



AUSTRALIAN
OUTDOOR LIVING

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

to Outdoor Living in **VICTORIA**

Insights and inspiration for living in the **Garden State**

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

to Outdoor Living in VICTORIA

Victoria is a unique place to live with its melting pot of diverse cultures. Walk through any laneway or street in Melbourne, for instance, and you'll be taken to a different part of the world with our beloved outdoor dining scene.

Besides, where else can you experience four seasons in one day and drink the best coffee in the world?

This is a city that constantly surprises – around the corner of every alleyway there are new and wonderful things to discover. Melbourne is always bustling, yet our relaxed pace of life permeates the city...

... Except for when it comes to sport – then, we're a fiery bunch! If there was one outdoors activity that dominates the Victorian lifestyle, it's sport: AFL, soccer, tennis, cricket, golf, surfing... You name it.

So it makes sense that our biggest outdoors festivities coincide with Victoria's most epic sporting events! In this eBook, we take a look at how Victorians love to celebrate Grand Final Day and Melbourne Cup Day.

Melbourne's a popular city – it is the most liveable city in the world, after all – which means it's always expanding. We've enlisted the help of Todd Schulberg (**Homely.com.au**) and Peter Taliangis (**Professionals Ultimate**) to share their knowledge of property trends in Victoria.

We've also gathered together home and garden bloggers Belinda Vandenboom (**Gallerie B**), Clare Hillier (**Checks and Spots**) and Kristine (**The Painted Hive**) to find out how they make the most of their backyards and to receive a bit of landscaping advice to help you improve yours.

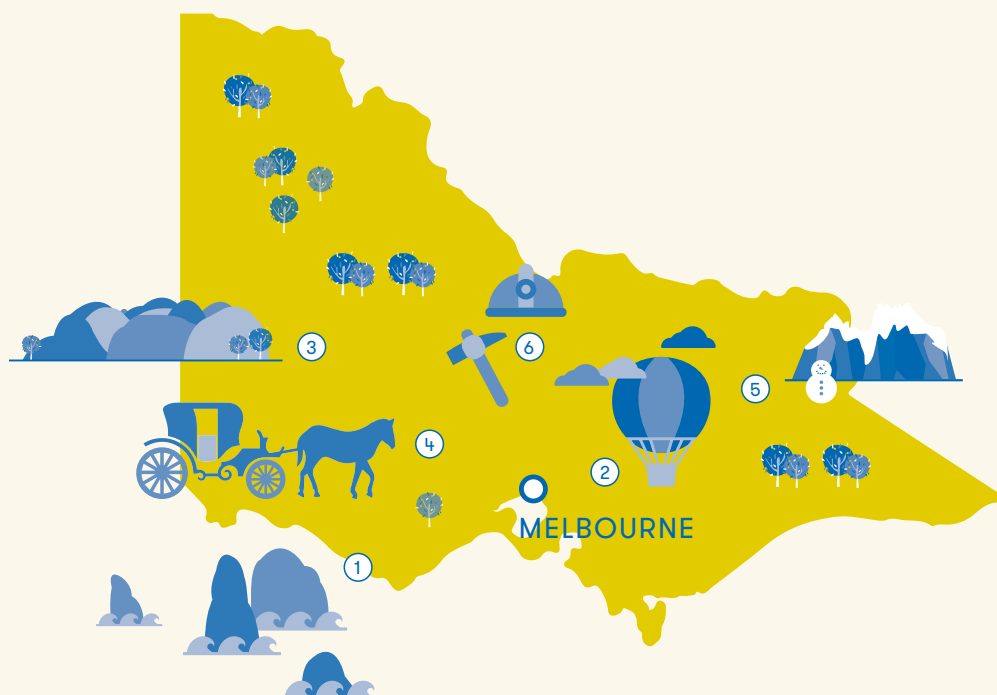
Here at Australian Outdoor Living we've put together this little celebration of Victoria to help you make the most of our beautiful state. So I'll leave you with this last bit of inspiration: Get out there and embrace our great outdoors!

Daryl Chim
Australian Outdoor Living General Manager, Victoria



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CLIMATE & THE LAND



① Twelve Apostles

③ Grampians National Park

⑤ Falls Creek

② Yarra Valley

④ Sovereign Hill

⑥ Central Deborah Gold Mine

WEATHER CONDITIONS



SUMMER

Strong sun.

Average temperature:
25°C average



WINTER

Cloudy.

Average temperature:
14°C average

Crowded House summed it up when they crooned about Melbourne's four seasons in one day. Victoria has a mild and generally comfortable climate all year round. But in the capital, it can be drizzling in the morning, gloriously sunny by noon, and then blustery at night. You can be wearing shorts and winter jackets in the same day.

No matter the weather, Victorians champion the outdoors lifestyle. Summertime calls for visits to the beach and outdoor barbeques (pending fire restrictions). In autumn and spring nature's colours change to rich vibrant hues in country towns and parks, inviting picnics and hiking. Winter means sitting under a heat lamp in one of the cafés or bars that define our capital's café culture.

FUN FACT



Victoria is the wettest state in mainland Australia BUT Melbourne receives 50% less rain than Brisbane or Sydney!

Be sure to pack a brolly if you're planning on visiting!

THE FUTURE OF VIC PROPERTIES

With a city as popular as Melbourne, we've stopped looking at the far reaches of the city. Instead we're starting to eye those bigger inner city blocks and create more subdivisions.

With a growing population and greater demand for homeownership, Aussie blocks are getting smaller. In fact, **Professionals Ultimate** Director Peter Taliangis says the days for huge blocks and big backyards are gone.

"The average family home is currently being built on 450-500 m²," he says.

"There's generally enough room for 20 m² of grass, or maybe a fraction more if a two-story home is built. That means pools and tennis courts

are slowly making way for an al fresco area and a strip of garden bed."

Victorian Todd Schulberg from **Homely.com.au** says this trend towards smaller blocks means people have to rethink how to make their backyards work better for them:

"People are living on smaller blocks and starting to adapt their idea of a dream home to be something a little more versatile and unique ... In the future, an Aussie backyard is more likely to be a balcony with a railing or a very small outdoor area."

And what about Victoria?

"The blue chip suburbs of Malvern, Armadale and Toorak continue to deliver strong results while Melbourne's western suburbs have also sky-rocketed, with people looking to get in at all costs."

With the rise in house prices, inner-city homes are becoming more untenable to those entering the market. *"We're seeing fringe suburbs start to pick up and gain traction, as people are priced out of areas they were hoping for," Todd says.*

An exception is Sunshine and Sunshine West, which are still affordable alternatives to the eastern suburbs, yet only 10km from the CBD. But you still want to get in quick: neighbourhood prices have risen around 20% in a year.

“

IMPROVING PROPERTY VALUE

"Adding value to your home should be about adding value where you can use it most, not where you can see it most. People are more attracted to liveability rather than image. On top of that, people don't want to pay top dollar for someone else's personal touch and style; they want to buy something neutral that they can make their own and then add their own value. Keep things simple, clean and remember to not over-clutter."



Todd Schulberg
Homely.com.au



Peter Taliangis
Professionals Ultimate

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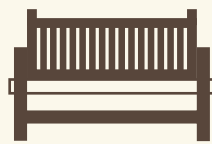
TIME TO SELL?

"Keeping up-to-date with maintenance, painting and upgrading every 7 to 10 years are all vitally important to producing good selling outcomes when the time comes."



DESIGN YOUR

BACKYARD FOR THE VIC LANDSCAPE



Victoria has a rich landscape filled with many possibilities – from our stunning coastline and the Great Dividing Range to the plains of the Wimmera, you’ve got something beautiful right on your doorstep. These three Victorians tell us what landscaping trends they’ve noticed and how they’ve adapted their own backyards to their lifestyles and surroundings.

“The Aussie summer is synonymous with being outside in the backyard whether it is relaxing by a pool, playing cricket on the lawn or sharing a BBQ with friends. But with newer designs in al fresco zones, the backyard is being used not only in the summer months.

More thought is being put into the design of purpose-built outdoor entertaining zones in new builds and renovations. People are seeking to blur the boundaries between indoor and outdoor entertaining. Al fresco areas are becoming a room in themselves, including comfortable furnishings, sound systems and heating. This is enabling the outdoor zones to be used well beyond summer.

I am currently designing my ideal outdoor space for my new home. I have included a space within the garden where I plan to sit with a book or simply enjoy the surrounding greenery. I am very excited about the functional entertaining zone where we can enjoy casual gatherings with friends.

I love how connected the outdoor entertaining area is to the indoors and look forward to sharing this space with our friends and family. The interiors will feel very connected with the garden space, with the outlook from each window being considered in the garden design. I want to be able to see lush greenery from each room!”



Belinda Vandenboom

Gallerie B



“Our lifestyle is laid-back and all about the great outdoors. Having a backyard brings the essence of an Australian lifestyle to your home.

We’re now seeing cleverly-designed backyards that are connected to the home to create an additional living space. More than simply having a visual connection, all the comfort and style of indoors is also being carried through to the outdoors. In my own backyard I love the veggie garden the kids and I created together. I relish pottering in the garden, playing with the kids, and having friends around for a long, lazy lunch.”



Claire Hillier
Checks and Spots

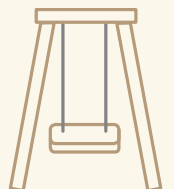
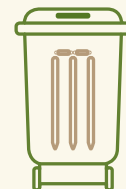
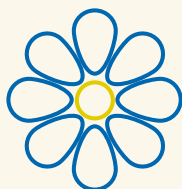


“I live in a property in outer north-east Melbourne, where we are lucky to be perched high surrounded by native bush land to enjoy a rural aspect and stunning sweeping views.

Across Victoria, I’ve noticed more people are focusing on creating merged zones blending areas for entertaining with lush “secret” gardens. But for me, my backyard is a place for work, rest and play! It’s all about barbeques with friends in the courtyard, playing chasey with the kids on the lawn, and restoring old furniture beside the garden shed.”



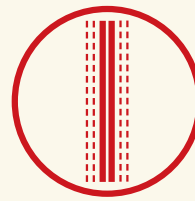
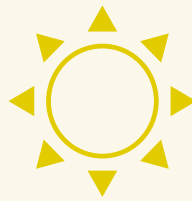
Kristine
The Painted Hive





HOW TO CELEBRATE A

TRUE-BLUE VICTORIAN SPORTS DAY



We're footy-mad here in Victoria, which is why the AFL Grand Final has to be one of the most anticipated events of the year.

Walk around Melbourne on 'that Saturday in September' and you'll find the streets spookily deserted. The locals pack into our backyards and pubs throughout the city to watch Australia's biggest sporting event.

As Checks and Spots creator and Melbourne local, Clare Hillier, says: *"It doesn't get much bigger than Grand Final Day."*

If you really want to get into the spirit of things, your celebrations will actually begin on the day before the Big Event, joining the hordes in Melbourne's CBD to watch the Grand Final parade. In fact, we love our Grand Final so much that the eve of that famous Saturday is now a state public holiday.

On the day itself, a hush descends on the state as Victorians retreat into their homes. Averaging a television audience of about 3 million viewers across the country, Grand Final Day is spent outdoors in the fresh spring air with family and friends, and the television volume cranked loudly.

"Grand Final Day means a backyard barbeque with friends," Clare says.

"It is as much about hanging out and having a good time, as it is about the footy."

To be fair, this is just one of the many sporting events

Victorians gather round to watch. The Boxing Day test cricket is another.

But more important perhaps is Melbourne Cup Day, a sporting event so highly esteemed that Victorians enjoy a public holiday to watch the big horse race.

How do we celebrate Melbourne Cup Day?

You guessed it – with a barbeque in the backyard with close friends and family. But this is a BBQ with a twist. Guests must attend in their Sunday Best, dressed in formal wear fit for the races. And everyone has to partake in the pot luck tipping.

Here's how Belinda Vandenboom, of the interiors and lifestyle blog Gallerie B, enjoys the day:

"Some of my best memories of Cup Day are spending it with friends in a marquee at the racetrack. It is a great chance for the ladies to get dressed up – although the weather can often be unpredictable! If I'm not at the races, I love to invite friends over for a casual lunch and then run our own Cup Sweep."

Every holiday signifies something special in Victoria. The Painted Hive's Kristine, loves Christmas day.

"My ideal Christmas falls on a balmy summer's day. Chilled bubbly and seafood starters are followed by a big family BBQ outside on the deck."

love *Your Life* outdoors

ANNUAL VIC EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

Australian Open
(Tennis)

St Kilda
Festival

FEBRUARY

Sustainable Living
Festival

Melbourne Food
& Wine Festival

MARCH

Formula 1
Australian Grand Prix

Moomba
Festival

Melbourne International
Flower & Garden Show

APRIL

Ripcurl Pro Surfing
Competition @ Bells Beach

MAY

Grampians Grape
Escape

Lavandula Autumn
Harvest Festival

JUNE

Queen Vic Winter
Night Market

JULY

Open House
Melbourne

AUGUST

AFL Match
@ The MCG

SEPTEMBER

The Tesselaar Tulip Festival

Royal Melbourne Show

AFL Grand Final

OCTOBER

Melbourne
Festival

Australian Motorcycle
Grand Prix @ Phillip Island

NOVEMBER

Melbourne Cup Day

Equitana Melbourne
(Equestrian)

DECEMBER

Boxing Day Test (Cricket)

New Year's Eve Fireworks



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THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Peter Taliangis uses his years of experience as a trusted real estate advisor to find West Australians the homes of their dreams or their desired investment opportunity. Experienced as a property developer and investor, he is Director of **Professionals Ultimate**. He is a member of a number of property and investor groups, which ensures he stays up to date on the latest trends, but can also find buyers that other agents may not be aware of.



Peter Taliangis
Professionals Ultimate



Todd Schulberg
Homely.com.au

Todd Schulberg lives and breathes property, handling all things marketing for **Homely.com.au**. Todd has a keen interest in the movements in the market and how agents can utilise new tools and technology in order to be more connected. Using all things social, Todd suggests different ways that agents can engage and think outside the square with their marketing approach.

Clare Hillier is a Brand Storyteller, mother of two and a daydreamer by day. But when the sun goes down (and sometimes before it comes up!) she creates **Checks and Spots**, a website dedicated to checking out and spotting interiors, beauty, design and lifestyle to inspire and amuse. She has also published 21 Shades of Green: A Green Smoothie Recipe Book and was named the winner of Kidspot Voices of 2014.



Clare Hillier
Checks and Spots



Kristine
The Painted Hive

Kristine is passionate about all things home, especially the creative challenge and self-satisfaction which comes from decorating on a budget.

Kristine's popular decorating blog **The Painted Hive** is her medium for divulging all that she discovers and learns on her quest for an affordable and beautiful home.

Belinda Vandeboom is an Interior Decorator and writes an interiors and lifestyle blog, **Gallerie B**. She loves writing about and sharing images of what she finds inspiring and beautiful in the world of Interior Design and beyond. You could describe her decorating style as classic yet contemporary, with a splash of colour thrown in. She is about to embark on her own new build and loves the process of pulling all her ideas together and creating her dream home.

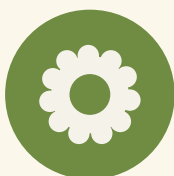


Belinda Vandenboom
Gallerie B



VIC

GARDENING RESOURCES & LOCATIONS



**THE DIGGERS
CLUB**



**ROYAL BOTANIC
GARDENS MELB.**

love *Your Life* outdoors

For a **FREE** measure and design on one of our quality products, *contact our Melbourne Office:*

Australian Outdoor Living VIC

10 Connection Drive
Campbellfield VIC 3061

Outdoor Blinds

Artificial Lawn

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(03) 9930 7600

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