

# CITY OF RINGWOOD



## *Ringwood Council's* *Annual Report* *to the Ratepayers* December, 1962

### CITY OF RINGWOOD

A wise system of local government makes sure that its position is fully understood, not only by the State but by the people it represents.

The practice of this Council has been to inform the public in the aim and ideals of government, and to explain the problems of government which, in a Municipality such as Ringwood, are many and varied.

The aim of the Council of the City of Ringwood is to provide, with the minimum of delay and at a cost which is within the ability of its ratepayers to pay, amenities and services they are entitled to and expect.

These amenities and services are not obtained easily, and whilst the revenue of the Municipality is not large—because of the fact that a considerable area of the Municipality is unsubdivided, and the amounts derived from such areas by way of rates are not large compared with those on which development has taken place—the Council must plan to do those works which it can afford with the money at its disposal and which will give the greatest benefit to its citizens.

Only by sound administration can the Council achieve its aim.

Ringwood has grown in prestige over the years, and its Councillors are proud of the support they have received from the Citizens who have recognised the value of what has been done, and have again shown their confidence by giving the Council a mandate to continue the work of progress.

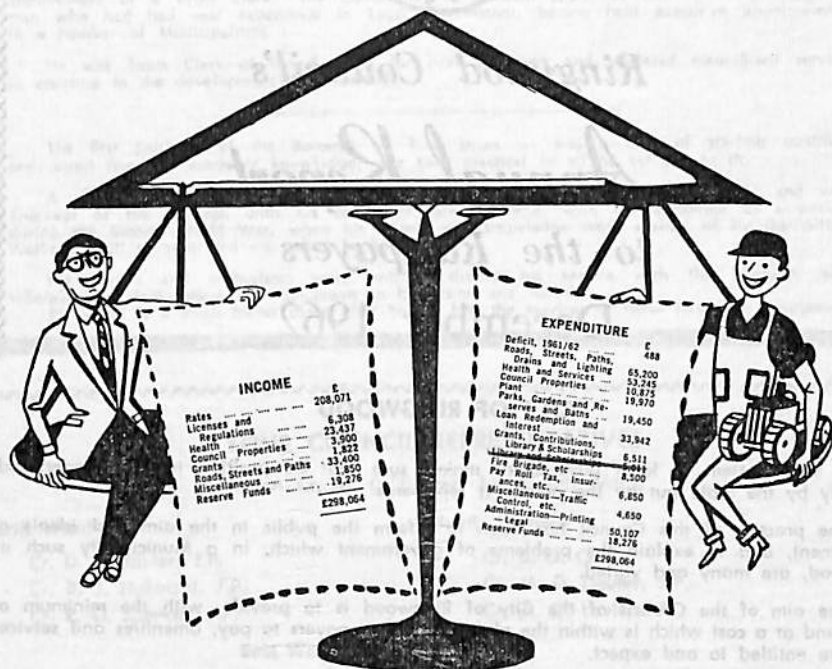
Such progress can only continue within the limits of the finance available, and it is you—the ratepayer—who supplies the finance.

It is one of the Council's problems to keep a reasonable balance between the rates and the City's growing requirements, and at the same time to keep costs hard down so that whatever is spent is spent wisely.

Many hours of study and debate are devoted to the Council's budget, both at the commencement of the year and during the year when rates and revenue from other sources is being received and expenditure is mounting. The object is to keep the rate as low as possible, and at the same time, to have sufficient revenue to develop and improve the City that means so much to us.

That is why accurate budgeting is essential to balance accounts for an enterprise, which last year spent £258,745 from its general account, resulting in a Net Deficit of less than £500, and concluding a year of intense activity.

The diagram illustrates the anticipated income for the present year and how the Council intends such income will be spent.



In addition to the above, the Council anticipates it will spend between £250,000 and £300,000 on construction of private streets, approximately £50,000 on Country Roads Board roads, and loan money of £65,000 for purchase of land for future reserves, drainage, construction of government roads, footpaths, buildings, etc.

This, as may be seen, will be an expenditure of well over half a million pounds.

In considering the Estimates for the current year, the Council had to take into account advice received that in future it would be required to discontinue its previous practice of making a separate charge for garbage disposal and incorporate that charge in the General Rate. This factor, in conjunction with the increased demands and costs of a rapidly expanding community, caused the Council, in November, to unanimously fix the General Rate at 6d. in the £ on the Unimproved Capital Value compared with a rate of 4½d. in 1961-62.

Current rate notices, therefore, do not include a separate charge for garbage collection and disposal as in previous years.

## VALUATIONS

The Valuation of Land Act has now been proclaimed which has the effect—among other things—of bringing the making of valuations by and for all rating authorities in Victoria under the control of the Valuer-General's office.

The purpose is to obtain uniformity of valuations between municipalities, and to ensure all ratepayers bear an equitable portion of water rates, based on the valuation of each property. It is understood the ultimate aim is to have one level of valuation for all rating and taxing purposes. Valuations will continue to be made by Valuers appointed by the Council and approved by the Valuer-General, and such valuations shall be made in accordance with the Valuation of Land Act and supervised by the Valuer-General.

The Act provides that a general valuation of all rateable property shall be made not later than 30th September, 1964. The Minister of Local Government, on the advice of the Valuer General, can grant an exemption, and in such case the existing valuations could remain in force until 30th September, 1968.

The Council applied for an exemption in view of it having had a general valuation made and returned by the 30th September, 1961, but advice has been received that an exemption would not be granted.

## PRIVATE STREET CONSTRUCTION

Chief among the amenities which the Council continues to press with all means at its disposal is the construction of unmade streets, whether they be private streets, i.e., streets set out on plans of subdivision of freehold property, or Government roads which are roads laid out many years ago on original Crown Survey as shown on the Parish Plan.

The Council has not relaxed in its efforts to continue to obtain finance to remove "heartache streets" from the Municipality.

Contract payments last year for the construction of private streets amounted to £133,703, whilst contracts for further construction of private streets totalled over £70,000. Construction work has either been completed or is in progress on:—

Alvena Crescent Group,  
Reilly Street,  
Maidstone Street,  
Notlen Street,  
Shasta Avenue Group,

Junction Street,  
George Street,  
Hobart Street,  
Paxton Street,  
Wildwood Grove,

and plans submitted by the City Engineer for the construction of—

Marwarra Street Group,  
Unsworth Road Group,

Gt. Ryrie Street Group,

have been approved by the Council and notices served on owners of properties in some of the schemes and it is anticipated the owners of properties in the remaining schemes will receive their notices early in 1963.

Tenders will be invited for the construction of the streets in the various schemes when the requirements of the Local Government Act have been complied with.

Finance is once again the key to the continuity of this work and the Council is pleased to report having successfully raised the amount it was authorised to borrow for private street construction, namely £80,000, and because of the Council's progressiveness and the stability of its administration was granted permission to borrow an additional £20,000 for this work. Negotiations have now been successfully concluded with a lending authority to make this sum available to the Council.

In addition to the above the Council's Bankers—E.S. & A. Bank Ltd., Ringwood West End Branch—recently made available £100,000 by way of overdraft to further the construction of private streets.

Subject to availability of further finance and to ensure continuity of construction, the Council has directed the City Engineer to prepare plans for the construction of:—

Kennedy Street,  
Louis Street,  
New Street,

Allens Road,  
Rupert Street,  
Herbert Street,

Leonard Street,  
Oliver Street,  
Woodside Avenue,

Priority for construction of these streets has, however, not been decided.

The Council has constructed, to date, approximately 50½ miles of streets, leaving approximately 51½ miles to be constructed.

## OTHER NEW WORKS

The Council has been permitted to borrow £65,000 additionally to that for private street construction. This will be used to construct government roads—Oban Road from Maroonadah Highway to Warrandyte Road, £10,400; Bedford and Wantirna Roads, £17,500; Drainage Works, £20,000; footpaths, £2,200 (plus £6,000 from general revenue) as well as improvements to reserves, purchase of road making plant, etc., and building construction amounting to £14,900. All of these items total £65,000 for which the Council has, once again, obtained the money or is completing the requirements necessary to obtain the money which has been guaranteed by lending authorities.

## SEWERAGE

Further information has been received from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works from time to time through the Council's representative on the Board—Cr. R. O. Spencer—in respect to the progress of sewerage works for Ringwood.

Recently he submitted plans—which were available for inspection by the public at the Town Hall—indicating the extent of the area to be sewered. Initially the sewerage reticulation will serve the central portion of Ringwood and contracts have been accepted for the construction of such mains and also for the construction of the pumping station in Canterbury Road east of Heatherdale Road and the rising main.

If, as anticipated, the contracts for these works are completed by the end of March, 1963, connection of properties served by the sewers could be commenced shortly afterwards. Many factors could, however, delay the completion of these works, but the undertakings given by the Board over a period of three-four years, in respect to the scheme have been adhered to despite the many and varied difficulties encountered, and it is hoped that with the goal in sight nothing will prevent the completion of the works as scheduled, culminating in sewerage facilities being available at this stage for approximately 1,000 homes.

The construction of additional works to those outlined above is subject to further approvals by the Sewerage Committee of the Board and would be dependent on funds available to the Board.

No doubt many owners of properties are desirous of ascertaining what is the procedure to connect their properties to the Board's sewers and this procedure is, briefly, as follows:

Application is made to the Board for a plan of the sanitary drainage and plumbing to be carried out at the premises. The fee for the plan is £1 for each closet pan, i.e., if an external and internal closet is proposed the fee is £2. Application for a plan is made on the Form "M" which is available from the Board of Works.

The design of the house connection drains is discussed with the owner at the site and his wishes are met in so far as they do not conflict with the requirements of the sewer as designed, and of the Sewerage By-Laws.

The Board, at its cost, provides a branch for the connection of each rateable property. This is put in when the Board's sewers are laid in the sewerage easement of the property.

The owner at his cost must engage a licensed plumber to construct the drains and install plumbing within the property in accordance with the plan and consent issued by the Board. The licensed plumber is required to give notice to the Board of his intention to commence the work. Costs for such work vary widely according to extent of the work, depth and length of drain and the nature of the ground. The average cost per house exclusive of plumbing would be approximately £200 but this could vary by £100 plus or minus in exceptional circumstances. Additional cost could be incurred for refixing plumbing fixtures such as baths, basins, etc., and connecting them to the drainage system in accordance with the Board's requirements.

On completion of drainage and plumbing works the licensed plumber must arrange for inspection and test by the Board's Inspecting Officer. Such inspection and test are given without charge and certificates of satisfactory completion are issued upon request by licensed plumbers to enable them to finalize their accounts with owners.

## **PLANNING SCHEME**

Following on the Council's previous report to you in respect of the proposed Drive-in Regional Shopping Centre at the rear of the Town Hall, and abutting on to Maroondah Highway, Ringwood Street and Warrandyte Road to consolidate Ringwood as the major regional shopping centre in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, and which will be—it is believed—of great benefit to the citizens of Ringwood and adjacent districts, the Council after hearing and considering a number of objections to the Scheme formally adopted the Scheme and submitted it to the Minister of Local Government for approval. Whilst the plan was on exhibition the public reaction to the proposal was most favourable and considerable interest was evinced in the scheme which was enthusiastically received.

Subsequent to the Scheme being submitted to the Minister, 13 objectors issued a Supreme Court Writ against the Council and an order was made restraining the Council from proceeding with the Scheme until a Supreme Court decision had been made, in respect of the action brought about by the objectors challenging the validity of the Scheme.

The action was intended to be heard in October last, but as the Plaintiffs' case was not ready and although the Council's case was prepared, the hearing was not held. It is understood the action will be heard when the Court resumes early in 1963.

## **GENERAL**

Reconstruction of Maroondah Highway from Warrandyte Road to Mt. Dandenong Road will commence during 1963. On completion it will be similar to the Highway which terminates at the clock tower, by having medians dividing traffic travelling to and from Melbourne, turning lanes, improved lighting which will be an extension of that already erected from almost the western boundary of the Municipality to Warrandyte Road.

Plans have been received from the Country Roads Board for the Council to express its view for re-construction of the Highway from Mt. Dandenong Road to the eastern boundary of the Municipality.

The preliminary plans provide a dual carriageway between Warrandyte Road and Oliver Street, a dual carriageway with service road on the north side from Oliver Street to Leonard Street, a dual carriageway from Leonard Street to Oban Road and a dual carriageway with service roads north and south of the main carriageway to the eastern boundary of the City.

Generally the main carriageways will be a minimum of 33 ft. between kerbs, the central median width varying from 18 ft. to 39 ft. Where service roads are provided the outer separator median will vary in width from 13 ft. to 18 ft. The service roads are planned as being 24 ft. between kerbs.

The Council has made a number of suggestions to the Board in connection with the construction but before finally approving the plans it has asked the Board a number of questions concerning the Council's proportion of the cost, lighting, removal of native trees—which will be inevitable, etc.

## **ANNUAL SPECIAL CLEARANCE OF REFUSE**

An added service which will be given annually will be that of removing all refuse from every household within the Municipality. Refuse is material being inorganic and non-combustible—which is not removed by the contractor responsible for the weekly removal of household garbage. The special clearance is proposed to take place during March and April of 1963, but you will be advised of details in connection with this service at a later date.

## **GARBAGE REMOVAL**

The weekly clearance of household garbage is carried out by the Council's contractor.

The maximum quantity of refuse to be collected from each premises is three (3) cubic feet per week. This refuse is to be placed in a receptacle with a capacity of not more than three (3) cubic feet, which is to be constructed of galvanised iron of not more than 24 gauge—or other material approved by the Council—and to have a close fitting lid with a flange overlapping the top of the receptacle and be so constructed as to be easily carried by one man by two side handles. It is essential to the health of the community that the garbage container be of sound construction and comply with the above requirements.

## **ELDERLY CITIZENS' VILLAGE**

A contract has been entered into and work is proceeding on the erection of 22 self-contained units—6 double and 16 single—on land donated by the Council and situate Kirk Street. The total cost will amount to approximately £47,000 and of this sum £31,100 will be received by way of Government subsidy and the balance contributed by the Lions Club of Richmond and the Ringwood Elderly Citizens' Village Appeal Committee. It is anticipated that the flats will be completed by the 31st March, 1963.

## **ELDERLY CITIZENS' CLUBROOMS**

A Sub-committee has been appointed by the Council to go into matters of details in connection with the erection of clubrooms for the elderly citizens of the Municipality. A site approved by the Department of Health has been selected on Greenwood Park, adjacent to the Oval, and the Minister of Health has approved a capital grant of £4000 to assist in erecting the clubrooms.

The architects appointed to prepare the necessary plans have submitted designs to the Council and it is anticipated the plans will be approved by the Council in the near future, and tenders will be called for the erection of the clubrooms early in 1963.

## **FIRE HAZARDS**

At this time of the year, when everything is tinder dry, ratepayers are urged to use every means at their disposal to ensure that land which they own, or are responsible for, is kept clean and does not constitute "a fire hazard" or is likely to become so.

Co-operate with your neighbours in forming groups to burn off grass, etc., surrounding your property before "Acute Fire Danger Period" begins. Remember January, 1962, and how close Ringwood came to being in the thick of the bushfires?

Burn off before you are burnt out!

Before burning off, advise the local Fire Brigade and the Town Clerk of your intention to do so. Rubbish is not to be burnt off on Sundays or Mondays.

## **FLY CONTROL**

Flies breed in filth and decaying matter. Ratepayers can prevent flies breeding by following this "drill":—

Always wrap garbage in newspaper before placing in garbage can.

Be sure your garbage can is in sound condition and has a tight-fitting lid.

Always wash your garbage can thoroughly each time it is emptied.

Don't let your incinerator become an open garbage can. Always burn each charge of waste material completely.

Store manure in a covered container. Do not pile it in heaps.

Sprinkle manure lightly on your garden so it will dry out quickly.

Compost heaps should be constructed so as to promote rapid decomposition.

Remove manure from stables and battery poultry laying cages daily.

Keep poultry pens clean and allow fowls to run in an enclosed yard.

Keep grease traps clean.

Protect lavatory pans from flies.

FINALLY, have all doors, windows and chimneys in your home screened with fly wire and when necessary use a recognised domestic fly spray.

## **DOG NUISANCE**

The Council's Dog Registration Officer and The Lost Dogs' Home make periodic drives and collect 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 or fitted with a choker chain to prevent the dog from causing injury by biting, and shall 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 up to twenty pounds (£20) for failure to observe this provision of the Dog Act.

It is an offence for a dog to be on school premises or in or about any railway station. The owner of any dog which is found between sunset and sunrise wandering is liable to a penalty of up to £20.

If you think anything of your dog, keep it safe on your premises, and when taking it for a walk have it under your control by means of a proper leash.

Protect yourself from possibility of damages and legal costs, other people's safety and your dog, by remembering the above.

## CONCLUSION

Did you know —

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

There are over 900 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 inches 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, Home Help Service.

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

Aquinas College,  
Norwood High School,  
Ringwood High School,  
Ringwood Technical 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.

## REMEMBER

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

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 870-0311 for friendly service.

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

Continue to beautify your premises.

Keep dogs out of 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 assist you as far as possible or 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.

**VALE — ex-Cr. A. T. Miles  
Mr. A. F. B. Long  
Mr. F. R. Lucas**

The year 1962 was, among other things, a sad year for Ringwood Council in that three of the City's greatest citizens passed away.

The late Mr. Miles was the first Mayor of the Municipality when it was created a Borough in 1924. He served a total of 21 years on the Council and was Mayor on six occasions.

His wealth of knowledge and invaluable experience did much in the formative years of the Borough to ensure it progressed along sound lines.

One of the first acts of the newly constituted Ringwood Borough Council in 1924 was the appointment of a Town Clerk. The Council in its wisdom appointed Mr. A. F. B. Long, a man who had had vast experience in Local Government, having held executive appointments in a number of Municipalities.

He was Town Clerk of the Borough for over 25 years and rendered magnificent service in assisting in the development of Ringwood.

The first Engineer of the Borough — Russ Lucas — was a man of sterling qualities and, apart from his academic knowledge, was very practical in all he set out to do.

A returned soldier from the First World War, he came to Ringwood in 1925 and was Engineer of the Borough until his retirement late in 1958, with the exception of a period during the Second World War, when his talents and knowledge were availed of by the Allied Works Council to assist the war effort in Australia.

His energy and enthusiasm were untiring during his service with the Borough, and wherever one looks there are monuments to his vision and industry.

Ringwood is a much better place after having had the services of these three fine gentlemen.

**YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Mayor: Cr. M. D. Deuter, J.P. (South Ward)

**North Ward—**

Cr. D. J. Baxter, J.P.  
Cr. B. J. Hubbard, J.P.  
Cr. R. O. Spencer, J.P.

**South Ward—**

Cr. B. G. Clarke  
Cr. M. D. Deuter, J.P.  
Cr. A. G. Lavis, J.P.

**East Ward—**

Cr. R. C. Horman, J.P.  
Cr. E. J. Penny  
Cr. Peter Vergers, J.P.

Authorised by the Council of the City of Ringwood.

F. P. DWERRYHOUSE, Town Clerk and Treasurer.

