

CITY OF RINGWOOD



RINGWOOD COUNCIL'S

Annual Report

TO THE RATEPAYERS

DECEMBER, 1967

INTRODUCTION

Since the issue of the report to ratepayers in December last year your City has continued to progress. But unlike some municipalities which can be regarded as established in that development is complete the City of Ringwood has still a considerable programme of works before it; a programme which requires foresight, careful and intricate planning, and the obtaining of the necessary finance to implement these plans.

Some ratepayers will have noticed the Council has recently commenced to publish in the local Press, monthly reports on those Council matters considered of general interest to the people of the Municipality. This action has been taken by the Council as a supplement to this Annual Report in an earnest desire to keep ratepayers informed on municipal matters.

FINANCE:

The following sets out the general revenue of the Municipality for the last year and how it was spent:

GENERAL FUND 1966-67

(to the nearest dollar)

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Rates & Ex-gratia payments	\$640,305	Public Works & Services	\$171,584
Licences & Registration fees	5,753	Health & Social Services	124,476
Public Works & Services	79,648	Council properties	75,085
Health Services	52,635	Plant & Equipment	28,061
Council properties	8,047	Transfers to other Council funds	81,000
Other works & services	18,065	Other works & services	14,015
Miscellaneous Income	21,811	Debts Services	150,152
Government Grants	16,458	Grants & Contributions	34,049
		Other Expenditure	28,189
		Administration	136,140
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$842,722		\$842,751
	<hr/>		<hr/>

LOAN MONEY:

The following sets out the general revenue of the Municipality for the last year

Loan money amounting to \$400,000 was raised last year to carry out the under-mentioned works:

EXPENDITURE	INCOME
Construction of kerbs and channels	\$34,500
Construction of footpaths	4,000
Pipe drainage	8,500
Bus and taxi terminal and toilet block at Ringwood Station	24,000
Reconstruction of portions of Ringwood Street, Civic Place, Melbourne Street, Mullum Road	24,000
Purchase of land for reserves	20,000
Construction of private streets	285,000
	<hr/>
	\$400,000

FINANCE:

RATES & CHARGES:

COMMERCIAL PROJECTS:

For the current year 1967-68 the Council, after considering its programme of works and services, decided on a rate of 2.39 cents in the dollar — an increase of .05 cents or a percentage increase of 2%.

The Sanitary Service charge, borne only by those ratepayers who have neither septic sewerage nor have taken advantage of Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works sewerage facilities, when available, has been increased by \$5.20 per annum for each service given in the removal of nightsoil. This is due to an increase in the new contract price for removal.

In the interests of community health the need for owners in this Municipality, with Board facilities available, to have their properties sewered without delay cannot be emphasised too strongly. From the financial point of view failure to do so involves a double charge — firstly the sanitary charge and secondly, once the Board's sewerage facilities are available, payment of increased rates to the Board.

For those properties within the area of the Dandenong Valley Authority, the drainage rate collected by the Council on behalf of the Dandenong Valley Authority is .1367 cents in the dollar on the Unimproved Capital Valuation.

COMMERCIAL PROJECTS:

RATES & CHARGES

For the current year 1967-68 the Council has decided on a rate of 5.22 cents in the dollar and a percentage increase of 2.5%.

Since the last report Eastland Shopping Centre Pty. Ltd. is now an accomplished fact. The Centre was opened for trading on October 31 — at least four months ahead of the planned opening date. All visitors to the Centre are unanimous in the view that it has brought a greatly-needed facility to Ringwood.

Although finality has been reached in many facets of the Planning Scheme, Council compensation to a number of former owners of property acquired is still in the negotiation stage.

In one case an offer of \$10,000 was made by the Council to the former owners. They rejected it in favor of a hearing before a Judge of the County Court who made an award of \$8,600 in favor of the claimants. Dissatisfied with the Award they now want their compensation claim settled in the Supreme Court before a Jury. It is anticipated that this and other cases will be before the Court early in 1968.

Development

In addition to Eastland there has been further commercial development on part of the land formerly occupied by the Cool Stores and fronting Maroondah Highway and Ringwood Railway Station. Here a number of modern and attractive shops have been built.

The well-known landmark of St. Paul's Church of England has been replaced by shops and offices fronting Civic Place and Ringwood Street. And a development yet to be undertaken will be the market on the corner of Seymour and Ringwood Streets, to be known as the Ringwood Village Shopping Centre. This, it is understood, will consist of a 'Supa Valu' store, a supermarket and several service shops.

All this is a far cry from the Ringwood village of pre-war days when the population in 1938 was less than 4,000 and the dwellings less than 1,000. The rural scenery of Ringwood has changed rapidly to that of a flourishing residential and commercial centre. Of course, commercial development within the municipality is not confined to Ringwood. The attractive Commercial Centre at Heathmont is still growing and provides excellent local shopping facilities.

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY:

Following discussions with two municipal Councils about a Regional Library Service, your Council has agreed, in principle, with Knox Shire Council's proposal to set up a Regional Library Service to serve residents of both municipalities. It is anticipated that such a service will be in operation by April or May, 1970.

Originally it was hoped that a free library service would be available towards the end of 1968 but in the light of later development this will not be possible. However, between now and 1970 much preparatory work must be done. A library building must be designed and erected, many thousands of books purchased and catalogued and suitable staff engaged.

MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER:

Ringwood's Memorial Clock Tower, a landmark originally located at the junction of Maroondah Highway and Warrandyte Road, has now been rebuilt at the corner of Maroondah Highway and Wantirna Road.

An exact reproduction of the original building in every detail, it was dedicated on December 9, this year by Major Gordon Inglis of the Ringwood Corps of the Salvation Army, Chaplain of the Ringwood City Council. The unveiling of the monument was performed by Major General L. E. Beavis, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., a distinguished regular soldier of two World Wars.

PRIVATE STREET CONSTRUCTION:

For the Council year ended September 30 last construction of private streets amounting to \$220,000 was carried out; on main roads it amounted to \$250,000. In addition the Council was responsible for supervising streets in new subdivisions constructed by subdividers at a total cost exceeding \$300,000.

This year's construction programme will consist of the Loughnan Hill scheme — 15 streets at an estimated cost of \$876,304 — for which project a tender has been accepted. The actual work of construction commenced early in November and will extend over a period of 21 months.

By August of 1969 residents of this area will have sealed roads, and the mud of winter and the dust of summer will be bad memories of the past.

ADVISORY SERVICE:

A local organisation which has recently come into existence is the Ringwood Citizens Advisory Service which can be contacted by ringing 870-3233. This is a voluntary organisation which provides FREE information on community organisations and help facilities. Following is a list of these services:

- EMERGENCY HOUSEKEEPING
- MEDICAL, DENTAL, EMERGENCIES
- BABY SITTING
- LEGAL
- GARDENING AND ODD JOBS
- MARRIAGE GUIDANCE
- HOME NURSING
- CHILD GUIDANCE
- EMERGENCY TRANSPORT
- FOSTER HOMES AND ADOPTIONS
- AGED AND INVALID
- MENTAL HEALTH

REMEMBER ALL CALLS ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL

LITTER:

The Council draws your attention to the Litter Act in an endeavour to lessen the litter and rubbish people drop — unwittingly or otherwise — as they walk along. The Act says it is an offence for any person to deposit any litter, unwanted material, or article, without authority to do so, in a public place, or on any land owned, occupied or under the control of any person or authority.

Where the Court is satisfied that the offence was committed wilfully, or the quantity of material or litter was substantial, or was wilfully dropped from a moving vehicle, the offender is liable to a penalty of up to \$200. Any person who deposits or breaks any glass in any public place, upon conviction is liable to a similar penalty.

There are many 'don'ts' in the Act but the litter prohibition has high priority. 'Clean up before you clear out' is a motto worth remembering, and it is remembered by people who take a proper pride in their City. For the others, the rubbish-dumpers and the litterbugs, it might pay them better if they too kept it in mind.

FIRE HAZARDS:

It is the responsibility of the owner to see that his land is not left in a fire hazardous condition. The average vacant allotment needs clearing at least once a year and property owners are asked to act on their own initiative in this matter, not wait for the Council's ultimatum. When burning off the Fire Brigade and the Town Clerk must be advised of your intention to do so. Burning off is not allowed on Sundays or Mondays. And you must give notice of it to your neighbors.

Keep your garden, or the grounds around your home free of rubbish and inflammable litter in the summer season. Don't give a fire a place to start, but if it does don't let it spread. Don't throw any burning material — lighted matches, cigarette butts, lighted tobacco — away and forget it. Break matches, stamp out tobacco and butts. If you throw matches or cigarettes from cars or trains you risk fines, imprisonment and a guilty conscience.

HOME HELP SERVICE:

This is a service provided by the Council for which a charge based on the recipient's income is made. The Council employs skilled women to give household assistance to residents in temporary need of it because of sickness, confinement and other causes. The supervisor of this service is available at Ringwood Town Hall. In the Council year 1966/67, over 250 individual cases received assistance by the service.

IMMUNIZATIONS:

The Council continues its immunization campaign against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus and for infants whooping cough. Immunizations are available to residents throughout the year without charge. The Council's Health Office staff under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. B. Widmer, 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 who are attended to through the Infant Welfare Centres.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES:

The Council conducts three infant welfare centres. One is in Ringwood, in Miles Avenue, next to the bowling greens; one in Laurence Grove, Ringwood East (rear of the shops in Railway Avenue), and one in Viviani Crescent, Heathmont. All are attended by fully-trained 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 — 870-4311, during the hours they are in attendance at the Centres.

NATIVE FLORA:

Remember 'Don't Ringbark Ringwood'? And if you must cut down one tree plant two more in its stead. Much of the native flora of the Ringwood district is being destroyed by subdivisions, home building and the installation of modern amenities. The Council itself has been responsible, when constructing streets or creating firebreaks, for the removal of many native plants but has planted replacement trees wherever possible.

RESERVED BOUNDARY TRAFFIC

The Council asks its citizens to retain as much as possible of the native vegetation, to plan their houses in such a way that destroying trees which add to their charms can be avoided. Each year the Council plants more than 1000 street trees. You can help the Council make your street more attractive by giving these trees some attention when you are tending your own garden.

DOGS:

Ninety per cent of the Ringwood dogs impounded are unregistered as organised drives through the streets reveal. But the Council is determined that dogs must not roam the streets, so these collections by employees of the Lost Dogs Home, under supervision of the Council's Dog Registration officer, will be continued. It pays to register your dog because if he's picked up you can be notified where you can claim him. If he's not registered this is impossible and besides you're liable for a penalty.

Alsations and greyhounds, when not on the premises of their owner, must be muzzled or fitted with a choker chain and must be controlled by a proper leash. There is a penalty of up to \$40 for failure in observing 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 and the owner of any dog found wandering between sunset and sunrise is liable to a penalty of up to \$40.

So if you think anything of your dog keep him safe at your home and when you take him out walking control him by a proper leash.

HORSE RIDING:

If you are the owner of a horse or pony don't ride him on footpaths or Council Reserves. This is an offence as well as a dangerous practice. It will make you liable for prosecution under a Council By-law and also for prosecution by the police.

FLY CONTROL:

Your Council, contributing financially to the Municipal Association's fly control campaign, would appreciate your cooperation in reducing the incidence of flies during the summer months. You can help in the following ways:

Wrap garbage in newspaper before placing in sound, tightly-lidded can.

Wash can well each time it is emptied.

Don't make your incinerator into an open garbage can. Burn every load of waste material completely.

Store manure in a covered container or sprinkle it lightly on your garden for quick drying. Don't pile in heaps.

Construct compost heaps for 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 and protect lavatory pans from flies.

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

REMEMBER! Flies breed in filth and decaying matter and ratepayers can help prevent this happening by observation of these rules.

GARBAGE REMOVAL:

The maximum quantity of garbage to be collected from each premises per week is 3 cubic feet. This must be placed in a galvanised iron receptacle of not more than 24-gauge, or other material approved by the Council. Receptacle must have a close-fitting lid with a flange overlapping the top and be so constructed that it can be carried easily by two side handles by one man.

For the sake of community health it is essential that the garbage container should 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. Further information may be obtained at the Town Hall, if required.

DO YOU KNOW?

Municipal Councils are required to meet part of the cost of maintaining the Metropolitan Fire Brigade — last year Ringwood City Council had to pay \$17,992 to the M.F.B.

That vandalism to trees, buildings on reserves and equipment costs YOU — the ratepayers — considerable sums of money every year. This money could be better spent on productive works than on replacements and repairs.

That there are some 1500 street lights throughout the Municipality. Each 2 x 20 watt fluorescent unit costs the Council \$11.40 per year and each 4 x 20 watt fluorescent unit costs the Council \$34.32 per year. Council is ever seeking improvement to the level of street lighting throughout the municipality. Over the next few years improvement in main road lighting particularly is being implemented as soon as possible with the continued cooperation of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria.

GARBAGE REMOVAL:

THE WINDS OF CHANGE

With the passage of the years changes take place in all manner of things. And this year has seen the departure from the Council of three Councillors who between them have given a total of some thirty years to the Municipality. Each one of them has served a term as Mayor, and in one instance two terms as Mayor.

Naturally with the departure of a Councillor someone else must take his or her place. Mr. M. D. Deuter, representing the South Ward, was succeeded by Cr. J. M. McRae while Mr. A. G. Lavis, also representing the South Ward and Mayor when Ringwood was proclaimed a City, was succeeded by Cr. G. R. G. Smart.

Mrs. Elizabeth Penny, representing the East Ward, made history in Ringwood by being the first woman elected to the Council. And subsequently as Ringwood's first lady Mayor. Her position on the Council had not been filled when this report was prepared.

THE WINDS OF CHANGE

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 870-4311 for friendly service.

YOU can complete the chain of cooperation in many ways:— Continue to beautify your premises and keep them clean and tidy. Keep dogs off the street — unless on a leash. Destroy rats and vermin. Prevent trees and hedges from overhanging footpaths. Display your house number conspicuously. Use off-street parking areas where possible and comply with all parking notices.

Help the Council prevent damage by vandals by reporting any case you see. Report any breakdown of Sanitary or Garbage Service so that the Contractors can be notified at once.

If you have a Municipal problem which cannot be solved through the normal channels write to the Town Clerk who will assist you as far as possible or place the matter before the Council.

What you can do !

MAKE SUGGESTIONS TO YOUR COUNCIL IF YOU BELIEVE THEM OF VALUE. IN ALL WAYS TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF YOUR COMMUNITY. HELP MAKE RINGWOOD A BETTER PLACE FOR ITS CITIZENS . . . AND HELP YOUR COUNCIL TO HELP YOU.

YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

MAYOR — Cr. Norman Aus, J.P.

NORTH WARD

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

Cr. D. J. Baxter

Cr. N. Aus, J.P.

SOUTH WARD

Cr. B. G. Clarke

Cr. J. M. McRae

Cr. G. R. G. Smart

EAST WARD

Cr. Peter Vergers, J.P.

Cr. S. C. Morris

Authorised by the Ringwood City Council.

F. P. DWERRYHOUSE,
Town Clerk