

# City of Ringwood



*Annual Report*  
*to*  
*Ratepayers*

**- 1964 -**



Your Council continuing the practice of keeping its ratepayers informed of the activities and progress of the Municipality, reports that the past year was once again a year of much activity and expansion along planned stable lines.

The present year is one which has begun with high hopes that the development and expansion of the past will continue, and there is every reason to confidently believe that the year will be as successful as the years past, although no doubt the year will not be without its difficulties and problems.

#### VALUATIONS - RATES

Following a general re-valuation of the Municipality by a local qualified valuer - Mr.E.T.Miles - resulting in an overall increase in the Unimproved Capital Value by 50%, the Council was able to reduce the rate in the £ from 6½d. to 4½d.

The new rate will result in rate revenue of £240,647 being available to the Council, representing an increase of £18,563 over last year. It was inevitable that because of heavy increases in the cost of labour, materials, services and other commitments in the year concluded, additional revenue is required to maintain the City.

The overall increase of just over 8% in the rate revenue - which compares more than favourably with other Municipalities - will affect property owners according to their new valuations.

In some cases, there will be rises, in many instances the rise will be comparatively small, whilst in others, ratepayers will pay about the same or even less than last year.

The purpose of the general re-valuation - which was applicable to all metropolitan and country municipalities where not exempted by the Minister of Local Government - was to obtain uniformity of valuations between Municipalities. The valuations placed on each property are based on the market value of such property as at 31st December, 1961.

The report of the valuation as returned to the Council by the Valuer has been lodged with the Valuer General's Office and pending its examination the Council may proceed to use the valuation.

#### SANITARY SERVICE - SEWERAGE

The sanitary service charge for properties which are unsewered or do not possess a septic tank, has been increased from £5.9.0. to £7.3.0. This was due, in the main, again to increased costs of labour and materials, as the contractors when tendering for this service had to take into account the steady spiralling costs. The successful tenderer was the A.E.Kinman Hygiene Contracting Co.Pty.Ltd. of Ringwood, whose tender was the lowest and was accepted by the Council for a period of three years. This Company has been responsible for the efficient handling of the sanitary and garbage contracts for your Council for a number of years, and the people of Ringwood are fortunate that such a firm exists to take care of these unpleasant, onerous but most essential services.

With the advent of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works' sewerage facilities and the rapid extension of the mains into new areas, this amenity is now available to an ever increasing number of Ringwood's residents, and it is strongly recommended - apart from the health angle - that ratepayers avail themselves of this service. By so doing they will save at least the amount of the sanitary service charge. Even though ratepayers do not use the sewer, once the mains are installed, the Board commences to charge for this facility.

No extra or separate charge is made for removal of garbage as this service is included in the general rates.

#### PRIVATE STREET CONSTRUCTION

This important function of the Council is continuing with all means at its disposal to ensure the elimination of the so-called "heartache" streets as quickly as possible.

Street construction schemes totalling £180,000 are in progress at the present time, and although there have been some difficulties in completing some of the schemes, due to the vagaries of the weather and waywardness of some contractors, it can be said all such schemes are satisfactorily nearing completion.

Tenders will shortly be invited, and in some cases, have been accepted for the following schemes:-

Berea Avenue,  
Collett Avenue,  
Pyfe Avenue,  
Grey Street,  
Dunn Street,  
Bedford Court

of which the total estimated cost is £50,000.

Notices are in course of being served on the owners of property in the following streets, and it is anticipated work will commence on these streets in 1965, in addition to the above:-

Muir Court,  
Milton Street,  
Heath Street,  
Mont Street,  
Vine Street,  
Surrey Street,  
Fremont Road,  
Tudor Court,

Tagell Road,  
Kemp Street,  
Charles Street,  
King Street,  
Lena Grove,  
Bardia Street,  
Suda Avenue,  
Khassa Parade,

Subject to the availability of further finance and to ensure continuity of construction, the Council has authorised the preparation of plans for the construction of:-

Melbourne Street North,  
Thanet Street,  
Albert Street,  
Armstrong Road (north of railway)  
Harriet Street,  
Pump Street,  
Aumann Street,  
The Boulevard,  
Wendy Court,  
Yallamba Place,  
Anne Court,  
Beverly Court,  
Lorienne Street,  
Philip Street,  
Norfolk Avenue,  
Sussex Street,  
The Centreway.  
Major Street,  
Reserve Road,  
Wattle Street,  
Robinson Street,  
Hunter Street,  
Maggs Street,  
Pineswood Avenue,  
Fernwood Avenue,  
Heathwood Street,  
Isabel Avenue,  
Rotherwood Street,

Keith Grove,  
Yarmouth Street,  
Maurice Avenue,  
Inez Avenue,  
Catherine Street,  
Neville Street,  
Heather Grove,  
Madden Street,  
Molan Street,  
Yallourn Parade,  
Crosswell Street,  
Newman Street,  
Barnic Road,  
Muller Street,  
Possum Lane,  
Part of Kenbry Street,  
Braeswood Avenue,  
Lynwood Avenue,  
Maple Court,  
Alexandra Road extension,  
Merry Street,  
Nicholson Street,  
Part Horoon Street,  
Illoura Avenue Extension,  
Dynes Road,  
Wyrunga Street,  
Joseph Street,  
Sunbeam Avenue north,  
Sunbeam Avenue south.

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

The Council has been authorised to borrow £139,800 by way of mortgage loans for construction of private streets, and the Council's Bankers - the English, Scottish and Australian Bank Ltd - have advised they will grant overdraft accommodation of £100,000 to assist the financing of construction of further private streets.

### LOUGHMAN HILL ROAD SCHEME

Recently the Council circularised the owners - resident and absentee - of all properties in the Loughman Hill area inviting them to attend a meeting at the Town Hall when matters pertaining to construction of all the streets in the area would be outlined. As considerable development has taken place over the whole area in recent years, and in the opinion of the Council the construction of the streets was necessary and desirable, the City Engineer was authorised to prepare a scheme for the construction of the streets.

There are over 500 single allotments in this area, and all owners of these allotments were notified of the meeting.

It was indeed pleasing to see such a large crowd - between 350 and 400 - present, anxious to learn of what was in store for them in the way of roads.

The problems outlined by the City Engineer on behalf of the Council, were many and varied. Reference was made to drainage, two level roads, retaining walls, grades, access to properties on the high and low sides, trees and other matters associated with construction of streets in an area where the terrain is far from uniform.

The Engineer's explanations, amply illustrated by slides on the screen, as well as by plans, brought to the people a clear picture of what, in the Council's opinion, is the most suitable type of scheme to be adopted if the owners desire street construction.

It was made quite plain to those present that if they did not desire street construction, the proposal would of necessity have to be shelved for at least five years because staff could not continue to be engaged on design work, if construction was not to proceed. Already nine months' work had gone into preliminary planning to bring the scheme to the stage where it could be presented for discussion.

No doubt was left in the minds of those present that if the scheme was shelved, and with constantly rising costs being maintained over the next five years, the cost, when ultimately the scheme was carried out, could be much in advance of present day costs.

A considerable number of questions was asked by those in favour of street construction and by those not so favourable, and were answered by the City Engineer.

A large majority of those present at the meeting indicated that they were in agreement that they wanted the streets to be constructed and at a Council meeting subsequently held, it was resolved to proceed with the preparation of plans necessary for the construction of the streets in the area and the requirements of the Local Government Act be complied with in respect to such construction.

The Council's Bankers have been requested to make available overdraft accommodation to enable construction of the streets to be financed. The amount of finance required could be in the vicinity of between £400,000 and £500,000.

Subject to the availability of finance, completion of design plans etc. notices as required under the Local Government Act relating to construction of these private streets would probably be served on all owners during the latter part of 1965.

### OTHER NEW WORKS

The Council has been permitted to borrow £85,200 - in addition to that required for private street construction - which will be used for the following purposes:-

Footpath construction.

Duplication of railway bridge - Wantirna Road,

Reconstruction portion of Wantirna Road,

Reconstruction portion of Maroondah Highway - easterly from the

Mt.Dandenong Road turnoff.

Reconstruction intersection Bedford Road/Greenwood Avenue/Station & Pitt Sts.

Erection of buildings,

Purchase of land for Reserves etc.

Satisfactory arrangements have been finalised to obtain the whole of this Loan money.

### PLANNING SCHEME

Since the last report to the ratepayers in December 1963 in respect of the proposed Drive-In Regional Shopping Centre at the rear of the Town Hall and abutting Marcondah Highway, Ringwood Street, and Warrandyte Road, the Appeal to the Full Court of the High Court of Australia that the Judgment and Order of His Honor Mr. Justice Gillard in the Supreme Court be set aside, was dismissed in May last.

Previously, the High Court had made an Order - by consent - that the appellant comply with certain rules of the Court within times as prescribed and in default with any of such times the Appeal shall stand dismissed.

As the Order was not complied with the High Court dismissed the Appeal.

Following upon the decision of the Court the Scheme was able to proceed and the Minister of Local Government, after considering the report of the Town and Country Planning Board, submitted the Scheme to the Governor-in-Council who approved it on the 18th August last.

The Council has acquired all the properties required to implement the Scheme, and at the present time is negotiating with the previous owners of the respective properties as to the amount of compensation to be paid them for the acquisition of such properties.

Where the Council is not able to negotiate and treat with any of the previous owners or any person having an interest in any of the properties acquired, the matter of the amount of compensation payable is to be referred to the County Court for arbitration.

The Council is naturally desirous that the Scheme shall now proceed with the minimum of delay, for the benefit of its citizens, and it has authorised its legal advisers to prepare a notice inviting the submission of tenders for a 75 year building or improvement lease for the land of about 15 acres referred to in the Scheme.

As a result it is anticipated that an advertisement inviting tenders will be published in the press in the immediate future.

### FIRE

During the Spring of this year, the Council has been very active in examining areas which can constitute fire hazards, and some 800 notices to remove the fire hazard were despatched before the end of November last.

The Council has offered to carry out the clearing on payment of the necessary sum, if the owner does not wish to arrange this himself. These notices serve as a reminder that the period of fire danger is closer than appears possible during the late winter months, and it is requested that all ratepayers inspect their properties with a view to clearing any dangerous growth. With your co-operation the Council aims to have all fire hazards cleared before the days of acute fire danger are with us..

Remember! 1. Advise the Fire Brigade and the Town Clerk of your intention to burn off!  
2. Do not burn off on Sundays or Mondays.  
3. Burn off before you are burnt out!

### FLY CONTROL

Flies breed in filth and decaying matter, ratepayers can prevent flies from 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 fly spray.

### DOGS

Drives through the district by employees of the Lost Dogs Home, under the supervision of the Council's Dog Registration Officer, reveal that at least 90% of dogs impounded are unregistered. The Council is determined that dogs shall not roam the streets, and these collections will continue.

Remember that it pays to register your dog. In the event of a registered dog being collected, its owner can be notified to claim it, whereas in the case of the unregistered dog, not only is this impossible, but the owner is liable for a penalty. It is your duty to see that your dog is controlled. Dogs outside their owners' premises and not controlled by a leash, are liable to be impounded.

Aleatian 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.

### ANNUAL SPECIAL CLEARANCE OF REFUSE

An added service which will continue to 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 1965 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 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.

The "other material" approved by the Council includes the "Multi Wall Paper Sack" which may be used if desired. These sacks are on display at the Town Hall and further information can be obtained on request.

Assist the Council in its efforts of hygiene in relation to refuse by complying with the By-law.

It's in your interests and your neighbours'.

### IMMUNISATION

Immunisation against infectious disease is public health or preventative medicine in its purest form. The Council continues to make this service available to its residents throughout the year without cost, and this year, in addition to routine inoculation against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough for infants, and booster injections against diphtheria and tetanus for first year school children, the Council's Health Office staff under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. W. E. Hewitt, M.D. will be on duty at the Town Hall on the first Thursday in each month - excepting January - from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. to administer Salk Vaccine to all adults and children, excluding pre-school children.

Pre-School children can receive their injections at the Town Hall on the first Monday afternoon in each month from 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. and at the Ringwood East Infant Welfare Centre on the third Monday afternoon in each month from 2 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. and at Heathmont Infant Welfare Centre on the same day but from 3 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Similarly, injections to pre-school children will not be given during January.

"Be Wise - Be Immunised!"

### DO YOU KNOW?

That the Council pays for all street lighting in the Municipality? There are over 1,100 lights in the City, each of which costs £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 give 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 cost 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 off the streets- unless on leash.

Keep your premises clean and tidy.

Destroy rats and vermin.

Prevent trees and hedges from overhanging footpaths.

Display conspicuous house number.

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 can 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.

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YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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MAYOR: Cr. B. J. HUBBARD, J. P.  
(North Ward)

NORTH WARD---

Cr. B. J. Hubbard, J. P.  
Cr. D. J. Baxter.  
Cr. N. Aus.

SOUTH WARD:--

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

EAST WARD--

Cr. Peter Vergers, J. P.  
Cr. E. J. Penny,  
Cr. S. C. Morris.

Authorised by the Council of the City of Ringwood.

- P. P. DWERRYHOUSE.  
Town Clerk and Treasurer.

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