

## METROPOLITAN PARKS

### Introduction

In 1973 the Board accepted the financial responsibility for the development of a Metropolitan Park System embracing five of six major open space reservations set aside in the 1971 revision of the Board's Planning Policies.

The objective of the parks is to provide diverse recreational and educational experiences for people of all ages in an attractive landscape.

### Park Areas

The parks being developed by the Board are:

Yarra Valley Metropolitan Park	1432 Ha
Maribyrnong Valley Metropolitan Park	460 Ha
Dandenong Valley Metropolitan Park	1330 Ha
Point Cook Metropolitan Park	933 Ha
Braeside Metropolitan Park	311 Ha

The total area reserved is 4460 Ha of which 2606 Ha is managed by the Board. The Metropolitan Park's reservation also includes 612 Ha developed and managed by municipalities and other authorities, so that 72% of the reserved land is now in public ownership.

### Visitor Numbers

These parks are being visited by increasing numbers of people. Last year 1.5m visits were made to those parks controlled by the Board bringing the total number of visits to 7.2m since the first park was opened in May 1976.

### Financial Commitment

The Board has made and is making a significant financial commitment to land purchase, development, administration and operation of these parks. Since their inception just over \$39m has been spent on land purchase and about the same amount on administration, operation and maintenance.

### Staff Employment

About 24 staff are employed at Head Office on administration, design and provision of visitor services, 27 salaried staff are employed in the field, including Area Superintendents, Rangers and Assistant Rangers. In addition there are 96 wages staff stationed in the Parks.

*M. Edwards* A

### Recent Park Developments

Extensive plantings were made in all parks last year. Over 33 000 trees and shrubs were planted. Other developments in the Parks include:

#### YARRA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PARK

Access roads, multipurpose trails, car parks and toilets have been completed at Westerfolds Park.

#### DANDENONG VALLEY METROPOLITAN PARK

In Jells Park additional picnic facilities and playing fields have been provided and the trail system sealed. Wetlands are being created in Koomba Park.

#### MARIBYRNONG VALLEY METROPOLITAN PARK

At Brimbank Park, the works depot costing \$650 000 and which will house between 40 and 50 staff has been completed. Work is proceeding on ancillary landscape and the new entrance. In addition the hard landscape for the spine leading to the Visitor Centre is being constructed.

The Keilor Council is sealing the entrance road to the Park (Cemetery Rd) at the Board's expense.

At Horseshoe Bend, the children's farm complex has nearly been completed.

#### LOWER MARIBYRNONG

In the Lower Maribyrnong Area, restoration of the Steeles Creek area was undertaken using both Board and Government funds under the auspices of the CEP programme.

#### POINT COOK METROPOLITAN PARK

Further developments and improvements to the beach recreation area have been undertaken including provision of additional wind screens, picnic facilities and play equipment.

Research is continuing into the archaeology, history, vegetation and buildings of the historic precinct with a view to re-creating it as accurately as possible to reflect its heyday of the 1860's. Development of the park concept plan is proceeding and a process of public participation is planned for early next year.

#### BRAESIDE METROPOLITAN PARK

Improvements to the fairways and greens of the Springvale Golf Course have been continued.

In Braeside a major scenic and wildlife wetland has been developed.

This will help to replace the <sup>importance</sup> effect of the old sewerage lagoons when the Braeside purification plant was in operation. ~~It is hoped to attract back many of the birds that once inhabited the lagoons.~~

This is now a fact of life. You should see it!

J. Arthur  
S. V. S.

Suggest fit on 2 pages.

→ TEA