

# City of Ringwood



***Ringwood Council's***

***Annual Report***

***to The Ratepayers***



**December, 1965**

## CITY OF RINGWOOD

Another Annual Report! Another year of continued and interesting development in the Municipality. In the inner area of the City the vacant allotments are becoming fewer as they gradually become built on, whilst in the outer area the orchards disappear one by one and are replaced with sealed roads, concrete kerbs and channels, street trees and before long the building of houses commence to take over from the previously well-tended orderly rows of fruit trees. Such is progress—for want of a better name—and so the pattern of development continues which it must do whilst the population of this State of ours grows larger each year.

The year has, again, like most years since Ringwood started to develop in earnest shortly after the 1939-45 war, been notable for capital expenditure on municipal and private engineering projects as the Council has continued to construct unmade private streets—a legacy from the early days when a paddock was cut up into building allotments and the owners built their houses without amenities—roads, footpaths, even electricity and water or sewerage—which is indeed a far cry from to-day where facilities including road construction have to be an accomplished fact before any of the allotments can be sold. This naturally enables our new citizens to commence their residence in good conditions, and does not add to the list of so-called “heart-ache” streets which the Council is rapidly reducing by construction.

So your Council is pleased to once again give an account of its stewardship of the Municipality for the past year which was one of much activity and expansion along planned stable lines and to acquaint its citizens of plans for the future. The present year is one that has begun with high hopes that the development and expansion of the past will continue, and with a number of large projects coming closer to reality, the new Council year which is now upon us promises to be a most exciting and memorable one in the development of the Municipality.

Occasionally, but only on very rare occasions, a ratepayer has questioned the wisdom of the Council in continuing to present a report to its ratepayers each year. Perhaps the Council may be excused for being so naive as to believe that the report serves a useful purpose. Be that as it may, the Council has a duty to its ratepayers to keep them informed of matters of interest or concern. This the Council endeavours to do per medium of the Press or this report. The Council is the Trustees of the funds of the Municipality, and as such it must give an account of how these funds are expended. For this reason, at the appropriate time, it advertises the Estimates have been prepared and are available for inspection prior to the striking or making of the rate.

After the Accounts for the year have been audited by a Government-appointed Auditor, the Council similarly advertises that the Auditor's Statement on the accounts and the accounts themselves have been printed, and they may be inspected at the Municipal Offices.

Likewise, any money borrowed which the Council is authorised to borrow under the Local Government Act. Before any such money can be borrowed the Council must give notice by advertisement of its intention to borrow, thus giving its ratepayers the right to demand a poll be held that the proposal to borrow be submitted to a poll. Whilst the Council is responsible to its ratepayers, it will use all means at its disposal to keep its ratepayers informed, and for this reason alone the continued publication of the report is fully justified.

## DEVELOPMENT

### RINGWOOD PLANNING SCHEME

After long and protracted litigation, the Council is pleased to report legal possession has now been obtained of the required properties in the Ringwood Planning Scheme area. This has allowed the calling of tenders for leasing for development of an area of approximately 14 acres for a regional shopping centre. The tenders received are now being considered and the Council hopes to make an early announcement as to the successful tenderer. As a result the Council can confidently expect building operations will commence in the latter part of 1966 and the Centre could open for business some time during 1968. Thus Ringwood will shortly be joining the select group of outer suburban districts which have the latest in shopping development and it is believed will be of great benefit to all residents of the Municipality and beyond.

### EXTENSIONS TO “LIONSWOOD” VILLAGE

The Committee responsible for the management and control of this Village has over the past 12 months been negotiating for the purchase of an additional area of land abutting the Village to enable additional units to be erected with Government subsidy to accommodate elderly citizens.

Successful negotiations have been concluded and the land situate corner Wantirna Road and Kirk Street has now been cleared of the previous habitation and the work of erecting 12 additional single units has commenced.

This work costing approximately £31,000 is further evidence of the co-operative spirit of the Lions Clubs of Richmond and Ringwood in providing homes for the elderly citizens of the two Municipalities.

#### **BUILDING ACTIVITY**

1,011 building permits were issued by the Council during the last financial year for all types of buildings, alterations, etc. Work is now well under way on the new £3,000,000 plant in Ringwood for the new home of MacRobertson Pty. Ltd., one of the largest Australian manufacturers in the chocolate and confectionery industry. The Company expects to employ over 1,300 people at its new home and no doubt will ultimately be drawing a large proportion of its employees from this and adjoining municipalities with consequent benefits to those concerned. Industry of such magnitude, together with the steady growth of small industry, must ensure the future for residents of the Municipality. Building activity in the educational field is well in proportion to other development in the Municipality. The year 1966 is expected to see the opening of the Yarra Valley Church of England Boys' Grammar School and the Croydon West High School, also the Loughnan Hill State School.

#### **PRIVATE STREET CONSTRUCTION**

The Council is continuing on its programme for ultimate construction of all unmade streets within the Municipality as fast as it is reasonably able, particularly bearing in mind the availability of finance which at the present time is not as easy to obtain as it has been previously. During the current financial year the Council expects to commence construction of:—

Kemp, Charles and King Streets;  
Dynes, Joseph and Wyrunga Streets;

and, when the legal requirements of the Local Government Act have been complied with, Bardia Street, Suda Avenue, Larissa Avenue and Khassa Parade, and the Loughnan Hill Group of Streets.

Construction of the latter Group of Streets involves some five miles of road pavement and will be by far the largest street construction scheme ever carried out by this Council. However, before any work of construction can take place on this scheme, and prior to the serving of notices as required by the Act on all owners of property in the various streets, the levels to which the streets are to be constructed require to be fixed by the Council. This procedure is in course of being carried out.

#### **OTHER ROAD WORKS**

The Council proposes to carry out the following major road works from Country Roads Board and Loan funds.

Reconstruction of Bedford Road from Greenwood Avenue to the railway crossing including the Station Street/Pitt Street/Greenwood Avenue/Bedford Road intersection.

The extension of the reconstruction of Warrandyte Road from Mullum Creek to Loughnan Road—estimated at £40,000—and the Country Roads Board's proposal to shortly commence construction works for completion of duplication of the Maroondah Highway to the eastern boundary of the Municipality—a distance of 1.6 miles, of which the Council proportion of the cost is estimated at £48,000, will further improve facilities for travelling by our citizens.

#### **DRAINAGE WORKS**

Construction of the Ringwood South Drain has recently been completed at a cost of £37,000. The construction of this drain, resulting in the eradication of an unsightly open drain, will, among other things, benefit a large number of residents in the South Ward of the Municipality, and at the same time enhance the value of properties in the area. With other not so large drainage works recently carried out, but of equal importance, and the following works which are programmed this current year, consisting of—

Heatherdale Road, east side, north of Canterbury Road,  
Maidstone Street main drain outlet,  
Great Ryrie Street main drain,  
Possum Lane outlet drain,  
Pleasant Drive main drain,

together with a number of smaller drainage works costing in all over £17,000, the Council is keeping abreast with this important requirement for successful development.

## TOWN PLANNING

Consistent with the rate of residential development, the Council is most mindful of the necessity to acquire land for subsequent development as parks, gardens and sporting reserves. With an eye on the future, the Council has recently purchased approximately eight acres of land off Oban Road near the intersection with the Highway, and approximately 10 acres of land off Wonga Road, just north of Oban Road, for community purposes. It has also finalised negotiations to purchase over 23 acres off Wonga Road in the extreme north of the Municipality and is proceeding through the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works to purchase sufficient land abutting Bell Bird Park—on Wantirna Road—and the Dandenong Creek, just south of Canterbury Road, for the ultimate establishment of an 18-hole golf course. This land, some of which is at present low-lying and liable to flood, will, with filling and reclamation be ideal for the purpose, but this, it must be realised, is a long-term project.

In subdivisional development the Council is now insisting open space be provided, and the area of such open space is dependent upon the size of the subdivision. Such property is progressively being developed by the Council in the form of small parks, children's playgrounds, etc.

The Council is most mindful of the problems associated with car parking, which can normally be expected to increase with closer development unless progressive action is taken to provide offstreet car parking facilities. The Council avails itself of every opportunity to encourage the proprietors of business premises to help themselves in this regard and where practicable the Council gives every assistance. Plans have been approved for reconstruction of the bus terminal and taxi rank at the Ringwood Station and work is expected to commence early 1966. This will lend itself to improved and more convenient travel and smoother operation of these two important public utilities.

## RETENTION OF NATIVE FLORA

The Council is concerned that much of the natural native flora of the district is gradually being destroyed by the inroads of subdivision of country which has remained in its natural state until the building of homes. The Council itself has been responsible—when constructing streets or creating firebreaks—for the removal of this flora, but it has, whenever possible, planted suitable trees to replace the trees removed. Every effort is made to retain existing native trees, but in a number of cases this is not possible.

The Council asks its citizens to retain as much as possible of the native flora, and to plan the home to be built in such a way so as to avoid destroying trees which can add to the charm of your home. Remember "Don't Ringbark Ringwood," and if you must cut one tree down, plant two more in its stead.

Each year the Council plants in the nature strips of streets over 1,000 trees. The Council to the best of its ability cares and tends to these trees, but this is one way in which the residents can assist the Council themselves in making the streets more attractive by giving attention to the street trees whilst they are watering their gardens.

## YOUR RATE NOTICE

### GENERAL RATE

The Council, after very careful consideration, decided to adopt a rate of 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. in the £ on Unimproved Capital Values for the 1965/66 year. This rate is estimated to return £265,557 as against £233,183 received by general revenue from rates last year. The increase represents approximately 13.8%, and although the Council was most reluctant to increase its rate, with spiralling costs and commitments such as quarry products up 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, loan repayments up 20%, street lighting costs up by almost 23%, to mention a few—it realised there was no alternative if the administration of the Municipality and the financing of the many projects was to be conducted on a sound, common-sense basis.

### SANITARY SERVICE CHARGE

The Council is pleased to report that as the existing contract with the Company responsible for the removal of nightsoil has another two years to run, and tipping charges have remained constant, it is able to keep the charge of £7/3/- per pan per tenement per annum—the same as last year. This charge compares more than favourably with neighbouring municipalities. Many ratepayers who have required this service over the years have been—or will soon be—able to connect to the M.M.B.W. Sewerage System. When connection is made, ratepayers concerned are asked to notify the Council immediately to avoid the possibility of the service being continued when there is no need for it.

## DANDENONG VALLEY AUTHORITY RATE

The Dandenong Valley Authority has recently been constituted to co-ordinate drainage in the catchment areas of the Dandenong Creek. Such responsibility was previously undertaken by the Melbourne, Metropolitan Board of Works which collected a drainage rate in respect to properties in the area concerned. Approximately 40%, comprising nearly all the South Ward and portion of the East Ward, of the total area of the Municipality now comes under the control of the Dandenong Valley Authority in this respect, but instead of the rate previously levied by the M.M.B.W. being levied by the Authority, the Authority is making one assessment only on the Council in respect to all properties within its district. In effect the Council has been directed to collect the rate and consequently in order to raise the funds required, is levying a rate of .124d. in the £ Unimproved Capital Value on all properties within the Dandenong Valley Authority's area. This rate is payable in exactly the same manner as the general Council rate, and will be included in the normal rate notice where applicable.

## DECIMAL CURRENCY CONVERSION

Your rate notice has been primarily calculated in sterling currency with the decimal currency equivalent for the total sum due being shown in the appropriate column. Ratepayers are reminded that if paying by cheque on or after "C" Day, i.e. 14th February, 1966, the cheque must be expressed in decimal currency. In order to avoid any confusion which may arise consequent to the change-over the Council suggests ratepayers make every endeavour to pay their rates before decimal currency is in operation.

## DO YOU KNOW?

### CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS

The Council has over the years set aside a considerable number of sites specifically for the use of playgrounds.

Through the good offices of the Ringwood Henley Carnival Committee all of these playgrounds have been equipped with various pieces of playground equipment purchased with money raised by the Committee as a result of Carnivals held at the Ringwood Lake each A.N.A. holiday week-end.

The playgrounds situate at

Bedford Park Reserve,  
Bon View Avenue Reserve,  
Campbell Street railway land, adjacent Heathmont Railway Station,  
Canterbury Park, off Royal Avenue,  
Dresden Avenue,  
Dublin Road Reserve, through to Illoura Avenue and Tweed Street,  
East Ringwood Reserve, Mt. Dandenong Road,  
Evon Avenue, Lot 39—in front of Maroondah Pre-school Centre,  
Freeman Street,  
Greenwood Park Reserve,  
Heathmont Reserve, Canterbury Road,  
Hygeia Parade, Loughnan Hill,  
Notlen Street Reserve,  
North Ringwood Reserve, Wonga and Oban Roads,  
H. E. Parker Reserve,  
Proclamation Park, Sylvia Grove,  
Ringwood East Community Centre Reserve, off Railway Avenue,  
Jarma Road,  
Jubilee Park, Thomas Street,  
Kirk Street Reserve,  
Lavender-Pearwood Streets Reserve,  
Maidstone Street, Lot 15,  
Miles Park, off Ringwood Street and Warrandyte Road,  
Cnr. Mullum Road and Byron Street,  
Mullum Road Reserve,  
Munro Street Reserve,  
Pergaports Estate—Maroondah Highway,  
Ringwood Park Lake,  
Smithdene Avenue,

Staley Gardens, cnr. Charter and Seymour Streets,  
Tamar Street Reserve,  
Rear Tweed Street,  
Viviani Crescent Reserve,  
Wombolano Park, Canterbury Road, Heathmont,

are available for children up to the age of 14 years.

When visiting any of the playgrounds with your children and you discover a piece of equipment broken or faulty, would you please advise the Town Hall, and the equipment will be quickly repaired.

#### **ANNUAL SPECIAL CLEARANCE OF REFUSE**

The Council annually has a special clearance of refuse—inorganic and non-combustible material—which is not removed with household garbage. The clearance usually takes place during the Autumn months, but ratepayers will be advised details in connection with the service at a later date.

#### **GARBAGE REMOVAL**

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.

#### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

The Council continues to make immunization against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough for infants available to residents throughout the year without charge, 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 injections to all adults and children, excluding pre-school children.

#### **INFANT WELFARE CENTRES**

The Council conducts three infant welfare centres at:—

Ringwood—rear Town Hall,  
Ringwood East—Laurence Grove, behind shops in Railway Avenue,  
Heathmont—Viviani Crescent,

which are attended by fully-trained and qualified Sisters. The Council encourages all mothers of babies to avail themselves of this service, which is free of cost to them. The Sisters may be contacted either personally or by telephone—870-0311—during the hours they are in attendance at the Centres.

#### **HOME HELP SERVICE**

This is a service provided by the Council and for which a charge, based on the recipient's ability to pay only, is made. The Council employs skilled women to give household assistance to residents temporarily in need of same, due to sickness, etc. Supervisor of this service is available at the Town Hall.

#### **HOUSE NUMBERING**

Owners or occupiers of houses or buildings are required by law to affix the street number of their premises in a conspicuous place on either the front gate or fence post, or letter box on the front building line of the property, such number to be a minimum of two inches in height. There is a penalty of up to £2 for failure to do so. Assist the tradespeople and your friends to find your home easily.

## **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 the 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 an 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.

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.

## **HORSE RIDING**

The owners of horses, ponies, etc., are reminded it is an offence to ride their animals on footpaths and on Council Reserves. The riding of such animals on footpaths is a dangerous practice and as well as being liable for prosecution under Council By-law, offenders are also liable for prosecution by the police.

## **FIRE HAZARDS AND BURNING OFF**

It is the owner's responsibility to see that his land is not left in a fire hazardous condition. The Council Officer is very active in examining properties with long grass and undergrowth thereon, and experience has shown the average vacant allotment requires clearing at least once each year. Property owners are requested to act on their own initiative in this matter and not wait for the Council's ultimatum. When burning off, the Fire Brigade and the Town Clerk must be advised of your intention so to do. Burning off is not allowed on Sundays or Mondays.

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## **DO YOU ALSO KNOW?**

Grants of £25 are made to each of the following secondary schools in the Municipality:—

Aquinas College,  
Norwood High School,  
Ringwood High School,  
Ringwood Technical School,  
West Croydon High School,

to assist in the purchase of reference books for inclusion in the School's Library for use by students attending the 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.

There are now over 1,200 street lights throughout the municipality. Each 2 x 20 watt fluorescent unit costs the Council £5/8/- per year and each 4 x 40 watt fluorescent unit costs the Council £16/7/- per year. Council plans, over the next three years, to improve the level of street lighting on main roads throughout the municipality—stage one being Mt. Dandenong Road, Bedford Road, and Wantirna Road.

## REMEMBER!

Ringwood is a most desirable residential Municipality—help keep it this way by:—

- Continuing to beautify your premises and keep them clean and tidy;
- Making every effort to preserve native flora and fauna;
- Keeping street trees well watered during the Summer months, particularly trees which have recently been planted;
- Keeping dogs off the streets—unless on leash;
- Destroying rats and vermin;
- Preventing trees and hedges from overhanging footpaths;
- Displaying conspicuous house number;
- Using off-street parking areas where possible and complying with all parking notices;
- Assisting the Council in the prevention of damage by vandals by reporting any case which comes to your notice;
- Reporting 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.

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 ratepayers in their civic and communal problems. Make use of them and if in doubt on any matter telephone the Town Hall at 870-0311.

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## YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

MAYOR: CR. B. G. CLARKE, J.P.

(South Ward)

### North Ward—

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

### South Ward—

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

### East Ward—

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

Authorised by the Council of the City of Ringwood.

F. P. DWERRYHOUSE, Town Clerk and Treasurer.