**Teacher Introduction for Unit 2 Geography Fieldwork at**

**TOURISM at RIPPON LEA**

The fieldwork outcome requires students to describe characteristics of a local tourist resource and investigate a question prepared in class beforehand.

Rippon Lea, owned by the National Trust (Victoria), is a resource in Glen Eira that is ideal for fieldwork for VCE Geography Unit 2. As a valuable historic feature it must be used sustainably, so that it is be both enjoyed by present visitors and preserved for future generations.

Students can explore the house and gardens, undertaking geographic investigations under the direction of their teacher, practising the key fieldwork skills and then apply and process the data to address the course requirements. On the day of your fieldwork the House may be set up as a family home or it may be hosting a major exhibition. A tailored **house tour** is suggested. The guide would explain why the house is presented in the era it is and how the presentation has changed in recent times. Students should also be able to identify processes amd management techniques used to maintain the house and contents and still give the visitors an enjoyable experience.

The **self guided** **garden tour** will show the current uses, indicate areas where use differed in the past, recreation, management problems and management strategies. Students can also speak to the **duty manager** to discuss management practices.

At Rippon Lea there will be topographic and historical data available. Recent visitor numbers and calendar of events will also be available in a VCE Education area. When addressing the requirements of this course, students could study Rippon Lea as a whole or just a region within it.

The study of tourism at Rippon Lea would be written up according to the teacher’s instructions.

PRE VISIT PREPARATION.

Background information from sources such as The Rippon Lea guide book, Melway, and the Glen Eira website may useful in familiarising students with the House and Gardens and their history.

Many activities can be undertaken pre-visit, e.g. preparing the questions for the house and garden guides and the duty manager, regarding use, change over time and management. It is important that Rippon Lea has a copy of these questions for a more efficient use of your time.

If students wish to ask questions of the general public on site, the questionnaire must be given to Rippon Lea prior to your visit, as the National Trust needs to know what its visitors are being asked.

**Suggestions for pre-visit activities for student.**

**Visit the Rippon Lea Website.**

Students can take a virtual tour of the house and garden.

‘Fly’ over the property

Find out a great deal of background information. from this source.

**Define your research topic.**

Give a clear statement of the research question.

Prepare and justify a hypothesis.

**Geographical context**

**Location.**

Using *Melway* (Map 67 2F), Find Rippon Lea.

Map the location, using maps at different scales.

Describe the location.

**Region.**

Identify, map and describe the region in which Rippon Lea is located.

**The processes of Geographic change.**

In 1903 Rippon Lea Estate extended from Hotham Street and the Sandringham Railway line to the west, along Davis (Sinclair) Street in the south, between Elizabeth and Regent Streets in the east, then along Glen Eira Road in the north, down Willow Street, and along Elm Street to meet Hotham Street again.

Map and describe the previous extent of Rippon Lea Estate and describe what this land is used for now. Identify the area outlined and the current uses shown in *Melway Map 67*

During your visit you can use the maps provided to show when and how the estate was reduced to its current size.

**Survey/questionnaire**

Prepare your questions. What do you want to find out?

eg home postcode/ state/country of tourist visitors, transport used today,

age group, main reason for visit, region(s) of the property visited, is this your first visit…….. etc……… Think of other .topics.

(Send your prepared survey/questionnaire to Rippon lea before your visit.)

You will be mapping or prospering charts for your study, so think carefully about how you will gather and record the data.

**Prepare Maps**

A base map of Glen Eira can be made from the resources on the Glen Eira website.

A base map of Elsternwick showing the street pattern can be made from *Melway Map 67.*

A Rippon Lea base map.

Make several copies of your base map for use on the day.