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# LIONS CLUB OF RINGWOOD



## A HISTORY 1962-1987

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1962-1987**

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### LIONS CLUB OF RINGWOOD

*This history is compiled for the occasion of the  
25th Charter Anniversary of the Club,  
celebrated in September 1987.*

*This Club gratefully acknowledges the considerable  
effort by Lion Albert Aird, a Charter Member,  
and currently Auditor, who compiled this  
history of the Club.*

*The Club here records its appreciation of the  
professional advice and considerable work given by  
Mr. Harry Stephenson in the production of this  
record, including the work of typesetting.  
Also recorded is our thanks to Omega Colour  
for negatives and plate-making and to  
A. Kynoch & Co. Pty. Ltd. for printing and  
bookbinding.*

*Barry Ward,  
President, 1987-8*

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## Lions Code of Ethics

### Lions Club Objects



1. To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the people of the world.
2. To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.
3. To take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.
4. To unite the Clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.
5. To provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest, provided however that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by Club members.
6. To encourage service minded men to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavours.
1. To show faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.
2. To seek success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.
3. To remember that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to clients or customers and true to myself.
4. Whenever a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards my fellow men, to resolve such doubts against myself.
5. To hold friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing, but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.
6. Always to bear in mind my obligation as a citizen to my nation, my state and my community, and to give to them my unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labour and means.
7. To aid my fellow men by giving my sympathy to those in distress my aid to the weak and my substance to the needy.
8. To be careful with my criticisms and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

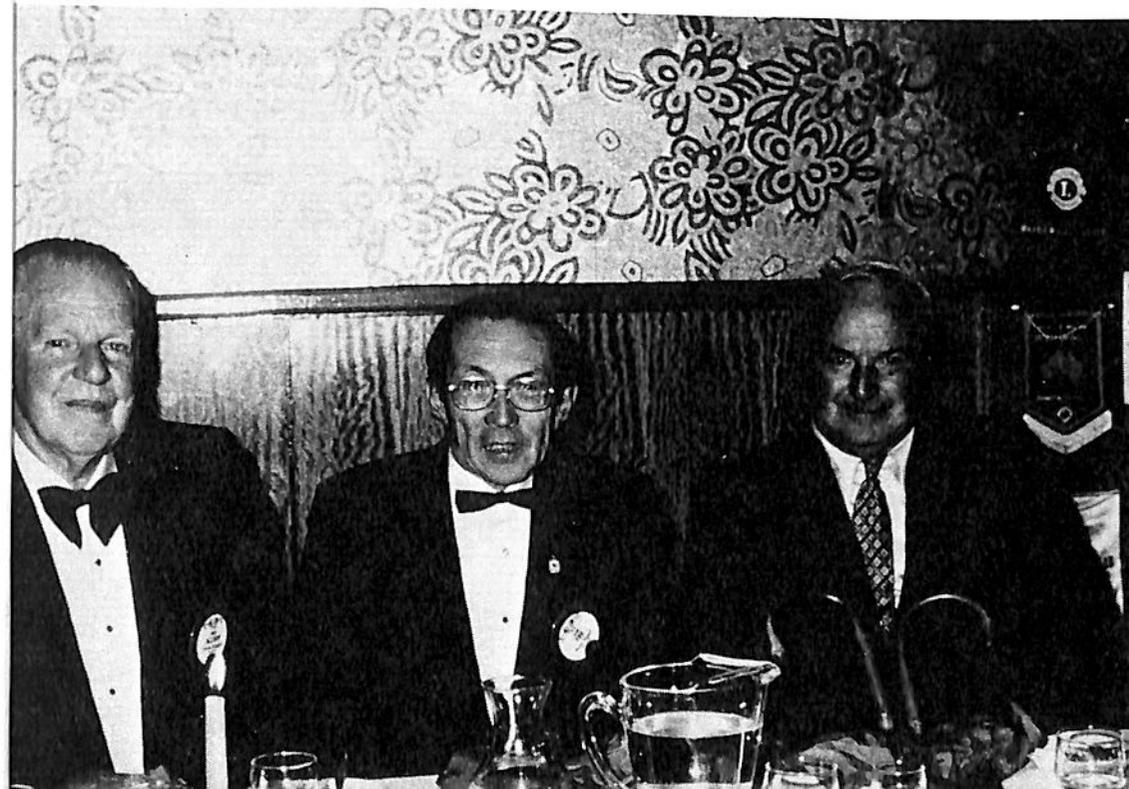
## INTRODUCTION

Lionism was founded in America in 1917 and has since spread to most countries of the Western world under the motto "We Serve".

The first Club in Australia was formed at Lismore, N.S.W. in 1947. The first District Governor was Lion Bill Tresise, father of our own member, Max Tresise. Club membership is the joining together of men with a common objective of assistance to their fellow men and improvement to community conditions.

The Lions Club of Ringwood was formed in 1962, its sponsors being the Lions Club of Richmond.

*Three old-timers (now deceased) –  
Lions Arch Allsop, Ron Yee and Kevin Pratt.*



This history is written at Club level from often incomplete Club records and from personal recollections of its members. It acknowledges we are a small part of a world organization and, closer to home, part of a District in whose activities our membership takes part. The District level of activity is not detailed even though our members hold office on its executive and spend many hours on its projects.

The history of the Club has been the subject of discussion rather than action since the 1960s. Unfortunately a considerable quantity of history material is lost because of constant change in membership and office bearers and the failure of some of these good people to pass completed records to their successors. A fairly complete set of monthly Bulletins has been available but these tend to cover reminders of events to come rather than reports of events completed.

In addition to our monthly Bulletin, data ultimately available has included official records such as executive meeting minutes, some annual reports and financial statements. But these are not complete and mostly contain only the bare outline of events.

It is in the personal recollections of Club members that can be found the most interesting aspects of our history, for these memories go far beyond anything written, and into the minds of the people who made the Club what it has been over twenty-five years. They explore many hundreds of hours organising Club projects and in welfare work in the community, events that are often dismissed in a line of written reports.

Over the 25 years of the Club's existence its members have been friendly, thirsty and enthusiastic. The many longterm friendships within the Club are sustained by the satisfaction of working together for the common goals in the community.

Our community services have included the care of needy people, establishment of accommodation for the aged, regular public medical surveys such as eye-sight, blood pressure and hearing tests, support of hospital projects, disaster and community welfare needs. We initiated and expanded to a national basis assistance for sufferers of the incurable Motor Neurone disease.

Contact with other Clubs has been maintained through inter-Club visits, conventions and more personalised social events such as over many years an annual cricket match with our sponsors, Richmond Club.

Inter-Club visiting was at its peak in the early years. For instance in a few months during 1965 we visited Richmond, Healesville, Ferntree Gully, Nunawading, Kew, Camberwell, Sunshine, Blackburn and Box Hill. In this period we furiously interchanged Club bannerettes. We have continued this over the years, the tradition being that if you visited another Club you took along a Ringwood bannerette and received one of theirs in return. These now feature as wall hangings at our meeting place.

The Lions ladies have been active since the Club's inception both as fund raisers in their own right and as willing helpers in all our activities.

If this attempt at the history of the Club omits some things, take it for what it includes, especially in the field of community service and the long lasting friendships established between its members.

Names of individual members are not recorded on any consistent basis. In many cases tremendous effort is made by individuals over a period or for a particular project. There is more than an even chance that the name of someone deserving of personal recognition for work done has been forgotten or omitted. For these people apology from the author.

## THE FORMATION OF THE CLUB

During the first half of 1962 the Richmond Lions Club made contact with a group of Ringwood men and it was agreed that the Ringwood Lions Club should be chartered with the help of the Richmond Club. It is on record that the first Ringwood meeting to discuss formation of the Club was called by then Ringwood Municipal Councillors Aus and Spencer. The only other person to attend was Ron Yee, later to become with the two Councillors among the charter members of the Club. Councillor Doug Baxter also became a charter member, his interest being spurred by Richmond Lions' establishment of elderly citizens' accommodation in Ringwood.

*Ringwood Lions Club Charter, 1962.*





*Ringwood Lions Club Charter, 1962.  
Richmond Lion Rudi Werner, standing.*

Documents covering this time are incomplete but it is remembered that Lion R. Werner of Richmond was a leading figure in assembling the group who were to form the Ringwood Club.

By mid 1962 the Club had developed to a point where it was holding dinner meetings at the Village Cabaret, Croydon and had effected an executive.

The half yearly subscription was set at five pounds and dinner meetings on a regular basis were on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

The Lions ladies were being brought into proceedings and our first Ladies night was on 10th July, 1962.

The Club was formally chartered at a dinner at the Whitehorse Hotel, Nunawading on 18th August, 1962.

The first executive comprised the following members:

President	Jack Buchanan
Secretary	Ron Lee
Treasurer	Maurie Cass
1st Vice President	Robert Lindsay
2nd Vice President	David Lush
3rd Vice President	Robert Stoney
Tail Twister	Hec McLean
Lion Tamer	Alan Lyon
2 year Director	Ken Ward
1 year Director	Norman Aus

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE CLUB

Since the beginning the executive has met once a month and the overall membership has attended two dinner meetings a month. On special occasions our Ladies are invited to meetings that celebrate such events as annual change over of office bearers, our charter anniversary, Christmas break-up and other special occasions.

The Club executive retires at June 30th each year and a new executive is voted in by Club membership.

Projects decided upon are formally placed in the hands of a member or sub-committee of members who become responsible for its management. The primary objective of community service often requires substantial funds and a major part of Club activity is directed to fund raising. Other activities include help for needy people, health surveys and back-up for other people's social service activities.

Detailed business is considered at dinner meetings. Since 1965 membership has been organized into three committees each under the chairmanship of a vice-president. Each member is allotted duties, the member answers to his committee and his chairman. The member is expected to work only to the limit of his capacity or available time.

Overall Club organisation and procedures at meetings are determined by Lions International our ultimate parent body with headquarters in Chicago. The Australian organisation consists basically of individual Clubs which are in turn grouped by Zone and District. Nevertheless each Club is autonomous.

Clubs operate with a minimum of formality. With this Club each dinner meeting is opened by an "invocation" and Loyal Toast. The invocation is sometimes varied but basically says "for what we are about to receive and the opportunity to give service, we give thanks". This is recited by one member at the request of the president.

During the meeting Lions International "Objects" and "Ethics" are each formally read by a member at the request of the president. An appendix detailing these is attached.

The Club finances are on the basis of three main bank accounts. An Administration account takes care of membership dues, amounts paid in and out for dinner meetings and other administrative costs of running the Club. An

Activities account accumulates funds raised from Club functions. We operate a Community Services account into which is paid funds received from donors who wish to obtain a tax benefit. The first committee of this fund were Lions Stoney, Allsop and Rutherford. Its Trustees as required by law were Lions Buchanan, Vergers and Aird.

Finance has mostly been under proper control with an annual presentation of audited accounts. Only on unusual occasions have office holders shown signs of laxness. One example was when the Bulletin said that the Treasurer could not report as the auditor had mislaid the books.

Long after one reporting date the opportunity shop treasurer said he did not know the current takings because he thought the books were at the shop but could not find them because of the mass of unsorted goods for sale. More than once the barbecue treasurer took some months to finalise the accounts.

As an indication of money worth in the early 1960s the minutes record that the Secretary's phone number be recorded in the phone directory at a fee of twenty six shillings and eight pence per annum.

At this time our half yearly membership fee was five pounds, a dinner name badge cost thirteen shillings and six pence and a Lions Lady's badge cost seven shillings and six pence.

In the first year of activity several new members were elected and in the latter part of 1963 our total had risen to thirty.

New membership is based on nomination by existing Club members. In the beginning it was specifically spelled out that it was "essential that nominations are not discussed outside members of the Club and that prospects are not given any indication that they are being proposed". In these times it seems we take a more liberal and practical view and persons are normally aware that they are being nominated for membership. But it is still the rule that his nomination be accepted unanimously.

Once nominated and accepted the new Member is brought into the Club by a formal induction ceremony.

To maintain the lighter side of dinner meetings each has a segment in which the "Tail Twister" holds the floor and fines Members twenty cents for sins real or imagined. He is given considerable licence and soon learns not to spoil a good story for the sake of the truth.

Guest speakers are invited to dinner meetings from time to time providing entertainment and food for thought.

A highlight in our development was the year 1965/6 when membership was thirty seven with an average attendance of twenty-eight at dinner meetings. Year 1965/6 saw 20 of our members qualify for 100% attendance award. In this period two Members occupied principal Zone and District offices. Members were very active in a wide range of community services.

Quality of Membership and their social service work inside and outside the Club can be judged by the fact that twenty Lions couples attended the Mayoral

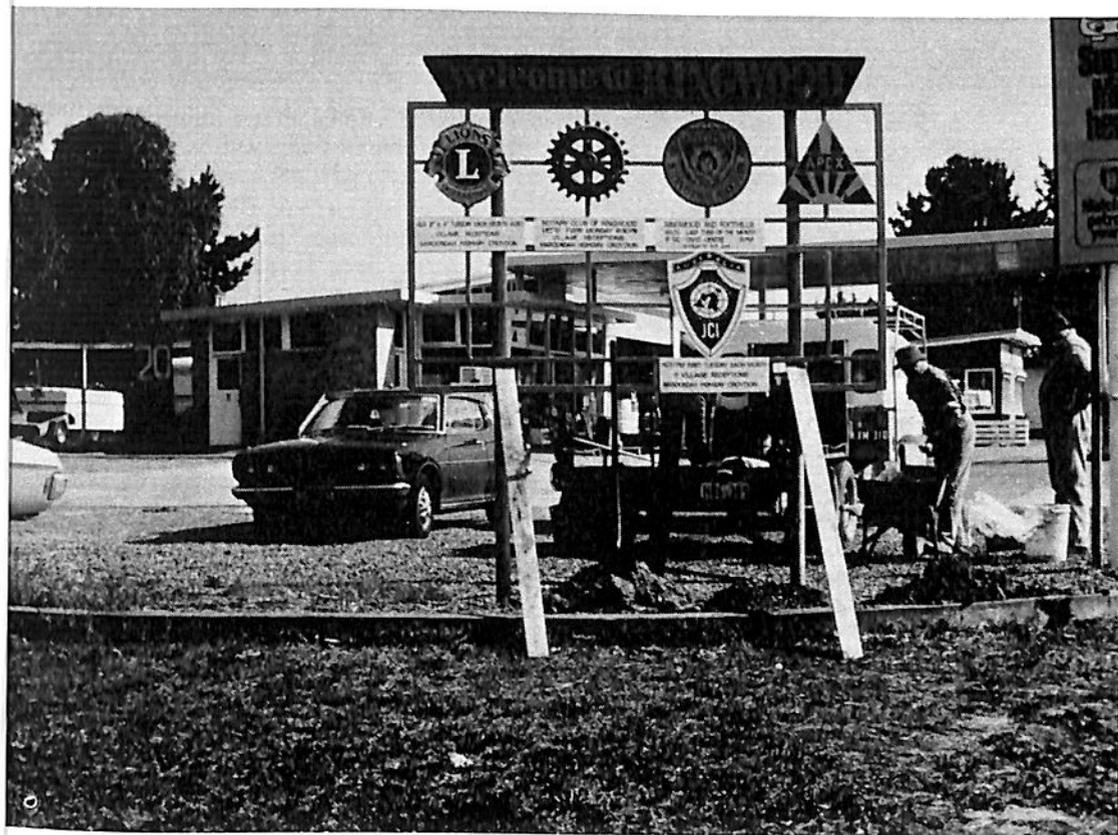
Ball, a function at which the Municipality recognises those who have substantially contributed to the welfare of the community.

Our first dinner meetings were held at the "Village" North Croydon. Memories of this era are of a big room with our small group seated somewhere in the middle of the large dance floor. A wood fire completely inadequate to the size of the room was on one wall and often on a winter's night we froze.

In August 1964 the Board moved our meeting place to the Rendezvous Restaurant, Mitcham which provided much warmer conditions. After some years we again moved to a small restaurant in Heathmont. Then on again to Colonial Court North Croydon and back to the Village. In mid 1986 we moved to the Elderly Citizens rooms in North Ringwood. At the end of 1986 we moved again to Manhattan Hotel, South Ringwood and onwards to Colonial Court, North Croydon.

Membership over the years has been drawn from a wide range of employment and skill, faith and moral judgment. A complete list of those Christians, capitalists and communists who have been members over all or part of our existence is contained in an appendix.

*Lions erecting Service Club signs.*



From time to time membership became something of a problem and dwindling numbers were halted by a drive for new membership. For example in October, 1969 after such a drive ten names were submitted as new members and seven of these eventually joined the Club. None of these stayed long or made any mark on the Club. Early in 1986 a drive was made in the North Ringwood area and we gained four new members.

One major element in keeping the Club together has been the monthly bulletin. It was first established in July 1962, Lion Norman Aus being its first editor. Since then editorship has rotated around a number of Members. Prominent among these was Lion Doug Millar but others for varying periods have been Lions Alan McCallam, Hugh Stuchbery, Grant Douglas, Jack Kelaher and Kevin Rutley.

The magazines object is to keep members informed on all Club matters, Board of Directors proceedings, results of activities and a list of activities in the immediate future.

The executive has not always had an editor willing to take the job. One such occasion was emphasised in the December 1977 edition by a prominently displayed Situations Vacant notice that said "Bulletin editor - qualifications, patience and a Telecom account - no touch typing experience needed - apply President."

Our Ringwood Bulletin was awarded the "John Twaddle Memorial Award" for the year 1976/7. In advising the Club of his receipt of this honour editor Lion Doug Millar spelled his name in non-capital letters as a gesture of modesty.

In 1976/7 Lion Fred Cox made road signs with the Lions emblem and with the assistance of Lion Fred Banch erected them in prominent places on the roadside near the main entries to the Municipality.

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

The following chapters seek to record some activities and achievements of the Club over the 25 years of its history. This is done on a subject basis rather than to follow chronologically the year by year course of events. A chronological list of activities is included as an appendix. This lists a number of major events that are not otherwise included in the text.

Some subjects have not been given the emphasis they deserve, others may be over detailed. What is here presented is compiled from Club records, significant



*Carnival at Ringwood, 1973.*

parts of which are lost. Other subjects such as welfare for needy families may never have been adequately committed to paper, as assistance was offered on a confidential basis.

Your historian is grateful for the personal recollections of a number of members on subjects dear to their hearts. He apologises to those vitally concerned in major projects but whose names he has omitted to record.

Our activity divides into two broad categories, fund raising for specific or general purposes, and social service that is satisfied by manpower, time and effort. In the enthusiastic days of our youth as a Club, mansize effort was an everyday event.

Throughout our history we have always developed an annual program, but have never been in a position of having a long term commitment reaching into the future with continuing needs for finance.

Far too often our Board has non-committed funds available to anybody with a charitable purpose irrespective of their location or comparative worth. This has sometimes led to disbursements on a wide and unexpected basis, just because funds were there and we could not say no to any appeal made to us.

We have generously supported local projects but in some cases have made large donations to national projects. For example we gave \$2,000 to the Darwin

Cyclone Relief Fund and have given valuable specialist medical equipment such as kidney machines and weighing beds to major hospitals outside our area.

Each year the new executive has prepared a forward program of fund raising functions and community service work. Moneywise we have organised either ourselves or in conjunction with others, carnivals, flower shows, art shows, dog shows, and queen competitions as well as more basic activities for extracting money from the public, like raffles, spinning wheels and hot dog stalls. Once we owned a merry-go-round, a steam train and even, almost, an aeroplane.

Other activities have more than once included the collection of unwanted household items and their sale by auction, with the help of a professional auctioneer who is one of our members.

Several times over the years we have made some attempt at analysis of our objectives and considerable self criticism has been recorded in our monthly Bulletins. One Bulletin said we were vaguely groping for what should be our priorities as a Lions Club, what are worthwhile projects and where is the greatest community need. Do we blandly do the "in thing" and follow what has been done by others. Where is our originality. Are we supporting charities that already get adequate help, ignoring those little publicized but worthwhile endeavours by people without a good P.R. organization.

## EARLY LIONS PROJECTS IN THE RINGWOOD COMMUNITY

*Ringwood and Croydon Mail*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1963

By Jess

WINE TASTING EVENING at the Village Cabaret last Thursday was well attended and a substantial amount raised for the Lion's Club of Ringwood. Mr. Fred McKeever, of the Wine and Brandy Producers' Association, discussed the various wines,—appetisers, table and dessert—and a buffet meal was served. In addition to raising money for the Club, it was a gay and social get-together for members, their wives and guests—as well as potential members.

In the beginning we had few funds but many worthwhile projects immediately presented themselves. Our first work was in many cases a matter of gaining experience and trying to measure community needs. We did work in such welfare as home repairs for pensioners and the disabled.

Our first fund raising year saw projects that included a wine tasting with the help of the Wine and Brandy Producers Association, a theatre night, a shop window mystery object, sale of Christmas cards, a dinner dance at Hunters Lodge, a sale of Christmas trees, and raffle of a Christmas stocking.

The first project involving substantial expenditure was presentation to Ringwood Council of a mobile street stall (caravan) for use by those various groups of ladies who ran a stall for charitable purposes in the Ringwood Shopping Centre. This was in November, 1963 and the cost was \$660.

*Ringwood and Croydon Mail*

## LIONS GAVE A CARAVAN

*Ringwood Lions Club last weekend presented a £360 mobile street stall for use by all Ringwood community organisations.*

The stall—which comprises a caravan with special display space—was presented to the Mayor of Ringwood (Cr. P. Vergers) by Ringwood Lions' Club president (Mr. Bob Lindsay) at a ceremony near Ringwood station on Saturday morning.

Mr. Lindsay said that the Lions Club was most impressed with the work of many community groups in Ringwood for the benefit of the city and its citizens. The club had decided to donate the caravan to provide shelter and display space for all those running street stalls for funds.

Cr. Vergers, a member of Ringwood Lions Club, thanked the club on behalf of the many community organisations in the municipality.

Other councillors at the hand-over ceremony included Crs. M. D. Deuter, B. Clarke, B. J. Hubbard, N. Aus and S. Morris.

*Presenting to Ringwood Council, Mobile Street Stall, 1963.  
From left — Lions Bob Lindsay, Ken Blackmore, David Lush,  
Peter Vergers (Mayor).*



In this period we began what was probably our first regular annual event by participating with other clubs in The Lions Clubs Xmas party for underprivileged children at Luna Park. More of this in a later chapter.

Late in 1962 saw the beginnings of a well organised and ambitious project to run a Queen competition culminating in a Presentation Ball. Proceeds were to be for the Elderly Citizens Village, a project inherited by our sponsors, Richmond Lions Club. Administrative work was thoroughly done as is evidenced by the monthly Bulletins of the time. But in January, 1963, mainly through lack of nominations the proposition was abandoned.

In April, 1963 we gave donations to the 4th Ringwood Scout Hall \$30, Freedom from Hunger \$50, Elderly Citizens \$50.

In August, 1963 we celebrated our first Charter anniversary with a dinner to which the Ladies were invited. Hec McLean provided an elaborate and beautiful birthday cake. One lady volunteered to cut it but found that underneath the icing was a wooden box.

Ringwood and Croydon Mail

## RINGW'D LIONS ONE YEAR OLD

AT AN impressive change-over ceremony held at the Village Cabaret last week, the Lions Club of Ringwood celebrated its first birthday and installed new officers to guide the Club through its second year.

Under president Jack Buchanan, the Club in its first year has rocketed to success with an amount of £242 donated to various charitable causes in and around the Ringwood district. The Elderly Citizen's Appeal Committee received £125, Fourth Ringwood Boy Scouts £15, Ringwood/Warrandyte A.F.S. committee £10, the appeal by the Mayoress for Freedom from Hunger was supported to the extent of £25, the new Pinemont Kindergarten £25 and the Mitcham Special School £35. In addition, an amount was given to an appeal for an X-Ray unit to be sent to Calcutta.

Members also assisted at the Henley Carnival, co-operated with the Jaycees and Legacy to paint the home of

a widow, cut wood for a widow-pensioner, sent books to the Philippines and Japan and entertained underprivileged children at a Christmas party.

Wives of Lions everywhere are included as much as possible in Club activities, whether social or service and the wives of Ringwood members have been guests at various dinner functions. On their own account, the wives have assisted in staffing the Opportunity Shop opened by the Ringwood Club earlier this year. At the change-over tribute was paid by Lion Norm. Aus. to the part played by the wives in helping to raise the sum of £242 in the first year.

The change-over function and first birthday celebration took the form of a dinner under the direction of chairman Lion Harry James.

Among the distinguished guests who were present were Mr. J. W. Manson M.L.A. who was accompanied by Mrs Manson, Immediate Past District Governor Bill Tresise, the deputy district governor, the cabinet-secretary-treasurer and Lions from Wonthaggi, Richmond, Ferntree Gully as well as a special guest from the Cairns Lions Club.

### NEW OFFICERS

The officers for 1963/64 who were installed by Lion Bill Tresise were—  
President, Bob Lindsay; vice-presidents, David Lush, Maurice Cass, Max Thomas; secretary, Ron Yee; treasurer, Kevin Pratt; directors, Ken Ward, Miles and Peter Purdy, lion tamer, Reg. Spencer and Hec. McLean.

In accepting office and paying a tribute to the work of the retiring president—Jack Buchanan, the new president Bob Lindsay outlined various schemes already in hand for the coming year.

In late 1963 we presented a refrigerator to Ringwood Elderly Citizens living at Lionswood Village and in 1964 made a donation of \$2,500 for a bus to be used by Monkami, a retarded children's school.

In this same era we made our first investigations into Meals on Wheels for Ringwood and to give manual assistance to Lionswood Elderly Citizens. We helped with such projects as Ringwood Council's Henley on the Lake where we ran a spinning wheel. The carnival was washed out by rain but the spinning wheel was a success with 53 spins, maybe because the site was near to shelter.

Ringwood and Croydon Mail

## FIRMS DONATE £250 FOR XMAS STOCKING

**B**USINESS people in the Ringwood-Croydon region have already donated £250 worth of goods for the Christmas stocking contest of the Lions club of Ringwood.

All proceeds from the contest will go to assist local charities.

Donations so far include a motor mower and grass-catcher, worth £74 and a variety of household appliances, food and clothing.

Lions Club member Mr. Jack Buchanan announced this week that the following donations—each with their value shown—were:

Pope Pty. Ltd.: motor mower with catcher, £74; Wright Bros.: Hoover electric steam iron, £10/19/6; Ringwood Camera Centre: two cameras, £7/10/-; Pattersons Pty. Ltd.: £3; E. C. Hattams Ltd.: travelling rug, £5/19/6; O'Landa (Dutch) Beauty Salon: style set, £1; W. J. Brown, Jewellers: noritake tea set, £5/10/-; J. C. Boyd, chemist: beachware, £3/10/-; Ronson Pty Ltd.: electric tooth brush, £9/19/6; Ringwood Sports Store: sporting goods, £5; Pope

Pty. Ltd.: two electrical appliances, £20; N. Bissett: sprinkler and plastic hose, £3/10/-; Ringwood Traders Ltd.: table lamp, £6/10/-; Clarks Rubber Co.: two foam deluxe rubber pillows, £5; Wards Newsagency: books and games, £2/10/-; Ringwood Drapery: donation,

£2/2/-; Eastwood Service Station: oil change and grease, £1/10/-; Macey's: docket to purchase, £5/5/-; Balm Paints Ltd.: three gallons paint, £15; Prendergast's Grocery, Big Star Food Centre: groceries, £2/2/-; Manley Motors: electronic tune-up, £5; Lions Club Shop: two shirts, £2/10/-; McVitty: groceries, £2; Moran and Cato: groceries, £1; Ron

Dixon, butcher: meat, £1/15/-; Clausens Pty. Ltd.: iron, £5/5/-; Bernard's Beauty Salon: permanent wave, £5/10/-; Guests Pty. Ltd.: two pouffes, £3; Jim Maus Ltd., butcher: side of lamb, £2/7/-; Ted Shields and Geoff. Horsey, Croydon Market: fruit and vegetables, £3; Croydon Furnishers: toy printing press, £3/19/-; Alexander's Men's Store: shirt, £2; Ringwood Centre Self Service: groceries, £1; Hannam (Sales) Pty. Ltd.: light fittings, £5; Lawford's Pty. Ltd.: cushion, 15/-; Olympic Pharmacy (W. B. Cox): toilet requisites, £2; Mellers Pharmacy: toilet soap, 9/-; anonymous: plastic toys, £3/12/-; anonymous: two chickens, £1/18/-.

Total value: £242/14/6.

## RINGWOOD AND CROYDON MAIL

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

21 May 1964

### LIONS ARE TIGERS FOR WORK

ON SATURDAY there was a splendid gesture made when the Lions club of Ringwood handed over to the municipality a caravan for use by local charitable organisations when conducting street sales.

The event is the subject of a report in our news columns but we are taking editorial notice of the event for the simple reason that it is an event which cheers us all and indicates that despite the cynical utterances of those who deplore modern trends there is still a whole lot of healthy community pride in our midst.

The men who go to make up the Lions organisation do not set themselves up to be anything special. Among them are professional men, business men and tradesmen — in other words they are doing worthwhile jobs simply because they have responsibilities as bread-winners but over and above this they find time to keep the local Lions Club going.

Possibly because of the young blood in the organisation the Lions seem to have plenty of what is commonly known as the "get up and go" spirit and although they have to make resolutions the work doesn't stop there. Saturday's presentation was a good example of how the Lions convert ideas into realities.

In expressing appreciation of the caravan gift the "Mail" considers it also as an opportunity to underline the importance of such efforts in the light of our much praised democratic way of life.

There is an ever growing tendency to institutionalise everything and the individual simply gets lost in the crush. In some cases the institutional idea is really another way of "passing the buck" and although great results are often achieved the people who go to make up the organisation have no sense of 'belonging' as far as the organisation is concerned.

On more than one occasion the "Mail" has made pleas for the restoration of the individual emphasis and makes no apology for doing so again.

Parliament is often a rubber stamp for Cabinet and Cabinet ministers can become the political representatives of departmental heads. In municipal affairs it often appears that councillors are directed to a very large extent by the experts on their staffs and while all this may be necessary at times there seems to be a need for Australians to reverse the obvious trend of allowing too much power rest in too few hands.

The need of this hour is for men with a sense of personal responsibility and with a sense of adventure. Too much organisation and specialisation tends to encourage people to be like "little ships and steer close to the shore." Australia never came to nationhood by steering such a course.

The Lions Club of Ringwood have given us more than a lovely caravan, they have reminded us of what individual effort can achieve in doing what may at first seem impossible. If that spirit can be really revived in our houses of parliament, in our council chambers and even in our charitable organisations then it will be the free, adventurous spirit of man which will set the pace of progress and not the cold spirit of institutions and bureaucratic pressures.

*Ringwood and Croydon Mail*

**LAST Saturday morning, the Royal Women's Hospital Auxiliary had the distinction of being the first organisation to use the new mobile street stall presented to the City of Ringwood by the Lions Club. An informal ceremony by the Mayor, Cr. P. Vergers, marked the occasion.**

EASTERN, Thurs., July 18, 1963

## Big Night Out For Local Lions

More than 80 people attended the installation of the new president and board of directors of the Lions Club of Ringwood, at the Croydon Village Drive-in Cabaret last Tuesday week.

International Counselor Bill Tresise performed the ceremony.

Chairman for the night, Lion Harry James, thanked the outgoing board of directors for a year of steady progress.

The immediate past president, Mr. Jack Buchanan, responded.

Guests included Mr. Manson, MLA, and Mrs. Manson; Lions deputy district governor, Mr. Bill Williams; Zone chairman,

Mr. Charles Williams; Junior Chamber of Commerce president, Cr. Stan Morris, and Mrs. Morris; and Croydon Apex club, representative, Mr. Angus, and Mrs. Angus.

New officials are: president, Bob Lindsay; secretary, Ron Yee; treasurer, Kevin Pratt; first vice-president, David Lush; second vice-president, Maurie Cass; third vice-president, Max Thomas; directors, Ken Ward, Peter Purdy, Tail Twister, Cr. Reg Spencer and Lion Tamer Hec McLean.

# LOCAL LIONS ARE PRAISED

The Lions Club of Ringwood this week received a "thank you" letter from the Elkhorn Lions Club, in Winconsin, U.S.A.; for the hospitality shown to American Field Service student Mary Peterson when she visited Ringwood in 1963.

The letter was signed by Dr. O. W. Babcock, secretary of the Elkhorn Lions Club.

Seventeen-year-old Mary who lives with her parents and two younger sisters at Lake Wardawden, just out of Elkhorn arrived in Ringwood in January 1963.

She attended Ringwood High School for the 1963 school year, and returned to the United States this year entered the senior class at Elkhorn High School.

In Heathmont her "foster parents" were Mr and Mrs. Horrie Bulloch, of The Boulevarde.

MARY 9-4-64  
Mary plans to study teaching at the University of Wisconsin, Madisen, at the end of 1964.

The letter read: "The Elkhorn Lions Club wishes to extend our thanks to you for receiving, Mary Peterson, in the true spirit of Lionism and Brotherhood.

"Mary has been our guest at a regular club meeting and spoke in glowing terms of her visit to your club and country.

"We are displaying proudly the banner, which she passed on to us on your behalf, at all our regular meetings.

"Our club has taken a very active part in helping the Exchange Student Program since its inception.

"We believe, that through understanding on a more personal basis, the countries of the world can be brought together in harmony and peace".

The letter was received at the last meeting of the Lions Club of Ringwood.

Ringwood and Croydon Mail

# RINGWOOD LIONS CLUB PRESENT BUS TO MONKAMI

CARRYING on their excellent work for Charitable institutions, the Ringwood Lions Club on Wed. 14th presented a new Bus to "Monkami" with a capacity of 30 passengers. The Presentation was made by the Lions Club President, Mr. D. Lush, at the "Monkami" training Centre.

and the Lions look forward to the continued support of the people of Ringwood to make the raffle a success.

Mr. L. Kenny, President of 'Monkami', expressed great appreciation to the members of the Lions Club of Ringwood. At a time when a new bus was urgently needed they made special arrangements to provide the bus earlier than originally planned. The new bus will be used to convey over 30 (6 from Ringwood) intellectually handicapped and spastic children between their homes and Monkami Day Training Centre. We are grateful to the Lions for their generosity.

In presenting the bus, Mr. Lush thanked the people of Ringwood and Croydon who had supported the Lions Club in the past, especially those who have given their old clothing, household goods, etc., for sale at the Opportunity Shop. As it has been the proceeds from the shop which has made it possible to purchase the bus, special thanks are also given to the wives and friends of members who voluntari-

ly serve each week. The Opportunity Shop enables the citizens of Ringwood to participate in community work without cost to themselves, simply by saving their rags clothing and unwanted household goods for the Lions.

To pay off the amount owing on the bus a monster Christmas Stocking will be raffled on Dec. 19, tickets will be on sale from Oct. 24 to Dec. 12



L. to R. — Mr. M. Cass (1st Vice President), Mr. D. Lush (President of Lions Club of Ringwood), Mr. L. Kenny (President), Mrs. R. Burstal (Secretary), and Mrs. M. Waldeck (Supervisor of Monkami with pupils).

—Photo by courtesy of Peter Payens.

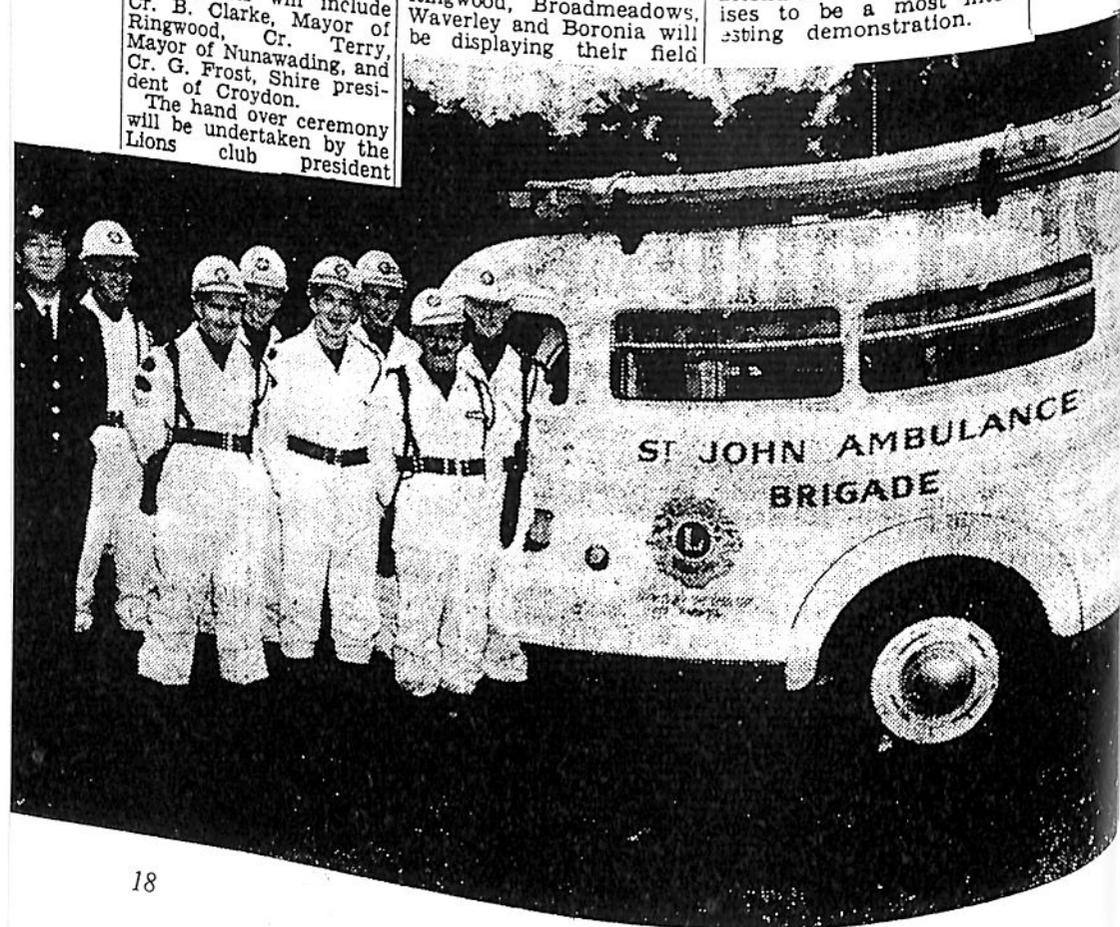
# NEW AMBULANCE FOR ST. JOHN'S — LIONS' GIFT

*At a special ceremony on Sunday afternoon, June 26 at the Ringwood Lake Reserve an ambulance rescue vehicle will be handed over to the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade.*

It is being presented by the Lions Club of Ringwood and was purchased from the funds raised at their recent Go Gay Carnival. Mr. J. W. Manson, M.L.A. will be guest speaker and other guests will include Cr. B. Clarke, Mayor of Ringwood, Cr. Terry, Mayor of Nunawading, and Cr. G. Frost, Shire president of Croydon. The hand over ceremony will be undertaken by the Lions club president

Maurie Cass to Mr. J. Byrne, who is the leader of the Ringwood and Districts St. Johns' Ambulance Brigade. Following, St. Johns' ambulance brigades of Ringwood, Broadmeadows, Waverley and Boronia will be displaying their field

rescue ambulances and equipment, and will also be staging a realistic demonstration of their rescue work. Residents are invited to attend and see what promises to be a most interesting demonstration.



*A field rescue ambulance was presented to the Ringwood division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade last Sunday afternoon by the Ringwood Lions club.*

At a ceremony at the Ringwood Lake, Mr. Maurie Cass, Lions club president handed over the ambulance to Dr. Geoffrey Newman-Morris, deputy commissioner of St. Johns Ambulance Brigade in Victoria.

Guest speaker, Mr. J. W. Manson M.L.A., referred to the St. John's Ambulance Brigade as the oldest organisation banded together to help their fellow man in distress, and it was unique that the most recently formed service group in Ringwood, the Lions club should be to the fore in helping them.

### Rescue squad

A search and rescue squad of the Ringwood division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade was formed late last year.

There are 30 similar squads throughout Victoria and the Ringwood squad is the 20th to be equipped with its own field ambulance.

The officer in charge of search and rescue St. John Ambulance Brigade, Mr. Max Phelan, said the ambulance would be used at Mt. Donna Buang at weekends.

"The police have been worried at the number of accidents at Mt. Donna Buang," he said, "and the difficulty of transporting people down from the mountain."

The ambulance will be stationed on the mountain each weekend and this will enable accident cases to be brought down immediately and avoid the usual long delay of waiting for the civil ambulance.

The ambulance was blessed by the Ringwood City chaplain the Rev. Father J. W. Scarborough.

Guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of Ringwood Cr. and Mrs. B. Clarke, Cr. Elizabeth Penny, Cr. N. Aus. and Captain Stanely co-ordinator

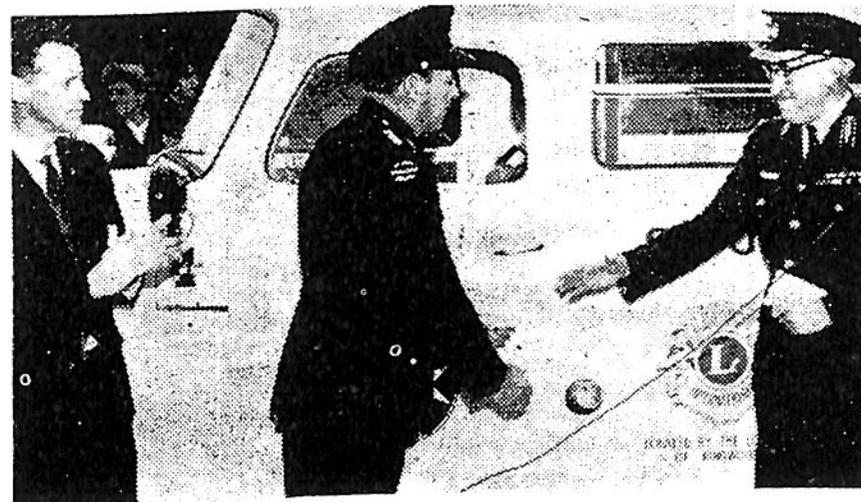
of Civil Defence for the district of Nunawading, Ringwood and Croydon.

A display of rescue techniques was staged by Ringwood and Broadmeadows brigades including a "flying fox" which carried patients across the lake.

The Lions club raised the money for the ambulance at a Charity Carnival held last March.

Dr. Geoff Newman-Morris, deputy Commissioner for Victoria of St. John's Ambulance (right) congratulates Superintendent Joe Byrne of Ringwood and District Brigade (centre) on receiving their new ambulance from Ringwood Lions Club president, Mr. Maurie Cass (left).

— Bryan Dale of Bayswater.



# Ringwood Lions Hand Over Bus

**THE** Ringwood Lions Club has presented a new bus to the Monkami Day Training Centre for intellectually handicapped and spastic children at North Croydon.

22.10.64

The funds for the bus were raised by sale of goods at the Ringwood Opportunity Shop.

The bus is seen outside Monkami with (from left) Mr. M. Cass (1st. vice-president) Mr. D. Lush (president) of Lions Club of Ringwood, Mr. L. Kenny (president) Mrs. R. Burstal (secretary) and Mrs. M. Waldeck (supervisor) of Monkami, with pupils. Presenting the bus, Mr. Lush thanked the people of Ringwood, and Croydon, who had supported the Lions Club

in the past, especially those who have given their old clothing, household goods for sale at the Opportunity Shop.

As it has been the proceeds from the shop which has made it possible to purchase the bus, special thanks are also given to the wives and friends of members who voluntarily serve each week.

The Opportunity Shop enables the citizens of Ringwood to participate in community service work without cost to themselves, simply by saving their rags, clothing and unwanted

needed they made special arrangements to provide the bus earlier than originally planned.

The new bus will be used to convey over 30 (6 from Ringwood) intellectually handicapped and spastic children between their homes and Monkami Day Training Centre. "We are grateful to the Lions for their generosity." household goods for the Lions.

To pay off the amount owing on the bus, a monster Christmas Stocking valued at £350 will be raffled on December, 19, tickets for 1/- will be on sale from October 24 to December 12, and the Lions look forward to the continued support of the people of Ringwood to make the raffle a success.

Mr. L. Kenny, president of Monkami, expressed great appreciation to the members of the Lions Club of Ringwood. At a time when a new bus was urgently

# Ambulance for rescue team

*A field rescue ambulance was presented to the Ringwood division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade yesterday by the Ringwood Lions Club.*

The ambulance was handed over by the president of the Lions Club, Mr. Maurice Cass, at a ceremony in the Ringwood Lake Reserve.

It was accepted by the deputy commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Victoria, Dr. Geoffrey Newman-Morris.

The Lions Club raised the money for the ambulance at a three-day carnival during the Labor Day week end in March.

A search and rescue squad

of the Ringwood division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade was formed late last year.

There are 30 St. John search and rescue squads in Victoria and Ringwood squad is the 20th to be equipped with its own field ambulance.

## Snow duties

The officer in charge of search and rescue, St. John Ambulance Brigade (Mr. Max Phelan) said the am-

bulance would be used at Mt. Donna Buang at week ends.

"The police have been worried at the number of accidents at Mt. Donna Buang," he said, "and the difficulty of transporting people down from the mountain.

"The division's ambulance will now be stationed on the mountain each week end and will be able to bring any accident cases down quickly and save the long wait for the civil ambulance."

After the presentation and blessing of the ambulance by the Ringwood City chaplain (the Rev. Father J. W. Scarborough) the search and rescue squad gave a demonstration of rescue techniques.

# LIONS HAND OVER RESCUE VEHICLE

MANY months of planning and hard work by Ringwood Lions culminated on Sunday at Ringwood Lake as they handed over a magnificent new ambulance to the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Mr. J. W. Manson, MLA, chief speaker, after being introduced by Lions president Maurie Cass, commented on the fact that one of the oldest organisations formed to help those in distress was being helped by Ringwood's newest group.

Deputy State commissioner for the brigade Dr. Geoffrey Newman-Morris and Superintendent Joe Byrne, of the Ringwood branch, received the unit.

The ambulance was blessed in an impressive ceremony by Father Scarborough in the presence of a distinguished gathering, including the Mayor, Cr. B. Clark, Mrs. Clarke, members of the council and others. Then followed an interesting display.

# Lion-Sized Task Ahead

The Ringwood Lions Club has launched its biggest project so far—it aims to provide an additional bus, at a cost of £1,250, for "Monkami."

The Ringdon auxiliary will also help with funds. Ringwood people can help by donating unwanted household goods or anything that can be turned into money, to the Oppor-

tunity Shop near the Ringwood Clock Tower.

The shop is open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings.

For collection, please phone Mr. Paddy Miles at 87-6215.

# IT'S 'GO-GAY' FOR BIG WEEKEND Ready for carnival

A parade of sleighs through the streets of Ringwood next Saturday morning will open Ringwood big "Go-Gay" holiday weekend charity carnival.

Highlights of an action-packed weekend, on Ringwood Reserve, at the rear of Ringwood Town Hall, will include:

● A colorful "Princess of Ringwood" competition, the winner of which will be crowned at an open-air dance on Monday night:

● Personal appearances by youthful television compere Ian Turpie and the well-known music group, "The Strangers", at Monday's dance.

● An opening street parade down Whitehorse Rd. from Holeproof's to the carnival ground at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday!

● An \$80,000 trade exhibition and display sponsored by local firms!

● Stalls, fun of the fair, a golf-hitting machine and a variety of attractions on both Saturday and Monday.

### By Lions

The carnival weekend has been organised by the Lions Club of Ringwood to raise funds for the local St. John's Ambulance and the Mit-

cham Special School for retarded children.

The carnival will be officially opened by Mr. J. W. Manson, MLA for Ringwood and Minister for State Development, immediately after the street

parade reaches the carnival ground at about 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Activities will begin at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday.

### Dog Show

Other features of the weekend will include a KCC approved dog show at Hughes Park, North Croydon on Sunday, March 13 at 1.30 p.m.

Entry fee for the novelty section will be 20c and sections will include best groomed dog, best dressed, dog with the most doubtful pedigree, dog most like its owner, dog with the waggiest tale, dog with the

most tricks. Judges for this section will be T.V. actor, Leslie Dayman and his wife, DI.

### Entrants

Fifteen attractive young lasses will compete for the Princess title at Ringwood Reserve to be judged at 3 p.m. on Monday.

There will be a golf "machine" operating and a professional golf instructor.

In St. Paul's hall an art display will be presented by the Ringwood Arts and Crafts.

Other attractions will include all the usual carnival attractions and open-air dancing on Saturday and Monday nights with guest stars, Bob Gillard, Ian Turpie and the Strangers.

Our support for the projected Maroondah Hospital in those early days included screw top jars with a money hole in the lid left with shops for collecting customer's small change. It is on record that for the month of June, 1966 we gave the Hospital Fund Raising committee \$100 from this activity. It should be remembered that in those pre-inflation days \$100 was a far more significant sum than it is today, and that this activity was maintained over many months.

Many small public facilities around Ringwood were donated by the Club from this early period. They are now accepted as part of the landscape and the Lions part in their establishment is forgotten unless you care to read the faded and indistinct acknowledgements somewhere on the object. Some examples are seating in parks and other public places and the gas barbecues and drinking fountain at Ringwood Lake.

By 1965/6 we had gained both experience and confidence and over a holiday weekend we organized a carnival at Greenwood Park that netted \$2,442 for 1250 Lions man-hours. About twenty local organizations joined in and helped to make a success of the carnival. Proceedings included such varied activities as a Princess Competition, a dog show and a children's raffle. We had trade displays, spinning wheels and highland dancing, food and drink stalls, a wheel barrow "collection" and crazy bikes, a barbecue, tea and biscuits and an art show. With all our enthusiasm we never succeeded in running projects that required long term and frequent rostering of membership for duty.

Many projects did not get off the ground because of impracticability or other factors. For instance, there was once a project for selling bottles of water, said to be taken from an Antarctic iceberg, and guaranteed 2,000 years old, for drinking with your scotch. The record says the projected label read "Pure Antarctic Iceberg originated scotch whisky water" "Taste its purity and pristine freshness" "Bottled in Australia".

Friendships from this early period still exist today and the homely philosophies expounded are still in men's minds. For example, at a car trial Lion Bill Rutherford said his father had taught him how to boil a billy in ten minutes and this is how you did it. He missed his meal and got his cup of tea. At a District convention a Lion who is still with us boasted that the key to a good night was to leave the key in the bedroom door.

The Bulletin editor, claiming the authority of the Board, offered a free dinner to the first member to recite the Ethics or Objects without reference to the printed copy.

Press cuttings reproduced in these pages give some idea of the scope and strength of our activity during these early years.



# Christine Is Our Princess

Christine took the title at the big holiday carnival staged by the Lions Club of Ringwood at the weekend. There were 15 entrants. Christine, a student teacher, lives in Avalon Gve., Ringwood. She wore a white crimplene dress and jacket with a black organza hat and black accessories.

Poised and elegant, Christine Wilkins proudly wears the sash she received on Monday with the title of "Princess of Ringwood".



# Christine wins title

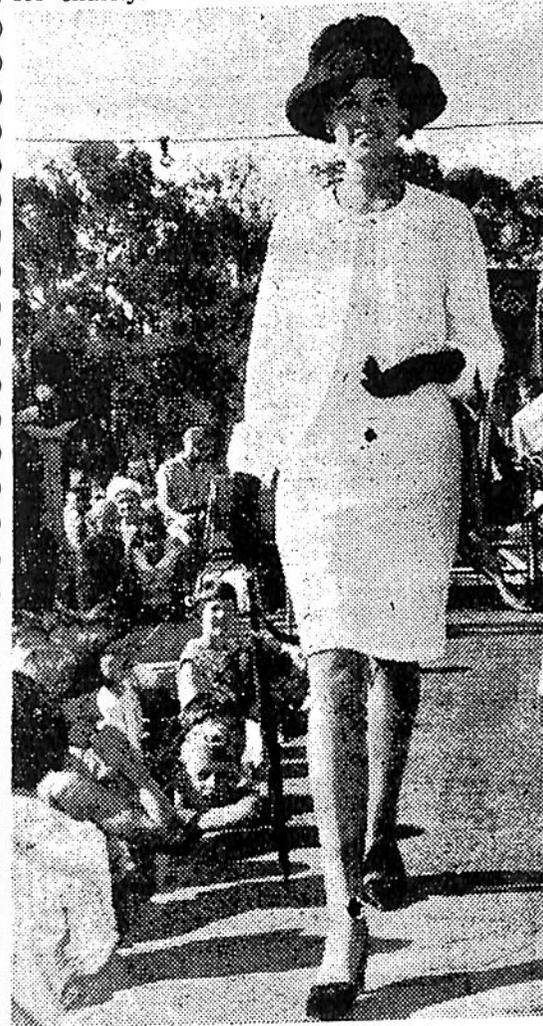
Attractive Christine Wilkins, of Ringwood, was judged the Princess of Ringwood at the "Go-Gay" Charity Carnival on Monday.

Christine won a cheque for \$150 and prizes to the value of \$100. Sponsor Mr. John Spencer received \$100.

The two-day Lions Club sponsored carnival was a big success—the "Princess" contest raised \$1,000 for charity.

● THIS PICTURE shows her parading for the judges.

She was introduced to a crowd of about 3,000 dancers and spectators by television compere Ian Turpie.



Eighteen year old Christine was "Miss Norwood" sponsored by Mr. John Spencer.

A student at the Burwood Teachers College she is a former student of Norwood High school.

For the judging, Christine wore a white crimplene suit with a large black organza hat and black accessories.

## From Malaysia

The 15 entrants were judged by a 19-year-old mannequin from Malaysia, Miss Suzette Janhar, Mrs. Brian Clarke the Mayoress of Ringwood, and Mr. R. L. B. Garratt of Revlon.

Second place was awarded to Collete Trueman "Miss Patterson Motors," and third place to Wendy Thompson "Miss Ringwood Timber."

The contest raised \$1000.

The winner received a cheque for \$150, a Revlon beauty case and cosmetics valued at \$40, an order for \$10.50 at Alexanders of Ringwood, a \$10 order for Bernard Beauty salon, order for \$10 Orlando Beauty Salon, a \$10 dress length from Fibremakers, a \$4 bouquet from Mrs. Phillips Florist, and a \$5 sash.

Her sponsor Mr. John Spencer received \$100.

The second prize was valued at \$80 and third prize at \$40.

## Presented Prizes

The prizes were awarded by Lions Club of Ringwood president Maurie Cass. Compere was Lion Reg. Spencer.

Each entrant was presented with a bracelet of cultured pearls and semi-precious stones from the Lions Club of Ringwood.

Ian Turpie introduced the winner at the Open Air Dance on Monday evening.

## THE ANNUAL BARBECUE

Year 1963 saw the beginning of that consistent annual fund raiser, The Barbecue, held in this and in many subsequent years at Lion Hec McLean's place "Penton Park" opposite the 22 mile post on Maroondah Highway. In the mid 1970s transfer was made to Park Orchards and then to "Yarra View" the St. John of God home between Wonga Park and Lilydale.

Held during the summer period to ensure as far as possible good weather, it was never washed out by unexpected storms, but on one occasion encountered a "Total Fire Ban" day. This made necessary an emergency operation to ensure that the law in regard to open fires was respected. The cooks were forced to cook in an iron clad area, where the temperature reached 45 - 50 degrees. They were only able to work in short shifts, and were seen to be drinking copious quantities of soft drinks.

The event has always been held in the evening, the hours before being spent by Lions in furious activity getting the barbecues, tables, chairs etc. onto the site, erecting shelters providing for the entertainment facilities etc.

The ladies arrived early and converted the untidy clutter of lettuce and other salad material, sliced tomatoes, made potato salad, buttered rolls, cubed cheese and covered untidy trestle table tops with clean white paper to hide the stains of long usage.

The men cooked sausages, hamburgers and steak. The ladies stood behind a long trestle table loaded with salads. When the time came the cooks announced that the first cooked meat was ready and the customers started their move from the bar to the food queue.

After the guests had eaten came the time for starting up a wide variety of small enterprises designed to win from each of them a few hard earned dollars. Mostly they made a modest sum but in some of the earlier times our lack of skill was pitted against an expert.

The bar remained open. In the main we made little profit from this but very considerable quantities were consumed.

Our gas barbecues, trestles and other equipment were used extensively over a long period and on a loan basis to other organizations. It was well worth its initial capital cost.



Barbecue, 1976.

Year 1986 saw the end of what had been a pleasant social event as well as a good fund raiser. The Club executive decided that they and the Club should not place themselves at risk of prosecution for running games of chance, no matter how slight this risk may be. Accordingly the 1986 event was run without gambling games and the group of people who had attended over so many years failed to come. The night was a failure and it was subsequently decided to cancel the event in future years.

To give some idea of the money raised from various activities organized to supplement entry tickets and other straight run sources of income the following is listed from a detailed report of the 1979 event that has survived the ravages of time:

Name of Activity	Net Income \$
"Crown and anchor"	209
Coloured wheel	101
\$100 note raffle	120
Horse race game	41
Lucky boxes	139
Lucky envelope	45
Spinning wheel	210
"Under and over"	112

In the first year (1963) the entry ticket was one pound which entitled all comers to "all the food you can eat, liquid refreshment and pony rides" words carefully chosen. The profit was 200 pounds.

4-4-1963

## LIONS IN OUR STREET

DURING the 'thirties there was formed in America an organisation known as the Lions Club and from a small beginning the organisation has become international. Support for the Ringwood Elderly Citizens' project by the Lions Club of Richmond has been important news in the local Press and now there is a Lions Club of Ringwood which is fully dedicated to carrying on the Lions tradition in the local sphere.

In this present age we are experiencing in many walks of life and particularly in the business sphere, what is popularly known as "the rat race." In this race the motto is "pull up the ladder, Jack; I'm all right."

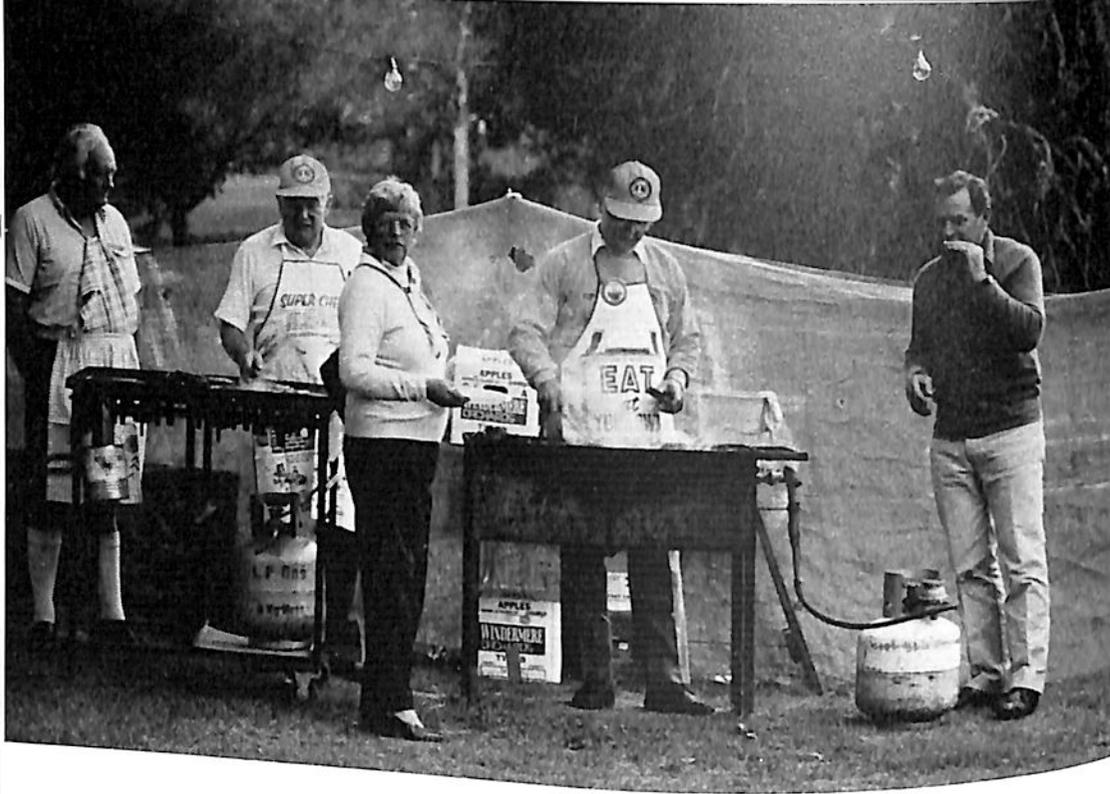
With such a race going on it is always refreshing to find that there are some folk who use the ladder for other purposes than ensuring their own safety, in fact they are prepared to use it to help life's unfortunates over the obstacles which confront both the strong and the weak.

Walking along our main streets you may easily meet members of the Lions Club and there's nothing unusual about them. They have homes, families, trades and professions to look after just like any normal Australian, but they have made up their minds to give some of their time to helping other people and they have taken the view that their building-up process can be carried on without pulling down.

High ideals are, of course, insufficient for any organisation and for that reason the Lions Club of Ringwood is opening an opportunity shop at 209 Whitehorse Road, near to Warrandyte Road, in the shop formerly occupied by Mr. Goodwin. The shop is opening to-day, but will be officially opened on Saturday, 6th April.

"The Mail" feels fully justified in commending the work of the Lions Club to citizens of Ringwood and surrounding districts. The most obvious reason for commending the Club is that it is doing good in the accepted sense of the word, but in another sense it is doing something for the members in that it is teaching the value of service.

There are many who need kindness and help to-day, but our community needs, as never before, men and women who have caught the vision of service, and because the Lions Club is seeking to meet both of these needs the Club merits widespread support.



From this simple beginning the entertainment provided was widened to include an assortment of games of chance, a lucky box stall, a ladies stall, means of entertainment for the children who began to invade what was initially an almost completely adult affair. Each year the numbers attending increased and so did the profit as we improved our technique for extracting money out of people's pockets.

The attendance and profit statistics are scattered and incomplete. After the first year's 200 pound profit we made \$900 on 26th February, 1966, year 1967 showed an attendance of 253 and a profit of \$464 for 200 Club man-hours. In 1969 profit was \$1,437, in 1970 profit was \$1,517, and in 1971 it was \$1,260. Year 1972 according to the Bulletin had an attendance of 750 people. 1974 profit was \$1,550. The 1975 event showed \$2,284 profit and in 1977 we made \$3,514.

The 1978 barbecue fell on a holiday week-end and a total fire ban day which caused a mild panic and a lot of hard preliminary work. However, we made a profit of \$2,000 despite reduced attendance. 1981 profit was \$2,500 and 1982 profit \$2,700.

Counting the money and getting it to the bank at the end of the event became a job that was reckoned not to be without risk. One year the organizers took more than an hour travelling in what was reckoned to be a well organized convoy around the back roads of Wonga Park making their circuitous way from Yarra View to the bank in Ringwood. They insist to this day they were not lost but were avoiding a possible "hold-up". Having arrived at the bank in the early hours of the morning, they had to persuade the key to open the night safe.

## THE OPPORTUNITY SHOP

If you are a management consultant or if you are accustomed to running your business with a place for everything and everything in its place, this chapter will give you the shudders. The operation from go to whoa was a tangle of other people's unwanted assets, unsorted and unclassified. But it made a lot of money. In fact over several years it was our biggest revenue earner.

If you could find them, there were bargains galore in the great heap of, on average, slow moving stock. Slow moving mainly because we never caught up on sorting, presentation and consignment of unwanted items to the rag bag or the tip.

*Ringwood and Croydon Mail*

### LIONS TO "OPEN SHOP"

The Lions Club of Ringwood will open an Opportunity Shop at 209 Whitehorse Rd. today, Thursday, April 4, from

which all proceeds will go to charitable projects. Articles to sell in the Shop are required by the Club. If you have anything to give, a message left at any of the following addresses will ensure its collection. M. Thomas, 18 Hygeia Pde., Ringwood, 87-6927;

R. Stoney, 50 Loughnan Rd., Ringwood, 87-6046; E. Miles, 35 Caroline St., Ringwood, 87-6215; N. Bissett, 109 Warrandyte Rd., Ringwood, 87-6736; A. Lyon, 16 Balfour Ave., Heathmont, 87-7780; P. Purdy, 8 Harrison St., Ringwood, 870-8248; McLean, 5 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood, 87-7814.

The Club started the opportunity shop in early 1963 in an old and vacant shop in the main street of the town as it was then. It had been previously occupied over many years by the local boot repairer "Booty" Clark but has now disappeared under the Myer Eastland project.

It was our first regular fund raiser and produced 100 - 150 pounds a month over a long period, a not inconsiderable sum in those pre-inflation days.

The shop was staffed most week days by Lions Ladies, on a roster basis. On Saturdays it was staffed by a roster of Lions and their Ladies.

Collecting of material was sometimes on a Saturday morning house to house basis or otherwise on a random basis of knowledge among Lions and their friends of who was clearing out the household cupboards, or the backyard shed. Sometimes parcels of goods were given us by local businesses because they were old stock or surplus or not very saleable material.

*Ringwood and Croydon Mail*

## Lions' Shop Aids Charity

**R**INGWOOD Lions Club is happy with the average weekly takings of about £30 at the Opportunity shop in Whitehorse Rd., near the clocktower.

They want to thank everyone who has helped their charitable fund-raising by donating goods for sale.

At present they have a supply of clothes of all descriptions with some very good coats. There are also waterproof drums and good saucepans for sale.

### In Demand

Articles in good demand are vases — they can never get enough to meet the demand — odd plates, cups or saucers, pepper and salt shakers, picture frames, walking sticks and piano stools.

If you have anything in these categories please ring Mr. P. Miles (87-5765) to arrange collection.

Ringwood Lions Club will celebrate Charter Anniversary Night at the "Rendezvous" on Tuesday August 11.

### Lions Club Opportunity Shop

The Lions Club of Ringwood Opportunity Shop is where you will find the unusual—anything from old records, shoes, pianola player rolls, hats, old tables and baby clothes, etc. Profits from the shop are being used for needy benefits in the City of Ringwood.

If you are able to help the Club in community service by donating goods—no matter how old or unless they may appear to you, please phone K. Ward's Newsagency, 87-6220, and we will arrange for them to be picked up.

5-9-63

## LINES FOR THE LIONS

The Ringwood Lions Club is doing a wonderful work for local charities.

The Opportunity Shop at 209 Maroondah Highway (near clock tower) is not generally known to the public because the 'Lions', despite their roar are silent in the matter of proclaiming their activities. It is true that Arch Allsop, a great big 6-footer, wears a great big Lion's badge and does a lot of work for the Lions, but he hasn't a roar. Young Rutherford, his offside, is more vociferous, but is also somewhat restrained in his vocabulary, he's only a little chap, but like Arch, is really busy working for the Lions and local charities. What they want is the support of the public.

The Opportunity Shop is open for business on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The Shop will sell anything that's saleable and this is a genuine appeal to the public to help with the supply of goods.

If unable to deliver to the shop just ring the big 'fella' at 87-6295 or the little 'fella', 87-6204 and you'll be surprised at their courteous activity.

There was always a mass of old clothes awaiting sorting, cleaning and placing on hangers so that they were attractive to customers. The men helped with this activity during spare evenings but we never quite caught up. It was a tedious and sometimes a dirty work. A substantial trade was done in good quality children's clothing its only fault being that the donor had grown out of it. Considerable quantities of old clothes were junked and sold as rags. The critical eye of the ladies was essential in dividing our intake between items interesting for sale and those to be sold as rags.

In 1965 some of the initial interest was gone and about this time takings fell to as little as \$45 a month after rent. The main problem was identified as failure to do the background work of collecting and sorting goods. Staffing was also a problem. We were never very good at sustaining long term projects. We had trouble in finding room to display larger items such as furniture.

In 1966 there was a revival. The shop was open Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and each month a committee of six was appointed to run the shop. First quarter of 1966 saw gross takings of \$788 less rent giving a net of \$528. For the year 1965/6 the shop netted \$2,300 with the real effort coming from the ladies.

As well as material carted to the tip in Norm Bisset's truck, considerable quantities of rags were sold. Unfortunately there is no record of total amount received from rags, but it was considerable. In the period 1966/7 there are several reports of quantities of rags being sold for \$50 a lot.

In 1967 the shop management had a change in philosophy stating that its most important objective was service to the community by selling cheaply or even donating goods to those in need.

In 1968 the shop was still going strong. Lions and ladies were rostered for duty, collection of goods, staffing the shop, sorting the receipts and regular banking of takings were all going well. The keeping of a daily sales record, list of goods for pick up and control of pricing showed good management.

About this time we facelifted the shop with a coat of paint, and a working bee of members tidied up the fittings and stock. The Bulletin waxed eloquent on such matters as the engineering skill displayed by members in manoeuvring such items as heavy wood-burning stoves. There was, reports the Bulletin, an unbelievably unco-ordinated sorting job done into bins which were then through lack of supervision re-sorted into other bins.

The record says that a distinguished actor on the scene at this time was Lion Grant Douglas disguised as a carpenter, trying as a solo effort to construct a catwalk from the back door across the muddy yard to the "toot". The job was complete with hand rail.

Lion Maurie Cass manhandled a washing machine into the window to await loading on to the disposal truck. Someone dropped an unrelated price tag on to it and it sold immediately to a passer-by.

It all ended up with a call for refreshments and intent to return to the job

was frustrated by offstage calling of wives that it was time to come home as dinner was getting cold.

This was the last high point. By late 1969 interest had once more flagged and staffing again became a problem.

We considered, in a long report, extension into specialist areas such as books and used furniture saying that these would be more profitable and require less man hours.

We also considered the purchase of job lots from bankrupt businesses, salvaged goods, customs seized lots and establishing contact with dealers or manufacturers for stock rejects.

A meeting to discuss the future of the opportunity shop and other fund raising ideas was held in March, 1969. In November, 1969 the Board proposed letting the shop to other fund raising organizations in turn, but the problem solved itself when the shop was to be demolished to make way for Eastland. This was in late March, 1970.

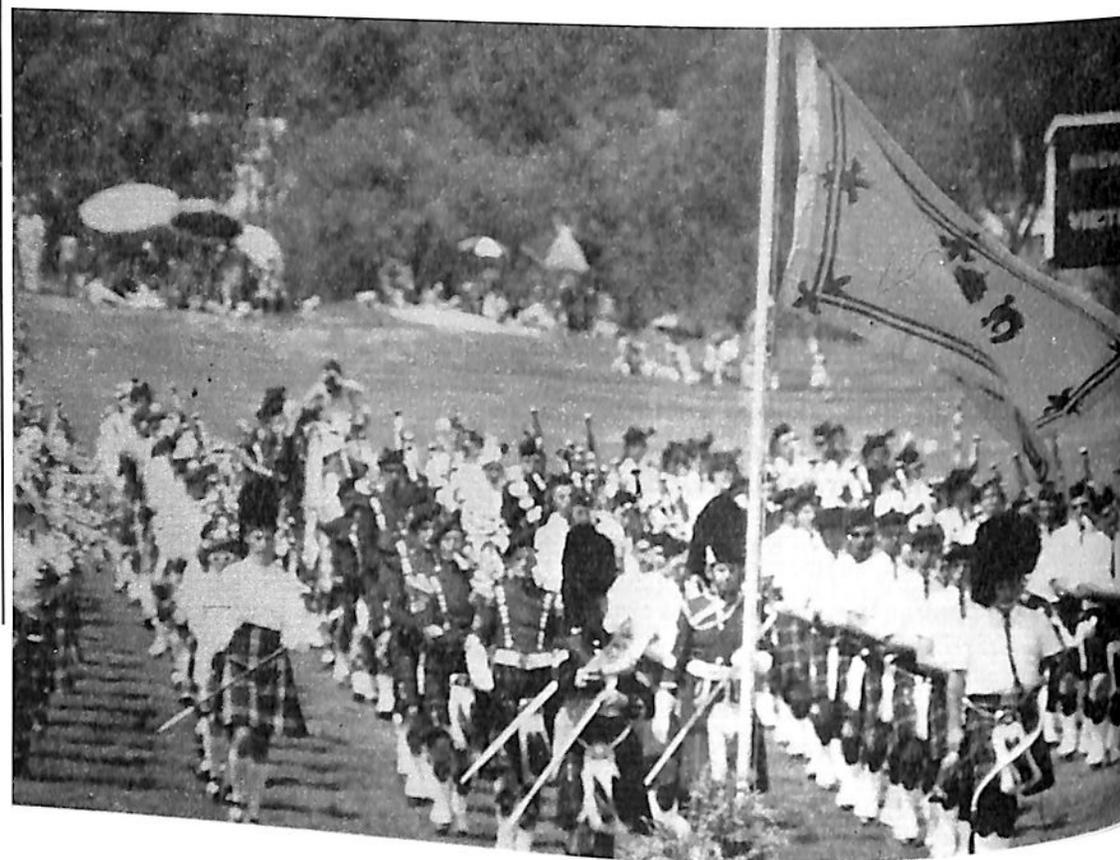
## RINGWOOD HIGHLAND CARNIVAL

This function was held annually in Ringwood from the mid 1960s at Jubilee Park. Its more spectacular features included a march past of Highland Pipe Bands, Highland Games and Highland dancing. The first year included a march along the highway which was closed to all traffic. In some years it had the patronage of the Governor of Victoria, Victorian band championships were held and there was a gathering of various clans.

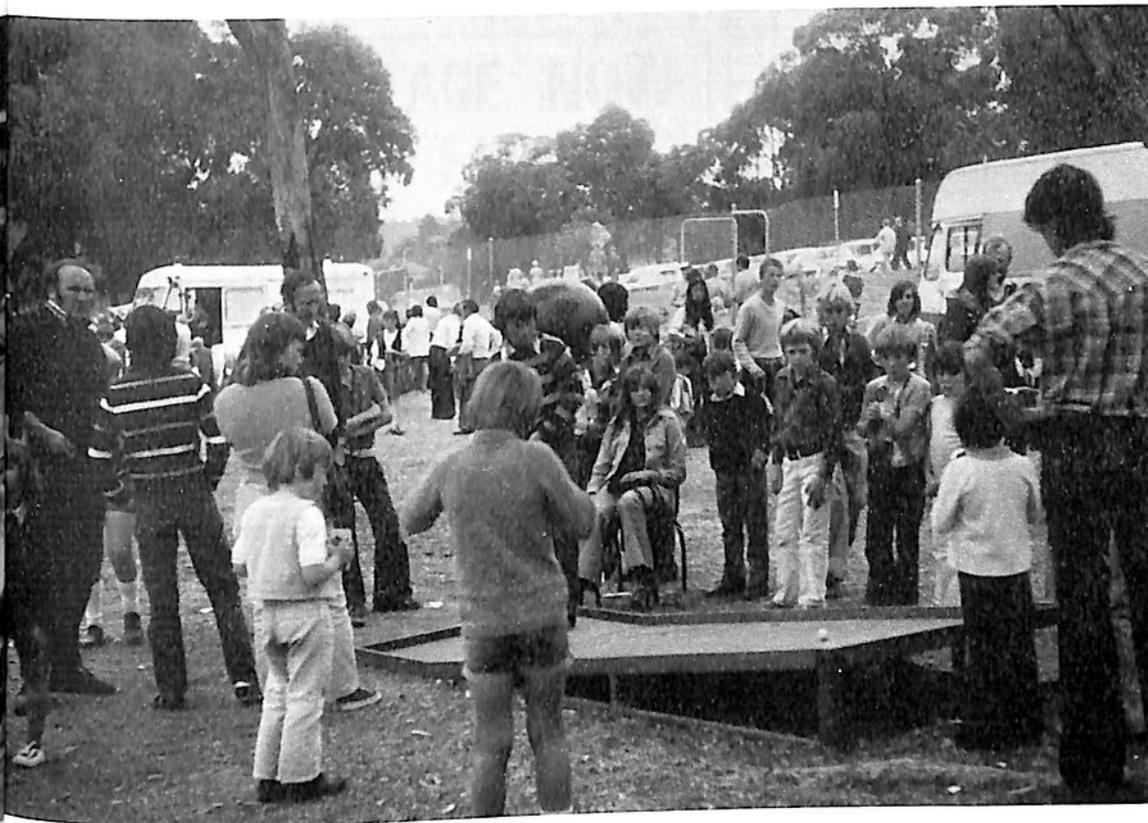
Its first organizer was a public committee including many Lions formed by Councillor Elizabeth Penny, with Lion Ian Kirkpatrick as chairman. It had the blessing and backing of the Ringwood City Council. In its formative years Ringwood Lions enthusiastically conducted the Games.

It provided a fund raising venue for many local organizations who ran stalls etc. These included such groups as Scouts, youth club and Maroondah Hospital Auxiliary who besides produce stalls ran such entertainment as chair-o-plane, dodgem or ferris wheel.

In 1970 Ringwood Lions were the main organizers with Lion Ken Blackmore as committee chairman. By this time the Games were a wonderful annual display for Ringwood and as well viewers of the march past bands, 6 - 8,000 people paid



*At 1974 Highland Games.*



*At 1975 Highland Games.*

at the gate to see the Games, highland dancing and other attractions including Scottish cooking.

The principal organizers were always helped by other service clubs in Ringwood. For these people it took many hundreds of manhours for little ultimate financial reward. For example the carnival made a profit of \$300 in 1970, profit for 1971 was \$1,522 and for 1973 was \$738. The greatest reward lay in the satisfaction of providing a spectacle and doing a service for the City of Ringwood.

The work thrust on the carnival Committee each year included such small detail as providing lapel badges for officials, and judges for athletic, musical and dancing events; providing advertising and direction signs, and permits for such unlikely things as entertainment on a Sunday.

The Ringwood Council were always helpful and provided facilities such as platforms for highland dancing, provision of seating and reservation of covered areas as insurance against a wet day, provision of a Committee Room for the

official party, decorations, flags, toilets, traffic control and in some years dust control. As far back as 1966/7 the Council had introduced annually a funding guarantee usually of \$3,500 to provide backing for bands to travel long distances.

In early years the march past of bands was led by the late Hon. J.W.Manson MLA as chieftan. Following the bands was a parade of marching girls from Ringwood area, the Ringwood Rescue Squad, the Scottish Dancing Association, Highland games athletes, the J.Cs., Ringwood area Lions Club and other participants. All of these, equipped with banners made a colourful show.

Basic funding was by donation from Ringwood business houses. By 1979 the end profit was over \$2,000, which was firstly held in Ringwood Lions Community Service Fund, and later handed to Ringwood Council to purchase equipment for the Maroondah Hospital.

In subsequent years we took part to a lesser degree. For example in 1982 our principal activity was a donut and drink stall that made a profit of \$600.

## LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR ELDERLY CITIZENS

In the 1960s Richmond Lions established "Lionswood" at Kirk Street, Ringwood on land given by the City of Ringwood. This project provided living accommodation for elderly people in separate independent living units. The original basis of allocation of residents was Richmond 75% and Ringwood 25%. However in the mid 1970s this requirement was withdrawn.

In October, 1972 we discussed with the Council and Housing Commission a proposition to increase elderly citizens accommodation in Ringwood. In June, 1973 we had a letter from the Housing Commission advising of their interest in flats for the elderly. We advised Ringwood Council of this and that we had \$5,000 set aside for such a project.

We proposed the acquisition of a fifty foot wide strip of land running between Thomas and Wilana Streets. This gave a long block on which could be erected eleven single, two double flats and a communal lounge.

After due consideration Ringwood Council agreed to make the land available and to give \$15,000 toward the project construction cost, the remaining cost to be subsidized by the government on a two for one basis. In this manner the project was financed by the Club.

In April, 1975 the Club had applied for a planning permit and had written to the Dept. of Social Security for a subsidy.

In 1976/7 the "Ringwood Lions Elderly People's Home Society" was under the chairmanship of Ian Kirkpatrick. The building sub-committee comprised Lions Jack Kelaher, Ralph German and Ian Kirkpatrick.

At September, 1977 finance for the project is summarised as follows:

Lions Club of Ringwood initial allocation	\$5,000
City of Ringwood	\$15,000
Lionswood Village	\$5,000
Lionswood Village - loan to Lions Club of Ringwood	\$5,000

## LIONS VILLAGE NOW HOUSES FORTY

**EXTENSIONS worth \$64,000 and housing 12 elderly residents have been added to Lionswood Village in Kirk Street, Ringwood.**

People now in residence number 40 and the overall cost of the village amounts to \$200,000.

The extensions, which front Wantirna Rd., were officially opened on Sunday by the Mayor of Ringwood, Cr. B. Clarke. It was the last official appearance of the Mayor and the Mayor-elect.

The original Lionswood Village was opened in May, 1963, by the Premier of Victoria, Sir Henry Bolte.

### COMBINED EFFORTS

It had been built through the combined efforts of the Ringwood Elderly Citizens'

Appeal Committee under Mr. L. McLeod; the Lions Club of Richmond; the Ringwood City Council, which provided the land, and subsidies from the State and Federal Governments. The Richmond Lions built in Ringwood because they were unable to obtain suitable land in their own area.

Seventy-five per cent of the residents come from Richmond and the balance from Ringwood.

In the newly opened flats the figures are seven from Richmond and five from Ringwood.

Mr. J. Brady, who offi-

ciated on Sunday, is president of the Lions Club of Richmond and is a driving force behind the erection of the village.

A distinguished audience saw the Mayor unveil the plaque commemorating the extensions to the scheme.

They included the Minister for State Development, Mr. J. W. Manson, and Mrs. Manson; Ringwood councillors and their wives; Cr. Elizabeth Penny; the Town Clerk of Ringwood and Mrs. Dwerryhouse; and the City Engineer, Mr. A. Robertson, and Mrs. Robertson.

In a warm speech Mrs. A. Jones, one of the new residents, expressed the appreciation of tenants to those who had worked to make the scheme possible.

"The facilities provided for us are excellent," said Mrs. Jones, "and we are happy and proud to be here."

Tributes were also paid to Mr. N. Taylor, who advises and helps residents.



Top: Part of the large crowd at the official opening on Sunday of Lionswood Village in Kirk St., Ringwood.

Mr. J. Brady, president of the Lions Club of Richmond, tells his audience of the work which went into the erection of the village.

Right: Mr. Brady with the Mayor of Ringwood, Cr. B. Clarke, after the Mayor had unveiled a commemorative plaque.





*Building Wilana Elderly Citizens' Home.*

With land at valuation and the above contributions the Club was able to finance the project.

In August, 1977 government assistance was assured and a contract for \$199,877 was let for construction of eleven single and two double units, together with a communal lounge. The contractors were Karinya Homes Pty. Ltd. of Ringwood. The architects were Ernest Fookes and John Twentyman. Most of the organization work and negotiation was done by Ian Kirkpatrick assisted by Ralph German.

In October, 1977 the Wilana Society was holding regular meetings with Ian Kirkpatrick in the Chair. As sometimes happens, a good deal of detail of this activity is preserved including a discourse between Lion Jack Kelaher and Lions Lady Barbara Riddell on what was decent or adequate clothing, and a statement by Lion Ralph that applicants for tenancy should be asked for their given not christian names in order to cope with Jews and Muslems.

Selected occupants started to move in during 1978. Sunday, 21st May, 1978 was the first landmark for the new group with a morning tea gathering by occupants for visitors. The official opening was 25th November, 1978.

In April, 1983 the Wilana and Lionswood committees, at the instigation of the Lions Club of Ringwood considered the establishment of a 30 bed hostel at the corner of Everard Drive and Maroondah Highway. The costs would be



*Building Wilana Elderly Citizens' Home.*

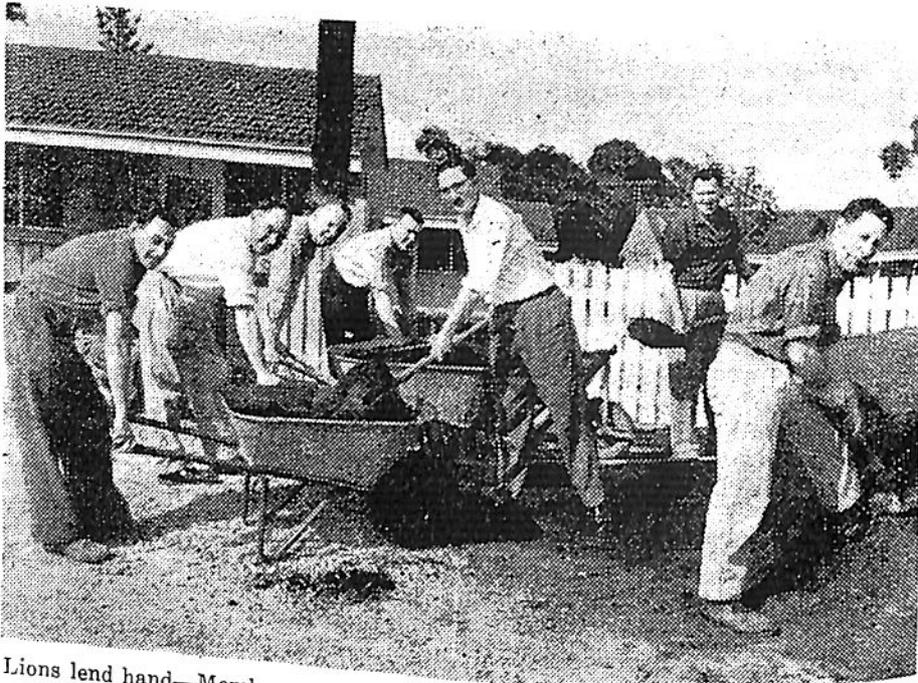
met by government land grant and subsidy of \$680,000 with further cash funds from the Ringwood Council and the Wilana and Lionswood projects. Ringwood Lions budget as their shere of financing in the year 1983/4 was to be \$17,200 made up of -

Sale of wine	\$200	Fun and games night	\$2,000
Melbourne Cup sweep	\$400	Cakes and Lions mints	\$800
Music hall	\$800	Market spinning wheel	\$10,000
Barbecue	\$3,000		
			<u>\$17,200</u>

At a public meeting in October, 1983 a twelve member committee was elected to organize this proposed hostel for the aged. This committee comprised two members from Ringwood Council, two members from Lionswood and two from Wilana, the remaining six were from public nomination.

At about this time the project was named the Lionsbrae Society, a benevolent society its objectives being the construction and management of a projected hostel for the aged. Lion Bill Pritchard was its secretary and Lion Ian Kirkpatrick was reported as doing a sterling job of development and co-ordination.

## LIONS HELP ELDERLY CITIZENS



Lions lend hand—Members of Lions' Club of Ringwood spreading soil at "Lionswood" elderly citizens village, in preparation for lawn planting. This is one of a number of community projects planned for the year.

Mail 12-4-63

In April, 1984 a formal letter of advice to Ringwood Lions from the Lionsbrae Society said that as a result of co-operative effort between the Australian Government, the Victorian Government, the Ringwood Council, Lionswood Village and Ringwood Lions Wilana Elderly People's Home, a 30 bed hostel, was in course of construction at the corner of Everard Drive and Maroondah Highway, the completion cost of which was expected to be \$1.1 million of which the government share was \$600,000. The Lionsbrae's Society first obligation the letter continued would be to provide furniture, kitchen equipment, blankets, linen, physiotherapy equipment etc. at an estimated cost of \$32,500. Residents moved in during the latter months of 1984.

## ANNUAL SALE OF CHRISTMAS CAKES

The Club's first years saw Christmas fund raising centred around such projects as Christmas cards and Christmas trees pinched from the open country around Park Orchards

Christmas, 1965 saw the advent of Lions Christmas Cakes. This was an Australia wide project the initial objective of the multi-district operation being to finance a "Save Sight" project designed to sight-test young children to reveal defects that can be corrected while they are young, but if not discovered until later in childhood, cannot be treated or eliminated.

In this first year of 1965 we sold 180 cakes. The basic profit from sale by the multiple-district went to the "save sight" funds. The difference between our cost and the recommended selling price was \$48 which amount went to the Club activities account.

By Christmas 1965 sales had risen substantially and it was reported that we topped sales for our district and ranked 13th in Australia. The quantity sold was not stated in the Bulletin.

The multiple district sale of cakes rose dramatically between the mid 1960s and the mid 1970s. In 1965 they started with the sale of 13,000 cakes, by 1976 the multiple district total had risen to one and a half million. This provided adequate funds for an Australia wide sight testing program for children under school age.

In 1974 the Ringwood Club Christmas cake committee decided to order 150 dozen with 50 dozen later if sales went well. The Board over-ruled the committee and said we should show our faith in the worthiness of our vocation by ordering 200 dozen right off.

During the 1970s sales of cakes flourished, for example in 1974 we made a Club profit of \$1,320, in 1976 we sold 350 dozen for a profit of \$1237. In 1977 we sold 192 dozen and in that year sold cakes via the District chairman and an advertisement in the Women's Weekly. In 1978 we sold 250 dozen and in 1980 sold 180 dozen and had 20 dozen over.

But in recent years a number of factors has reduced our market. A low point was reached in 1985 with only 50 dozen sold. Year 1986 showed an improvement with 100 dozen sold plus cakes bought in from other clubs.

## ANNUAL CHILDREN'S PARTY AT LUNA PARK

Ringwood and Croydon Mail

### LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY



Twenty two children from Ringwood were taken by Lions Club to Christmas Party at St. Kilda on Saturday, 5th December. Bus loaned by Croydon Bus Services Pty. Ltd., and services of driver, Mr. Ted Lewis, given free. Picture shows Zone Chairman, Bob Lindsay, with children and driver, Ted Lewis.

The first underprivileged children's Christmas party was held on the roof of Foy & Gibsons Store, Melbourne on a Saturday afternoon immediately prior to Christmas, 1962. A number of Lions Clubs including Ringwood participated. The next year Foy & Gibson wanted the function held on the same location on a Saturday morning with the general public participating. The Lions Clubs involved would not agree to this. So the venue was on the Lower Esplanade St. Kilda and from there the offer came from Luna Park.

Initially we took 20 - 25 children. Transport was by private car until the regularity with which children became ill in the back seats of cars on the return journey influenced the Club to hire a bus rather than clean out cars after the event.

Annually over many years the Ringwood group comprised between 20 - 35 children. Several of the Club's stalwards including P.Pundy, G.Douglas, F.Cox, J.East, K.Blackmore and K.Riddell supervised the transport of the local group and watched over their entertainment while they were there.

From the beginning each child was given a bag full of Christmas articles. In the mid 1960s it is on record that each bag had a value of 15 shillings to 1 pound. In 1965 when a total of 820 children attended, Lions handed out 1650 bottles of soft drink and 1650 icy poles.

This Club has provided a contingent to this event in most years since its beginning in 1962. Total attendance is now around 2,000 - 3,000 a year.

## MEALS ON WHEELS

The first mention of meals on wheels was in 1966. A decision to take action was deferred. Ringwood Council declared it had no funds.

In June, 1970 a Club Committee investigated the need and practicability of establishing Meals on Wheels in the Ringwood area.

A report prepared by Lion John Clifford was submitted to the Club executive and made the following points:

Meals on Wheels is needed in Ringwood and could be carried out by a joint services organisation.

The cost of running at least a minimum service is within the capacity of such a joint organisation.

Harry Munro conducted an investigation through the Lions Club of Preston and produced a report of several pages. This report covered an analysis of people

considered eligible and the method used to ascertain this through the local Council, medical practitioners etc. He also provided detail of meal preparation, distribution etc.

In October, 1970 a committee comprising Lions, J.Cs., Apex, RSL, Soroptomists, Good Neighbour, and one or two other groups declared itself as having the aim of initially 10 meals increasing to 60. Lion member John Clifford became chairman of this group. It asked Box Hill Hospital if it could be provider and at what cost. The group considered provision of utensils and transport.

About this time the Committee considered a start date in early 1971. It also indicated that if Ringwood Council would not initiate the service, it would do so itself with the object of handing over to Council a going concern. The press was kept informed.

In early 1971 quotes were obtained for providing meals and the combined services Committee between them accumulated \$600 to get the project off the ground.

In March, 1971 more than 100 people had volunteered as investigators, drivers etc and by the end of the year it was expected to have 150 ready to work in these areas.

A start was made on 19th April, 1971 on an experimental basis with ten clients. The combined services Committee had Ringwood Council interested. A contract for provision of meals was made with the Nandina Restaurant, Heathmont.

Money for serving equipment was provided by the services Committee. It is on record that initially Lions provided one set at a cost of \$150.

In July, 1971 the Joint Services Committee comprised eight service organizations and had been providing meals for several weeks. The cost was a maximum of \$60 a day. There were five rosters and 130 volunteers. All service Clubs contributed funds, the Lions being the largest with a total contribution of \$775.

In February, 1972 the Ringwood Council advised that it would assist the project financially through its Elderly Citizens subsidy.

In November, 1972 the Lions supported the joint services committee in an effort to have Council provide a paid supervisor to take over the supervisory function from volunteer workers.

Council required the committee to appoint a paid supervisor and continue to run the service using funds on hand from member organizations. This was done but finally Ringwood Council took over the project entirely from the Joint Services Committee in October 1974.

## CHARTER OF NEW CLUBS

Just as we were chartered by Richmond Lions, so in turn we have chartered two other clubs.

In 1964 we began work on extension to Croydon. Charter of that Club was sponsored by us on 10th April, 1965 and it was in full activity later in that year. In June, 1966 Lion Jack Buchanan moved at a dinner meeting a vote of thanks to Lion Bob Lindsay for his considerable part in the formation of Croydon.

We investigated extension to various places including Park Orchards and Lilydale without success.

In late 1968 mainly through the efforts of David Lush we formed Mooroolbark. The formation meeting was 10th November, 1968 and the charter dinner was 15th March, 1969.

Heathmont Club was chartered on 11th March, 1971 right under our noses and caused quite a stir because of invasion of what we regarded as part of Ringwood area. We received an apology from the District Governor for allowing formation of Heathmont within our boundary. He claimed little knowledge of the history of our area. Notice of motion to disband Ringwood Club was debated at Ringwood Club on 23rd February, 1971, but the motion was lost, few members voting. It was suggested we break away and become the "Ringwood Tigers"

In 1974 we again investigated extension to Park Orchards but could not arouse sufficient local interest even when Mitcham was included in the proposal.

In November, 1977 Lions Club of Park Orchards was chartered by Warrandyte Lions.

## AUCTIONS

In the 1960s and 1970s we ran several auctions of second hand material collected on a house to house basis and assembled at a suitable location to attract Saturday morning shoppers. The auctioneer was Peter Purdy who had very considerable experience in this sort of thing in his professional life.

The first auctions were held in the old town hall, now demolished.

In November, 1970, a Saturday morning effort made \$942. Another such occasion was a house to house collection by a handful of members in April, 1972 under the leadership of Robin Gardini. The auction was held in Moran & Cato's old premises on a Saturday morning. The profit of over \$900 was used to purchase gas barbecues, picnic tables and seats for the Ringwood Lake.

In October, 1974 a further effort held in the Presbyterian Hall was publicised by distribution of 13,000 dodgers by Club members but yielded a profit of only \$400.

A wide variety of items ranging from furniture, household goods and kitchen utensils to motor cars were processed through this project. Some Ringwood households still treasure bargains bought, old furniture now rehabilitated and regarded as antique, garden ornaments sitting in a quiet corner and maybe many an item consigned to the back of the shed, like it was before the auction but at a different location. The wit of the auctioneer is still remembered, like when he sold a washing machine that had fallen off the back of a truck. It happened, through careless loading, on its way to the auction.

## HORSE SHOW

In 1976 a group within the Club decided to run a horse gymkana. This was an instant success, fulfilling a community need. In its first year it raised a net \$1,200. Its promotors were Lions Derek Davies and Russell Hoyroyd.

In March, 1977 the show had grown with a program equal in range and status to a major agricultural show. The venue was Eastfield Park, Croydon. The variety of the program included donkeys, jumping events, novelty races and decorated outfits. There were six rings and a total of 432 ribbons and 17 sashes. Nine judges awarded prizes worth over \$1,000. The record says it made a good profit but does not mention the amount.

The April, 1978 show was held in conjunction with Croydon Lions. Our share of the profit was \$500 which was given to cancer research.

The 1979 show was again held in conjunction with Croydon with Lion Russell Holroyd at the helm. The show was a success but no other detail is available.

From this point it is regretted that a project with considerable community support was allowed to die through lack of membership with the necessary enthusiasm and skill.

*Horse Show, 1977.*



# LIONS LAUNCH CONTEST

## \$50,000 peace essay

### YOUTH OF THE YEAR QUEST

The Youth of the Year quest is an annual project of the Lions Clubs of Australia to select an outstanding youth to be an ambassador for their country and travel overseas, under the auspices of Lions International.

The quest is designed to encourage, foster and develop leadership and other citizenship qualities in young men and women at an age when they are about to enter the fields of commerce or higher education.

The quest began in Queensland in 1964 and developed into a national project in 1966, and has steadily increased to 3,000 entrants each year. One of the rules is that Lions members may not participate as judges so that each year 2,000 prominent citizens assist Lions by acting as judges at the various levels of adjudication.

Ringwood has participated in the quest annually since 1970, early records are patchy, however nearly 100 Ringwood youth have participated in our Club judging representing local secondary schools and colleges. They are all a credit to themselves, family, schools and our Club.

Marcus Neale from Ringwood High School won our 1986 Club judging, and proceeded on by winning the regional, and district finals and coming very close second to the State winner. From information received this was the best performance of any of our entrants, and for interest Marcus commenced study for his Bachelor of Music Degree in 1987.

Another of our entrants from 4 - 5 years ago who will still be familiar to all is Geoff Payne who is now seen regularly on T.V. plays.

A wide variety of our members have acted as chairman for this quest, among them being Lions Jack Kelaher, Ken Riddell, Hugh Stuchbery and Barry Ward, who has also served as District Chairman for the quest.



• MR. PETER PURDY,  
president of the Ring-  
wood Lions' Club

All young people, between the ages of 14 and 22 living in Ringwood and Croydon are invited to compete in the Lions International \$50,000 Peace Essay Contest.

The biggest contest of its kind in the world, the essay competition is being sponsored by more than 20,000 individual Lions' clubs as part of the 50th anniversary of the world movement.

First prize will be \$25,000 in the form of an educational and/or career assistance grant. In addition, the eight world divisional finalists will each receive a grant of \$1000 plus a trip to Chicago in July next year for the final judging.

As well, more than 20,000 local district and multiple district awards will be made, to bring the total value of prizes to \$50,000.

Closing date for the local section of the contest will be December 10.

Ringwood Lions' Club president, Mr. Peter Purdy, announced this week that judges in Ringwood will be the Minister of State Development, Mr. J. W. Manson, television personality, Mr. Gerald Lyons, and Mr. Harald Nicolson, both of Ringwood.

Further information about the essay contest can be obtained from any member of the Lions Club.

## FORMATION OF RINGWOOD LITTLE ATHLETICS CLUB

The Victorian Little Athletics Association was established in 1966 with seven centres affiliated and 3,000 children registered. The Association grew at a tremendous rate and at the end of 1968 had 39 centres with 350 clubs and 20,000 registered members.

The Lions Club of Ringwood undertook the formation of the Ringwood Little Athletics centre in mid 1969. A sub-committee to handle this project consisted of Lions Bill Lilburn (chairman), Arthur Marsh, John Hobbs and Max Thomas with the co-operation of Mr. Trevor Billingham, honorary manager of the Victorian Little Athletics Association.

The project was advertised by a pamphlet supplied by the Egg Board to be circulated initially through three schools.

At a public meeting held in Ringwood Town Hall on 19th September, 1969 the Ringwood Little Athletics centre was launched. Thirteen primary schools in Ringwood area had been notified and returns indicated 800 children intended to participate. Three hundred parents attended this inaugural meeting. The operating time was projected as Saturday mornings October through to March.

It was explained to the meeting that the fundamental ideal behind Little Athletics, which has made it such a success is that recreation is supplied to each child regardless of individual ability. Athletics lends itself well to this concept and makes it possible for children to compete with others of like ability in a range of events under supervision of parents or other adults.

Little Athletics is organized on the basis of parents and adults forming a group and for a number of groups to then form a centre. Suitable people from each group form the executive of the centre.

The executive organizes venues and meeting times for competition between membership. A full range of athletic events is conducted. These include short and medium distance running, hurdles, walking, long jump, triple jump, discus and shot putt.

The children are grouped according to ability so that the less able will not be discouraged by being hopelessly outclassed by the better co-ordinated and more skilful.

Our function as a service Club was to provide the initial interest and organization culminating in the public meeting. The final stage by the service Club is to draw out of each embryo club one or two adults who will form themselves into a central administration. The executive so formed cares for future administration and operation.

Having done all these things Ringwood Lions withdrew from the operation. The executive meeting of the centre held its first meeting at the Ringwood Tennis Pavilion on 10th October, 1969 and adopted a constitution.

On Saturday morning, 10th October, 1969 800 children had attended the first gathering at East Ringwood oval. The centre was formally launched by the Mayor of Ringwood Cr. Ben Hubbard on Saturday, 22nd November, 1969. The Ringwood Lions handed over a gift of four walkie talkie sets. Nearly 1,000 youngsters in colourful costumes organized by their parents took part in all forms of athletics.

In subsequent years we continued to take an outside interest in the project, for example in 1971 we donated \$150 for medallions.

In 1976 a 40 page report covered activities of the Ringwood Little Athletics centre for the 1975-6 season - seven years from the beginning. It shows the Club to be well managed, financially sound and with adequate equipment. Membership was around 6-7,000 and appeared to be enthusiastic. This 1976 report remembers the Lions Club of Ringwood and thanks it for its financial support over the years.

While our work in establishing this centre is not perhaps as well remembered as some other activities, it must surely rank as one of the Club's most successful projects.

*Ringwood and Croydon Mail*

## Bannerettes Presented To Ringwood Lions Club

AT a recent meeting Mr. Alan Williams, District Commissioner of the Boy Scouts Movement for the Nunawading area, presented to the Club 2 Bannerettes he received while attending the Scout Jamboree in Japan.

These Bannerettes were gifts from the Lions Clubs of Wakamatau and Gotemba to the nearest Lions Club in his district. Letters of thanks are being sent to these Clubs along with 2 Bannerettes of our own Club.

The Bird and Bottle Restaurant was the venue of a Dinner Dance organ-

ised to raise funds for our recently formed Community Services Project. A profit of approx. £40 will result. The Twist Competition was won by John and Thea Hattam. A bottle of imported champagne, kindly donated by the Management of the Bird and Bottle considerably helped to make the night a success.

## LICOLA – A HOLIDAY VILLAGE FOR CHILDREN

The proposal, made on a multi-Club basis, was to convert an abandoned timber milling township into a holiday village.

Licola is an old settlement on the southern spurs of the Great Divide, 34 miles north of Heyfield in Gippsland. It is close to the Macallister River.

After the mill and a large area of surrounding forest had been severely damaged by bush fire in the mid 1960s, the milling company had transferred its operation to Heyfield. This move presented safety from bush fire for their milling and for their employees who lived in the mill-owned houses nearby.

The houses remained in a reasonable condition but were unoccupied when the Lions first made their proposal. The 34 acre site and buildings were owned by G.N.Raymond Pty. Ltd. who wanted \$125,000, but when they learned what the Lions proposed they offered to sell for \$20,000. Deposit asked was \$4,000 with the balance over two years interest free.

A group of Lions at district level saw the possibilities, their objective being to provide low cost accommodation for groups of children, particularly the underprivileged. It was a beautiful setting with a background of unspoiled mountain country.

A tremendous amount of volunteer work was required to transform seventeen cottages into suitable accommodation with running water, sanitation and other amenities.

The first Ringwood reaction was that the area was too remote and a high risk bush fire area. In reply to a direct request from the district governor in October, 1969 the Club showed some hesitancy but by December, 1969 had agreed to support the scheme and forwarded a cheque for \$100.

A group of trustees for Lions Districts 201C, 201F and 201M took possession of the village on 12th December, 1969. There were 17 dilapidated houses, several out-buildings, a power house, single men's huts, a post office store and sheds.

Initially the total set up and restoration cost was estimated at \$71,500 minimum using volunteer labour. Ringwood Lions took part in the initial working bees over many weekends. It is on record that on a weekend in May,

1970 eight families betook themselves to Licola at the behest of District with the object of restoring cottages to living condition. They picked mushrooms, went rabbiting and fished for trout in the Macallister River. They ate and drank and talked advising each other how to do the job. However it did not stop there and very considerable work, skilled and unskilled, was done by Club members over weekends in the ensuing months.

At 30th June, 1970 total district donations were \$14,215, by December, 1970 this had risen to \$22,000 with 60 Clubs involved. Trustees had arranged with the Taxation Dept. for tax deductability for all donations. All told the combined Clubs received \$283,000 in donations and materials.

In May, 1971 the district committee reported that 80% of the planned restoration work was complete and that this amounted to 17 houses and 34 acres rehabilitated. All houses but two had been reblocked, 90% of the roofs attended to, all septic tanks installed, drainage pipes installed, water connected to all houses, all piping replaced with copper, 75% of painting complete, and 75% of electrical work done. A large hall, sick bay and other outbuildings were complete.

In September, 1971 Ringwood Club donated a further \$100 to Licola and had by this time contributed substantial manhours toward its rehabilitation.

In November, 1971 it was proposed to provide a hospital and medical unit at a cost of \$10,000.

In 1971 the project committee advised that Licola would be available to Lions and their families over Christmas.

The first Lion master plan provided for accommodation for up to 150 underprivileged children and their families and facilities for handicapped people. It envisaged a motel/caravan park adjacent to, but separate from the housing area.

At last on December 9th, 1973 the Lions Licola Village youth camp was officially opened by the Governor Sir Rohan Delacombe. Christmas 1973 saw the first full scale Lions camp and during the holidays 200 excited boys and girls boarded a train at Flinders Street bound for Heyfield with buses to take them the rest of the way.

In 1978 a camp for mentally handicapped children was held and some houses converted to care for wheel chair patients.

A report by a supervisor of a group of children who visited the camp in October, 1976 contained the following: -

"The children were transported to the camp by train and then bus to Licola. They were noisy and high spirited and did not respond well to efforts to control them. They were undisciplined, and resented authority, a reflection in many cases of their background, for they are what are sometimes called under privileged. On arrival at Licola the children were lectured on what was expected of them on the smooth running of the camp. They were allocated to houses

each with a group leader. It was interesting to see reactions of children to their dining room duty sessions. Some would do anything to get out of them, some took a pride in doing a good job. Some even asked if they could help further.

Their program included horse riding, archery, baking damper, trampolining, bush walking, camping out at night, making arts and crafts articles, fishing, riding a flying fox, eating and drinking.

Soon you could see the barrier between children and leader breaking down. Children walked hand in hand with the leader, a leader's arm around a young shoulder, a leader dressing a young girl's hair. The change developed as the week progressed. Someone found a girl who would have her ninth birthday on Wednesday. This information was relayed to the cook. The apprentice cook presented her with an iced birthday cake and everyone sang 'Happy Birthday'. You should have seen the look of sheer wonder on the girl's face. she had never had a birthday cake before, not even a present.

On the Friday the children gave a concert. By this time all barriers were down. On Saturday the trip home started after lunch. What a different atmosphere from the previous Saturday."

Children's groups to the camp are fully fed and all other costs of their stay met by camp management. To finance this Lions Clubs or others organizing a group must pay the management at the required rates. In July, 1976 the management reluctantly advised that inflation caused price increases and that in future the rates would be as follows -

Occupancy	Rate per head per day
75 - 100	\$12.50
101 - 150	12.00
151 - 200	7.00
201 - 250	6.00
extra meals	.50 per head

This is quoted to give some idea of the operating cost of the enterprise and the money that needed to be found by sponsoring bodies. Today, of course, the rate is again higher, but the project remains a success.

## SPECTACLES TO INDIA, MALAYA AND INDONESIA

In 1976 in response to requests from India, Malaya, Singapore and Medan Indonesia the Club undertook collection and shipment of used spectacles. Lion Doug Millar arranged the advertising for, collection and shipment of batches each of several hundred spectacles. The response from the public was very good and considerable time was spent in packing consignments and arranging for their sea or air freight to several destinations.

*Packing spectacles for India.*



We firstly preferred India as the recipient, the feeling with the workers on this project being that India had the greatest need and at that time was more favourably disposed to us than some other South East Asia nations. The first shipment was 604 pairs made by sea freight in a tea chest addressed to Lions International Bombay.

The shipment end of the project almost immediately ran into an extraordinary amount of administrative trouble mainly in the areas of no import permits being obtained prior to shipment and charges made for customs duty.

There is on file a considerable amount of correspondence mainly with India Government officials pointing out that the shipments were on a no commercial value basis. There is even a copy of a letter addressed from this Club to the India Prime Minister written it would seem in desperation.

At a later stage one of the recipient organizations suggested that parcels be sent by sea-mail where maybe they would attract less attention from customs. The fact that all parcels were marked no commercial value had no effect on Indian Customs dealing with airfreight.

Eventually the project was abandoned because of continued difficulties with the recipient customs people and other administrative problems beyond our control. Government people at the receiving end acknowledged the value of these contributions in letters up to three pages long but despite their best efforts seemed unable to resolve the problem, with their own customs people.

*Twenty Year Anniversary – Charter members  
David Lush, Albert Aird, Reg Spencer and Jack Buchanan.*



## HEALTH SURVEYS

In the early and middle years of the Club history we were particularly active in promoting health surveys. These were in the main held at a venue adjacent to the Ringwood Shopping area, a place where people congregate in substantial numbers, often in what was at that time the Presbyterian Church hall in Adelaide Street.

Volunteers with the necessary skills, particularly nurses and the like were often difficult to recruit, but usually we got by without the embarrassment of a long queue of waiting customers, and performed a very useful community service.

Surveys included "lazy eye" (amblyopia) tests for young children, hearing tests, blood pressure and diabetic tests.

The early diabetic tests involved the public having to make appointment times. They had to drink fifty grams of glucose one hour before the blood samples were taken. The equipment for these tests was brought from the Austin Hospital and set up one hour before the tests could start. Later we co-opted the help of a pharmaceutical company "AMES" who took samples from a small finger prick and read the results on a portable read out machine. A point of interest was that several Lions proved to be border diabetic cases.

In the case of "lazy eye" tests we fulfilled a community need for testing children under school age. The tests were not intended to be diagnostic, but merely to locate those children with a marked difference in visual acuity between the two eyes. This could be corrected by specialist treatment as needed.

The condition among the very young is more prevalent than is realised. For example a group of 522 tested showed 33 negative cases and other tests 263 tested showed 26 negative and 540 tested showed 49 negative.

Good vision in both eyes is essential for learning, accurate judgment of distance and certain skills. To be effective treatment must be commenced while the child is very young, the younger the better but certainly before school age. Often the child untested and untreated carries the defect through life to the detriment of his full development.

Each tester can handle about 70 children a day with transport provided to and from the testing place, and was paid the appropriate fee by Lions. The dates for test programs in each area were arranged by Lions District or other central body.

A substantial part of the funds needed for this project were raised from an Australia wide "save sight" effort selling Christmas cakes. This paid the cost of several teams of orthoptists working in various districts around Australia using schools, halls and other suitable premises in which to set up their testing equipment.

Blood pressure and hypertension is responsible for most strokes and a large proportion of heart failure cases. Its incidence increases sharply with age. Statistics have shown that as many as 40% of people with this problem are unaware of their condition.

A pharmaceutical company provided a van equipped for hypertension surveys but sometimes testing was done under more primitive conditions. One problem was assembly of nurses and other skilled people to do tests. As an example of this Clubs activity a survey organized by Lion Ken Blackmore tested 550 people of whom 9.5% needed further attention. They were advised to see their local doctor.

Hearing tests were serviced by mobile teams of experts and showed hard of hearing adults how to learn skills to combat their problem.

In July, 1976 Lions members furiously handing out leaflets for a hearing survey were moved on by the management of Eastland. It is remembered that the Lions Ladies helped this effort with their services at the Presbyterian Hall, and the waiting room showed a sound film with no sound. This, the organizers said, was both intentional and appropriate.

While these tests may sound rather dry and uninteresting work for those helping, there were many cases of satisfaction and gratitude among the people tested and their families. Club members involved have vivid memories of incidents, some sad or even tragic. There were as well not infrequent humorous incidents such as the woman who brought her husband along to a hearing aid test saying that he surely was losing his hearing capacity, since she had been asking him for months for an increase in housekeeping money and he just didn't seem to hear.

Over the many years of his membership Lion Ken Blackmore has shown tremendous activity in organizing community testing in the health field. Not only has he been the Club guiding light in organising eyesight, hearing and blood pressure tests but recognized some years ago the neglected sufferers of the incurable neurological disorder motor neurone disease. For sufferers with this problem he has urged Lions to help by providing special equipment needed within the families of sufferers. He has carried his crusade to other Clubs and to District and has spent much time lecturing to other Clubs about this problem.

## AID TO HOSPITALS AND OTHER MEDICAL FACILITIES

From the beginning aid to medical care establishments was a regular function.

Our first effort was in the year 1965/6 when we helped Mitcham Special School buy equipment with our donation of \$912. Also in 1966 we gave Ringwood St. John Ambulance \$1,000 to equip a disaster van. Funds for both these projects came from a "Go Gay" carnival which featured a princess competition.

We helped the proposed Maroondah Hospital from the early 1960s. Projects ranged from collection jars in shops for small change, to major carnivals. In 1965 we dreamed up some major projects that were intended to make the Club name permanently associated with the proposed hospital, but no one outstanding proposition emerged. In June 1966 we made efforts toward sponsoring a ward or similar major part but while we raised considerable funds for hospital equipment nothing more substantial resulted.

As examples of Maroondah fund raising at this time we allocated \$2,000 from the Highland Games carnival to be held in trust in our Community Service Fund for specialized equipment. In November, 1971, we took the major part in organizing a bonfire carnival on the Hospital site. In June, 1977 we gave a cheque for \$6,440 for equipment. Lions part of this amount was \$5,868 for geriatric equipment, the remainder came from Ringwood Little Athletics and at their request was for children's equipment.

In 1971/2 we contributed \$500 toward the cost of an additional ambulance for St. John Ambulance Ringwood. In this same period we purchased four weighing beds for the Alfred Hospital each costing \$800.

In one year we presented \$2,500 being the money raised at our annual barbecue to a fund for a Dialysis Patients Holiday home appeal. This fund was to establish a holiday house at Rosebud, equipped with a dialysis machine, which enabled people living in the country who are victims of this kidney disease and dependent on a home machine to come to the beach for a holiday.

In 1980-1 a Princess Competition involving six girls was organized, nearly \$3,000 worth of gifts from various firms were raffled under government approval. A Festival Ball was held at the civic centre and as a result equipment valued at over \$10,000 was presented on the basis that the hospital management negotiated purchase of a specified list of equipment and the Lions Club then paid the suppliers.



## MAROONDAH HOSPITAL

PO BOX 65 RINGWOOD, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA 3134  
MT DANDENONG ROAD, EAST RINGWOOD, 3135  
TLX MDHOSP AA34540 TELEPHONE 879 3333

Ref. No. AD-4 STD:rlf  
16th July, 1981.

The President,  
Ringwood Lions Club,  
P.O. Box 47,  
RINGWOOD, VIC., 3134.

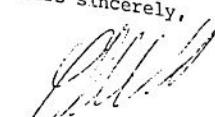
Dear Sir,

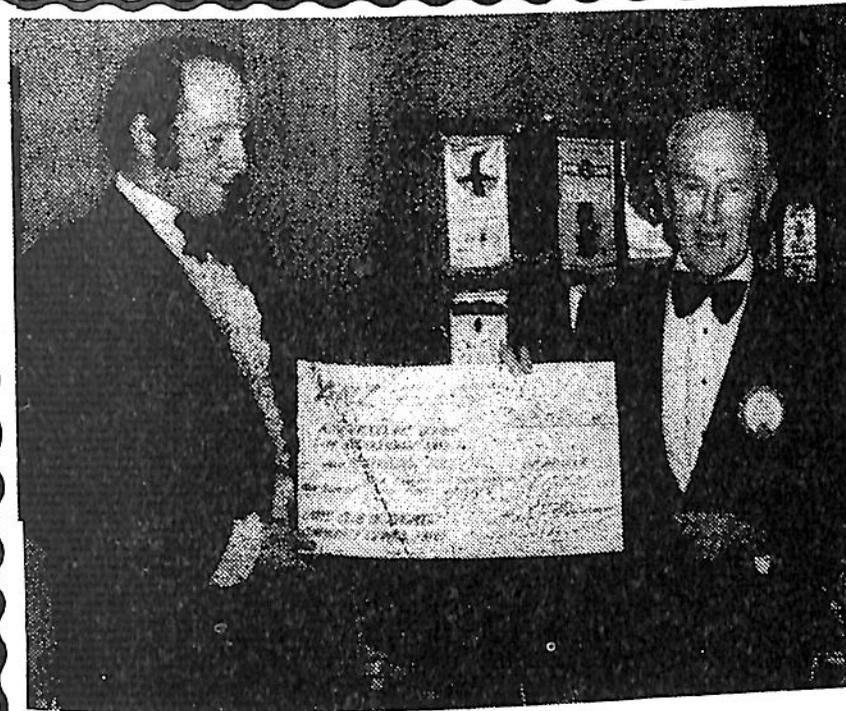
On behalf of the Committee of Management of Maroondah Hospital, I express my sincere appreciation for your efforts in raising \$10,050 for equipment for Maroondah Hospital.

This is a truly magnificent effort as we realise the hard work necessary to raise this sort of money.

The Lions Clubs in the district and Ringwood in particular, have been tremendous supporters of the hospital over the years and your members should feel very proud of their efforts.

Yours sincerely,

  
S. T. DUCKETT  
Manager.



# \$6440 gift to hospital

**Ringwood Lions have presented the Maroondah Hospital with \$6440 to buy equipment for elderly patients.**

This amount included \$570 raised by Ringwood Little Athletics in relayathons for the hospital.

The cheque was presented to the hospital manager, Mr Syd Duckett at the club change-over night at Village Receptions.

Mr Duckett thanked the Lions and the little athletes. He explained that

the hospital had yet to open a geriatric centre, but there were many ways the money could be spent.

Pictured presenting Mr Duckett with the cheque is Lions last president Ralph German.

Another highlight of the change-over was presentation of "Igol" awards to members who had recorded special achievements during the year.

Ringwood got off to a splendid start for the year with a hyper-tension health display at Eastland.

Over 1000 people were tested and 120 were advised to consult their doctor.

Twelve nursing sisters took part in the exercise, and the organiser Lion Ken Blackmore expressed thanks for the help.

New office bearers are president Grant Douglas; vice presidents, Ken Riddell, Derek Davies, Fred Cox; secretary Kevin Rutley; treasurer Wal Hodgson and directors Robert Gray, George Lewis, Harold Davidson and Russell Holroyd.

## OTHER WELFARE WORK

While activities such as promoting help in neglected medical areas such as motor neurone disease and public health tests for both children and adults as outlined elsewhere have occupied considerable Club time, many more hours have been spent on broader aspects of community welfare work.

This chapter covers some of those activities. Because of its nature a substantial part of this work is done on a confidential basis with only those Members involved being aware of the detail. For this reason many cases, some involving long hours of work, are not preserved as Club records.

Lion Ron Yee over a long period was the backbone of our work with needy families. His resignation in 1978 and his sad death in 1982 took with it a good deal of what might have been written here. Lion Maurie Cass was also fully involved.

Monetary cost is often clouded by factors of confidentiality and funds coming from sources other than Club bank accounts. But this work did not have a monetary cost so much as provision of personal assistance, comfort and advice given by Club membership.

As early as 1962 we were working in areas such as home repairs and other assistance to the aged or medically unfit or to families finding difficulty for various reasons in meeting their living costs. A specific example of this time was the considerable practical assistance given to a pensioner who in January, 1963 was facing eviction from condemned premises. About this time it is on record that we were concurrently giving various assistance to four needy families. Practical work included minor house repairs, gardening, hedge cutting and removal of household rubbish. Larger items of household material such as water tanks were chopped or otherwise reduced in size to make them acceptable to the Council for rubbish removal.

We took in hand the problems of people that could be resolved by government agencies such as the then Social Welfare Department of the Victorian Government. These people often lacked the skill or initiative themselves to request this kind of help. There is still on record one such case. In a letter written by Doug Millar to the Hon. J.W.Manson MLA, he complained picturesquely about the lack of speed or action on the part of Social Welfare Department in rehousing a widow to whom they had promised more realistic housing in view of a change in her financial position.



*Picnic for Allambee children, 1973.*

In the early 1970s we developed an organized approach. We had prepared a roneo-ed form for recording detail of assistance needed. This form had space for detail of assistance needed and asked such questions as whether help had been requested elsewhere, any children, what has the applicant done to help himself, pension or other income, for how long is assistance needed, and finally a recommendation to our Executive from the Committee or person making the report. Some questions were asked with a view to determining authenticity.

Each year brought with it a new group of people needing help. They included neglected children, people with alcoholic problems, beaten wives, homeless families and the lonely and aged. Often we have acted on the request of the Victorian Government Social Welfare Department who were pleased to use our assistance. We regularly responded to requests for financial help from

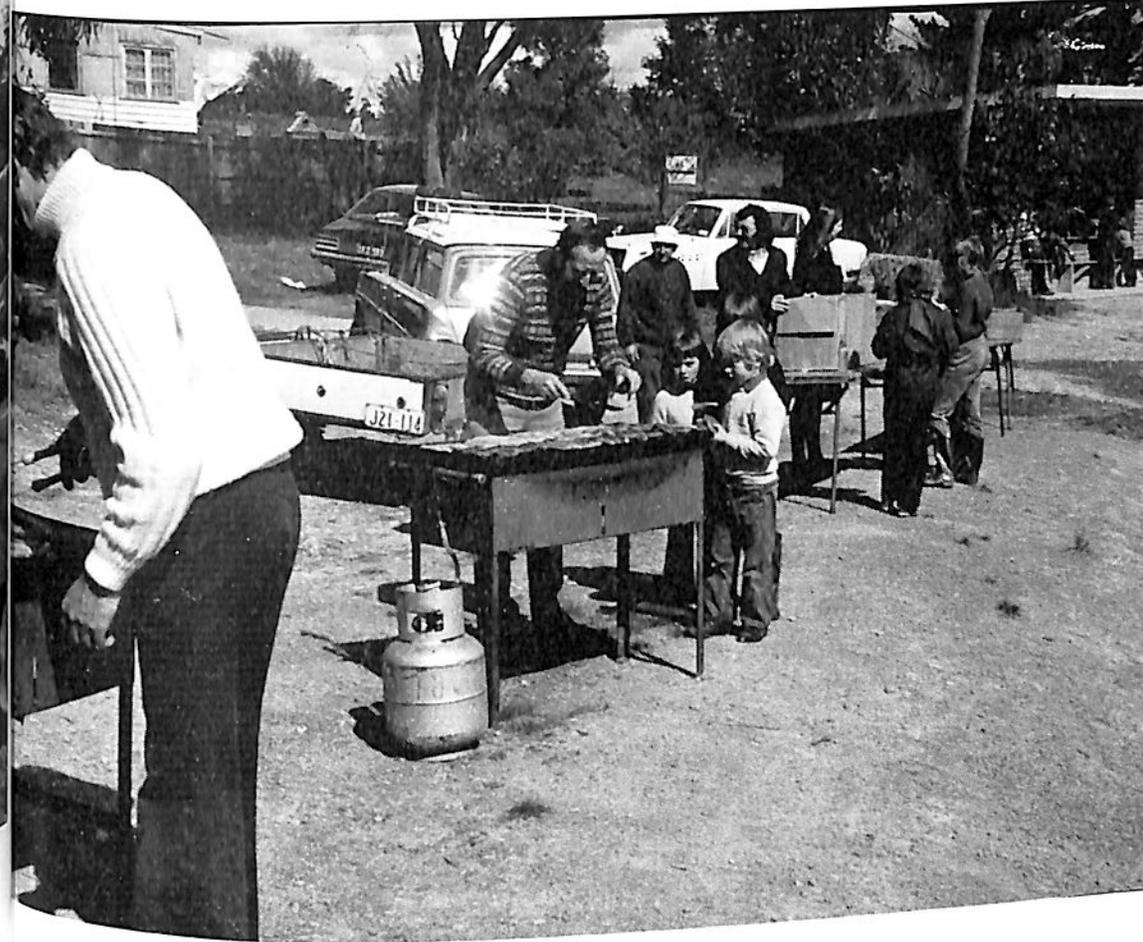


*Golf game at picnic for Allambie children, 1976*

welfare organizations such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Salvation Army.

We regularly assisted under-privileged groups. In April, 1976 we organized a picnic for the children of Allambie House, Burwood at Wonga Park cricket ground. There were 40 children in the party aged between 7 to 11 years. The Wonga Park Hall had been booked for weather emergencies but fortunately it was a fine day. A barbecue was presented with games, tractor rides and other entertainment. The day was a success and a repeat was held in mid 1977 when we took a group to Luna Park.

We have worked among handicapped people, some examples being an invalid chair presented to the District Nursing Service in 1970, work found for a physically handicapped girl in September, 1972 and in the same year financial



*Picnic for Allambie children, 1975.*

assistance was given to the Spastic Children's Society.

In 1967 we investigated the possibility of establishing a sheltered workshop but after discussion with authorities and the local spastic centre this proposal was firstly deferred and then abandoned.

We sponsor needy children on trips to the Lion's holiday village at Licola. On occasion we combine our efforts with other clubs, for example recently we installed a special telephone in a local home occupied by a completely deaf couple.

## PLANT POTTING PROJECT

In July, 1976 under the inspiration of Lion Bob Gray we started a plant potting project in his backyard.

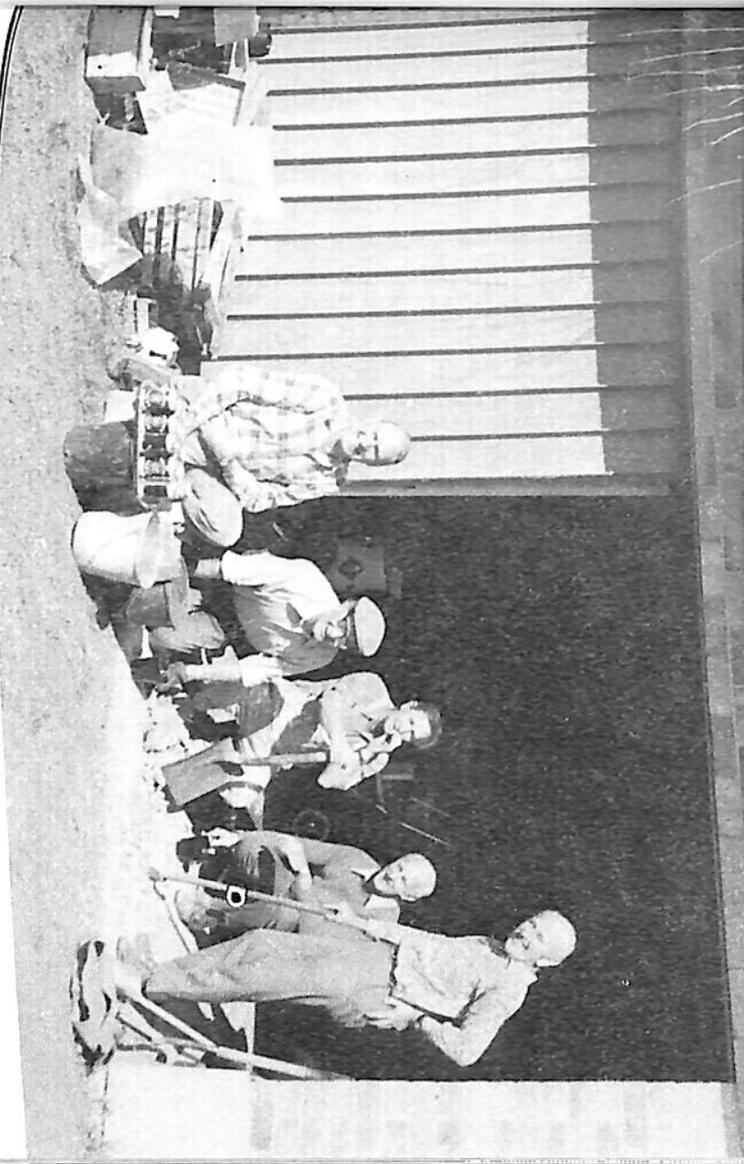
The first working bee was devoted mainly to cleaning up his backyard, digging out drains, pulling up weeds, cleaning out a misting shed, straightening paths and any plants. Lion Bob Gray supervised. The record does not say we potted member's backyard but maybe this in not quite fair as the program had only the best intentions.

Several Lions obtained materials. Ian Kirkpatrick arranged a free load of shavings, Harold Davidson a free load of bricks, and Doug Millar free stakes and labels. Even Lion Kevin Rutley, who hates gardening, turned up.

Our first project was potting shasta daisies that could be expected to flower the following year, the aim under the guidance of an expert was to sell them on Mothers' Day. Later it was discovered that they flower in January. The expert said we should have pinched out the January flower buds.

The work expanded to marguerites and carnation slips the started first objective was 6,000 pots. By December, 1976 2,500 pots were planted and it was expected 500 would be sold by Christmas. Hanging baskets were talked about, A new select group potted on a Saturday afternoon. The Bulletin without further elaboration referred to this group and said that "no man should be expected to put up with the combination of Ian and Bill without the benefit of clergy".

On such a Saturday afternoon a group of Lions nominated their ladies to keep up the potting schedules while they did a more urgent job cleaning out the Lions equipment shed at "Coolibah", Lion Albert Aird's place at Wonga Park. The



*Lions potting plants for sale - G.Lewis, B.Pritchard, J.East, K.Riddell and R.German.*

Ladies were left at Lion Bob Gray's place in charge of Lion Russel Holyroyd. They did their quota and departed feeling very thirsty as it was a hot afternoon. They proceeded to pick up their men folk at "Coolibah".

When they arrived no one was in the Lions shed which was still full of junk. They followed low murmurings of conversation into the old dairy on the property which was used as an untidy office and storage shed. Here they found the men drinking the last of Albert Aird's beer from the nearby refrigerator. They went into the house and made themselves a cup of tea.

Several lessons were learned on that Saturday afternoon. The ladies, who insist this incident is part of the Lions history, learned that if doing the men's job they should always keep those men in sight. The men learned that there were more pleasant ways of spending a Saturday afternoon than cleaning out a shed, but it catches up with you in the end. Albert Aird learned never again to keep total beer stocks in a 'fridge open to all to inspect, keep four bottles there and hide the rest.

In December, 1977 the operation transferred to Lion Alan Nelson's place. He reported carnations in bloom. The Bulletin editor said it was a nice touch in a journal otherwise devoted to raising money and expending it.

Finally in 1978 the project expired. We sold some pots and expended a lot of labour but it could not be said to be one of our more successful efforts. Jack Kelaher said he had not felt so frustrated since his wartime experience on Timor when on an expedition to get meat for his commando unit someone sold him a three legged buffalo. Maybe once again he did not walk right round before he bought.

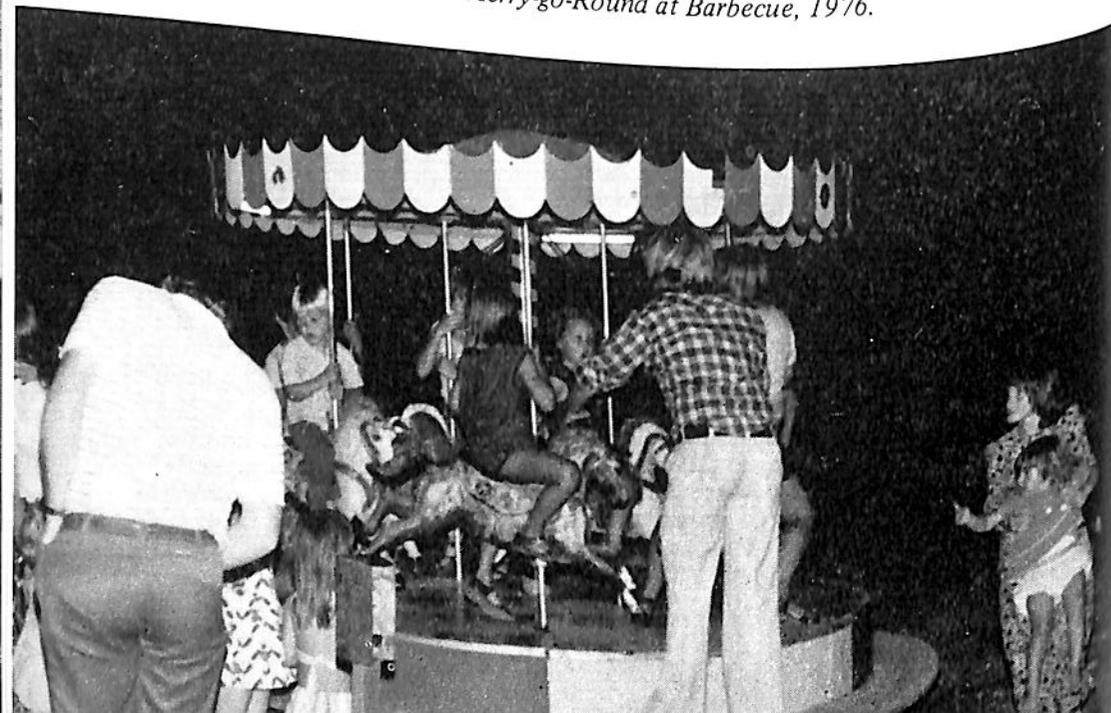
## FUND RAISING BY BUYING AND OPERATING CAPITAL ASSETS

Long ago we bought or made smaller items of equipment such as gas barbecues and these have been wonderful adjuncts to fund raising ever since. Sometimes we were tempted into more substantial items and once or twice we bit the hook. But on each occasion we failed from lack of work experience or availability of rostered operations.

In October, 1966 we were offered a steam train and associated equipment for \$4,000. It would have cost maybe \$2,000 to set up. It offered opportunity as a long term fund raiser in a location such as Eastland but it had the disadvantage of finding rostered staff. It needed a properly qualified engineer to be always on duty. Because of these difficulties the offer was refused.

In late 1973 we bought a merry-go-round and train. The instigator and chief

*Operating Lions Merry-go-Round at Barbecue, 1976.*



operator was Lion Robin Gardini. Up to the end of 1973 it had produced revenue of \$350 from operation at where ever people are gathered. From the beginning we had difficulty in finding staff to manage the project and finally the equipment was sold for \$950 in late 1976.

Our most ambitious project was the occasion whert we nearly bought an aeroplane. We were guided by the extreme enthusiasm of one or two members but withdrew before any final commitment was taken.

## LIONS MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Some say that all our activities are social activities even though they be swinging a hammer at Licola or shouting your head off while stahding next to a spinning wheel in some market place. But some Lions membership social activities have over the years been designed purely as social functions for relaxation and as a means of helping members to get to know each other.

From the earliest times we arranged social events and when most of the membership was much younger these were princpally family affairs. We had car trials, car treasure hunts, family barbecues and picnics in which the whole family took part.

Some events became annual activities and included in these were a cricket match against Richmond, our sponsors, golf week-ends and inter-club visiting and such events as our charter anniversary night and Christmas dinner.

A side light of these functions was sometimes a raffle or other small fund raiser to replenish our ever hungry Administration account.

In 1965 we ran a Club "Roaring Twenties" night. It is on record that Lion Peter Pundy did a magnificent act as a clown and that Lion Hec McLean came late and gained admittance by showing his buggy licence. Later in the evening Lion Peter in a fit of generosity that reflected the success of the night offered to repeat the clown act on any future occasion. At the next Club meeting when asked to perform he maintained it was the first he had heard of it.

Our annual cricket match held at several venues is well reported in Club records some examples are:

"Ringwood batted first on a sober wicket and won by 36 runs. Late in the match some ladies fielded for Ringwood replacing men who had more important duties to attend."

"We won under the captaincy of Owen Schiele in the absence of Kevin Pratt. Some astute bowling was exhibited by Richmond. For example they put up three no balls in succession and followed with a fourth ball, a full toss, that got a wicket."



*Annual cricket match against Richmond Lions, 1975.  
Our cricket team played Richmond Lions, 1975.*



*Lions family picnic at Lion Albert Aird's, 1971.*





*Lions family picnic at Lion Albert Aird's, 1971.*

## THE SPINNING WHEEL

The 1980s saw the development of week-end markets, places where people congregate for Saturday or Sunday morning shopping or browsing. Ringwood Lions saw in these gatherings an opportunity for a fund raising effort by running a spinning wheel to raise funds to assist construction of our current project, a new Elderly Citizens home at Lionsbrae.

We commenced operations in July, 1983 at the Ringwood Market where we set up the wheel and a stand for prizes, a variety of large woolly "teddy bear" type creatures. We started at 9.30 a.m. each Saturday morning and operated until 12.30 p.m. The spinner made some preliminary announcements and the ticket sellers dressed in yellow wind cheaters on which was displayed "Lions Club of Ringwood" and caps with the Lion emblem circulated among the crowd. Tickets were sold at 20 cents each and when 60 tickets were sold the wheel was spun and the winning number announced. The holder of the winning ticket then had a choice from the various prizes on the display panel.

The operation was an immediate success thanks to the efforts of Lions Barrie Ward, George Richards and their helpers. In particular Lion Ahmed Maliki gets a mention as a persuasive spruiker. The first three mornings produced:

17th July	19 spins	profit \$132
24th July	26 spins	profit \$180
31st July	30 spins	profit \$208

A little later in the year the Bulletin reported that total spinning wheel takings were \$3,000.

We operated at Ringwood Market for twelve months over 1983 - 4 and then moved to another market at Wantirna Drive-In where we averaged twenty spins a morning for three months. At this time customer interest was flagging and the operators were getting very tired. After three months at Wantirna we closed down.

Overall we made a profit of \$10,000 which we shared between fund raising for construction of Lionsbrae, and the Ash Wednesday Bushfire Appeal.



*Spinning Wheel at Ringwood Market –  
Lions Barry Ward, Peter Purdy and Ian Kirkpatrick.*



*Spinning Wheel at Ringwood Market.*

## LIONS LADIES AUXILIARY

Lions Ladies worked with the Lions on their projects from the Charter of the Club.

In July 1968 it was agreed that they form an Auxiliary and after approval from the Lions Club this was done. Although the Ladies became an Auxiliary, their main work was to support the Lions Club whenever and where ever needed. Apart from these projects they usually managed to run at least one main fund raising event each year and also assist with Community Services whenever requested to do so.

Over the past 18 years their main fund raising has been a Chicken & Champagne Luncheon, which always brought in a profit of well in excess of \$100 each year. On several occasions they have been requested to cater at different Community functions. These requests came from the Ringwood Bowling Club, City of Ringwood, and the Ringwood Golf Club.

In 1970 the Lions Ladies were asked to provide transport for the Blind. This was needed to take the people to and from their craft class each week. A few of the Lions Ladies did this on a regular basis until 1980, giving a service for 10 years. The Lions Ladies also organised a Residents day at Lionswood Village, where they entertained the residents and provided them with Afternoon Tea. This continued for 15 years and finished in 1985, but they still provide a Christmas Party for Lionswood and Wilana Residents each year.

The Ladies have also been involved as Drivers for Meals on Wheels for a number of years. For the past 13 years they have provided transport for the Elderly from Lionswood Village, Wilana and now Lionsbrae to and from the Mayoress Reception each year.

Some of the Ladies have assisted with English Classes at the Nunawading Migrant Hostel, over a period of years.

From monies raised at Lions Ladies functions, these are some of the organisations they have assisted:

Autistic Children  
Mitcham Special School.  
Elderly Citizens.  
Lionswood Village.  
Wilana.

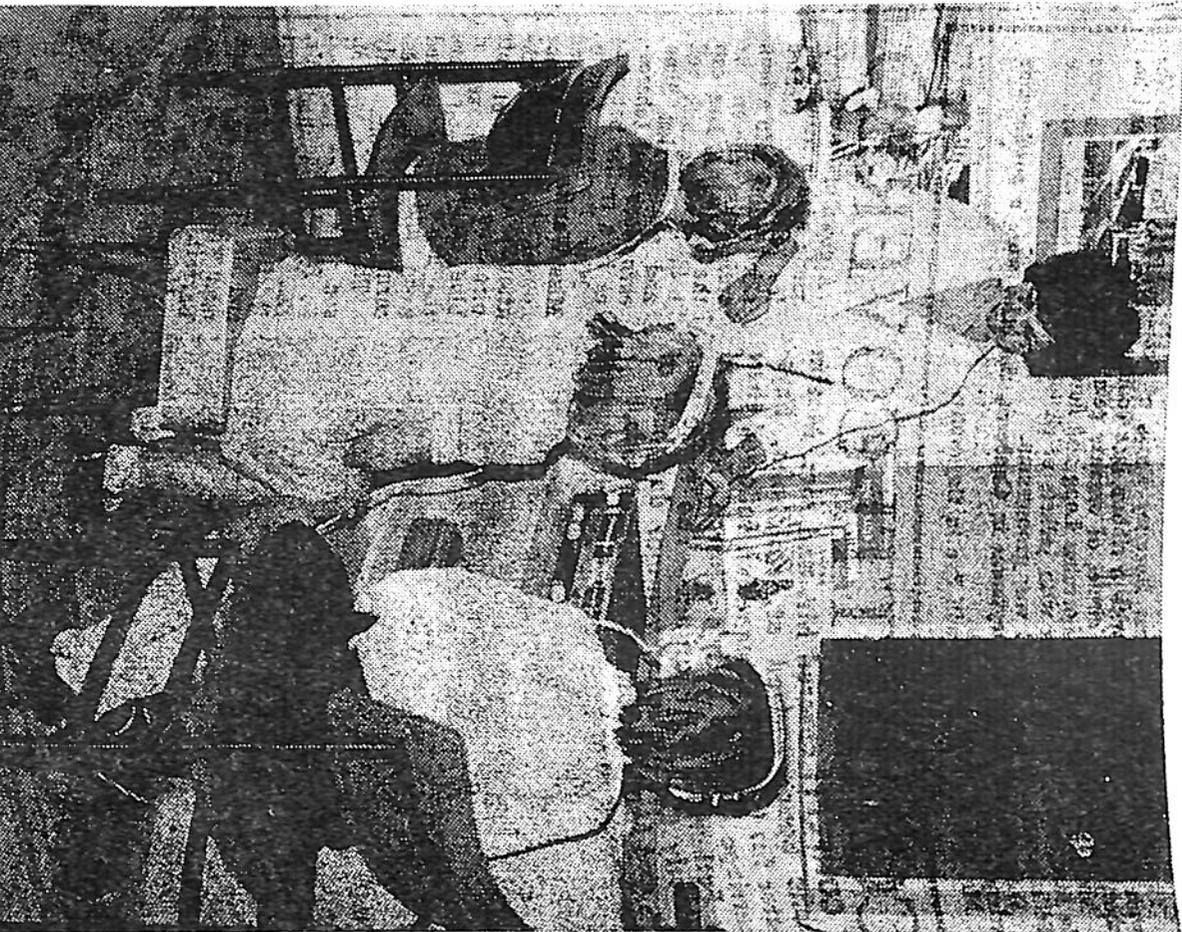
R.V.I.B. Craft Class East Ringwood.  
Ringwood Ladies Benevolent Society.

Ringwood Red Cross.  
St. John Ambulance.  
Lionsbrae.  
Royal District Nursing Society.  
Cot Death Foundation.  
Ringwood Halfway House.  
Ringwood Primary School Special Library.

In 19 years as an Auxiliary they have raised in excess of \$10,000.

# Women Lions aid special school

At the school, teacher Mrs. Angus and three of the children use earphones in a lesson.



Mrs. NORMA PURDY, wife of the president of the Lions Club of Ringwood accompanied by Mrs. O.Schiele presents a cheque to Mr. E. Sharp, headmaster of the Micham Special School. The money was raised by the wives of the Lions to buy earphones for helping the children with speech therapy.

In addition to providing earphones for general use, wives of Ringwood Lions have sponsored a child at the Micham Special School for 12 months. This is part of a benefactors' scheme launched by the Parents' Association wherein organisations are invited to find an amount of \$20 which provides, maintains and replaces the special equipment needed by the child during the year.

The christian name of the child is given to the organisation concerned.

As well as individual earphones — records, pictures, musical instruments and recording tapes are used by the pupils. They need to be continually brought up to date and replaced.

Many of the children are unable to talk when they first attend the special school and remedial speech involves stimulating them into speech.

This happens when they see themselves on film.

The school has its own camera and 8 mm projector, but the cost of film is considerable and they need help in this direction.

A pamphlet has been drawn up which describes the work of the school and how benefactors can help. Many more sponsors are wanted — cost \$20 per year.

# R'WOOD LIONS HELP AGAIN

**WITHIN the City of Ringwood is a small band of devoted women whose task is to help needy families and individuals in the town and who have been doing this for some time.**

This band of women comprises the Ringwood Ladies' Benevolent Society and for years they have been giving advice, clothing and food as well as other assistance to suit the particular need. All this has been done, and is being done quietly and without any fuss. Which is why, the Lions Club of Ringwood at its last meeting, presented Mayoress Yvonne Vergers, this year's

*Ringwood and Croydon Mail*

president of the Benevolent Society with a cheque for £50.

Presenting the cheque the president Mr. Bob Lindsay expressed the hope that the amount would help the Society to carry on its unobtrusive good work among the community.

In thanking the committee and members of the Lions Club for their cheque, the Mayoress said that was a timely boost to the Society's funds which were at a particularly low ebb.

## LETTERS

### RINGWOOD LIONS LADIES RECEIVE A LETTER OF THANKS

Mrs. M. Cass,  
82 Warrandyte Rd.,  
RINGWOOD, VIC.

Dear Mrs. Cass,

I would like to thank you and the Ringwood Lions Ladies for the very generous gift of a television set. It was very kind of you all and I'm sure a lot of hard work must have gone into raising the money.

I left it until now to write because I wanted to be able to tell you how the children responded. Those capable enough show quite an interest and we are using it as one means of training them.

We have put the TV, temporarily at least, in a small room off the ward so that some of the children who would appreciate it can be

taken there and given a bit of special attention. Many parents tell me that their children loved to watch television at home, and some certainly do watch it. One little girl claps in time to the music. Before we had the TV most of the children had nothing else to do but sit or lie around with nothing to occupy them.

Later, when we will have a hostel here for adult retarded people, they will be able to come and watch television in the evenings.

I would be very glad to show you and the other mothers through St. Nicholas some time soon, if you would like to come.

Thank you again very much.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Barnes.

Social Worker.

St. Nicholas' Hospital,

Carlton, Vic.

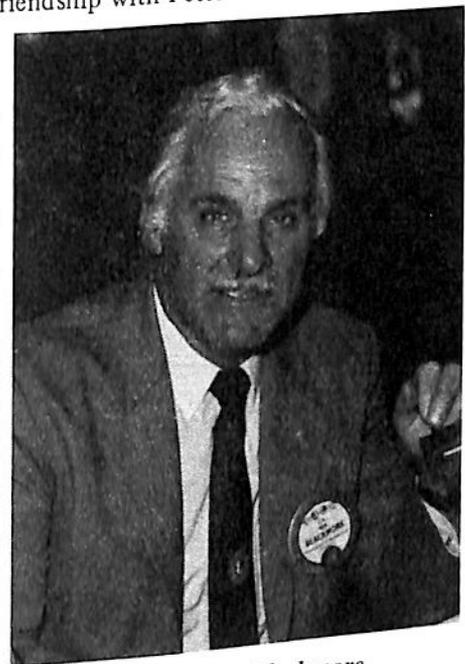
## LIONS MOTOR NEURONE PROJECT

Motor neurone is a disease that attacks the body cells responsible for the movement of muscles. There is no known cure, the victim becomes completely paralysed and dies within two to four years.

In 1982 Lion Ken Blackmore's interest in the problems of Motor Neurone sufferers was aroused when he met Peter Buscombe. Peter in the prime of life and a farmer in the Western District contracted Motor Neurone disease and was forced to sell his property. He came to Croydon to live where he met Ken at the local Anglican church. At that time Ken had very little knowledge of the disease and its consequences, however, his friendship with Peter led him to seek more information.

Ken called at the home of Nandy Kaskonyi, president of the newly formed Motor Neurone Society of Vic. and also stricken with Motor Neurone disease; Nandy had no movement of his limbs and his speech was incoherent, however he was able to give Ken more information about the disease.

Ken raised the question of Lions help for these unfortunate sufferers at a Zone meeting in March 1982. He organised a joint meeting with Heathmont Lions and invited Peter Buscombe and his daughter Bronwyn (a nurse) to be guest speakers. Later in the year, in June, Dr. Dennis Burke, also interested in Motor Neurone disease addressed the Club on its problems as seen through the eyes of medical staff.



*Lion Ken Blackmore*

A notice of motion was raised by the Ringwood Club at District 201V5's Convention of 1982 "that the M.N.D. project be adopted as a district project". This was defeated.

During Aug./Sept. 1982 several dedicated Lions formed themselves into the Lions Motor Neurone Advisory Committee. They were: Past District Governor Bill Gale, Past District Governor Geof. Mifsud, Lions: Ken Blackmore, Ian Kirkpatrick and Max. Tresise, Lion Norm Fidge from Oakleigh Club was to join them later.

A tremendous amount of 'homework' was done by this committee. A new motion was submitted to Multiple District Chief Executive Lion John Powell for the Multiple District Convention to be held at Mt. Gambier in April 1983. This motion was subsequently passed by the delegates attending and the Lions Motor Neurone Project became a Multiple District Project.

To achieve the objectives set out for the project necessitated an unbelievable amount of work. Everything had to be started at grass roots as there was no previous project of a similar kind upon which to base the running of this project. It was necessary to inform all Lions and Lioness Clubs throughout Australia of the project and also to contact those Clubs where it was known a Motor Neurone patient lived requesting their help with this patient. Literally thousands of pieces of correspondence were to go out during the next four years.

Early on it was important to draw up a list of guidelines for those Clubs being asked to approach a patient in order to prevent any unethical procedures. The first of the ten guidelines was that the visiting Club member elicit by means of judicious questioning of neighbours whether the patient was still alive. If offers of Lion help were rejected the instruction was to 'back off' but leave a 'phone number!

One of the projects' objectives was to help with the formation of a Motor Neurone Society in every State, only Victoria and N.S.W. had Societies when the project was started. Lions were to have in-put into the formation of the Motor Neurone Societies of Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia and Queensland.

Before long the Committee started receiving the names and addresses of patients in Vic., N.S.W., and Tas. from the Motor Neurone Society of Victoria, then from across the length and breadth of Australia. Eventually in excess of 600 patients were to be recorded on Ringwood Lion Ian Kirkpatrick's computer. At the same time requests for very expensive pieces of equipment were being channeled into the Committee. Funds were to come in from Lions Clubs around Australia to meet this need.

It was no simple matter to 'match' patient and Lions Club and Lion Ken Blackmore was to spend many hours pouring over maps trying to locate the closest Club to a particular patient. During the life of the project Lion Ken was to speak on the project as guest speaker to between 80 - 90 Lions Clubs and speak on radio and at four Multiple District and nine District Conventions about Motor Neurone disease and how the Lions were helping. He also wrote articles for publication.

The Lions Motor Neurone Project Committee was to meet on a monthly basis for four years, with many sub-committee meetings. The first brochure they drew up and had printed about Motor Neurone disease was the first piece of literature on the subject to be available to the general public and several hospitals requested copies!

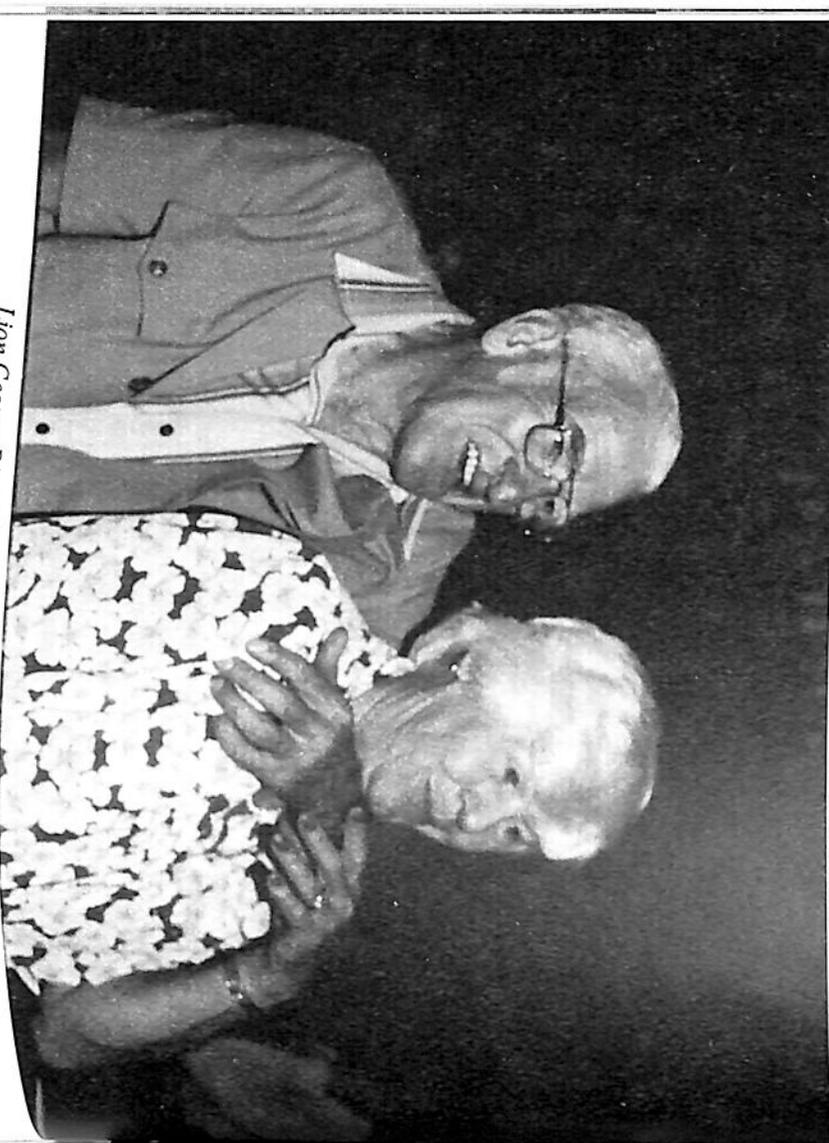
The progress of the project was not always a calm sea, in fact due to factors beyond the Committee's control became at times like a raging torrent, with much correspondence between them and Multiple District Council. At times everyone felt like giving up, but some success story about a patient would soon revive their enthusiasm.

All members of the Committee worked hard on the project and were grateful to Ringwood Lion Ian Kirkpatrick for the use of his office facilities and the help of his secretary Wendy. Past District Governor Geof. Mifsud's knowledge of constitution and byc-laws was invaluable, and without Past District Governor Bill Gale's hours of work keeping the financial side of the project on course things would have gone seriously awry. Lions Norm Fidge and Max Tresise contributed much in the preparation of the pamphlets. They were a great team who achieved all the objectives laid down by Council, raised over \$100,000, over \$93,000 of which was spent helping to equip Motor Neurone Societies thus making them self supporting with pools of equipment available on loan to patients.

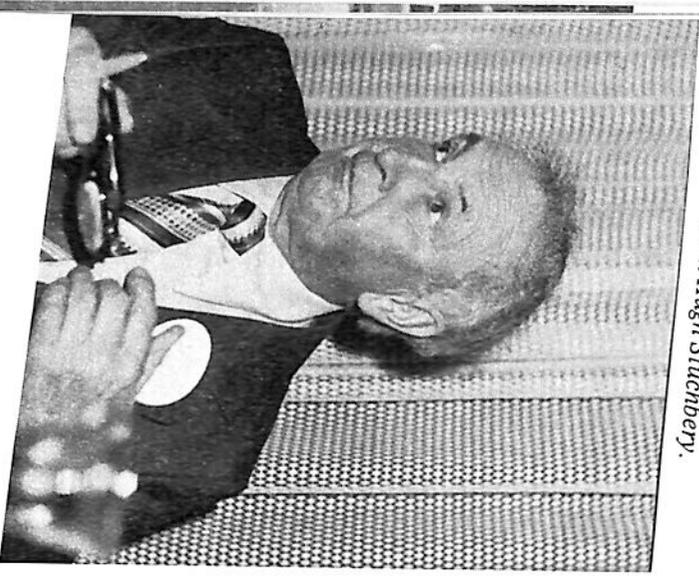
This project was a challenge which was met and successfully completed. During its course the project was awarded a Premier of Victoria's Award for Service to Others.

The continuation of this project in the form of individual District projects remains in the lap of the Gods.

Lion Ken Blackmore



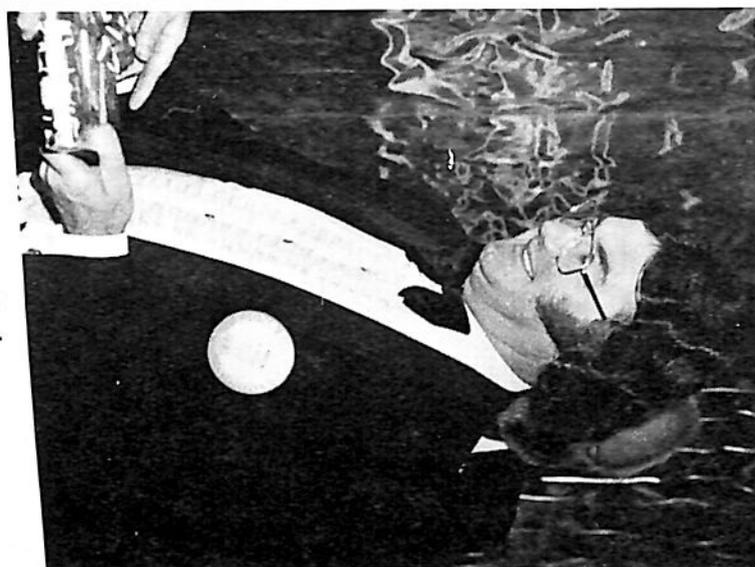
*Lion George Richards and Lions Lady Jean Kelaher.*



*Lion Hugh Struchbery.*



*Lion Ken Riddell.*



*Lion Kevin Rutley.*

*Below: Lions Max Tvesise and Grant Douglas.*





*Above: Two stalwarts – Lions Sid Kerch and Jack Kelaher  
Below: Lions Arthur Marsh and Hec McLean*



*New President, Lion Grant Douglas.*



*A handsome couple of Lions.*

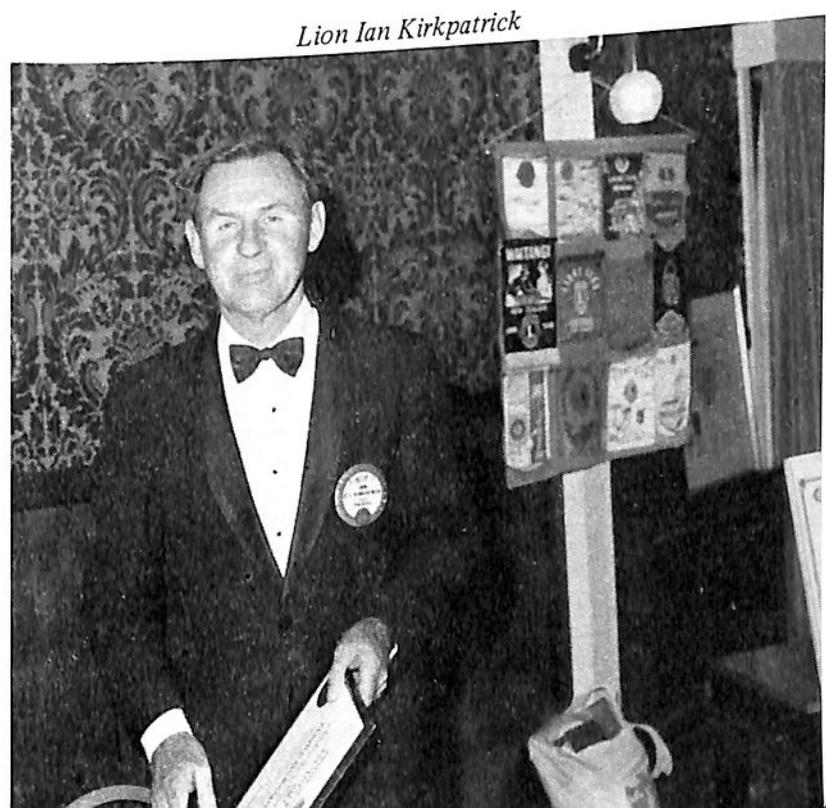


Above: *Change over night, 1985*  
*Lions Peter Purdy, Hugh Stuchbery and Andy Devonport Smee.*

Below: *Lions Jack Patten and Fred Banch.*



*Lion Doug Millar.*



*Lion Ian Kirkpatrick*

# LIONS CLUB OF RINGWOOD

The CHARTER MEMBERSHIP was as follows:

Albert Aird	Dolph Hunt	Reg Spencer
Arch Allsop	Harry James	Earle Stewart
Norman Aus	Bob Lindsay	Bob Stoney
Douglas Baxter	David Lush	Van Van Hoboken
Jack Buchanan	Alan Lyon	Peter Vergers
Mayrice Cass	Hector McLean	Ken Ward
Max Deuter	Pat Miles	Ron Yee
Les Hickman	Kevin Pratt	

Since Charter the following have been inducted into membership:

Trevor Grace	Arthur Ashby	Jack Patten
Robert Gray	Ian Bull	Geoff Pinkerton
Bob Hare	Fred Banch	Michael Pitt
Jeffrey Harding	Jim Barrett	Les Prato
Peter Harford	Ossie Berzkalns	Jim Price
Max Hawkins	Norm Bisset	Bill Pritchard
Peter Hawken	Ken Blackmore	Peter Purdy
John Hobbs	Kevin Bottomley	George Richards
Wal Hodgson	Joe Bradley	Ken Riddell
Russell Holroyd	Ian Buchanan	Russ Roberts
Don Jolly	Hugh Cameron	Bill Rutherford
Jack Kelaher	Eric Clarkson	Kevin Rutley
John Kent	Brian Chettle	Owen Schiele
Syd Kinch	John Clifford	Ralph Shalles
Ian Kirkpatrick	Jim Conatos	Jim Stewart
George Lewis	Fred Cox	Arthur Stokes
Bill Lilburn	Harold Davidson	Hugh Stuchbery
Fred Loosley	Derek Davies	Ken Sweetman
Alan McCallum	Bill Davies	Allan Taylor
Bill McMahon	Andy Devonport-Smeec	Max Thomas
Armid Maliki	Grant Douglas	Max T्रेसise
Arthur March	John Drummond	Gerry Tuohy
Doug Millar	Jim East	Doug Waltering
Beau Moore	Peter Eno	Barry Ward
Harry Murray	John Ensink	Max Waller
Doug Murray	Robin Gardini	Bruce White
Alan Nelson	Ralph German	Alan Womersley
John North	Colin Gilmore	Jim Wood
Brian O'Connor	Malcolm Glasscock	Bob Young

# LIONS CLUB OF RINGWOOD

## PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1962-3	J. Buchanan	R. Yee	M. Cass
1963-4	R. Lindsay	R. Yee	K. Pratt
1964-5	D. Lush	R. Yee	K. Pratt
1965-6	M. Cass	I. Ball	A. Aird
1966-7	P. Purdy	R. Yee	A. Aird
1967-8	A. McCallum	R. Hare	A. Aird
1968-9	H. Munro	R. Hare	D. Lush
1969-70	J. Buchanan	D. Millar	A. McCallum
1970-1	H. Stuchbery	D. Millar	J. Hobbs
1971-2	R. Shalles	J. Kelaher	J. Hobbs
1972-3	I. Kirkpatrick	J. Kelaher	R. German
1973-4	O. Schiele	G. Lewis	R. German
1974-5	J. Clifford	G. Lewis	B. Pritchard
1975-6	K. Rutley	G. Lewis	B. Pritchard
1976-7	R. German	B. Pritchard	W. Hodgson
1977-8	G. Douglas	K. Rutley	W. Hodgson
1978-9	K. Riddell	K. Rutley	W. Hodgson
1979-80	D. Davies	K. Rutley	W. Hodgson
1980-1	F. Cox	K. Rutley	W. Hodgson
1981-2	K. Blackmore	I. Kirkpatrick	B. Pritchard
1982-3	M. Tresise	G. Lewis	B. Pritchard
1983-4	J. Kelaher	F. Cox	B. Pritchard
1984-5	J. East	G. Douglas	B. Pritchard
1985-6	I. Kirkpatrick	J. Kelaher	H. Stuchbery
1986-7	J. Bradley	J. Kelaher	O. Berzkalns
1987-8	B. Ward	G. Douglas	

## A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY 1962 - 1987

The following pages are a brief chronological record of Club activities over the 25 years of its existence. It has been compiled from still existing Club Bulletins, and because the file of these is incomplete some events may be omitted. In other cases events may not be completely recorded, as the Bulletin editor is not always interested in history.

The record does not detail every activity of the Club. Because they are so numerous many small fund-raising efforts are intentionally omitted as are many small donations to both local and national charities. We have over the years performed many minor community service functions or assistance to needy families or assistance to other groups making an effort to promote service activity in the community.

Take these pages as an indicator of the scope of our activity rather than as a diary of events. Take them also as a record of major activities that have involved the membership in many hundreds of work hours but are not mentioned elsewhere in this record.

### Year 1962 - 63

- 29th May, 1962 First Board Meeting  
dinner meeting place Village Drive In Croydon
- July, 1962 First Bulletin
- 18th August, 1962 Charter night
- September, 1962 Soccer/football match proposed but failed
- October, 1962 Dinner dance
- December, 1962 Christmas party for underprivileged children at Foy & Gibsons.  
Christmas cards as fund raiser
- February, 1963 Barbecue at R. Lindsay's for Administration A/c  
Helped Ringwood Henly Carnival (spinning wheel)  
Helped pensioner find accommodation  
Car rally to raise funds for Moomba float  
Proposed annual barbecue planned but cancelled
- March, 1963 Shop window mystery object - proceeds to Elderly Citizens
- April, 1963 Opportunity shop opened
- June, 1963 Collection jars in shops for Maroondah Hospital proposed  
Helped pensioner evicted from condemned premises

### Year 1963 - 64

- July, 1963 Wine tasting - Wine and Brandy Producers Association  
Proposal to sell Christmas cards and to sell Christmas trees through seven service stations  
Helped evicted pensioner
- November, 1963 We gave Mobile Street Stall to Ringwood Charities  
Dinner Dance at Hunters Lodge  
Presented refrigerator to Elderly Citizens  
Underprivileged children's party at St. Kilda  
Helped at Henley carnival - Ringwood Lake
- January, 1964 Barbecue at Hec McLean's
- February, 1964 Car treasure hunt  
Establishment "Community Service Fund"
- March, 1964 First investigation - meals on wheels  
Decision to donate bus to Monkami - cost \$2,500
- May, 1964 Meeting place moved to "Rendevous" Mitcham
- August, 1964

### Year 1964 - 65

- October, 1964 Monster Christmas stocking raffle - collection of foods underway - proceeds for Monkami bus. Bus cost £1250  
Shop rented for nominal sum about two doors from Opportunity Shop - for storage  
We sponsored Croydon Lions Club nucleus  
Meeting at Village Drive In
- December, 1964 300 Christmas trees delivered to Scouts for sale  
Underprivileged children's party at St. Kilda  
Christmas stocking raffle netted £526
- February, 1965 Annual Barbecue at Hec McLean's place  
Net profit £212
- April, 1965 Charter of Croydon Club  
At long last Maroondah Hospital jars distributed to shops by K. Ward and M. Deuter  
Dinner dance "Roaring Twenties" on Friday 13th (month not stated) but an event some people still remember
- June, 1965 Opportunity Shop - funds raised for year \$2,310

### Year 1965 - 66

- July, 1965 Op Shop still major fund raiser - special working bee  
Sunday 8th August - removal of several truck loads rubbish - later in 1967 signs of lack of interest, lack of profit

February, 1966 Barbecue at Hec McLean's, profit \$900  
Continued frequent official visits to other Clubs - almost at monthly intervals  
Annual cricket match against Richmond Lions was at Greensborough, Ringwood won

March, 1966 Carnival on old football ground (now Eastland).  
Mitcham Special School to receive \$450 out of proceeds. Three days and nights. Profit \$2,022.00

June, 1966 Were helping four needy families  
Membership at year end was 37  
Donations of small amounts were many and varied.  
The larger donations for the year were -  
Mitcham Special School - \$533  
Ryder Cheshire Foundation, India - \$200  
St. John Ambulance - \$1,000  
Maroondah Hospital Auxiliary - \$200  
Freedom from Hunger - \$270

Year 1966 - 67

July, 1966 Car rally/barbecue for Administration account  
Planning started for proposed Carnival Labour Day weekend 1967

September, 1966 Naughty nineties at Park Orchards  
Theatre night

October, 1966 Wine Tasting - Park Orchards

November, 1966 We considered a choral festival, a town hall dance, a floral festival and a princess of flowers  
Official visits still frequent

December, 1966 Underprivileged children's party at Luna Park

February, 1967 Annual Barbecue at Hec McLean's, profit \$464  
Annual cricket match vs Richmond Lions

March, 1967 Ringwood Lions were heavily involved with the organization of The Inaugural Ringwood Highland Games, which the Club conducted for many subsequent years

May, 1967 Carnival at Greenwood Park with co-operation of 20 or so other Ringwood groups. Total profit \$2,500 (Ringwood charities \$1,280, community service fund \$1,163)  
Op Shop took \$662 for Feb/March  
Larger donations 1966/67 -  
needy families - \$240  
Lady Herring Spastic Centre - \$200  
Vic. Society Crippled Children - \$200

May, 1967 Tasmania Bush Fire relief - \$200  
Food for India - \$267  
Year 1967 - 68

August, 1967 Dolph Hunt died

December, 1967 Christmas cabaret night  
Christmas carnival 8-9 Dec at Staley Gardens  
Underprivileged children's Christmas party at Coney Island, St. Kilda

February, 1968 Annual barbecue at Hec McLean's  
Major assistance to Ringwood Elderly Citizens Club (est. \$4,500) immediate donation \$1,000

March, 1968 Highland Carnival and dinner dance

April, 1968 Cricket match vs Richmond Lions

July, 1978 Youth of the Year  
Year 1968 - 69

November, 1968 Proposed we charter Mooroolbark

December, 1968 Underprivileged children's Christmas Party, St. Kilda  
Christmas raffle for \$1,000

February, 1969 Highland Carnival Jubilee Park  
Bill Rutherford died

March, 1969 Barbecue  
Mooroolbark charter by Ringwood Lions  
Cricket match vs Richmond Lions at Lower Eltham  
Year 1969 - 70

July, 1969 Helped deserted wife - hedge cutting and house repairs

September, 1969 Removed hedge at widow's home  
Barbecue at Wonga Park for "Miss Karingal" quest - netted \$540

October, 1969 Assistance to Ringwood Ballet Group and Ringwood Amateur Athletic Club

February, 1970 Annual barbecue at Hec McLean's - made \$1,517

March, 1970 Youth of Year  
Cricket match vs Richmond Lions at Lower Eltham

April, 1970 Highland Carnival - profit \$300  
Opportunity shop closure  
Maroondah Hospital fete  
Norm Bissett died

April, 1970 Licola development - eight Lions/families visited area and helped development work

May, 1970 Detailed report proposed meals on wheels

#### Year 1970 - 71

September, 1970 Storage shed awaiting re-erection at Wonga Park  
Wine Tasting

Education in New Guinea - we donated several amounts around \$100 for scholarships in this period  
Also \$300 for Transport Truck for village children

October, 1970 Barbecue and yabby competition at Wonga Park

November, 1970 Charity auction made \$942. We distributed 2,000 circulars and made follow up calls resulting in 50 affirmative replies from local business houses  
Melbourne Cup Sweep  
Supplied invalid chair to District Nursing Service  
Our objection to Heathmont Lions Club formation rejected

January, 1971 First cost \$600 to get Meals on Wheels off the ground

February, 1971 Highland Games (profit about \$1,500)  
Youth of the Year

April, 1971 Cricket match vs Richmond Lions held at Healesville  
Annual barbecue at Hec McLean's - made \$1,260

Meals on Wheels commenced with help of other service clubs

May, 1971 Ball at Eastland for Meals on Wheels

June, 1971 We gave weighing beds to Alfred Hospital and gave St. John Ambulance \$500 for new ambulance  
Storage shed erected at "Coolibah" - home of Lion Albert Aird

#### Year 1971 - 72

July, 1971 Four weighing beds now operating at Alfred Hospital - all donated by Ringwood Lions.

August, 1971 Assisted deserted wife at request of Government Social Welfare Dept.

September, 1971 Carnival at Staley Gardens for East Pakistan refugees.  
Car rally and barbecue and cheese/wine tasting.

October, 1971 Further investigation on formation of Leo Club.

November, 1971 Lions to assist Maroondah Hospital Auxiliary in organising a carnival.

November, 1971 Bonfire and barbecue, profit \$1,016 - bad weather, wettest weekend for 37 years.

December, 1971 Christmas cards/Christmas cakes, sales produced profit \$198 for Club.  
Investigation - Leo Club.  
Helped needy family who had furnishing removed for not meeting commitments.

February, 1972 Highland games - profit \$1,300.  
Annual barbecue at Hec McLean's, 750 attended, profit \$1,200.  
Helped deserted wife with payment of rent.

April, 1972 Cricket match vs Richmond Lions at Healesville.  
Used spectacle program.  
Auction at Moran and Cato's old store, profit \$900 used to purchase gas barbecues and picnic tables and seats for Ringwood Lake to assist Council with Lake Development.

#### Year 1972 - 73

September, 1972 Barbecue for administration account - family day with yabby catching, tug of war, apple on a string etc.  
Gave Scouts a loud hailer.

December, 1972 Coronation Ball - 11 contestants for Miss Ringwood.  
Proceeds for Elderly Citizens.

February, 1973 Highland Games - profit \$738.

March, 1973 Four portable walkie talkie sets to Volunteer Emergency Service.

Cricket vs Richmond Lions at Wonga Park.

April, 1973 Lions members camp at Licola.  
Appeal for spectacles from Pakistan.

#### Year 1973 - 74

November, 1973 Melbourne Cup sweep, profit \$761.

December, 1973 Underprivileged children's Christmas party, Luna Park.  
Monster carnival December, 7th - 9th, profit \$858 plus profit by stall holders, etc.

February, 1974 Board decided to extend to Mitcham/Park Orchards later abandoned, Warrandyte Club eventually formed Club.

March, 1974 Barbecue at Hec McLean's, profit \$1,550  
Cricket match and car rally.  
Concern with quality dinner meetings at Village.

April, 1974 Assisted district art show at Ringwood Town Hall.  
Requested Council permission to use merry-go-round at Lake on Sundays.  
Asked Council permission to erect 20 concrete seats at appropriate sites with advertising signs to raise money.

May, 1974 Plant sale/flower sale sales for Mothers' Day.

Year 1974 - 75

August, 1974 Meals on Wheels taken over from Joint Services Committee by City of Ringwood.  
Ladies sold 156 dozen lamingtons.

September, 1974 Flower sale - profit \$147.  
Merry-go-round - machine hired out - machine repainted.

October, 1974 Auction Presbyterian Hall - 13,000 circulars distributed - profit \$400.

November, 1974 Cup Sweep raised \$822.  
Gymkhana.

December, 1974 Sale of Christmas cakes - net profit \$1,320.

February, 1975 Highland Games - co-operated with merry-go-round and golf putter.  
Barbecue. Profit \$2,284

March, 1975 Cricket vs Richmond Lions at Wonga Park.

April, 1975 Joint Services Committee demolishing mine manager's cottage for re-erection.

May, 1975 Contributed to bus for Elderly Citizens.  
Kevin Pratt named a Life Member.  
Received \$580 as our share of Ashton Circus performances under sponsorship.  
We gave \$2,000 to Darwin Cyclone Appeal.  
Annual district art show at Eastland.

Year 1975 - 76

July, 1975 Wilana flats in planning stage.  
Considered waste re-cycling centre.

September, 1975 Allambie children's picnic at Wonga Park.

October, 1975 "Night of Stars" - made \$907.

November, 1975 Wilana Elderly people's home society. Govt. grant available on land and buildings.

February, 1976 Barbecue.

March, 1976 Cricket

April, 1976 Picnic for Allambie Home at Wonga Park. Children collected from and returned to Burwood.

June, 1976 Amblyopia survey in Scots church hall.

Year 1976 - 77

July, 1976 Plant potting project.  
Progressive dinner, games night, family night.  
Decision to refurbish and sell merry-go-round.  
Donations to Salvation Army, Autistic children, Maroondah Hospital.  
We have ordered 350 dozen Christmas cakes.  
Licola village - family camp and working bees.

September, 1976 Spectacle drive.  
Proposal for mobile intensive care ambulance.  
Allambie children's outing at Wonga Park - 40 children.

October, 1976 Better hearing survey at Presbyterian Hall arranged with Angus & Coote Pty. Ltd.  
Plant potting project - 400 plants potted - objective 6,000.

November, 1976 Melbourne Cup Sweep netted \$600.  
Elderly Citizens project (Wilana) assured of Government finance.

December, 1976 Children's party Luna Park.  
Trouble with India Customs over second hand spectacles sent.  
Christmas cakes exceeded one million for multiple district.  
Sold merry-go-round for \$950.  
Plant potting - 2,500 planted and 500 ready for sale.  
Aim is 10,000 a year.

February, 1977 Barbecue at Yarra View. Profit \$3,514  
Donated \$340 toward mini-bus for Kew Cottages.  
Highland carnival to be organised by joint services.

March, 1977 Cricket with Richmond Lions.  
Working bees - Licola.  
Discussion on improving old post office site.  
Horse Gymkhana - Eastfield Park, Croydon.  
Allambie children's picnic at Luna Park.

June, 1977 Helped with "Miss Personality" at Chaucers (\$23,500).  
Wilana - Government grant available July, 1977 - 11 single and 2 double units.  
Help for lonely old aged.

June, 1977 Change over night - cheque for \$6,000 handed to Maroondah Hospital for equipment for elderly patients.

Year 1977 - 78

July, 1977 Wilana - tenders called - submission to Dept. of Social Security  
Concern that membership falling  
Help for Ringwood Halfway House

August, 1977 Plant potting project - lack of workers - taken over by Alan Nelson  
Wilana - building tender \$200,000, Council provided land and \$15,000 - 2 for 1 subsidy expected from Government - 50 applicants for units

October, 1977 Bingo started with other Clubs

November, 1977 Cup sweep - profit \$504  
Barbecue for St. John of God people

December, 1977 Luna Park Children's Christmas party  
Lion mints distributed for sale

March, 1978 Barbecue at Yarra View Profit \$2,000

April, 1978 Horse show with Croydon  
Highland Games - we to provide organizing committee with volunteer help  
Allambie picnic  
Youth of the Year

May, 1978 Helped with a Miss Personality quest that raised \$2,692 for cancer research  
Wilana - first occupants of flats allocated  
Blood pressure survey - Eastland  
550 people screened - 9.5% had problems  
Helped with walkathon for Monkami that raised \$10,000

Year 1978 - 79

September, 1978 With Ringwood Council encouragement a drop-in centre for youth that failed despite considerable effort

October, 1978 Hearing survey at Uniting Church  
Annual report Wilana Elderly Citizens profit from flower sales to date \$580

November, 1978 Cup sweep

December, 1978 Barbecue for St. John of God people  
Luna Park Children's Christmas party, about 30 children - co-operation of Salvation Army  
Christmas cakes, 250 dozen sold, profit \$1,237

December, 1978 Wilana project finance Ringwood Lions \$30,000, Lionswood \$5,000, Ringwood City \$15,000, Government subsidies \$165,000, Donations \$7,500

February, 1979 Annual barbecue - 250 attended - Total fire ban day, profit \$1,327  
Trash and treasure - profit \$237  
Highland carnival - profit \$2,000

March, 1979 Horse show with Croydon Lions

April, 1979 Picnic for Allambie children

May, 1979 Flower stall Mothers Day, profit \$502

June, 1979 Diabetic survey

Year 1979 - 80

September, 1979 Blood pressure survey  
We gave stereo to St. John of God  
Ladies still running lamington drives

October, 1979 Trash and treasure

November, 1979 Picnic for St. John of God people  
Progressive dinner, profit \$225  
Cup sweep, profit \$503

December, 1979 Christmas party by Ladies at Wilana and Lionswood  
Iceland Charity Show for Children's Hospital, profit \$1,700  
Gift of typewriter and cassette player to Maroondah Centre for visually handicapped

February, 1980 Barbecue at Yarra View

March, 1980 Horse show

May, 1980 Flower stall - Mothers Day

Year 1980 - 81

August, 1980 Golf weekend at Corowa

September, 1980 Health survey - hearing

October, 1980 200 dozen Christmas cakes sold  
Launched "Princess" competition for Maroondah Hospital

November, 1980 Barbecue for St. John of God residents  
Melbourne Cup Sweep - profit \$192  
Old time music hall theatre night - profit \$382

December, 1980 Underprivileged children's party to Luna Park  
Iceland charity show - profit \$1,360 - to Leukaemia Ward, Children's Hospital

February, 1981 Annual barbecue - profit \$2,500

April, 1981 Health survey  
Ringwood festival ball to raise money for Maroondah  
Hospital casualty section - Equipment valued at \$10,000  
donated

May, 1981 Flower stall - Mother's day  
Welfare - garden done for widow, trees pruned at North  
Ringwood, cheap rent found for recovering alcoholic lady  
Year 1981 - 82

October, 1981 Progressive dinner for Administrative account

November, 1981 Lions Ladies raised \$850 over a year and gave it to Ring-  
wood Council for scholarship for disabled child  
Luna Park outing for undereprivileged children  
Music hall night at S. Warrandyte hall - profit \$1,500 for  
Yarrame  
Melbourne cup sweep - profit \$145  
Function at Ringwood Civic Centre raised \$420 for  
International Year of Disabled

December, 1981 Hearing survey at Presbyterian Hall, 65 tested and 22  
recommended for further investigation  
Welfare - Christmas hamper (\$60) needy family  
Barbecue at St. John of God for residents  
Surplus Christmas cakes given to Elderly Citizens Club

February, 1982 Annual barbecue at Yarra View - profit \$2,700

March, 1982 Blood pressure testing - 380 tested - 16% had problems  
- Consideration - motor neurone disease sufferer Peter  
Buscome addressed combined meeting of Ringwood and  
Heathmont - accompanied by daughter

May, 1982 Flower stall for Mother's day  
Donut and drink stall at Highland carnival cleared \$600

June, 1982 Several working bees at Yarrame  
Several welfare cases over year -  
\$387 to Red Cross  
Paid telephone for single parent family  
Christmas hamper for family  
Elderly Citizens helped  
Ripple mattress for motor neurone patient  
other financial assistance to needy families

Year 1982 - 83

July, 1982 Donated \$460 as share of Senior Citizens bus with other  
organizations  
Working bee - painting at Yarra View - also gave them light-  
ing - cost \$1,200

September, 1982 20th Anniversary Dinner  
Donation \$200 Anti Cancer Council  
Golf weekend at Cobram  
Blood pressure survey  
Youth of Year  
Motor Neurone project submitted to district convention  
as a district project  
Spinning wheel at Ringwood market in first 3 weeks made  
\$520. At October, 1982 it had earned \$1,500

December, 1982 Barbecue for St. John of God people  
Music hall night

February, 1983 Annual barbecue  
We established a bush fire relief fund that raised \$6,500  
Eye survey

March, 1983 Fun and games night at Max Tresise's

April, 1983 Wilana - Lionswood Hostel project - establishment of 30  
bed hostel at corner of Everard Drive and Maroondah  
Highway - ready by next year - costs met by Government  
land and subsidy of \$680,000, cash funds from Ringwood  
Council, Wilana and Lionswood  
Lions Club budget as share of financing for year 1982/3  
\$17,200  
Youth of Year - an annual event

Year 1983 - 84

August, 1983 Spinning wheel firmly established operators wear  
yellow Lions jumper

September, 1983 Golf weekend Cobram

October, 1983 Music hall night at S. Warrandyte hall - profit \$350  
Lion mints going well - \$900 profit for year  
Public meeting - 32 bed hostel for aged. Lions contribution  
\$20,000 through Lionswood and Wilana - first sod turned  
21st October, 1983

November, 1983 Melbourne Cup sweep

December, 1983 Barbecue for St. John of God people  
Chicken and champagne supper at Wilana

February, 1984 Annual barbecue - St. John of God - profit \$1,700

March, 1984 Participation Highland games  
Youth of the Year

April, 1984 "Lionsbrae" - for frail elderly, progress being made with  
building, total costs over \$1 million financed by Ring-  
wood Lions, Aust. Govt., Vic. Govt., City of Ringwood

May, 1984 District art show  
Flower sale - Mother's day  
Auction - P. Purdy  
Year 1984 - 85

November, 1984 Melbourne Cup sweep

December, 1984 Barbecue for St. John of God people

February, 1985 Annual barbecue - St. John of God - profit \$2,725

March, 1985 Participation in Highland Games  
Youth of the Year  
Diabetics and blood pressure survey

April, 1985 Participation Ringwood fun week - donuts

May, 1985 Brainstorming night

June, 1985 District art show  
Continuing projects included Lion Mints and motor  
neurone, Wilana and Lionsbrae  
Year 1985 - 86

June, 1985 Eugene Singers (USA) - concert at Mooroolbark Commu-  
nity Centre. Club members provided accommodation for  
members - profit \$1,000 to motor neurone

September, 1985 Discussion on incorporation of Club

November, 1985 Old time musical night

December, 1985 No visit to Luna Park this year  
Melbourne Cup sweep - profit \$226  
60 people attended dinner at Settlement Vineyard using  
double decker bus  
Lions Club of Ringwood to be incorporated  
Raffle of a full page advertisement in Ringwood Mail -  
profit \$1,301

March, 1986 Barbecue for St. John of God people  
Lion Mints profit \$780

April, 1986 Youth of the Year  
Hot dog stall - Jubilee Park - profit \$712  
Major drive for membership, especially in North Ringwood

June, 1986 Certificate of incorporation received  
Year 1986 - 87

July, 1986 New members welcomed  
Assisted committee to raise funds for preservation of Yarra  
River frontage at Wonga Park. Hot dog stall

December, 1986 Refrigerator, dryer and Christmas hamper for deserted wife  
Underprivileged children to Luna Park  
Christmas hampers to underprivileged families

March, 1987 Youth of the Year  
Lunch for St. John of God  
Working bee on house for "Kids in Care"  
Working bee painting Wilana

