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THE EFFECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT ON THE RINGWOOD LAKE

Ringwood Lake Reserve was originally low lying land between Whitehorse Road and Mt. Dandenong Road. It was known as Dawes Park and was purchased in 1923 by the Lilydale Shire from Mrs. Dawes for a reserve. In all there were 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres/10 hectares.

1926 It was named Ringwood Park in 1926. Two small creeks (one known as Sandy Gully Creek) ran into the lake and the lake's outlet was crossing where the Maroondah Highway is at present. When the highway came through the lake had to be blocked off. Shortly afterwards in Approx. 1929 the M.M.B.W. offered Mr. Lucas, Borough Engineer 5000 yds cubic filling. His suggestion of constructing an artificial lake by damming Sandy Gully Creek was adopted. A working bee of local men brought horses and scoops and grubbed and cleared the area to be submerged, in a Saturday afternoon's effort.

In 1935 fishing was the craze and 500 rainbow trout were released for competition fly fishing and trout fishing. From 1938 the angling championships of Victoria were held annually at Ringwood Lake.

In 1937 new ornamental trees and shrubs were specially imported in to be planted around the lake. About this time Ringwood was being established as a garden city.

A tragedy occurred in 1941 when a body was found in the lake. Apparently it had been there for 2 months but everyone thought the body was a piece of litter floating in the lake. One person decided to fetch this litter and found the body, so it was taken to the morgue and has never been identified.

During the six years 1970 to 1976 inclusive, a lot of

~~a lot of~~ improvements were made. A rock edge was put partially around the lake; platforms were built over the water which are extensively used by people feeding the ducks; sealed primary access paths have been put throughout the reserve and two electric operated barbecues were installed and subsequently "fired" by school children during the International Year of the Child. Substantial tree planting was done during the Year of the Tree and watering to certain grass areas from the lake. A new carpark at Mt. Dandenong Road and a sound shell erected and named after Elizabeth Penny a former Mayor of Ringwood have been added.

Recently a replica of an original miner's cottage has been erected. This was associated with the antimony mine that used to operate on the site of the current Civic and Cultural Centre.

It is anticipated that the provision ^{of a} poppet head will follow fairly closely on the completion of the miner's cottage. Later this year a playground for young children will be installed.

As well as the wild ducks and some tame ducks that have ~~the~~ migrated to the lake, arrangements have been made to release a number of black swans which it is hoped will breed there.

Now Ringwood Lake is a non sporting reserve and the scenery is enjoyed by many people and is one of the prettiest reserves in Victoria.

Over the 60 years of Ringwood Reserve, the environment has changed greatly from a creek running through some low lying land to a scenic park with facilities to accommodate all people visiting the lake for a nice outing.

What was originally a beautiful natural environment has now become a beautiful man made environment.

Paul Kempton 1983