

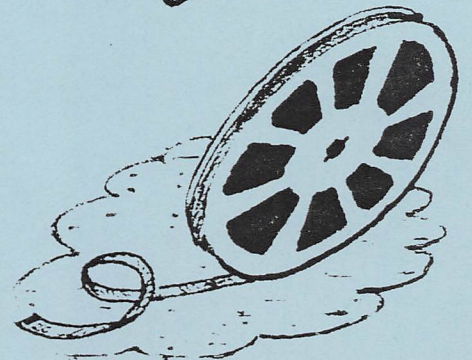
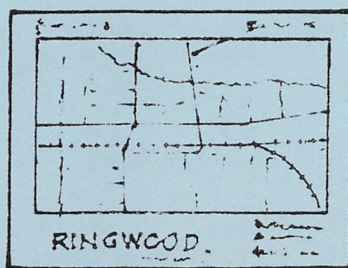
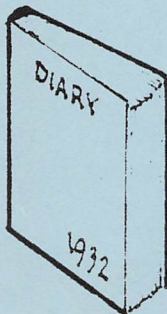
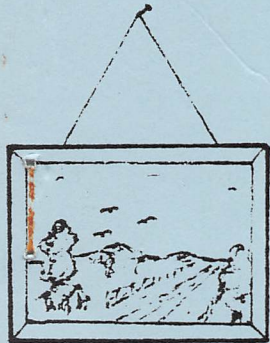
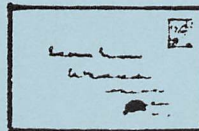
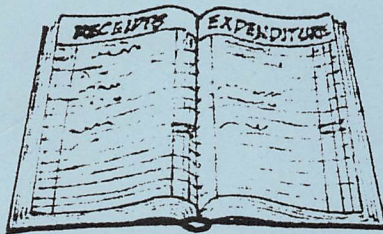
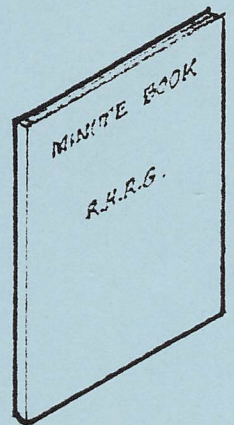
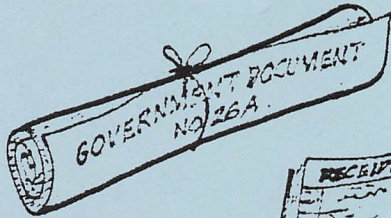
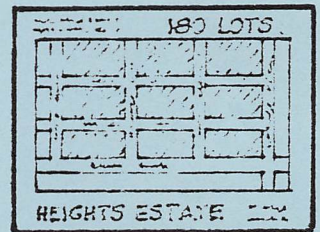
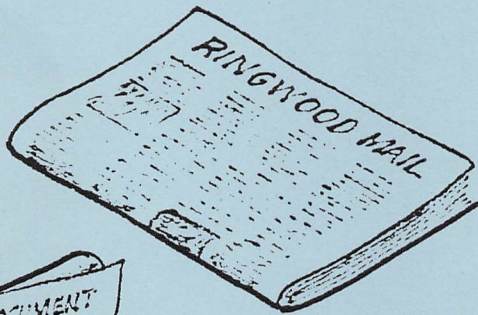
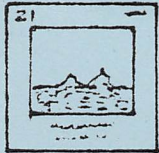
# RINGWOOD HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

1958 ~ 1983

## 25 YEARS OF PAPER

BY

Ellie V. PULLIN



25

"YEARS OF PAPER"

Ringwood Historical Research Group

1958-1983

by

Ellie V. Pullin

25 Years of Paper 1958-1983  
Ellie V. Pullin 1983  
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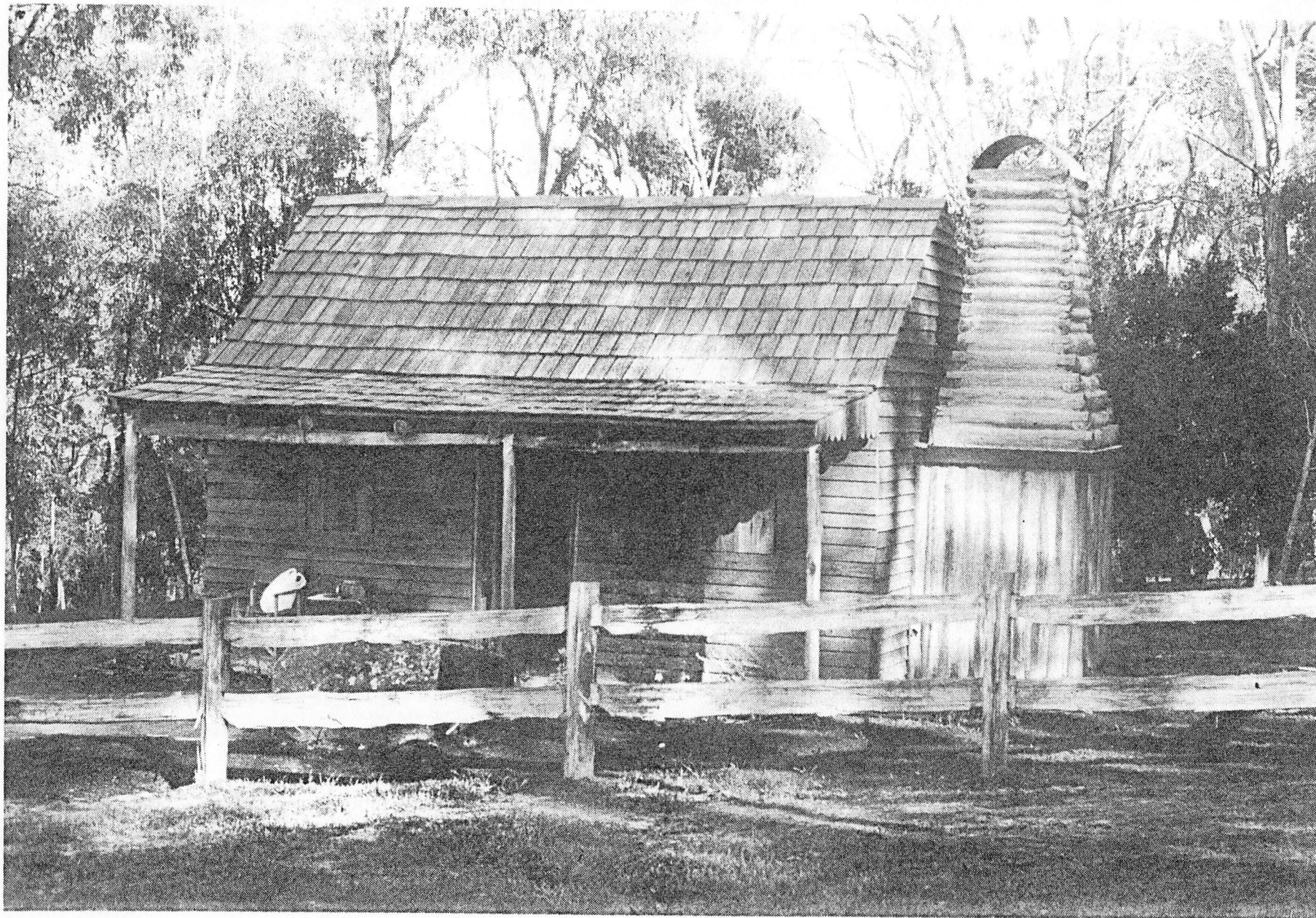
## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere appreciation is expressed to all who have helped to produce this Silver Jubilee publication. Ceinwen Smith, Marie Burnside, Trevor J. Hart, and Bernice and Norman Jamieson, along with the other Office Bearers of the Group, have given freely their time, information and helpful suggestions.

Arthur Wigley with great expertise prepared the illustrations for copying, and Max Thomson, a Past President, designed and executed the art work for the cover.

The Ringwood City Council, through its continued interest and generosity made the production possible.

I thank them all.



FACSIMILE EARLY MINER'S COTTAGE AT RINGWOOD LAKE  
OPENED 29.5.1983

All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players:  
They have their exits and their entrances;  
And one man in his time plays many parts, -  
Shakespeare: "As You Like It" Act II Sc. VII

Our 25 years of effort to research and record the history of Ringwood cannot be allowed to pass without taking the opportunity of relating to members and others how we went about it and noting the various factors which affected the work.

After World War II, an influx of young ex-servicemen and other families set about building their homes in the small town of Ringwood. They were attracted to the area by its pleasant environment, the surrounding orchards, the fresh air, the trees and the cheap land.

A community spirit was generated when it was realised that to give their children the best opportunities - a sentiment arising from war experience - the little town needed more facilities. From within the community money was raised, voluntary labour offered and in time plans realised - a proper Infant Health Centre (Welfare), Kindergartens, Scout and Guide Halls, a Youth Club and several Church Halls.

A close friendship developed between these people, which led to socializing and conversation. Many questions were raised about the district. How and when was Ringwood first settled? How did it get its name? Various answers were bandied around, but nobody knew for sure. It was understood that ex-Councillor J. K. McCaskill, a long-time resident who had been on the first Borough Council, did know all about it and was collecting historical material. For a couple of years various approaches were made to Mr. McCaskill to start up a group of interested persons so that the community might be informed. At last, on 9 September 1958, a meeting was called. It was attended by Messrs. J. K. McCaskill, Albert Aird, Ron Pullin, 'Paddy' Miles, and Mesdames Jess Anderson and Ellie Pullin.

The Ringwood Historical Research Group was formed with Mr. J. K. McCaskill as Foundation Chairman and Mrs. J. Anderson as Secretary.

The main objectives taken from the Constitution are :-

1. The promoting of local historical study, research, compilation and presentation of authentic records relating to the history of Ringwood.
2. To acquire, by purchase, donation, gift or otherwise, all such objects and materials as may be considered by the Group to have bearing on the history of Ringwood.

Where such item or items are a gift or donation, the Group shall deal with same in accordance with any wish of the donor or trust affecting same.

Upon the winding up or dissolution of the Group, all its real or personal property shall be transferred to the City of Ringwood Council.

From its inception, the Research Group has been assisted by the Council of the day with a regular monetary grant and help with special projects. Most appreciated is the continuing support of the Council officers - the late Mr. Fred Dwerryhouse, Town Clerk, and his successors, Messrs. John Webster, Alf Hall and Brian Catterall, along with the City Engineer, Mr. A. C. Robertson - who have all encouraged and appreciated the many hours of voluntary work undertaken by members of the Group in order to record for posterity, as far as possible, the history of the town. The Councillors of the day have also given their time, interest and support to Group activities.

We remember, too, the generosity of local business men when the Group was first formed and the donations given by various people to help with the printing of later editions of the History Project Notes.

In the beginning, the Group spent some time considering as to how the work could be undertaken. It was decided that each of six members should take up as a 'project' one area of Ringwood's development and collect as much data about it as possible. This formed the basis of the present Subject headings of the main material in our collection. Municipal, agriculture, churches, sporting, schools, kindergartens, documents, diaries, photographs, celebrations, businesses and factories, community organisations, social activities, lodges, artists, police and auxiliaries were some of the categories, with other subjects added as they occurred. Some of these avenues of research were more visually productive than other. For instance, Ron Pullin was keen to collect paintings and water-colours done by local artists depicting Ringwood scenes. Thanks to his efforts and the generosity of the artists, this collection was presented to Ringwood Council in 1960 and hung until recently in the Ringwood Branch Library.

At the outset of the Group's formation it was accepted that Mr. McCaskill would collect and research the early history of the town while other members would confine their work to the period from 1924 - the year that severance from the Shire of Lillydale, and the creation of the Borough of Ringwood, was achieved. The effect of this limitation was only later fully realised when other Group members sought to understand the reasons for the negotiations leading up to the severance of the South West Riding from the Shire of Lillydale, and when members desired to delve deeper into the very early days of the area from the time of the first survey.

Members, in addition to pursuing their own set 'project', sought information and photographs wherever they went. The placing of old photographs in shop windows created interest and often stimulated the memories of some of the older residents who then offered information and more photographs. These provided the nucleus of our photographic collection.



# First Land Sale in Ringwood

1598

## VICTORIA.—LAND PURCHASE.

Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and so forth. To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:—

49849

Whereas in conformity with the Laws now in force for the Sale of Crown Lands in Our Colony of VICTORIA, and Our Royal Instructions under Our Signet and Sign Manual issued in pursuance thereof, the person hereinafter named and described has become the Purchaser of the Land hereinafter described, for the Sum of

One hundred and forty eight pounds eleven shillings and two pence

Sterling: And KNOW YE, THAT for and in consideration of the said Sum for and on Our behalf, well and truly paid into the Treasury of Our said Colony, before these Presents are issued, And in further consideration of the Quit-Rent hereinafter reserved, WE HAVE GRANTED, and for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, DO HEREBY GRANT unto

Samuel George Isaacs of Elizabeth Street Melbourne

his Heirs and Assigns, subject to the several and

respective Reservations hereinafter mentioned, ALL THAT Piece or Parcel of Land in Our said Colony, containing by Admeasurement one hundred and forty eight acres two roods and nine perches

be the same more or less,

situated in the County of Birmingham Parish of Ringwood

Portion three bounded on the North by a road three chains wide bearing South eighty three degrees thirty minutes East eight chains thirty seven links North eighty degrees ten minutes East fourteen chains ninety eight links and South eighty five degrees forty seven minutes East six chains ninety eight links on the East by portion six bearing South fifty chains thirty eight links on the South by portion two bearing West thirty chains and on the West by a road one chain wide bearing North forty nine chains eighteen links

being the Land Sold at Melbourne Lot Number 22 in pursuance of the Proclamation of the second day of February One thousand eight hundred and fifty eight with all the Rights and Appurtenances whatsoever thereto belonging; To Hold unto the said

Samuel George Isaacs

his Heirs and Assigns

for ever, Yielding and paying therefor yearly unto Us, Our Heirs and Successors, the Quit-Rent of one Peppercorn for ever, if demanded: Provided nevertheless, AND WE DO HEREBY RESERVE unto Us, Our Heirs and Successors, all such parts and so much of the said Land as may hereafter be required for making Public Ways, Canals, or Railroads, in, over, and through the same, to be set out by OUR GOVERNOR for the time being of Our said Colony, or some Person by him authorised in that respect; AND ALSO, all Sand, Clay, Stone, Gravel, and Indigenous Timber, and all other Materials, the natural produce of the said Land, which may be required at any time or times hereafter for the construction and repair of any Public Ways, Bridges, Canals, and Railroads, or any Fences, Embankments, Dams, Sewers, or Drains, necessary for the same, together with the right of taking and removing all such Materials: AND WE DO HEREBY FURTHER RESERVE unto Us, our Heirs and Successors, the right of full and free ingress, egress, and regress into, out of, and upon the said Land, for the several purposes aforesaid; IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused this Our Grant to be sealed with the Seal of Our said Colony.

WITNESS Our Trusty and Well-beloved SIR HENRY BARKLY, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Our said Colony, and Vice-Admiral of the same, at Melbourne, VICTORIA, aforesaid, this eleventh day of May in the Twenty-first Year of Our Reign, and in the Year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight

L.S. (Signed) Henry Barkly  
FOR THE GOVERNOR AND INCLUDED  
BROUGHT UNDER  
FOR TRANSFER OF LAND ACT.  
C. G. Isaacs  
MELBOURNE REGISTRAR OF TITLES

Melbourne, 26<sup>th</sup> July 1858.

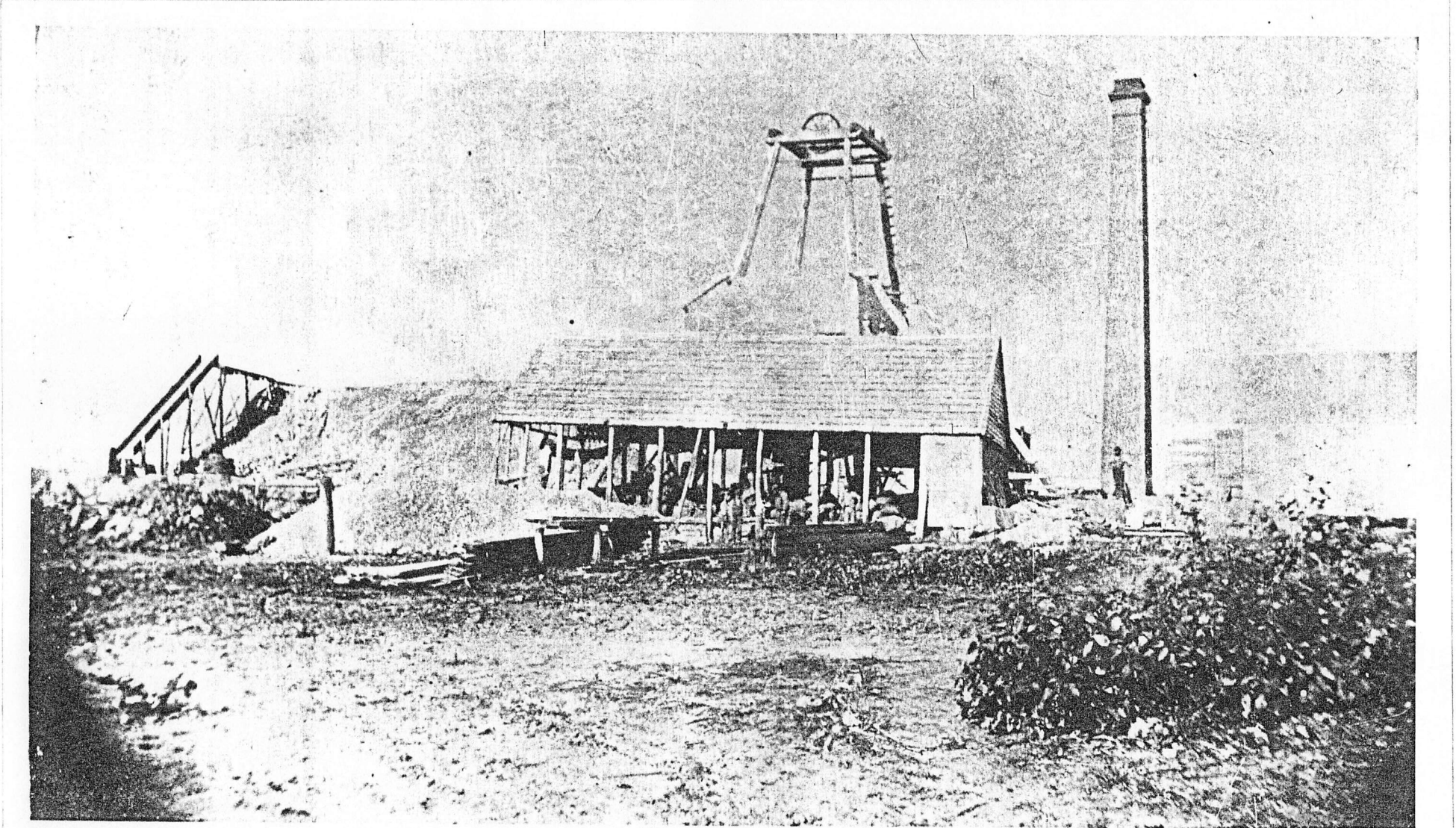
Mr. D. McLeod

Bought at Auction, of Messrs. JACOB & ALEXANDER, as Agents for Mr. NELSON  
POLAK, the undermentioned Land, subject to the above conditions.

ALLOTMENTS.	BLOCK.	PLAN.	PARISH OF	DEPOSIT.	PURCHASE.	BALANCE TO PAY.
1 to 12	118	15	Ringwood	23 6 0	9 0 0	
1 to 12	119				7 16 0	
1 to 12	123				5 15 0	
1 to 12	124				5 15 0	
					\$ 28 6 0	
Deposit 15 <sup>th</sup> / 58 Proclam. Parks				5 0 0		
				\$ 28 6 0		

Received Balance by Cash  
August 15<sup>th</sup> 58  
for Jacob & Alexander  
J. McLeod

Mi 1



RINGWOOD ANTIMONY MINE 1880



DEEP CREEK ROAD IN EARLY DAYS

The Ringwood Group affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria - the R.H.S.V. - becoming the sixth local society, at that date, to do so. This affiliation has been retained and over the years members of the Group have participated in, and contributed to, the activities of the R.H.S.V. In June 1963, three members attended a two-day Seminar in Ballarat conducted by the Library Council of Victoria, on 'The Library and Local History'. It was from these worthwhile discussions of like-minded delegates that a tremendous impetus was given to the local historical movement in Victoria.

Ringwood became a City in 1960, with all the pageantry and display it could muster. The Group's contribution comprised, in the main, the lending of old photographs to shopkeepers, which they displayed, surrounded by flowers, in their windows. These created great interest, especially as they were lit up at night. One comment made was - 'It was gratifying to see that the largest display had people four deep around it one night at 9.30 p.m.'.

Mr. Ron Pullin became Honorary Secretary of the Group on 20 October 1959 on the resignation of Mrs. J. Anderson.

Then, in November 1960, on being appointed the City of Ringwood Historian, Mr. McCaskill resigned as Chairman of the Group and was replaced by Mr. E. T. 'Paddy' Miles. This appointment was of tremendous benefit to the Group as 'Paddy' brought not only his own enthusiasm, but family connections from back in the town's early days and the interest of his father, Mr. A. T. Miles, a man of keen memory, who was then still in business in the main street. The hub of Ringwood revolved, at that time, around the Ringwood Town Hall and Railway Station area, and 'Paddy' was in a central place to hear everything that was going on, to receive donations for the Group, and to provide accommodation for meetings.

It was with great regret that the resignation of Mr. 'Paddy' Miles, as President, was received in February 1965 as he had left the district to live in Sale. Mr. W. Radden and Mrs. Pullin shared the work of Acting President until the Annual General Meeting of that year, when Mrs. Ellie Pullin was elected President.

Members of the Group, by virtue of their employment and other interests, were unable to spend all their free time in research work. In the beginning it was difficult to know where to look, despite their enthusiasm for history and desire to know about past happenings. The advice now available on how to go about collecting and writing local history was still being prepared, but a great swell of interest had started and the late 1960's and the 1970's produced so many local histories, both books and pamphlets, that it was hard to keep up with it all.

Back in the 1960's collecting was slow. We frequently seemed to follow a lead just too late. However, the Secretary was usually able to table some items for the collection, not only photographs, but often handwritten personal reminiscences. Discussion on these was not always sufficient to fill an entire meeting, so from time to time invitations were extended to visiting speakers to share their knowledge and interests. Over the years we have enjoyed these visitors who spoke on a range of subjects too numerous and diverse to list, and we are grateful to all of them for their assistance and generosity of time.

Each week, the Secretary received and stored three copies of the local newspaper, donated by the 'Mail'. Some years later one set of ten years was bound for use in the Ringwood Branch Library, one set given to Croydon Historical Society, and one set retained. Before the local Library set was bound, the copies were microfilmed for preservation, by courtesy of the Ringwood Council.

By 1962, the questions, at first asked by post-war residents which had greatly motivated the formation of the Group, were now being asked by schoolchildren. Local history had been introduced into the curriculum of schools in Grade 6 and Year 7 (Form I) levels. When assignments were set, children were asked to find out about the origins of the town in which they lived - not the town where they attended school. As a result, teachers, parents and children, not only from local schools but also from schools in other suburbs, formed a steady stream of enquirers knocking on the Secretary's door. One parent, Mrs. Marie Burnside, anxious to assist one of her daughters with a local history assignment, asked Mr. Pullin, the Secretary of the Group, for help in filling in with some extra information to what she had already managed to acquire from various sources. This entailed many evenings of work, but it was felt that this type of information, if put together, was the very thing that the teachers and schoolchildren of Ringwood needed. Although the Group had little money, it was agreed that the Notes should be compiled into a booklet and published. In the first instance, 'Ringwood, Short Notes On Its Development 1857-1963' was financed by using the Council grant of £20. Copyright was generously granted to the Group by Mrs. Burnside and the first edition came out in February 1964. All schools in the area received a donation of six copies for their Library. This publication filled a tremendous need in the area, and encouraged other local societies to produce similar material for schoolchildren. The first edition was followed, with a few corrections and modifications, by four more reprints between 1964-1970. The publication more than justified the original decision to accept Mrs. Burnside's generous work and manuscript and we continue to be grateful.

It was at this time that the City Historian resigned and ended his association with the Research Group.

From the beginning, believing that 'No Man is an Island', members of the Group, particularly Mr. 'Paddy' Miles and Mr. Ron Pullin,

**RINGWOOD.**

*1902*  
**WELCOME HOME TO TROOPER LEO HERRY.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A very enthusiastic gathering met in the Ringwood Hall on Thursday evening, May, 8th., to welcome home one of Australia's brave soldiers from South Africa. There were something like three hundred people of all classes crammed in the hall, every inch of available space being occupied. The president of the shire, Cr. Taylor, occupied the chair. At 8 p.m., Mr H. J. Rawlings opened the proceedings with a pianoforte solo and then Mr Ryan sang The Man Behind the Gun, which was loudly applauded. The song, Only a Tangle of G. Lisa Curtis, was next rendered by Miss Maags, and then an Irish Reel and Sailor's Hornpipe were danced to perfection by Miss Dahlberg. A recitation, Dooley on Football, being a forecast on the forthcoming match, Ringwood Imperials v. Mitcham, by Mr. James Muldowney, was highly appreciated. Song, Just from the stroke of a Pen, Mr Garner; song, Miss Maggs, and song, Mr Ryan, all being loudly applauded. Recitation, Miss Thornleigh; song, The Song that will live for Ever, Mr. Saligari; song, Motherland, Mr E. Rigaldi. This ended an excellent vocal entertainment. The next and most important part was the presentation, a gold Albert and medal. The chairman, in making the presentation, spoke at length on the successes of the Australians in South Africa, and stated that he was glad to see Trooper Herry home, safe and well. The audience then lustily sang For He's a Jolly Good Fellow. After Trooper Herry had collected his thoughts, he thanked the Ringwood people for their kindness and assured them that as long as he lived, he would never forget them. Refreshments of a very tempting kind were then handed round by the ladies' committee, and they are to be praised for the able way in which they carried out their part of the programme. The hall was then cleared, and a large number participated in a dance until daylight, when one and all went home feeling that the function was the best ever held in Ringwood. Mr. H. J. Rawlings officiated at the piano, and Mr. H. Pratt carried out the duties of M.C.

VICTORIAN POST OFFICE COMMERCIAL

DIRECTORY 1897-8

**RINGWOOD, EVELYN CO. 15 m. E.**  
*from Melb. by rail; post & money order office; agric.*

- Berry Frank, dairy
- Cannon Elisha, bootmaker
- Curran Mrs. Hannah, storekeeper
- Cutts Samuel, Burnt Bridge hotel
- Gibbs Charles, carpenter
- Grant T. blacksmith
- Hall Mrs. R. teacher
- Herry Louis, baker
- Hill John, storekeeper
- McGregor James, teacher
- Marricorn Henry, baker
- Mashiter Robt. Coach & Horses htl
- Medew Charles, carpenter
- Miller George, agent
- Muldowney Patrick, storekeeper
- Painter Samuel, saddler
- Pickitt Edwin, butcher
- Quigby James, mining manager
- Riding Rev. Thomas (Prim. Meth)
- Ryan John, station master
- Shanks John, storekeeper
- Sweeny Mrs. Club hotel
- Walker W. H. blacksmith
- Watson Benjamin, brickmaker

Warranville  
9<sup>th</sup> 4. 02

Dear Pa

how are you getting on  
I received your letter yesterday and  
I was pleased to hear from you.  
Grandfather has a bad cold he does  
not get up till late in the  
morning. We always cut  
grandfather's tobacco for him and  
he says we are good children.  
Ma went to town yesterday  
she was the only passenger  
in the Ringwood coach. Sometimes  
Mr. Ylussey drives and sometimes  
his son drives. Ma went to the  
concert with Uncle George on  
Easter Monday night and we  
stopped at home with Grandma.  
Ma met Mr. Shaw in town  
the time she went down to  
see Uncle George of and  
she had her dinner with

(2)

him. Dear Pa you must excuse  
my writing as Ma is ironing  
and she is shaking the table.  
Ma sits on Grandmother's knee  
when she has no where else to  
sit. I got a letter from Ellen  
and Essie Richardson and  
they told me they were up  
at your place. The kitchen  
floor must be clean when it  
is swept a hundred and  
fifty times a day. Dear Pa  
as I have no more news to tell  
you I must conclude with  
fondest love ever your loving  
baby

R R Crooks



communicated with the other groups in the surrounding area. A letter was sent in 1966 to the Lillydale Council asking it to encourage the formation of a society in that town. This resulted, later, in the formation of the Lillydale Historical Society. Group members attended the opening of Schwerkoltz Cottage and presented a painting done by W. Unsworth. The Secretary was the speaker at the inaugural meeting of the Knox Historical Society and visited celebrations at The Basin, Healesville, Croydon, Doncaster, Christmas Hills and Bairnsdale.

It was in this spirit of exchange that Ringwood wrote to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria supporting a suggestion from Williamstown Historical Society that there was merit in the creation, in Victoria, of Regional Groups of Historical Societies. Acting enthusiastically upon its own suggestion to the R.H.S.V., the Group sent a circular letter to all known Groups in the 'natural' region which extended along the main highway from Melbourne out into the hills - Whitehorse Road and Maroondah Highway and Mt. Dandenong Road. There was an immediate good response, with Box Hill offering to convene the first Regional Meeting for the Eastern suburbs. It was interesting to note, later, that unbeknown to the Group, but at that same time, a Western Victorian Regional Group was formed, centred on Horsham. Other Regions such as North Eastern were also formed about the same time. However, it was not until 1969 that the R.H.S.V. recognised the need for an umbrella committee and the Victorian Committee of Affiliated Historical Societies came into being. It is noted that in April 1983 there were 163 local historical societies in Victoria affiliated with the R.H.S.V. The Committee of Eastern Historical Societies has a membership of thirteen societies.

The 1960's started the great changes to Ringwood with the sale and demolition of the old State School in Ringwood Street - part of St. Paul's property. Steps were taken by the Group's secretary to ensure that the early Foundation Stone was saved and transferred to the grounds of Ringwood S.S. No. 2997 in Greenwood Avenue.

Then came the removal of the Clock Tower (1963) and later the sale and demolition of the old Town Hall and the building of a new Civic Centre. The Group lent its small voice to support the preservation of the Clock Tower in the face of suggestions for total demolition. The present site had become vacant by the closure and removal of the old Ringwood Coolstores. The term 'small voice' is used advisedly because it was the descendants of the pioneer families, the R.S.L. and the 'Mail' who fought most strongly for the relocation and won the day.

Time was rapidly passing and other dramatic changes were forecast for Ringwood. The Secretary, along with Mr. Brian Pump and Mr. D. Anderson, set about photographing as much as possible of Ringwood at that date (1964). This updating of the photographic records has continued, greatly extending the collection, and recording many links with the past that are now no longer standing.

1965 saw a further extension of the work. The office of Archivist was added to the list of Office Bearers, and Mr. Ron Pullin vacated the position of Secretary to assume this role. For the next twelve years, all his available time was devoted to the Archives. One most time-consuming effort was the compilation of a card system of all the early births and deaths registered in Ringwood from 1883 to 1910.

Enquiries for information multiplied as the population expanded. The President was out and about speaking to all manner of local groups - Schools, 'Young Wives', Jaycettes, C.W.A., Church groups, Guides, Cubs - as well as assisting students in her own home. The lectures to schools included speaking to students of Home Economics at Year 11 (Leaving) standard on the development of pioneer homes and how women managed in the early days.

From the beginning of the Group's work, Mr. Brian Pump copied any photographs loaned or given. He also provided black/white slides to match, a useful adjunct when speaking out. Brian continued this voluntary work for eighteen years until he and his family transferred to North Queensland. He has been sincerely missed for his personal contributions.


Apart from photographic prints and the transparencies mentioned, a small collection of movie film has been gathered together :-


Ringwood in 1955  
 The Opening of Greenwood Park  
 Kindergarten  
 The Clock Tower Ceremony 1967  
 The Building of Eastland  
 Bringing Sewerage to Loughnan's Hill  
 Building of Target  
 and a couple of short footages from  
 commercial T.V. news reports

By 1964 the availability of old photographs and old records seemed to be drying up and the Secretary suggested that all voluntary committees in Ringwood should be circulated pointing out to them the importance of retaining their past Minute Books and correspondence, and, in the event of them not wishing to retain them, that the Group would house them with their other records and place them at a later date within the Special Collections Room at the Ringwood Branch Library. There was a fair response and it also stimulated some committees to search out their own records. A similar circular was sent out in 1981 again with a continuing response. These two drives have resulted overall in a most valuable collection of Minute Books, letters and documents, which give some indication of the tremendous amount of voluntary work which had been done and continues to be undertaken in this City. These include :-

Ringwood Football Club  
**PREMIERSHIP BALL**  
 Ringwood Town Hall  
 Monday, 15 October, 1934  
 Under the Patronage of the Mayor and Mayoress  
 Dancing 8 to 2 Digger Truman's City Orchestra Supper  
 TICKETS 2/- plus tax  
 W. Smith  
 Social Sec.

Your Favours and Courtesies during the  
 Past Year are sincerely appreciated,  
 and we tender you our Cordial Wish for  
 A Merry Christmas and a  
 Prosperous New Year  
 Strain & Thompson, Printers, Publishers  
 and Bookbinders, Ringwood.  
 TELEPHONE 65 RINGWOOD  
 CHRISTMAS 1924

10th INDEP. FLD. SQN. (Armd.) R.A.E.  
**RINGWOOD**  
  
**2nd Grand Ball**  
 TOWN HALL, RINGWOOD  
 Tuesday, 2nd December, 1952 8.30 to 2 a.m.  
 Ron Richard's Orchestra \* Home Made Supper \* Balloons \* Leis  
 Dance Competition.  
 Outstanding Attraction :-  
 Yarra Valley and Mountain District Belle of Belle's Final  
 \*Proceeds in aid of  
 Ringwood Baby Health Centre and Pre-School Building Fund  
**ADMISSION 12/6**  
 Sgt. B. Ranking, President Cpl. L. Little Hon. Sec.

  
 Borough of Ringwood  
 The Mayor, Cr. H. E. Parker, J.P.  
 requests the pleasure of the company of  
 Councillor J. Williams  
 at a Mayoral Dinner  
 in the Ringwood Town Hall  
 On Tuesday, July 16th, 1916, at 6.30 p.m.  
 The favor of a reply addressed to the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Ringwood  
 is requested not later than July 8th

BOROUGH OF RINGWOOD  
**ROYAL VISIT**  
 Thursday, 21st April, 1927  
 ADMIT ONE to Ringwood Strong Post  
 at Anderson St. Bridge  
 A. TEMPLE MILES, Mayor  
 A. F. B. LONG, Town Clerk

Ringwood Horticultural Society  
**LADY'S TICKET**  
 SEASON 1924  
 PRESIDENT  
 CHAS. WALLACE, Esq.  
 SECRETARY  
 O. W. MULLUM

Ringwood & Districts Horticultural Society  
**Member's Ticket**  
 1911 & 1912.  
 ISSUED TO  
 Mr A. T. Miles,  
 NOT TRANSFERABLE.  
 R. OILL, Esq., President. J. B. McALPIN, Hon. Sec.



OLD WELL IN ADELAIDE STREET, July 1972  
(NOW NORTH END EASTLAND CAR PARK)

Early East Ringwood Progress Association  
 Subscriptions towards building of the Ringwood  
 Railway Station  
 Ringwood Coolstore Minute Book  
 Children's Library, East Ringwood  
 Ringwood Antimony and Gold Mining  
 Accounts Book  
 Ringwood Boy Scouts  
 Ringwood Pre-School Parents' Club  
 Heatherdale Kindergarten and Progress  
 Association  
 Heathmont Progress Association  
 Library Promotion Committee  
 Ringwood Philatelic Society  
 Ringwood Tennis Club  
 Capt. Miles' Diary and Memoirs

More recently, a generous donation was made when Mr. J. Lundy-  
 Clarke gave rights of copyright to the Group of three of his books of  
 original verse appropriate to the area.

Up until the end of 1969, all of the collection was housed in the  
 private home of the Archivist. As it had grown to a considerable size,  
 it was a great relief when, in 1970, the Special Collections Room within  
 the Library was completed and made available. Ringwood Council fitted  
 it out with shelving and built in a desk and provided a metal cabinet. The  
 Council has since provided two more cabinets and a large wooden cup-  
 board which add to the protection of the material. All photographs have  
 now been sheathed in polyethylene envelopes for protection, as have the  
 map collection and plans of subdivisions and the old Minute Books.

In November 1970, historical material was received from the  
 estate of Mr. J. K. McCaskill, and also, at about the same time, a small  
 quantity of sporting records from the estate of Mr. E. Sleeman of the  
 'Mail'. Each historical item gained has seemed a minor achievement,  
 but one case proved to be a gold mine of information. A former Ring-  
 wood resident, Mrs. Thelma Wileman, nee Blood, brought to the notice  
 of the President a letter in the 'Sun' seeking information about early  
 Ringwood families. A most interesting correspondence followed with a  
 very old lady with a keen memory, the youngest child of the pioneer  
 Herry family. Mr. Herry had a baker's shop opposite the present Club  
 Hotel. The shop later became Skerrett's Store, but is now demolished.  
 Our correspondent had kept scrap-books and photograph albums from the  
 time she was a child in Ringwood, and later on in Lillydale. Her letters  
 brought to life her long memories of St. Paul's Anglican Church, the Boer  
 War when her brother enlisted, and the entertainment available to  
 Ringwood residents of those days. Fortunately, Brian Pump was  
 permitted to make copies of all the early photographs and pertinent  
 newspaper cuttings in the scrap-books. Fancy learning for the first  
 time that there had been koalas in Ringwood!! After her death, we

made contact with an older sister who wrote additional notes for our archives.

Another surprise link with the past came through a telephone call one evening, with the caller telling us of her father, Joseph Pett, who had been an early land holder and who had been taken down by Tommy Bent. We later met Mrs. Breen, another keen-minded very old lady, and were allowed to copy the old photographs she had and the 'worthless' bank documents and papers connected with land transactions during the 'Land Boom' in which Bent had been involved. Joseph Pett had owned land from Dublin Road right back to the Dandenong Creek.

Even now, there is the unexpected donation. We have just been given a 1913 photograph of Mr. Andrew Chung's - First Prize 'Fruit-grower's Horse in Action' won at a Ringwood Show. Just recently we were permitted to read an old letter describing the pleasure of being able to go to Melbourne by train instead of on a horse drawn vehicle.

We have also recently had the privilege of copying information from a large Cash Book, kept by William Mackinlay, an orchardist (1853-1945). It covers the period from March 1914 to 30 June 1934. Of particular interest is the names of the different varieties of fruit then marketed — most of them not grown today. The figures showing Annual Totals of Sales were small considering the amount of work which had gone into their production.

Of course, we have had our setbacks. We had hoped for a collection of business records from firms in the district, but these have not been forthcoming. We do have listings of shopkeepers in the main street, and some information of the Ringwood Traders Association, the forerunner of the Ringwood Chamber of Commerce.

A major disappointment was the 'loss' of the little old Catholic Church, first erected on the highway in 1893 and later shifted to the school grounds of Our Lady's. This truly would have been a link with the early days, but neither the money nor the site was available.

It was during this period that the Group started to seriously discuss the hope that a History of Ringwood would be written. Tentative, verbal approaches were made to members of the Ringwood Council. To enable the better understanding of the history of adjacent towns and areas, which were beginning to be written up, a small very selective library was built up and studied by the members. This gave us much useful information and has now become a valuable part of our collection, as most of these books are now out of print.

Following personal approaches to the then Town Clerk, Mr. John Webster, and other sympathetic members of the Ringwood Council,



ANDREW CHUNG, ORCHARDIST, of MT. DANDENONG ROAD 1913

On of Merrigang Orchard -  
Household Expenditure

1916		£	s	d.
	Insurance			
Aug 29	Falconer. 5/8. Meat 16/7.	1	2	36
Sep 2	Alford Bros. 1-13-8. Falconer 2/3	1	15	11
" 7	Fish 6. Beilly 1-12-9 1/2. B	1	13	3
" 12	Beilly 4/3/5 1/2. Pratt. 1/8		5	1 1/2
	soda-water 6. Pratt 2/6 Grocer 1/5.		4	5
19	" " 6 ammonia 1/.		1	6
	Potatoes 3/6		3	6
22	meat 2/.		2	0
30	meat 1/9. Klepalo 9- <del>15</del> 1/.		2	6
	Falconer 6/5 1/2. Falconer (Bread) 3/.		9	6 1/2
Oct 3	Falconer 1/8 potatoes 2/ onions 6		4	2.
16	Falconer (Bread) 1/.		1	0
21	Beilly. Groceries 4/ chemist 2/6.		6	6
24	Falconer. groceries 6/11 1/2.		6	11 1/2
	17 Oct. 192.			

ITEMS FROM

WILLIAM MACKINLAY'S CASH BOOK





MAKING ROADS IN RINGWOOD 1920  
WARRANTYTE ROAD, NORTH OF MULLUM CREEK

Totals of cases of fruit stored (season 1917)

Pherns	4	4
Williams Bon Breton	21	
Doyenne Boussock	18	
Howell	189	
Louise Bonne of Jersey	42	
Beurre Bose	42	
Napoleon	101	
Black Achan	22	
Abredale St. Germain	4	
Gillies & Gillies	3	
Winter Nels	7	
Josephine	40	
Broom Park	40	529
Hoover	5	
Jonathan	204	
Five Brown	292	

Income from sale of fruit Victoria Market  
For year ending June 30 - 1934

July	4 49¢ 8/13, 6 <sup>th</sup> 56¢ 8/12/3, 8 <sup>th</sup> 58¢ 9/3-	£ 25	16	6			
	11 58¢ 10/5/3, 13 <sup>th</sup> 58 10/8, 15 <sup>th</sup> 58 10/18-	29	11	3			
	18 58¢ 8/3/5, 20 <sup>th</sup> 58¢ 8/14, 22 <sup>nd</sup> 58¢ 8/16	24	18	11			
	25 65¢ 10/14, 27 <sup>th</sup> 66¢ 7/18, 29 <sup>th</sup> 58¢ 8/20	28	14	6	109	1	2
Aug	1 65¢ 12/1, 3 <sup>rd</sup> 68¢ 11/1, 5 <sup>th</sup> 58¢ 9/2, 8 <sup>th</sup> 66¢ 10/8-	42	15	6			
	10 64¢ 9/1, 12 <sup>th</sup> 60¢ 9/9, 15 <sup>th</sup> 60¢ 10/1-	28	10	-			
	17 <sup>th</sup> 61¢ 9/13, 19 <sup>th</sup> 45¢ 7/1. Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 30¢ 6/9/6	24	-	6	95	6	
Sept	5 54¢ 12/1/6, 7 <sup>th</sup> 56¢ 11/1, 48¢ 10/8/6, 12 <sup>th</sup> 54¢ 10/1	44	14	-			
	14 58¢ 13/9, 16 <sup>th</sup> 44¢ 10/4, 19 <sup>th</sup> 57¢ 13/1-	36	13	-			
	21 64¢ 14/3, 23 <sup>rd</sup> 54¢ 12/1, 26 <sup>th</sup> 68¢ 14/1/6	40	2	9			
	28 57¢ 13/4, 30 <sup>th</sup> 55¢ 12/1, <del>57¢ 13/1/6</del>	25	9	-	12	9	9
Oct.	3 66¢ 15/3/6, 5 <sup>th</sup> 64¢ 13/5, 7 <sup>th</sup> 62¢ 12/1/6	41	15	-			
	10 67¢ 17/6, 12 <sup>th</sup> 70¢ 14/1, 14 <sup>th</sup> 49¢ 11-1/6	42	15	-			
	17 66¢ 18/9, 19 <sup>th</sup> 64¢ 13/1, 21 <sup>st</sup> 61¢ 14/9-	41	17	-			
	26 67¢ 14/7/6, 28 <sup>th</sup> 54¢ 11/1/6, 31 <sup>st</sup> 70¢ 15/10/6	41	8	6	167	15	6
Nov.	2 69¢ 15/9-	15	9	-	15	9	-
Total to date £534-10-5							
Now transferred to page 8							

several meetings were held during 1970/1971 to discuss in detail the proposition that the Council engage an Historian to produce a History of Ringwood in time for the 1974 Fifty Years Celebrations of the Severance from Lillydale. After careful consideration, a contract was signed between the Ringwood Council and Mr. Hugh Anderson. It was agreed that Mr. Anderson should have full access to the collection held by the Group, and that the Archivist and President would give him every assistance. The work proceeded with a great demand on the free time of the Archivist and, at the beginning of 1974, the first draft of the manuscript was submitted to the Council by Mr. Anderson. Because of escalating costs, it was immediately realised that the size of the manuscript as presented would be too costly to publish. The author was asked to resubmit a text reduced in size by nearly half. (The original manuscript is held in our Archives).

During the celebrations, the history - 'Ringwood, Place of Eagles' - was launched by Mr. K. A. R. Horn, then State Librarian for Victoria. Only 1500 copies were printed and none are now available.

Another function during the 1974 celebrations was the unveiling of a plaque fixed to a huge boulder, supplied by the Council, and placed outside the Ringwood Branch Library. It reads -

In this year 1974  
when Australia is celebrating the  
bi-centenary of the birth  
of that great  
Navigator and Cartographer  
Matthew Flinders  
It is fitting that we also  
Commemorate the labour of  
Ringwood's first Settlers  
who followed the  
Discoverers, Explorers and Surveyors,  
cleared the forested hills and  
ploughed the hard ground  
before planting their orchards.  
Erected by the  
Ringwood  
Historical Research Group  
26th October, 1974  
on the occasion of the  
Golden Jubilee  
of Ringwood's severance from  
Lillydale Shire.

At the Library, Eastland and the Civic Centre, displays of photographs were put up for the duration of the celebrations. At the Library and Civic Centre the displays continued for another three weeks, creating further interest.

At the Annual General Meeting on 4 July 1975, Honorary Life Memberships were conferred on Mr. R. A. Pullin and Mrs. Ellie Pullin, M.B.E., 'In appreciation of services so tirelessly rendered to the Group and to Local History in general'.

Mr. Rob Akins became President in 1975 and was supported by the enthusiasm of some other young men in the Group.

Arising from the stimulus of the 1974 celebrations, there were many demands for the President to speak at meetings of other groups. Between 1976-1979, Mr. Akins took a very active part in the proceedings of the Eastern Committee of Historical Societies. He was also involved in helping with the Archives and in 1977 succeeded Mr. Ron Pullin as Archivist to the Group. During the next three years he was untiring in his efforts to put the collection in order. He set up a system of indexing for the photographic collection, the map collection, and the numerous subdivision plans. He encouraged members to help at Sunday Workshops in sorting and numbering the photographs. During this time, valuable studies on the Brickworks and Insulator Works were made by the Archivist and Mr. N. Jamieson.

Work proceeded on the text for the cassette and slide sets for schools, now made available with the assistance of Mr. Gerald Smart and funded by the Ringwood City Council. Also, a detailed study on the creeks of Ringwood area was successfully undertaken.

There was, in these three years, an increased demand for research assistance from both adult and secondary school students, which became very time consuming. Likewise, material was requested for school displays, Ringwood Fun Days, Eastland and the Library.

Towards the end of 1980, the photographic holdings numbered 1,850 photographs - 1,265 of them 'originals'. Of the 94 maps, 67 are 'originals'. The photographic collection has been extended since.

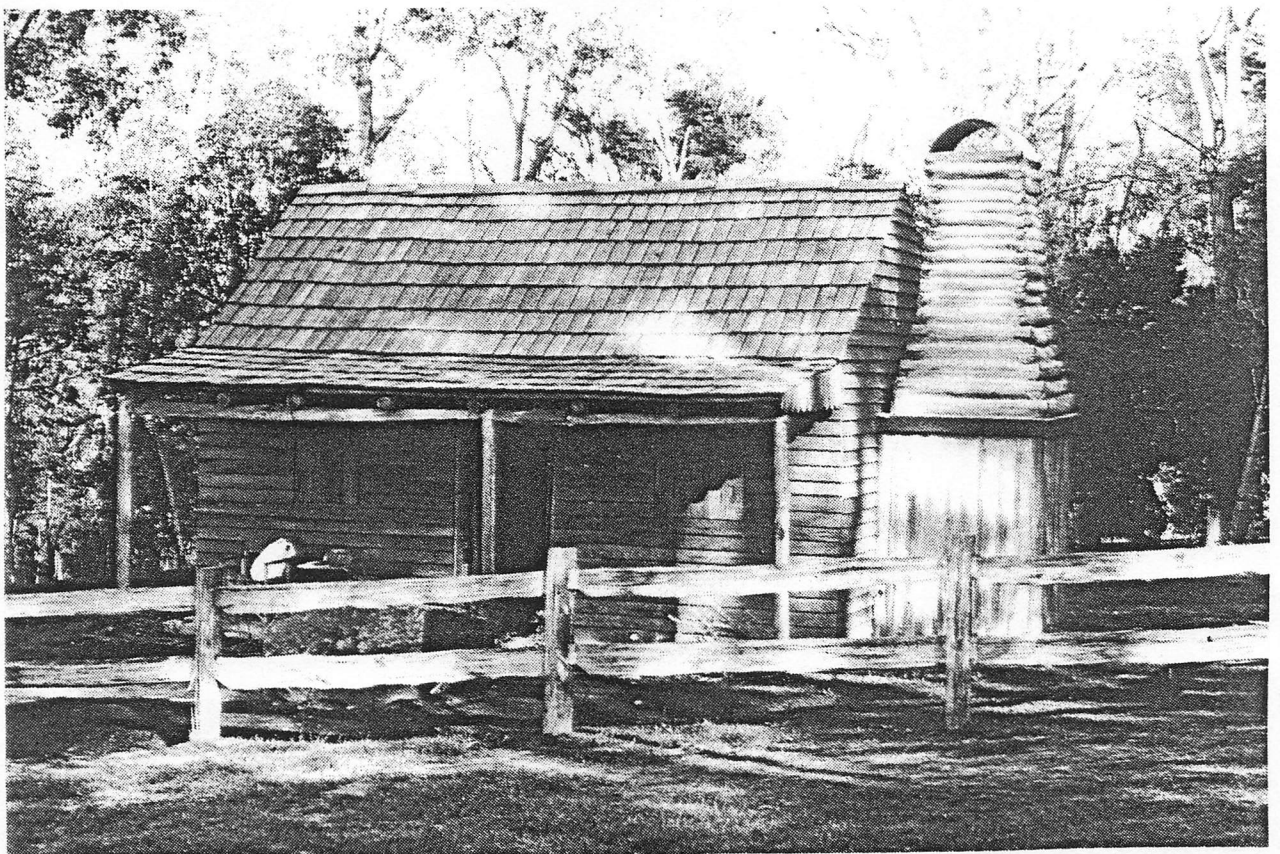
Mr. H. M. Thomson became President in 1977 and brought to the position a great attention to detail and a sense of history as he had lived in the older locality of Narre Warren North.

There was a quickening of interest in the work of the Group. Visiting speakers provided interesting material and, from time to time, members made their contribution. During the following three years, the President and Archivist prepared many displays from the photographic collection and worked in close co-operation.

Mr. R. A. Pullin died in July 1978 and, in recognition of his work, the Ringwood City Council mounted a plaque on the Special Collections Room in the Branch Library:



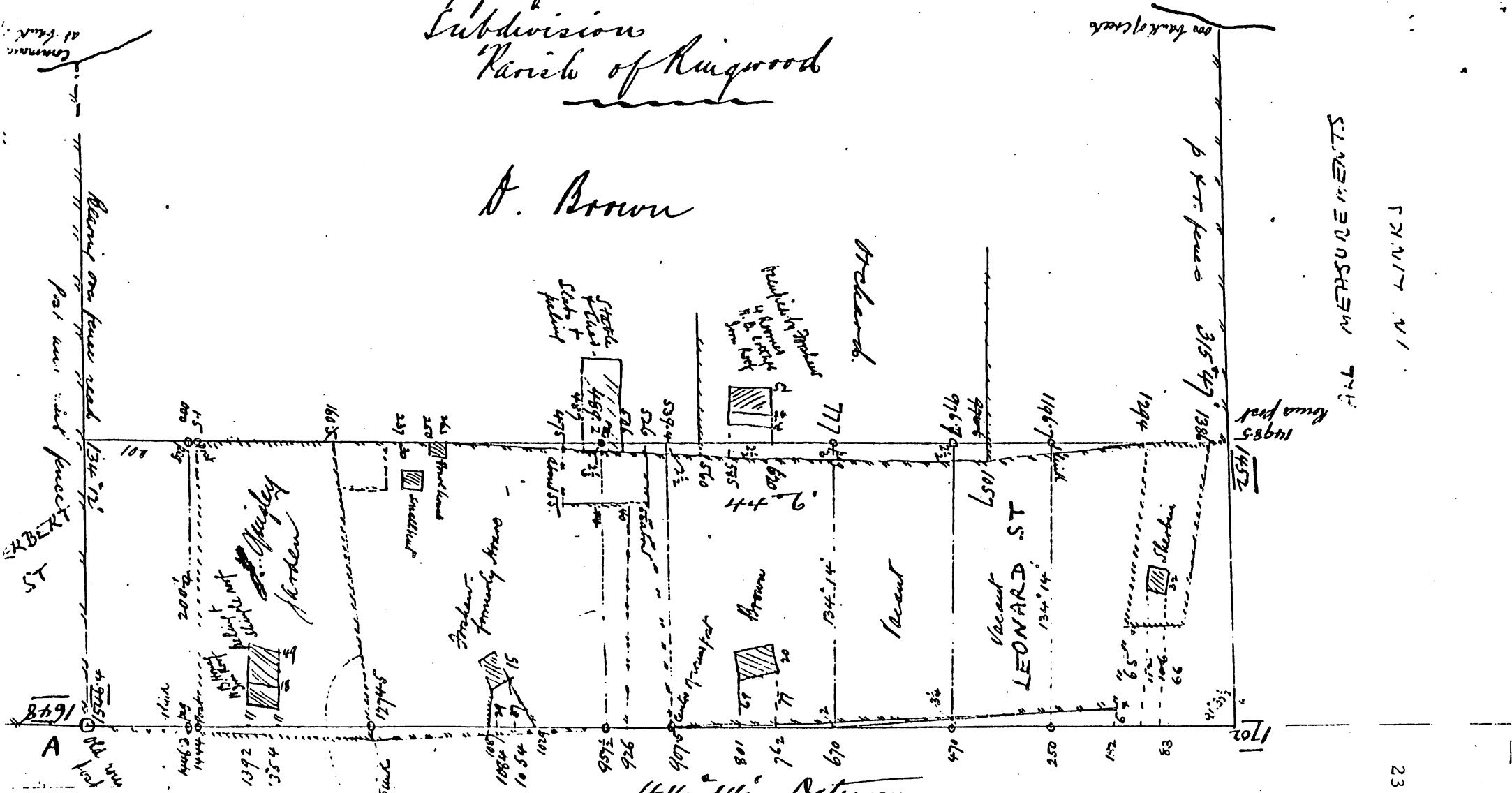
ORIGINAL MINER'S COTTAGE BEING DEMOLISHED 1975



FACSIMILE COTTAGE, RINGWOOD LAKE. FIRST STAGE OF HISTORICAL VENUE.

Copy of Field notes -  
 Subdivision  
 Parish of Kingwood

J. Brown



'The R. A. Pullin Room'

in appreciation of his work in collecting and cataloguing the historical records housed in this room. November, 1978.

At the 1980 Annual General Meeting, Mrs. E. V. Pullin returned to the Presidency dependant on the support of her Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and other Office Bearers. Her immediate aim was to continue with the collating of the A - Z collection so that a printed index might be produced. This work is approaching completion.

In 1966, during the enquiries into old houses still in evidence, information was gained about the site of an early Miner's Cottage at 367 Maroondah Highway. When it became vacant a few years later, an examination proved that beneath the corrugated iron were the original roofing shingles, and it was presumed that the original walls were also hidden under the more recent cladding. Mr. J. Martin brought to the attention of the Council the desirability of purchasing the property, which was up for sale, and restoring the Cottage as it was the only relic left of our early mining era. Unfortunately, that proposal failed to meet with Council approval, mainly through lack of funds. However, over the next two years various discussions continued, until in 1974 an effort was made by the Council to interest the Ringwood Joint Services Committee. Two members of the Group joined that Committee, and a great deal of time was devoted to a feasibility study of the whole project. By June 1975, to comply with the owner's request, the Cottage was demolished. Any material which was sound was stored in the Council yard for future use in a 'restored' cottage. The rest was destroyed. A good photographic record was made of this demolition procedure - displaying the earlier manner of construction and the roofing shingles. Then followed another two years of meetings of the Joint Services Committee with the objective of finding the funds and the voluntary labour to erect a restored cottage. As these hopes did not eventuate, the scheme was abandoned at the beginning of 1977 and the funds which had been accumulated were handed to the Council.

Time passed, but in June 1981, Ringwood Council invited representatives of the Group and interested members of the public to form a Miner's Cottage Committee. Council had had prepared an overall design for the Lake area and the proposal to be considered was to construct a facsimile Miner's Cottage on a site at the back of the Ringwood Lake as the first stage of an Historical venue.

The photographic record made at the demolition of the original building in 1975, together with the excellent research notes prepared earlier by Mr. R. Akins and the full report of work done by the Honorary Architect to the Joint Services Committee, provided a most valuable guide for the construction of the facsimile. Additional later research by Mrs. Pullin provided detailed information on early huts and cottages built by pioneers in Victoria and elsewhere.



These sources of information were drawn upon by the City Engineer, Mr. A. C. Robertson, and the Senior Engineering Assistant, Mr. Barry Dutton, to produce the working drawings for the cottage. The Building Surveyor, Mr. J. Clarke, and Mr. R. Gilbert, the Building Contractor, executed these with skill and enthusiasm.

Despite it being one of Ringwood's coldest and wettest days, the Official Opening took place on the afternoon of Sunday, 29 May 1983. Over 100 guests attended and were entertained by the Ringwood Citizens Band.

The Mayor of Ringwood, Cr. Pat Gotlib, unveiled the commemorative plaque, assisted by Mrs. Ellie Pullin. After inspection of the Cottage, guests adjourned to the Civic Centre for very welcome refreshments.

Furnishings for the Cottage were collected or made and arranged by members of the Group and other interested persons. Whilst the displays will be kept to two strict time-slots - 1873 and 1886-1908 - it is expected that more items will be added as opportunity occurs. Members will take turns at roster duty during opening hours on Sunday afternoons.

Already the little Cottage has captured the imagination of many visitors. We look forward with enthusiasm to the subsequent stages of this Historical venue to be built, and we congratulate the Ringwood City Council on its enterprise.

The work of the Group continues and is even gathering momentum in a quiet kind of way - but the greatest continuing demand is to give assistance to students from primary to tertiary level. In a paper of this nature, it is quite impossible to provide full details of all the material we have acquired in our Subject A - Z collection as it contains over 1,500 headings. However, it is from this accumulation that we are able, in most cases, to provide information for assignments.

It is worth noting that throughout the State, local Historical Societies are being called upon to provide a similar service to their communities - all in a voluntary capacity. While we are able to meet these demands, there is life and usefulness in the Group, and we are fulfilling the first objective of our Constitution.

Over the twenty-five years of our existence, many members and friends have given freely of their time and talents, and we thank them for having played their 'part' before leaving the stage. Our great hope now is for younger citizens to continue the work of recording Ringwood's History.



McCALL, M.								80,81,82	
POLLOCK, T.				66					
PULLIN, E. V.	65,66,67,68, 69,70,71,72, 73,74,80,81, 82	63,64,75,76, 77,78,79	61,62				81,82		
PULLIN, R. A.				59,60,61,62, 63,64			66 to 76		
PUMP, B.			74,75,76						59 to 77
RADDEN, W.			63,64,68,69						
SCHIMMELBUSCH, V.			72		75,76				
THOMSON, M.	77,76,79	72,74	73						
WIGLEY, A.		80	77,78,79						Various Times

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO GROUP :

1962 - 1965	DEUTER, M. D.
1965 - 1970	MORRIS, S. C.
1970 - 1976	MARTIN, R. J.
Part 1977	WEGECSANYI, L.
1977 - 1980	RICHARDS, Mrs. D. M.
1980 - 1982	SMART, G. R. G.
1982 - present	CORR, F. J.

#### THE AUTHOR

Ellie V. Pullin, M.B.E., F.R.H.S.V., has lived in Ringwood since 1945, and has been involved in many aspects of voluntary community work from the local to international levels.

She was Secretary of the Victorian Committee of Affiliated Historical Societies from 1969-1978 and the Director of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria for some years.

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