

MARIUS LAST
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

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OMEIO ISSUES PAPER

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OMEQ ISSUES PAPER

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INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Omeo has a simplistic Planning Scheme. A permit is required to subdivide land, and generally for all use, development, and carrying out of works on land. This type of scheme, however, gives little direction to Council or to the public of where certain uses should be allowed or prohibited. This is of ~~some~~ concern, considering the Shire of Omeo consists of: fragile alpine areas including tourist destinations; industrial development such as the Benambra mineral production area; agricultural and forestry operations; and pressure for small lot rural subdivisions.

This background report provides the factual base (all statistics, unless otherwise noted, were gained from the Gippsland Region Information Bank using data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics) and policy direction for further discussion on planning and development issues. These may then be addressed within future provisions in the Local Section of the Omeo Planning Scheme.

The objectives of this report are:

- * to provide information and analysis on population size and change;
- * to provide information and analysis on employment and economic change;
- * to provide information and analysis on subdivision and building approvals;
- * to review current and likely infrastructure requirements;
- * to highlight development constraints and opportunity;
- * to ^{assess consideration} ~~review~~ State and Regional Policies as they apply to the Shire; and
- * to provide other necessary information which may need to be addressed in the Local Section of the Planning Scheme.

OMEIO ISSUES PAPERCHAPTER 1Population Trends - Summary

1.1 CHANGE IN POPULATION SIZE AND AGE

The Shire of Omeo covers 5,649.00 Km².
(Figure 1.1.1).

The area is sparsely populated with only two major urban settlements - Omeo and Swifts Creek.

Between 30 June 1961 and 30 June 1981 boundary changes occurred with Omeo losing 132Km² to the Shire of Bright. Due to the loss of area, population statistics for this exercise, will only compare data from 1981.

The population from 1981 to 1986 remained relatively constant, however since 1986, it has steadily increased to an estimated 2154 persons in 1991.

The population increased by +0.79% from 1981 to 1986 in the Shire of Omeo. Omeo had the second lowest increase in population in all shires of East Gippsland. East Gippsland (Avon, Bairnsdale Shire, Bairnsdale City, Maffra, Omeo, Orbost, and Tambo) had, in all, a greater increase in population of +2.37%. This is quite high as compared to Total Country Victoria (+1.35%) and Total Victoria (+0.96%).

In all of Gippsland, covering 30 Local Government Areas, Omeo had the seventh lowest population change. Since 1986, the average annual growth rate to 1990 was estimated at +3.12% in all shires of East Gippsland, Omeo had the second highest increase in population. This value is much greater than for Gippsland as a whole (+1.54%), Country Victoria (+1.42%), and Victoria (+1.29%).

The change in growth rate from +0.79% for 1981-1986, to +3.12% for 1986-1990 gives an indication of the increase in Omeo's population in only 10 years.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has estimated that by 1996 there will be 2641 persons and by 2011 there will be 3925 persons (Table 1.1.1 and Figure 1.1.2). This means that within the next twenty years the population in the Shire of Omeo may have doubled. As part of the increase in population will come an increase in pressure for housing, infrastructure, community services, and employment opportunities.

The breakdown of the population into age groups is shown in Table 1.1.2. Approximately 10% of the population is aged between 0 and 4 years. The percentage of persons aged from 5-14 years has dropped over the 15 year period from 1971 to 1986 from 22.6% to 15.6%. The enrolments of primary school children dropped from 284 in 1972 to 218 in 1977, and since then has remained at approximately 190 enrolments. Secondary school enrolments have also dropped from 1972 to 1977 with 164 and 104 enrolments respectively. Since then the number of students has remained steady at approximately 126 enrolments in government secondary schools. There are no non-government schools (primary or secondary) within the Shire of Omeo. (Table 1.1.3).

The percentage of persons aged 15-24 years has remained fairly steady at about 13.5%, however those aged from 25 to 39 years has slightly increased from 20% in 1976 to 24.6%.

Those persons aged from 50 to 64 years has decreased slightly from 16.9% in 1976 to 15.7% in 1986, and those aged over 69 years have increased in percentage of total population from 7.3% in 1971 to 9.0% in 1986.

When grouped together, those people aged over 50 years make up 25% of the population. With this age group comes a number of required services such as nursing homes, retired persons activities such as golf, and lawn bowls, and accessibility to certain areas.

1.2 CHANGE IN LABOUR FORCE SIZE AND INDUSTRY

The majority (26.4%) of the labour force are wage and salary earners, and the rest are either self-employed or employers (17.9%), 2.2% are unpaid helpers and 3.4% of the total population were unemployed in 1986 looking for either full time and/or part time work (see Table 1.2.1).

Of the employed the vast majority (39.5%) are involved in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting. The next most common employment is in the community services (13.6%), and manufacturing (11.2%). (Table 1.2.2). The proportions of each industry have relatively stayed the same from 1976 to 1986, except for the finance, property and business services doubling in numbers as well as the community services.

The existing townships are likely to experience pressure to develop and re-develop areas to cater for the growing number of persons together with associated services. Pressure will also be placed on surrounding rural land for residential uses. Townships or tourist routes will probably grow from increased need for services such as ski hire, map sales, fishing and camping sales, take-away foods, service stations, hotels/motels, banks, and information centres.

CHAPTER 2

Development Trends - Summary

2.1 RESIDENTIAL LOT SALES AND BUILDING APPROVALS

Between 1982 and 1989, 204 vacant residential blocks were sold with a median block size ranging from 0.023 to 0.110 Ha. During the same period 125 dwellings were sold on a median block size ranging from 0.086 to 0.562 Ha. Also during this period (except for 1986 and 1987 - data unknown), there were 113 dwelling approvals, with the majority being built between 1988 and 1990. (Table 2.1.1). The total value of dwellings built came to \$8,318,000.

The number of dwellings in Omeo in 1981 was 95 and this grew slightly to 110 by 1986. In Swifts Creek, however, the number of dwellings dropped from 108 in 1981 to 104 in 1986.

In 1988 there were 28 residential sites sold with a median sale price of \$23,000 and a median block size of 0.062 Ha. In 1989, 48 residential sites were sold with a median sale price of \$41,000 and a median block size of 0.034 Ha. With regard to the sale of dwellings in 1988, 27 were sold with a median sale price of \$65,000, and in 1989, 18 were sold with a median sale price of \$75,000.

With the estimated population increasing by 487 persons by 1996, and a further 1,284 by 2011, this would require more housing. The average number of people per household has decreased from 3.1 in 1976, to 2.9 in 1981 and 2.8 in 1986. Based on the 1986 figure, the Shire of Omeo will therefore require approximately 174 more houses by 1996, and a further 459 houses by 2011.

Having a 5-10 year lead time or so allows Council to set aside land for residential development, allow for the increase in services required, and determine the amount and locations of infrastructure.

CHAPTER 3

Physical Characteristics

3.1 THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Shire of Omeo consists of a series of north-south river systems and ranges which in turn affect the climate of the region as well as being affected by it. The area consists of high mountains in the north such as Mt Sassafras 1588m, Johnnies Top 1566m, The Knocker 1507m, and Mt Nugong 1482m. The mountains form part of the Great Dividing Range consisting of a complex pattern of moderately sloping dissected ridges broken by inter-montane valleys.

3.2 CLIMATE

The climate varies from north to south - the lowlands being warmer and drier with a gradual transition to the wetter highlands. There are local variations due to the valleys and mountains. In higher altitude inland areas, temperature ranges in both summer and winter are more extreme than on the lowlands.

Climatic conditions can vary widely from year to year.

The Bureau of Meteorology has a weather station in the township of Omeo. Table 3.2.1 shows the temperature maxima and minima from July 1985 through to Winter of 1989. As can be seen from the table the maximum high can be 38°C and the maximum low 11°C in Summer, and 7°C minimum high and -7°C minimum low in Winter have been recorded over this period.

Rainfall is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, increasing with elevation. Lower rainfall occurs in the rain-shadow areas and in deep valleys such as those of the Tambo River and its tributaries.

Rainfall is higher in the elevated areas with snowfalls regularly at elevations above 1000m during Winter. The higher peaks and plateaus may remain snow covered for considerable periods. The wet or snow conditions result in roads being closed to many isolated highland areas.

Table 3.2.2 shows the rainfall figures and the number of rainy days from July 1983 through to Winter 1989. When put into a tabular graph (Figure 3.2.1) it can be seen that climatic conditions vary widely from year to year. From Summer of 1987 to the end of Winter 1988 the rainfall that fell in Omeo was less than normally falls, however, from spring 1988 to the end of winter 1989 more rainfall fell than expected.

Winter experiences the most rainy days with an average of 53 rainy days over the period of 1987 to 1989. Summer experiences the least rainy days with an average of 25 rainy days. Although most rain fell in the autumn months of 1987 to 1989, the average number of rainy days was only 39.

3.3 FLORA AND FAUNA

The majority of land within the Shire of Omeo is public land managed by the Department of Conservation and Environment. The area comprises a great diversity of native vegetation and fauna. Dry Sclerophyll forest, such as that occurring around Ensay, Swifts Creek and Omeo, includes a diverse range of foothill forests from 200-900m in elevation, which comprise a widespread community including White Stringybark, Silvertop, and Mountain Grey Gum. At slightly higher elevations (200-1200m) is the wet Sclerophyll forest which is a tall green forest of well watered slopes of the eastern ranges. The forest contains some of the best stands of eucalypt species, such as, Shining Gum, Messmate, Brown-barrel, Mountain Grey Gum, and Mountain Ash.

Montane Sclerophyll woodland consists of woodland or low forest on rocky mountain soils in areas of low effective rainfall generally on the northern aspects of the mountain. Along gullies and stream margins of sub-alpine and montane valleys occurs montane riparian forest which consists of closed scrub of mountain tea-tree at elevations between 900-1500m. Examples of this forest occur around Mt Nunning and Mt Deception on the eastern boundary of Omeo Shire.

Patches of Alpine Wet Heathland occur along Limestone Creek, Junction Creek and Timbarra River for instance. This vegetation type is a closed heath to low woodland of sheltered and open sub-alpine plain, often on peaty poorly drained soils from 900-1500m. The mountain swamp gum and black sallee are common but the shrub layer is often absent or disturbed due to cattle grazing.

Montane Forest occurs at elevations between 1000 and 1400m. This forest consists of tall gum forest in montane and sub-alpine moist sheltered valleys and protected slopes with species including Alpine Ash and Woollybutt. The Snow Gum Woodland is the predominant vegetation of the sub-alpine region consisting of woodland or open forest on well drained soils on ridges and adjacent slopes above 1100m.

Four areas were identified as sites of botanical interest within the Shire of Omeo, unfortunately, however, almost half of the Shire was not studied. The Ministry for Conservation, Environmental Studies Program carried out the work, culminating in a document which was published in 1981. The Reedy Creek and Upper Buchan River-Nunniong Plateau; Upper Murray River; and Mount Elizabeth No.2 are three major sites of significance, and the south west of Mt Delusion was classed as an individual quadrat site of significance.

The Reedy Creek and Upper Buchan River-Nunniong Plateau site has a "diversity of communities represented and their largely undisturbed state help make this region of outstanding significance". "The alpine community is important on an Australia-wide basis, as the area of undisturbed alpine vegetation is extremely limited". Forlorn Hope Plain contains "a remarkable number of rare species". "Apart from rare species, the plains of this area have a large variety of native grasses, and despite some grazing are generally in an undisturbed state". The Montane Riparian Forest and Montane Forest on the Nunniong Plateau are listed as significant "on a regional, state, or national level".

The Upper Murray River site includes much of the Limestone Creek catchment and the upper reaches of the Buckwong Creek. Mt Murphy, Round Mountain, and Langtree Hill are notable features. "The site includes many of the best areas of Alpine Wet Heathlands, Montane Riparian Forest, Snow Gum Woodlands and Montane Sclerophyll Woodland in East Gippsland". "The importance of this site is partly related to its outlying position in the Victorian Alps". A number of rare, biogeographically unusual, or historically significant species have been recorded from here. Many of the sub-communities have their best representation in this site, and the full complement of alpine and sub-alpine communities are established.

Mount Elizabeth No.2 site "is significant because it supports three rare species". Hibbertia hermanniifolia was collected in 1968 from the summit of Mt Elizabeth and is only found elsewhere in Victoria near Castle Hill. Phebalium squameum subsp. corinceum is endemic to Victoria only known from the head-waters of the Macalister River. Boronia Ledifolia is also rare and was collected in 1964.

The south west area of Mt Delusion is a significant area because the Montane Riparian Forest is highly rated, "containing the rare Victorian endemic tree Eucalyptus neglecta."

The Department of Conservation and Environment state that within Omeo there are:

- 4 presumed extinct species of plants in Victoria;
- 9 endangered, 47 vulnerable and 80 rare plants in Victoria; and
- 3 endangered, 3 vulnerable, and 29 rare plants in Australia.

Many varieties of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates have been recorded in the Shire of Omeo.

The Ministry for Conservation, Environmental Studies Division published a document in 1981 detailing sites of zoological significance in East Gippsland. Three sites were found within the Shire of Omeo: The Upper Snowy River; Mt Wills; and Tambo River Valley.

The Upper Snowy River site, that part within Omeo, was rated as having Regional significance due to the presence of the Alpine Water Skink, and Broad-toothed Rat. Just outside the Omeo boundary was found the Red-capped Robin. The Mt Wills site was rated as having Regional significance due to the record of a specimen of Leadbeater's Possum. This was found in (1909.) "Mt Wills is the only historic locality that still contains extensive areas of native forest". "Leadbeater's Possum is now known only from a small area of Montane Forest in the central highlands of Victoria".

The Tambo River Valley site has regional significance due to the presence of the White-plumed Honeyeater which is restricted to riverside vegetation - usually River Red Gum. The area "contains a bird, reptile and amphibian community that is typical of dry river valleys and has survived only because of roadside and streamside reserves of gum forest and the generosity of farmers who have retained pockets of open forest on their land. In order to retain species such as the Eastern Quoll and Tuan which are typical of dry open forest and woodland, it was recommended that "the forest in these areas needs to be supplemented and bare roadsides re-afforested using only trees that are native to the site".

The Department of Conservation and Environment state that within Omeo there are:

5 endangered animals (Regent Honeyeater, Eastern Quoll, Leadbeaters Possum, Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby, and Spotted Tree Frog);

6 vulnerable animals; and

8 rare animals.

The information from DCE on flora and fauna is shown in Appendix 3.

3.4 FIRE HAZARD

The mountain and plateau areas have a high rainfall that is reasonably distributed throughout the year. The moist sheltered gullies rarely dry out during summer so fire hazard is lower than for other types of forest.

Lightening strikes are the major cause of forest fires especially on ridges and exposed slopes in remote areas during summer. Rainshadow country is often rugged and inaccessible. Here, the sparse vegetation dries out and stays dry for long periods of the year.

Increasing recreational use in the area increases the risk of fire from human causes. Logging activities may also cause fire outbreaks.

Major fires have occurred within the area at an average interval of 5 years.

The Department of Conservation and Environment is the combatant for fire within crown land. The regional office of the Department is located at Bairnsdale with an office also located at Swifts Creek.

The Country Fire Authority covers all privately owned land, with brigades stationed at Benambra, Ensay, Omeo Urban and Rural, Swifts Creek and Dinner Plain.

3.5 AGRICULTURE

Swan and Volum of the Department of Agriculture completed an "assessment of Agricultural Quality of land in Gippsland" in August 1984. They graded agricultural land into 5 classes based on existing data. They stressed that it was "important to realise that extensive agricultural industries are usually based on large areas of land of lower agricultural quality. In Victoria, some of these industries, such as wool growing, are significant at the local and state level. Thus land with a low rating can be the base for an important agricultural industry". "Low agricultural quality can be important to a specific agricultural industry".

The majority of land within the Shire of Omeo is public land. Of the private land it has been graded into either class 4 or class 5 (lowest quality). Class 4 land is of limited versatility but is capable of extensive grazing but is generally unsuitable for cropping. It includes steep land that is difficult to manage but quite productive provided high levels of management are maintained. The growing season is at least 9 months or 8 months with readily utilised underground water. Class 5 land is marginal agricultural land either because of steep slopes and thin skeletal soils, very steep slopes, or a growing season of less than 9 months. The land is suitable for limited grazing purposes. (Figure 3.5.1).

Within the Shire of Omeo, there are three main topographical areas:

- 1) The mountain and high plains in the north are mostly under forest, but in the Omeo-Benamبرا area land has been developed for agriculture and is grazed by cattle and sheep. Leased crown land is used for extensive cattle grazing during the summer and autumn;
- 2) The river valleys generally run north-south and have the most fertile soil. Because of the fertile soil and the availability of water, the river valleys are the site of the vegetable industry. The dairy industry is also based in the river valleys;
- 3) The foothills to the south of the Great Dividing Range are more gently sloping than the mountain area. Some areas have been cleared and are used for the grazing of beef cattle. (GRIB Bulletin No.7, March 1985).

The number of agricultural establishments have dropped from 237 in 1980 to 206 in 1987 (Table 3.5.1). The three livestock industries are beef cattle, sheep, and dairying. The beef industry is the largest of the livestock industries in East Gippsland. Cattle numbers peaked in 1976 but since then, low prices for cattle, improving wool and sheep prices, and a drought have combined to reduce numbers of beef cattle. In the mountain areas, the industry is based on breeding calves to be fattened in other areas. On the plains, both breeding and fattening are carried out. On the river flats the better pastures allow fattening to take place regularly.

In 1987, livestock slaughtering had a gross value of \$655,000 for 26,937 head of beef. In 1989 there were 29,310 head of beef cattle. (Table 3.5.2).

The sheep industry in East Gippsland is based on breeding sheep for wool production. The most popular breed is the Merino. Some Merino ewes are mated to Border Leicester rams to produce ewes for fat lamb production, this is a minor enterprise due to the variable seasons. Sheep numbers peaked in 1970-71 and then fell due to drought and low prices for wool. In 1985 there was another peak with 295,000 sheep which has again fallen, to 285,000 in 1989. (Table 3.5.2). Dairying is mainly confined to the river valleys. The number of dairy cattle grew to 423 in 1984 and fell to 175 in 1988. In 1989 the number had grown again, up to 326 head of dairy cattle.

The rich river valleys are used extensively for vegetable growing. Most of the crops are grown under contract for processing, the rest are grown and marketed by the grower for the fresh market.

CHAPTER 4

The Built Environment

4.1 SITES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Within the Shire of Omeo are 27 sites and features listed as having historical significance, by the East Gippsland Regional Planning Committee in October 1980. The full list is shown in Appendix 4. Some examples of note include: Omeo post office which was opened in 1856; the Commercial Bank of Australia which was built in 1892; the Mt Hepburn-King Cassilis Gold Mine which commenced as the Mount Hepburn Mine Circa 1895, and is still being worked today; "Pender's Court" a home built for John Pendergast, Benambra which was built in 1868; and "Hinnomunjie" Station Homestead which was taken up in 1840.

An extensive survey was made of cemeteries and lone graves in East Gippsland, many of which are on private property and contain family graves. Many cemeteries are no longer in use and receive little or no maintenance. Several need undergrowth removed and others need repair to damaged headstones. The Omeo cemetery is one of the three most historically significant in East Gippsland. It has records dating back to 1857.

The cemetery at Benambra dates back to 1877, at Glen Wills from 1895, at Ensay from 1894, and on private property and no longer in use at Cassilis from 1899.

At Tambo Crossing, dating back to at least 1861, there is a headstone for McDougall children, in which it is believed may be up to 30 burials.

One property in the Shire of Omeo is listed in the April 1990 Register of Historic Buildings. This property has the gazetted Register Number of '650' which lists the former post office, Day Avenue, Omeo. It includes the whole of the building and the whole of the land with Certificate of Title Vol.5784 Fol.770.

A heritage study should be completed for the Shire of Omeo. From that study, Council could determine which sites or features should be protected, and how they should be protected. These could be prohibited under provisions in the Local Section of the Omeo Planning Scheme.

4.2 SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The township of Omeo has the widest range of services in the Shire. Located in Omeo is the local government offices, the regional police operations, who also have an office at Swifts Creek, the State Emergency Service, the Country Fire Authority, and the Department of Conservation and Environment.

The Omeo Hospital, in the township of Omeo, has regional coverage. The number of in-patients treated at the Omeo Hospital dropped from 193 to 88 between 1983 and 1985, however the average stay had increased from 13.9 days to 25.9 days over the same time span (Table 4.2.1).

The number of in-patients per day ranged between 6 and 8 persons. The number of out-patient attendances including casualty increased from 1012 in 1983 to 1309 in 1986.

Bush Nursing Centres exist in Ensay and Swifts Creek.

4.3 ROAD SAFETY

Over a 12 year period from 1978 to 1989, the number of fatal road traffic accidents have ranged from none in 1983 to a maximum of 4 in 1980. This is the number of accidents and gives no indication to the number of fatalities involved in each accident. During this same period of time the number of personal injury traffic accidents have varied from 8 in 1985 to 22 in 1981 and 24 in 1987 (Table 4.3.1).

Vic Roads prepared a document in December 1990 for the Eastern Region covering a Rural Arterial Road strategy. In this document "VIC ROADS 2000", it was stated that the Alpine Road, just west of Omeo had between 20 and 32 open rural road crashes per 100Km per year. "On the open rural arterial road "loss of control" crashes are the most common accounting for two out of every three crashes. These include:

- * single vehicle run-off-road crashes (including collisions with fixed roadside objects such as trees, utility poles and roadside batters);
- * single vehicle out of control on-carriageway crashes; and

* "Drowsy Driver" related crashes."

"In the urban centres and towns, intersection crashes are the major type accounting for about two thirds of crashes."

Rural roads are the basic transportation link for the movement of people and goods in the Shire of Omeo. The major issues for the community concerning the condition of roads, Vic Roads mention, are:

- 1) Safety hazards provided by deteriorating road conditions;
- 2) discomfort in travelling along rough or pot-holed roads;
- 3) increased vehicle operating costs; and
- 4) damaged to produce due to rough roads.

In the Shire of Omeo there are: 271Km of sealed roads, 633Km of formed and sealed roads, 32Km of formed only roads, and 13Km of unformed roads (statistics from 1985).

Road pavements deteriorate over time, being influenced by weather, traffic, and maintenance level. Timely routine and periodic maintenance can extend the life of pavements. Inadequate maintenance however can lead to rapid deterioration. The cost of remedial work can then be many times greater than that of earlier preventative work.

Vic Roads has given the Omeo Highway between Bruthen and Omeo a medium asset preservation need, as well as the road from Omeo to Benambra, and along the Alpine Road from Omeo to the border with Bright. The Omeo Highway north of Omeo has been given a low asset preservation need.

"Many children in rural areas travel long distances to school. About 30% travel by school bus mainly from outlying areas and others travel by family car to a school or a pick-up point. In urban areas, many ride bicycles. The safety of routes used by school buses requires continual review particularly during winter months. Many school bus routes in the region traverse low speed road alignments which have narrow pavements. Bus stops need to be sited in safe locations where school buses (and public transport buses) can stop clear of other traffic, with provision for parents to park, when dropping off or picking up children. Some schools in open rural areas require particular attention because of the higher speed of traffic on the open road and the concentration of children, buses, and parent's vehicles." (Vic Roads 2000).

4.4 TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND POTENTIAL

Tourism is a major growth activity in Eastern Victoria, with an increasing number of people travelling to, or through, the hinterland and the high country. Vic Roads state that the Omeo Highway from Bruthen to Omeo, and the Alpine Road from Omeo through to the border with Mansfield is a principal intra-state tourist route. The area surrounding Omeo, Dinner Plains, and the Tambo River Valley is a tourist area. Mt Hotham and Dinner Plains have 120,000 annual visitors, coming in both winter and summer months. Tourist destinations, although outside of Omeo such as the Dargo High Plains and the Upper Snowy River area have an impact (positive and negative) on the Shire due to travel movements.

To improve and continue the growth of the tourism industry, tourist and direction signage must be upgraded as many tourist sites are located some distance from principle routes and tourists need to be given adequate information on how to reach the site; principle tourist routes should be upgraded; and accessibility to and at tourist destinations should be improved.

Priority will probably be given to measures which support overseas and interstate tourists visiting the region. Intra-state tourists are also important in providing demand for tourist facilities, especially where people may not have the time or money to travel far from their home base.

Tourism growth leads to the possibility of increased employment in the commercial and domestic building industry. Satisfied visitors may become full or part-time residents and rate payers. Tourism, as an industry, directly stimulates the retail industry through visitor purchase and indirectly through purchases by operators to service their customers. This trade must be kept within the Shire if tourism is to benefit the local economy.

APPENDIX 1

FIGURE	1.1.1	MAP OF SHIRE
TABLE	1.1.1	POPULATION
FIGURE	1.1.2	POPULATION
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FIGURE 1.1.1

MAP OF THE SHIRE OF OMEO - AS
OUTLINED IN RED.

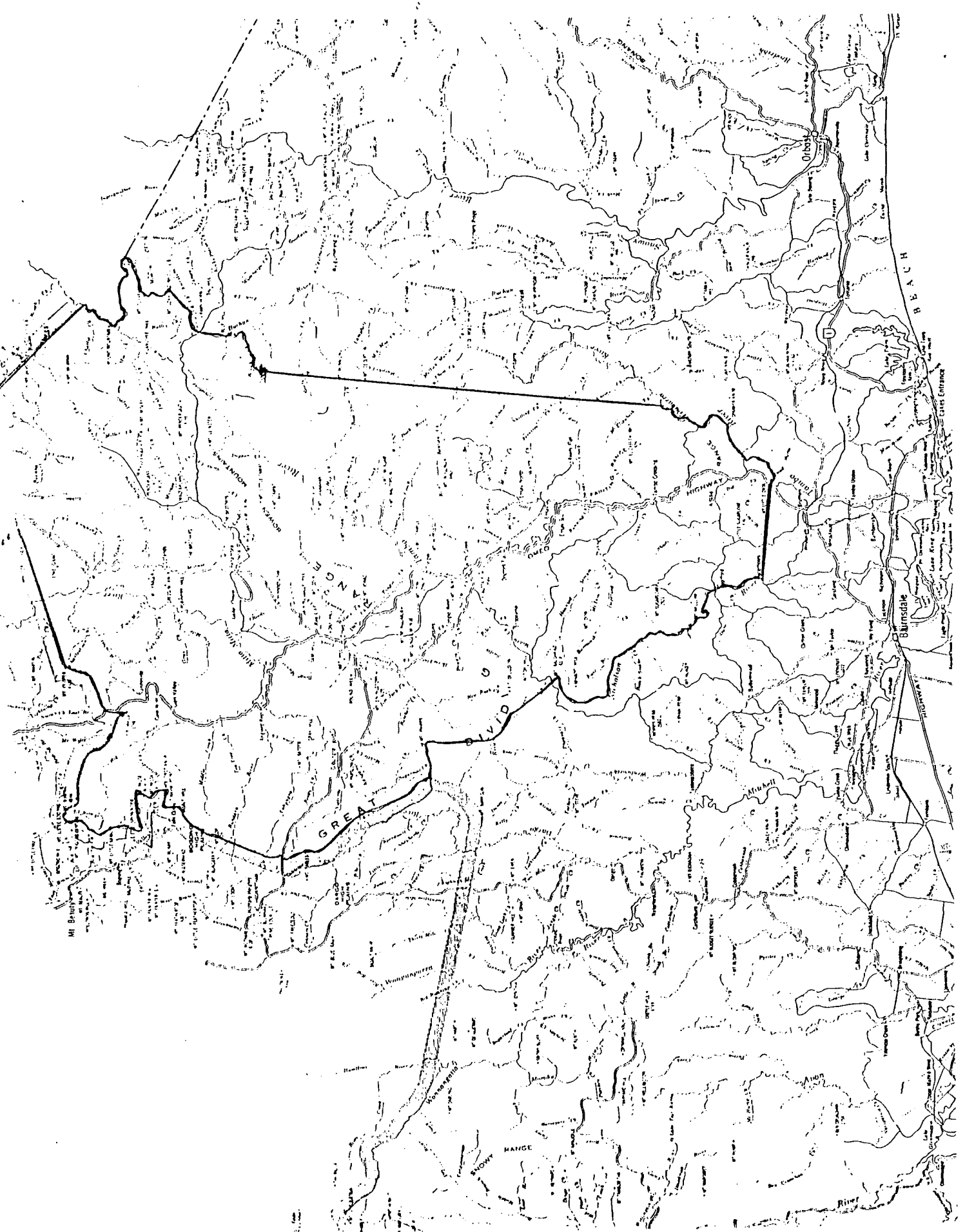


TABLE 1.1.1

POPULATION

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	RATIO MALES/100 FEMALES
Actual at 30 June 1961	1162	983	2145	118.2
Actual at 30 June 1966	1099	927	2026	118.6
Actual at 30 June 1971	1001	867	1868	115.5
Actual at 30 June 1976	858	747	1605	114.9
Actual at 30 June 1981	862	703	1565	122.6
Estimated at 30 June 1982			1620	
Estimated at 30 June 1983			1600	
Estimated at 30 June 1984			1610	
Estimated at 30 June 1985			1600	
Actual at 30 June 1986			1680	
Estimated at 30 June 1987			1740	
Estimated at 30 June 1988			1870	
Estimated at 30 June 1989			1900	
Estimated at 30 June 1990			1900	
Estimated for 1991			2154	
Estimated for 1996			2641	
Estimated for 2001			3043	
Estimated for 2006			3445	
Estimated for 2011			3925	

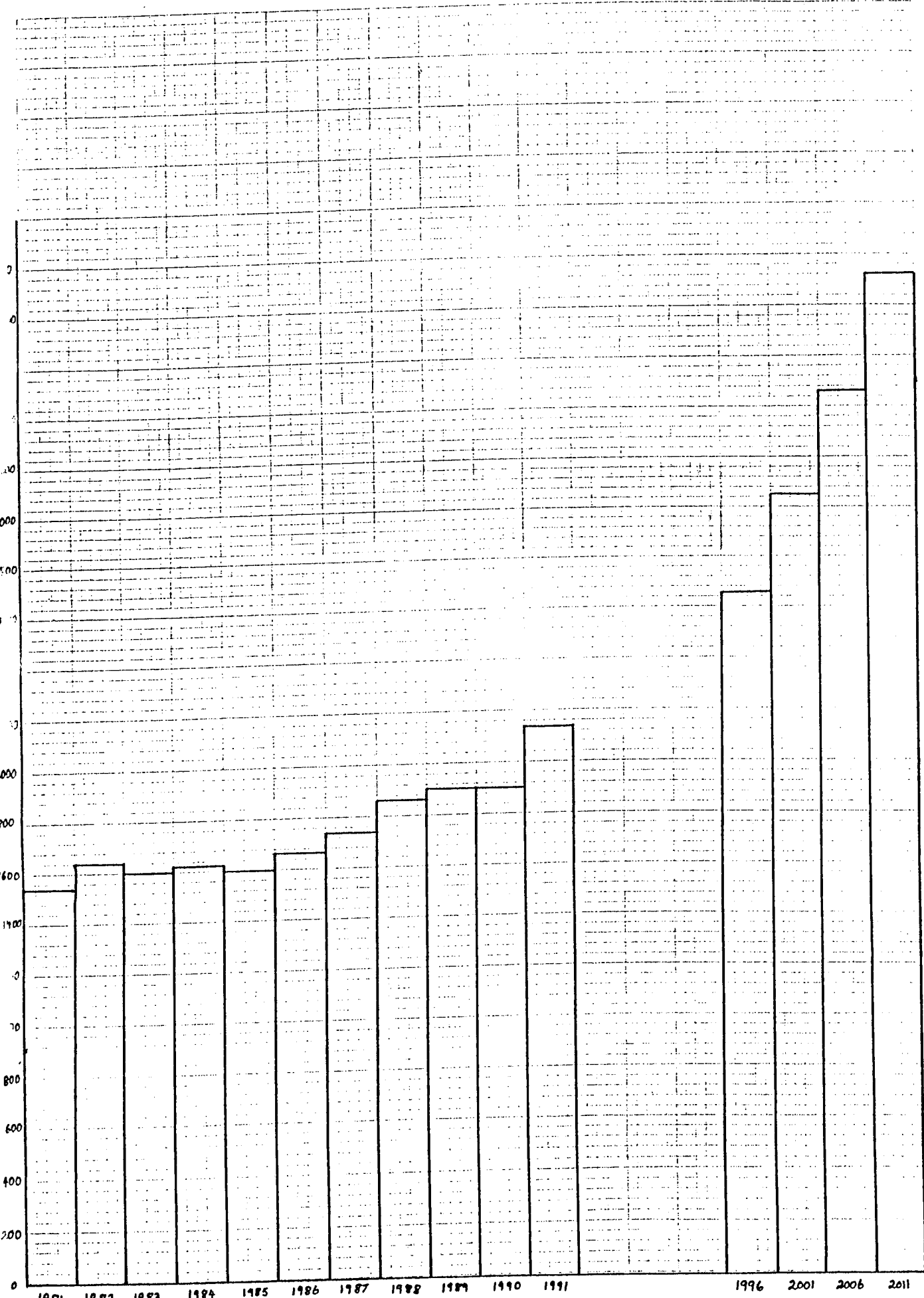
N.B.

Boundary changes have occurred during 30 June 1961 to 30 June 1981.

Omeo lost 132 square kilometres to the Shire of Bright. This gave an estimated net population loss of 10 persons.

The average annual growth rate between 1981-1986 was +0.79, and between 1986-1990 was +3.12.

FIGURE 11.2 POPULATION



YEAR

ACTUAL

TABLE 1.1.2 POPULATION BY AGE

NUMBER OF PERSONS AGED 0-4 YEARS

1971		1976		1981		1986	
NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
187	10.0	132	8.2	126	8.0	143	8.8

NUMBER OF PERSONS AGED 5-14 YEARS

1971		1976		1981		1986	
NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
423	22.6	336	21.0	268	17.1	254	15.6

NUMBER OF PERSONS AGED 15-24 YEARS

1976		1981		1986	
NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
215	13.4	210	13.4	222	13.7

NUMBER OF PERSONS AGED 25-39 YEARS

1976		1981		1986	
NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
319	20.0	387	24.7	400	24.6

NUMBER OF PERSONS AGED 40-49 YEARS

1976		1981		1986	
NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
196	12.2	107	6.8	208	12.8

NUMBER OF PERSONS AGED 50-64 YEARS

1976		1981		1986	
NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
272	16.9	248	15.8	255	15.7

NUMBER OF PERSONS AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER

1971		1976		1981		1986	
NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
137	7.3	132	8.2	149	9.5	146	9.0

TABLE 1.1.3ENROLMENTS

	GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS	GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS
1972	284	164
1977	218	104
1982	191	128
1983	194	121
1984	186	125
1985	184	126
1986	190	127
1987	193	127
1988	189	129
1989	191	127
1990		123

There are no non-government primary or secondary schools within the Shire of Omeo.

TABLE 1.2.1LABOUR FORCE STATUS

	1976		1981		1986	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
SELF EMPLOYED EMPLOYER	309	19.3	272	17.3	292	17.9
SALARY/WAGE EARNER	417	26.0	462	29.5	430	26.4
UNPAID HELPER	59	3.7	31	2.0	35	2.2
UNEMPLOYED	29	1.8	47	3.0	56	3.4

TABLE 1.2.2

LABOUR FORCE BY INDUSTRY

	1976		1981		1986	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING, HUNTING	380	48.4	302	39.3	297	39.5
MINING	11	1.4	25	3.3	4	0.5
MANUFACTURING	89	11.3	81	10.5	84	11.2
ELECTRICITY, GAS, WATER	4	0.5	5	0.7	2	0.3
CONSTRUCTION	32	4.0	37	4.8	45	6.0
WHOLESALE, RETAIL TRADE	58	7.4	45	5.9	47	6.3
TRANSPORT and STORAGE	21	2.6	24	3.1	23	3.1
COMMUNICATION	16	2.0	9	1.2	14	1.9
FINANCE, PROPERTY, BUSINESS SERVICES	11	1.4	13	1.7	28	3.7
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, DEFENCE	32	4.0	34	4.4	41	5.5
COMMUNITY SERVICES	64	8.2	76	9.9	102	13.6
RECREATION, PERSONAL, OTHER SERVICES	29	3.7	30	3.9	35	4.7
NON CLASSIFIABLE, NOT STATED	39	5.0	88	11.4	6	0.8
TOTAL	785	100	769	100	751	100

APPENDIX 2

**TABLE 2.1.1 DWELLING AND
RESIDENTIAL SITE SALES**

TABLE 2.1.1

SALES OF DWELLING AND RESIDENTIAL SITES

	NO OF SALES VACANT BLOCKS	MEDIAN VACANT BLOCK SIZE Hq	NO OF SALES OF DWELLINGS	MEDIAN DWELLING BLOCK SIZE Hq
1982	6		10	
1983	7		4	
1984	20	0.110	6	0.272
1985	24	0.102	18	0.102
1986	41	0.072	33	0.086
1987	30	0.046	9	0.226
1988	28	0.062	27	0.562
1989	48	0.023	18	0.214

APPENDIX 3

TABLE	3.2.1	TEMPERATURES
TABLE	3.2.2	RAINFALL
FIGURE	3.2.1	RAINFALL WITH DEVIATION FROM NORMAL

NOTES ON ENDANGERED FLORA AND FAUNA

FIGURE	3.5.1	AGRICULTURAL QUALITY
TABLE	3.5.1	AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS
TABLE	3.5.2	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

TABLE 3.2.1

TEMPERATURES BY MONTH/SEASON

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

		MAXIMUM (°C)				MINIMUM (°C)			
		HIGH	LOW	MEAN	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	HIGH	LOW	MEAN	DEPARTUR FROM NORMAL
1985	July	15	7	9.9	-0.2	3	-8	-1.0	-0.8
	August	14	7	10.5	-1.6	7	-5	0.5	-0.1
	September	21	7	13.5	-1.7	9	-4	2.8	0.1
	October	23	10	16.8	-1.6	15	-3	3.9	-0.7
	November	26	13	18.5	-3.2	14	0	7.3	0.8
	December	26	13	20.6	-3.8	14	3	9.0	0.7
1986	January	28	14	21.6	-4.5	16	2	6.9	-2.5
	February	32	16	24.2	-1.7	15	-1	7.6	-2.0
	March	33	14	25.2	2.1	16	-1	7.9	0.0
	April	31	11	19.1	0.5	13	-1	5.7	0.8
	May	33	11	19.7	1.1	16	-4	5.5	0.5
	June	15	6	10.5	-0.2	3	-10	-0.8	-1.6
1987	Summer	36	11	24.2	-1.2	15	-1	7.2	-1.9
	Autumn	30	7	17.6	-1.0	12	-6	4.1	-0.9
	Winter	16	4	10.8	-0.2	7	-7	-0.3	-0.7
	Spring	29	8	17.9	-0.5	16	-5	3.7	-0.9
1988	Summer	38	14	25.3	-0.2	17	0	8.1	-1.0
	Autumn	31	11	19.0	0.4	15	-2	6.2	1.2
	Winter	17	6	11.7	0.8	10	-4	1.3	0.8
	Spring	30	9	18.1	-0.3	16	-4	5.0	0.4
1989	Summer	33	15	23.6	-1.9	17	1	9.1	0.1
	Autumn	32	6	18.2	-0.4	17	-1	7.4	2.4
	Winter	14	4	9.5	-1.4	8	-6	0.1	-0.4

FIGURE 3.2.1 RAINFALL WITH DEVIATION FROM NORMAL

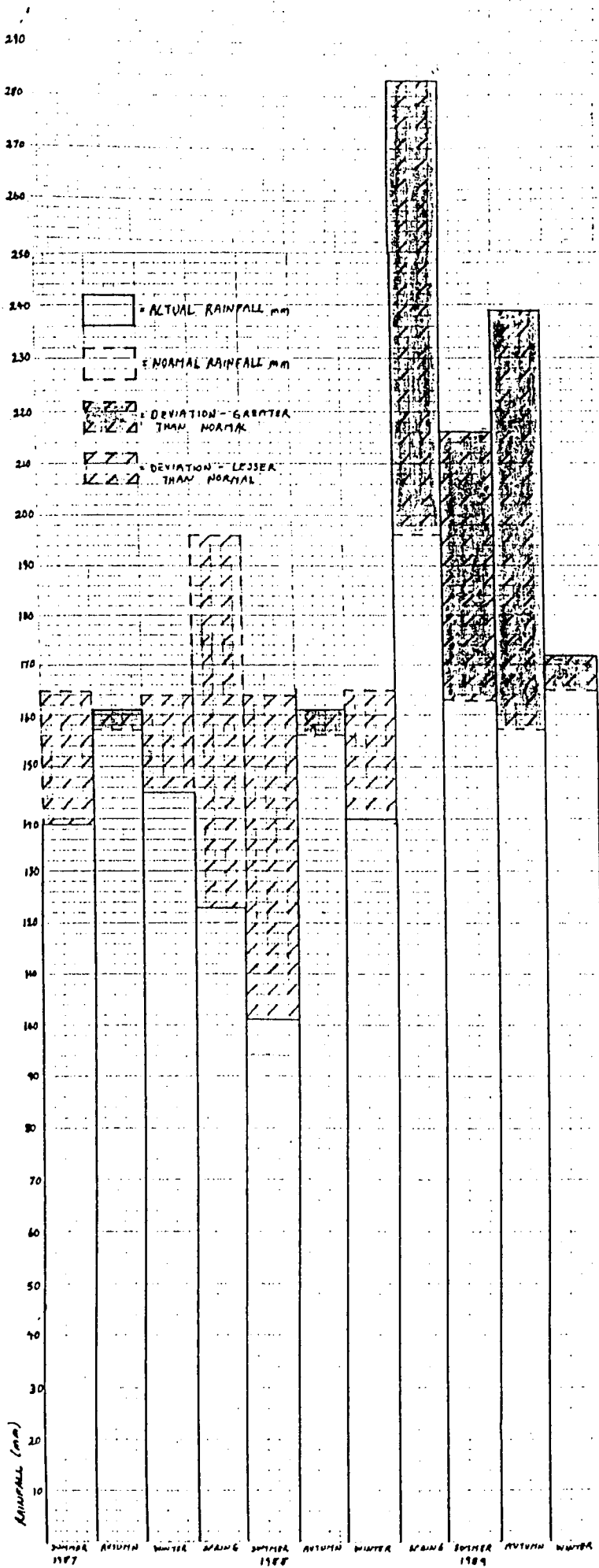


TABLE 3.2.2RAINFALL BY MONTH/SEASON

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

		ACTUAL MM	NORMAL MM	NO. RAINY DAYS
1985	July	31	52	15
	August	99	56	17
	September	56	61	14
	October	142	72	13
	November	89	63	16
	December	84	61	18
1986	January	27	52	8
	February	2	52	3
	March	7	55	4
	April	25	47	8
	May	30	54	12
	June	10	57	10
1987	Summer	139.4	165	21
	Autumn	161.0	157	30
	Winter	145.0	164	51
	Spring	123.4	196	33
1988	Summer	101.6	164	24
	Autumn	161.8	156	38
	Winter	140.4	165	53
	Spring	283.2	196	43
1989	Summer	216.4	163	29
	Autumn	239.6	157	49
	Winter	172.2	165	56

RARE OR THREATENED SPECIES IN THE SHIRE OF OMEO
JUNE 1991

Categories for Rare or Threatened Plants

- X Presumed extinct in Australia: species that have either not been found in recent years despite thorough searching, or have not been collected for at least 50 years and were known only from now intensively settled areas.
- x Presumed extinct in Victoria: no post-1950 records from Victoria, in spite of field searches specifically for the plant; or intensive field searches (since 1950) at all known sites have failed to record the plant. The plant's status elsewhere in Australia is not considered in this category.
- E Endangered in Australia: at serious risk of disappearing from the wild state within one or two decades if present land use and other causes continue.
- e Endangered in Victoria: rare and at risk of disappearing from the wild state if present land use and other causes continue. The plant's status elsewhere in Australia is not considered in this category.
- V Vulnerable in Australia: not presently Endangered but at risk of disappearing from the wild over a longer period (20 to 50 years) through continued depletion; or which largely occur on sites likely to experience changes in land use that would threaten the survival of the species in the wild.
- v Vulnerable in Victoria: rare, not presently endangered but likely to become so soon due to continued depletion; or occurring mainly on sites likely to experience changes in land use which would threaten the survival of the plant in the wild; or taxa whose total populations are so low that recovery from a local natural disturbance such as drought, landslip, or fire is doubtful. A plant's status elsewhere in Australia is not considered in this category.
- R Rare in Australia: rare but overall not currently considered Endangered or Vulnerable. Such species may be represented by a relatively large population in a very restricted area or by smaller populations over a wider range, or some intermediate combination of distribution pattern.
- r Rare in Victoria, but not considered otherwise threatened (their status elsewhere in Australia not being considered). This category does not necessarily imply that the plants are substantially threatened, but merely that there are relatively few known stands.
- K Poorly Known in Australia: suspected, but not definitely known, to belong to any of categories X, E, V or R. Field distribution information is inadequate. Applies only to plants considered rare or threatened throughout Australia.
- d Depleted in Victoria. Not rare in Victoria in the wild state, but considered threatened: regeneration is problematic or less than necessary to replace losses, and the populations are continuing to decrease. This category is used for those plants that may occur over their former range but are markedly less common and continuing to decline, and also for those

plants whose range is now substantially reduced with satisfactory regeneration only in a very small proportion of that range.

RARE OR THREATENED SPECIES IN THE SHIRE OF OMEO

r	<i>Acacia dallachiana</i>	Catkin Wattle
Rv	<i>Acacia lucasii</i>	Woolly-bear Wattle
v	<i>Actinotus forsythii</i>	Ridge Flannel-flower
r	<i>Allocasuarina nana</i>	Stunted Sheoke
r	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Common Spleenwort
r	<i>Astrotricha crassifolia</i>	Thick-leaf Star-hair
v	<i>Barbarea grayi</i>	Winter-cress
Rv	<i>Bertya findlayi</i>	Mountain Bertya
r	<i>Beyeria lasiocarpa</i>	Wallaby-bush
r	<i>Beyeria viscosa</i>	Pinkwood
v	<i>Boronia ledifolia</i>	Showy Boronia
r	<i>Bossiaea riparia</i>	River Bossiaea
v	<i>Botrychium australe</i>	Austral Moonwort
v	<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	Grassy Moonwort
r	<i>Brachyscome obovata</i>	Baw Baw Daisy
Rr	<i>Brachyscome petrophila</i>	Rock Daisy
r	<i>Brachyscome radicans</i>	Marsh Daisy
r	<i>Brachyscome tadgellii</i>	Tadgell's Daisy
v	<i>Brachyscome tenuiscapa</i>	Mountain Daisy
e	<i>Caladenia reticulata</i>	Veined Caladenia
d	<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>	White Cypress-pine
v	<i>Carex archeri</i>	Archer's Sedge
Rr	<i>Carex capillacea</i>	Hair Sedge
Rv	<i>Carex cephalotes</i>	Wire-head Sedge
v	<i>Carex echinata</i>	Star Sedge
Rv	<i>Carex paupera</i>	Dwarf Sedge
Rr	<i>Carex raleighii</i>	Raleigh Sedge
Rr	<i>Celmisia sericophylla</i>	Silky Daisy
r	<i>Colobanthus affinis</i>	Alpine Colobanth
r	<i>Coprosma nivalis</i>	Snow Coprosma
r	<i>Correa lawrenciana</i> var. <i>rosea</i>	Mountain Correa
r	<i>Corybas hispidus</i>	Hispid Helmet-orchid
r	<i>Cymbonotus lawsonianus</i>	Bear's-ears
Rr	<i>Cystopteris tasmanica</i>	Bristle-fern
r	<i>Dampiera fusca</i>	Kydra Dampiera
r	<i>Dampiera purpurea</i>	Mountain Dampiera
v	<i>Daviesia wyattiana</i>	Long-leaf Bitter-pea
r	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass
r	<i>Desmodium brachypodum</i>	Large Tick-trefoil
Rr	<i>Deyeuxia affinis</i>	Allied Bent-grass
v	<i>Deyeuxia talariata</i>	Skirted Bent-grass
Re	<i>Discaria nitida</i>	Shining Anchor Plant
Rv	<i>Discaria pubescens</i>	Hairy Anchor Plant
Rv	<i>Drabastrum alpestre</i>	Mountain Cress
e	<i>Drapetes tasmanicus</i>	Drapetes
r	<i>Epacris glacialis</i>	Reddish Bog Heath
r	<i>Epilobium tasmanicum</i>	Tasman Willow-herb
v	<i>Erigeron conyzoides</i>	Daisy Fleabane
r	<i>Erythranthera australis</i>	Southern Sheep-grass
r	<i>Eucalyptus elaeophloia</i>	Brumby Sallee
Rr	<i>Eucalyptus neglecta</i>	Omeo Gum
r	<i>Euphrasia caudata</i>	Tailed Eyebright

v	<i>Poa saxicola</i>	Rock Tussock-grass
v	<i>Polygala japonica</i>	Dwarf Milkwort
r	<i>Polystichum formosum</i>	Broad Shield-fern
r	<i>Pomaderris discolor</i>	Eastern Pomaderris
r	<i>Pomaderris oraria</i> ssp. <i>calcicola</i>	Limestone Pomaderris
Vx	<i>Prasophyllum morganii</i>	Mignonette Leek-orchid
Rr	<i>Prostanthera walteri</i>	Monkey Mint-bush
e	<i>Psoralea tenax</i>	Tough Psoralea
r	<i>Pterostylis aestiva</i>	Long-tongue Summer Greenhood
r	<i>Pterostylis fischii</i>	Fisch's Greenhood
r	<i>Pterostylis laxa</i>	Antelope Greenhood
r	<i>Pultenaea capitellata</i>	Hard-head Bush-pea
r	<i>Pultenaea densifolia</i>	Dense Bush-pea
v	<i>Pultenaea viscosa</i>	Sticky Bush-pea
v	<i>Pultenaea</i> sp. aff. <i>aristata</i>	Mt Tambo Bush-pea
Rr	<i>Ranunculus eichleranus</i>	Eichler's Buttercup
e	<i>Rulingia pannosa</i>	Clustered Kerrawang
v	<i>Schizeilema fragoseum</i>	Alpine Pennywort
r	<i>Sclerantus singuliflorus</i>	Mossy Knawel
r	<i>Senecio diaschides</i>	Erect Groundsel
Xx	<i>Senecio georgianus</i>	Grey Groundsel
x	<i>Stemmocantha australis</i>	Austral Cornflower
Rr	<i>Taraxacum aristum</i>	Austral Dandelion
v	<i>Thelymitra circumsepta</i>	Bog Sun-orchid
Ee	<i>Thesium australe</i>	Austral Road-flax
v	<i>Utricularia monanthos</i>	Tasmanian Bladderwort
r	<i>Viola caleyana</i>	Swamp Violet
Rr	<i>Viola improcera</i>	Montane Violet
Rv	<i>Wahlenbergia densifolia</i>	Fairy Bluebell
r	<i>Zieria smithii</i>	Sandfly Zieria
v	<i>Zieria</i> sp. aff. <i>pilosa</i>	Lemon-scented Zieria

x	<i>Euphrasia collina</i> ssp. <i>diversicolor</i>	Purple Eyebright
e	<i>Euphrasia collina</i> ssp. <i>muelleri</i>	Purple Eyebright
r	<i>Euphrasia crassiuscula</i> ssp. <i>crassiuscula</i>	Thick Eyebright
r	<i>Euphrasia crassiuscula</i> ssp. <i>glandulosa</i>	Thick Eyebright
v	<i>Euphrasia crassiuscula</i> ssp. <i>glandulifera</i>	Thick Eyebright
v	<i>Euphrasia eichleri</i>	Bogong Eyebright
Ve	<i>Euphrasia scabra</i>	Rough Eyebright
v	<i>Gingidia harveyana</i>	Slender Gingidia
r	<i>Glossostigma</i> sp.	Spoon Mud-mat
Vv	<i>Gnaphalium nitidulum</i>	Shining Cudweed
r	<i>Gnaphalium umbricola</i>	Cliff Cudweed
r	<i>Grammitis poeppigiana</i>	Alpine Finger-fern
v	<i>Gratiola nana</i>	Matted Brooklime
Rr	<i>Grevillea willisii</i>	Rock Grevillea
v	<i>Grevillea willisii</i> ssp. <i>willisii</i>	Rock Grevillea
v	<i>Helichrysum adnatum</i>	Winged Everlasting
r	<i>Helichrysum argophyllum</i>	Spicy Everlasting
r	<i>Helichrysum rogersianum</i>	Nunniong Everlasting
Rv	<i>Hibbertia hermaniifolia</i>	Rare Guinea-flower
Rv	<i>Hierochloa submutica</i>	Holy Grass
r	<i>Hovea</i> sp. aff. <i>purpurea</i>	Mt Elizabeth Hovea
v	<i>Hypsela tridens</i>	Hypsela
Rr	<i>Irenepharsis magicus</i>	Elusive Cress
r	<i>Isolepis wakefieldiana</i>	Tufted Club-sedge
v	<i>Juncus antarcticus</i>	Cushion Rush
r	<i>Juncus</i> sp. M6	M6 Rush
r	<i>Juncus</i> sp.(1)	Alpine Rush
Kr	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Crested Hair-grass
Ee	<i>Lepidium aschersonii</i>	Spiny Pepper-cress
r	<i>Leptorhynchus elongatus</i>	Lanky Buttons
r	<i>Leucopogon montanus</i>	Snow Beard-heath
r	<i>Leucopogon piliferus</i>	Trailing Beard-heath
r	<i>Luzula acutifolia</i>	Sharp-leaf Woodrush
v	<i>Luzula atrata</i>	Slender Woodrush
r	<i>Luzula australasica</i>	Bog Woodrush
r	<i>Lycopodium australianum</i>	Fir Clubmoss
r	<i>Lycopodium scariosum</i>	Spreading Clubmoss
r	<i>Mitrasacme montana</i>	Mountain Mitrewort
Rv	<i>Monotoca rotundifolia</i>	Trailing Broom-heath
r	<i>Muehlenbeckia axillaris</i>	Matted Lignum
r	<i>Muehlenbeckia rhyticarya</i>	Wrinkle-nut Lignum
r	<i>Myriophyllum alpinum</i>	Alpine Milfoil
Kr	<i>Olearia adenophora</i>	Scented Daisy-bush
Ev	<i>Olearia astroloba</i>	Marble Daisy-bush
Rr	<i>Olearia frostii</i>	Bogong Daisy-bush
r	<i>Ophioglossum petiolatum</i>	Tall Adder's-tongue
v	<i>Oreomyrrhis argentea</i>	Silver Carraway
Rr	<i>Oreomyrrhis brevipes</i>	Branched Carraway
v	<i>Oreomyrrhis pulvinica</i>	Cushion Carraway
Rr	<i>Oschatzia cuneifolia</i>	Wedge Oschatzia
Rv	<i>Parantennaria uniceps</i>	Parantennaria
v	<i>Pelargonium helmsii</i>	Mountain Stork's-bill
r	<i>Persoonia subvelutina</i>	Velvety Geebung
Rv	<i>Phebalium frondosum</i>	Leafy Phebalium
r	<i>Pimelea biflora</i>	Matted Rice-flower
v	<i>Plantago glacialis</i>	Small Star Plantain
v	<i>Poa hookeri</i>	Hooker's Tussock-grass
r	<i>Poa meionectes</i>	Fine-leaf Tussock-grass

Counts of records returned for records.

Wildlife Information Database, Department of Conservation & Environment.

13-6-1991

LOC: 1 HC: 3005 N: 3630 S: 3739 W: 14700 E: 148091 RECS: 10

Code	B	P	List	#rec	FW	FFG	Species
19	1978	1	Ins -	1	Ins -	Red-chested	Button-quail
50	1978	2	Ins -	2	Ins -	Swallow's	Crake
99	1981	13	R/C -	13	R/C -	Pied	Cormorant
101	1981	2	R/C -	2	R/C -	Carter	
106	1980	10	R/C -	10	R/C -	Australian	Pelican
110	1979	3	R/C -	3	R/C -	Whiskered	fern
170	1977	1	RVE	1	Vul -	Painted	Grise
174	1984	1	Vul -	1	Vul -	Bush	thick-knee
181	1980	4	R/C -	4	R/C -	Royal	Spoonbill
185	1978	2	R/C -	2	R/C -	Little	Egret
186	1980	2	R/C -	2	R/C -	Intermediate	Egret
187	1980	17	R/C -	17	R/C -	Great	Egret
192	1980	4	R/C -	4	R/C -	Rufous	Night Heron
216	1979	1	R/R -	1	R/R -	Blue-billed	Duck
220	1977	1	R/R -	1	R/R -	Grey	Goshawk
226	1977	1	R/R -	1	R/R -	White-bellied	Sea-Eagle
246	1980	3	R/R -	3	R/R -	Sparking	Owl
248	1989	7	R/R -	7	R/R -	Powerful	Owl
253	1989	1	R/R -	1	R/R -	Sooty	Owl
309	1979	5	RVE	5	RVE	Swift	Parrot
603	1974	2	End -	2	End -	Regent	Honeyeater
1003	1990	9	Vul -	9	Vul -	Tiger	Quoll
1009	1901	1	End -	1	End -	Eastern	Quoll
1141	1909	1	End -	1	End -	Leadbeater's	Possum
1156	8	36	Vul -	36	Vul -	Mountain	Pygmy-possum
1215	1986	5	End -	5	End -	Brush-tailed	Rock-wallaby
1303	1968	4	R/C -	4	R/C -	Eastern	Horseshoe-bat
1341	1935	11	R/C -	11	R/C -	Common	Bent-wing Bat
1357	1968	1	RVE	1	RVE	Large-footed	Myotis
1438	1988	32	R/R -	32	R/R -	Broad-toothed	Rat
1458	F	5	R/R -	5	R/R -	Smoky	Mouse
1811	1987	4	RVE	4	RVE	Eastern	Broad-nosed Rat
2182	1989	67	Ins -	67	Ins -	Mountain	Dragon
2283	1978	41	Ins -	41	Ins -	Free	Goanna
2550	1987	45	Vul -	45	Vul -	Alpine	Water Skink
2574	1983	8	Vul -	8	Vul -	She-oak	Skink
2734	1970	1	Vul -	1	Vul -	Randy	Gandy
2950	1976	2	Ins -	2	Ins -	Glossy	Grass Skink
3042	0	1	RVE	1	RVE	Giant	Burrowing Frog
3175	1982	2	RVE	2	RVE	Blue	Mountains Tree Frog
3190	1977	8	Ins -	8	Ins -	Large	Brown Tree Frog
3195	1990	10	End -	10	End -	Spotted	Tree Frog

* CONSERVATION STATUS CODE
 EVO = Extinct
 VUC = Vulnerable
 P/R = Rare
 RVE = Indeterminate
 INS = Insufficiently known
 R/C = Restricted Category
 ECT = Extinct

- Turdix pyrrhopterus
- Porzana pusilla
- Phalacrocorax varius
- Anhinga melanogaster
- Pelecanus conspicillatus
- Chilodactylus mycodon
- Rostratula benghalensis
- Burhinus mugimodorus
- Platala regia
- Egretta garzetta
- Egretta intermedia
- Egretta alba
- Nycticorax alba
- Oxyura australis
- Accipiter novaezelandiae
- Haliaeetus leucogaster
- Ninox connivens
- Ninox strenua
- Tyro labebricosa
- Lathamus discolor
- Xanthomyza obrygia
- Dasyurus maculatus
- Dasyurus viverrinus
- Gymnabetalis leadbeateri
- Burramys parvus
- Petrogale penicillata
- Rhinilophus megaphyllus
- Miniocterus schreibersii
- Myotis advenus
- Mastomys fuscus
- Pseudomys fumeus
- Scotorapens orion
- Amphibolurus diamensis
- Varanus varius
- Sphenomorphus kosciuskoi
- Tiliqua casuarinae
- Vermicella annulata
- Laelopisma rawlinsoni
- Heteroporus australiacus
- Litoria citreoa
- Litoria jervisiensis
- Litoria saebecki

Data from Atlas of Victorian Wildlife.

Threatened Wildlife of the OWEQ STATE & SUBTERRANEAN DISTRICT.

TABLE 3.5.1

AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND GROSS VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

	NO.	GROSS VALUE \$,000				PERCENTAGE OF VICTORIA TOTAL
		CROPS	LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERINGS	LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	TOTAL	
AT JUNE 30, 1980	237					
AT JUNE 30, 1981	234					
AT JUNE 30, 1982	224					
AT JUNE 30, 1983	230					
AT JUNE 30, 1984	218					
AT 31 MARCH 1984	218	1100	3428	4830	9,358	0.3
AT 31 MARCH 1985	218	360	4962	6219	11,542	0.4
AT 31 MARCH 1987	206	655	6200	8274	15,129	0.4

TABLE 3.5.2

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

	DAIRY CATTLE NUMBERS	BEEF CATTLE NUMBERS	SHEEP NUMBERS
AT MARCH 31, 1982	44	32,153	263,805
AT MARCH 31, 1983	39	25,920	272,000
AT MARCH 31, 1984	423	26,206	283,000
AT MARCH 31, 1985	236	26,601	295,000
AT MARCH 31, 1987	240	26,937	290,000
AT MARCH 31, 1988	175	27,102	287,000
AT MARCH 31, 1989	326	29,310	285,000

APPENDIX 4

NOTES ON SITES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

TABLE	4.2.1	PUBLIC HOSPITAL USE
TABLE	4.3.1	ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

SITES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

SHIRE OF OMEO

5.1 OMEO POST OFFICE, Day Avenue, Omeo

Comments The first post office was opened in Omeo in ~~Tate~~ 1856. The present building was erected in 1891 at a cost of £ 2,755. Additions and alterations were made to the building in 1911 at a cost of £ 255.

Construction Materials Brick

Condition and Intactness Well restored

5.2 COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA, Day Avenue, Omeo

Comments The land was purchased in 1890. The two storey brick building was erected in 1892 at a cost of £ 410-17-4d.

Construction Materials Brick

Condition and Intactness Alterations were made to the building in 1953.

5.3 BUILDING, Day Avenue, Omeo

Comments This single storey building was originally the National Bank. Now used as shops.

Construction Materials Brick

5.4 OLD COURTHOUSE, Day Street, Omeo

Comments A. W. Howitt went to Omeo in 1863 as Police Magistrate, Warden, Crown Lands Commissioner and Coroner. Living quarters were the two back rooms of the courthouse. The surrounding area was the government camp - now known as Commissioner's Gully - and contained the surveyor's camp, the police station and the log lock-up (which is still in use today).

Construction Materials Stone

Condition and Intactness Presently being restored and furnished appropriately.

5.5 COURTHOUSE, Day Street, Omeo

Comments Built in 1892

Construction Materials Brick

5.6 ANGLER'S REST SCHOOL 4286, Blue Duck Inn, Angler's Rest

Comments The school was built in 1926 by William O'Connell, proprietor of "The Blue Duck Inn" for his children - 5 O'Connells were its only pupils. Teachers operated the school part-time with Glen Wills.

One of the teachers was Kevin O'Dowd, son of the poet Bernard O'Dowd. The school was closed in 1933 when Bernard Green was the teacher.

Construction Materials Timber

5.7 CHRIST CHURCH

Comments Built in 1882 for the Anglican Diocese.

5.8 MEMORIAL BRIDGE, Livingstone Creek, Omeo

Comments Erected as a war memorial by the Shire of Omeo after the first World War.

5.9 BLUE DUCK INN, Angler's Rest

Comments Originally established in the later 1890's as a wayside oasis, by the O'Connell family, between Omeo and the goldfields of Glen Wills. The name is said to have originated from a remark (perhaps by one of the survey team) that it would never do any good on that site - hence "Blue Duck". The sign was forged at the Newport railway workshops by Sir Harold Clapp, then Commissioner of Vic Rail, and a regular visitor. The hotel ran continuously until its licence was surrendered on the death of the licensee in 1966.

5.10 LITTLE RIVER INN, Little River Road, Ensay

Comments The present building is apparently very similar to an earlier one known as the Little River Inn. The "Omeo Standard" in 1907 records that "the Little River Inn had been the first hotel on the Omeo road" - if so, it was built prior to 1848-49, and stood on the banks of the Little River opposite the mouth of Watt's Creek. Miss Helen Johnson held the licence in 1880, and her family records indicate it was built between 1853 and 1857. The original hotel burnt down in 1921 and "was rebuilt on its present site where Atta Singh used to have his shop..."

Construction Materials Weatherboard

Condition and Intactness The Ensay Post Office is attached to the hotel.

5.11 MT. HEPBURN-KING CASSILIS GOLD MINE

Comments Commencing as the Mount Hepburn, it was described as "perhaps the most remarkable mine on the field. An immense formation proved over ½ m. in length, and as much as 15m thick, all auriferous ..." (ref. R.A.F. Murray, Dept. of Mines report 1895, December 17). At that time there was inadequate machinery. Keith Fairweather has detailed events concerning this mine, which was later worked by the King Cassilis Co. - much capital outlay and optimistic hopes proved unwise, as the ore was difficult to treat, and the mine was not a financial success. A Krupp-built dry crusher was replaced by a 20-head battery; there was also a cyanide plant, a furnace for roasting the mineralised ore - a tall chimney stack for removing the fumes.

Condition and Intactness Chief relics are the large round stone foundations on the site. These are very solid structures, beautifully built. This mine is presently leased and being worked.

5.12 CASSILIS MINE AND BATTERY, Cassilis

Comments When the Mount Hepburn mine closed down, its 20-head battery was used at the Cassilis mine.

Condition and Intactness Some heavy timbers and brick foundations are to be seen, but the tailings dump is a spectacular sight - brilliant-hued sands spill down to almost fill the gully.

5.13 WARDEN BATTERY, Tongio West

Comments The Warden Gold Mining Company was formed in 1897 to work the Endeavour claim on the Markey line - at that time the plant "consisted of ten-head battery with boiler and steam engine, two Wilfley tables, five Frue and Triumph vanners, two Watson and Denny grinding pans, complete with a 38ft x 10ft open hearth roasting furnace, with a flue and chimney-stack. There was also a chlorination plant, and a 160-ton cyanide plant." The official report of 1906 described the Warden as a rich mine, but there were recurring problems, and the Company ceased operating in 1905. Tributors still managed however to make it a paying proposition.

Condition and Intactness A few relics of timber, stone and iron structures, by the side of the Swifts Creek - Cassilis - Omeo Road.

5.14 JIRNKEE WATER RACE

Comments The Jirnkee race was cut from the head of the Wentworth River, picking up water from the Newrush Creek, and crossing the Dividing Range twice, then down Waterfall Gully just below Cassilis Gap. The terminating point was above Tongio West, on the western side of Gray's Creek. Two 2½ in. nozzles directed water at a pressure of 250 pounds per sq. in.

The Jirnkee Sluicing Company (an English firm with French capital) constructed the water race over a distance of 48 miles crossing the Dividing Range twice (because it was illegal to bring water across a dividing range). 80 men were employed to clear the bush and dig the race, and the total cost was £14,000. It appears that this great engineering scheme, however, operated for as little as 8 days in 1901.

5.15 VICTORIA FALLS, 25 miles from Omeo on the Alpine Tourist Road

Comments This was Victoria's first hydro-electric scheme which provided power and light for Cassilis mine. It was based on a dynamo at Victoria Falls, driven by a water turbine; water was taken 3½ miles around the hillside, then down-hill by pipes to drive the Pelton wheel. The plant was completed by 1909 but subsequent shortages of water frequently made it inoperable. Costs far exceeded the original estimate of £11,000 (ultimately £35,000) and the belated construction of a dam in 1916 was also a failure. The Cassilis mine finally closed in 1916, and the hydro-electric plant was sold. It was known to be still operating in Tasmania in 1972.

5.16 STIRLING

Comments Originally known as Haunted Stream - a rush occurred to that area in 1865. It was a rough isolated place, but by 1884 had a population of 70. The residents had determined to call it Nelson in 1882 but the name officially became Stirling, after James Stirling, the geologist. By 1885, there were 90 Chinese there. A school, no. 2845, opened in 1887 with 15 pupils. There were many mines, with 100 head of stampers operating around Stirling and some very rich yields.

5.17 DOG TOWN

Comments Site of the Hans mine, managed by Louis Jorgensen, which began operations in 1884. A 5-head battery was delivered to the site by a team of 12 horses (when roads were non-existent) and crushed ore from several rich reefs. Extensions to the plant (a 20-head battery) and 2,400 ft. of tramways to bring ore and firewood were made - but the Hans closed down in 1912. (J.C. Dahlsen may have been connected with it in the early days establishing a hardware business with his profits.) The 20-head battery was sold, with other plant, but never moved away.

5.18 BROOKVILLE

Comments Originally known as Sheepstation, because sheep were run on that part of Cassilis Station, and, nicknamed Scotch Hollow. The lower part of Brookville known as Gum Forest "was the cradle of reef mining in the Omeo Shire" from 1868 onwards. Some rich reefs were worked in the area, and it went ahead with the opening of the Mount Baldhead road to Bulumwaal (1890's). By 1896 there were 200 people in Brookville - there was a store, houses; post office, and 2 hotels. It seems the place grew even larger - 500-700. A number of mines were located in the area including Highland Chief, Golden King and Rob Roy.



5.19 ORIENTAL CLAIMS, Livingstone Creek, Omeo

Comments Site of the largest hydraulic sluicing operation for gold that the world has seen. The Chinese have traditionally been credited with the work which resulted in these great expanses of man-made cliffs.

5.20 CHARLOTTE SPUR TRACK, Powers Gully, Cassilis

Comments It is said that Charlotte, wife of Thomas Reid, found rich stone when she climbed the ridge behind their hut in search of 'pretty stones'. She crushed a piece of stone in a tin, and the small piece yielded one dwt. of gold. The ridge later became known as Charlotte Spur and for a time, the road around it was part of the main road between Omeo and Bairnsdale, via Mt. Baldhead. A stone wall was built by Tom or Sam Boucher.

Condition and Intactness There remains part of the track around a high spur with well preserved sections of dry stone walling.

5.21 MOUNT BALDHEAD TRIG STATION

Comments One of the trig points used in the first survey of Gippsland by Charles James Tyers, Crown Lands Commissioner in 1849.

5.22 "OMEO STATION", Benambra

Comments McFarlane took up this land in 1863 and held it for twenty years. The station was then passed through several owners, until it was purchased in 1909 by C. H. U. Pendergast.

5.23 DWELLING, Tongio (Hollands')

Comments Built in 1897 of local handmade bricks.

5.24 "PENDER'S COURT", Benambra

Comments The original home was built for John Pendergast, one of a family of Omeo pioneers, and his wife Elizabeth (nee Parslow) when they married in 1868. The home was the social hub of the district - social gatherings and church services were held there for many years. A large family of 2 sons and 7 daughters grew up there and the spinster members died there between 1930 and 1969.

5.25 "HINNOMUNJIE" STATION HOMESTEAD

Comments Hinnomunjie Station was an early squatting station taken up by Edward Crooke in 1840. Crooke held various other stations and became a respected breeder of cattle and horses. He sold Hinnomunjie in 1861, and

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then it passed to several other owners. In 1914 it was purchased by John Scott, and has remained in the Scott family, except for a few years. James Flett relates that reports of the first gold found at Omeo was on Crooke's station, 300 yds. from the Hinnomunjie huts. The original portion of the homestead is built of mud bricks baked on the property. The walls are two feet thick.

5.26 "THE WALNUTS", Cassilis

Comments Built c. 1867

5.27 DWELLING, Opposite post office, Day Street, Omeo

Comments Built c. 1880.

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TABLE 4.2.1

PUBLIC HOSPITAL CAPACITY AND USE

	INPATIENTS				OUTPATIENTS	
	NUMBER ACUTE BEDS	NUMBER TREATED	DAILY AVERAGE	AVERAGE STAY (DAYS)	NUMBER TREATED	NUMBER ATTENDANCES & CASUALTY
at JUNE 1983	19	193	7.4	13.9	794	1012
at JUNE 1984		109	7.8	26.2		1560
at JUNE 1985		88	6.3	25.9		1309
at JUNE 1986				22.5		

TABLE 4.3.1

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES

	FATAL ACCIDENT	PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENTS
1978	3	11
1979	1	13
1980	4	18
1981	2	22
1982	1	19
1983	-	16
1984	1	16
1985	1	8
1986	2	16
1987	3	24
1988	1	14
1989	2	9

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