

Infant Welfare

Baby Health Centre.

An invitation is extended to all interested in baby welfare to be present at a meeting to be held at the Town Hall on Monday next, at 3 o'clock. A ladies' committee is to be elected.

CHILD WELFARE NURSES.

RESTORATION OF FULL GRANT SOUGHT.

Premier Sympathetic.

Introduced by Mrs. Weber, M.L.A., a deputation from city and country municipal authorities yesterday waited on the Premier (Mr. Dunstan) with a request that the annual Government grant of £125 for each nurse employed at infant welfare centres should be restored. This was one of the budget items subjected to a cut early in the depression period.

The deputation was supported by several members of Parliament and Cr. Archer (mayor of Box Hill), Cr. Rigby (president of the Municipal Association), Sir W. Leitch (president of the Victorian baby health centres) and Dr. Constance Ellis.

The speakers stressed the great value of the work performed by infant welfare centre nurses, and said that since the grant had been reduced from £125 to £100 per annum considerable hardship had been inflicted on the movement. Recently the grant had been partially restored by the present Government, which had fixed the sum at £112 10/ per annum. These nurses, it was stated, were instrumental in saving the lives of large numbers of infants and mothers, and their advice and treatment were warmly appreciated throughout the State.

Cr. Archer declared that the Government should shoulder the whole burden of equipping and maintaining infant welfare centres, whilst Dr. Constance Ellis stressed the point that this was not a charitable activity. Every member of the community had the right to receive the advice and education given by these centres.

"Abandon Sweated Labor."

The Premier, in reply, said he appreciated the great value of and necessity for the work of the infant welfare centres. In his opinion there was great need for uniformity in the conduct of these institutions. Glaring anomalies existed for which some of the municipalities were responsible. For instance, some were paying their nurses up to £260 per annum. In most cases the rate was over £200 a year, whilst others, including Box Hill, paid £182 and even less. It appeared to him that before asking the Government to contribute more, some of the municipalities should put their own house in order by agreeing upon a reasonable basis of remuneration. The present payment by the Government was £112 10/ per annum, provided the municipalities contributed a similar sum, to make the total payment to the nurse £225 a year, but quite a number of councils were not paying anything like that sum. Box Hill, which had been able to build a magnificent town hall, was drawing only £91 a year from the Government because it refused to pay the full amount.

The Premier urged the municipalities to abolish anomalies of this kind and cease to employ sweated labor, whereupon he would submit a recommendation to Cabinet to grant them a little more assistance. Whilst Box Hill paid only £182 per annum, Footscray paid £260. This was entirely wrong; there should be a reasonable basis of uniformity in payments where the services rendered were similar.

RINGWOOD BABY HEALTH CENTRE.

Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Ringwood Baby Health Centre took place before a large gathering of interested ladies at the Town Hall on Monday afternoon.

The Mayor, Cr R. W. Dawes, occupied the chair, and after welcoming the visitors and complimenting the centre on the excellent work done, invited Dr Vera Scantlebury, Director of Infant Welfare, to preside. Associated with Dr Scantlebury were Mrs White, of the Central Council of Centres, Mrs A. Blood, ex-Mayoress, and Mrs A. T. Miles, vice-president of the centre.

The Croydon centre was well represented by Mrs D. C. Lilley, Mrs W. J. Watson, Mrs H. C. Turner, and Mrs K. Scott. Drs W. E. Hewitt and L. W. Colquhoun were also in attendance.

Annual Report.

Mrs Miles, who acted as minute secretary, read the annual report, which indicated that much good work had been done. There had been committee meetings every two months. Regret was expressed that the valuable services of Mrs Dawes and Mrs Wilmot had been lost to the centre. Sister McCartney had attended a refresher course, and continued to do excellent work. The attendances were satisfactory, and sustenance food had been regularly given out. No deaths of centre infants had occurred over the twelve months. The attendances had totalled 1347, individual babies 127, with 60 new ones. Twenty-four had been referred to the doctor, and 14 to hospital. 205 visits had been paid to homes.

Balance Sheet.

The financial statement disclosed that the year had begun with a credit of £28 9/8, and closed with a credit of £33 9/6. Items of revenue were: Interest, 17/2; balance from council and Government grants, £11 18/8. Disbursements totalled £7 16/.

Election of Officers.

President, Mayoress for time being; vice-presidents, Mesdames A. Blood, A. T. Miles and W. Mackinlay; secretary, appointment to be made by committee; committee, Mesdames C. Wedge, Wigley, H. E. Watson, Hunt, senr., A. T. Miles, R. Bartlett, O. J. Pratt, F. R. Lucas, W. E. Hewitt, A. M. Ibbotson, Astle, Mackinlay and J. E. Brawne.

Addresses.

Mrs White, in an all too brief talk, after congratulating the Ringwood centre on its performance, said that from observations abroad over the past few years she felt the movement in Victoria should feel pleased with its progress. She was proud to be associated with it, and would urge that the high standard be maintained. In England the B...

Dr Scantlebury also joined in complimenting the centre at Ringwood on its service. There had been a 70 per cent. response to invitations sent out. This she would like to see reach 100 per cent. It was interesting to note that babies up to two years were still being brought to the centre. The centre movement was not yet general in Victoria, largely because of financial stress. They would all like to see its further extension. Whilst there was reason for encouragement in the mortality figures, they still had to deal with the great problem of infectious diseases which periodically occurred, and which increased the death rate. The help of the best brains was necessary towards immunising against infantile infectious diseases which occasioned both suffering and often death. There were in Victoria 300 registered infant welfare nurses. They were also grateful for the increased interest displayed by both medical students and the profession generally. The matter for nourishment for the infant was of great importance, and in this department also much was being taught.

In every way the centres had justified themselves, and she would say in conclusion, take encouragement and continue with the splendid work being done.

Infant Welfare.

Mitcham and Blackburn Shire, stating that the appointment of a Sister for the Infant Welfare Centre had been left in the hands of the Shire President and health officer.

At the instance of Crs. Blood and McCaskill, the appointment of Sister Macartney was ratified. 19/12/28

Town Clerk.

Re Infant Welfare Centre.—The medical officers of health of the two interested municipalities met at Ringwood, and considered applications for appointment as Sister to the Centre, and selected Miss Macartney as the most suitable applicant. This selection was submitted to the committees dealing with the matter and adopted by them. Sister Macartney has been notified that she will be expected to commence duty at Ringwood on the 14th January, 1929.—Appointment ratified. mail 19/12/28

Baby Health Centre.

Following on the recent establishment of the Ringwood Baby Health Centre, a visit of inspection was paid to headquarters in East Melbourne on Monday morning by Mrs. Arthur Langley, Mrs. A. J. Woolcott, Mrs. W. Mackinlay and Mrs. V. Errington in regard to the equipment necessary for the Ringwood Centre. It is anticipated that the Sister will take over duties at the latter end of January, and the official opening will take place some months later. 12/12/28

Baby Health Centre.

Secretary Infant Welfare Committee, asking that the two rooms to be used as a centre at the Town Hall be re-colored buff, and that the floors be covered, and that a wash basin be placed in one of the rooms, and intimating that it was proposed to open the centre on 21st January.

Cr. Miles: Who is to pay for all these requirements? When he agreed to the establishment of the centre he believed that their final expense was the 50/50 arrangement, with Mitcham and Blackburn. It would probably cost £30 to £40, and this he did not feel the ratepayers should be called upon to provide. The painting of the rooms had been done as recently as from 12 to 18 months ago. Perhaps as a wash basin was also necessary in the room when that was used for ladies' cloak purposes that could be agreed upon, and at the most that the floor of this same room might be covered with lino. Beyond these he would not go. Crs. McCaskill and Wilkins supported this view, which on being put was agreed to. 19/12/28

RINGWOOD HEALTH CENTRE.

mail 29/11/34

Official Opening of Building.

Before introducing Mr W. J. Boyland, M.L.A., to the large gathering of representative citizens who assembled for the opening of the new building of the Ringwood Health Centre on Monday afternoon, the Mayor, Cr A. T. Miles, thanked the ladies for their splendid assistance in connection with this valuable work, and congratulated Mr Boyland on his election to Parliament. The council had been pleased to provide the building, recognising that the Centre

Infant Welfare Service.

Blackburn-Mitcham Shire, stating that a committee of four had been appointed from the Council to consider matters relative to the establishment of an Infant Welfare Centre, and suggesting that this Council might act similarly, after which a conference of the two committees could be arranged.

Cr. McCaskill moved, Cr. Wilkins seconded, that Council agree to the suggestion made and appoint four representatives. Carried. Cr. McCaskill nominated the Mayor, Crs. Blood, Wilkins and McCaskill.

Re Baby Health Centre.—A conference of the delegates appointed by the Borough of Ringwood and Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham was held at the Town Hall, Ringwood, on Friday, November 2nd. The matter was fully discussed, and the following resolutions were carried for recommendation to Councils.

- (a) That the town clerk for the time being re appointed treasurer of the centre.
- (b) That the centre be affiliated with the Victorian Baby Health Centre Association.
- (c) That the sister, when appointed, attend as follows:—Ringwood Mondays and Thursdays, Blackburn on Tuesdays, Mitcham on Wednesdays, and Friday to be spent as far as possible equally between the two municipalities.

The treasurer was directed to call for applications for appointment to the position of sister to the centre.

BOROUGH OF RINGWOOD.

Boydton Mail 28/11/28
INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

A Meeting of ladies interested in Infant Welfare will be held in the Town Hall, Ringwood, at 3 p.m., on Monday afternoon next, December 3rd, when it is proposed to form a Ladies' Committee to assist in the work of the Infant Welfare Centre to be established in the Borough.

All ladies are requested to be present, as it is desired to have a representative Committee. Mrs. White, of the Victorian Baby Health Centre Association, will be present.

ELVIE S. McALPIN,
Mayoress.

Baby Health Centre Proposed.

A communication was read from the Blackburn and Mitcham Shire Council, asking if Ringwood Borough would be willing to join in the establishment of a Baby Health Centre to serve both municipalities. They were prepared to contribute £60 per annum towards the cost, and asked that a similar amount be provided by Ringwood Council. The centre would be controlled jointly by the two municipalities.

Cr. Wilkins: Could the town clerk give us the actual cost to be borne by a municipality which establishes a Baby Health Centre?

The town clerk: The municipality pays £125 per annum, and the Government pays a similar amount.

Cr. McAlpin: I think that it would be of benefit to the district. In the first place, it is a centre, and I think it is possible that in the future other things will result from having such a centre. It is quite possible that Baby Health Centres will be regarded as suitable centres for the larger health schemes which are being discussed. That aspect should be considered. I think it is opportune that an adjoining Shire wants to share the cost with us. I move that this Council fall in with the arrangement, provided we can secure local accommodation.

Cr. Miles: I would like to point out that Blackburn and Mitcham Shire has offered to pay £60. I think it should be arranged so that they pay half of the cost, which would be £65.

Cr. Wilkins seconded, saying he had always thought it would be a good thing to have a Baby Health Centre. "If we are in a position to get a neighbouring Shire to bear half the cost, and if we have the Centre here, it would be abig advantage."

Cr. Miles: We would not have the centre here.

Cr. Wilkins: I understand that they want us to provide a building here.

Cr. Miles: I want to point out that if we pay half the cost we shall have the sister here only once a fortnight.

The town clerk: We shall have to find a room for the sister.

Cr. McCaskill: I intended to move a little earlier that more information be sought about this matter. These things are very confusing at times. I would welcome the opportunity of having somebody come here to explain just what the Baby Health Centre really means, and what the advantages are. I think that if such a meeting were held, the public would take an interest and come along.

I move an amendment: That the town clerk endeavour to arrange for some member of the Centre to come and tell us a little more about it.

As there was no seconder, the Mayor put the motion again: That the Council agree to the suggestion.

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of the Blackburn and Mitcham Shire to fall in with their arrangements so that they pay half the cost.

Cr. Blood: I would like to be more enlightened about it. I would like the Mayor or the town clerk to get in touch with some of the authorities so that we may know how we stand before we definitely decide.

He then seconded Cr. McCaskill's amendment that further information be sought.

Cr. Wilkins: I understand that if we pay half we shall have the sister here half time. Each place will have to provide a room. I do not think we need more information. As soon as the Health Centre is established here it will be the residents of Ringwood who will want the information, not the Council. (Laughter). I am quite satisfied that if we leave it to the town clerk to make the necessary arrangements we shall get our full share of service.

Cr. McAlpin: I would like to know if the town clerk has any more information to give us.

The town clerk told the meeting that when he was in Ararat, Sister Peck came and addressed the Borough Council and then the Shire Council. It was agreed to have a sister working between the two municipalities. "She was to reside in the Ararat Shire," he said, "and we provided the Town Hall for her. The estimated cost was £250 a year. The sister was paid £190, the remainder of the money being for stationery and sundry equipment. The Health Centre authorities at that time paid £30 towards the equipment of the Centre, and provided it with cars, baskets, etc. If the Blackburn and Mitcham Shire and the Ringwood Borough opened a Baby Health Centre, from what I know of the arrangements the sister would spend three days here and three days there during the week. Each would have to provide rooms and pay half the salary.

Cr. Miles: I would suggest, to get over the difficulty, that Cr. McAlpin add to his motion: "Provided that at least half of the sister's time is spent in Ringwood."

Cr. Wilkins seconded, and Cr. McAlpin withdrew his amendment.

It was finally carried: That the Ringwood Borough Council falls in with the suggestion provided suitable arrangements can be made for accommodation of the sister; and that Ringwood pay half the cost provided half the sister's time is spent in Ringwood.

I date Express 25/1/29
Progressive Ringwood

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
BABY HEALTH CENTRE.**

In at least one direction, Monday of the current week constituted an epoch-making event in regard to the progressiveness of Ringwood. The Baby Health Centre was duly opened, the establishment of which will prove to be of incalculable benefit to the particular community concerned. Several months ago, when the members of the Ringwood East Progress Association resuscitated a long-pending proposal this journal, in accordance with its policy, presented both sides of the question, inasmuch as in the first instance the expressions of opinion ventilated by the aforesaid members were reported, and shortly after the somewhat opposing views taken by prominent citizens was also published at some length. Further, trenchant editorial comment on the situation probably materially assisted in advancing the interests of the project. Then in the general agitation that followed and the problem which had to be faced as to the best method by which the expenditure that would be incurred by the establishment of the centre could be adequately met, the Blackburn and Mitcham Shire authorities suggested amalgamation with Ringwood on a fifty-fifty basis. Hence it came about that the machinery of achievement, so to speak, was put into motion, and with what amount of successful propaganda is evidenced by the centre now being an accomplished fact. Suffice it to state that apart from the immense benefits which will accrue from its establishment, it may be emphasised that a baby health centre opens wide its doors to rich and poor alike. No invidious distinction is made, and, logically, it may claim to be one of the outstanding democratic institutions in Australia to-day. All concerned who cross the threshold of its portals will receive an equal degree of sound advice from the experienced sister in charge. The civic fathers of Ringwood have justifiable reason to be proud of many features for which this thriving borough has secured a sure foundation on the map of progress. For example, the main street is a thoroughfare second to none, and is surmounted with a handsome soliders' memorial clock tower which is a monument in itself. Now that a baby health centre has been established it takes its place and will retain prestige as another star in the firmament of advancement.

25/1/29
Ringwood Infant Welfare.

FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING.

The first monthly committee meeting of the Ringwood Infant Welfare Centre was held in the Town Hall on Monday afternoon. The attendance was splendid, and members most enthusiastic. The Mayoress of Ringwood (Mrs. J. B. McAlpin) occupied the chair, others present being Mesdames Mackinlay, Langley, Dawes, Watson, Hunt, Wigley, Robinson, McKeon, Pratt, Woolacott, Errington (hon. secretary) and Sister Macartney. Apologies were received from Mesdames Wedge, Barnett and Webber.

The minutes of the inaugural and executive meetings held on December 3, were read and confirmed.

It was unanimously agreed that the future monthly meetings be held on the second Monday, in lieu of the fourth Thursday, as previously arranged.

Highly satisfactory reports were received re donations of equipment, and the secretary was instructed to write and thank the donors.

On the motion of Mrs. Dawes, seconded by Mrs. Langley, Mrs. Woolacott was appointed assistant secretary.

The names of Mesdames Hunt, Lucas and Hansen were added to the committee.

Mesdames McAlpin and Errington reported having paid a visit to Dr. Vera Scantlebury, Director of Infant Welfare for Victoria.

On behalf of all present Mrs. McAlpin extended a cordial welcome to Sister Macartney, who will be in charge of the centre.

Mesdames Mackinlay and Woolacott were appointed delegates to the monthly meetings of the central council.

Arrangements were made for voluntary helpers to be in attendance on the afternoons that the centre is open. It was further resolved that two regulation uniforms be made for same.

Leave of absence was granted to Mrs. McAlpin for four months, and it was unanimously resolved to defer the official opening until her return.

The Deputy Mayoress (Mrs. Mackinlay) was appointed acting president.

23-5-28
Town Clerk.—Re Baby Health Center. Dr. V. Scantlebury, Director of Infant Welfare, from the Health Department, visited Ringwood relative to the proposed establishment of a Baby Health Center, and discussed the subject with your Medical Offices of Health and Town Clerk. Full particulars regarding population to be served, accommodation and vital statistics were given to the Director, who in turn outlined the steps to be taken by the Council's concerned in the event of a grant being made by the Minister of Health. No money will be available until the next financial year, and the Director intended reporting to the Health Department immediately on her return to the City from Ringwood. No further steps can be taken until word is received from the Department.

L. L.
Ringwood Baby Health Centre.

That mothers appreciate the value of the work performed by the baby health centres was shown by the report to last week's meeting of the Ringwood Borough Council as to the operation of the centre in the borough. Sister Macartney reported that during January 18 babies had been attended, five visits were made to homes, and in nine cases medical attention was recommended. In February there were twelve new entries, the total attendances were 32, while 15 visits were made to homes and medical attention recommended in three cases.

Cr. McCaskill stated that he had attended the first meeting of the centre and learned a number of points of interest. Baby health centres started in June, 1927, at Richmond, and since then 90 had been formed. It was a national movement and did not benefit any one particular class. No fees charged, no treatment was given, but sick babies were referred to their doctors. Attendances at centres during the year numbered 201,000 while more than 54,000 visits were made to homes by sisters. It was noted that the work of the local centre was going with a swing, and believed it was going to be an asset of importance to national life.

15.3.29

Blankie 12/4/29
Ringwood Infant Welfare Centre.

The monthly committee meeting of the above was held in the Town Hall on Monday afternoon. Those present were:—Mesdames Mackinlay (in the chair), Hunt, Dawes, Blood, Wigley, Lucas, Langley, McKeon, Wedge, Robinson, Pratt, Watson, Miles, Barrett, Woolacott, Howship and Errington. Apologies for absence were received from Mesdames Long, Webber and Hansen.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed on the motion of Mesdames Miles and Blood.

Mesdames Dawes and McKeon were deputed to interview the town clerk in regard to the public ceasing to enter the hall on picture nights through the waiting room of the centre.

The sister's report showed a total attendance of 44 babies during the month of March, an increase of 12 on the preceding month.

Arrangements were made for members to make the model set of garments required for the centre, as follows:—Knitted singlet, Mrs. Barrett; flannel petticoat, Mrs. Hunt; frock, jacket and nightdress, Mrs. Langley; rompers, Mrs. Lucas.

12/4/29

R2
**Ringwood Infant Welfare
Centre.**

12/7/29
OFFICIAL OPENING BY MR.
GREENWOOD, M.L.A.

The Town Hall had quite a gala appearance on Monday afternoon, on the occasion of the official opening of the health centre. Flags and bunting were draped at the front entrance of the hall, which wore a very attractive appearance, due to the artistic efforts of the ladies' committee. The secretary, Mrs. Errington, had made complete arrangements, and the success of the opening ceremony was largely due to her splendid organising and secretarial ability, in conjunction with the co-operation of the other officials and ladies of the centre. A large and representative attendance was present, including representatives from Mitcham, Blackburn, Box Hill, Fern Tree Gully and Croydon.

The Mayor of Ringwood (Cr. J. B. McAlpin) presided, and was supported by Mr. Greenwood, M.L.A., and Mrs. Greenwood; Dr. Vera Scantlebury (Government doctor in charge of centres), Mrs. White (secretary of the Baby Health Centre Movement), the Mayoress, Mrs. J. B. McAlpin (president of the Ringwood Centre) and Mrs. Errington (secretary). Among others present were noticed Mrs. Chandler (wife of the Minister of Public Works), and Mrs. Knox (wife of Col. Knox). Apologies were read from Mr. and Mrs. P. Bamford and Mrs. Travers.

The mayor, in opening proceedings, said that that day officially marked the commencement of the Baby Health Centre in Ringwood. This centre had been in operation since the beginning of the year, and there were those who said it should have been started earlier. But it must be remembered that the borough had only been in existence for five years, and ways and means had to be found. Eventually a half-time centre had been started, and was now in operation in conjunction with Blackburn and Mitcham Shire. The first step had been to get the ladies interested. For this purpose a meeting called was attended by 18 ladies. Mrs. Errington had been appointed secretary, and under her organising ability the centre has worked well. The council offered two rooms, now in use, and with the help of the ladies and generous support by the tradespeople the essential equipment was provided. Sister Macartney was appointed sister-in-charge, and has proved a good sister and organiser, and she had been helped by four local ladies, Misses M. McAlpin, Long, Watson and Browne, who had taken their turn each week. The centre was doing good work, and is now in full swing, and it was to be hoped that the citizens would make full use of it and make it a success. (Applause.) The mayor then introduced Mr. Greenwood, M.L.A., at the same time extending a welcome to Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Chandler and Mrs. Knox.

Mr. Greenwood's Address.

Mr. Greenwood was very cordially received, and referred in his opening remarks to his early days in Ringwood, and his pleasure at being at the function. Continuing, he said he well remembered the initial stages of the Health Centre movement. He was approached by the ladies who first started the movement, to induce the Minister to make a grant for baby health centres. Since then the movement has gone ahead by leaps and bounds. Baby Health Centres were now distributed all over the country and were making a difference in the health of children and the happiness of homes. The centres were doing splendid work, and the principle should be extended.

Prevention Better than Cure.

"Medical knowledge and attention should be utilised to a greater extent in the prevention of sickness," stressed Mr. Greenwood. "There are places where doctors are paid to keep people free from sickness, and that is the idea of health centres. The medical fraternity are doing a wonderful work, and their skill should be used more and more in the path of prevention, rather than cure."

Adult Health Centre.

"The principle of health centres should be extended and centres should be established in every community for adults," went on this astute Parliamentarian, "with the aim of regular medical inspection, open to everyone, and thus help to prevent sickness." (Applause.) "Cases where people have left medical attention too late are numerous, and illness, and in many cases death, could have been prevented had a doctor been called in earlier. Now, if health centres were established where people could go when sickness threatened, without fear of payment, it would prevent serious illness, and adult health centres on these lines should be established."

Baby Health Centres Not Charitable

Institutions.

"These health centres," went on Mr. Greenwood, "are subsidised by the Government, and should be patronised by all mothers. They are not charitable institutions. They are a grand movement, started for patriotic reasons—to save Australia's best immigrant, the Australian baby. (Applause.) We want to save our children, and this health centre should have your full support and patronage. I congratulate the mayor and councillors, the officials and the ladies responsible for the establishment of this Baby Health Centre at Ringwood, and I have great pleasure in formally declaring this Ringwood Infant Welfare Centre duly opened, and wish it every success, trusting that good health will be assisted in the district through its establishment." (Applause.)

Cr. McAlpin then introduced Dr. Vera Scantlebury, Government medical officer for health centres.

Dr. Scantlebury said it was an honor to be present at the official opening of the Ringwood centre. The

opening of such an important institution should be a red letter day for Ringwood. The aim of health centres was to prevent disease. The movement for the prevention of disease was no new thing. In Mosaic days laws were laid down for the care of health, and to-day we were doing the same thing. But with the aid of science we were to-day realising to a greater extent the importance of good health. "We are trying to help all to come and make use of the infant health centres and thus make the movement a success," emphasised Dr. Scantlebury. "The centres deal with children to the age of two years. That is the initial stage of the movement. American centres go right up to adult life, and anyone can go and have medical inspection. The whole idea is to prevent disease by finding out at an early stage the root of the trouble. The various centres have skilled help in the sisters, who receive special training, and there is a State registration for nurses. Interesting figures showing a 50 per cent. decrease in infantile mortality in Victoria during the first quarter of this year, as compared with the previous five years, show the importance and good effect of welfare centres. If adequate care is given to the pre-natal 50 per cent. of infantile mortality could be prevented. A State school service of medical inspection has been in operation for some years, but the period of life from two to six years needs more attention, and medical inspection should be available at least twice a year for such. The movement must extend to the schools, and, to follow Mr. Greenwood's idea, to adult life. The medical profession are always glad to help in the prevention of sickness. The mothers of Ringwood are to be congratulated on having a health centre, and they should take full advantage of it. Every credit is due to the mayoress, the secretary, the council and donors for the commencement of the infant health centre in Ringwood." (Applause.)

Mrs. White (secretary of the Health Centre movement) was next introduced by the mayor, and in the course of an interesting speech said that the movement started 12 years ago, and now there were 91 centres in Victoria, 34 of which were under central control. The movement had gone ahead in leaps and bounds until it had become the fashion. A town which did not have a centre felt out of it. The councils had given most generous help, and many centres had been established mainly through the generosity of municipalities. Mr. Greenwood was one of their first supporters, and contributed one of the first donations. (Applause.) They did not ask for donations. It was the right of every person to make use of the centre for the health of their children. A lecturing nurse was also employed to visit schools and give lectures to girls on motherhood. The work of the health centres, in looking after the health of the babies up to the age of two years, meant £ s. d. to the country. (Applause.)

The speeches were interspersed with items, which were highly appreciated by the audience. Master Williams, in the character of a wee Scotch laddie, recited "Wee MacGregor and "The Limitation of the Day," and Miss Valeria Berger, in her "Acts of Magic," was most entertaining and mystifying and was heartily applauded.

12/7/29

Not Page

The mayoress (Mrs. McAlpin) proposed, in appropriate terms, a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Greenwood, Dr. Scantlebury, Mrs. White and the artists. This was seconded by Mrs. W. Mackinlay junr. (vice-president of the centre) and carried by acclamation.

Mr. Greenwood suitably responded on behalf of those concerned.

Afternoon tea was then served to all by the ladies' committee, assisted by Sister Macartney and the assistant nurses, after which a hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Dawes (vice-president) to the visitors from other centres, carried by acclamation, and suitably responded to on behalf of the visitors by Mrs. Chandler.

12.7.29

INFANT WELFARE.

12/7/29

RINGWOOD CENTRE OPENED

"Prevention better than cure" and "preventive medicine" were terms much in use by speakers at the official opening ceremony of the Ringwood Baby Health Centre on Monday afternoon at the Town Hall. The Centre had really been functioning since January, but it had been thought desirable to postpone the official opening until the middle of the year. Consequently the date was fixed for Monday last. The hall was well filled with citizens. Croydon was represented by the president (Mrs. D. C. Lilley), Mrs. W. J. Watson (vice-president), Miss H. C. Turner, and Mrs. Kenneth Scott; Fern Tree Gully by Mrs. A. E. Chandler (president), Mrs. Col. Knox (vice-president), and Mrs. Chudleigh (secretary); Blackburn by Mrs. Elmore (president), Mrs. Barnett (secretary); Mrs. Victor Black, Mrs. Bett and Mrs. Anderson; Mitcham by Dr. Leibert, Mrs. Geo. Walker and Miss Edwards.

Amongst those present were: Mesdames E. E. Robinson, A. Blood, Hutton, F. R. Lucas, J. Evans, Wigley, Dawes, McKeon, Wale, McCaskill, J. W. Barrett, A. T. Miles, Whiter, A. C. Beilby, F. Matthews, W. Matlock, P. Nielsen, A. J. Dwight, N. Ferguson, N. Newell, R. Bartlett, G. McLaren, W. Mackinlay, C. Howship, Stoney, senr., R. C. Stoney, T. Grant, B. McAlpin, T. Williams, O. J. Pratt, L. Travers, Misses Grant, V. Berger, Yencken, and a large number of mothers and babes.

In addition to a very representative gathering of lady official representatives of neighbouring Baby Health Centres. Crs. J. B. McAlpin, A. T. Miles and W. Mackinlay were present, and noticed were Dr. A. T. Langley, Rev. G. McLaren, Messrs. Dawes, Wedge, Travers, C. Howship and A. F. B. Long.

At the chief table the Mayor (Cr. J. B. McAlpin) occupied the chair, whilst on his right were Dr. Vera Scantlebury, State Director of Infant Welfare, and Mrs. White, general secretary Association of Baby Health Centres, and on his left Mr. E. W. Greenwood, M.L.A., Mrs. Greenwood and the Mayoress (Mrs. McAlpin). Apologies were tendered from Mr. and Mrs. P. Bamford.

The stage had been decorated with early wattle, palms and bronze gums, whilst small tables had been arranged with bowls of red roses. Those responsible for these and other details which had been effectively carried out, were Mrs. J. B. McAlpin, Mrs. V. Errington, Mrs. Largley, Mrs. Hunt, senr., Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Woolcott, Mrs. C. Wedge, Mrs. Wigley, Mrs. F. R. Lucas, Mrs. W. Mackinlay, junr., Mrs. O. J. Pratt, Mrs. C. Howship, Mrs. A. Blood, Mrs. A. T. Miles, Mrs. J. W. Barrett, Mrs. G. McLaren, Mrs. E. E. Robinson, Mrs. McKeon.

The chairman, Cr. J. B. McAlpin, in introducing Mr. Greenwood, traversed the history of the movement from the establishment of the Ringwood centre. It had been asked why had not the institution been installed earlier. In reply to this he would have them remember that the Borough Council was only five years old. With so much to do this had not been found practicable. As time passed it was found possible to arrange for a part time sister. Eighteen ladies had evinced much interest, and they had been fortunate in securing the services of so energetic and capable a secretary as Mrs. Errington. The Council had granted two centrally situated rooms which had proven to be most suitable. The ladies with £25 at their disposal by way of grants had been able to collect a further £35 from generous Ringwood business houses, and had thus comfortably equipped the Centre. In Sister McCartney they had an enthusiastic and highly skilled nurse. The centre was now functioning well with the help of several young ladies. It was for the mothers of these districts to avail themselves of all that the centre offered. That it would be a success he had no doubt. It was hardly necessary to introduce Mr. Greenwood, for he could be said to be one of the pioneers of Ringwood, and had been elevated to the seats of the mighty. Mrs. Greenwood too had spent her earlier days also at Ringwood.

Mr. E. W. Greenwood, after referring to his early happy associations with Ringwood when Cr. McAlpin played the organ at the Wesleyan Church, said he felt that he knew something of child welfare, for had not Mrs. Greenwood and himself brought up a family of seven. He could remember Mrs. White asking him to approach the then Premier with a request for a grant towards the Baby Health

Centres. There were now 91 centres with 200,000 attendances. Nurses had paid 50,000 visits to mothers. It would be realised just what this meant to the relief of the minds of the mothers with consequent happiness in the homes. He felt that the principle of these centres could be extended for the prevention of sickness among older children and adults. In other words, preventive medicine was of the greatest importance. The loss to industry in Australia by reason of preventable illness was very great. Too often the doctor was called in too late. He congratulated the ladies on their fine effort especially Mrs. McAlpin, Mrs. Mackinlay and Mrs. Errington. It was not a charitable institution—(applause)—for the Government and municipality were providing its services, and it was the right of every citizen to claim its advantages. He had pleasure in declaring the Ringwood Centre open, and trusted that as a result the future citizens would enjoy the benefits and blessings of good health.

Master Williams gave "Wee Macgreggor," and as an encore "Limitations of Youth."

Dr. Scantlebury said it was a red letter day for Ringwood. She agreed that prevention was better than cure, and this really summed up the objective of these centres. Since 1900 considerable advance has been made in preventive medicine. The principles were not new, but science had enabled them to give reasons for so acting. The benefits of fresh and clean food were always known, but now they spoke of vitamins. It was felt that it should be the right of everyone to receive advice. The important period of a child's life was from two to six years. In America she had seen Ideal Health Centres at which the antenatal period to that of adulthood received attention. The slogan there also was, "Be examined on your birthday. The centres now possessed training schools for infant welfare sisters. She looked forward to the time when children between two and six years would also have the advantages of some such scheme as their welfare centres, for it was between these ages that the child required such care. These should be examined at least twice yearly. Children attending schools should most certainly be regularly examined. Co-operation between all workers in the interests of health was of paramount importance to the community if the best results were to be obtained. Co-ordination throughout the State and then between the several States was most desirable. Mrs. McAlpin, Mrs. Mackinlay, Mrs. Errington, the donors and the Council were to be thanked for their efforts on behalf of the centre.

12/7/29

INFANT WELFARE.

Mail 5/12/28

RINGWOOD CENTRE CONSTITUTED.

At the instance of the Mayoress, Mrs. J. B. McAlpin, a well-attended and representative meeting of ladies took place at the Ringwood Town Hall on Monday afternoon. The purpose of the meeting was to elect office-bearers and to hear a helpful address by Mrs. White, the honorary organising secretary of the Baby Health Centre Association of Victoria. It will be remembered that the municipalities of Ringwood, Mitcham and Blackburn resolved to instal centres and to share the services of a sister-in-charge.

Those in attendance were: The Mayor (Cr. J. B. McAlpin), Mrs. J. B. McAlpin, Mrs. Dawes, Mrs. Mackinlay, Mrs. Stoney, senr., Mrs. Webber, Mrs. H. E. Watson, Mrs. G. McLaren, Mrs. E. E. Robinson, Mrs. J. W. Barrett, Mrs. Woolcott, Mrs. A. Langley, Mrs. C. Wedge, Mrs. C. Howship and Mrs. Braund.

Mrs. White was accompanied by Mrs. Oakden, of the Central Council of the Association.

The Mayor outlined the steps which had been taken up to the stage which they had reached that day. It was felt that these centres were a necessity. As a preliminary it had been decided that the two adjoining municipalities of Ringwood and Mitcham and Blackburn should become associated on a half and half basis, although he foresaw the time when Ringwood would require a whole time sister. At present the centre at Ringwood would be available on Mondays and Thursdays, and Friday would be devoted for visiting between both centres. The Government was providing £125, and the two councils £125, of which Ringwood would require to find £62 10/ per annum. The salary would be £210, being £40 for general expenses for the two centres. The association further would provide £30 for equipment, and by mutual consent £25 of this was to be made available for the Ringwood centre. He would say, on behalf of the council, that they would make available the two cloak rooms of the Town Hall, and if anything further was required they would be pleased to consider it. In welcoming and introducing Mrs. White, the Mayor said that that lady knew probably more about the movement than anyone else.

Mrs. White, who was warmly received, said it had been a great joy for the association to learn that centres were to be established in the two municipalities. There was not a single instance of failure, and in no instance had a centre to be closed. The movement had its beginning in 1917, when the Richmond Council voted £5, and to claim the Government subsidy private subscriptions had to be raised. The Baby Health Centre movement was strictly non-charitable, non-sectarian, non-political, and for which no payment was accepted; seventy mothers and babies attended in one day. It was hoped later to deal with the pre-school child. The ideal would be 9 to 10 nurses to follow up the cases, for the first ten years of child life were the most important. It was found that mothers of every section of the community were seeking the advice of the centre sisters. They obtained firsthand information of births from the registrars, and followed advice on food and clothing

as disclosed by weight cards. Some municipalities had been difficult to get interested, but once aroused provided large sums of money for buildings. One such council had built three buildings at a cost of £6000, and another at £2500. They had a lecturer who spoke to school girls over 13 years of age on mothercraft, and they became very interested, and greatly prized the consequent certificates. This work was being assisted by such amounts as that of the Richmond Council, which subsidises a pure milk supply for mothers. At Ballarat there was one sister and three at Geelong. In country districts they co-operated with a Bush Nursing Association. As a result the sisters of the latter received four months' training in mother craft in association with the maternity certificate. As a result of the work of the Baby Health Centres it had been estimated that the cases of re-admission to the Children's Hospital had been reduced by 90 per cent. In short, the business of the Baby Health Centres was the creation of a race of good citizens. (Applause.)

The Mayor invited nominations for office-bearers.

President: At the instance of Mrs. Dawes and Mrs. Langley, the Mayoress (Mrs. J. B. McAlpin) was elected.

Vice-presidents: Mrs. Langley, Mrs. Dawes and Mrs. Mackinlay, on the motion of Mrs. Stoney. Mrs. Dawes, Mrs. Mackinlay and Mrs. Langley duly returned thanks. Mrs. Langley intimated that she had recommended the mothers and guardians of the 200 Government assisted children of which she had the oversight, to patronise the Health Centres.

Secretary: Mrs. Errolson, on the motion of Mrs. Langley and Mrs. Dawes.

Treasurer: Mr. A. F. B. Long. Committee: All present with the addition of Mrs. O. Pratt and Mrs. McKeown, who apologised for absence from the meeting.

Mrs. McAlpin then took the chair, and in thanking them for their election said she expected to be away for about three months. However, they had three capable vice-presidents. She would do all she possibly could. It was good of Mrs. White to come along.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. White for her able address, on the motion of Mrs. Mackinlay and Mrs. Langley.

Mrs. White, in responding, said that the central office was ever open for enquiry. None was too small, none too great.

Opening of Centre. The matter of equipment and date for official opening were referred to the executive, on the motion of Mrs. McLaren.

Thanks to Mayor. At the instance of Mrs. Dawes and Mrs. Barrett, a vote of thanks was accorded to the Mayor for his attendance. The Mayor, in response, said he was pleased to see the Centre decided upon, for it was a splendid movement. Ringwood was a growing centre, and was most suitable for the purpose.

Mrs. White said she was glad that the centre was affiliated with the Association of Baby Health Centres. Municipal councils had done wonderfully well by these institutions. They looked forward to the time when as at Richmond the centre would possess a building of its own. Mothercraft was a subject which so many girls became interested in at school. Out of those who sat for the examinations 1025 gained 75 per cent., and 423 of whom answered correctly 50 per cent. of the subjects set. Mothercraft was a subject of the greatest importance to the womenfolk of Australia. £ s. d. expended would be well rewarded in this direction.

Miss Berger capably entertained with some particularly well given sleight of hand tricks. She was applauded.

Mrs. McAlpin tendered a vote of thanks to the speakers and artists. Mrs. Mackinlay seconded the tribute, and Mr. E. W. Greenwood suitably responded. Mr. Greenwood, in proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, said he was glad to see present Mrs. Knox and Mrs. Chandler, both of whom were the wives of his masters, the Cabinet Ministers.

Mrs. Dawes suitably thanked the representatives of the Croydon, Fern Tree Gully, Mitcham, Blackburn and Box Hill centres for their presence.

Mrs. Chandler most appropriately thanked Mrs. Dawes on behalf of the visitors.

The company was then entertained to a delicious afternoon tea by the Mayor and Mayoress, and catered for in excellent style by Mr. and Mrs. F. Whiteway, of the Regal Cafe. The guests were attended to by the committee, assisted by Mrs. H. J. Richards and Miss Brettagh, Sister Macartney, Misses Mavis Long, Marjory McAlpin and Vera Watson. The latter looked well in their new blue nursing uniforms.

Baby Health Centre. 25/4/28

The town clerk said that he had been interviewed by Mrs. White, of the headquarters of the Baby Health Centre's Association, who had said that that organisation would give £30 towards equipment. They could be ready by 1st July, but Mrs. White thought that it would no doubt be October before the centre was installed, for they required to await until after 30th June for the Government grant. Already there were three or four others waiting for the end of the financial year. Mr. Long said he had been asked to act as treasurer, and it was suggested that the Shire of Blackburn should send its quota to Ringwood when the centre was established. The Shire of Blackburn was willing to contribute on a £ for £ basis—£62 10/ per annum.

Cr. McCaskill: Where will the centre meet?

The town clerk: I showed Mrs. White the old council chamber and offices, which she thought would do admirably. The mothers could enter by the side door. The Mayoress would at the proper time convene a public meeting, at which the committee would be appointed.

Cr. McCaskill moved, Cr. Blood seconded, that the Council make application to the Government for a grant of £125 towards the installation of a Baby Health Centre to serve Mitcham and Ringwood.

25.4.28

5.12.28

4

RINGWOOD BABY HEALTH

mail 13/11/30

The Mayoress (Mrs A. Blood) occupied the chair at the monthly meeting of the Ringwood Baby Health Centre, which took place in the Town Hall, Ringwood, on Monday afternoon.

There were also present: Mrs A. T. Miles, Mrs A. M. Ibbotson, Mrs J. W. Barrett and Mrs F. R. Lucas.

Mrs Miles read the minutes, which were confirmed by Mrs Dawes and Mrs Lucas.

Two small accounts were passed for payment on motion of Mrs Miles and Mrs Dawes.

It was resolved that the president should write to Sister Peck and invite her to attend the next meeting if convenient, when invitations to attend would be forwarded to Blackburn and Mitcham committees to be also present.

It was intimated that children under two years who are boarded out by the State must now report once a week to the sister in charge of the centre.

Sister McCartney reported the attendance at the centre was not as large as on the previous month, but that recent mothers had responded well to invitations. The health of babies on the whole was good. The total attendance was 71, and that of individual babies 36. New babies were five, and babies referred to doctor four. One had been sent to hospital. Twenty-three visits had been paid to homes.

The hostesses for the afternoon were Mrs F. R. Lucas and Mrs J. W. Barrett.

Infant Welfare Reports.

Concerning the above, a letter was read from the Health Department, stating that reports will be required quarterly in the future, instead of monthly. Centre secretaries and sisters-in-charge are to be informed accordingly. — Received. News 12/9/30

From Health Department, forwarding particulars of an Advisory Infant Welfare Council that it is intended shall be formed to act in an advisory capacity to the Minister concerning Infant Welfare. It is thus hoped that further co-ordination may result. The Council will consist of 10 members, five being Councillors and the other five representing Councils maintaining Infant Welfare Centres. — Deferred until next meeting.

From Victorian Baby Health Centres Association forwarding copy of resolution carried by that Association which intimates that the Advisory Council suggested by the Minister means only duplication of the work done by this Association. — Deferred until next meeting. News 19/12/30

BABY HEALTH CENTRE.

THE MONTHLY MEETING.
Worthy Tributes Accorded Mesdames McAlpin and Errington.

The monthly committee meeting of the Baby Health Centre, Ringwood, was held in the Council Chambers, on Monday last, at which the Mayoress (Mrs. A. Blood) presided.

Mrs. Miles, owing to the resignation of the honorary secretary (Mrs. Errington) read the minutes of the previous meeting. These were duly confirmed.

It was announced that Sister D. Macarthy had sustained a nervous breakdown, which necessitates her absence from duty for a considerable time.

Sister M. K. Stafford has been relieving her, but as she is unable to continue, owing to other arrangements, Sister Dunn has consented to take over her duties.

Correspondence.

Letters were received from Mrs. Errington (honorary secretary) and Mrs. McAlpin, tendering their resignations from the Committee.

Mrs. Dawes, in moving that they be accepted, expressed regret at the loss of such splendid workers, and spoke of the good which had been done by them at the Centre.

Election of President—A Matter For the Committee.

The control by the Council over the affairs of the Centre, and the Committee, in electing the President, is being regarded with displeasure by several members, who consider that the election of President should be a matter for the Committee to decide.

The Committee failed to elect another honorary secretary, owing to the lack of nominations.

The August report submitted from the Centre was as follows:—
The attendances for the month of August have been satisfactory—the health of the babies is good—nothing otherwise of special interest to report.

Total attendances were 80; individual babies, 39; expectant mothers, 3; babies referred to doctor, 5; babies referred to hospital, 1; visits, 22.

Miss M. K. Stafford is Relieving Sister.

Ringwood Borough News 12/9/30

mail 12/8/30
RINGWOOD HEALTH CENTRE.

Mrs. A. T. Langley Farewelled.

To say farewell to Mrs Arthur Langley a well arranged party was held in the committee room of the Ringwood Town Hall on Monday afternoon. The reception table was set with dainty primula blooms artistically arranged by Mrs R. G. Wilkins.

The Mayoress (Mrs. Arthur Blood) wore a black and grey ensemble. The guest of honour, Mrs Langley, wore a fur coat with small brown felt hat, and carried a delightful basket of pansies presented by Sister Macarney, and bouquet of sweet peas and forget-me-nots from Mrs Howship.

During an interval the Mayoress and president (Mrs Arthur Blood) took the opportunity of expressing appreciation of the unselfish and valuable service rendered by Mrs Langley to the centre and in the relief of cases of distress. On behalf of the Ringwood Centre and the Benevolent Society, the Mayoress presented a piece of Stuart crystal to their guest.

In response, Mrs Langley feelingly thanked the Mayoress for her very kind remarks and good wishes, and the members for their thoughtful gift, which she could assure them would be greatly prized by her as a memento of happy associations at Ringwood. Afternoon tea served by the committee was greatly enjoyed by the following:—
Mesdames A. Blood, A. T. Miles, R. Langley, J. W. Barrett, A. M. Ibbotson, J. Hewett, R. Dawes, McCaskill, W. F. Hunt, R. G. Wilkins, O. Pratt, Woolacott, H. Hunt, Howship W. Mackinlay, Watson, McAlpin and Reed.

Ringwood Baby Health Centre

ADDRESS BY SISTER PECK

The final meeting of the year was held on Friday, December 5, in the Ringwood Town Hall, and took the form of a most interesting address by Sister Peck. The Mayoress (Mrs. A. Blood) welcomed the following ladies: Mesdames Dawes, Lucas, Wigley, Miles, Ibbotson, Woolacott, Barrett, Pratt, and Sister McCartney. Apologies for absence were received from Mesdames Wedge, Hewitt, and McKinlay, junr.

Sister Peck, in the course of her talk, said how pleased she was to be able to come to Ringwood and urged upon the committee the necessity to stimulate further interest in the district. She also stressed the importance of the Baby Health Centre committee and the opportunities it had for furthering the good work of the Centre. Sister Peck paid a very high tribute to the work of the voluntary helpers. "Without their aid," said she, "we could not have as many Centres as we have, and by their help the time of the Sister in charge is conserved for more important work." A short history of the work done by the voluntary helpers then followed—from the inception of the infant welfare work until the present day. Continuing, Sister Peck said that "the primary job of this whole infant welfare is to help mothers and babies of Victoria." "We are out to save the babies' lives, and we are going beyond that as we are out to make those babies live to grow up to be strong, healthy men and women. Our aim is to reduce the maternal death rate, lessen the number of still births and premature births." Regarding the latter, much good has been done, and

Sister Peck described the methods employed to save babies born prematurely. "As far as the infant death rate is concerned," said Sister Peck, "we have done wonderful work. The death rate for Victoria last year was 47.23 per 1,000, and 40 years ago it was 114 per 1,000. These figures make you feel it is worth while continuing in the good work for the Infant Welfare Centre. Our Centres are schools where the mothers can learn to keep the babies well." Sister Peck then gave some very interesting facts regarding the feeding of infants and the irregularities of various mediums of measurement. Infant welfare is now part of the medical students' curriculum, and is also included in the midwifery course. The following are a few figures supplied by Sister Peck. Out of the 129 Baby Health Centres in Victoria, 74 are in the metropolitan area and 55 in country districts. Attendances have increased by 28,951; individual babies, 30,857; number of visits paid by the Sisters, 55,748. Sister Peck spoke of the long distances country women came in an endeavour to hear lectures on the care of babies, and how much they are in need of assistance. She also complimented the local Centre on the increase of 96 attendances for the last half-year in this district. Sister Peck, in conclusion, spoke of the training of girls, not previously trained, to become mother-craft nurses. They are trained to look after the well babies in the home, and at the end of their course have to sit for an examination. The Education Department has decided that a series of lectures dealing with mother craft shall be given in all schools.

The Mayoress (Mrs. A. Blood) thanked Sister Peck for her interesting address, and Mrs. A. T. Miles proposed a vote of thanks, seconded by Mrs. Dawes.

FT9 News 26/11/29
RINGWOOD CENTRE AUSTRALIAN TEA.

On Monday afternoon a well-attended Australian Tea, organised by the Ringwood Baby Health Centre, of which Mrs. Errington is the enthusiastic secretary, took place in the Town Hall, which had been arranged with small tables. The Centres' Association was represented officially by Mrs. White, who in an appropriate address opened the function. Little Margaret Mackinlay and Dorothy Howship presented the visitor with a delightful posy. Those who assisted towards making the afternoon a success were Mrs. J. B. McAlpin, Mrs. W. Mackinlay, junr., Mrs. Hansen, Mrs. Woolacott, Mrs. H. E. Watson, Mrs. Hunt, senr., Mrs. Errington, Misses McAlpin, Watson, Brawne and Long. A well played pianoforte solo by Miss Jessie Elliott was greatly enjoyed. Sister Macartney's talk on the care of milk in hot weather, together with a demonstration, was both interesting and instructive, as was a following address on the best means of bathing and dressing a baby.

Baby Health Centre, asking to be informed of the name of the representative on the central council of the association.—Cr. Ibbotson moved, Cr. Aird seconded, that Cr. McCaskill be appointed. Carried.

Heathmont Cricket Club, asking permission for the use of the Heathmont reserve for cricket matches and practice.—Granted, on motion of Crs Ibbotson and McCaskill.

Ringwood Cricket Club, asking for the use of the Ringwood reserve

Question of Presidency.

The Mayoress (Mrs. Arthur Blood) asked for a definite ruling by the council in respect to the presidency of the Infant Welfare Centre. Some members of the committee desired to appoint their own president, and create the Mayoress merely as a patroness.

Cr. Ibbotson moved that it be an instruction to the committee of the Ringwood Infant Welfare Centre that the Mayoress for the time being shall be the president.

Cr. Dawes seconded the motion, and said he always thought it was the rule, for half the amount was found by the council.

Cr. McCaskill objected that this would also apply to other organisations subsidised by the council. He saw no reason why the Mayoress should be president.

Cr. Miles said the cases were not parallel, for in the instance of the Infant Welfare Centre the whole of the money, apart from that from the Government was provided by the council, whereas in the instances of the auxiliaries and benevolent societies grants of from £5 to £10 only were made by the council. The latter bodies raised from the public outside from £200 to £300. This could not be said of the Infant Welfare Centre, which drew not one penny outside the council and Government. It was only right and proper that the municipal fund should be protected by the council's nominee occupying the position of president. Surely there was no other opinion. There was only one person to occupy the position, and that was the Mayoress.

The Mayor said the Mayoress did not wish to be misunderstood. She did not regard the matter from a personal point of view, but wished to know what were the wishes of the council and for their definite ruling on the matter.

Cr. Miles: Most certainly the Mayoress for the time being.

Cr. McCaskill said he did not hold with the motion. He had learned that less than 40 per cent. of the presidents were Mayoresses. The council was protected, as the town clerk was treasurer.

Cr. Aird supported Cr. Ibbotson's motion, and in support said he felt that it had always been understood that the president should be the Mayoress for the time being. The present resolution would make it quite definite.

Cr. Dawes said the present difficulty seems to have occurred by a previous Mayoress being persuaded to carry on beyond her term as Mayoress.

Further discussion took place, and Cr. Aird suggested that the question be put, which was carried.

After further discussion, the motion moved by Cr. Ibbotson, and seconded by Cr. Aird, was carried.

Public Health Department, forwarding circular relative to Infant Welfare Centres, which states that the Government is prepared to make an advance up to £112 10/ in the £1 for £1 basis for the salary of the Sister.—Received. mail 22/12/30

Infant Welfare Centre.

The recommendation of the committee that the salary of the Infant Welfare Centre Sister be raised to £4 per week, provided the Mitcham and Blackburn Shire agree, was adopted.

Infant Welfare Salary. — The Health Department has advised me that the Government is now prepared to pay half the amount of the Sister's salary up to £12 per annum, but will not assist in the upkeep of the centre. To obtain the full amount of £4 per week for the Sister it would be necessary for each council to increase its contributions by £2/1/ per annum, the Government contributing £21. mail 23/6/38

Infant Welfare Closed.

Owing to the case of infantile paralysis, occurring in Ringwood, the medical officer of health, Dr Hewitt, has advised the council to close the Infant Welfare Centre for a fortnight, and it will re-open on Thursday, Sept., 2, at the usual hour. During this period the building will be thoroughly fumigated and all possibility of infection from this source eliminated. mail 19/8/37

12.8.30

R 5

A Centre cannot be formed under the legislation unless by authority of local municipal councils on a pound for pound basis with the Government. In 1936, 96 municipalities were taking active part in the movement, and there were 161 centres in Victoria, including full and part time. During this year there were 452,612 attendances and 42,408 babies treated. In 1917, attendances numbered 4112, and babies treated 913, indicating the growing appreciation by the mothers.

Infantile mortality has markedly decreased. Between 1910-14 and 1930-34, "one week and under one month" mortality has decreased by 50 per cent., and "over one month and under one year" by 61 per cent. Victoria lost between ages of one month and one year 64 out of every 1000 children born in 1900-04, 33 in 1915-19, and 16 in 1930-34.

These arresting facts clearly emphasise the need for increasing these services. The wonderful decrease in deaths prove beyond doubt that the question of money cannot be taken into consideration. More and more centres are required and the municipalities, sinking this responsibility and failing to take the full advantage of the Act for the purpose is sadly lacking in citizenship.

Municipal boundaries are not recognised by Infant Welfare Centres. The care of the baby and the prevention of disease is their primary object. Figures prove it. Every Centre established will decrease the work of our hospitals, and, above all, make for a happier, healthier and better nationhood.

Mr Boyland, in congratulating Ringwood on their new Health Centre building, said he regretted that the Government had reduced the grant to the Centres, and should an opportunity occur he would endeavour to have this restored. The work was ever extending, and there was no charity about it. Every mother was able to obtain help and advice from the sisters, who were specially trained for the position. It gave him great pleasure to declare the building officially opened. Visitors greatly admired the interior of the Centre, which had been lined through-tively painted in cream and biege. Wire screened windows have been curtained in cool green repp, and a movable screen partition can transform the building into two separate apartments.

Dr Vera Scantlebury, Director of Infant Welfare, said that the opening of the Ringwood building marked another step in the history of the Infant Welfare movement, making this the 59th building. There were 150 Centres, with a total attendance of 414,000 in Victoria, and they had the second lowest infant mortality in the world. It was, thanks to the municipal councils and the Government, that this end had been achieved.

In endorsing these remarks, Sister Muriel Peck related the history of the Centre building, and paid a tribute to the fine work of Sister Macartney.

At the instance of the president, Mrs A. T. Miles, a vote of thanks was tendered to the speakers and seconded by Cr Dawes.

As a token of love and affection, the gathering resolved to forward a message of appreciation to Sister Macartney.

Baby Health Centre, inviting Mayor and councillors to be present at the official opening of the new Centre on Nov. 26. Cr W. J. Boyland, M.L.A., to perform the ceremony.—Invitation accepted. *Mail 29/11/34*
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board

Baby Welfare Centre.
Sister McCartney reported that 432 attendances had been registered at the Ringwood Centre.

Mail 25/1/34

1/3/29 Baby Health Centre.
Baby Health Centre Association, asking the council to appoint a delegate to represent it on the council of the association. Meetings were held on the first Tuesday in every month.—Cr. Mackinlay, in moving that Cr. McCaskill be appointed the delegate, said that as that gentleman was in the city every day it would not be a great sacrifice for him to attend the meetings of the association.

Presidency of Infant Welfare Centre.
At the fortnightly meeting of the Ringwood Borough Council, Cr. Dawes seconded the motion submitted by Cr. Ibbotson that it be an instruction that the Mayoress for the time being should be the president of the committee of the centre.
2/18/30

BABY HEALTH CENTRE, RINGWOOD.

Social Afternoon. *15/8/30*

The monthly meeting of members of the Baby Health Centre was held in the Council Chambers, Ringwood, on Monday last.

Owing to an invitation having been extended to Mrs. Langley to be present, this took the form of a social afternoon.

Diminutive Rose Howship presented Mrs. Langley with a bouquet of sweet peas.

The Mayoress (Mrs. A. Blood) said she had a pleasing duty to perform in presenting Mrs. Langley with a crystal rose bowl, on behalf of the Ladies' Benevolent Society and the Infant Welfare Centre.

Sister D. McCartney made a presentation of a basket of pansies and violets, on behalf of the mothers attending the Baby Health Centre.

Mrs. Langley, in responding, thanked all for their kindness, and said that anything she had done was because she loved the work. She had felt the break in leaving Ringwood very keenly.

All present joined in singing, "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow," after which an enjoyable afternoon tea was served.

An apology for absence was received from Mrs. Errington, the honorary secretary, who is on holiday.

Mrs. Wilkins was responsible for the dainty table decorations of primulas.

Others present were:—Mesdames Mackinlay, Dawes, Barrett, Woolcott, McAlpin, Wilkins, Ibbitson, McCaskill, Wigley, Hunt, H. Hunt, Miles, Howship, Reed, Pratt, Watson, Hewitt and Miss Good.

BABY HEALTH CENTRE. *12/9/30*

THE MONTHLY MEETING. Worthy Tributes Accorded Mesdames McAlpin and Errington.

The monthly committee meeting of the Baby Health Centre, Ringwood, was held in the Council Chambers, on Monday last, at which the Mayoress (Mrs. A. Blood) presided.

Mrs. Miles, owing to the resignation of the honorary secretary (Mrs. Errington) read the minutes of the previous meeting. These were duly confirmed.

It was announced that Sister D. Macarthy had sustained a nervous breakdown, which necessitates her absence from duty for a considerable time.

Sister M. K. Stafford has been relieving her, but as she is unable to continue, owing to other arrangements, Sister Dunn has consented to take over her duties.

Correspondence.

Letters were received from Mrs. Errington (honorary secretary) and Mrs. McAlpin, tendering their resignations from the Committee.

Mrs. Dawes, in moving that they be accepted, expressed regret at the loss of such splendid workers, and spoke of the good which had been done by them at the Centre.

Election of President—A Matter For the Committee.

The control by the Council over the affairs of the Centre, and the Committee, in electing the President, is being regarded with displeasure by several members, who consider that the election of President should be a matter for the Committee to decide.

The Committee failed to elect another honorary secretary, owing to the lack of nominations.

The August report submitted from the Centre was as follows:—

The attendances for the month of August have been satisfactory—the health of the babies is good—nothing otherwise of special interest to report.

Total attendances were 80; individual babies, 39; expectant mothers, 3; babies referred to doctor, 5; babies referred to hospital, 1; visits, 22.

Miss M. K. Stafford is Relieving Sister.

Ringwood Borough News 12/9/30

Afternoon tea was served in the Town Hall by the ladies' committee, of which Mrs A. T. Miles is president and Mrs V. Errington secretary.

Amongst those present were Mrs A. E. Chandler, president, Mrs C. Farrow and Mrs. Chudley, of the Fern Tree Gully Centre, and Mrs H. C. Turner, secretary of the Croydon Centre, and Mrs W. J. Boyland.

A Definite Ruling.

From the Mayoress of Ringwood (Mrs. A. Blood), asking for a definite ruling from the Council regarding its wishes in respect to the position of President of the Infant Welfare Centre. It was the desire of some members of the Committee to appoint their own President, and make the Mayoress a patroness.

Cr. Ibbotson moved that the Mayoress for the time being shall be the President.

This was seconded by Cr. Dawes.

Cr. McCaskill's Opinion.

Cr. McCaskill contended that the principle involved should apply to every Society, Hospital Auxiliaries or organisations which were assisted financially by the Council.

Cr. Miles: This is quite a different proposition. The trifling sums we grant to other organisations is nothing in comparison with what the Hospital Auxiliaries donate themselves. I think, as a matter of fact, that the Children's and other Hospital Auxiliaries raise £200 a year. What the Council give is, as I said a minute ago, nothing in comparison. But the Baby Health Centre is under the absolute control of the Council and paid for by the Council, every penny of it by the Council, and housed in the Council's buildings. We have no option in this matter; the Council must be responsible for it.

The Town Clerk verified this.

Cr. Miles (continuing): This is purely a Council affair, and, in this case, the Mayoress should be President.

The Mayor's Explanation.

The Mayor: The Mayoress was asked to obtain this ruling, but I desire it to be fully understood that Mrs. Blood is not anxious to be President. However, as she was asked to get this definite ruling, the letter was written accordingly.

Cr. Miles: I don't think you need worry about that at all, Mr. Mayor, or make a personal matter of it. The ruling applies only to the office of a Mayoress.

Cr. McCaskill: I never intended to imply anything, but I don't hold with the motion in this case at all. I made it my business to find out who are the presidents of various branches, and less than 40 per cent. of Infant Welfare Centres are Mayoresses. When the Council is amply protected by having a Town Clerk as treasurer, I think the request of certain ladies should be acceded to if the ladies met in committee and decided among themselves to do so and so. Again, I say, we should accede to a request from the ladies. So far as the Mayoress in this particular instance is concerned, the request that she be made a patroness should be granted. I feel strongly on this matter, and I cannot see any harm in acceding to the request.

Mayor: I do not desire to remark

Interesting discussion re appointing a President

news 15/8/30

news 15/8/30

on the conduct of the Centre, but I think it has been cared for splendidly; I think it has done good work; but still we have been asked for a "definite ruling," and it seems to be universal that a Mayoress should be President. I desire to make it clear that the Council is not finding fault with the manner in which the Centre is being carried on.

Cr. Ibbotson: As the Baby Health Centre is controlled by this Council, we are responsible for it, and, therefore, we should deal with it from that standpoint.

Cr. Aird: I will support the motion.

This concluded the discussion, and, on the motion being put, it was carried.

Cr. McCaskill: I want my vote against the motion to be recorded in the minutes.

The Mayor directed the Town Clerk to note this request.

Infant Welfare Committee, stating that the proposal to build a fire-place in the centre had been abandoned, and it was suggested to erect a partition in the building, making two rooms, and an additional radiator and plug to be installed in the large room. The committee desires permission for this to be done. It further stated that the sister was desirous of opening the centre from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Thursdays, which the ladies' committee had given her permission to do.

Permission was granted, and Cr. McCaskill suggested that the Electricity Commission be approached with a view to getting a concession on the lighting.

This was agreed to.

mail 18/3/37

BABY HEALTH CENTRE NURSE

Pushes Pram in Visiting Mothers

Stating that he had noticed the sister of the Baby Health Centre pushing a pram containing scales, etc., around the districts of Mitcham and Blackburn, Cr. McCaskill paid a high tribute to her zeal and efficiency. He understood it was only a temporary measure due to the mothers refraining from visiting the centre owing to the infantile paralysis epidemic, and the sister was in this way visiting the mothers.

He, however, thought it was not quite in keeping with the dignity of the profession, and he raised the matter in the hope that the Shire of Mitcham and Blackburn could find some other means of getting the sister to the homes. The sister should not be expected to push a pram.

The Mayor: The question has been exercising the minds of the Infant Health Centre officials for some time. It does not affect Ringwood, and we would be on dangerous ground if we started to tell other municipalities how to do their job.

No action was taken.

mail 29/10/37

mail 11/11/37

DEPUTATION TO PREMIER.

Cr. McCaskill reported having represented the council on the Infant Welfare Centres' deputation to the Premier on the matter of the full restoration of the Government grant.

The deputation was convened by the Box Hill Council, and was introduced by Mrs. Weber, M.L.A., it being her first deputation.

Cr. Archer, Box Hill, stated the case for the deputation, and pointed out the good work done by the ladies, nurses and municipalities, but they were getting wearied of bearing the burden, and desired the Government to aid them by restoring the full grant, which they had promised to do.

The Premier in reply, suggested that the Box Hill municipality put their own house in order first. In consulting the list of salaries paid to Sisters by the various municipalities, he noticed the wealthy Box Hill municipality, which had recently built a magnificent Town Hall, paid about the lowest salary to their Sister, £187 10/, out of which the Government paid £112 10/. He suggested a conference of the Centres with a view to uniformity, and when they had put their own house in order he would recommend the Government to restore the full grant.

Cr. McCaskill said that the Premier's candid criticism had made them feel most uncomfortable.

Cr. McCaskill further reported on the conference to appoint a council delegate to the Victorian Ambulance Council.

The Mayor conveyed to Cr. McCaskill the thanks of the council on his representation at the two conferences.

THE INFANT WELFARE MOVEMENT

ITS NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

(Contributed)

Infant Welfare is the most important of State activities. The care of motherhood means the welfare of the people. Their health at the stage of birth provides for the healthy male and female in the years to follow—strength and vitality for the race.

Too much praise cannot be accorded to the founders of this movement in Victoria. The department in charge is endeavoring to extend the work of all the centres, but, unfortunately, financial stringency has made it difficult to extend the nursing service to complete the scheme satisfactorily. This is a poor excuse. What other expenditure is more important? "Health could be improved in proportion to the value placed upon human life," says Dr. Dale, city health officer. What does the cost of a school or a bridge matter compared to the life and health of a child? The foundation of health is motherhood, and the future of the State is dependent on it.

mail 17/6/37

R6

Following the election of officers, the Mayor vacated the chair, which was taken by the Mayoress.

Two vocal items were pleasingly rendered by Mrs Hills, after which the Mayoress introduced Dr Constance Ellis, who gave an interesting address.

Dr Constance Ellis.

Dr Ellis said that she had come into the Baby Health Centre work after Dr Ross and Sister Peck had started it twenty-one years ago, and she had seen its remarkable development during those years. Most people accept Baby Health Centres as a necessary part of the health activities of any place. Ringwood was one of the early ones to start eight or nine years ago, and they had gone on to reach their present efficient position. Local interest is invaluable, and centres that possess a good active women's committee make the work of the sisters much easier. The first trouble was to get councils to start Health Centres, and they had many quaint experiences in dealing with uninterested men folk. It was not always easy to make clear what we wanted. We did not want to deal with sick children, but to keep children well. The whole movement is in tune with medical activities all over the world—to keep people well. Doctors desire to see a healthy community grow up, and besides its preventive medicinal activities Baby Health Centres are spreading knowledge, and are educating mothers in the care and treatment of babies. The result has been that infant mortality has been reduced from 10 to 4 per cent., and this saving of life and health is due largely to the educational work of the centres.

She desired to congratulate the Sister in charge of the centre here on the big proportion of babies that are breast fed. The caravan that is being fitted up will be a valuable adjunct to the work of the centres. The work that is being done by the centres will have far reaching effects. We older ones do not expect to see the full fruition, but it has been built on solid foundations, and the coming generations will

reap the full benefits. She congratulated the Ringwood branch on their progress, and wished them continued support. (Applause.)

Sister Muriel Peck, assistant director of Infant Welfare for Victoria, said that the increase in attendances at the centre was gratifying, and they were greatly indebted to the voluntary helpers who assisted the Sister in charge. The mothers were also to be congratulated on carrying out their instruction. They would soon have to open a father's craft. (Laughter.) They were trying to encourage mothers to bring the toddlers up to two years to the centres. At Hampton they have a play ground, and at Croydon they have a considerable amount of ground that they are going to utilise in some such way. She congratulated the council on their valuable work and assistance to the centre, but she was of opinion that the council ought to be grateful to the committee for their work in supporting the centre. (Applause.)

Mr Boyland, M.L.A., in expressing his appreciation of the valuable work of the centres, said that the two previous speakers had given the councils something to think about, but the municipal councils had really done a great deal for the centres in providing the buildings and £125 per annum. They were now trying to get the Government to restore their grant to the original grant of £125. Now that finance is better, the grant should be restored. He referred to the caravan, and stated that the Chief Secretary had been induced to forego the registration fee, and from now on the fee would not be enforced. (Applause.)

Votes of thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress, C and Mrs A. T. Miles, and the speakers, brought the business meeting to a close, after which the visitors and members were entertained to afternoon tea.

30/8/37.

RINGWOOD INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

9th ANNUAL MEETING.

The progress and development of the Ringwood Infant Welfare Centre was manifested at the 9th annual meeting held in the Ringwood Town Hall on Monday afternoon, when over 70 members and visitors were present, and great interest was indicated in the movement.

Among the visitors were Dr Vera Scantlebury, O.B.E., Director of Infant Welfare Centres of Victoria, who was accompanied by her mother, Mrs Burton, who is assisting Dr Scantlebury in her work for the toddlers, was also present. Croydon Infant Welfare was represented by Mesdames Rivers Dickenson, Tremewan and Lloyd. Bayswater Centre was represented by Mesdames Hankin and Nidschelm.

Among the mere males were noticed Cr A. T. Miles, Dr Hewitt and Mr R. W. Dawes. Apologies were received from Dr Younger Ross, Sister Peck, Mrs Boyland, the Warrantdyte and Lilydale Infant Welfare Centres, Mesdames Lilley and Turner (Croydon), Mesdames A. Blood, Nethercote, Hills and Hunt, senr.

The Mayor, Cr J. K. McCaskill, presided, and extended a welcome to the visitors and members, and congratulated Dr Vera Scantlebury on having the Order of the British Empire conferred on her by His Majesty King George. (Applause.) The large attendance, continued the Mayor, indicated the interest taken in the branch by the members. When the Infant Welfare work was first mooted, the men were dubious about its success, but the women with foresight and vision went ahead with their work, and the progress and development of the Welfare Centres has exceeded even their expectations. (Applause.)

Public health is now of primary importance to the country, and the Infant Welfare Centres are doing a great work in building up a good healthy foundation for the establishment of a virile race.

Annual Report and Balance Sheet.

Mrs Errington submitted a comprehensive report of the past year's activities, and paid a tribute to the work of the past president, Mrs A. T. Miles.

The treasurer's report disclosed a credit balance of £25 14/.

The annual report of the Sister in Charge indicated considerable progress, and Sister Hill expressed her appreciation of the comfortable centre, and the work of the committee.

Election of Officers.

President, The Mayoress, Mrs J. K. McCaskill; vice-presidents, Mesdames W. Mackinlay, A. Blood, and H. F. Pearson; secretary, Mrs W. Errington; committee, Mesdames Miles, W. L. Colquhoun, Hewitt, Wigley, Watson, Hunt, Snr., Matthews, Nethercote, Ibbotson, Astle, Dawes, Hills, Ostrom, Dickinson, Lucas, Bartlett, Organ, Wedge, Parker, Mulhall, C. Colquhoun and Travers.

The Mayoress conveyed the thanks of the Centre to the past president, Mrs Miles, and the secretary, Mrs Errington, for their valued services during the year. In responding, Mrs Miles said that her work had been rendered easy by splendid help of the committee.

Two delightfully rendered vocal items by Rev. V. G. Carver, were greatly enjoyed, after which the Mayor introduced Dr Vera Scantlebury, who gave an interesting address.

Dr. Vera Scantlebury.

Dr. Vera Scantlebury congratulated the Ringwood Centre on the splendid progress made, and on their enterprise in providing a car to allow the Sister to carry out her

work of home visitation. The work of welfare centres had so increased that today we have 107 municipalities supporting 175 centres in the 21st year of the movement.

She was glad to note the Centre had portable scales and they could now go one step further and procure progress scales, for weighing toddlers up to five years, expectant mothers, and they could even weigh the fathers, if they came along. (Laughter.) Regular weighings are advisable. The work of the Centres provides that expert knowledge is given out in a commonsense way, so that all can benefit. Proper dieting and nutrition, with maternity hygiene for expectant mothers, would mean reduction in infantile mortality and natural feeding would be increased. We have now special diet lists and proper nutrition is one of the League's programs.

Play for Pre School Child.

Proper training, mental and physical, for the toddlers, is essential for their correct development and with that end in view the different stages of play for the child as it develops has been studied, and we have here to-day various demonstration models of toys, etc., for the child to suit the growth of their mental and physical requirements.

Wanted a Toddlers' Playground.

She had got great ideas by looking at your park adjoining. She noticed a corner inside the gateway opposite the Centre which at present is a dump for rubbish. Why should the adults have the reserve

15/9/38

next page

6

RINGWOOD INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

MAIL 17/9/36

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the above was held in the smaller Town Hall, Ringwood, on Monday afternoon. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the attendance was excellent, over 40 ladies being present. His Worship the Mayor presided over the earlier portion of the meeting, and also on the platform were the Mayoress, Dr Younger Ross, Sister Muriel Peck, Cr Boyland, M.L.A., Sister Hill, in charge of the Ringwood Centre, and the hon. secretary, Mrs Errington, who presented tastefully arranged posies to the Mayoress, Dr Ross and Sister Peck.

Apologies were received from Mrs Eoyland (Box Hill), Dr Vera Scantlebury, Drs Hewitt and Dale. Visitors from other centres noticed were: Mrs Lillie (Croydon) and Mrs Chudley (Fern Tree Gully).

Visitors Welcomed.

In extending a welcome to the visitors, His Worship the Mayor said it was gratifying to note the reduction in infant mortality since the establishment of Baby Health Centres. The loss of Sister Morton was to be regretted, but it was felt that a worthy successor was found in Sister Hill. Parents should take advantage of the benefits offering, and it was satisfactory to note that interest was growing, but there was room for further development. (Applause.)

Secretary's Report.

During the year under review four bi-monthly committee meetings, presided over by the Mayoress, Mrs McCaskil, were held with an average attendance of fourteen members. At the meeting held on May 11 representatives of the Mitcham and Blackburn Committee were present also, and the co-operation of the two committees is much to be desired as a help towards the general working of the centres under the care of the Sister in charge. At each committee meeting afternoon tea, provided by two of the members, were served, and a charge made for it of three-pence per head was made, the money thus obtained being put towards the general account.

Mitcham and Blackburn members again visited us on June 8, when a combined presentation of a leather attache case was made to Sister Morton on her resignation and departure for another position in Adelaide. Opportunity was taken at the same time to offer Mrs Ralph Wigley good wishes and a gift on the occasion of her marriage. Mrs Wigley has been a voluntary helper at the Centre since its inception, and is continuing her good work. Sister Morton had been in charge for two years and four months, and in her place we now have Sister Hill. During this year, too, we were sorry to lose the services of Miss May Clark as a voluntary helper, and thus far we have found no one to take her place. Further regret must be expressed at the resignation of Mrs Blood as a delegate to the meetings of the Central Council of the Victorian Baby Health Centres Asso-

ciation. We were without representation thereat until April, when Mrs Dawes kindly consented to act. We shall be pleased to welcome back Mrs Wigley, senr., on her return from abroad after six months' leave of absence.

In the first week in May the Ringwood Council generously made part restoration of the 25 per cent. reduction in the running of the Centre, and the amount thus received, £6 5/, together with a similar sum from the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham, is being added to the salary of the Sister in charge. Her report will give an idea of the value of the work to the community and of the necessity of the continued and increasing interest of all of us.

In conclusion, we wish to offer grateful thanks to all members of the committee for their help during the year. Thanks are due, too, to the town clerk for his kindly co-operation and to Mr Kofoed for his work during the year.

The secretary's report and Sister Hill's report were adopted on the motion of Mrs Miles and Mrs Andrews.

Election of Officers.

President, the Mayoress, Mrs Pearson; vice-presidents, Mrs A. Blood and Mrs Mackinlay; secretary, Mrs Errington; committee, Mesdames

Wedge, Wigley, Watson, Hunt, McCaskill, Lucas, Hewitt, Ibbotson, Astle, Brawne, Matthews, Bartlett, Nethercote, Miles and Dawes.

The Mayor then vacated the chair, which was taken by the Mayoress amidst applause.

Interesting Addresses.

Dr Younger Ross spoke on the activities of the Central Council, and paid tribute to the valuable assistance given by Cr Dawes, who is the representative of the Borough Council. Gratification was expressed that the way had now been opened to undertake caravan work in outback parts of the State, particularly the Mallee and Gippsland. A further feature of the work was the mothercraft home, to which an invitation was extended to all interested to visit.

Sister Muriel Peck, in a most interesting and informative address, gave an outline of the development of the work and the consequent decline in infant mortality. It was pleasing to know that mothers generally appreciated the service provided, as was shown from the increased attendance. Ladies forming the Ringwood centre should feel gratified at being permitted to take part in the work.

Cr Boyland, M.L.A., expressed thanks for the opportunity of being present, and offered congratulations to the members of the Ringwood Centre on its continued development. They all admired the work of the nurses, and it was to be hoped that an early move would be made in the direction of a restoration in the amount of the grant. He was pleased to learn that a sufficient amount had been raised to equip the caravan for outback districts, and thought a special grant should be made available. (Applause.)

Votes of Thanks.

Cr Dawes, in moving a vote of thanks to the speakers and artists, said much information had been given. It was to be hoped that Cr Boyland would move in the direction of a restoration of the grant. The Borough Council had done its part.

The motion was seconded by Mrs A. Blood and carried by acclamation. On the motion of Mrs Mackinlay, seconded by Mrs Miles, a vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor and Mayoress.

The Mayor, in reply, said they must realise that babies were a national asset and the nation's first line of defence was healthy Australians. The Central Council had a splendid representative in Cr. Dawes, who was ever ready to champion the cause of the ladies in the council.

Dainty afternoon tea was appetisingly served by the ladies of the Ringwood Centre, followed by social intercourse.

At intervals delightfully rendered vocal items were given by Mrs Carver and Mrs Hill. The accompanists were Mrs Binns and Mrs Covell.

RINGWOOD INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

8th ANNUAL MEETING.

Prettily arranged with floral decorations, the small hall of the Ringwood Town Hall provided a picturesque setting for the 8th annual meeting of the Ringwood Infant Welfare Centre on Monday afternoon.

The floral decorations were the work of Mrs Matthews, who also made delightful posies, which were presented to the Mayoress, Mrs A. T. Miles, Dr Constance Ellis, Sister Peck and Mrs Errington.

The Mayor, Cr A. T. Miles, presided over an attendance of 60 members and visitors. Amongst the visitors were Dr Constance Ellis and Sister Peck, representing the Central Executive, Mr Boyland, M.L.A., Mr Tainton (president of the Shire of Mitcham and Blackburn), Mrs Tainton and Mrs Mock, Mr R. W. Dawes and Dr Hewitt. Visitors were also present from Croydon, Mitcham, Box Hill and Blackburn.

The meeting was opened with the National Anthem, after which the Mayor extended a welcome to the visitors and members, and expressed his pleasure at seeing such a large attendance, which evidenced the keen interest the ladies of the district took in the Infant Welfare work. The branch had made splendid progress, and he was sure their enthusiastic efforts would bring further success and development.

8th Annual Report and Balance Sheet.

Mrs Errington, secretary, submitted that a most comprehensive report of the past year's activities, and paid a tribute to the work of the past president, Mrs Pearson.

The treasurer's balance-sheet disclosed a credit balance of £15 11/9. The annual report of the sister in charge indicated considerable progress, with 96 new babies being on the roll.

Election of Officers.

President, the Mayoress, Mrs A. T. Miles; vice-presidents, Mesdames H. F. Pearson, A. Blood and W. Mackinlay; secretary, Mrs W. Errington; committee, Mesdames Wedge, Wigley, Watson, Hunt, Lucas, Hewitt, Ibbotson, Astle, Matthews, Bartlett, Nethercote Pearson, Dawes, McCaskill, C. Colquhoun, W. L. Colquhoun, Dickenson, Hills, Ostrom, Organ and Travers.

30/8/34

Ringwood's new Welfare Centre



4/5/69

● RINGWOOD'S smart and modern Infant Welfare Centre now in its new site in Miles Avenue, near the Ringwood Bowling Green. The centre has been transferred from Civic Place where it stood on land soon to be occupied by Eastland Shopping Centre.

The official opening ceremony will be performed by Mr. T. A. Pettigrew, a director of the Myer Emporium at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10.

The present centre, which will continue to function till April 30 was opened in September 1954, by Lady Brooks, wife of the Governor of the day, Sir Dallas Brooks.

It was built through the voluntary efforts of a citizens' committee with assistance from members of the 10th Independent Field Squadron R.A.E. and a Government subsidy.

R7
all to themselves? Why not provide a small portion of the ground for a toddlers' playground? If the council would grant this small concession, we could convert a rubbish corner into a paradise for the toddlers. (Applause.)

Play is the child's way of learning, of trying to find himself out. Through it he becomes skilful in the use of his muscles. Give the child toys that call for the use of new combinations of movement. The

work of the eye, ear and muscles in perfect rhythm is the result of lessons learned through play in pre-school years.

The little child is interested in making, building, doing—not looking on. Encourage him in this, for if he does not develop this interest early in life he may grow into a looker-on and not a doer. Backyard play equipment should be planned for the needs of the children when they grow older. We can encourage this by the development of Parents' Leagues, study circles, and we can even form a fathers' class in order to fully develop the physical and mental faculties of the child by correct training in play, and thus make the Child Welfare scheme of foremost importance in Victoria. (Applause.)

Demonstration Sets of Toys.

Mrs Burton, who is assisting Dr Scantlebury in this work, then displayed numerous models of toys to suit the various stages of physical and mental child growth. As the child develops, explained Mrs Burton, different toys for play are required to develop certain muscles. From an educational point of view the main thing is to have the right play for the different ages. The various toys displayed were novel and inexpensive and demonstrated the actual play growth of child development.

Mrs Mackinlay in moving a vote of thanks to the speakers, suggested that Dr. Vera Scantlebury should head a deputation to the council for the toddlers' playground. (Applause.) They had been greatly interested in the talk on pre-school play training. She also included in the vote of thanks the Rev. V. G. Carver for his appreciated solos. (Applause.) Mrs H. F. Pearson seconded the motion.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Mayor and Mayoress, Cr and Mrs J. K. McCaskill, for presiding, after which the visitors and members were entertained to afternoon tea.

15.9.38

Time doesn't march on in Ringwood—it flies..

When we came here about 15 years ago there were between three and four thousand people, and everyone knew everyone else.

Now there are somewhere in the region of 14,000 or more, and they're still arriving.

Banks, businesses, emporiums and factories have sprung up with amazing rapidity and it has been prophesied that Ringwood eventually will have a population of 30,000.

So there are plenty of prospects for more shopping centres in the borough.

This is all very nice and progressive, of course, but I can't help sighing for the peaceful Ringwood of 15 years ago.

With the demolition of the old Baby Health Centre behind the Town Hall there goes yet another link with the past. Originally this building housed the local fire cart in the days when kerosene lamps and candles were a fire hazard in the farmhouses scattered throughout Ringwood's nine square miles.

19.8.55

MAY 27, 1964

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE REPORT

Ringwood Council last week received the Annual Reports of the three Infant Welfare Centres within the municipality.

At the Ringwood Centre birth notifications were 288 during the year. Enrolments at the Centre were 238 and a total of 5243 children attended during that period.

Heathmont Centre reported 174 birth notifications, 147 enrolments and a total attendance during the year of 3324 children.

Ringwood East Centre reported 154 birth notifications, 114 enrolments and total attendance of 2746 children during the same period.

Receiving these reports at their last council meeting Ringwood councillors agreed that these figures were most gratifying.

The Sister's Leave.

Infant Welfare Committee, forwarding application from Sister Hill for 6 weeks accumulated and an additional 2 months leave.

Cr Parker: I move the leave be granted as requested, she deserves it.

Cr Parson: That means a substitute sister for 14 weeks. Who is going to foot the bill?

The Mayor: Whoever foots the bill the sister is entitled to her leave.

Cr Miles: The sister is entitled to six weeks leave, but is she entitled to save up leave for three years?

Town Clerk: The sister has not had any leave for three years.

Cr Miles: But that may have been to suit herself. I'm making no objection, but what about the extra two months; is that with or without pay?

Cr Parker: My motion was meant for the six weeks on full pay and the extra two months without pay.

In seconding the motion the Mayor said that the sister couldn't take leave the first year on account of the infantile paralysis outbreak. The second year was taken up fully by home visitation, due to after effects, and the third year's leave is now due.

The motion was carried subject to the approval of the Blackburn and Mitcham Shire and the Govern-

mail 3/8/39

3/8/39

A FAREWELL MESSAGE

Sister Nelson, who through illness was unable to say good-bye to the Ringwood Infant Welfare mothers, takes this opportunity of bidding them all farewell and expressing appreciation of their co-operation and support during her term in Ringwood.

She extends to all the mothers and babies best wishes and good luck.

mail 9/10/47

Wide experience

Sister Ahlston came to Ringwood in 1947 with wide nursing experience.

She did her training at the Eye and Ear Hospital, going on to nurse at the Alfred and the Women's Hospital before returning to the staff of the Eye and Ear.

She took special infant welfare training after her discharge from the Air Force and came to Ringwood. She lives at Ferry Creek.

The centre which the Mayor in his speech called a "bunker," was Ringwood's original fire-station. Built of corrugated iron behind the old town hall, it was cold in winter and hot in summer.

At this time, there was an infant welfare centre committee which had been battling for many years to raise money for a permanent centre.

Things took a turn for the better when the late Mr A. Kelly became town clerk because he knew the urgent need for an adequate building to house the centre.

When the committee had raised enough money to build a permanent structure a red brick building was erected on land given by the council on what was then the Ringwood Oval and is now the Eastland car park.

When Eastland was moot-



A FEW of the mothers who took their babies to the Ringwood Health Centre around 1948. (From left) Mrs Margaret Williams, Mrs Rene Lewis, Mrs Marthe Allsop, Mrs Flo Flowers, Mrs Rose Whitter and Mrs Margaret McCaill.

ed, this building was pulled down and the present attractive centre was built in Reynolds Ave. Sister was also given a permanent assistant — she had relied on a roster of voluntary helpers — and Mrs Marj McAdam has remained with her since.

The Ringwood Mental Hospital auxiliary owes its existence to Sister Ahlston's drive.

Sister Ahlston was asked what she intended to do with her retirement. "Protest," she said in a firm, clear voice. "Now I'll have time for it. I'm going to protest against the National Service Act and the war in Vietnam."

She was also busy outlining plans for a trip which she hoped to take to Cambodia and China.

Mail 3/11/60
Baby Health Centre at Ringwood East



Opened by Dr. Wilmot

—Photo, Peter Payens Ringwood Studios

Sister Ahlston says goodbye

And an era ends

The mothers turned up with their babies. The committee who had worked and slaved 20 years ago to have a health centre turned up, the Minister for State Development, Mr Jim Manson, turned up, as did the Mayor and Mayoress of Ringwood, councillors, the town clerk and his wife, the city engineer, the health inspector and council officers.

The wife of the Federal Minister for Labor, Mrs Joy Sneddon was there. Two doctors — W. Hewitt and B. Widmer — chemist Mr Stan Bailey, ex Mayors and Mayoresses were all there as well as a host of friends.

And all these people were at the Greenwood Park Pre-school Centre on the Friday before Christmas to play their part in a warm and personal farewell to Sister Edna Ahlston, retiring as sister in charge of the Ringwood Infant Welfare Centre.

For the 150 who packed into the centre, it was a ceremony which marked the end of an era in Ringwood's post-war history and development.

For the work of Sister Ahlston, dispenser of wisdom, solace and cheerful philosophy to anxious young mothers is woven into the town and its growth in its most exciting years.

Sister Ahlston came to Ringwood after the end of the war to a population of 4000 — to the first faint stirrings of the developing district and its upward leap in population.

And the many people at Greenwood Park to farewell her were there to publicly acknowledge the warm and important part she has played.

Many of her original babies are now married and taking their babies along for her experienced — and sometimes caustic — advice.

Whatever advice she gave it was for the good of the baby.

Mrs Ellie Pullin, who so ably organised the wonderful citizens' tribute to Sister Ahlston, outlined the work she had done during her years at the centre.

"She has very often gone beyond the line of duty," said Mrs Pullin, "in her support of families in

trouble. She has made special trips down from her home on the mount to bring help and relief to worried parents."

Mrs Pullin went on to point out the wide cross section of the community who had come to thank Sister Ahlston.

The Mayor, Cr Ben Hubbard, spoke with emotion when he presented Sister Ahlston with a silver necklet, brooch, bracelet and earrings from the council.

"Speaking for council and the mothers, we're going to miss you more than anyone else in Ringwood, and we say goodbye to a lovely lady."

Cr Hubbard said he remembered the night back in 1947 when Sister Ahlston was appointed. At the time the late Cr Harry Parker said, "She's got the right type of voice to control the mothers."

"When I took her round to the little bunker behind the Town Hall, which was then the health centre, Sister Ahlston just said matter-of-factly, 'It'll do me for a while anyway.'"

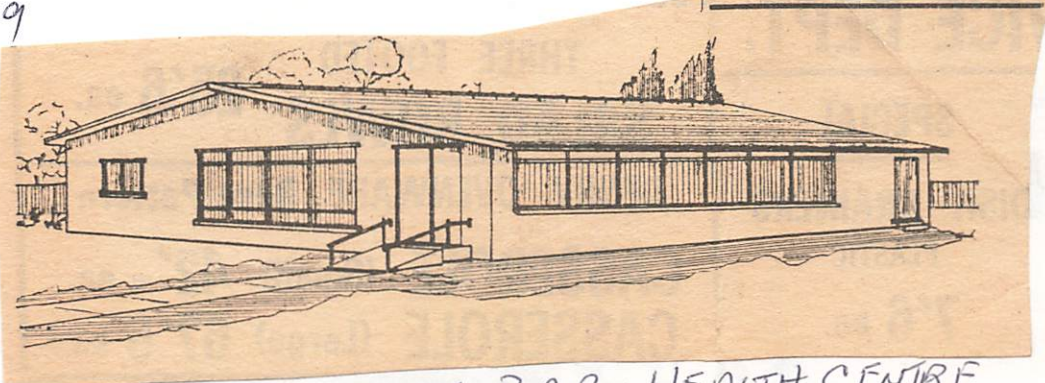
Sister Ahlston was almost overcome as she replied to the spontaneous speeches of praise.

She said she particularly wanted to say how grateful she was to the original band of women who helped to maintain the health centre in the beginning and who also made a permanent building possible.

"Back in those days they supplied me with everything," she said. But it was the late Mrs Lib Vergers who had the vision and drive to see the necessity for a permanent centre.



▲ SISTER AHLSTON caught by the camera as she sees the Greenwood Park Pre-School Centre packed in her honor.



RINGWOOD EAST BABY HEALTH CENTRE

Use Picture Block THE MAIL. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1960.

LADY BROOKS AT HEATHMONT

THE presence of Lady Brooks at a function in the Ringwood district almost certainly augurs a fine day. The sun has shone for her on every occasion since she first visited the town in 1954.

Wednesday last lived up to tradition and she was welcomed by a clear sky and a soft breeze as she arrived to officially open Heathmont's new Infant Welfare Centre in Viviana Cres. A smart modern building in cream brick, the Centre occupies part of a large area devoted to children. It is flanked by the Kindergarten and a Council playground and is set well back from the road with an off the street parking space for cars. Interior colors are in subdued tonings of pink, green and lilac pink and the airy white terylene curtains add to the general effect of lightness. Chairs are smart in black, white and cinnamon vynex.

After the official opening, Lady Brooks inspected the Centre accompanied by the Mayor, Mayoress, Town Clerk and other distinguished guests. When the remainder

of the guests had toured the building the party adjourned to the Kindergarten Hall for afternoon tea served by members of the Kindergarten committee.

In his speech of welcome to Lady Brooks, the Mayor paid a tribute to the work of the Infant Welfare Committee under the president, Mrs. K. Washusen, as they had provided the furnishings for the Centre. Lady Brooks said that she always experienced a glow of happiness when she was able to open a building such as the Heathmont Centre which she knew would bring experienced help to mothers of young children.

In a short speech Mrs. Washusen thanked the Council and the members of her committee for their co-operation in making the building possible and the opening a success.

GUESTS

Among the official guests at the opening were Mrs. G. Chandler, wife of the Minister of Agriculture, Mrs. W. R. Garrett, wife of Hon. W. R. Garrett, MLC, Mr. J. W. Manson, M.L.A., and Mrs. Manson, Mr. J. Jess, M.H.R., and Mrs. Jess, the Town Clerk, Mr. F. Dwerryhouse and Mrs. Dwerryhouse, Cr. and Mrs. B. Hubbard, Cr. and Mrs. A. Lavis, Cr. P. Vergers, Mrs. D. Baxter, Mrs. L. McLeod, Mrs. M. Deuter, Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. D. Steele, Dr. Elizabeth A. Wilmot, Director of Maternal Infant and Pre-School Welfare, Sister M. Turnley and Sister E. Ahlston. Members of the committee: Mrs. K. Washusen, Pres., Mrs. A. Mulder, sec., Mrs. Crosby, treas., and Mesdames Hawker, V. Spencer, J. Brooks, J. Jones, E. Hall, A. Holmes, R. Leget, R. Hose and J. Vail, Mrs. J. Harper.

Also present were Mrs. M. Whitehouse, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Dearborn, Mr. and Mrs. K. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. K. Hardy, Mesdames R. Neville, N. Howard, S. P. Veal, Masters and Campbell.

During afternoon tea, Lady Brooks cut a christening cake iced in palest green on which sat a tiny baby in a decorative basket. The cake was made and donated to the committee by local pastry-cook, Mr. A. Cairnduff.

FASHIONS

Fashions were summery for the most part and the latest in hat styles were given an airing. They came in all colors with a decided preference for white in various shapes and sizes.

Lady Brooks wore a frothy white beehive confection with a light wool coat in ink blue over a frock patterned in a paler shade. Her shoes matched her coat. The Mayoress, Mrs. R. Horman, wore a high square crowned white hat with a grey suit, while Mrs. Manson highlighted her simply cut black frock with a powder puff hat in a delightful shade of garnet red. Mrs. Jess wore a smudge print in an unusual color combination of deep purple, gold and she added a droop brim hat in mustard yellow. Mrs. Lyle McRae wore a suit in the new small check design of brown and white with a bouffant white hat. Mrs. B. Cohen wore a black coin spot on mustard dress with a black stove-pipe chip straw hat.

8/12/1960

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Mail 3/11/60 also Petrus Block

ANOTHER RINGWOOD HEALTH CENTRE

IN bright sunshine, Members of Parliament and their wives, the Mayor and Mayoress, Cr. and Mrs. R. Horman, councillors and their wives and representatives from the Health Dept. together with members of local organisations attended the official opening on Saturday of the newly completed Infant Welfare Centre at Ringwood East.

The contemporary styled and spacious Centre marks a further step forward in the Council's service to the growing population of babies and young children in the City of Ringwood.

The opening ceremony was performed by Dr. A. Elizabeth Wilmot, M.B., B.S., Director of Maternal Infant and Pre-School Welfare, who congratulated the Council on the beauty of the site and the preservation of the trees which gave the Centre an air of a home rather than of an institution. The building with its background of trees is of cream brick with a low gabled tiled roof and modern window treatment. Muted colors of driftwood, mustard and willow green decorate the main waiting room with soft pastel greens in the foyer and interviewing room.

The furniture is of laminated blonde wood and the attractive curtains made by Mrs. A. Campbell were chosen with special appeal for the young children who will attend the Centre with their mothers.

GUESTS

In extending a welcome to the guests, the Mayor paid a tribute to the work of the Auxiliary. Under the energetic presidency of the Mayoress, the Auxiliary members provided the furnishings for the Centre. Cr. Horman also referred to the sterling work of the Town Clerk and the Surveyor Mr. Steele through to the Curator and his staff who prepared the grounds.

After an inspection of the building by guests and visitors, afternoon tea was served in the Community Hall by members of the Ringwood East C.W.A.

Guests welcomed by the Mayor included Hon. W. R. Garrett, MLC, and Mrs. Garrett, Mr. J. W. Manson, MLA, Mr. J. Jess, MHR, and Mrs. Jess, the Town Clerk and Mrs F Dwerryhouse, Ringwood councillors and their wives, Mr. and Mrs. Des Steele, Dr. Doris Officer, Sister Turnley,

Sister E. Ahlston, Sister Paterson and Auxiliary members Mesdames Ord, Maslen and Campbell.

Other Auxiliary members present were Mesdames A. Mitchell, Green, Thatcher, Lilley, King, Newton, Neville and Maggs.

Flowers were presented to the Mayoress and Dr. Wilmot by small girls in frilly party frocks Susan Neville and Linda Nash.

The sunny day highlighted the new building in its soft background and the pretty hats and summer suits brought on by the warmth added to the attractive scene. The Mayoress wore a frock of French cotton in lipstick pink with a curvette of tiny white flowers. Dr Wilmot was in a linen frock in honey-beige with a green Garbo hat, and Mrs. Garrett in a frock in an abstract floral pattern with an apricot droop brim hat. Mrs. Jess chose a short jacket suit in junior navy topped with a head hugging hat of multi-colored flowers. Mrs. Dwerryhouse was in taupe floral with a small cinnamon hat, Mrs. Hubbard in smoke grey with a soft pink cone-shaped hat.

Mrs. Lavis chose a jacket in donkey brown silk with a beige hat, Mrs. L. McLeod a suit in a blue block print design, Mrs. M. Deuter a suit featuring a sharp blue and smudged pattern with a white hat and Mrs. Steele a dress of large autumn flowers on a white ground with a small white hat. Mrs. Maslen was in a junior navy suit with a square crowned hat of red trimmed with a single white rose, and Mrs. Ord was in a floral beige with a matching hat.

BABY HEALTH CENTRE FOR RINGWOOD EAST

21/7/60.

WORK has commenced on the new Baby Health Centre at Ringwood East. As part of the development of the area between Knaith Rd. and Railway Ave., which at a later date will include a Scout Hall as well as the present Community Hall and Children's Playground, the Baby Health Centre will be a brick veneer structure costing approx. £4000 and is expected to be completed by September.

Of the £4000, one-third has been donated by the Ringwood Council and two-thirds by the State Government; it has been left to the East Ringwood Infant Welfare Auxiliary to furnish the centre.

To this end the East Ringwood Infant Welfare Auxiliary will conduct an appeal to parents and business people in the area.

Target set for the appeal is £500 which amount is hoped to be raised by the time the centre is due to be opened.

Prior to January of last year young mothers had to make the trip to Ringwood to have a regular check-up on their newly born; since January the East Ringwood

community hall has been used as a weighing and inspection centre for infants, and allowing for the many activities for which the hall is used it has provided a good stop-gap.

Sister Turnley who has been in charge of the Centre has divided her time between East Ringwood and Heathmont, but with the number of new enrolments in the fast growing area of Ringwood East it calls for a full time Sister and hall which will be used exclusively for Infant Welfare.

Donations to assist the appeal may be left with the local Chemists, Mr. Ian Russell and Mr. Barry Hall or with Sister Turnley at the Community Hall.

PLAQUE ON RINGWOOD INFANT WELFARE
CENTRE in MILES AVENUE is dated

11.5.1974

In memory of R W. E. HEWITT. who died 30/5/1972.

Infant welfare scholarships

Five nurses have each been awarded \$10,000 scholarships to undertake a two year Post Graduate Degree in App-

lied Science (Community Health Nursing).

Making the announcement the Minister for Community Services, Ms Caroline Hogg, said that the degree would enable the beneficiaries to practice as infant welfare nurses.

Ms Hogg said that the high priority the State Government gave to infant welfare services reflected its commitment to families with young children.

She said that in 1984-85 60,354 live births were notified in Victoria to the infant welfare centres.

"Of these 57,502 or 95 per cent were enrolled at and attended infant welfare centres," said Ms Hogg.

"This indicates a very high degree of acceptance of the service by the community.

"The main aim of infant welfare services is the promotion of family and child

health in its broadest sense.

"This is achieved by monitoring the physical growth and development of the child and by providing guidance and support to parents in their child care responsibilities."

Ms Hogg said that the infant welfare service was one of the state's most valued partnerships with Local Government.

She said that the service was jointly funded by State and Local Governments and managed by local government.

Ms Hogg added that the addition of a further five trained infant welfare sisters would greatly enhance the service.

The five scholarships have been awarded to Jenny Rath of Clifton Hill, Alison Nuske of Kooyong, Veronica Turchett of Lilydale, Joan Coram of Boronia and Louise Dobell of East Melbourne.

MAIL
2/11/79
Clay day

Ringwood I.Y.C. is organising a clay day for next Sunday, near the Ringwood Lake from 9 am.

Tiles designed by children and their parents will be fired and finally laid around the barbecue area at the lake as a reminder of 1979 — The Year of the Child.

The tiles at 20c each are supplied by Geal Bros. of Nunawading. The event will take place in the car park at the rear of the Club Hotel, Mt Dandenong Road, Ringwood, adjoining the lake reserve.

"Post" 7/4/87.

Public Health Department,
295 Queen Street,
MELBOURNE, C.1.

Please render account for Infant Welfare Subsidy to
30/6/1938 on form attached.

A certificate as required by Clause 1. (f) of Conditions
of Subsidy, showing annual rate of salary paid to each nurse and
reliever should be shown on claim form.

Rate of subsidy as from 1/1/38 is £112:10:0 per annum
provided nurse receives salary of £208 per annum, otherwise half
salary of nurse.

Rate prior to 1/1/38 is half salary of nurse with maximum
of £112:10:0 per nurse.

C. H. ROBINSON.
Secretary

1938