**Rippon Lea**

*A Great Venue for Geography Field work Unit 2 TOURISM*

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Rippon Lea - Porte Cochere

*Rippon Lea is a place of major historical significance in the development of Melbourne. In August 2006, Rippon Lea became the 33rd site to be included on the prestigious National Heritage List. It is a significant tourist venue, drawing visitors from near and far.*

Rippon Lea owned by the National Trust (Victoria), located in Glen Eira, at 192 Hotham Street, {Entrance Melway 67 E2}, is an ideal place to visit with your students. There is a house that shows us life in two distinct eras; the 19th century and the 1930s. It has over 14 ha of gardens, a long history and a variety of environments that make it a valuable educational resource across the curriculum.

VCE Geography Unit 2 students can explore the house and garden, completing a range of geographic investigations, practising the key fieldwork skills; and then apply and process the data they collect to address the course requirements. They can identify the nature of Rippon Lea as a tourist destination. 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 examine current management policies and prepare their own proposals to ensure sustainable use.

Before European settlement it was Aboriginal land. After the settlement of Melbourne, from 1835 onwards land development gradually moved south.

In 1868 Frederick Sargood, built a house for himself, his wife and 5 children. He employed William Sangster to set out the gardens. The style reflects the architecture of many grand buildings, seen in Collins Street, in post gold rush Melbourne. Sir Frederick was a leading figure in the commerce and politics of the colony of Victoria.

After his death in 1903 the property was sold to Tommy Bent, Premier of Victoria who began subdividing the land selling off almost 2/3 of it. He did not live there, but continued to allow its use for charity events.
In 1911 Ben Nathan bought the house and remaining land and Rippon Lea once again became a family home. His daughter Louisa Jones inherited it in 1935 and in 1938 she remodelled and redecorated it in ‘Hollywood’, art deco style. This is seen in the ballroom, swimming pool and much of the internal decor. Although selling off some pieces of land herself, including the Gordon Street site for the ABC Ripponlea studios, she bequeathed the estate to the National Trust.

1972 The National Trust became the owner, looking after property for the public.

The Rippon Lea website [www.ripponleaestate.com.au/](http://www.ripponleaestate.com.au/) will let you explore the property and find out more about it and what it has to offer. You can take virtual tours of both the House and the Gardens and see a ‘fly over’ of the property on the website.

The teachers’ introduction material, setting this out can be downloaded from:


It contain suggested fieldwork activities at Rippon Lea for teachers to cut and paste and adapt, historical maps and plans, background information including a synopsis of the basic points in the Burra Charter, and suggested pre-visit preparative activities for teachers and students. Using Rippon Lea as the field study, students can define the topic, use primary and secondary sources and practise the techniques required in the investigation.

**The Rippon Lea fieldwork suggestions give examples for investigating the key geographical concepts required in the course - Change, distance, distribution, movement place, process, region, scale, spatial association, sustainability.**

Activities addressing the Skills are provided. Mapping skills can be practised. These include making sketch maps and, field sketches, citing latitude and longitude, giving 4 & 6 fig grid references and compass points. You can incorporate satellite data and imagery, aerial photography, use and create maps at a variety of scales, make overlay maps, analyse and assess data, undertake surveys and interviews.