1 History, Geography, and Government

HISTORY

Permanent settlement

The first recorded sighting by Europeans of the south coast of Australia was at Point Hicks by the expedition of Captain James Cook RN in 1770. Victoria was recorded as being first traversed by Europeans in 1797 when the *Sydney Cove* was wrecked in the Furneaux Group; of sixteen crew members cast ashore in a longboat along the Ninety Mile Beach, only three survived the journey through Gippsland to Botany Bay. George Bass discovered Wilsons Promontory later that year and in 1798 Bass and Matthew Flinders sailed through the strait between New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land and circumnavigated Van Dieman's Land for the first time. Two years later, James Grant, sailing east to Port Jackson, discovered and named the principal features of the Victorian coast. In 1802, Lieutenant John Murray entered the main harbour, which was named Port Phillip Bay in honour of the first Governor of New South Wales.

The first settlement occurred at Port Phillip in 1803, when Lieutenant David Collins landed a party near the present site of Sorrento. However due to the scarcity of fresh water and game, together with poor soil, Collins moved his party across Bass Strait to Van Dieman's land in 1804. There were later settlements at Western Port in 1826, and at Portland in 1834, prior to John Batman coming from Van Dieman's Land in May 1835. Batman followed the Freshwater (later Yarra) River, which he recorded as good deepwater - "the place for a village". Shortly after, another group from Van Dieman's Land selected a nearby site. The agents of John Pascoe Fawkner, who had accompanied his convict father to the Sorrento settlement in 1803, ascended the Yarra River in the *Enterprise* in August 1835. There has been bitter debate as to which party and leader had been the founder of the settlement; however it should not be overlooked that Port Phillip owed its existence to private settlers acting from commercial motives.

Early development and the discovery of gold

The development of the State and its capital city was the work of many people who overcame much hardship to cultivate crops, husband stock, prospect and mine for gold, and establish factories and provide services. The first census was taken in 1836 when the settlement numbered 142 males and 35 females. In the year of Queen Victoria's accession, 1837, the town of Melbourne was named. Robert Hoddle surveyed the site of the present inner city after a design by Robert Russell that showed great vision in its grid of wide streets. The first Post Office was opened in 1841. Gradually settlement spread out from the centre. In the sixteen years between settlement of the district and separation of the colony of Victoria from New South Wales, the township had become the hub of a largely pastoral area, banks and insurance offices had opened, newspapers were begun, churches, schools, hospitals, theatres, taverns, and bridges were built, and the Botanic Gardens laid out. Melbourne was incorporated as a town in 1842, and was proclaimed a city by Royal Letters Patent in 1847.

Almost concurrently with separation in 1851, the discovery of gold in Victoria at Ballarat, Bendigo, and many other places brought an influx of diggers from all parts of the world that hastened the colony's growth. It also, inevitably led to a spate of bushranging, and in 1854 to the miners' riots and the insurrection at the Eureka Stockade. By 1854 Victoria's population totalled almost 300,000.

The University of Melbourne opened in 1855. Two years later, manhood suffrage and vote by ballot was introduced in Victoria, in the same year that Melbourne's streets were lit by gas. Telegraphic communication was established between Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide in 1858, and the first Melbourne Cup was run in 1861. During the three decades to 1890, the colony consolidated its position on the foundation that gold had laid. Industries diversified, a stock exchange and a mint were begun in Melbourne, and education was made free, compulsory, and secular. Railways stretched out in a wide rural network. Melbourne's solidity was exemplified in the expansion of the eighties that saw many great technological advances, including an extensive cable tram network that spread throughout the city and suburbs from 1885, and operated in parts as late as 1940. Architectural developments included the building that housed the International Exhibition of 1880.

1885-1945

By 1885 Victoria's population had almost reached one million, with the population of Melbourne numbering around 360,000. However between 1885 and 1945 Victoria shared the suffering that accompanied war and economic depression. The maritime strike of 1890, the bank crash, and seven years of drought from 1895 to 1902 made the approach to the twentieth century a marked contrast from the boom years. Federation in 1901 coincided with the end of the Victorian era and the emergence of the motor car age in the Edwardian era. Melbourne, with half a million people at the turn of the century, became the capital of Australia until 1927, when the seat of Federal government transferred to Canberra. During the First World War, the State was shocked at the loss of many of its men in battles at Gallipoli and on the Western Front.

After the war the suburban rail network was electrified from 1919, enabling the growing population to spread to more distant suburbs. The twenties were a time of comparative optimism that saw the advent of broadcasting and the building of palatial cinemas. Motor transport had led to a growing length of highways, and in 1924 electric power from Yallourn brown coal was first transmitted. The early thirties were the reverse with high unemployment in the Great Depression. Melbourne was a city of a million people, more than half the State total, when it celebrated its centenary and dedicated its Shrine of Remembrance to those who lost their lives in the First World War.

The outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939 eventually resulted in nearly 400,000 Australian men and women serving outside Australia. For the first time ever, Australia was on a total war footing, and many thousands of Australians lost their lives.

Post World War II

The stimulus of war on its existing strong manufacturing base gave the opportunity to turn to new commodities that later facilitated the mass production of motor vehicles and the building of ships and aircraft. The motor car, in turn, made possible the establishment of outer suburbs to accommodate the expanding population resulting from the post-war migration program.

Apparent net migration in Victoria between 1948 and 1960 was 409,491 persons. Planners determined where growth should occur and freeways and bridges were built to allow rapid movement of goods and people. In 1962 the standard gauge railway between Melbourne and Sydney was opened to eliminate the changes of gauge at Albury which had dated from 1883. Natural gas from the Bass Strait oil fields became available from 1969 and Victoria became the foremost oil-producing State. Tullamarine was the site for an international airport which opened in 1971. Public transport was upgraded to include the underground rail loop, opened in 1981. The Port of Melbourne became the busiest container port in Australia. New universities and colleges were opened to cater for the greater need for higher education.

Victoria is a highly urbanised State. It has an invigorating climate and a pleasant environment although subject to occasional serious bushfires, droughts, and floods. Farming has become increasingly mechanised in recent years. A strong tradition as a manufacturing and financial State has been augmented by a reputation for advanced research and technology. Melbourne has the reputation of being cosmopolitan, with ethnic festivals and restaurants adding variety to traditional social activities. In 1956 it enjoyed the international spotlight as host city for the Games of the XVIth Olympiad, which coincided with the introduction of television. Its Arts Centre, consisting of the National Gallery, the Melbourne Concert Hall, and the State Theatre Complex, has given Melbourne world class cultural facilities on the river, not far from where the city began over a century and a half ago. By 1987, the estimated resident population of Victoria was 4,207,700, seventy per cent of whom resided in Melbourne.

GEOGRAPHY

Geographic position and area The most southerly point of Wilsons Promontory, in latitude 39° 08' S., longitude 146° 22' 30" E., is the southernmost point of the mainland of Victoria and similarly of the mainland of Australia; the northernmost point is where the western boundary of the State meets the Murray River, latitude 33° 59' S., longitude 140° 58' E; the point furthest east is Cape Howe, situated in latitude 37° 31' S., longitude 149° 58' E. The westerly boundary lies upon the meridian 140° 58' E., and extends from latitude 33° 59' S. to latitude 38° 04' S., a distance of 451 kilometres.

Victoria covers an area of about 227,600 square kilometres. It is therefore slightly smaller than Great Britain which (if inland water is included) contains 229,900 square kilometres.

TABLE 1.1 AREA OF STATES AND TERRITORIES

State or Territory	Area in square kilometres	Percentage of total area
Western Australia	2,525,500	32.88
Queensland	1,727,200	22.48
Northern Territory	1,346,200	17.52
South Australia	984,000	12.81
New South Wales	801,600	10.44
Victoria	**227,600**	**2.96**
Tasmania	67,800	0.88
Australian Capital Territory	2,400	0.03
Australia	**7,682,300**	**100.00**

Coastline

The Victorian coastline comprises many types of environments. Broad sandy beaches and impressive cliffed headlands along the ocean coast contrast with mangrove-fringed mudflats and marshland of the sheltered embayments and estuaries. There are approximately 1,200 kilometres of ocean coast between Cape Howe and the South Australian border; in addition three large embayments — Port Phillip Bay (260 kilometres), Western Port Bay (140 kilometres), and Corner Inlet (80 kilometres) — partially enclose protected waters where most of the ports and harbours are situated.

Physical divisions

The chief physical divisions of Victoria are shown below. Each of these divisions has certain physical features (elevation, geological structure, climate, and soils) which distinguish it from the others.

1. Murray Basin Plains:
   (a) The Mallee
   (b) The Riverine Plains
   (c) The Wimmera

2. Central Highlands:
   A. The Eastern Highlands
   B. The Western Highlands:
      (a) The Midlands
      (b) The Grampians
      (c) The Dundas Tablelands

3. Western District Plains:
   (a) The Volcanic Plains
   (b) The Coastal Plains

4. Gippsland Plains:
   (a) The East Gippsland Plains
   (b) The West Gippsland Plains

5. Southern Uplands:
   (a) The Otway Ranges
   (b) The Barrabool Hills
   (c) The Mornington Peninsula
   (d) The South Gippsland Highlands
   (e) Wilsons Promontory

The following table lists Victoria's highest mountains:

TABLE 1.2   HEIGHT OF SELECTED MOUNTAINS, VICTORIA
(metres)

Mountain	Height	Mountain	Height
Bogong	1,986	Niggerhead	1,843
Feathertop	1,922	Mckay	1,843
Nelse North	1,883	Cobberas No. 1	1,838
Fainter South	1,877	Cope	1,837
Loch	1,874	Spion Kopje	1,836
Hotham	1,861	Buller	1,804

REGIONS

Statistical divisions

In 1974 Victoria was divided into twelve statistical divisions, the standard Australian Bureau of Statistics regions, which were combinations of legal local government areas forming coherent socio-economic zones.

These statistical divisions correspond with the regions adopted by the Victorian Government in October 1981 except in the cases of the Metropolitan region and, because of consequential effects, the Central Highlands and Loddon-Campaspe regions. The Victorian Government's Metropolitan region comprises the Melbourne and East Central Statistical Divisions, and the Shires of Bacchus Marsh and Gisborne. Statistical divisions are subject to change.

**Australian
Standard
Geographical
Classification
(ASGC)**

Since January 1986, ABS geographical division and nomenclature have been based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), edition 3. The Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) of the ASGC are either identical to, or have been aggregated to, legal local government areas with three exceptions: the Shires of Cranbourne, Healesville, and Pakenham are each composed of two SLAs which are separately shown, one within Melbourne Statistical Division and the other in East Central Statistical Division.

Statistical districts

For statistical purposes, certain areas comprising Statistical local areas or parts thereof have been designated statistical districts. In Victoria, these are the Albury-Wodonga, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Morwell, and Shepparton-Mooroopna Statistical Districts. For further information refer to Catalogue No. 1103.2

CLIMATE

General conditions

The major topographical determinant of the climate is the Great Dividing Range, running east-west across the State, and rising to nearly 2,000 metres in the eastern half. This acts as a barrier to the moist south-east and south-west winds and together with its proximity to the coast, causes the south of the State to receive more rain than the north.

To the south of Victoria, except for Tasmania and its islands, there is no land for 3,000 kilometres. This vast area of ocean has a moderating influence on Victoria's climate in winter. Snow, which is a common winter occurrence at similar latitudes on the eastern seaboard of the great land masses of the northern hemisphere, is rare in Victoria below elevations of 600 metres. To the north of Victoria, the land mass of Australia becomes very hot in the summer, and on several days at this time of year the temperature over the State may rise to between 35°C and 40°C, often with a strong northerly wind.

**Climate in
Melbourne**

The proximity of Port Phillip Bay bears a direct influence on the climate of the metropolitan area. The hottest months in Melbourne are normally January and February, when the average maximum temperature is 26°C. Inland, Watsonia has an average of 27°C, while along the Bay, Aspendale and Black Rock, subject to any sea breeze, have an average of 25°C. This difference does not persist throughout the year, however, and in July average maxima at most stations are within 1°C of one another at approximately 13°C. The hottest day on record in Melbourne was 13 January 1939, when the temperature reached 45.6°C. This is the second highest temperature ever recorded in an Australian capital city. In Melbourne, the average number of days per year with maxima over 35°C is about nine, but there were twenty-five in the summer of 1897-98 and there have been a few years with no occurrences. The average annual number of days over 30°C is approximately twenty-nine.

Nights are coldest at places a considerable distance from the sea, and away from the city where heat retention by buildings, roads, and pavements may maintain the air at a slightly higher temperature. The lowest temperature ever recorded in the city was -2.8°C on 21 July 1869, and the highest minimum ever recorded was 30.6°C on 1 February 1902.

In Melbourne the overnight temperature remains above 20°C on about four nights per year. During the early years of record, temperatures below 0°C were

recorded during most winters. However, over more recent years, the urban 'heat island' effect has resulted in such low temperatures occurring only once in two years on average. Minima below -1°C have been experienced during the months of May to August, while even as late as October extremes have been down to 0°C. During the summer, minima have never been below 4°C.

Wide variations in the frequencies of occurrences of low air temperatures are noted across the Melbourne metropolitan area. For example, there are approximately ten annual occurrences of 2°C or less around the Bay, but frequencies increase to over twenty in the outer suburbs and probably to over thirty a year in the more frost susceptible areas. The average frost-free period is about 200 days in the outer northern and eastern suburbs, gradually increasing to over 250 days towards the city, and approaching 300 days along parts of the bayside.

The means of the climatic elements for the seasons in Melbourne, computed from all available official records, are given in Table 1.3.

Rainfall   The average annual number of days of rain (0.2mm or more in 24 hours) is over 150 on the West Coast and in West Gippsland, and exceeds 200 over the Otway Ranges. The average number of wet days a year is reduced to 100 at a distance of approximately 160 kilometres inland from the coast. The distribution of rainfall in Victoria by districts is given in Table 1.4.

Figure 1 on page 7 shows the rainfall districts in Victoria while distribution of average rainfall in Victoria is shown in Figure 2 on page 8. Average rainfall ranges from 250mm for the driest parts of the Mallee to 2,600mm at Falls Creek in the Alps.

TABLE 1.3 MEANS OF CLIMATIC ELEMENTS, MELBOURNE

Meteorological element	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
Mean atmospheric pressure (hectopascals)	1,015.0	1,013.2	1,018.4	1,018.5
Mean maximum temperature of air in shade (°C)	19.5	25.2	20.1	14.0
Mean minimum temperature of air in shade (°C)	9.3	13.7	10.7	6.3
Mean relative humidity at 9 a.m. (per cent, saturation = 100)	64	61	72	79
Mean rainfall (mm)	186	154	168	148
Mean number of days of rain	40	25	34	44
Mean amount of evaporation (mm) (a)	360	565	284	140
Mean daily amount of cloudiness (scale 0 to 8) (b)	4.9	4.2	4.8	5.1
Mean daily hours of sunshine (c)	6.6	8.4	5.6	4.6
Mean number of days of fog	1.4	0.6	5.8	10.6

(a) Measured by Class A Pan (records commenced 1967).

(b) Scale: 0 = clear, 8 = overcast.

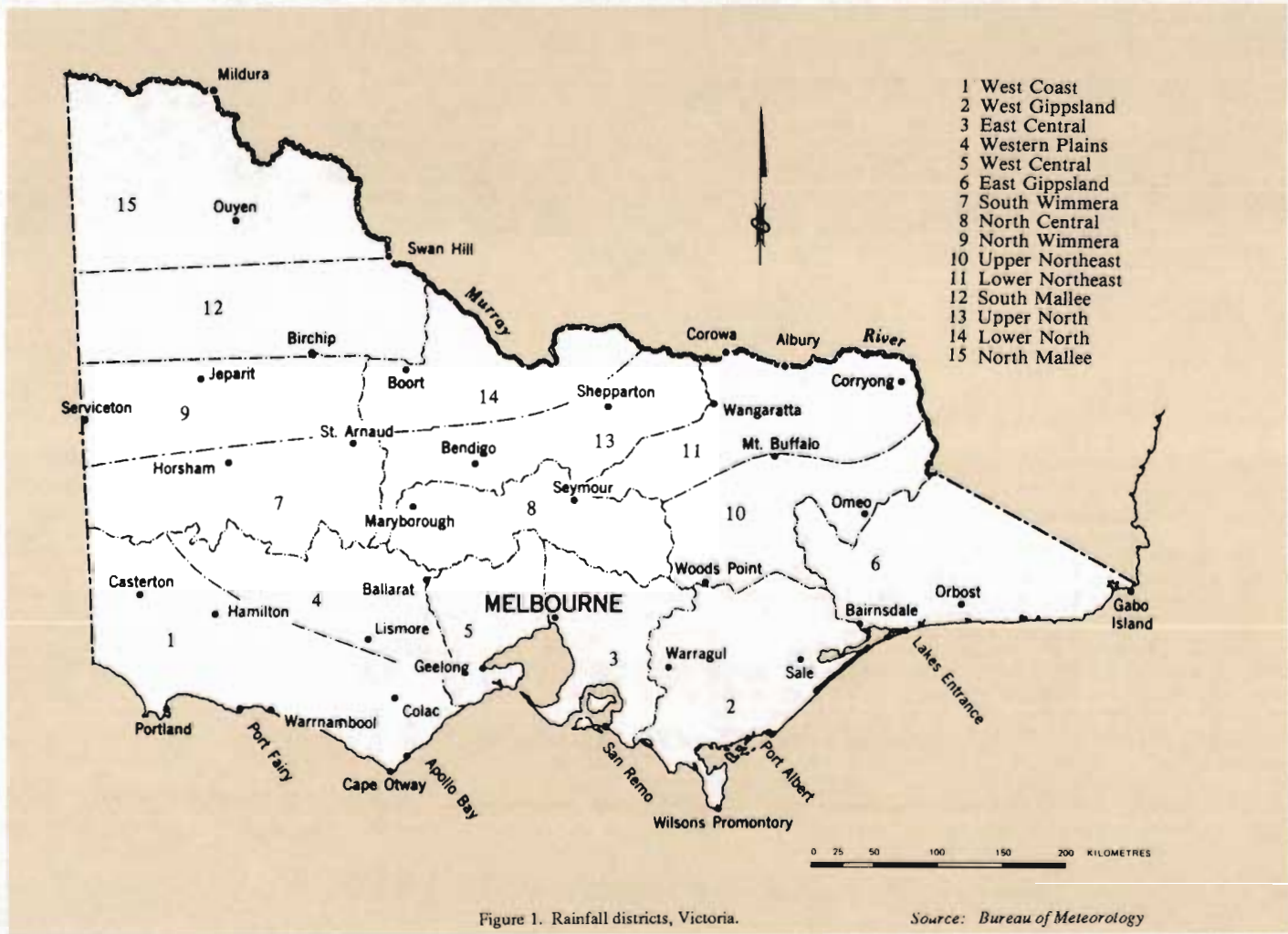(c) Measured at Laverton (records commenced 1968).

Figure 1. Rainfall districts, Victoria.   Source: Bureau of Meteorology

AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL MAP OF VICTORIA

NOTES

1. This map is intended for general purposes only. Rainfall information required for particular purposes should be obtained from the Victorian Regional Office of the Bureau of Meteorology, G.P.O. Box 1636M, Melbourne, 3001.

2. Isohyets are based on average rainfalls computed from station records prior to 1971. The length of these records varies from 20 years to more than 100 years.

3. It should be noted that as the averages refer to unequal periods of years they are affected in varying degrees by prolonged spells of dry and wet seasons and therefore are not strictly comparable.

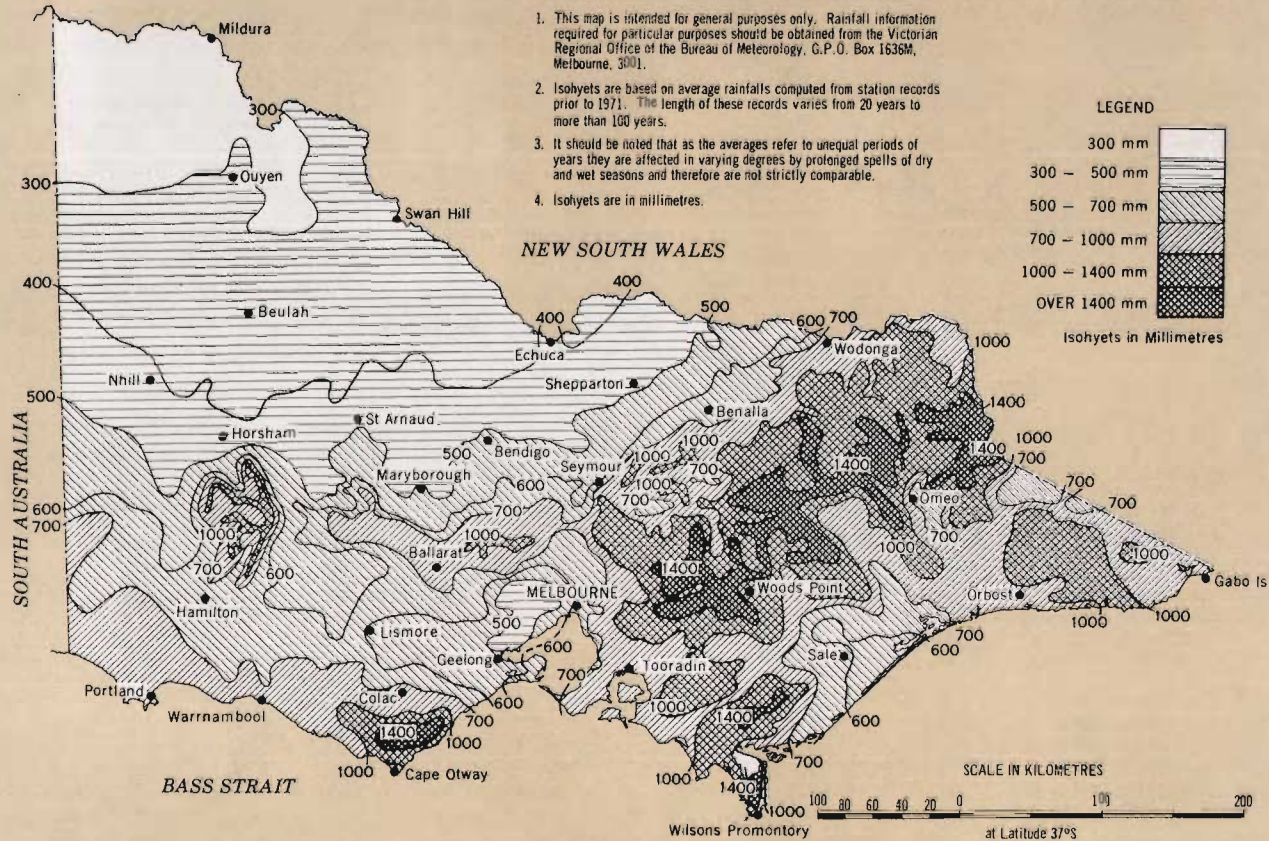4. Isohyets are in millimetres.

LEGEND

- 300 mm
- 300 — 500 mm
- 500 — 700 mm
- 700 — 1000 mm
- 1000 — 1400 mm
- OVER 1400 mm

Isohyets in Millimetres

NEW SOUTH WALES

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BASS STRAIT

SCALE IN KILOMETRES

100 80 60 40 20 0   100   200
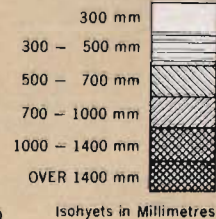
at Latitude 37°S

Figure 2. Average annual rainfall of Victoria.

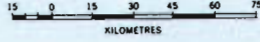*Source: Bureau of Meteorology*
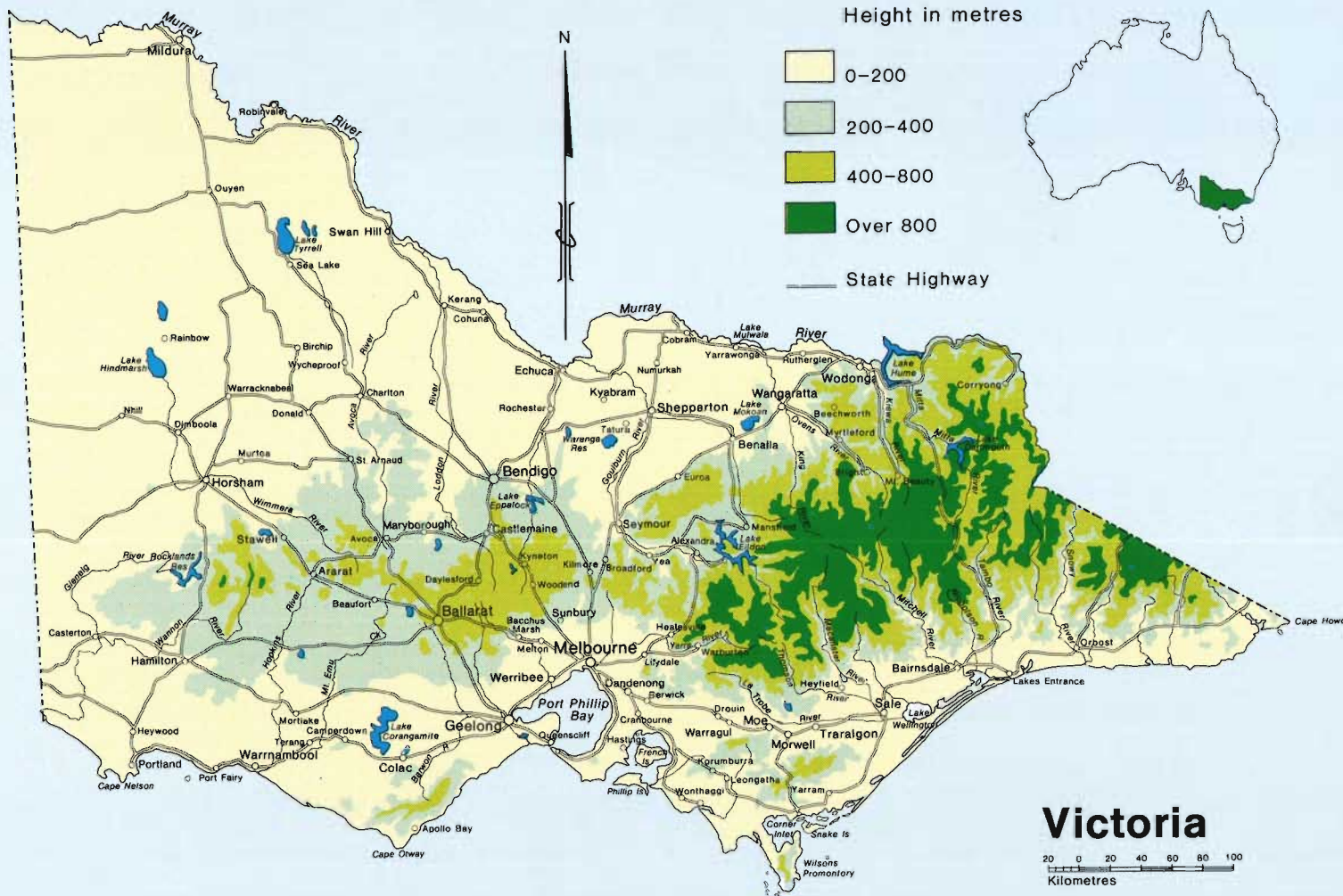
Figure 3. Relief map of Victoria

VICTORIA

STATISTICAL DIVISIONS

Statistical Local Areas

15 0   15   30   45   60   75
KILOMETRES

City (C), Town (T), Borough (B), Rural City (RC), Shire (S)

Figure 4. Victorian Statistical Divisions

Figure 5. Melbourne Statistical Division

TABLE 1.4 RAINFALL IN DISTRICTS, VICTORIA
(mm)

District	Year						Average (a)
	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	
North Mallee	112	392	260	270	357	316	307
South Mallee	123	437	283	316	414	378	352
North Wimmera	149	484	337	391	415	400	412
South Wimmera	230	605	498	440	616	547	503
Lower North	172	532	407	400	420	364	430
Upper North	222	630	485	492	516	452	516
Lower Northeast	377	935	793	769	910	688	774
Upper Northeast	534	1,124	932	1,023	1,289	1,068	1,099
East Gippsland	553	868	819	1,062	576	639	775
West Gippsland	628	988	920	953	959	828	913
East Central	647	887	851	892	965	859	889
West Central	349	680	536	646	611	690	611
North Central	403	832	719	751	858	815	723
Western Plains	333	722	613	612	659	634	632
West Coast	495	873	792	814	849	724	774

(a) Average for 75 years 1913 to 1987.

GOVERNMENT

The system of government in Victoria provides for responsible Cabinet government based on a legislature of two Houses, the Legislative Assembly (Lower House) and the Legislative Council (Upper House), both elected by Australian citizens over the age of 18. Voting is compulsory.

The Constitution

From 1855 until 1975, the Constitution of Victoria was contained in the Schedule to an Act of the United Kingdom in 1855, but Victoria finally adopted a Constitution of its own with the *Constitution Act* 1975.

Under the Victorian Constitution, the ultimate executive power is vested in the Crown, and is exercised by the Governor as the Monarch's representative. The Governor is the titular head of the government, while the Premier is the effective head of government. Further information on the powers and function of the Governor may be found on page 60 of the *Victorian Year Book* 1986.

The Constitution is affected by the Commonwealth Constitution enacted by the *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act* 1900, an act of the Imperial Parliament, by which legislative and executive powers upon certain specified matters were granted to the Commonwealth Parliament and the Commonwealth Government, some of them exclusively, and provision was made that, in case of inconsistency of valid laws, the Commonwealth law should prevail.

Victorian Government responsibilities

The Victorian Government is responsible for such things as health, education, law enforcement, administration of justice, the control of resources, and the provision of roads, water, sewerage, power, and other services. Under Victorian law a complete system of courts, a police force, a teaching service, and many statutory bodies have been established.

TABLE 1.5   ELECTORS ON JOINT ROLLS, VICTORIA, 30 JUNE

Year	Number of electors enrolled	Year	Number of electors enrolled
1983	2,530,328	1986	2,601,091
1984	2,542,452	1987	2,702,932
1985	2,630,653	1988	2,680,181

Source: Australian Electoral Commission

Ministry

A simultaneous election for the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of the Victorian Parliament was held on 1 October 1988. The 66th Ministry, led by the Hon. John Cain, consisted of the following members as at 8 February 1989.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Hon. J Cain	Premier and Minister responsible for Women's Affairs
The Hon. J E Kirner	Deputy Premier and Minister for Education
The Hon. S M Crabb	Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Tourism and Minister responsible for Corrections
The Hon. R A Jolly	Treasurer
The Hon. J H Kennan	Minister for Transport
The Hon. A McCutcheon	Attorney General, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Ethnic Affairs.
The Hon. N A Pope	Minister for Labour and Minister responsible for Youth Affairs
The Hon. T W Roper	Minister for Planning and Environment, Minister for Consumer Affairs, and Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs
The Hon. B J Rowe	Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs.
The Hon. K P Setches	Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands
The Hon. P C Spyker	Minister for Community Services and Minister for Prices
The Hon. N B Trezise	Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister responsible for the Olympic Games
The Hon. R W Walsh	Minister for Property and Services and Minister for Water Resources

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Hon. E Walker	Minister for the Arts, Minister assisting the Minister for Education with responsibility for Post-Secondary Education and Minister responsible for Major Projects
The Hon. D R White	Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources.
The Hon. C J Hogg	Minister for Health and Minister for the Aged
The Hon. B T Pullen	Minister for Housing and Construction

MINISTRIES, VICTORIA 1943 TO 1988 (a)

Ministry and name of Premier	Date of assumption of office	Date of retirement from office	Duration of office (days)
Albert Arthur Dunstan	18 September 1943	2 October 1945	746
Ian Macfarlan, K.C.	2 October 1945	21 November 1945	51
John Cain	21 November 1945	20 November 1947	730
Thomas Tuke Hollway	20 November 1947	3 December 1948	380
Thomas Tuke Hollway	3 December 1948	27 June 1950	572
John Gladstone Black McDonald	27 June 1950	28 October 1952	855
Thomas Tuke Hollway	28 October 1952	31 October 1952	3
John Gladstone Black McDonald	31 October 1952	17 December 1952	48
John Cain	17 December 1952	31 March 1955	835
John Cain	31 March 1955	7 June 1955	69
Henry Edward Bolte, G.C.M.G.	7 June 1955	23 August 1972	6,288
Rupert James Hamer, E.D.	23 August 1972	5 June 1981	3,209
Lindsay Hamilton Simpson Thompson, C.M.G.	5 June 1981	8 April 1982	299
John Cain (b)	8 April 1982	Still in office	

(a) A complete list since responsible government in 1855 can be found on pages 741-2 of the Victorian Year Book 1984.

(b) The Hon. John Cain is the son of the Hon. John Cain who held the office of Premier on three occasions between 1945 and 1955.

Victorian government departments and statutory authorities

Victorian government departments and statutory authorities administer legislation, implement government policy, provide policy advice to government, and supply goods and services to the people of Victoria.

Information concerning Victorian government departments and statutory authorities may be found in previous editions of the *Victorian Year Book*. More recent information may be found in the *Victorian Government Directory*, compiled by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Victorian representation in the Commonwealth Parliament

The federation of the Australian colonies formally commenced on 1 January 1901. The House of Representatives was seen as representing the people and directly chosen by the people for a maximum three year term on single Member constituencies. The Senate was seen as representing the rights of the States, and Senators are appointed for a six year term with half of them retiring every three years. Senators are chosen directly by the people on a single State wide electorate and on a proportional representation system.

Since the 1984 electoral redistribution Victoria has had 39 members in the House of Representatives, and 12 Senators.

Local government administration

At 30 June 1988, Victoria was divided, for local government purposes, into 210 municipal districts and the Yallourn Works Area, which was severed from the municipal districts of which it then formed a part by the *State Electricity Commission (Yallourn Area) Act* 1947. For certain purposes it is deemed to be a borough and municipal administration is the responsibility of the Commission, assisted by an Advisory Council. The 210 municipalities comprise 68 cities, 1 rural city, 5 towns, 6 boroughs, and 130 shires.

The only unincorporated areas of Victoria are French Island (154 square kilometres) in Western Port, Lady Julia Percy Island (1.3 square kilometres) off Port Fairy, Bass Strait islands (3.8 square kilometres), Gippsland Lakes (part) (309 square kilometres), and Tower Hill Lake Reserve (5.0 square kilometres) which is within the Shire of Warrambool.

Councils may make by-laws on a number of specified subjects. They exercise functions relating to roads and bridges, for which they have a construction and maintenance responsibility; drainage, water supply and sewerage; building control; community welfare, including infant and pre-school centres, home help, elderly citizens, meals-on-wheels and garbage; parking areas and traffic engineering.

TABLE 1.6   RATEABLE PROPERTIES, VICTORIA, 30 SEPTEMBER

Year	Number of rateable properties	Year	Number of rateable properties
1982	1,702,911	1985	1,746,443
1983	1,766,939	1986	1,782,130
1984	1,716,533	1987	1,803,015