a world leader in suburban development and the expression of this in the range and variety of Melbourne's suburbs. Victoria's areas of ethnic and cultural diversity, and the distinctive heritage of our country towns, are also important under this theme.

- 6.1 Establishing Melbourne Town, Port Phillip District
- 6.2 Creating Melbourne
- 6.3 Shaping the suburbs
- 6.4 Making regional centres
- 6.5 Living in country towns
- 6.6 Marking significant phases in development of Victoria's settlements, towns and cities
- 6.7 Making homes for Victorians
- 6.8 Living on the fringes

07

Governing Victorians

... covers the phases of government in Victoria's history, as well as the varied heritage associated with defence, law and order and local government. It features the role Victoria played as a centre for reform campaigns, including reform of Aboriginal policies in the 20th century.

- 7.1 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy
- 7.2 Struggling for political rights
- 7.3 Maintaining law and order
- 7.4 Defending Victoria and Australia
- 7.5 Protecting Victoria's heritage

08

Building community life

... highlights the role of churches, schools, hospitals and community halls in transferring old-world belief systems, ideals and institutions to the new colonial offshoot. This includes the range and influence of women's organisations; for example the Country Women's Association had a larger membership in Victoria than any other state and was a major political force. Victoria's pioneering role in providing for women's secondary school education is also an important aspect of this theme.

- 8.1 Maintaining spiritual life
- 8.2 Educating people
- 8.3 Providing health and welfare services
- 8.4 Forming community organisations
- 8.5 Preserving traditions and commemorating
- 8.6 Marking the phases of life

09

Shaping cultural and creative life

... covers the rich legacy of places and strong interconnecting creative culture, supported locally, which is highly valued by the community as part of its history and identity. Victoria's cultural life in its many facets: sport, arts, popular culture and science.

- 9.1 Participating in sport and recreation
- 9.2 Nurturing a vibrant arts scene
- 9.3 Achieving distinction in the arts
- 9.4 Creating popular culture
- 9.5 Advancing knowledge

References throughout to the heritage website or Heritage Victoria website refer to: www.heritage.vic.gov.au which includes the searchable Victorian Heritage Database.

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foreword

The Victorian landscape reflects narratives associated with every aspect of human use and occupancy.

Victorian Traditional Owners have rich histories of their Country, their favoured seasonal hunting and gathering areas, ceremonial and burial grounds and significant sites, each with special meaning. European exploration and early settlement were full of adventure, courage, hardship and long hours of toil. Water, gold and other resources, and fertile farmland determined the course of history for many generations. Immigration, wars, industrial and technological advances have since forged the development of the cities and towns of today.

Heritage is at the heart of community identity. It is part of how we define ourselves and our place in the world. Visitors come to share this appreciation as they learn the stories of that place throughout time and, perhaps, discover links to their own past. *Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes* has been designed as a tool to assist in understanding the many complex layers of Victoria's history and how each of us is linked into past events and eras.

The Framework's themes are deliberately broad, designed to help all Victorians to interpret their heritage in new ways. It leads people to the interconnections between natural and cultural heritage. It provides a lens through which non-material heritage can be seen. It reminds us that every part of Victoria is the Traditional Country of a particular group of Aboriginal people. It enables us to value the modest and representative, as well as the extraordinary.

The two pre-eminent statewide heritage bodies – the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council and the Heritage Council of Victoria – have come together to work in partnership and jointly oversee and endorse this Framework. It represents extensive consultation and collaboration with a number of other interested groups and individuals. The contributions of the Steering Committee, the Reference Group and many other experienced specialists (see page 73) to the study are particularly acknowledged.

We are delighted to release Victoria's first *Framework of Historical Themes*. We commend it as a lively and practical tool that can be used in a range of ways by the general public, educators, including heritage practitioners, community groups and decision makers to provide broader recognition and appreciation of the richness of Victoria's heritage.



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Chair
Heritage Council of Victoria



Eleanor Bourke
Chair
Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council



introduction

Heritage Victoria has developed a *Framework of Historical Themes* to increase people's understanding and appreciation of Victoria's rich heritage.

The Framework's purpose is to highlight what is distinctive about Victoria and to increase awareness and appreciation of the state's heritage. By emphasising the human activities that have produced the places and objects we value, the stories associated with heritage items can be more easily told.

Historical themes are useful in several key areas and activities including:

- significance assessments of heritage places and objects
- management of community heritage collections, including conservation
- interpretation and tourism planning
- development of heritage area studies.

The Framework aims to ensure that objects, places and events can be understood, assessed and presented within the context of a broad theme, rather than as singular items of interest.

The Victorian Government's strategy, *Victoria's Heritage: Strengthening our communities* (2006) sets out a key direction to 'Recognise the richness of Victoria's cultural and natural heritage'. *Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes* helps to fulfil this direction by providing a tool for developing a wider recognition and appreciation of Victoria's diverse Aboriginal, historical and natural histories and the rich heritage resources these have created.

In particular, the Framework recognises that all places in Victoria have associations for Aboriginal people, and that all exist on the traditional country of Victoria's Aboriginal communities. The final version of the Framework is the result of close collaboration between the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council and the Heritage Council of Victoria.

Victoria's heritage

Victoria's history is brought to life by a wide range of heritage resources, including buildings and structures; monuments; trees, gardens and landscapes; terrestrial and maritime archaeological sites and collections and objects; all with a wide range of associations and meanings and having one thing in common:

'These are ... worth keeping because they enrich our lives – by helping us to understand the past; by contributing to the richness of the present environment; and because we expect them to be of value to future generations.' (*The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 1999*).

These places and objects offer insights into the complex cultural layering and connections that give Victoria a sense of historical continuity, as well as its distinctive character. Applying the Framework to these places and objects assists in understanding their multi-dimensional values, and provides a broader context to understand and appreciate their significance.



thematic frameworks

The Themes

Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes has nine main themes with sub-themes addressing natural, historical and Aboriginal cultural heritage. Using these themes encourages a holistic and strategic approach to heritage understanding and management.

The theme titles encapsulate the distinctive character of Victoria and show the interaction between historical influences.

The themes are designed to be inclusive – that is, to represent all Victorians and the many different experiences and cultural perspectives represented in the state's history. The wording of themes is intended to be gender and age inclusive.

The themes also allow for both positive and negative interpretations – for instance, should we present the agricultural history of Victoria as positive (producing food, creating employment) or negative (damaging the natural environment)? Or should both aspects be highlighted?

Thematic Frameworks

Using thematic frameworks for heritage assessments is a well established practice. Themes are selected to ensure a comprehensive representation of the history and heritage of the assessment region.

Using a thematic framework differs from traditional approaches to history as it allows a focus on key historical and cultural processes, rather than topics or a chronological treatment. It aims to identify the key human activities that have shaped our environment (Thom Blake, 1996).

Themes are not arranged in a hierarchy or chronological order. They are designed to be applied and interlinked regardless of place or period. They can be used flexibly for different periods, places and regions. This approach suggests a lively and dynamic history, giving a sense of ongoing activities over time rather than a static and vanished past.

There are a number of benefits in using themes, including:

- helping to think more widely about historical processes when assessing places
- assisting in structuring research
- assisting in the preparation of interpretive texts
- strengthening an assessment of heritage significance to ensure that heritage controls are appropriately applied to a range of places
- helping to clarify the significance of a place through providing its historical context and linkages
- showing how specific types of places and objects are commonly associated with a theme, thereby ensuring that such items are not missed in heritage area surveys and heritage assessments.

The Framework helps to articulate the multiple values resident in many of Victoria's heritage places and objects.

The use of themes has played a key role in broadening the identification and protection of heritage places and objects to ensure that they are an accurate reflection of a community's history. Themes can also be used to ensure comprehensiveness in the representation of places in heritage registers and objects in museum collections. Equally, themes can be used as a sieve to select stories and associated places and objects that are significant and distinctive to the state or a region within it.

Definitions of *historical themes*, *themes*, *thematic framework* and *thematic study* are included in Appendix A.

Why a Framework for Victoria?

The Framework helps us understand what is distinctive about Victoria's history and heritage. The nine themes highlight places and objects that express important processes and activities in the state's historical development, culture and identity. Some of these historical processes relate Victoria to a much bigger picture.

International context

Of potential universal significance is the legacy of Aboriginal cultural landscapes and sites in Victoria, as evidence of the oldest living culture in the world. This culture is ongoing, and Aboriginal people have custodial relationships to their stories, places and objects, as well as decision-making responsibilities for their protection and management.

As a former British colony, Victoria was part of the worldwide process of European colonial expansion in the 19th century. This explains many features of the early economy, geared to the export of raw materials. The transfer and adaptation of European beliefs, ideals and institutions also created a distinctive culture in Victoria.

Gold and its legacy is another example of a story that has a worldwide context and potential world heritage significance.



National context

Victoria's growth and development are symbolic of the rapid expansion of the Australian colonies in the second half of the 19th century, built on export of raw materials, minerals and local industries.

The state's heritage gives insights into its key phases of development from the Port Phillip District, part of the colony of NSW, to separation and naming for Queen Victoria, and its evolution as a state in federated Australia. Melbourne became a grand Victorian-era city, a thriving industrial and commercial metropolis.

The state of Victoria has a rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage that illustrates the historical occupation, use, adaptation and development of land in Australia since the arrival of Aboriginal people. This heritage promotes a greater understanding of the history of Australia as a whole.

The themes link with the *Australian Historic Themes Framework*, developed by the Australian Heritage Commission in 1993, although with some differences to accommodate Victoria's particular historical patterns. Table 1 illustrates the linkages.

Linking state, National and Local themes

The Australian theme *Developing Local, Regional and National Economies* is divided into the Victorian themes 3, 4 and 5. These themes are strongly linked, but each is also a separate and significant aspect of Victoria's history. The Australian theme *Working* has been divided among these three themes as well, enabling links to be made between particular industries and Victoria's social development.

Australian themes 6 and 9 are covered under Victoria's theme 8, *Building community life*.

| AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME | VICTORIAN THEME |
|--|--|
| 1. Tracing the evolution of the Australian Environment | 1. Shaping Victoria's environment |
| 2. Peopling Australia | 2. Peopling Victoria's places and landscapes |
| 3. Developing local, regional and national economies | 3. Connecting Victorians by transport and communication 4. Transforming the land 5. Building Victoria's industries and workforce |
| 4. Building settlements, towns and cities | 6. Building towns, cities and the garden state |
| 5. Working | Covered in 3, 4 and 5 |
| 6. Educating | 8. Building community life |
| 7. Governing | 7. Governing Victorians |
| 8. Developing Australia's cultural life | 9. Shaping cultural and creative life |
| 9. Marking the phases of life | Included in 8. Building community life |

Table 1: Linking Victorian and National Themes



Use of the Framework

Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes is intended for use by heritage professionals, local government staff, teachers, managers of museum collections, interpreters and others interested in Victoria's natural and cultural heritage.

Many heritage professionals already use thematic approaches, for example thematic environmental histories in local government heritage studies will usually identify key themes in the study area.

Without a framework, heritage work in Victoria is at risk of being bland and unimaginative – one that sorts places into representative categories, but says little about Victoria's context. The Framework enables a broad dialogue about the distinctive environment, history and culture of this state. The themes are designed to focus this broad dialogue on the questions asked in developing the Framework:

- What are the major influences responsible for the development of Victoria's distinctive cultural heritage, and how are they demonstrated in our heritage sites and objects?
- What are the key elements of our culture that distinguish Victoria from other states and territories of Australia?

The Framework is intended to allow for local variations and the multi-layering of several themes in one place or object. The Framework's breadth and flexibility enables local themes to be linked to state, and (where relevant) national contexts.

It is also a practical and comprehensive research tool to assist in identifying, assessing, interpreting and managing heritage places and objects. In particular, it encourages a comprehensive approach to heritage identification and protection, and provides a comparative context for deeper understanding of the significance of places and objects.

The Framework gives explicit recognition to Aboriginal history as the first and longest human history of Victoria, and recognises that this history is ongoing. Applying the Framework to Aboriginal cultural heritage develops an understanding of the historical, social, scientific and educational significance of Aboriginal heritage in a broader history and context of human activity in Australia.

However, it may not be an appropriate tool to understand the significance of Aboriginal heritage to Aboriginal people, which can only be determined by the Traditional Owners of that heritage.

Structure of the Framework

Each theme has a short introduction setting out its scope and why it is important in Victoria's history. Themes are then expanded into more focused sub-themes, with the opportunity to develop more. The Framework is intended to be used flexibly, and not all sub-themes will apply to any particular study or heritage assessment.

There are also questions for 'interrogating' the theme, encouraging users to consider multiple perspectives and make links with other themes. Examples of places and objects are also provided, showing how one place or object may have many themes. This approach reflects current thinking on significance and the way we look at the past.

A chronology of key events in Victoria's history is included as Appendix B.



applying the framework

Linking themes and places

The process of history is complex, with many competing and overlapping factors and interests influencing the way our landscape, culture and way of life have evolved. The Framework helps us to:

- make relevant and helpful connections
- think widely about historical processes in assessing places and objects
- explain how things came to be the way they are
- tell Victoria's stories in an engaging way.

The following section is a guide to the types of places and objects, which illustrate the themes and sub-themes. This is not an exhaustive but an indicative list, and a prompt to explore other places and objects that may be of heritage significance.

01

shaping Victoria's environment

There are two aspects to this theme: first, naturally occurring features and environments which have significance independent of human intervention; and secondly, naturally occurring features and environments which have shaped or influenced human life and cultures, and in turn have been shaped by them.

The theme includes the evolution of the environment from a scientific point of view and Aboriginal people's ongoing traditions about how the land and its features were created. Using Aboriginal knowledge in natural resource management is also part of this theme.

This theme traces how our understanding and appreciation of the natural environment have changed over time.

Asking questions about the theme

- What naturally occurring features and environments define Victoria's landscapes, localities and regions?
- How has the environment influenced human life and cultures?
- What impacts have humans had on the landscape and environment? Have these impacts had implications beyond Victoria's localities and regions? Were they deliberate or the unintended consequence of human activity? (This is also explored in theme 4.)
- What were the driving forces that resulted in some areas being reserved from exploitation or development?
- What efforts have been made to protect places of natural value? And by whom?
- How strong are the connections between Victorians and their natural landscape?
- How does the environment theme link with other themes in Victoria's history?

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|---|---|---|
| 1.1 Tracing climatic and topographic change | Evolution of landforms and geology | Mt Elephant and the volcanic region Coastal areas The Grampians |
| 1.2 Tracing the emergence of Victoria's plants and animals | Evolution of flora and fauna | Remnant indigenous vegetation |
| 1.3 Understanding scientifically diverse environments | Assessing biodiversity | Wilderness areas, reference areas |
| 1.4 Creation stories and defining country | Aboriginal spiritual traditions Defining country | Places associated with creation stories |
| 1.5 Living with natural processes | Responding to and experiencing drought, bushfire and floods Utilising seasonal resources | Waranga-Mallee Channel Loddon River levee bank, Kerang |
| | Seeking refuge from fires | Look-out towers, fire refuges Fire disaster sites Noojee Hotel |
| | Becoming shipwrecked Building and maintaining lighthouses | Shipwreck relics at Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village Cape Otway Light Station, Split Point Light House |
| | Associated objects | Fire fighting equipment Disaster relics |
| 1.6 Appreciating and protecting Victoria's natural wonders | Developing National Parks and nature reserves Experiencing nature as visitors and tourists Recreating Managing natural resources Understanding nature through scientific study Creative inspiration from natural features and landscapes (including art, literature, dance, music) | Penguin parade, Phillip Island Hanging Rock Landscapes featured in the paintings of the Heidelberg school |
| | Campaigning to defend the environment Living green | Little Desert National Park ACF Green Office, Carlton |
| | Associated objects | Tourist souvenirs Greenpeace protest banners and stickers Artworks |

02

peopling Victoria's places and landscapes



This theme examines Victoria's people and landscapes. It considers the Aboriginal people who have occupied Victoria over many thousands of years, and their encounters with later arrivals, the migration of peoples in successive waves, especially the gold rush generation and post-war immigrants who have transformed the places and landscapes traditionally occupied by Aboriginal people, creating richly diverse communities and settlements.

Early immigration schemes aimed at making Victoria a British settlement. However, immigrants from many other nations contributed to the colony's population long before the wave of post-war immigration transformed it from an outpost of the British Empire to a multi-cultural society.

Immigrants of all eras have tended to congregate with their compatriots for mutual support, giving their region or suburb a distinctive character. In both country and cities, government and private schemes designed to attract migrants have created distinctive patterns of settlement.

Another strong ongoing story is the displacement of Aboriginal people from their land, the impact that European settlement had on Aboriginal populations, their subsequent fight for recognition and civil rights and the ongoing connection they have with their traditional land and culture.

Asking questions about the theme

- How did Aboriginal people live in the area now called Victoria? How did this change through time? How do Aboriginal people live in Victoria now?
- What factors have prompted people to migrate to Victoria and within Victoria?
- How did people get to, and move throughout, Victoria?
- Why have people chosen particular places in which to settle?
- What motivated public and private settlement schemes? How effective were they?
- What impacts have immigrants, both individuals and groups, had on the places and landscapes of Victoria?
- How have people maintained their traditional cultures within the dominant society?
- How does the theme link with other themes in Victoria's history?

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|--|---|--|
| 2.1 Living as Victoria's original inhabitants | <p>Creating Aboriginal cultural landscapes</p> <p>Living on country and maintaining traditional relationships</p> | <p>Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape</p> <p>Grampians / Gariwerd and other art sites</p> <p>Riverina cemeteries</p> <p>Dharnya Centre (Barmah)</p> |
| 2.2 Exploring, surveying, mapping | <p>Aboriginal people moving through country</p> <p>Europeans being guided by Aboriginal people and following Aboriginal pathways</p> <p>Exploring Victoria's land, coastline and waterways</p> <p>Opening up of transport routes</p> <p>Associated objects</p> | <p>Major Mitchell Trail</p> <p>Surveyors' plans and equipment</p> <p>Explorers' diaries</p> <p>Surveyors' notebooks</p> |
| 2.3 Adapting to diverse environments | <p>Responding to diverse environments</p> <p>Developing different approaches and strategies</p> | <p>Eel fishery at Lake Condah</p> <p>Mallee family farms</p> <p>Buckrabunya home-made windmill, Swan Hill pioneer Settlement Museum</p> |
| 2.4 Arriving in a new land | <p>Establishing initial settlements</p> | <p>First settlement site at Sullivan's Bay, Sorrento</p> <p>Chinese overland route to the goldfields from Robe, SA</p> |
| | <p>Disembarking in a new country</p> | <p>Station Pier and associated objects in the Immigration Museum</p> <p>Immigration depots and barracks</p> |
| | <p>Providing accommodation</p> | <p>Bonegilla migrant hostel and relics at Albury Regional Museum</p> <p>Irish Orphan Girls memorial, Williamstown</p> <p>Immigrant Barracks, Port Albert</p> |
| | <p>Discouraging unwelcome arrivals</p> | <p>Maribyrnong Detention Centre</p> |
| | <p>Associated objects</p> | <p>Migration records</p> |
| 2.5 Migrating and making a home | <p>Migrating to seek opportunity</p> | <p>Westgarthtown German settlement</p> <p>Goldfields and gold towns</p> <p>Ethnic community collections, Museum of Victoria</p> |
| | <p>Migrating to escape oppression</p> | <p>Jewish Museum</p> |
| | <p>Creating migrant communities</p> | <p>Social clubs</p> <p>Bars and restaurants (Chinatown, Scheherazade Restaurant at St Kilda, Lygon Street)</p> <p>Places of worship</p> |
| | <p>Migrating within Victoria – moving to town, moving out, moving up socially</p> | |
| 2.6 Maintaining distinctive cultures | <p>Experiencing uprooting and dislocation</p> <p>Resisting the destruction of cultural knowledge for new religions</p> <p>Government policies to protect Aboriginal people</p> <p>Maintaining and passing on traditional cultural practices</p> <p>Promoting and educating the community about cultural heritage</p> <p>The lead role of Aboriginal people in decision making about their cultural heritage</p> <p>Allocating gender roles and raising children</p> <p>Links to homelands</p> | <p>Protectorate stations</p> <p>Aboriginal mission stations, eg Coranderrk</p> <p>Board for the Protection of Aborigines and the Aborigines Protection Acts 1869 and 1886</p> <p>Koorie Heritage Trust</p> <p>Aboriginal Keeping Places</p> <p>Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Gariwerd</p> <p>Koorie Resource Information Centre, Shepparton</p> <p>Veneto Club, Bulleen</p> <p>Orthodox churches, Mosques</p> <p>Chinese dragon, Bendigo</p> |

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 2.7 Promoting settlement | Crown survey and sales of country and town lands | Surveys and subdivision plans and patterns, Brighton, Alberton |
| | Developing private townships and housing estates | Belfast (Port Fairy) |
| | Selecting and clearing land for small-scale farming | Selectors farms throughout Victoria e.g. Gippsland |
| | Promoting Village, Closer and Soldier settlement schemes | Village Settlement Robinvale Soldier Settlement |
| | Special vision – ethnic, religious, ideological settlements and communes | Maryknoll |
| | Speculating in land and experiencing boom and bust | 'Landboomers' mansions (Illawarra, Toorak) |
| 2.8 Fighting for identity | Encounters between Aboriginal people and newcomers Fighting for land Displacing and dispossessing Aboriginal people Resisting the advent of Europeans and their animals Resisting and overcoming discrimination to participate in competitive sport Aboriginal service men and women Lobbying and advocating for recognition and rights Recognising native title and land justice for Aboriginal people | Batman's 'treaty' Conflict /massacre sites Eumerella Wars Protectorate stations, missions and reserves Aboriginal-settler contact material, including photographs Mission artefacts Gathering places Northcote and Fitzroy Football Clubs, Jimmy Sharman's Boxing Troupe and the National Aboriginal Sports Foundation Australian War Memorial, local war memorials and RSL clubs Shrine of Remembrance Places linked with self-determination Aborigines Advancement League The 'Tent' Embassy Commonwealth and Victorian Parliaments Native Title Services Victoria |



THE LITTLE DESERT – A CONTESTED PLACE

The Little Desert, a strip of semi-arid mallee country stretching from Dimboola to the South Australian border, was part of the traditional hunting ground of the Wotjobaluk people. Early 20th century naturalists had identified the natural values of the area's flora and fauna, and in 1955 the Nhill and District Progress Association succeeded in having a part of the area declared a sanctuary to protect the mallee fowl. In the 1960s, proposals to develop farms on this marginal land sparked a huge public controversy. The Victorian National Parks Association led the campaign against development, supported by groups and individuals from the local community and the city. The issue was eventually resolved in favour of conserving the area's natural ecosystems and was a landmark victory in Australia for grassroots support of conservation. Direct outcomes were the declaration of the Little Desert National Park in 1968 and the establishment of the Land Conservation Council (LCC) to make recommendations on the use of public land. Over a 20-year period, the LCC investigated vast areas of Victoria for their natural and cultural values and on its recommendations, Victoria's National Parks system was greatly expanded.

This story highlights changing attitudes to the environment and the fact that people identified with this remnant of mallee bushland strongly enough to fight for it.

03

connecting Victorians by transport and communications

This theme traces how early pathways often followed Aboriginal lines of travel and were later formalised as road and rail networks. Transport and communication networks were influential in shaping patterns of settlement and the development of industries. Melbourne's port has always been the most important gateway to Victoria for people and cargo.

Victorians led the rest of Australia in embracing the latest technologically advanced transport and communications systems from Europe and America. For example, by the late 19th century publicly funded railways radiated out from Melbourne to country areas. Telecommunications were also developed rapidly to link the isolated settlements to other parts of the world.

From at least the 1950s, the thriving local automobile manufacturing industry made car ownership possible for ordinary Victorians, creating huge impacts on Victoria's rural and urban landscapes, challenging other forms of transport and changing the way Victorians live.

Asking questions about the theme

- How did environmental factors influence routes chosen?
- What was the impetus for establishing travel routes? Why were particular routes chosen over others?
- Which tracks have developed into major routes? What was the process?
- What were the social or economic outcomes of establishing pathways?
- How is the change from horse-drawn to motor transport shown in the landscape?
- How was the transition from colonial to Commonwealth communication services shown?
- How was the work associated with travel and communications allocated – between social and ethnic groups, between sexes?
- How did the workers organise themselves to improve conditions, wages? What outcomes were achieved?
- What technology was used, adapted or invented?
- How does the theme link with other themes in Victoria's history?

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|--|---|---|
| 3.1 Establishing pathways | Aboriginal people moving through country Aboriginal trade and exchange networks Following Aboriginal pathways | The Blacks' Spur, Goulburn River and Monaro pathways Mount William Axe Quarry Mitchell's trail, Dandenong Road Mount Alexander Road |
| | Establishing bridle paths and stock routes | Old Sale Road |
| | Building coach roads, highways, toll roads | |
| | Establishing wayside places as genesis of later towns | |
| | Establishing goldfields routes, gold escort routes | |
| | Providing stream crossings – fords, punts, early bridges | Solomon's Ford, Keilor Archdale bridge |
| | Accommodating and supplying travellers | Robin Hood Hotel, Drouin (early highway inn) |
| | Establishing commercial transport services | Livery stables |
| | Associated objects | Early maps, road and bridge plans Horse-drawn vehicles, equipment, ephemera |
| 3.2 Linking Victorians by water | Establishing safe routes for shipping | Port towns (Port Albert, Portland, Warrnambool) Lighthouses Navigational aids, rocket sheds |
| | Developing river cargo trade | Echuca wharf |
| | Establishing port and river towns, and infrastructure | Sale Canal Port infrastructure |
| | Developing the waterfront, maritime trade | Victoria Dock, Coode Canal Ship building Piers and jetties (including site of former structures) |
| | Associated objects | Maps Paddle streamers |
| 3.3 Linking Victorians by rail | Establishing the network – privately initiated railways of the 1850s-60s | Sandridge rail bridge on River Yarra Bendigo railway Geelong railway |
| | Expanding the Victorian railway network | 'Light' lines of the 1870s 'Octopus' Acts railways 1880s onwards Shire tramways Signalling and safe working Narrow gauge railways, eg Puffing Billy |
| | Improving country services in the 20th century | Warragul Railway Station Gippsland main line electrification 'Spirit of Progress' |
| | Administering and servicing the railway network | Victorian Railways headquarters Government railway workshops (Newport, Bendigo) Private railway workshops and engineering firms (McKenzie and Holland at Newport, Thompson, Kelly and Lewis at Castlemaine) |
| | Electrifying the suburban network | Station complexes e.g., Hawksburn and Malvern Engineering (cuttings, embankments and bridges) Railway sub-stations |
| | Housing railway workers | Railway workers houses |
| | Supporting forest industries | Forest tramway systems |
| | Associated objects | Railway vehicles, equipment, ephemera |

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|---|--|--|
| 3.4 Linking Victorians by road in the 20th century | Formalising early routes | Mile posts |
| | Improving country roads – the Country Roads Board | William Calder memorial near Warragul |
| | Linking producers to markets | CRB Developmental Roads and Isolated Settlers Roads |
| | Linking across state borders | Princes Highway, Hume Highway/Freeway |
| | Opening up forests | CRB Forests Roads |
| | Encouraging tourism | CRB tourist roads Grand Ridge Road, Gippsland Great Ocean Road |
| | Improving bridge technology | Bridges – stone, timber, metal, concrete |
| | The influence of the motor car on Victoria's way of life | Motels Service stations Drive-ins Freeways Car parks |
| | Associated objects | Cars, driving ephemera, road signs, maps and plans etc. |
| 3.5 Travelling by tram | Early private systems including horse-drawn routes, cable trams and early electric systems | Cable tram engine house e.g., North Melbourne and North Carlton Bendigo Tram Shed complex |
| | Creating municipal networks and electrifying tram systems | Tram depots – Hawthorn, Malvern Ornamental tramway poles in Dandenong Road Tram shelters |
| | Expanding the network – Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board | Preston Tramway Workshop Ornamental tramway poles in Peel Street, Fitzroy Street and Victoria Parade Wattle Park (originally established by Hawthorn Tramways Trust, it was developed by the MMTB) |
| | Building and servicing the trams | Preston Tramway Workshop |
| | Celebrating trams as icons | Early trams Tram technology and ephemera Conductors' bags, uniforms |
| 3.6 Linking Victorians by air | Establishing airports, flying schools and aircraft production facilities. | RAAF's No. 1 Flying Training School Essendon Airport Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Factory |

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|--|--|--|
| 3.7 Establishing and maintaining communications | Establishing postal services in the 19th century | Pre-1900 post offices Postal agencies at houses and other buildings |
| | Improving postal services in the 20th century | Post offices built by the Commonwealth after Federation Melbourne Mail Exchange Letterboxes |
| | Developing electronic means of communication | Telegraph routes Manual telephone exchanges e.g. at Glenisla Telephone signal relay stations Beam wireless stations at Ballan, Rockbank |
| | Making, printing and distributing newspapers | Newspaper offices (Argus, Herald and Weekly Times, local newspapers) |
| | Broadcasting | Radio Masts Television studios (Channel 9) |
| | Associated objects | Telephone equipment Newspapers Letterbags, letters Stamp collections: Australia Post Museum |



KILCUNDA RAIL BRIDGE – A LINK IN VICTORIA’S RAIL SYSTEM

The Kilcunda Bridge was part of the Woolamai-Wonthaggi railway, built in 1910 to transport black coal from the State Coal Mine at Wonthaggi. The coal was used to fuel Victoria’s railway locomotives. Victoria had depended on supplies of coal from New South Wales, but a miners’ strike in that state prompted the hasty development of the deposits at Wonthaggi and construction of the rail line to transport the coal to Melbourne. Before the line was opened coal had to be taken by bullock dray to Inverloch, then by sea to Melbourne. The new line was a branch of the Great Southern Railway, one of the railways built under the ‘Octopus Act’. The Woolamai-Wonthaggi line was closed in 1978, after coal was superseded by oil for fuelling locomotives.

The bridge is one of the many timber trestle bridges built for Victoria’s country rail network in the 19th and early 20th centuries. These bridges utilised the timber from Victoria’s forests and are a distinctive feature of the landscape. Although a number still survive, few are still in use, due mainly to the closure of many country rail lines. Kilcunda Bridge displays some unusual and innovative technology used to strengthen the structure to bear the extra heavy load of coal-laden locomotives.

The story of Kilcunda Bridge shows aspects of theme 3.3 *Linking Victorians by rail* and also links to 4.6 *Exploiting other mineral, forest and water resources*.

04 transforming and managing land and natural resources



This theme explores how occupation and use of the land, and exploitation of its natural resources, have transformed Victoria and shaped its diverse cultural landscapes. It recognises the rich evidence of Aboriginal occupation and survival throughout the state, despite the processes of dispossessing Aboriginal people of their land.

It also illustrates how the historical exploitation by European settlers of grasslands (which had been created partly by Aboriginal people's burning regimes), and of minerals and forests, created the wealth that is reflected in many aspects of Victoria's Colonial and post-Federation heritage. The Victorian gold rushes, for example, have left a huge cultural legacy.

Agriculture took over from gold, establishing Victoria as a leader in the production of a diverse range of rural commodities. The availability of water was a key factor, as irrigation was vital to agricultural production in the more arid districts. Water was also essential to urban expansion, as were stone and clay for building, and coal for energy production. The theme also includes the experience of working in primary industries.

The impact of human activities on the land and its waterways led to moves to protect the natural environment (this aspect is included under the first theme, Shaping Victoria's environment).

Asking questions about the theme

- How was the land occupied and used?
- What is the evidence of the succession of land uses in wider landscape?
- How were Aboriginal people dispossessed of their land and its resources?
- What were the living conditions associated with particular land uses?
- What measures were taken to make 'strange' or remote landscapes seem more like 'home'?
- How was work allocated – between social and ethnic groups, between sexes, use of seasonal/itinerant labour? Is there evidence of this in stories about the place, or embodied in the landscape?
- How have different land uses over a long period affected natural features, landscape character and values?
- How does this theme link with other themes in Victoria's history?

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|--|--|---|
| 4.1 Living off the land | Hunting and gathering; knowledge of seasonal resources | Lake Condah fish traps Oven mounds; occupation sites; canoe trees; quarries and other sources of raw material Aboriginal material culture: Museum Victoria; Koorie Heritage Trust Jacksons Track – Aboriginal people in the 20th century |
| | Establishing temporary modes of living Living off the land for survival | Rabbits' huts 'Susso' camps in the forests |
| 4.2 Living from the sea | Indigenous fishing | Canoes, coastal shell middens |
| | Sealing and whaling | Site of Henty's operations |
| | Developing a fishing industry | Boats, wharfs and jetties Fishermen's co-operatives |
| | Associated objects | Fishing, sealing, whaling materials and records Museum artefacts |
| 4.3 Grazing and raising livestock | Squatting and the wool industry | Pastoral landscapes and homesteads of the Western District Shearing sheds, shepherds' huts, wool stores and sheep washes |
| | The squatter in town | Squatters' town houses and apartments Melbourne Club |
| | Grazing and breeding cattle and horses | Cattlemen's huts |
| | Dealing with failure and hardship | Abandoned pastoral stations Sand drift in the Mallee Failure of soldier settlement in much of the Mallee |
| | Marking property boundaries | Boundary markers and fencing |
| | Creating the legend of mountain cattlemen | Cattlemen's huts Opposition to Alpine cattle grazing |
| | Associated objects | Wool, cattle industry objects Luxury objects owned by squatters' wives Make-do objects owned by settlers |

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|------------------------|--|---|
| 4.4 Farming | Growing wheat and other broad acre crops | Silos Changing Mallee landscapes |
| | Establishing Victoria's dairy industry | Farm complexes (Houses, dairies, coolrooms, piggeries, hay and machinery sheds) |
| | Growing fruit and vegetables Establishing and re-establishing Victoria's wine industry | Houses and outbuildings Orchards, market gardens Wineries and vineyards e.g. Chateau Tahbilk Coolstores |
| | Protecting and containing crops and stock | Fences e.g. drystone walls, post and rail Windrows and hedges |
| | Promoting and developing agricultural research, innovation and education | Research farms (eg Walpeup) and agricultural colleges |
| | Marketing and promoting agricultural products and industries | Saleyards and markets Sites of agricultural and horticultural shows |
| | Dealing with failure and hardship Making do and getting by Aboriginal people working in primary production Allocation of work on family farms | Sites of abandoned farms e.g. 'Heartbreak Hills' in South Gippsland Mission and reserve gardens and agriculture e.g. Coranderk hop gardens, Loddon Protectorate Seasonal fruit and vegetable picking e.g. Gippsland and the Murray Valley |
| | Different eras of farming | Family farms of the Mallee and Gippsland |
| | Associated objects | Pastoral run papers Agricultural machinery and technology such as the combine harvester Agricultural lifestyle material: household wealth or poverty, or in between |
| 4.5 Gold mining | Mining for gold, alluvial, deep lead, and quartz | Mining sites and machinery Water races Gold mining technology Loss of topsoil and vegetation in mining areas Introduction of weeds |
| | Living on the diggings and in mining towns | Miners' cottages, mine managers' houses, ghost towns Schools and churches |
| | Servicing the goldfields | Powder magazines |
| | Policing the goldfields | Commissioners' camps Police stations and barracks Wardens' offices |
| | Coping with social dislocation and establishing welfare organisations | Benevolent institutions in gold towns |
| | Finding common causes and fighting for miners' rights | Eureka Stockade site |
| | Dealing with racism and exclusion | Shrines Sites of anti-Chinese riots |
| | Experiencing mine disasters | Australasian mine, Creswick |

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|---|--|--|
| | Displaying wealth | Mansions Civic buildings Melbourne Treasury |
| | Dealing with uncertainty, failure and poverty | Abandoned settlements |
| | Being transformed by the goldfields' experience | Places associated with people made wealthy by gold |
| | Associated objects | Eureka Flag Gold mining lifestyle material: household wealth or poverty, or in between Gold mining mementoes: jewellery, nuggets |
| 4.6 Exploiting other mineral, forest and water resources | Exploiting resources for fuel and power | Early black coal fields (Jumbunna, Outtrim and State Coalmine, Wonthaggi) Latrobe Valley brown coalfields, power stations and briquette works Places associated with the exploitation of oil and gas (Bass Strait oil and gas platforms, Barry Beach terminal and Long Jetty at Welshpool) |
| | Exploiting natural resources for building materials | Quarries and claypits Lime kilns Brickworks Timber industry places – mills, dugouts, workers' housing, tramways and machinery |
| | Developing other forest industries | Places associated with other forest based processes – pulp milling, charcoal burning, eucalyptus distilling |
| | Managing and sustaining forest resources | Forests Commission offices and workers housing Creswick Forestry School Hardwood and softwood plantations |
| | Exploiting copper, silver and other metals | Mine sites Abandoned settlements e.g. Cooper's Creek |
| | Using and managing water for irrigation and industry | Goldfields water supplies (Coliban system at Bendigo, Baw Baw water race) Wimmera-Mallee stock and domestic system and the current replacement of open channels by pipelines Mildura irrigation system Private weirs and dams Artesian bores Places associated with the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (SRWSC) including irrigation infrastructure, bridges and buildings |
| | Using water for power generation | Rubicon Hydro-electric scheme Early township and municipal hydro-electricity schemes |
| | Associated objects | Maps, leases, official documents Machinery and infrastructure |
| 4.7 Transforming the land and waterways | Clearing the land and 'civilising' the landscape | Farming cultural landscapes e.g. Western District, Gippsland Mallee roller 'Big Lizzie' Fires, e.g. Gippsland 1898 |
| | Draining swamps and diverting streams | Swamp drainage schemes (Koo Wee Rup, Moe) |
| | Managing the effects of pest plants and animals | Vermin proof fence, Mallee |

05

building Victoria's industries and workforce



Secondary industry developed in Melbourne and key regional centres during and after the gold rushes to help free the colony from total reliance on imports. Melbourne was also the centre of banking and merchant services for the pastoralists in the regions.

The technological requirements of gold mining stimulated manufacturing industries and the growth of the agricultural sector led to the development of backward and forward linkages, such as implement manufacture and the processing of the raw materials, initially close to their source of production. Victorian innovation and products were displayed to the world through grand international exhibitions in the 19th century.

By the early 20th century, industry was concentrated in Melbourne, which had become Australia's leading industrial city. Victoria had a major role in Australia's post-World War II program of industrial expansion, made possible by the huge immigration program which provided a ready workforce. The interests of both labour and capital were protected against imports by a system of tariffs and quotas until its gradual dismantling in the late 20th century brought the closure of many industries.

Retailing, tourism and the entertainment industries have always been important to local economies in Victoria. However, the growth of these sectors (and improved transport) has stimulated regional centres at the cost of the small towns or suburban strips. This theme also acknowledges that industry was carried out in the home as well as factory and office.

Asking questions about the theme

- What contribution has Victorian industry made to national, state and local economies?
- What has been the effect of industrial development on particular towns, suburbs and landscapes?
- How important were entrepreneurial and business skills? Technical innovations?
- How was work allocated – between social and ethnic groups, between sexes?
- How did workers organise to improve conditions? What about those outside such organisations?
- What were the living conditions like? Was accommodation provided?
- How does this theme link with the other themes in Victoria's history?

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|--|--|---|
| 5.1 Processing raw materials | Processing primary produce for local and export markets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy goods • Wool processing • Meat and meat by-products • Grains • Fruit and vegetables | Milk products factories Flour mills Abattoirs e.g. Newmarket Woollen mills and stores Canneries (Goulburn Valley) Breweries e.g. CUB Bakeries Factories e.g. Heinz, Dandenong Tanneries e.g. Preston area |
| | Processing petroleum products | Oil refineries and associated industries e.g. Mobil Oil Refinery, Altona |
| 5.2 Developing a manufacturing capacity | Making Victoria the 'engine room' of the Australian economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying entrepreneurial skills and technology • Making Australia self-sufficient in engineering and manufacturing • Producing for export markets • Developing specialised industries | Factories, factory sites Thompson's foundry, Castlemaine GMH Fisherman's Bend, Dandenong HV McKay offices Massey Ferguson Government Aircraft Factory Houses of industry magnates |
| | Manufacturing clothing, footwear and leather goods | Flinders Lane Fletcher Jones, Warrnambool Inner suburban clothing and textile factories |
| | Associated objects | Machinery Clothing samples Publicity, promotional material |
| 5.3 Markets and retailing | Selling fresh produce in Melbourne | Markets e.g. Queen Victoria, Prahran |
| | Serving local needs | Corner and local shops Shops around railway stations Small country centres |
| | The rise of centres along tram routes | Smith Street, Chapel Street |
| | Building shopping centres to serve regional Victoria | Large centres (Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat) Regional grocery and variety stores |
| | Making Melbourne one of the leading retail centres in Australia | Department stores Boutiques and speciality stores e.g. Le Louvre Arcades Warehouses (Old Myer warehouses in Carlton) |
| | Creating car-based centres in the post-war era | Chadstone Shopping Centre |
| | Creating a distinctive corporate identity | Fletcher Jones' factory gardens Bryant and May factory Advertising signs and billboards e.g. Skipping Girl, Pelaco |
| | Associated objects | Promotional materials Clothes collections held by museums and galleries Company uniforms, letterheads |

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|--|---|---|
| 5.4 Exhibiting Victoria's innovation and products | Promoting Victoria's achievements to the world | World heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton Gardens |
| | Celebrating great entrepreneurs | Sidney Myer Music Bowl |
| | Exposing Victorians to the latest ideas Encouraging innovation and technology Creating links to markets | Trade shows and exhibitions |
| | Associated objects | Exhibition items, awards |
| 5.5 Banking and finance | Making Melbourne one of the financial centres of Australia Dealing with boom and bust | Head offices of banking, insurance and finance companies |
| | Banks as a symbol of the historical importance of regional centres | Gold rush banks Banks in farming centres |
| | Establishing the stock exchange | Melbourne Stock Exchange Stock exchanges in mining towns |
| | Establishing building and friendly societies, credit co-ops | Offices and banks |
| | Associated objects | Bank money boxes |
| | 5.6 Entertaining and socialising | Establishing licensed premises in Victoria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The influence of the temperance movement in Victorian society • The influence of liquor licensing laws |
| Places to meet and socialise in rural Victoria | | Local pubs, cafés, dance halls, RSL clubs |
| Dining out, developing Victoria's culinary, café and bar culture The influence of post-war migration on Victoria's dining out culture | | Restaurants, cafes (Pellegrini's, Florentino, Leo's) Precincts e.g. Lygon Street |
| The golden age of theatre-going in Victoria | | Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat Princess Theatre |
| Creating picture palaces | | Regent, Forum, Astor, Westgarth |
| Selling sexual services | | Brothels |
| Associated objects | | Espresso machines |

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 5.7 Catering for tourists | Developing Aboriginal tourism enterprises Travelling popular touring routes Accommodating tourists Visiting tourist attractions | Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Gariwerd Great Ocean Road Hotels, restaurants, guest houses |
| 5.8 Working | Aboriginal people working in the European settler economy Organising workers – industrial action and gains for workers | Seasonal fruit and vegetable picking Dairy, hops, tobacco Fencing, cattle droving Trades Hall 8 Hour Monument |
| | Being unemployed, working for the dole | Unemployment projects during the Great Depression (Alexandra Avenue, Great Ocean Road) |
| | Working in the office | City office blocks |
| | Working in the home, paid and unpaid | |
| | Working as a volunteer | Royal Children's Hospital |
| | Associated objects | |



MANUFACTURING CLOTHING – FLETCHER JONES, WARRNAMBOOL, A REGIONAL ENTREPRENEUR

Fletcher Jones commenced his career as a drapery hawker, selling clothing around the Western District. In 1924, he opened a shop in Warrnambool, selling ready-to-wear men's clothing, and added a tailoring service above the shop. Jones' preference for quality garments, and the slowness of trade during the Depression, led to his decision to make ready-to-wear trousers in fractional fittings, and his slogan became 'no man is hard to fit'. During the Second World War Jones was asked to make army trousers, but was allowed instead to make trousers for farmers as his contribution to the war effort.

After the war the firm began its expansion, opening its first shop in Melbourne, and a new factory, built of army surplus materials and buildings, in Warrnambool. A garden was planted around the factory, making it an important aesthetic landmark for the town. When Jones was asked to make the uniforms for the Australian team in the 1956 Olympic Games, he commenced making a range of women's slacks and skirts. In the 1960s, the firm had shops and factories in five states, with the headquarters still at Warrnambool, where the 600 staff, mainly women, were employed. By this time it was unusual for such a large firm to have headquarters outside a capital city, and some staff housing was provided to compensate for the location.

The firm also had an unusual corporate structure, with 70 per cent ownership by the staff, and no outside shareholders. Jones manufactured his garments from Australian wool, but it seems a coincidence that he set up his business close to Victoria's wool growing district. He opposed the use of synthetic fibres, and in 1964 received an award for services to the Australian wool industry. Eventually, after Jones' death, the firm began to use synthetic materials. Early in the 21st century Fletcher Jones joined most other Victorian clothing manufacturers and moved offshore, closing its Warrnambool plant.

The Fletcher Jones story shows a link between the themes 5.2 *Developing a manufacturing capacity*, 5.3 *Marketing and retailing*, 4.3 *Grazing and raising livestock*, 6.5 *Living in country towns* and 7.4 *Defending Victoria and Australia*.

06

building towns, cities and the garden state



The wealth generated by Victoria's gold built some of Australia's largest Victorian-era cities, including Ballarat, Bendigo and Melbourne. English historian Asa Briggs named Melbourne as one of the world's greatest Victorian cities. Metropolitan Melbourne expanded rapidly to take in the surrounding 'villages', creating the suburban sprawl of detached houses with their own gardens and backyards, which soon showed a strong skew to the east.

Another characteristic of Victoria is the proliferation of country towns, relatively close together by Australian standards, which grew up as commercial, industrial and social centres to support local rural or mining activities. They reflect their origins as ports, wayside settlements, gold towns or selectors' towns.

This theme focuses on the development of Victoria's cities, towns and suburbs, including the application of innovative planning ideas which contributed to Victoria's identity as the 'garden state'.

Asking questions about the theme

- What were the motivations for establishing towns and suburbs? How were they affected by changing circumstances?
- What influenced the spatial layout of the town/suburb – location of industry, residence areas etc.?
- What does the housing show about the local topography, climate, social status, and cultural background of the residents?
- What were the social implications of different forms of housing?
- How have segregation and exclusion been expressed in housing and suburbs?
- How is the history of a city/town/suburb reflected in its architecture, materials and landscapes?
- How is public open space used by various groups?

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|--|---|--|
| 6.1 Establishing settlements in the Port Phillip District | Places of first settlement | Coastal towns Inland towns Squatting sites |
| 6.2 Creating Melbourne | Pre-Gold rush city: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laying out the city plan • Populating the plan • Establishing a social geography • Aboriginal people in colonial Melbourne | Urban form (The Hoddle Grid, Williamstown Government Town) La Trobe's cottage Pre-goldrush buildings Aboriginal camps and protectorates; Merri Creek school Sites linked with the Native Police |
| | Gold rush boom and bust – becoming a leading world city <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating 'Marvellous Melbourne' • Developing services and infrastructure • Building higher industrial and commercial structures and buildings • Creating cultural institutions • Cultural landscapes | Nineteenth century commercial and industrial buildings Boulevards leading to the city Parks and gardens Melbourne sewerage system Hydraulic power systems State Library and Museum, University and colleges. |
| 6.3 Shaping the suburbs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial, residential and industrial development • Providing urban infrastructure and services • Establishing industrial/working class suburbs • Living with boom and bust (slums, homelessness) • Depression of the 1890s | Ring of 19th century inner suburbs Yan Yean water supply |
| | Recovery after Federation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying the Garden City ideals and planning layout • Suburban development along tram and railway lines • Responding to slums and homelessness • Expanding services to meet demands | Inter-war commercial and industrial development Middle ring garden suburbs (Malvern streetscapes) Griffin's Eaglemont Estate Garden City estate Brotherhood of St Laurence Additional and expanded water supply systems |
| | Post-WWII development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The influences of migration and growth associated with the Olympics • Coping with rapid urban expansion • Developing urban services and infrastructure • Establishing public housing estates • Housing Aboriginal people • Creating distinctive suburban identities that respond to the Australian environment • Gentrifying the suburbs • Clearing the slums and Save our Suburbs movement | First skyscraper to break height limits – ICI Building (now Orica) Redevelopment of St Kilda Road Olympic Village, West Heidelberg Merchant Builders estates e.g. Winter Park, Elliston Housing Commission of Victoria estates MMBW Brooklyn Sewerage pumping station |

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|---|--|---|
| 6.4 Making regional centres | Establishing regional identities | Bendigo, Ballarat, Shepparton |
| | Investing in statements of permanence | Architecturally grand railway stations, town halls, banks and other public buildings |
| | Providing places to meet, work and socialise in rural areas | Pubs Community halls CWA Halls |
| | Trading and exchanging goods | |
| 6.5 Living in country towns | Establishing functional towns, e.g. coast towns, squatters' towns, early wayside towns, gold towns, irrigation towns | Port towns (Portland, Port Fairy) Wayside towns (Kilmore, Seymour, Benalla, Gisborne) Gold towns (Walhalla, Jericho) Selectors' towns (Ouyen, Warragul) Mildura – irrigation town LaTrobe Valley |
| | Supplying town amenities – water, sewerage etc | Water supply systems Sewerage systems |
| | Building public parks and gardens | Regional botanic gardens (Ballarat etc.) |
| | Creating model towns | Tallangatta (SRWSC model town of the 1950s) |
| | Establishing country town identities | |
| | 6.6 Marking significant phases in the development of Victoria's settlements, towns and cities | Decentralising industry |
| Creating or changing transport networks | | |
| Experiencing the pressures of expansion and contraction | | |
| 6.7 Making homes for Victorians | Homes for the wealthy Middle class homes Working class homes Boarding houses Establishing private gardens and backyards | Nineteenth century mansions Victorian and inter-war middle class villas Workers' cottages Gentrified workers' cottages (e.g. Sunshine) |
| | Developing higher density living, shared accommodation, flats and apartments Accommodating changing lifestyles Housing Aboriginal people | Inter-war apartment blocks (St Kilda, South Yarra) Post-war apartment blocks Social and public housing for special needs Missions and reserves Fringe camps Aboriginal Housing Board |
| | Providing employee housing | Factory housing Railway and teachers housing |
| | Living in slums and on the street | Emerald Court Ozanam House |
| | 6.8 Living on the fringes | |



CARLO CATANI, IMMIGRANT, ENGINEER

The young colony of Victoria provided opportunities for qualified professional immigrants, many of whom contributed to the development of new infrastructure. In 1876, three young engineers – Carlo Catani, Pietro Baracchi and Ettore Checchi left Florence Italy for New Zealand, however they found better opportunities in Victoria. On arrival, all were employed by the Department of Survey as draftsmen as they had essential skills in demand due to the rapid development of urban infrastructure in Victoria. Of the three, Catani had the most distinguished career. In 1882 he joined the Public Works Department, where he became Chief Engineer. Catani was responsible for many of Victoria's major engineering works, including widening and straightening the River Yarra upstream from Princes Bridge and the formation of Alexandra Avenue, swamp drainage works at Koo Wee Rup and Elwood, and the forming of Lake Catani on the Mount Buffalo Plateau. He was also responsible for the reclamation of the St Kilda foreshore and the design of the gardens on the foreshore that now commemorate his name. Catani's story links with themes of *4.7 Transforming the land and waterways*, *6.2 Creating Melbourne* and *6.3 Shaping the suburbs*.

07 governing Victorians

Victoria was the Port Phillip District of the Colony of New South Wales until 1851, when it became a separate colony named in honour of the Queen. The new colony developed its own responsible government and its own defence system.

At Federation of the Australian colonies in 1901, Victoria became a state in the Commonwealth of Australia. As the first seat of Federal government, Melbourne played a significant role in governing Australia. While British judicial and administrative institutions were imported to maintain law and order in Victoria's new communities, some institutions were developed specifically to cater for local conditions, such as the Native Police, Aboriginal missions and the Court of Mines.

This theme focuses on the role of the state and its institutions in shaping the life of its citizens in all facets of life. It also recognises the role of local government as well as the defence and administration of the state. Important aspects of the theme include a tradition of struggle for political and civil rights reflected in the Eureka rebellion, the Labor Movement, women's movement and movements for Aboriginal rights.

Asking questions about the theme

- How did the state shape the lives of Victorian citizens? What evidence remains of different eras and circumstances?
- What has been the role of local government?
- What groups have been disadvantaged by or left out of the political process? Why?
- What efforts have been made to include them? How have they succeeded?
- What has been the impact of dissenting ideologies on Victoria?
- What do Victoria's political and administrative institutions tell us about the nature of society in Victoria?
- What has been the role of Victorians in Australia's Federal political process?
- How does this theme link to other themes in Victoria's history?

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|---|--|---|
| 7.1 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy | Governing the Port Phillip District | Site of Lonsdale's Cottage, La Trobe's Cottage |
| | Governing the colony / State of Victoria | Toorak House Government House Parliament House Exhibition Buildings |
| | Governing Australia | <i>Stonington</i> |
| | Shaping the ideal citizen | Australian Natives Association |
| | Forming political associations | |
| | Developing local government authorities Administering the state | Bridges constructed by Road Boards (predecessors of municipal councils) Town halls and municipal offices |
| 7.2 Struggling for political rights | Experiencing exclusion and discrimination | Eureka Stockade Town halls, public halls Yarra bank, Princes Bridge |
| | Gaining the vote for women | Places where women met or lived |
| | Labor Movement | Eight Hour Day monument |
| | Gaining Aboriginal rights | Aborigines Advancement League |
| | Protesting and challenging prevailing views | Places associated with protests |
| | Promoting civil liberties | Places associated with civil libertarians |
| | Associated objects | 'Monster petition' for women's suffrage |
| 7.3 Maintaining law and order | Creating a judicial system in Victoria | Early court houses Old Melbourne Gaol, Beechworth Prison |
| | Controlling entry to Victoria in the 19th century | Customs houses, Quarantine stations |
| | Policing Victoria – including Native Police | Police stations, lock-ups Police paddocks |
| | Using and accessing the justice system | Local legal services, including Aboriginal |
| | Administering resources and services, including indigenous affairs | Government offices Places where people engaged with government agencies |
| | Associated objects | Miner's licence and right |
| 7.4 Defending Victoria and Australia | Colonial defences | Fort Gellibrand, Fort Queenscliff, Fort Nepean HMVS <i>Cerberus</i> Batteries |
| | Training people to serve in the military | Army camps, recruiting depots and drill halls HMAS <i>Cerberus</i> , RAAF Point Cook |
| | Protecting civilians | Air-raid shelters |
| | Civilian war efforts | Factories |
| | Associated objects | War savings street plaques |
| 7.5 Protecting Victoria's heritage | Designating historic sites | |
| | Creating the National Trust | Como |
| | Protecting places from redevelopment | Abbotsford Convent |
| | Protecting Aboriginal places and landscapes | |
| | Associated objects | Marble objects at Melbourne Museum that are pieces of a demolished Victorian era building |

08 building community life

This theme covers the ways Victorians have built community life and institutions in a variety of forms and expressions.

Maintaining Aboriginal traditional ceremonial life and sacred places is a key part of this theme. Other key factors include the belief systems, ideals and institutions of the early (predominantly British and Irish) settlers, applied and adapted to their new situation. This helps to explain both the strong evangelical Protestant tone which was influential in maintaining the conservative morality of Queen Victoria's Britain in many aspects of community life, and the ongoing sectarian tensions between Catholics and Protestants in 19th and early 20th century Victoria. It also influenced the formation of Victoria's strong public education system, alongside the range of denominational schools and colleges.

The education of women has been a strong theme, with Victoria pioneering women's secondary school education in Australia. Women's groups were a major influence on charity and social work in Victoria, where the change from a reliance on charity to government welfare has never been complete.

The theme also includes marking the phases of life such as birth, death and marriage.

Asking questions about the theme

- How much do we know about Aboriginal ceremonial life and sacred places in Victoria? How do we know about these?
- What churches predominated in the town/suburb/community? Why?
- How do the schools in the town/suburb reflect the social/religious background, and aspirations of the community?
- How have community institutions expressed community values of the times? The needs of the times?
- How have gender roles been expressed in community life?
- How has the community contributed to the provision of welfare services?
- What has been the impact of increased government services on community life?
- How does this theme link with other themes?

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 8.1 Maintaining spiritual life | Maintaining traditional ceremonial life | Sacred places |
| | Living on Aboriginal missions | Ebenezer Mission, Antwerp |
| | Churches as a marker of social status or ethnic origin Establishing institutions based on religious denominations and spiritual connections | First church in community, first mosque |
| | Places of worship that illustrate key phases of a community | Methodist churches on goldfields |
| | Founding Australian spiritual institutions | Places associated with Mary McKillop |
| | Dissent and alternative spiritual belief | |
| 8.2 Educating people | Imparting traditional knowledge by elders Initiating education by setting up early community-run schools | Old Preston Secondary College Koorie Services Centre NMIT National, denominational, common schools and ragged schools |
| | Establishing private education, and denominational schools | Private education – small private enterprise schools, church-run colleges (formerly 'public schools'). |
| | Applying different philosophies of education | Aboriginal schools Rudolph Steiner schools |
| | Making education universal – free, secular state schools | Early state schools and the system of school numbers Infant schools |
| | Providing a parallel Catholic system | Catholic parish schools |
| | Providing schools in remote rural areas | One-room schools Consolidated schools |
| | Providing education for children with disabilities | Victorian School for the Deaf Special Schools |
| | Providing secondary and technical education | State secondary and technical schools Agricultural colleges |
| | Including women in secondary and higher education | Sir MacPherson Robertson – sponsored Girls High School Domestic arts schools Janet Clarke Hall |
| | Establishing universities and colleges of advanced education Innovation and the creation of new knowledge | Universities and Colleges of Advanced Education RMIT |
| | Participating in self improvement and adult education | Mechanics' Institutes, libraries, CAE, local learning centres |
| | Associated objects | |

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|--|--|---|
| 8.3 Providing health and welfare services | Traditional plant foods and remedies Aboriginal health services Providing public and private health care Providing health services to women in Victoria Providing services to regional Victoria Receiving health and welfare services | Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and Cranbourne Victorian Aboriginal Health Service e.g. Health Service in Gertrude and Nicholson Streets Private Hospitals Doctors surgeries and residences Maternal and Child Health Centres Public hospitals and psychiatric centres Queen Victoria hospital Bush nursing centres Ambulance stations |
| | Changing approaches to providing psychiatric care and services | Willsmere, Mayday Hills Larundel |
| | Providing maternal and child health services | Nineteenth century women's refuges (Abbotsford Convent, Carlton Refuge) Truby King and mothercraft centres (Queen Elizabeth Maternal and Child Health Centre) |
| | Helping others – city missions, charity work, philanthropy | Asylums Missions e.g. Prahran Mission Refuges |
| | Associated objects | Hospital and institutional records Collection tins, fund-raising material Medical equipment |
| 8.4 Forming community organisations | Forming associations of mutual aid and self-help | Mutual societies halls Masonic halls |
| | Setting up co-operatives, co-operative building societies | |
| | Providing places for young people to meet and socialise | Scouts and Guide halls YMCA venues |
| | Pursuing special interests of all sorts | Service, RSL and Sports Clubs |
| | Establishing ethnic community groups | Club rooms |
| | Providing local meeting places | Local community halls |
| | Providing places for women to meet | CWA Halls |
| | Associated objects | Masonic Lodge regalia Posters for community events |
| 8.5 Preserving traditions and commemorating | Preserving and celebrating Victoria's history | NAIDOC week 'Sorry' Day National Trust places RHSV meeting rooms Local museums |
| | Remembering the impact of war upon Victorian communities | Cenotaphs Avenues of honour Great Ocean Road |
| | Remembering significant events and people Preserving/resurrecting Aboriginal languages | Memorials to disasters Memorials for important events (Eight Hour Day monument) Memorials for significant people Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages |

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Associated objects | Commemorative medals Plaques Books |
| 8.6 Marking the phases of life | Birth, life, death | |
| | Living as a family | |
| | Living outside a family partnership | |
| | Growing old and retiring | Aged care facilities |
| | Repatriation of Aboriginal remains Burying the dead | King's domain burials Framlingham Cemetery Lone graves and private cemeteries Public cemeteries Church or other cemeteries |
| | Associated objects | Register of births, deaths and marriages Cemetery Trust records Family photographs |



IRIS LOVETT-GARDINER – EDUCATOR AND TIRELESS COMMUNITY WORKER

Iris Lovett-Gardiner was born at the Lake Condah Mission in south-western Victoria in the 1920s. She went to school until year eight and then worked as a domestic servant, first in Hamilton and then Melbourne, where she lived for 35 years.

For many years, Iris taught Aboriginal culture in schools and she assisted the Catholic Education department to develop a syllabus for teaching Indigenous culture in Victoria. She highlighted the plight of Aboriginal people's experiences of dispossession and disadvantage, believing that educating through the mainstream education system was an important way to raise awareness of the issues affecting Victoria's Aboriginal people.

She wanted people to know about the hardships that Aboriginal people had experienced by talking from her own experiences and Aboriginal community stories about life on the mission and the interaction that Aboriginal people had with the wider community. She was also deeply concerned by the loss of traditional languages and the sense of disconnection that many Aboriginal people had when they were separated from their families through the mission experience or government policies to remove children and place them into foster care.

In her 70s, Iris started work on her PhD. She was a member of the Heritage Trust of Victoria, a patron for the National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebrations and was recognised by her community as a respected community Elder.

In 1997, she wrote a book, titled *Lady of the Lake*, to raise awareness about her life and community as well as to assist young people to connect with their history and ongoing cultural heritage. She was instrumental in creating the Aboriginal Community Elders Service (ACES) which was established in 1991, to ensure that community elders could be cared for in a safe, secure environment and have access to medical treatment, meals and social activities that they may otherwise find difficult to obtain.

Throughout her life, Iris Lovett-Gardiner worked tirelessly to improve the wellbeing of Victoria's Aboriginal communities and raise awareness across the broader community of the issues that affect Aboriginal people in Victoria.

The story of Iris Lovett-Gardiner shows a link between the themes *8.2 Educating people*, *8.3 Providing health and welfare services*, *8.5 Preserving traditions and commemorating*.

09

shaping cultural and creative life



This theme displays Victoria's cultural life in its many facets: sport, arts, popular culture and science. It highlights the passion for sport that typifies Australian society, and shows Victoria's leading role in developing some of the nation's major sporting events and games.

From early European settlement, Victorians have nurtured a vibrant arts scene, participating in the full range of performing and visual arts, architecture and design and popular culture. Much of Victoria's cultural life has been expressed through local community groups, which have provided social cohesion as well as opportunities for the enjoyment of leisure activities.

Victorians have been at the forefront in the development of national arts movements in painting and music, and also in innovative drama companies. Many Victorians have made their name on the world stage in elite sports, high arts, popular culture and science, where Victorians have been pre-eminent in research science and medical research.

Some of these pursuits overlap, for example film: is it popular culture or an art form?

Asking questions about the theme

- How have people enjoyed their leisure, developed leisure facilities?
- What does the establishment/development of local sporting clubs tell us about the town/suburban community?
- How does sport express local allegiance, social status or ethnicity?
- How have people contributed to Victoria's/Australia's elite sporting life?
- How/when does a local community event evolve into a major expression of the creativity of Victorians?
- What art forms have been expressed/developed in the local town/suburb? What has inspired and enabled the formation of a local arts community? Have any local artists made their name on the wider stage?
- What influential people have provided inspiration/financial support to the arts, or other intellectual pursuits? What has motivated them?
- What contribution has the particular art-form/popular culture made to Victoria's/Australia's identity?
- How have people contributed to Victoria's/Australia's elite and unique art and creative culture/popular culture?
- What has been the inspiration for innovation in science?
- How have people contributed to Victoria's/Australia's intellectual and scientific achievements?
- How do the themes overlap within this key theme? How do they link with other key themes?

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|--|---|---|
| 9.1 Participating in sport and recreation | Forming local sports clubs Expressing gender in leisure activities Pursuing individual sports Enjoying leisure activities Developing elite sports Staging national and world sporting events Aboriginal participation in sport | Local sports ground, club houses, swimming pools Women's Dressing Pavilion, Royal Park Walking tracks, winter sports facilities MCG Rupertswood, birthplace of the Ashes Former Olympic Swimming Pool Kooyong Tennis Centre Flemington race course Stawell Gift |
| 9.2 Nurturing a vibrant arts scene | Aboriginal arts and crafts Forming artists' societies Forming local drama and performing groups Making music – local orchestras, brass bands, choral societies Cross-fertilisation in the arts Patronising the arts Developing organisations for supporting artists and crafts people | Wathaurong Glass East Gippsland Aboriginal Arts Koorie Heritage Trust Local performing arts centres Royal South Street Eisteddfod, Ballarat Bandstands Town halls Local artists' works: Town Hall collections Heide Museum of Modern Art, Montsalvat Felton Bequest Theatre/concert programs for amateur productions Costume for amateur productions Craft Victoria |
| 9.3 Achieving design and artistic distinction | Aboriginal artists Composing and performing music Creating visual arts and literature Designing furniture and high fashion Creating dance and drama companies and performing Establishing a Victorian and Australian voice | Lin Onus, William Barak, Tommy McRae Composers' studios, Grainger Museum Coombe Cottage, Melba's home Heidelberg school sites The Australian Ballet Lakeview, home of Henry Handel Richardson MTC, La Mama, Pram Factory, Malthouse The Arts Centre Heide, Box Hill Art Space |
| | Designing fine buildings, gardens and landscapes Advancing professional standards and practice | Myer Music Bowl Houses/buildings by prominent architects of different ages – including Reed, Wardell, Annear, Barnet, Boyd, Knox Bickleigh Vale, Edna Walling's gardens at Mooroolbark, other gardens by Walling, Stones, Ford Institute of Architects |
| | Making films | Salvation Army headquarters, Bourke Street, site of first film |
| | Associated objects | Music scores of Victorian composers Artworks Arty-type craftworks: wearable art Performing arts costumes, sets, props, ephemera Set and costume designs Theatre programs |

| SUB THEME | PROMPTS (LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE) | EXAMPLES OF PLACES AND OBJECTS |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 9.4 Creating popular culture | Making jazz, rock and local music Staging/attending Music festivals Creating Australian television | Esplanade Hotel St Kilda, 'Espy' Sunbury 'Ramsay Street' |
| | Associated objects | Performing Arts Museum collection |
| 9.5 Advancing knowledge | Establishing research facilities in science and technology Developing innovative technologies Recognising and maintaining Aboriginal traditional knowledge | Bionic Ear National Herbarium Royal Society building Defence Department Laboratories Victoria Barracks Research laboratories Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Gariwerd Koorie Heritage Trust and Keeping Places |
| | Associated objects | |



A VICTORIAN INVENTION OF WORLDWIDE IMPORTANCE – THE BIONIC EAR

A piece of ground-breaking medical technology produced in Victoria was the cochlear implant or Bionic Ear. This was developed at the University of Melbourne by Professor Graeme Clark in the late 1960s. The research was funded by public donations, because at the time the scientific community did not think it possible to develop a cochlear implant.

After a successful trial with an implant at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in 1978, the Australian Government awarded a grant for the industrial development of the Bionic Ear by the Australian firm Cochlear Limited. After further trials it was internationally approved as safe and effective. In 1985, Professor Clark's team implanted the first child with a multiple-electrode Bionic Ear.

This technology is widely considered to be the first major advance in helping profoundly deaf children to communicate since signing was established at the Paris Deaf School 200 years ago. The Australian Bionic Ear has now been implanted in more than 50,000 people worldwide.

This story illustrates the themes 'advancing knowledge' and 'developing innovative technologies'.