

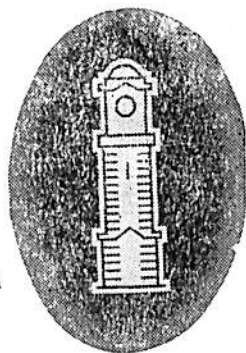
City of Ringwood

Ringwood Council's

Annual Report

to the Ratepayers

December, 1960



CITY OF RINGWOOD

It is the essence of democracy that elected representatives should give a full report to the people who have placed them in office.

In this report to Ringwood ratepayers there is included a summary of how the Council expended its revenue last year, how it is estimated to be spent this year.

The Council cannot spend money extravagantly and leave posterity to pay for it.

The provisions of the Local Government Act lay down a comprehensive set of rules to make sure Municipal Councils are soundly and prudently financed and the ratepayers receive the full benefit from their rates.

The procedure followed by the Council in financing the year's activities is that it shall:

1. Prepare an estimate of all expenditure on works, etc., which it feels capable of carrying into effect during the year and also an estimate of income—not including rates.
2. The difference between the two totals is the amount that must be raised by rates.
3. As this Council bases its rates on the Unimproved Capital Value—that is the value of the site, excluding any improvements — of all rateable property, the Council then “strikes” the rate in the £ to balance the books.

Last year the Council finished the year with a surplus of £7,000, which was brought about by additional revenue being received and expenditure in some cases was less than that which was estimated to spend. The extremely wet winter adversely affected the Council's construction programme.

The net surplus is brought forward as a sum available for Council activities during the current year.

The diagram below illustrates how your money was spent last year.

PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES	£59,314 — 31.8%	Road and Footpath Construction and Maintenance, Drainage, Channel Cleaning, Street Lighting, Building Inspections, Council Prop., C.R.B. Works and Private Street Construction.
ADMINISTRATION	£37,193 — 19.8%	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	£32,331 — 17.3%	Parks and Gardens, Town Hall, Baths, Pound, etc., Land Purchase, Plant Repairs and Replacement, New Buildings Construction.
DEBT SERVICES	£15,903 8.5%	Repayment of Principal and Interest on Loans.
EXPENDITURE FROM RESERVES	£12,224 6.5%	Land Purchases, Plant Replacement, Long Service Leave.
GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	£10,755 5.7%	Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, Staff Superannuation, Library Reserve.
HEALTH	£10,060 5.4%	General Health Conservation, Emergency Home Help, Immunisation and Infant Welfare.
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE	£9,338 5%	Pay Roll Tax, Insurances, Abandoned Charges, etc.

For the current year—1st October, 1960 to 30th September, 1961, the Council "struck" a rate of 9½d. in the £ which is the same rate as was struck last year, and this will give the Council a rate revenue of £149,884 and the total expenditure from the Municipal Fund is estimated to exceed £220,000. The main items of expenditure are:

Road & Footpath Maintenance and Drainage	£32,000	Plant & Equipment Reserve Fund	6,300
Road & Footpath New Works ...	4,800	Purchase of New Plant	6,400
Channel Cleansing	4,300	Loans—Redemption & Interest	18,000
Council's proportion C.R.B. Works, etc.	5,600	Contribution to Metropolitan Fire Brigade	5,775
Street Lighting including provision for 120 new lights throughout the City	5,000	Fire Prevention, Fire Plugs, Hydrants, etc.	1,725
Health Act expenses	3,800	Salaries	34,000
Infant Welfare	3,500	Insurance	3,000
Parks, Gardens & Reserves	10,700	Re-Valuation	2,000

PRIVATE STREET CONSTRUCTION

Last year the Council completed the construction and finalised the actual cost of:

Heywood Street and Group	£12,203	4	8
Patterson Street and Group	33,425	8	5
Churchill Street and Group	26,016	1	9

and in each 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 at the present time under construction the following schemes:

Balfour Avenue and Group. Estimated Cost	£49,150
Mirabel Avenue and Group. Estimated Cost	47,207
Byron Street. Estimated Cost	3,304
Tamar Street and Group. Estimated Cost	17,427
Strathallyn Road and Group. Estimated Cost	11,592
Evelyn Road (from Loughnan Rd. to Felix Crescent)	13,110
Total	£141,790

Notices have been served on the owners of properties in the Highton Street Group (Highton Street, Morinda Street and parts of Railway Avenue and Loma Street), whilst early in the new year notices will be served for the construction of Alvena Crescent and Group (Herman, Stodart and Coleman Streets, Royal Avenue, Alvena Crescent and part Campbell Street). By the end of 1961 it is expected that construction of private streets to the value of £200,000 will be in progress.

SEWERAGE

You will recall in the last report to you, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works informed the Council that subject to the availability of sufficient funds, the Board hoped 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 required an expenditure of £650,000 during the 3 years 1960/1, to 1962/3 inclusive. The Council's representative on the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works—Cr. R. O. Spencer—has made enquiries from the Board as to the progress of the work and he has been told

"The sewerage system for Ringwood will gravitate to a pumping station near the corner of Canterbury Road and Heatherdale Road. The initial stage of the Ringwood scheme provides for construction of Outfall Sewer, Rising Main, Pumping Station, Main Sewer Section 1 to Mullum Creek; Heatherdale Rd. Branch Section 1; Ringwood South Branch Section 1.

"Estimated population served by initial stage — 10,000 persons.

"The second stage of the scheme will provide for extension of the Ringwood Main and Ringwood South Main and construction of the branch sewer serving densely populated areas.

"Development of the scheme will depend on the amount of finance available from year to year, having regard to the requirements of other municipalities."

Maps of the areas affected by the proposed works may be inspected at the Town Hall.

In the "Age" of the 13th December, 1960, was an item of news which is of great interest to residents of this Municipality. It stated—"Tender for Big Sewer."

The Metropolitan Board is expected today to approve a £376,470 tender for construction of a main sewer to serve Ringwood, Heatherdale, Vermont and part of Nunawading.

The 6,600 ft. long sewer will be built through the ridge separating Gardiner's Creek and Dandenong Creek, near Canterbury Road, Mitcham.

IT WILL BE FIVE FEET HIGH AND MORE THAN THREE FEET WIDE.

The tender which will be recommended to the Board today has been submitted by Prentice Bros. & Minson Pty. Ltd.

PROJECTED WORKS

The following are some of the new works scheduled for this year.

Apart from construction of Private Streets it is expected to carry out:—

Construction of Concrete footpaths of more than 14,000 feet in various parts of the City.

Construction of 19,000 lineal feet of concrete kerb and channel.

Re-construction of two new playing ovals — one at the H. E. Parker Reserve situate Armstrong Road and the No. 2 Oval at Ringwood East Reserve.

Completion of the channelisation of the Canterbury, Wantirna Rds. intersection, estimated at £5,000.

Completion of channelisation of the Canterbury/Bedford Roads intersection estimated at £10,000.

Reconstruction of portion of Bedford Road costing £6,000.

The Council's contribution to the cost of reconstructing Maroondah Highway is £14,000.

In connection with the Council's policy regarding construction of streets and allied drainage in private subdivisions, before any plan of subdivision is sealed the subdivider must construct all new streets in the subdivision ex footpaths, to the satisfaction of the Council in accordance with plans and specifications approved. When construction is proceeding the Council supervises the whole of the work to ensure the specifications are being adhered to, because after the period of 6 months' maintenance has expired, the streets then become the responsibility of the Council.

Last year the total cost of construction in these subdivisions amounted to approximately £100,000.

An area of land abutting the Ringwood East Reserve has been made available to the 4th Ringwood (East) Group Boy Scouts for the erection of a Hall for the Group.

Lastly but by no means least there is the City of Ringwood Planning Scheme which is a proposal by the Council to re-develop the area of land bounded by portions of Maroondah Highway, Warrandyte Road, Adelaide Street, Ringwood Street, and Civic Place, approximately 20 acres. Portion of this area is in private ownership whilst the greater portion, namely, the old Ringwood Reserve and several other properties, is owned by the Council. Briefly the proposal is to purchase and remove the buildings in this area and re-develop to provide a commercial area of approximately 3 acres together with provision for parking of up to 1,500 cars. The commercial area when established will have the necessary major stores including a good departmental store. The reason for the scheme is to ensure that Ringwood will continue as a major business centre.

The proposed scheme will be on exhibition early in 1961 and all persons interested are invited to inspect the scheme at the Town Hall.

RETROSPECT

On the 19th March last in glorious autumn weather, Ringwood was proclaimed a City by Victoria's popular Governor—His Excellency, General Sir Dallas Brooks. This day was the culmination of planning by the Council and the many organisations within the Municipality which spontaneously offered the services of members of the organisations to make not only the day, but the following week a successful occasion which befits a Municipality achieving the highest status it can achieve—that of a City.

From the moment of arrival of His Excellency with his charming wife, to the reception of elderly citizens and down through the various functions arranged by the Council and organisations; the spectacular children's display on Jubilee Park which was organised so perfectly by representatives of all schools within the City, to the last event conducted by the Ringwood Horticultural and Agricultural Society—the Autumn Show—the Citizens of the new City responded magnificently.

The day on which His Excellency made the Proclamation it was estimated there were over 35,000 people present—which is conclusive evidence that not only were Ringwood's 22,000 Citizens interested, but many more from other suburbs, were likewise interested in the progress made by this Municipality.

Two Infant Welfare Centres were opened this year, one at Heathmont by Lady Brooks, and one at Ringwood East by Dr. A. Elizabeth Wilmot, Director of Maternal, Infant and Pre-School Welfare. Each centre cost in the vicinity of £5,000.

In addition two brick pavilions have been completed and are now in use—one on Heathmont Park and the other on Ringwood East Reserve.

Maroondah Highway has been completed as far as Warrandyte Road and at the present time the State Electricity Commission of Victoria on behalf of the Council is installing centrally mounted overhead lighting between Warrandyte Road and Hillcrest Avenue. This section of the median is to be installed with a water sprinkler system and sown with grass.

RE-VALUATION

The Local Government Act gives the Council the power to make a valuation from time to time but at least once in every six (6) years, and the last valuation of the Municipality took place in 1955/6 for the period commencing 1st October, 1956. Since that time a general appreciable change has taken place in the values of property in the Municipality and as a result the Council decided to have the City re-valued.

The Council has engaged the services of Mr. E. T. Miles, a Sworn Valuator and an Associate of the Commonwealth Institute of Valuers, to make a complete revaluation of all properties within the City. He has undertaken to have the revaluation completed by 31st August, 1961, and the valuations as determined by him shall be effective as from the 1st October, 1961.

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

Due to continued trouble which the Citizens of Ringwood are experiencing with wandering and uncontrolled dogs, the Council is preparing Regulations specifying shopping areas within the Municipality, whereby the owner of any dog which is not under the effective control of some person by means of a chain, cord or leash, shall be liable to prosecution for permitting such dog to be found in any such shopping area.

The Council's Dog Registration Officer makes periodic drives and collects stray and wandering dogs which are impounded. 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 effective control of a person by means of a proper leash. The owner of such dog shall be liable to a penalty of up to twenty pounds (£20) for failure to observe this provision of the Dog Act.

CONCLUSION

Did you know—

That the Council pays for all street lighting in the Municipality?

There are over 700 lights in the City, each of which cost £5/8/- per year to operate and maintain?

Owners or occupiers of houses or buildings are required by law to affix the street number in a conspicuous place on either the front gate or fence post, or letter box on the front building line of the property, such numbers to be a minimum of 2" in height? There is a penalty of up to £2 for failure to do so? Why not assist the tradespeople and your friends to find your home easily?

The Council gives assistance in the home in case of emergency or sickness by making available skilled women? Enquiries can be made by contacting the Supervisor, Emergency Home Help Service.

Scholarships of £25 are made available to each of these schools to assist students who would otherwise be unable to proceed to higher education.

Ringwood High School;
Ringwood Technical School;
Norwood High School.

Rubbish dumpers are severely dealt with? Council has prosecuted a number of offenders who have dumped rubbish on vacant land and private streets to the disgust and annoyance of people resident in the streets? Help us to help you by notifying details regarding dumpers.

Vandalism to trees, buildings on reserves and equipment costs YOU — the ratepayers — money each year? This money could be better spent on productive works — not replacement and repairs.

Your co-operation in all matters pertaining to Local Government is sought by the Council. Help the Council to make Ringwood a better place for its Citizens to live in.

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. R. C. HORMAN, J.P. (East Ward)

North Ward—

Cr. D. J. Baxter

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

Cr. R. O. Spencer.

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, J.P.

Authorised by the Council of the City of Ringwood.

F. P. DWERRYHOUSE,

Town Clerk and Treasurer.

