

Borough of Ringwood

**RINGWOOD COUNCIL'S
ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE RATEPAYERS**

December 1959



It has been said that the world is divided into 3 classes, those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who do not know what happens!

Local Government is the means whereby things are made to happen and your Council has, over a period of years, endeavoured to keep the people of the Borough of Ringwood informed as to what is happening in the Municipality.

The Council being the elected representatives of the people—to administer the Municipality and to provide amenities and facilities for its residents—must need consider very deeply and wisely the best use to which your money is to be put.

At the commencement of each year the Council must prepare what is called an Estimate—in other words a Budget—as to what money is available and how it is intended it will be spent.

Last year the Council with a sum of £152,100 available, finished the year with a deficit of only £1,080; originally it had estimated to balance the budget so it can be seen that your Council's spending was efficiently administered.

As nothing can be more easily understood than by the presentation of a diagram showing the proportion spent on the various works and services, that shown below will it is believed, explain how your money was spent last year:

PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES	£53,797 — 35.4%	Road and Footpath Construction and Maintenance, Drainage, Channel Cleaning, Street Lighting, Building Inspections, Council Prop., C.R.B. Works and Private Street Construction.
ADMINISTRATION	£30,772 — 20.2%	This includes Administration of Sanitary and Garbage Services, £29,000; Private Street Construction Works, £100,000; and other Loan Works, £40,500; Mayoral Allowance, Audit Fees, Printing and Stationery, Legal, Valuation and Election Expenses
COUNCIL PROPERTIES	£26,640 — 17.5%	Parks and Gardens, Town Hall, Baths, Pound, etc., Land Purchase. Plant Repairs and Replacement, New Buildings Construction.
DEBT SERVICES	£12,354 8.1%	Repayment of Principal and Interest on Loans.
GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	£9,223 6.1%	Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, Staff Superannuation, Library Re-serve.
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE	£6,931 4.6%	Pay Roll Tax, Insurances, Abandoned Charges, etc.
HEALTH	£6,440 4.2%	General Health Conservation, Emergency Home Help, Immunisation and Infant Welfare.
EXPENDITURE FROM RESERVES	£5,943 3.9%	Land Purchases, Plant Replacement, Long Service Leave.

With respect to the present year, that is the period commencing 1st October, 1959, and concluding 30th September, 1960, the Council was faced with the fact that within the limits of finance available—which is the money, that you, the ratepayers, are required to pay—the Council was anxious to proceed with a progressive policy of carrying out essential work which would be of benefit to the Community.

Full information on how your money is to be spent was published in the issues of the Ringwood and Croydon Mail and the Post of 3rd December, 1959, but for the benefit of those persons who did not see the article, mention will be made of the most important points:

Road and Footpath maintenance	£49,000	Interest and Redemption of	
Channel Cleansing	3,900	Loans	£15,000
Drainage	2,500	Infant Welfare Centres	3,000
Street Lighting (inc. provision for 150 new lights throughout Borough)	4,000	Plant and Equipment Ren. Res.	7,763
Parks and Gardens	7,300	Contribution to M.F.B.	5,775
Health Act expenses	3,500	Fire Prevention, Fire Plugs, Hydrants, etc.	1,500
Fees for preparing plans, etc., for construction Private Streets	3,200	Salaries	27,000
		Proclamation — City Celebrations, etc.	2,000

The total expenditure from revenue this year is estimated to be in excess of £205,000, and this is big business. The Council is run on sound business lines and every effort is made to give its shareholders—the ratepayers—good returns, by means of efficient services. This can best be achieved by co-operation between the Council and ratepayers.

PRIVATE STREET CONSTRUCTION

Last year the Council completed the construction and finalised the actual cost of Heathmont Road and the Grant Estate group of streets—comprising of Margaret and Mary Streets, Sherbrooke, Burwood, Bon View, Hillcrest and Heatherbrae Avenues and Grant Crescent—and Barkly Street, and in every case the actual cost was less than the estimated cost. This resulted in a cash refund to those contributors who had paid the estimated cost in full, and in the case of those contributors who had taken advantage of paying their proportion of the cost of the scheme over 10 years by 40 quarterly instalments, their accounts and their quarterly instalments were reduced accordingly.

The Council has embarked on another ambitious programme of constructing Private Streets during this financial year and very early in the new year notices will be served on those owners in the Mirabel Avenue Group (Mirabel Avenue, Velma Grove, Valda Avenue) and it is confidently expected that over £130,000 worth of Private Streets will be in course of construction by the end of 1960.

SEWERAGE

A local sewerage scheme to serve portion of the business area of Ringwood extending along Maroondah Highway from Ringwood Street to Adelaide Street and also serving properties in Civic Place, Melbourne Street and Adelaide Street has now been in operation for some months.

This scheme, which gives full sewerage facilities to properties in the area, is the first step towards the sewerage of the Borough by the M.M.B.W. The Board has informed the Council that the cost of the main sewer and pumping station and of the reticulation of the current developed areas of Ringwood will be approx. £2,250,000 and the service and designs for this work is being pushed ahead as fast as possible. Subject to the availability of sufficient funds, the Board hopes to be in a position to complete the main sewer into Ringwood during 1962/3 and if this proves possible reticulation of a substantial portion of the central area of Ringwood would also commence during 1962. The programme requires an expenditure of £650,000 during the 3 years 1960/1, 1962 and 1963 inclusive.

The Council has been continuously pressing the Board to make available adequate sewerage facilities for residents in Ringwood and it now appears that such facilities are in sight.

PROJECTED WORKS

The following new works are scheduled for construction this year.

Erection of two new full-time Infant Welfare Centres: One in Viviani Crescent, Heathmont, to replace the part time Centre at present operating in the Heathmont Advancement League Hall in Viviani Crescent, and the other in East Ringwood. The present Centre operates in the East Ringwood Community Centre Hall each week.

Further reconstruction of Maroondah Highway from Wantirna Road to Warrandyte Road.

More than 2 miles of concrete footpaths.

Brick football pavilion at East Ringwood Reserve.

Brick football pavilion at Heathmont Reserve.

Two croquet greens and pavilion on Jubilee Park.

With the expiration of the lease on the land in Maroondah Highway occupied by the Cool Stores and owned by the Victorian Railways, the Council is using all its endeavours to ensure that the Railways make provision on this site to enable its patrons to have all-day parking for their cars whilst they journey into the city. At present some hundreds of Railway patrons leave their cars at the various Council car parks all day, thus leaving insufficient space for the residents of the Borough to park whilst they do their shopping.

Negotiations are proceeding for the extension of Civic Place from Adelaide Street to Warrandyte Road.

The Council has made available on Bedford Park two areas of land—one for the erection of a Hall for the 1st Ringwood Boy Scouts and the other for the erection of a Hall for the Ringwood District Girl Guides. In both cases the land has been leased for a period of 30 years to enable these two very great movements to have permanent homes.

Your Council has seen fit to take the necessary action, in accordance with the Local Government Act, to have the status of the Borough raised to that of a City.

In view of the tremendous growth since Ringwood was created a Borough in 1924 with a population of 2,000, 600 dwellings and a rate revenue of £5,000, as compared with the Ringwood of today—population in excess of 22,000 (at cessation of 1939-45

War, population was still less than 5,000), and revenue from all sources of over £205,000 and dwellings numbering 6,400—the Council's action was both wise and timely.

The Municipality has now far outstripped that state of progress usually associated with a Borough, and being the thriving outer metropolitan suburb so eagerly sought after by the home-seeker as a place which is young, progressive and energetic, its reputation as a very desirable and most attractive City will continue to grow. Ringwood has definitely grown up!

As the occasion by which a Municipality is proclaimed a City happens only once in its history your Council has seen fit to appoint a Sub-Committee to decide the appropriate manner in which the proclamation will be fittingly celebrated. It is hoped that the Proclamation will be made by His Excellency the Governor on a Saturday afternoon during March, 1960, and this will be the signal for the commencement of a week of festivities throughout the newly declared City.

RETROSPECT

Let us for a few brief moments look back on last year's happenings—

The Council, mindful of the fact that there is no time like the present to acquire land for use by its citizens and its citizens of the future, for recreation purposes, has taken the opportunity of purchasing the following areas of land whilst land is still available:

21 acres Armstrong Road, Heathmont.

4 acres adjoining Ringwood Park Lake at East Ringwood.

6 acres adjoining Jubilee Park,

and an additional allotment for the purpose of installing playground equipment for children.

Continuing with its policy of installing playground equipment on strategically sited allotments throughout the length and breadth of the Borough, the Council has now equipped a total of 20 playgrounds, which are proving such a boon to children, and equipment is in hand for an additional six playgrounds. The equipment has been purchased by the Council with money raised by the Ringwood Henley Carnival Committee which, as it is known, conducts a carnival at the Ringwood Lake during the A.N.A. weekend. The State Government grants a subsidy to the Council of £2 for every £1 spent.

The Country Roads Board is well on the way towards reconstructing Maroondah Highway into a divided highway with provision for three lanes of traffic in each direction. The Board plans that the Highway will, at this juncture, continue to the clock tower at Warrandyte Road.

Melbourne Street extension from Ringwood Street (now known as Civic Place) has been extended through to Adelaide Street—it will be recalled that formerly a right-of-way extended easterly from Melbourne Street, and negotiations have been proceeding for a further extension to Warrandyte Road, enabling the business area to extend with frontages to Civic Place.

The Ringwood Police and Citizens' Youth Club Rooms, erected on land at Bedford Park made available by the Council, was opened in August last by the Chief Secretary, the Hon. A. G. Rylah. This organisation does a tremendous amount of work for the children in the Borough, and the Council is proud to have such a body of enthusiastic citizens in its midst.

The East Ringwood Reserve was reconstructed at a cost of £3250—and today it is a reserve that many Municipalities would be proud to possess.

Recently the Council further extended parking facilities on the Ringwood Recreation Reserve, at the rear of the Town Hall, by making available an area for parking cars. This area now caters for over 400 cars, and the Council is anxious to assist its residents in making the business area attractive for both the proprietors and its shoppers to shop in comfort.

FIRE HAZARDS

At this time of the year, when everything is tinder dry, ratepayers are invited to use every endeavour to see that land which they own or are responsible for is kept clean and does not constitute a fire hazard. Permits for controlled burning may be obtained at the Town Hall provided that the time of proposed burning is not an "Acute Fire Danger period."

DOG NUISANCE

From time to time your Council has trouble with uncontrolled dogs. Sometimes they follow the kiddies to school and subsequently become a regular nuisance, more particularly to the shopkeepers and of necessity the Dog Inspector has to take action and seize them. As a result owners are inconvenienced and become upset when this happens; ratepayers are therefore invited to assist by instructing their children to see that they are not followed by the household pets when going to school.

Alsatian dogs and greyhounds when not on the premises of the owner shall be muzzled to prevent the dog from causing injury by biting or be under the effectual control of a person by means of a proper leash. It is an offence to permit dogs to roam.

OBITUARY

Two men who served Ringwood with great distinction died during the last year. They were Cr. H. E. Parker and Mr. Alfred Kelly.

Cr. Parker, who was killed in a road accident, served on the Council for almost 20 years, and occupied many important positions, chief amongst them being Mayor four times, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Council representative on the M.M.B.W.

Mr. Kelly held the position of Town Clerk and Treasurer from March, 1951, until his death in February of this year.

Both of these gentlemen saw the Municipality develop from a very small Borough to one of the most desirable outer suburbs of Melbourne and by their devoted and capable service, not sparing themselves, greatly contributed to its progress.

CONCLUSION

The Council desires that public relations between it and the ratepayer be of the highest order, and it seeks your co-operation in all matters pertaining to Local Government.



REMEMBER

The Council is at your service within the limits of its resources.

The various Departments and Officers of the Council are available, and anxious to assist you in your civic and communal problems. Make use of them at the appropriate times. If in doubt on any matter, telephone WU 6616 for friendly service.

YOU can complete the chain of co-operation in many ways—

Continue to beautify your premises.

Keep dogs out of the shopping areas—unless on leash.

Keep your premises clean and tidy.

Destroy rats and vermin.

Prevent trees and hedges from overhanging footpaths.

Display conspicuous house numbers.

Use off street parking areas where possible and comply with all parking notices.

Assist the Council in the prevention of damage by vandals by reporting any case which comes to your notice.

Report any breakdown of Sanitary or Garbage Service, so that the Contractors may be notified immediately.

If you have a Municipal problem regarding which you have been unable to obtain satisfaction through the normal channels, write to the Town Clerk, who will place the matter before the Council.

Make suggestions which you feel are of value, **AND IN ALL WAYS TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF YOUR COMMUNITY.**

YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Mayor: Cr. A. G. LAVIS J.P. (South Ward)

North Ward—

Cr. D. J. Baxter.

Cr. B. J. Hubbard, J.P.

Cr. R. O. Spencer, J.P.

South Ward—

Cr. M. D. Deuter.

Cr. A. G. Lavis, J.P.

Cr. L. H. McLeod.

East Ward—

Cr. J. F. Hodgkins.

Cr. R. C. Horman, J.P.

Cr. Peter Vergers,

Authorised by the Council of Borough of Ringwood.

F. P. DWERRYHOUSE,

Town Clerk and Treasurer.

PRINTED BY
WHITEHORSE PRESS
(W.A. & I.W. Dixon)
Ringwood - Phone **WU7855**