# VCE GEOGRAPHY Unit 2 Tourism

# Fieldwork At Rippon Lea

***Rippon Lea is a place of major historical significance in the development of Melbourne. It is on the national heritage register and a significant tourist venue.***

***Decide on your question to study.***

***Select from the fieldwork activities provided, those that help you investigate your question***

***Identify the nature of this place and ways tourists use it.***

***Identify sustainability strategies and where improvements could be made. Map as you go.***

***Analyse information from your own measurements, visual data on site and information from your guides gathered throughout your visit to Rippon Lea. use the information collected through this fieldwork to prepare your written response.***

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1 **What is the nature of this place?** **Record the information on base maps of Rippon Lea**

1. Estimate the size of the grounds. (Pacing along the Hotham Street boundary is an easy way of beginning this to get a scale)
2. Give 4 and 6 figure grid references for the entrance to Rippon Lea from the Ringwood 1:100000 map

c) If you have GPS facilities you can give latitude, longitude and elevation of selected spots in the grounds.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Site | Latitude | Longitude | Elevation |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**f) Make a field sketch** from the seat at the base of the tower, looking towards the lake. This is a popular spot for visitors to sit end enjoy the gardens.

**2. Walk around the grounds. Identify the major features of the place. Take a self-guided garden tour using the leaflet in the VCE folder provided.**

a) i) Mark the features you identify on a Rippon Lea base map.

b) M**easure** **or pace** to find out how far it is for tourists to walk from the entrance gate to the front of the house? Is this an issue?

c) On a base map of Rippon Lea **identify and classify the features of the tourist resource as follows**:

i) Features that are part of the historical heritage of the site,

ii) Features that are there to enable tourist visitor use?

Use symbols and a legend to show them. Give examples of where separating them is not always easy.

d)i) **Identify the animals you see.** Mark their distribution on a base map.

The birds you are most likely to see, depending on the time of year, are White-browed scrub wren, spinebill, Brown thornbill, cormorant, wood duck, Chestnut teal, Grey teal, moorhen, Pacific black duck, sometimes Grey fantail, egrets, herons and there too (native species) Blackbird, Indian mynah and pigeons (introduced species). There are other animals there, some in the lake, some elsewhere. Identify the habitat type in general terms where you see them. (E.g. shrubs, trees, lawn, buildings, lake, flower and vegetable beds.)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BIRD |  |  |  |  |  |
| OTHER  ANIMAL |  |  |  |  |  |
| HABITAT where seen |  |  |  |  |  |

ii )What is the **spatial association** between the distribution of animal species and the different environments at Rippon Lea?

iii) Is this of significance for tourism?

**3. Rippon Lea is an important tourist venue.**

The gardens are open all year. During the summer the house is set up as the family home of Louisa Jones, and in the winter it often hosts spectacular costume exhibitions.

a)What are the opening times for Rippon Lea?

b) What is the entrance price for visiting Rippon Lea?

c) What information is given for visitors? In what format? Does it give visitor information about Rippon Lea or directions and instructions?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Information about Rippon Lea | Information and directions for visitors |
|  |  |

**e)** **Why do people visit Rippon Lea?** i) Compile your own list of reasons.

ii) Survey the visitors there at the time of your visit using your pre-prepared survey/questionnaire.

**d)** Find out what activities are specifically catered for at Rippon Lea and locate them on your map if they have a specific location.

**4. tourist visits – statistics and other evidence.**  (See the VCE information in the folder provided)

**a**) i) How many people visited Rippon Lea in the past year?

ii) Describe the monthly pattern of visits.

iii) What evidence of the effects of visitor processes can you identify as you walk around? Mark these on a base map.

**b**)i What evidence can you see at Rippon Lea that the National Trust encourages people to visit?

ii) What evidence can you see of provisions to ensure visitor safely?

iii) Make your own analysis of the benefits and problems of increased tourism. Record your thoughts on this chart.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Benefits of encouraging more people to visit? | Problems associated with greater visitor numbers? |
|  |  |

iii) **Note your own suggestions for encouraging tourism at Rippon Lea.**

**c)** Where do Rippon Lea’s tourist visitors come from? How are you going to record this? You will need to map it later. You can interview the visitors present on the day of your visit. There are also some official statistics in the VCE information folder.

**d**)i What forms of **transport** do people use top reach Rippon Lea?(You can ask visitors about their mode of transport and parking in your questionnaire.)

ii Where is the closest bus stop?

iii Where is the closest railway station?

iv Investigate **parking** in the immediate area. Where can Rippon Lea visitors park their cars? Use an Elsternwick base map to record this information. (This can be studied when undertaking the pacing for activity

What are the implications?

How is that a management issue?

What strategies can you suggest to address the problem?

v) What conclusions can you make about the preferred form(s) of transport tourists use to get to Rippon Lea?

**5. Special events**. Find out what special public events take place during the year. Identify potential problems and suggest solutions**. Use the information available in the VCE folder provided to make your own Calendar of Activities throughout the year.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month | Special Event | Location  (Inside or grounds) | Potential Problem(s) | Suggested Strategy |
| **January** |  |  |  |  |
| **February** |  |  |  |  |
| **March** |  |  |  |  |
| **April** |  |  |  |  |
| **May** |  |  |  |  |
| **June** |  |  |  |  |
| **July** |  |  |  |  |
| **August** |  |  |  |  |
| **September** |  |  |  |  |
| **October** |  |  |  |  |
| **November** |  |  |  |  |
| **December** |  |  |  |  |

e) What sorts of **private functions** are catered for at Rippon Lea? How is this form of tourism different from the public events?

6 **The Gardens. The gardens need to be carefully maintained to provide good visitor experiences and ensure visitor safety. Examine the seasonal management of the garden by complete this chart, using information in the folder provided and information from your guide.**  How are the gardens watered sustainably? (There is a great deal of information about this.)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Season** | **Major garden features** | **Major management factors** | **Major management strategy for sustainability** |
| **Spring** |  |  |  |
| **Summer** |  |  |  |
| **Autumn** |  |  |  |
| **Winter** |  |  |  |

**b.** i Tourists move around the property. How can you observe and record this **movement** while you are at Rippon Lea? What methods can you use? How would you map it?

ii Prepare a survey and questionnaire to gather information about tourist use of the regions of Rippon Lea. You need to send the survey/questionnaire to Rippon Lea in advance of your visit. There is a suggested method of dividing the place into regions for your study.

The orchard. The lake. The flower gardens. i) to the west of the house, ii) to the north of the house, iii) to the east of the house.

The stables. The Central Lawn. The pool.

The Fernery. The Gatehouse and surrounds

**C.** Give tourists a map and ask them to draw the route they took around the grounds. It is interesting to see the results. Remember, they are probably not as familiar working with maps as you are.

**7.Many tourists come to Rippon Lea to enjoy the history and architecture of the house. Take a House tour. Your house guide will help you with this.**

a) How is the House set up? **Home/Exhibition venue**. Identify the management techniques employed by your guide. Note what s/he does to ‘manage’ the tour movement to ensure that the visitors enjoy the visit and the house is maintained. How is the **spatial interaction (PROCESS)** between the visitors and the House and contents managed? Why is managing this interaction very important?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Techniques to ensure visitors enjoy the tour | Techniques to ensure that the house is maintained. |
|  |  |

**7 Discussion with the duty manager.**

**Your questions for the manager.** Remember to prepare them before hand. Here are some suggestions. a) What are the main management principles for sustainability at Rippon Lea? b) What are the main day to day management activities? c) What are the main management issues according to the duty manager?  
d)What changes would you like to see to enhance Rippon Lea as a tourist destination? e) \*

# 8 Processes at work bringing about change

Information for this can be found in the VCE folder provided **a**) Use the information maps showing the former extent of the Rippon Lea estate when Mr Sargood lived here and mark it on your **Elsternwick** street pattern map. On your **Elsternwick** street pattern map identify the present use for the areas that were once within the Rippon Lea estate. You can observe from the edge of Rippon Lea, from the windmill platform – important- and use Melway. When were boundary changes made?

**b)** How is the National Trust bringing about change? Observe and ask the duty manager.\*See 7 e) above.

**8B**  **Complete a timeline of use of Rippon Lea.** Use the information in the VCE folder and the guidebook

Before 1868

1868

1903

1909

1911

1930s

1940s

1954

1963

1972

1974

**Review your fieldwork. Here is a checklist.**

**Have you investigated the following during your visit?**

Change,

distance,

distribution,

movement

place,

process,

region,

scale,

spatial association,

sustainability

Check that you have gathered the information you need for your study.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit and we encourage you and your family to return as tourists.