



About the area

The Newport West neighbourhood is bounded by Blenheim Road and Charlotte Street, to the west. The northern border is formed by Blackshaws Road and the east and south boundaries follow the Werribee / Geelong railway line.



European settlement

Like several other areas in the municipality, the early history of Newport West is closely associated with the quarrying of bluestone.

The neighbourhood had a number of quarries in the 1880s and 1890s. The site of one is where the Newport Lakes Park is now located.

Newport West today

Newport West is predominantly zoned for residential purposes. The other main zone is for use as public parks and recreation.

Residential development in Newport West varies considerably, in terms of period and style of houses. In general, there is more period housing on the north of Mason Street compared to the south side. More recent development is commonly double storey townhouses, replacing separate housing.

There are two government primary schools and one senior secondary campus in the neighbourhood, together with a Catholic primary school.

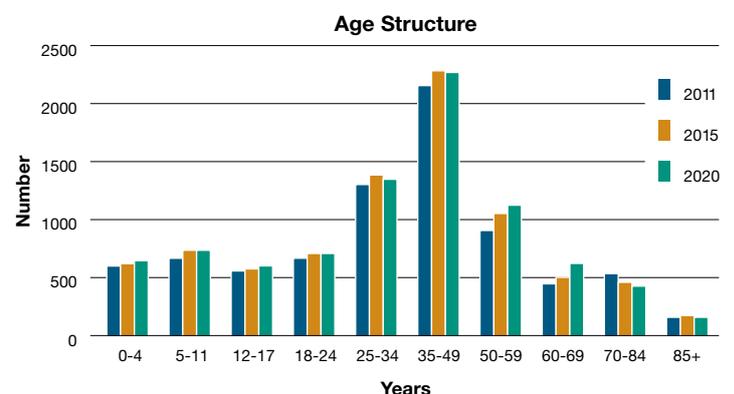
As a place to live, residents appreciate the quietness of Newport West and describe it as having a country feel, an attractive location and close to the city. There are, however, aspects of the neighbourhood that could be improved. Some residents felt that the areas around “Melbourne Road and Mason Street are not very appealing, whereas some of the streets are lovely.” In addition, “the main gateways look abandoned and would benefit from some attention.”

Population

At the 2006 Census, Newport West had close to 7,000 residents. The current estimated population (2011) is only slightly higher at 7,072 and by 2020 it is expected to reach 8,297.

Age structure

The forecasts for the next five years anticipate growth in the age groups that form young and maturing families and also those aged 50-69 years, together with a decrease in the number of older residents (70 years plus). After 2015, the main trend is for a continued increase in the number of 50-69 year olds.



Newport West

Neighbourhood Profile

Overseas born residents

Overseas born residents make up 23.6 per cent of the Newport West population, below the municipal figure of 28.9 per cent. The main countries of birth include the United Kingdom, Lebanon, Greece and New Zealand. Around 60 per cent of overseas born residents speak another language, other than English.

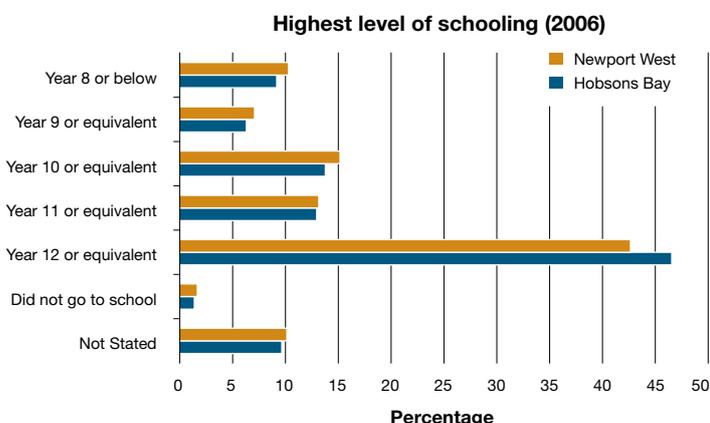
Residents needing assistance

The 2006 Census found that 328 (4.7 per cent) residents need help with a core activity involving self-care, communication and mobility.

Education

Approximately 21 per cent of residents were enrolled in education in 2006, on par with the Hobsons Bay rate.

46.2 per cent of Newport West residents have completed Year 12. This is above the municipal figure of 42.6 per cent.



Labour force

At the 2006 Census, 62 per cent of Newport West residents (aged 15 years and over) were in the labour force, two per cent above the municipal rate. Just over two thirds had a full time job, slightly above the Hobsons Bay figure.

Newport West's unemployment rate of 5.6 per cent was similar to the Hobsons Bay rate.

Income

In 2006, 3,363 local residents (60 per cent) aged 15 years and over had below average weekly incomes. This is less than the municipal figure (64 per cent). In contrast, seven per cent of the neighbourhood's residents had incomes above \$1,600, slightly higher than the municipal figure. (The average weekly income in Victoria in 2006 was \$815.40, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.)

Housing

At the 2006 Census, there were 3,057 dwellings in Newport West and three quarters of them were detached. Thirty one per cent of households owned their home, compared to 36 per cent of Hobsons Bay households.

New housing development in the neighbourhood has some residents concerned. Houses from the 1960s and 70s "that are not desirable or protected are being pulled down in droves" and replaced by higher density development which has "added noticeably to the congestion".

Future developments proposed for the area

- A new early years learning centre will be developed on land at the Newport Gardens Primary School. Construction will commence in the latter part of 2012, with the centre expected to open in 2014.
- In 2012/13, work will be undertaken at Kohry Reserve to improve the presentation of the park, including the installation of park furniture, and linkages to the railway station.
- Remediation of contamination at Jack Madigan reserve will commence in 2012. The work is expected to take up to five years to complete, at which time it will be returned to public open space.

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