

living in Regional Victoria AUSTRALIA

Opportunity Awaits -
Register Your Interest in Working
in Regional Victoria -
skilledregional@liveinvictoria.vic.gov.au



SEPTEMBER 2010

LiveInVictoria.vic.gov.au



World famous 12 Apostles, Grampians National Park, Bendigo Town Hall clock tower.

Five Reasons why you will Love Living in Regional Victoria

1. It's a great place to raise a family with **first class education** and **health services**
2. If you are thinking of buying a home, regional Victoria offers fantastic value for money and **affordable living**
3. Unique lifestyle opportunities - seaside and country. Become part of a community and enjoy the **relaxed lifestyle** with great opportunities to take part in sport, the arts and cultural activities
4. Because of Victoria's size, everything is **within easy reach** by road, rail and air between regional cities and Melbourne
5. There are **extensive job opportunities** in diverse and thriving industries. There is a strong demand for experienced skilled professionals and tradespeople in regional areas.

Victorian Regional Skilled Migration Coordinators

There are Regional Skilled Migration Coordinators in each of the different regions of Victoria who can provide information about employment opportunities, work preparation training and post-employment support.

These services are available to recently arrived skilled migrants, who hold a permanent residency or temporary (pending permanent) General Skilled Migration visa, including Skilled-Graduate (subclass 485) visa holders.

Recently arrived migrants falling under other categories may also be eligible for assistance, subject to their qualifications and willingness to seek employment in regional Victoria.

See inside for contact details for each region.

Did you know about the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme?

The Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) allows employers in regional areas to sponsor skilled migrants for permanent residency.

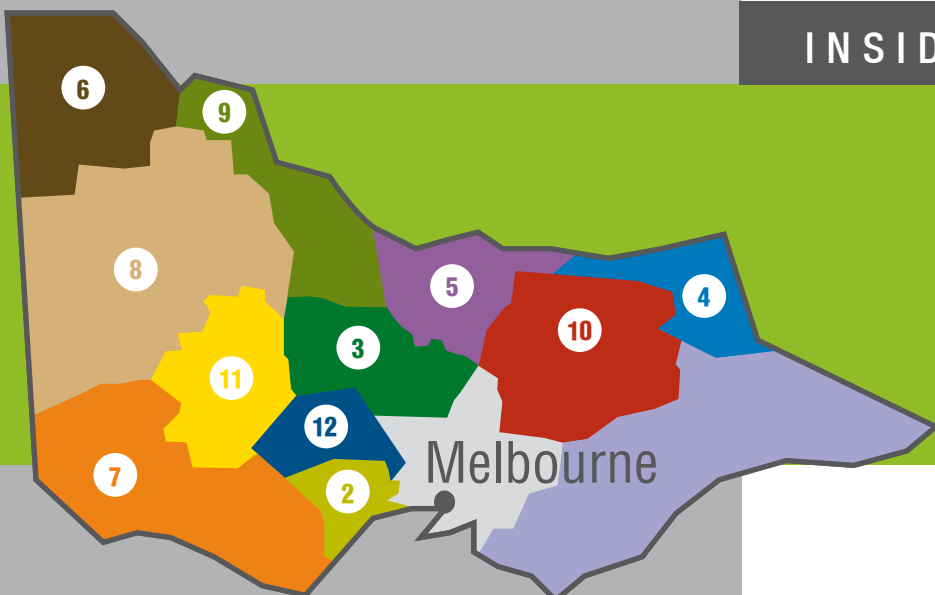
To register your interest in living and working in regional Victoria send your resume to **skilledregional@liveinvictoria.vic.gov.au**

The Regional Coordinators can access these resumes and link them with potential employers in their area.

For more information on the RSMS visa visit **www.immi.gov.au/skilled/skilled-workers/rsms/**

Do you meet the eligibility requirements?
Visit the Department of Immigration and Citizenship **www.immi.gov.au**

INSIDE - OUR REGIONS



- | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 2 | Geelong Region | 8 | Wimmera Mallee |
| 3 | Bendigo Region | 9 | Swan Hill Region |
| 4 | Wodonga | 10 | North East Victoria |
| 5 | Goulburn Murray Region | 11 | Grampians Pyrenees |
| 6 | Mildura Region | 12 | Ballarat Region |
| 7 | The Great South Coast | | Gippsland Region |

visit www.LiveInVictoria.vic.gov





Top: Torquay Foreshore Middle: Geelong Waterfront Above: Skilled migrant resident Kathy Timmins

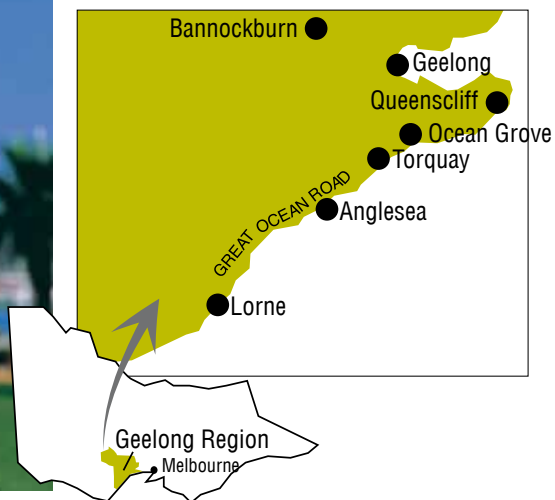


Geelong Bollard

For more information about Geelong Region's skills shortages and employment opportunities visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/business/migration

Geelong Region Skilled Migration Project
Email: skilledmigration@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

Please include your resume and contact details



Geelong Region

Victoria's Premier Coastal Destination

Geelong is the largest regional city in Victoria. It combines the best elements of a cosmopolitan city with some of the world's most magnificent surf beaches just a stone's throw away.

A strong economy, great employment opportunities, diverse educational resources, state-of-the-art health-care services, quality housing, broad recreational choices and a vibrant multicultural community are just part of the picture.

Only an hour's drive from Melbourne, Geelong offers a range of lifestyle choices - inner city, suburban, waterfront, coastal and rural - with greater value for money than equivalent properties in the capital nearby.

The city's vibrant retail heart is alive with cafes and restaurants and cinemas. And overlooking Corio Bay, with its backdrop of ships and yachts, is the pier and waterfront precinct which has been transformed to accommodate stylish new eateries, beautiful landscaped gardens, fantastic public art encircled by walking, cycling and skating paths.

It is also the jumping off point for the spectacular Great Ocean Road and a range of surf beaches including the world famous Bells Beach where international surfing championships are held.

Geelong is the leading commercial and industrial centre for Victoria's south-west. It showcases more than 10,000 business enterprises with a multi-skilled work force of 100,000 people in an economy boasting comprehensive infrastructure and extensive transport links.

Over the past decade Geelong has transitioned itself from an economy with a strong reliance on big manufacturing, such as Ford, Alcoa and Shell, to one with a heavy focus on knowledge based sectors such as retail, hospitality, health, research, biotechnology, education and tourism. These sectors are now Geelong's largest employers.

Growth in the manufacturing sector has been more focused on expanding capabilities in aerospace and heavy aircraft maintenance with Avalon Airport nearby. Niche markets in food - wine making, olives and related products - are also opening up.

Seafood processing is expanding and more recently, the city has hosted a number of innovative aquaculture businesses producing squid, mussels and abalone.

The health and community services sector, which currently employs almost 14,000 people, is one of the region's fastest growing industries.

Accordingly Geelong is eager to attract health and allied health professionals to keep up with demand for the services. There are also rewarding opportunities in the region for scientists, teachers and engineers.

Geelong has a highly capable knowledge and research sector that employs some 15,000 people. It is also home to Deakin University, which has established the Geelong Technology Precinct - a base for leading research, proof of concept and innovation in textiles, aerospace, intelligent systems and new medical technologies.

Australia's leading research organisation, the CSIRO, has a division in Geelong which focuses on animal health, materials science and engineering.

Kathy Timmins who migrated from the UK in 2005 with her husband and two small boys, is employed by the City of Greater Geelong as a Major Project Development Facilitator. She couldn't be happier with the move.

"We chose Victoria for the climate. The sun shines for nine months of the year so you can live in tee-shirts and in July/August you can drive to the ski slopes!

"We have never been big city people so we headed for Geelong as it is near to the beaches and the international airport. We can't believe our luck, we seem to have really fallen on our feet.

"Everyone is so friendly and they really know how to throw a barbie! We have everything we need for work, education and entertainment and Melbourne is only an hour away.

"We live on 16 acres so the boys have plenty of room to run about. We have even planted our own vineyard. We have no regrets about the move and feel very settled."

CRITICAL SKILL SHORTAGES

- 1 Sonographers**
 General Practitioners
 Maternal and Child Health Nurses
 Midwives
 Critical Care (ICU) Nurses
 Theatre (Anaesthetic) Nurses
 Emergency (A&E) Nurses
 Experienced Aged Care Facility Managers-Clinical Services Managers
- 2 Youth Support Workers (Mental Health Psychosocial Rehabilitation)**
 Support Workers Intensive Home Based Outreach (Mental Health Rehabilitation)
 Support Worker Adult Outreach (Mental Health Rehabilitation)
- 3 Automotive Engineers**
 Construction and Fabrication Engineers
 Automation/Control and Electrical Engineers
 Boilermakers/Welders
- 4 General Management in Food Manufacturing**
 Food Product Development Practitioners
 Sales and Marketing (Food Products)
- 5 ICT – SAS Analysts**
 ICT Senior Business Analysts
 Project Managers
- 6 Chefs**
- 7 Agricultural Technical Officers (Piggery)**

COMMUNITY FACT BOX

Population (est) **263,279**
 Borough of Queenscliffe 3,318
 City of Greater Geelong 216,330
 Golden Plains Shire 18,173
 Surf Coast Shire 25,458

Location
 75kms South West of Melbourne

Main Industries
 Knowledge, Education and Research, Health, Advanced Manufacturing, Tourism and Food.

Hospitals
 Barwon Health (includes Geelong Hospital and Grace McKellar Centre), St John of God Hospital, Geelong Private Hospital and a comprehensive range of health services.

Learning & Education
 Deakin University, Geelong Medical School, Gordon Institute of TAFE, Geelong Grammar School, Geelong College, Kardinia International College. Over 220 pre-school, primary schools and secondary colleges.

Leisure & Recreation Centres
 Geelong Art Gallery, Geelong Performing Arts Centre, Balmoral Galleries, National Wool Museum, Village Cinema, Reading Cinema and a comprehensive array of health, fitness, sporting and leisure facilities.

Average Temperatures
 Summer 13-23°C
 Winter 7-14°C

Transport/Accessibility

Easy commute to Melbourne with trains running every 15-20 minutes in peak time and every hour off-peak. Buses travel regularly within the region. Airport shuttle provides access to Melbourne Airport and Avalon Airport.

Property Prices

Median Housing Cost (AUD)	House	Unit
City of Greater Geelong	\$287,000	\$240,000
Surf Coast Shire	\$471,500	\$480,000
Golden Plains Shire	\$220,000	\$209,000
Borough of Queenscliffe	\$530,000	\$375,000

Average Weekly Rental (AUD)

	House	Unit
City of Greater Geelong	\$270	\$220
Surf Coast Shire (Torquay)	\$340	\$220
Golden Plains Shire (Bannockburn)	\$260	\$190
Borough of Queenscliffe	N/A	\$300

Bendigo Region

A City Built on Dreams

Bendigo has a rich heritage dating back 150 years when vast reserves of gold were discovered in the region.

The wealth generated by the gold rush produced a city of opulence and grandeur. The city has beautiful, richly detailed and historically significant Victorian architecture.

This combined with the city's manicured gardens are all symbolic of Bendigo's prosperous tradition.

The largest inland regional city in Victoria, Bendigo is located in the geographical heart of Victoria.

It has a vibrant economy and a rapidly growing population of more than 100,000 which is growing at 1.6 per cent each year, making it one of the fastest growing centres in inland Australia.

Comprising the City of Greater Bendigo, Mount Alexander and Loddon Shires the region includes the historic communities of Castlemaine and Wedderburn and many other smaller hamlets.

Bendigo is only a 90 minute drive from Melbourne, and is well served by frequent, fast train services and buses linking it to other regional centres.

Manufacturing delivers the highest proportional contribution to the Bendigo economy, followed by health, community services, finance, mining, property and professional services.

The colourful history of adventurers and entrepreneurs lives on in the independent spirit of dynamic national businesses founded in Bendigo, such as Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, Fernwood Fitness Centres, Myer and Jimmy Possum Furniture. The owners of Fernwood and Jimmy Possum were awarded Australian Businesswoman of the Year in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank is the only Australian bank to position its head office outside of a capital city. These widely recognised Australian businesses are part of the 4000 strong business community that offers diverse career opportunities in the region.

Bendigo has excellent food and shopping, celebrated wineries, art galleries, theatre, cosmopolitan restaurants, informal cafes and boutique hotels. Bendigo Art Gallery is one of the oldest regional galleries in Australia. It recently hosted the Golden Age of Couture from London, attracting people from all over the southern hemisphere.

And the region hosts outstanding major events throughout the year such as the *Bendigo Easter Festival* - Australia's oldest and longest running festival.

There are more than 300 sporting clubs, beautiful parks and recreational reserves, lakes and playgrounds plus networks of bicycle and walking trails.

The region has a Mediterranean style climate with warm dry summers, cool winters, sunny springs and mild autumns. Average maximum temperatures are 29°C during summer and 12°C in winter.

To complement its comprehensive educational infrastructure, Bendigo is currently building four, new state-of-the-art secondary schools based on world's best practice in learning communities.



Bendigo night streetscape

Bendigo is also home to La Trobe University, Monash University Medical School, vocational educational institutions, Girton Grammar School and Catholic College Bendigo.

The region hosts a network of world class health services. Bendigo Health is the largest regional public hospital in Victoria and St. John of God hospital is a division of St John of God Health Care, one of Australia's largest private health care providers.

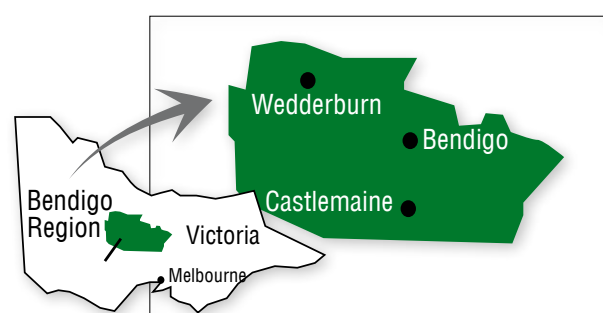
There is a strong and steady demand for skilled professionals and tradespeople in a region which welcomes hundreds of skilled migrants each year.

Bendigo's achievements as a popular regional centre for skilled migration were aired in a French television documentary in February 2009. The France 2 Network profiled Bendigo's migration program and a family who moved from Mauritius. Richard Tranquille and his wife Joelle migrated to Bendigo in 2007 based on a job offer from a local boutique flour mill for Richard's specialist skills in flour milling. The couple and their three children love Bendigo and have applied for permanent residence of Australia and are building their dream home.

Herald Sun Tour Cycling Event



Bendigo dining



For more information about living and working in the Bendigo region contact:

Skilled Migration

Tel: +61 3 9938 0556

Fax: +61 3 9938 0561

Email: skilled@LiveInVictoria.vic.gov.au

or visit www.LiveInVictoria.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY FACT BOX

Population 100,054

Demographics

1 - 14 years	20.64%
15 - 24 years	14.82%
25 - 44 years	25.30%
45 - 64 years	24.86%
65+	14.39%

Main Industries

Manufacturing, Health, Community Services, Finance, Mining and Professional Services

Hospitals

Largest regional public hospital in Victoria. Private Catholic hospital.

Learning & Education

La Trobe University, Monash University Medical School, Vocational Institutions, over 120 accredited pre-schools, primary schools and secondary colleges

Average Temperature

Summer	Av temp:	29°C
Winter	Av temp:	12°C

Average Travel Time to Melbourne

Km	Travel Time
from Bendigo 150km	1hr 30m

Median Housing Price (AUD)

House	\$216,500
Unit	\$186,250

Weekly Rental Cost (AUD)

House	\$205
Unit	\$160

Wodonga

A Great Place for a New Beginning

When Clement Oguche decided to uproot his family from Nigeria to Australia his goal was greater prosperity and security for his children.

He wanted his son and daughter to receive a good education and for his family to enjoy a quality health system.

When he learnt that Australia, and particularly Wodonga, could make use of his professional training as a pharmacist, it was a bonus. He decided to take the leap of faith.

"I wanted to give it a go and see if I could get a better life by getting out of Nigeria. I wanted a good education and standard of living for my family so I thought I should give it a try."

For Clement, who arrived in Australia just over 18 months ago Wodonga is suiting him just fine.

He began work as an intern pharmacist at the Amcal Pharmacy, Wodonga Plaza, last November and his wife Elizabeth, daughter Christine, 3, and son Frank, 2, joined him in December.

"I've learnt a lot of things since I came here; there's so much knowledge that I've taken on and there's still room for a lot of development," he said

Clement is one of more than 100 migrants who have found positions through the Victorian Government and Wodonga Council's skilled migration program over the past four years.

When Wodonga businesses identify a skills shortage they are unable to fill, the skilled migration officer finds a suitable candidate. She then helps the migrant, and their family, find a home and settle into life on the border of Victoria and New South Wales.

It is no surprise that skilled migrants are attracted to Wodonga. It has enjoyed significant growth in the past 25 years.

Wodonga has a young population compared to the rest of Victoria. The median age is 34, with 38.1 per cent of the residents being under this age. This is 5 per cent higher than the state average.

In Wodonga, 9.4 per cent of residents were born overseas and most have come from the UK and New Zealand.

Manufacturing, retail trade, health and community services, government administration and defence, property and business service and education are the major industry employers.

Wodonga is home to well established companies, such as Mars Petcare, Woolworths regional distribution, Moore Australia, Shorko, Wilson Transformers, BAE Systems, Linfox, Regional Infrastructure, Norvic Foods, Parker Hannifin, National Foods Vitasoy, Visy Board and Visy Foods and ANI Bradken.

It is also a recognised transport and logistics centre due to its location on the national rail network. Located in North East Victoria, Wodonga is seeking health professionals, with vacancies for experienced nurses, GPs and allied health professionals.

The city has access to quality health and medical facilities including two hospitals, retirement accommodation options and nursing facilities. Albury Wodonga Health's obstetrics unit is considered one of the best in regional Australia. It will soon be involved in an estimated 1600 births a year. Excellent follow-up care is also available through the city's maternal and child health services.

The health network also offers specialist and diagnostic services, oncology, midwifery services, family counselling and youth services. A special care nursery with advanced equipment for babies born past 32 weeks gestation who may require specialised care is also available.

The Murray Valley Private Hospital, owned by Ramsay Health Care, offers comprehensive, high quality care to oncology, acute medical, post surgical and palliative care patients of North East Victoria and southern NSW.

Text supplied courtesy of Midweek Xpress, Wodonga (March 2009).



New residents Clement Oguche, daughter Christine & son Frank



CRITICAL SKILL SHORTAGES

- 1 Experienced Division 1 Nurses & Midwives
- 2 Welders & Boilermakers
- 3 CNC Press Brake Operators
- 4 Allied Health Professionals
- 5 Medical Specialists
- 6 Dentists

For more information about living and working in the Wodonga region contact:

The Wodonga Skilled Migration Officer

Tel: +61 2 6022 9267

Mob: +61 403 607 590

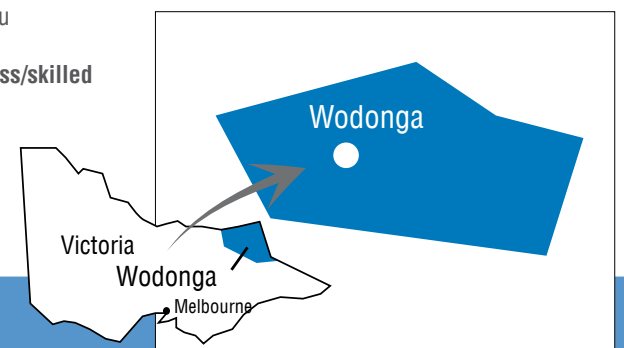
Fax: +61 2 6022 9346

Email: skilled@wodonga.vic.gov.au or visit

www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/business/skilled



Top: North East snowfields Middle: Woolworths Logistics Above: Outdoor recreation, image courtesy of Destination Albury Wodonga



COMMUNITY FACT BOX

Population 35,733

Demographics

The median age is 34, with 38.1% of the residents being under this age. This is 5% higher than the state average.

In Wodonga, 9.4% of residents were born overseas. Most came from the UK and New Zealand.

Main Industries

Manufacturing, retail, health and community services, government administration, defence and property, business service and education are some of the higher industry employers.

Hospitals

Albury Wodonga Health
Murray Valley Private Hospital

Learning & Education

Three secondary colleges and two denominational colleges, quality primary schools. Educational facilities for adults and children with special needs, an acrobatic school, The Flying Fruit Fly Circus; the Albury Wodonga Community College, Wodonga Institute of TAFE and the Wodonga campus of La Trobe University. Neighbourhood houses and community centres which deliver adult education.

Leisure & Recreation Centres

A huge range of top-class sporting facilities which include Australia's largest regional tennis complex with 30 grass courts and 22 hard courts; the YMCA Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre with heated indoor pools, gymnasium, netball and basketball courts, aerobic and exercise facilities; high-standard outdoor sporting facilities; Wodonga's 18-hole championship golf course. Motorcycle track, go-karting and skate board facilities. Water skiing, sailing, fishing and camping at Lake Hume and skiing at Falls Creek and Mt Buffalo are a short drive.

Average Temperature

Summer: 31°C
Winter: 13°C

Average Travel Time to Melbourne

Melbourne is 300kms from Wodonga and is an easy 3.5 hour drive.

Average Travel Time to Neighbouring Town

Albury, a major regional city, is separated from Wodonga by a river. It has excellent shopping, health and ancillary services.

The wine regions of the area are within about 30 minutes from Wodonga. The snow fields are within an hour's drive.

Median Housing Price (AUD)

Median price for a house: \$255,000
Median price for a unit: \$180,000
Vacant block: \$114,000

Weekly Rental Cost (AUD)

House \$235
Unit \$180

Goulburn Murray Region

The Food Bowl of a Nation

The Goulburn Murray region has earned itself a dual reputation as Victoria's 'inland water playground' and the 'food bowl of Australia'.

One of the region's historic towns, Echuca, was once the nation's busiest inland port and today the town's Murray River waterfront docks the world's largest fleet of paddlesteamers.

The region's Lake Mulwala on the Murray River and Lake Nagambie on the Goulburn River are famous for water sports including rowing regattas, water skiing and fishing.

Located nearby are several of the nation's finest golf courses at Rich River, Yarrawonga, Cobram and Shepparton which attract thousands of visitors each year.

Bordered to the south by the Great Dividing Range and the mighty Murray River in the north, the region comprises the municipalities of Greater Shepparton, Campaspe and Moira with a combined population of almost 125,000 people.

The major commercial and industrial centre is Shepparton. Other surrounding towns include Echuca, Cobram, Yarrawonga, Murchison, Kyabram, Mooroopna, Nurmurkah and Rochester.

Major industries relate to food processing, manufacturing and transport. Other important agricultural activities include wool growing and cropping.

Growing businesses in food processing, manufacturing and associated services add to job possibilities; while retailing, education, and community and health services provide further opportunities for employment.

Goulburn Murray's rich agribusiness sector in dairy farming, beef, sheep and wool, pigs, poultry, fruit and vegetables, grains, viticulture and wine production also offer strong employment opportunities.

It is one of the nation's most productive and intensively farmed areas under irrigation with around 25 per cent of the total value of Victoria's agricultural production generated in the region.

A number of Australia's largest food processing companies have their home in the region. SPC Ardmona, Tatura Milk Industries, Unilever, Snowbrand and Campbell's Soups are some of the big companies consolidating their operations.

Major infrastructure projects include the \$2 billion Irrigation Renewal Project, the Goulburn Valley Freight and Logistics Centre development and other retail and commercial developments designed to support a growing region.

These projects have created a strong demand for engineering and construction workers and technicians, along with the region's general need for health sector workers.

While the early settlers found the soils of the Goulburn and Murray Valleys ideal for stone fruit they also discovered them ripe for wine growing. Accordingly, they established some of Victoria's - and Australia's - oldest and best vineyards.

The Goulburn Murray region is now famous Australia-wide for its award winning boutique wineries.

The region has cellar doors and good restaurants that source excellent local produce. Events include the *World's Longest Lunch* held in March and the *Great Australian Shiraz Challenge* in October.

Goulburn Murray's growing reputation as a leading centre for intensive agriculture, manufacturing, business and professional services, and tourism based industries convinced 35 year old Joanna Foulkes to move to the region from the UK.

Coming from Glasgow in Scotland, the engineering graduate accepted a position at SPC Ardmona, in Shepparton, and then a new job at the international food processing company, Unilever, where she is now responsible for 35 staff as the plant maintenance manager.

Joanna says she enjoys the region and chose Shepparton for both lifestyle and job opportunity reasons.

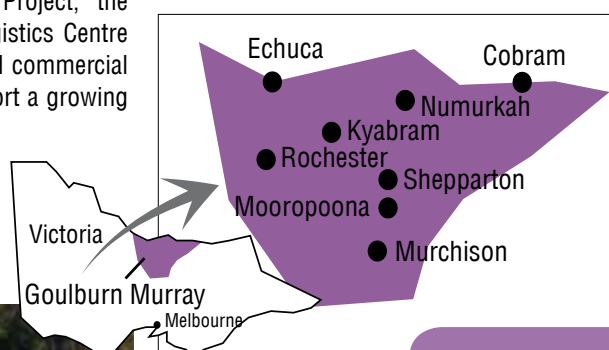
"I am only a short, two hour drive from Melbourne. I can afford to buy a house and the area has everything I need from entertainment to shopping."

Joanna believes regional cities can offer quality career opportunities and better lifestyles compared to metropolitan areas.

"Sometimes you find boundaries in metropolitan areas, whether it be where you live compared to where a decent job is, or how a job is advertised in the city. Travel to work is a huge barrier in cities, unlike here where you can be anywhere in 20 minutes."



Top: Goulburn Ski Club Above: Local Produce
Below Left: Goulburn Golf Course



CRITICAL SKILL SHORTAGES

- 1 Registered Nurses
- 2 Registered Psychiatric Nurses
- 3 Physiotherapists
- 4 Occupational Therapists
- 5 General Practitioners
- 6 Irrigation Engineers

For more information about living and working in the Goulburn Murray region contact:

Goulburn Murray Region Global Skills for Provincial Victoria Program
Deb Quin
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or visit www.gmlifestyle.com.au

COMMUNITY FACT BOX

Population

Estimated	125,355
Campaspe Shire	37,437 est.
Greater Shepparton	59,972 est.
Moira Shire	27,946 est.

Demographics

0 - 4 years	6.8%
5 - 11	11%
12 - 17	9.6%
18 - 24	8.3%
25 - 34	12.3%
35 - 49	21.8%
50 - 59	12.7%
60 - 69	8.2%

Hospitals

Six hospitals - and a full range of health services.

Learning & Education

There are 40 pre-schools, 40 primary schools, 20 secondary schools, TAFE Colleges, Melbourne and La Trobe Universities.

Leisure & Recreation Centres

Football, soccer and netball, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, water slides, spas, saunas, fully equipped gyms, skate parks and national parks within easy reach for bushwalkers. Fishing, boating, golf and lawn bowls, walking and cycling trails.

Average Temperature

Summer Av max temp:	29.7°C
Av min temp:	14.3°C
Winter Av max temp:	14.1°C
Av min temp:	3.9°C

Average Travel Time to Melbourne

Km	Travel Time
from Shepparton 231km	2hr 15m

Median Housing Price (AUD)

House	\$225,000
Unit	\$185,000

Weekly Rental Cost (AUD)

House	\$186
Unit	\$158

Mildura Region

The Grape Escape

Skilled migrant, Dr Petrus Usmanij, moved from Indonesia to regional Victoria to further his academic career, but after eight years in the Sunraysia region he has achieved far more than professional fulfilment.

A certified management accountant, Petrus chose Mildura, a regional hub in north western Victoria, as the place to live and work as a lecturer and researcher at La Trobe University.

Highly regarded by his colleagues and students, Petrus was recently nominated for the title of Lecturer of the Year and made a shortlist of 10 finalists in the Australia-wide competition.

"I enjoy it here so much. The people are far friendlier than those who live in the big cities. The streets aren't crowded and I enjoy riding my bike by the river."

Petrus is one of many skilled migrants who call Mildura home. The thriving regional city in north west Victoria is nestled on the Murray River, which is the region's economic and social backbone.

The river supports an astonishing array of vegetation and wildlife and provides irrigation for Mildura's famous agricultural sector. The fertile land throughout the region generates hundreds of millions of dollars in export revenue through sustainable, clean and green horticulture.

It produces most of Australia's dried fruit, as well as table grapes and citrus.

The area also grows most of the country's almonds, pistachios, olives, carrots, asparagus, wheat and is a hub for wine production.

It is no surprise then that agriculture is one of the region's biggest industries, employing 15.1% of the population.

Positioned near the borders of three states, on the crossroads of transport links between three capital cities and near the meeting point of Australia's two great rivers, the region's strategic location fosters development.

The major industries include retail, manufacturing, and health and community services.

Most manufacturing businesses in the region service or add value to the agriculture industry. This includes a major processing sector directed towards packing of premium fruit and vegetables, the sun drying of grapes and the crushing of fruit and vegetables for table juice.

There is also a major bottling plant servicing the local wineries and emerging opportunities around crushing operations for olive oil, fruit and nut confectionary, sun dried vegetables, specialty cooking and pickling, and semi prepared food packs.

Mildura is the third largest transport distribution centre in Victoria and provides an important link between Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney.

Salt production in the Mildura region is a developing industry. It is extracted from saline groundwater for agricultural, industrial and food products and has a positive environmental impact on salinity in the region.

Mineral sands mining is an emerging industry after major deposits were located nearby.

Retail employs 16.3% of Mildura's workforce compared to 15.3% for regional Victoria. The recent expansion of the larger chain stores has reinforced the city's role as a major shopping centre.

Tourism is a significant contributor to the regional economy. Mildura lies at the confluence of Australia's two great river systems – the Murray-Darling River system. It also offers some of the most hauntingly beautiful national parks in Australia at historic Lake Mungo to the north and at Hattah-Kulkyne to the south.

Served by four airlines Mildura is just a one hour flight from Melbourne.

Major upcoming projects such as the Mildura Marina, development of a solar power station and the development of the riverfront will guarantee future economic growth and create diverse employment opportunities.

With labour shortages in the areas of registered nurses, general practitioners, health professionals, school teachers, motor mechanics, metal fitters and machinists, along with various other trades there is sure to be a position for you!



New resident Dr Petrus Usmanij

CRITICAL SKILL SHORTAGES

- 1 Registered Nurses
- 2 Midwives
- 3 Medical Officers
- 4 Physiotherapists
- 5 Social Workers
- 6 Occupational Therapists
- 7 Podiatrists
- 8 Dentists
- 9 Allied Health Professionals
- 10 Diesel Mechanics
- 11 Accountants/Finance
- 12 Marketing Professionals



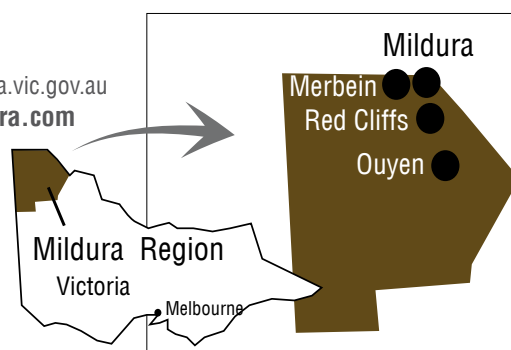
Above: Murray River Paddlesteamer Bottom Left: Local Vineyard Images courtesy of Mildura Tourism



For more information about living and working in the Mildura region contact:

Global Skills for Mildura

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or visit www.liveworkmildura.com



COMMUNITY FACT BOX

Population	
Mildura Region	52,972
Demographics	
Male	24,382
Female	25,433
0 - 4 yrs	7.6%
5 - 19yrs	22.6%
20 - 44yrs	33.6%
45 - 64yrs	55.2%
65+ yrs	13.7%
Hospitals	
Mildura Base Hospital (Ramsay Health Care), Mildura Private Hospital Mallee Track Health and Community Services	
Learning & Education	
11 Pre-schools, 25 Primary Schools 8 Secondary Schools, Sunraysia Institute of TAFE, La Trobe University	
Leisure & Recreation Centres	
Major sporting grounds and state of the art recreation facilities for Football, Netball, Basketball, Soccer, Hockey, Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, Tennis, Golf, Motor Sports, Water skiing, Cricket and more.	
Average Temperatures	
Mean annual Min	10.3°C
Mean annual Max	23.6°C
Average Travel Time to Melbourne	
Km	Travel Time
550	6 hr drive or 1hr flight
Median Housing Price (AUD)	
Average House Price	\$190,000
Average Unit Price	\$150,000
Weekly Rental Cost (AUD)	
Average house 3 bdm	\$200
Average unit 2 bdm	\$150

The Great South Coast

Warrnambool and District

The 'Great South Coast' region flows from the rugged mountainous charm of the Grampians in the north across fertile plains to a spectacular coast where the Twelve Apostles stand like sentinels in the Great Southern Ocean.

The region encompasses the south-west Victorian municipalities of Moyne, Corangamite, Warrnambool, Glenelg, Colac-Otway and Southern Grampians running from the South Australian border in the west to the wooded magnificence of the Otways National Park in the east.

And lining its rolling hills that overlook Bass Strait are giant electricity generating wind turbines – an alternative energy source that has created its own local industry.

More than 123,000 people choose to call this verdant region of Victoria, home. Covering about 12 per cent of Victoria, the region's major population centres include Warrnambool (33,800), Hamilton (10,000), Portland (10,000), Colac (10,900) and Camperdown (3,500).

While industry flourishes, agribusiness is the backbone of the Great South Coast. It is Australia's second largest dairy region, with 21 per cent of the nation's milk production. It is also a growth area for many new food producers and processors who are diversifying land use with innovative products.

Key manufacturers include dairy, meat processing, energy, aluminium smelting, timber, mineral sand production and specialised industries such as fishing, pharmaceuticals and bluestone quarrying.

A series of reports on the future development of the region have predicted unprecedented investment levels. They identify direct investment of more than \$8 billion, 4000 construction opportunities and 800 full-time employment positions over the next five years. Projects in the pipeline are: wind farms, pulp and woodchip mills, mineral sand mining, major retail and housing developments, gas exploration and gas power generation, port and national park re-development.

Retail is a critical part of the business in the Great South Coast. There are six major retail centres - Colac, Camperdown, Warrnambool, Port Fairy, Portland and Hamilton. And there are many smaller centres such as the picturesque Apollo Bay and Port Campbell and the rural towns of Heywood, Dunkeld, Terang, Cobden, Timboon, Koroit and Macarthur.

Trade services are thriving on the back of regional growth and a skills audit has identified strong demand for people skilled in a trade.

Tourism and Hospitality provides significant employment across the Great South Coast which boasts one of the world's most scenic drives - the Great Ocean Road. This winds its way around peaks and bluffs, passing the world-famous Twelve Apostles. Beyond is South Australia's famous Limestone Coast and the Grampians National Park.

Community enterprise businesses that service people seeking to improve their education and skills, those who work with the aged or people with disabilities, and those who aim to improve or protect the environment operate across the region.

All of this is great news to Kevin Bennett and his family who came to Australia from Quaker's Yard in Wales. They chose Warrnambool after evaluating work and life in Sydney and Melbourne. Kevin is now South West TAFE's Manager Organisational Excellence Australia and Monique is a Registered Nurse with St John of God Hospital.

"Everyone took the time to get to know us and make us feel welcome, while at the same time showing us exactly why Warrnambool is a great place to live. We walk, cycle, surf and fish, visiting features such as Lake Pertobe and Tower Hill for great family days out. Sunsets along Lady Bay Beach are fantastic and whale watching at Logan's Beach is something not to be missed.

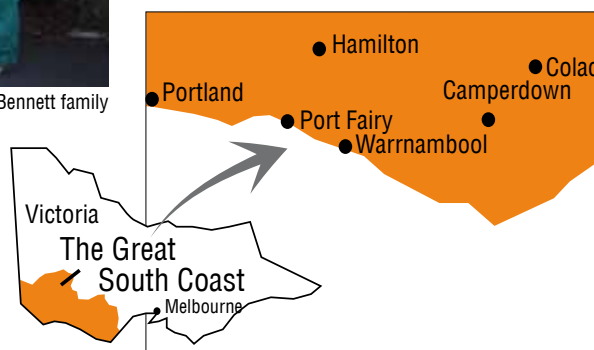
"My wife Monique and I both have great jobs and find we have more family time than we have experienced before. Our kids have grown and matured greatly within their first 12 months here in Warrnambool. We look forward to setting firm roots in the region and becoming permanent members of the Warrnambool community."



New residents: the Bennett family



Top: Southern Grampians Middle: Warrnambool Streetscape Bottom: Great Ocean Road



For more information about living and working in the Great South Coast region contact:

Great South Coast: Growth Through Skilled Migration

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CRITICAL SKILL SHORTAGES

- 1 Health Professionals
- 2 Farm Managers / Technicians
- 3 Engineering Professionals
- 4 Metal Trades including Diesel Mechanics and Fitters

COMMUNITY FACT BOX

Population

Great South Coast region
123,416 est.

Main Industries

Transport/automotive, aluminium smelting, building, childcare, community services, construction, dairy and meat production, timber plantation/harvesting, cattle grazing and wool production.

Hospitals

12 Hospitals, doctors, nurses, dentists, child and maternal health centres, pharmacies, alternative health practitioners.

Learning & Education

41 Preschools, 66 Primary Schools, 25 Secondary Colleges TAFE Colleges, Glenormiston Agricultural College, RMIT (Hamilton) and Deakin (Warrnambool) Universities

Leisure & Recreation Centres

The Great South Coast region boasts a number of enviable sports complexes catering for aquatic sports, gym, athletics, indoor tennis and cricket, basketball, world-rated coastal golf courses, horse, harness and dog race courses, speedways and go-kart facilities

Average Temperature

Summer: 23.6°C
Winter: 13.3°C

Average Annual Rainfall

725 mm

Average Travel Time to Melbourne

Km	Travel Time
190km Camperdown	2hr 15m
260km Warrnambool	3hr
300km Hamilton	3hr 20m
360km Portland	3hr 40m
290km Port Fairy	3hr 15m

Median Housing Price

House \$165,000 - \$310,000
Lowest Corangamite Shire
Highest Warrnambool

Median Unit Price (AUD)

Unit \$163,000 - \$290,000
Lowest Glenelg Shire
Highest Moyne Shire

Weekly Rental Cost (AUD)

House \$150 - \$320
Unit \$135 - \$280
Lowest Corangamite Shire
Highest Warrnambool City

Wimmera Mallee

Wine, Wilderness, and Bustling Cities

Acclaimed as Australia's premium rock climbing district, Mount Arapiles presides over the plains of the Wimmera Mallee, a region of Victoria renowned for its spectacular wilderness, historic wineries and entrepreneurial spirit.

Nearby is the Little Desert National Park - but don't expect sand dunes and rocky landscapes. This hub of hiking and four wheel driving is dominated by unique flora and fauna which has thrived in dry soils, creating a diverse but arid landscape.

While the Wimmera Mallee is an outdoor sunny paradise it is also a sophisticated export orientated place where life bustles in urban cities.

It is regulated by the municipalities of Buloke, Hindmarsh, Horsham Rural City, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack.

Major road and rail networks intersect the region and private airports offer charter flights, allowing quick and easy access to both Melbourne and Adelaide.

Agriculture, mining, health, education, government, manufacturing and business are the major industries that operate across the Wimmera but employment opportunities exist in health services, nursing, engineering, technical services and trades, hospitality and horticulture.

Agricultural production in the Wimmera contributes more than \$600 million each year to the Victorian economy.

The Little Desert National Parks and the towns of the Wimmera attract 1.2 million visitors a year, contributing \$220 million to the economy.

Horsham is the region's major shopping centre - almost 30 per cent of the city's workforce is employed in retailing or wholesaling. A further 19 per cent work in the health or community services. More than 100 new houses have been built each year for the past 15 years.

Horsham has a new hospital, new research facilities at the Victorian Institute for Dryland Agriculture, an upgraded racecourse, new golf clubrooms, new grain storage and processing works, new saleyards and new housing estates.

The Art Gallery has been refurbished and extended and a new Performing Arts Centre has been built underscoring the region's cultural identity.

The installation of the \$688 million Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project has meant a flow on to the regional economy of over \$150 million and created more than 270 job opportunities in engineering and hydrology.

The \$3.8 million Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange broke all estimates in its first year with a throughput of 485,000 sheep and lambs. An export abattoir is needed and a \$12 million rail/road freight hub under new construction will move exports more efficiently.

While the Wimmera is growing, like many other regions across Victoria, it is ageing. The region needs skills to make sure business and industry can grow.

Accordingly, the district has sought to attract skilled migrants. Take Janice Chalmers, who is a native of Scotland. Janice has worked all over the world before finally choosing the Wimmera as her home.

She lives in Horsham and works as a nurse manager for the emergency and dialysis departments of Wimmera Base Hospital.

"I came to the Wimmera because I wanted to settle in a country area but I couldn't decide on a country. My friend actually comes from this area and she suggested I apply to come here so I did and I couldn't be happier.

"I think the people here are really friendly, that's one thing I notice. Living in the cities you could fall over and people would walk over you," she said.

People who come to the Wimmera are well served by state-of-the-art health, educational and service facilities. It is well known for its cultural events, impressive art galleries and annual program of touring musicians.

There are 154 sports clubs ranging from tennis, golf, yachting, volleyball, tenpin bowling, walking, equestrian, motor cycling, rock-climbing, rogaining, gymnastics, karate and aviation plus a state-of-the-art aquatic centre.

CRITICAL SKILL SHORTAGES

- 1 Scientists Molecular Plant Breeding
- 2 Hospitality
- 3 Metal, Engineering Trades
- 4 Senior Journalists
- 5 Podiatrists
- 6 Division 1 Nurses
- 7 Case Managers
- 8 HR Managers & Coordinator Accreditation & Quality
- 9 Technical Officers
- 10 Bank Managers



Left: Horsham Cafe, image courtesy of Daryl Wisely Middle: New resident Janice Chalmers Right: Horsham Community Festival

COMMUNITY FACT BOX

Population 44,787

Average temperature
 Summer Av max temp: 29.8°C
 Winter Av max temp: 14.2°C
 Summer Av min temp: 11.2°C
 Winter Av min temp: 3.4°C

Main Industries
 Agriculture, Mining, Health, Education Government, Manufacturing, Business

Hospitals
 There are 15 health centres.

Learning & Education
 There are 25 pre schools, 19 primary schools, 11 secondary schools, TAFE colleges, Ballarat university (Horsham campus) and Longerenong College.

Recreation Centres
 There are 98 recreational clubs ranging from bird watchers, choirs, film and book groups, embroiderers, dance, cake decorating, art, brass bands, wood turning, angling and a foreign wives club.

Average Travel Time to Melbourne

Km	Travel Time
300km	3 hr

Median Housing Price (AUD)

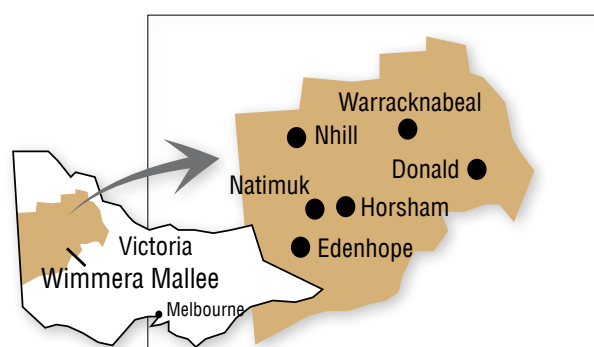
House	\$190,000
Unit	\$173,000

Weekly Rental Cost (AUD)

House	\$160
Unit	\$138



Horsham Aerial Streetscape



For more information about living and working in the Wimmera Mallee region contact:

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Swan Hill Region



Left: Pyap paddlesteamer, image courtesy of Tourism Victoria Right: Swan Hill Racing Carnival

Welcome to the Heart of the Murray

Located within the economic heartland of south-east Australia, the sunny Swan Hill region feeds off the waters of the great Murray River.

One of Australia's most diverse and productive rural areas, it boasts up to 300 days of sunlight a year and is home to more than 20,000 people.

Though still focused on primary production and supplying the needs of people and businesses in the area, Swan Hill has broadened its activities in commerce, manufacturing and tourism.

Key industries include agricultural services, health and education services, hospitality and tourism, retail, manufacturing and a thriving wine and grape industry.

Swan Hill is a major agricultural service and retail centre for the Murray Valley, the Mallee and the Western Riverina – servicing more than 40,000 people.

Catering to the diverse needs of primary producers, it is involved in irrigation and dry land crops and stock. Many national rural suppliers of agricultural services, machinery and equipment have outlets in Swan Hill and together with 'locally grown' firms provide a 'one stop' location for regional agricultural services.

Many major retail chains and franchises have recognised Swan Hill as a strategic regional shopping centre and have established here.

On the employment front opportunities exist for allied health professionals, such as podiatrists, physiotherapists, social work and occupational therapists.

There are also great opportunities for general practitioners, nurses, midwives and health specialists. Diesel and motor mechanics are in demand and the region is crying out for civil engineers and accountants.

Brian Kelly, a podiatrist from the UK, has lived in Swan Hill since July 2008 and works at the Swan Hill Health Service, and has nothing but praise for his new home.

"I love living and working in Swan Hill. It offers great sporting opportunities and the weather is fantastic. I am involved in coaching a local soccer team and play golf at Murray Downs Golf Course.

"The other great aspect is the friendly atmosphere of the town. You feel very welcome and you can get around the city with ease - and great public transport allows me to get to Melbourne when needed," he said.

Education is one of the region's highest priorities. Facilities include pre-schools, primary and secondary colleges, an International College and tertiary and further education institutions.

The Swan Hill region is serviced by first class health services including hospitals that provide the full range of surgical, palliative and midwifery care, together with health promotion and allied health services. The region is well catered for with dental and medical clinics.

The city itself combines the relaxed lifestyle and community spirit of traditional rural life, with the facilities and conveniences of a much larger urban centre.

It is often referred to as the Mediterranean of the outback with lush golf courses, world-class tennis courts and sandy river beaches. The Murray River is also great for water skiing, swimming, kayaking, fishing and camping.

Swan Hill has many festivals and events such as the *Australian Inland Wine Show* and the *Swan Hill Racing Carnival*, along with an abundance of restaurants, theatre and sports clubs. It has an excellent reputation for gourmet food and wine.

The region's art galleries and cultural events are highly regarded and the Pioneer Settlement, Australia's first outdoor museum, depicts stories of the lives of settlers to the region between 1830 and 1930.

The idyllic climate in the Swan Hill region allows sports lovers to indulge their passion for basketball, cricket, football, netball, motor sports, swimming, tennis and water sports. Golf is one of the most popular pastimes, with the region boasting one of the best courses along the Murray River – the challenging and award winning Murray Downs Golf and Country Club. Relocate to the Swan Hill region today and you won't be disappointed.

CRITICAL SKILL SHORTAGES

- 1 Registered Nurses & Midwives
- 2 Medical Practitioners
- 3 Podiatrists
- 4 Diesel & Motor Mechanics
- 5 Physiotherapists
- 6 Civil & Design Engineers
- 7 Social Workers
- 8 Occupational Therapists
- 9 Farm Managers
- 10 Registered Mental Health Nurses

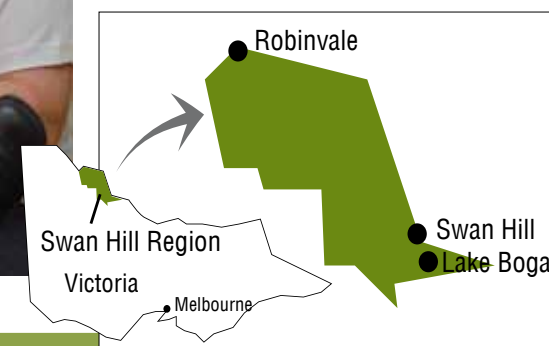
For more information about living and working in the Swan Hill region contact:

Swan Hill Region Global Skills Program

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or visit www.swanhillonline.com



New resident Brian Kelly, Podiatrist



Swan Hill streetscape

COMMUNITY FACT BOX

Population

Swan Hill Rural City Council 20,750. Swan Hill is a service centre for a population of 40,500 people.

Distance from Melbourne

Melbourne is a 3hr 30m drive from Swan Hill. V/Line operates two daily train and bus services between Swan Hill and Melbourne.

Median House Price (AUD)

\$250,000

Average Weekly Rental (AUD)

House \$250

Health

The region has several hospitals, medical centres, nursing homes, doctors clinics, dentists, pharmacies, allied health professionals and vets.

Education

Pre-schools, primary and secondary schools both private and public together with an International College and a tertiary and further education facility.

Climate

Summer Av 28.5°C
Winter Av 15.7°C
Average annual rainfall is 345mm.

Main Industries

Key industries include agriculture services, health and education services, hospitality and tourism, retail, manufacturing and viticulture.

Leisure & Lifestyle

Swan Hill has an extensive range of recreational, sporting and entertainment options including vibrant arts and culture scene, numerous festivals and events such as the Australian Inland Wine Festival and the Swan Hill Racing Carnival, restaurants, theatre and sports clubs.

North East Victoria

Kelly Country

The North East region's bushland, rolling pastures and steep alpine slopes of the Great Dividing Range were once the stamping ground of Australia's most famous bushranger, Ned Kelly, and his gang.

Now the richly historic area is one of Victoria's finest agricultural, timber and textile producing regions laced with a network of thriving commercial and manufacturing centres such as Wangaratta, Benalla and Mansfield, Myrtleford and Beechworth.

Today, residents of the North East enjoy a great quality of life with vibrant cultural events and outdoor activities ranging from skiing and snowboarding in the Alps to fishing in the King and Ovens Rivers.

The great Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, one of the State's most extensive bike and walking tracks, and the spectacular Great Alpine Road, also radiate from here.

Nearby Mount Hotham, Falls Creek and Mount Buffalo and surrounds are a skier's delight, while in summer they are a paradise for bushwalking, fishing, cycling or four-wheel driving and camping. The mountains can be easily accessed from the picturesque township of Bright, an old gold mining town and popular tourist haunt.

The north east also boasts one of the largest deep, recreational waterways in Australia near Mansfield, Lake Eildon, which is stocked with fish and ideal for swimming, water skiing, house boating and sailing.

Its rich agricultural land also yields gourmet produce and world class wines. Legend has it that Ned Kelly assisted the famous Bailey family to plant their first grapevines!

The region is also home to many wineries, such as those in the King Valley and the excellent 'Milawa Gourmet Region' gourmet food trail. The *La Dolce Vita Fair* and the *Rutherglen Winery Walkabout* are among several unique festivals celebrating the Italian influence of the region.

With chestnut and walnut groves, cheese, asparagus, olives, citrus and stone fruits, persimmons, berries, mustard seeds, lamb, farmed trout and Murray Cod, honey, preserves and chutneys in abundance, you can tour the area, meet the makers and sample their goods.

Wangaratta is the region's major commercial and manufacturing centre with a population of more than 28,000. There are strong recreational, commercial, educational, tourism and health facilities and modern private and public hospitals. The rural city is also the regional headquarters for several Victorian Government agencies.

Growing industrial, retail and tourism industries make Wangaratta one of Victoria's most progressive provincial centres.

While its traditional industries are textile production, agriculture, wine and wood and timber products, there are significant skill shortages in construction, hospitality, transport and storage, manufacturing, agriculture and allied health services, which provide opportunities for overseas migrants.

Wangaratta is officially known as "Australia's Capital of Jazz", due to the hugely successful *Festival of Jazz* which is held annually on the weekend before the Melbourne Cup - the first Tuesday in November each year.

And nearby in the historic hamlet of Glenrowan, the life and times of Australia's most well known bushranger, Ned Kelly, is documented around the township - the site of Ned's capture and his gang's last stand.

About 40 kilometres south across the Warby Ranges is the city of Benalla, a town well known for its warm and benign climate. There are more than 125 clear days a year with daily maximum and minimum temperatures hovering around the 22°C and 8.7°C mark.

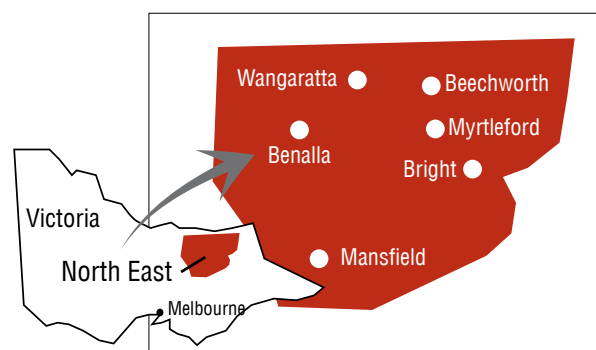
As a result, Benalla is home to the Gliding Club of Victoria and Winton Motor Raceway as well as sporting some beautiful parklands and outdoor facilities.

CRITICAL SKILL SHORTAGES

- 1 Registered Nurses
- 2 Registered Midwives
- 3 Registered Mental Health Nurses
- 4 General Medical Practitioners
- 5 Dentists
- 6 Podiatrists
- 7 Surgeons
- 8 Aged Care Nurses
- 9 Child Care Coordinators
- 10 Teachers



Above: Wangaratta Jazz Festival
Left: Alpine Countryside
Right: Wangaratta Hospital



For more information about living and working in the North East region contact:

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Benalla Gardens

COMMUNITY FACT BOX

Population	62,500	Hospitals	Each Town/Shire has a public hospital with the major facilities based in Wangaratta.	Average Temperature	
Demographics		Learning & Education	Both Private and Public Education facilities are available throughout the region. Along with two universities and three technical and further education colleges.	Summer Av temp:	30°C
Male	48.6%	Leisure & Recreation Centres	Each town/shire has swimming pools and leisure centres.	Winter Av temp:	14°C
Female	51.4%			Average Travel Time to Melbourne	
1 - 17 years	24.9%			Km	Travel Time
18 - 24 years	7.2%			236Km	2hr 25m
25 - 49 years	32%			Median Housing Price (AUD)	
50 - 69 years	23.8%			House	\$ 268,000
70+	12.2%			Unit	\$ 217,000
Main Industries				Weekly Rental Cost (AUD)	
Health and Allied Health, Light Engineering, Agribusiness, Textiles, Construction, Tourism.				House	\$200
				Unit	\$195



Craig's Hut



Grampians Pyrenees



Top: New resident Norman Pruetter Left: Stawell Streetscape Right: The Pinnacle, Grampians National Park

Gateway to the Mountains

In the heart of western Victoria lies the Grampian Pyrenees, a region rimmed by majestic peaks, rolling hills, tranquil villages and busy commercial centres.

The major cities of Ararat and Stawell are gateways to the Grampians Wine Region which produces some of Australia's most prestigious wines on the slopes of a magnificent valley.

The Grampians National Park, with its network of hiking trails, the striking Pyrenees Ranges and the region's haunting box ironbark forests are magical places.

Thanks to its gold rush heritage, the Grampians Pyrenees region is a mix of tradition and progress, historic and modern buildings, quiet villages and thriving commercial centres.

Soon after gold was discovered in 1854 a party of Chinese miners found the fabled treasures of the Canton Lead, now the site of the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre which highlights the region's multicultural tradition.

The region now boasts several modern commercial centres at Stawell, Ararat, St Arnaud and Beaufort which are two hours from Melbourne. The beaches of the scenic south west coast lie just 90 minutes to the south.

The region forms at the junction of the Western Highway, Pyrenees Highway, Sunraysia Highway and Glenelg Highways. Melbourne is also reached by train and an excellent network of bus routes.

The combined benefits of lifestyle, affordable housing, proximity to work and excellent job prospects make the Grampians Pyrenees a desirable destination for a "tree change."

Indoor heated swimming pools, basketball stadiums, gymnasiums, netball courts, and soccer, football and cricket grounds underscore the region's sporting tradition. Modern velodromes helped launch the career of Olympic medallist and world champion Shane Kelly.

The region is home to the world-famous *Stawell Gift*, the richest professional footrace in the world, Moonambel's *Sparkling Affair Fireworks*, Ararat's *Jailhouse Rock Festival*, the annual *Festival of St Arnaud* and Beaufort's *Up The Garden Path*, an event for all discerning garden-lovers.

Norman Pruetter came to the region from Germany in 2006 with a degree in public administration and a diploma in economics.

Norman was appointed the Coordinator of the Beaufort Community Resource Centre.

"I received a sponsorship from the Victorian Government and I was granted a temporary Regional Skilled Migration Visa. This allows me to live, study and work in regional Victoria but not in the metropolitan area of Melbourne, which was fine with me."

"I really enjoy working in the Grampians Pyrenees. Having a job that not only utilises my skills but also allows me to work in different fields on a daily basis is rewarding. And the landscape, community and lifestyle are icing on the cake."

The Grampians Pyrenees economy is based largely on rural production, manufacturing, health, education and training, retail and public service.

There is demand for general practitioners, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and radiographers. For those who are interested in pursuing a health career in this region you can visit the Grampians Health Alliance website www.grampianshealthalliance.com.au and if you are a general practitioner you can visit the WestVic Division of General Practice website www.westvicdiv.asn.au

Mechanical engineers, civil engineers, accountants, social workers, counsellors and a number of trades are also in demand.

Rural production covers more than 913,000 hectares of grain, broad acre crops, vegetables and fruit growth as well as sheep and lambs, pigs, cattle and some dairy.

Over the next seven years, the wine industry is expected to create extra jobs in associated areas such as tourism, one of the area's fastest growing sectors.

The region boasts the largest wind farms in Australia with new developments planned. And the discovery of new mineral sands deposits has earmarked this industry for a sustainable future.

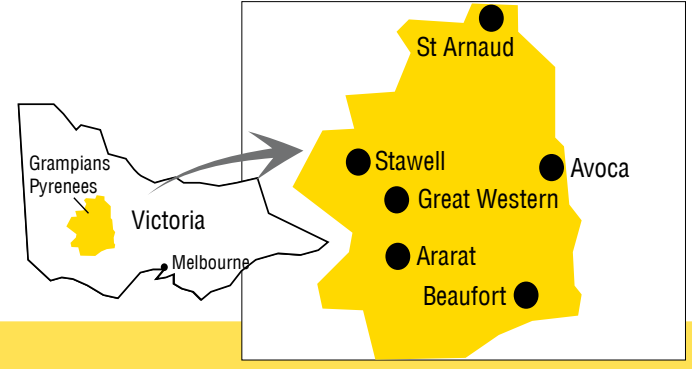
Construction of a new 350 bed medium security prison and a 40 bed transitional prison in Ararat will commence in 2010. A new \$10 million police station is also being built and a new health precinct will be completed this year in Stawell.



The Stawell Gift, the richest professional footrace in the world Image courtesy of Southern Grampians Shire

For more information about living and working in the Grampians Pyrenees region contact:

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 or visit www.grampianspyrenees.com



CRITICAL SKILL SHORTAGES

- 1 General Practitioners (minimum five years)
- 2 Nurses (Division 1 & Division 2)
- 3 Aged Care Nurses (Division 1 & Division 2)
- 4 Podiatrists
- 5 Sonographers/Radiographers
- 6 Health Information Officers
- 7 Welders & Boilermakers
- 8 Dental Therapists
- 9 Optometrists
- 10 General Surgeons

COMMUNITY FACT BOX

Population	30,755
Demographics	
Male:	50.4%
Female:	49.6%
Average Age:	43
1-15 years	18.6%
15 - 25 years	10.2%
25 - 45 years	22.8%
45 - 65 years	29.9%
65+	18.5%

Main Industries
 Health and community services and agriculture each employ about 20% of the workforce. Manufacturing 12%, retail 14% and education 7%.

Hospitals
 Four major hospitals with emergency facilities and a range of high-level medical care including pathologists, radiologists, physiotherapists, surgeons, youth services and community based health education and support services. A range of agencies also provide aged care and maternal and child health services.

Learning & Education
 Twelve pre-schools, 31 primary schools, six government and private secondary schools, TAFE Colleges, University of Ballarat (Ararat and Stawell campuses) and NMIT Australian College of Wine.

Leisure & Recreation Centres
 Three indoor leisure and aquatics complexes with well equipped gymnasiums, spas, saunas, basketball, fitness classes, squash courts and outdoor swimming pools. Two velodromes, 11 golf courses, bowling greens, petanque, tennis and hockey.

Average Temperature

Summer	Av max temp:	27.2°C
	Av min temp:	16.1°C
Winter	Av max temp:	12.4°C
	Av min temp:	4.4°C

Average Travel Time to Melbourne

Km	Travel Time
from Ararat 205km	2h 15m
from Avoca 180km	2h 05m
from Beaufort 160km	1h 45m
from Stawell 235km	2h 45m
from St Arnaud 245km	2h 50m

Median Housing Price (AUD)

Ararat	\$145,000
Beaufort	\$126,000
Halls Gap	\$260,000
Stawell	\$146,000
St Arnaud	\$106,000

Weekly Rental Cost (AUD)

Ararat Rural City:	
3bdm House	\$140
2bdm House	\$130
Northern Grampians:	
3bdm House	\$150
2bdm House	\$100

Ballarat Region

The Elegant Metropolis

Ballarat is one of inland Australia's fastest growing regional centres.

It is an elegant metropolis with a distinct advantage – the infrastructure of a capital city with the lower cost base of a regional centre. Around 90,000 people call Ballarat home, and that figure is growing every year. Ballarat West is a key growth corridor within the region with a projected 14,000 new homes and 40,000 people by 2030.

Money flowed into Ballarat with the discovery of gold in the mid-19th century and with that wealth came stylish Victorian architecture, majestic tree lined boulevards and cultivated European gardens.

Thanks to this illustrious heritage, Ballarat has the best of both worlds – a captivating history and a contemporary urban lifestyle with a diverse range of outdoor activities.

Grand period homes line the city's broad avenues, while a range of new subdivisions offer a variety of new home styles. And it costs less to live in Ballarat. Based on average prices, buyers can expect to pay almost \$250,000 less for a home compared to the nearby capital.

Ballarat is located in western Victoria and at the centre of some of Victoria's most important freight, tourist and commuter transport routes. The express rail trip is now 64 minutes from Ballarat thanks to the Fast Rail Project.

Ballarat is a major international and domestic tourist destination attracting millions of visitors each year who contribute at least \$139 million annually to the local economy.

It is home to the acclaimed Sovereign Hill – a huge open air museum that showcases life in an 1850s gold township. Some of the city's residents are employed to dress up in period costume to make this historical theme park a world class attraction.

The region hosts more than 11,000 registered businesses that service the domestic and export markets. The city's major employers include retail, manufacturing, health and community services, education and property and business services.

Traditionally, Ballarat has prospered on minerals and agriculture but this has changed. The region is now home to almost 200 manufacturing businesses producing a wide range of products for local and international markets.

Tourism, health and community services, education and retailing are also the keys to Ballarat's ongoing economic success.

Banking and finance and government services strengthen the city's role as a regional service provider.

The information technology sector is emerging as a significant industry with the region hosting a modern communications network that provides easy data exchange worldwide.

Strategic partnerships with the information technology sector and tertiary institutions are adding to Ballarat's status as one of the most important "knowledge centres" of Victoria.

Like the rest of Victoria, Ballarat's population is ageing with the number of people over the age of 65 projected to grow by 60% over the next 20 years. This has significant implications for services, jobs, the type of residential accommodation which is being provided and Ballarat's social mix.

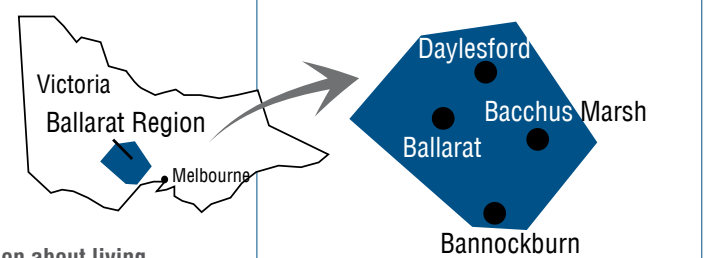
It also has repercussions for economic growth. If the right people with the right set of skills cannot be found then business and industry will not be able to grow to its full potential.

As a result Ballarat depends on skilled migration to fill skilled employment vacancies.

In 2005, Mona Hatwal moved from India having chosen Ballarat as the place to start her new life.

"Ballarat is a welcoming community, rich in generosity and is one of the best lifestyles to work, play and live.

My hospitality and tourism qualifications were recognised by Australian employers and I was fortunate to find employment quickly. I have settled in quickly and already feel as though Ballarat is my home."



For more information about living and working in the Ballarat region contact:

Ballarat Region
Frances Salenga
Tel: +61 3 5320 5180
Mob: +61 438 018 227
Email: skilledmigration@ballarat.vic.gov.au
or visit www.ballarat.com.au

CRITICAL SKILL SHORTAGES

- 1 General Medical Practitioners
- 2 Medical Specialists & Allied Health Professionals
- 3 Structural Steel & Welding Trade Workers
- 4 Engineers
- 5 Architectural, Building & Surveying Technicians
- 6 Urban & Regional Planners
- 7 Computer Programmers
- 8 Registered Nurses
- 9 IT Software Developers
- 10 Primary & Secondary School Teachers

COMMUNITY FACT BOX

Population 90,000

Main Industries

Retail trade (18%); manufacturing (14.9%); health and community services (15.3%); education (9.9%) and property and business services (8%).

Hospitals

Two major hospitals, a day procedure complex and more than 100 general practitioners.

Leisure & Recreation Centres

Ballarat boasts an array of attractions including the Art Gallery of Ballarat, Her Majesty's Theatre and Sovereign Hill. It is also home to a comprehensive array of health, fitness, sporting and leisure facilities including 147 neighbourhood parks, 45 sporting grounds and an abundance of walking and cycle paths.

Learning & Education

Ballarat is home to 57 education institutions including schools at all education levels, two universities and several other adult learning organisations.

Transport/Accessibility

Ballarat is easily accessible by road and rail. By road Ballarat is serviced by four major highways and it is an easy commute to Melbourne with regular train and bus services available within the region.

An airport shuttle bus also operates providing easy access to Melbourne's Tullamarine Airport.

Average Temperature

Summer 24°C
Winter 11°C

Average Travel Time to Melbourne

Km Travel Time
from Ballarat 110km 75m

Median Housing Price (AUD)
House \$235,000

MORE INFORMATION

For a range of skilled migration fact sheets and guidelines, or to apply for state nomination online, visit LiveInVictoria.vic.gov.au/SkilledVisas or contact a local skilled migration coordinator about particular Victorian regions inside.

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