From fibro shacks to McMansions: considering the impact of housing change on the sense of place in the historic Victorian coastal towns of Sorrento and Queenscliff


Eighty per cent of Australians now live within 50 kilometres of the coast. While most of the population remains concentrated in the large capital cities, some people have chosen small coastal towns as their permanent home. This paper explores the impact of housing change on the sense of place in two historic Victorian coastal towns, Sorrento and Queenscliff. The study examines how the transformation of fibro shacks into McMansions affects the character and identity of these coastal communities. The research highlights the importance of understanding the social and cultural implications of housing change in coastal areas, as well as the need for policies that support the preservation of unique local identities.
concentrated in the large capital cities, some people have chosen small coastal towns as their permanent and second-home destination. Greater mobility and income has increased the feasibility and attractiveness of living in these once overlooked and forgotten towns. The arrival of these new residents has changed the towns in both positive and negative ways. Declining traditional industries have been replaced by tourism and service sectors, providing a much-needed economic revival. The expectations of new residents, both permanent and non-permanent, however, have also brought challenges to the towns. Metropolitan value systems sometimes impact negatively on the unique sense of place and neighbourhood character of these towns. This paper presents both quantitative and qualitative evidence of the impact on character and sense of place in two historic coastal towns, Queenscliff and Sorrento, in southern Victoria. Census data shows how employment and the number of permanent residents have changed radically over the last 50-60 years, altering the social fabric of the towns. An analysis of the building footprint over a similar timeframe shows a growth in building size as larger houses become more common, and a growth in planning appeals for the towns is indicative of a clash of expectations between the council, long-time and new residents. While these indicators demonstrate the impact on the character of the towns as defined by their built environment, some oral accounts of local residents are used to show the emotional impact of these changes on the traditional sense of place associated with these towns. Some specific examples of changes to the built environment are provided to demonstrate that local planning schemes are not always successful in protecting neighbourhood character and that further measures are required in order to safeguard the uniqueness of coastal towns from the negative aspects of development.
From fibro shacks to McMansions: Considering the impact of housing change on the sense of place in the historic Victorian coastal towns of Sorrento and Queenscliff more. by Fiona Gray. Eighty per cent of Australians now live within 50 kilometres of the coast. While most of the population remains concentrated in the large capital cities, some people have chosen small coastal towns as their permanent or second-home more. Publication Name: AHRC 2013 : 7th Australasian Housing Researchers’ Conference : Housing the needs of diverse populations. Conference End Date: Feb 8, 2013. Conference Start Date: Feb 6, 2013. The sense of beauty has a more important place in life than aesthetic theory has ever taken in philosophy. The plastic arts, with poetry and music, are the most conspicuous monuments of this human interest, because they appeal only to contemplation, and yet have attracted to their service, in all civilized ages, an amount of effort, genius, and honour, little inferior to that given to industry, war, or religion. The fine arts, however, where aesthetic feeling appears almost pure, are by no means the only sphere in which men show their susceptibility to beauty. In all products of human industry What was the change in the Victorian society in England after the Industrial Revolution? Read on. How was the Victorian society structured? The Victorian society was divided into nobility Upper Class, Middle Class, and the Working Class. The members of the House of Lords not elected by public voting and Lord Chancellor was appointed to supervise its activities. On the other hand, the members of the House of Commons were elected by public voting. In the initial years of the Victorian period, there were two strong political parties, The Whigs and the Tories (Conservatives). These were the first political parties in England who dominated the political field throughout the Victorian reign. The Whigs were in favor of growth of the Parliament and wanted to restrict the royal power.