

CITY OF RINGWOOD



Ringwood Council's

Annual Report

to the Ratepayers

December, 1963

The Council, in its endeavours to keep the ratepayers of the City informed of current municipal happenings prepares this annual report for the benefit of its ratepayers, which broadly sets out what has taken place over the last twelve months and what is proposed shall be carried out in the current year.

An English authority on Local Government recently made the following statement, which, perhaps, could be said to sum up the attitude of the Council: "A vast job is done by a huge body of the public, for the public, but all too little is known about it outside the machine. I am sure that only good can come from more and better publicity."

Although not going to quite the lengths of the City of Edinburgh (U.K.) where, by dialling an appropriate telephone number, one can receive a three-minute summary of all matters of interest within the City, your Council believes that this Annual Report fills an important role in ratepayer-Council relationships.

The nature of the services undertaken by the Council under the provisions of the Local Government Act and other relevant Acts is wide and varied, and will be discussed in the following sections.

FINANCE

This, of course, is a major interest to ratepayers, as it is from rates that the Council receives the greatest proportion of its income.

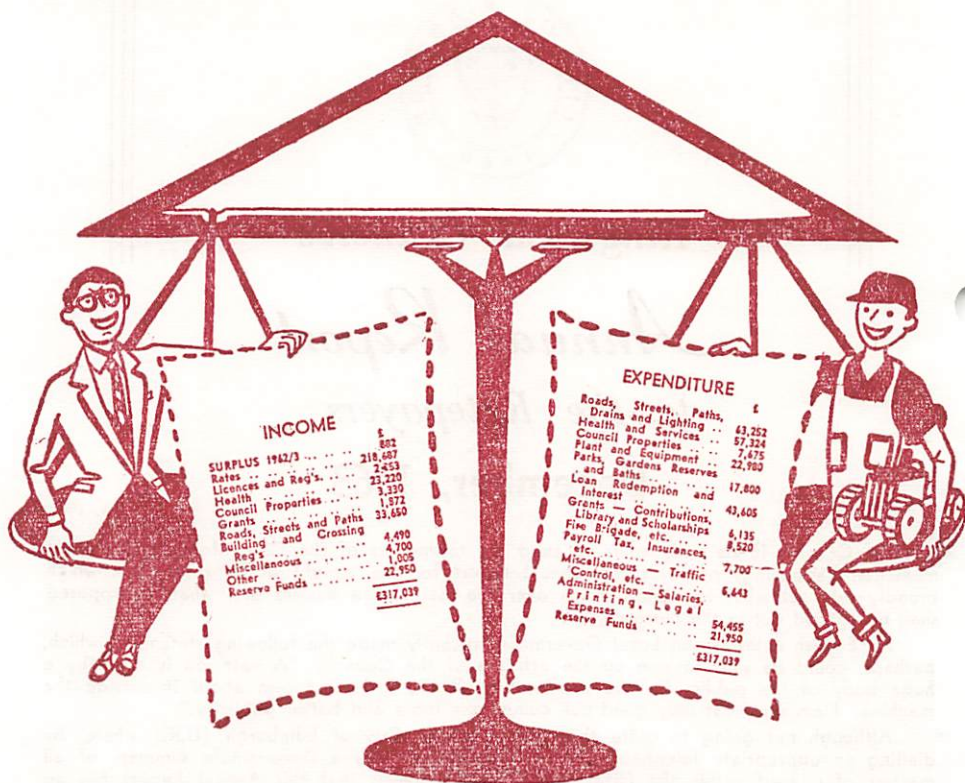
ESTIMATED INCOME 1963/64

In a City such as ours which produces a rate income small by comparison with larger and more settled municipalities, the Council is at considerable pains to ensure that full value is gained for each £ of revenue. The control exercised by the Council in respect of its income and expenditure—of which estimates are prepared at the commencement of each year—is illustrated by the fact that at the commencement of the Council's previous year—the 1st October, 1962—it had a deficit of £488, and following upon expenditure totalling £289,461 at the close of the year, 30th September, 1963, there was a small surplus of £526.

For the year 1963/64 the Council is again faced with increased costs in many items, chief amongst them being:—

| | | |
|--|------------------|---------------|
| Road making materials, | Street lighting, | Pay Roll Tax, |
| Margins—salaries and wages, | Loan repayments, | |
| Private Street construction payments on land owned by Council, | | |

and as a result the Council had no alternative but to increase its rate by one farthing to 6½d. in the £, which is an increase of slightly more than 4% in rates of each property within the Municipality, over rates payable last year. The diagram below illustrates the anticipated income for the present year and the manner in which such income is proposed to be spent.



The Sanitary charge has been increased by 4/- per pan, due to the fact that the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works—at whose Depot the pans are tipped and then cleansed for further use—increased its charge for this service by 50%, that is from 10/- to 15/- per year per pan, and the Council had no alternative but to pass this increase on to those ratepayers who have not a septic system in operation but avail themselves of the service provided by the Sanitary Contractor. However, it is confidently expected that within the very near future sewerage facilities will be available for a large number of Ringwood's residents. Additional areas to that originally decided upon by the Board of Works for sewerage reticulation have now been approved by the Sewerage Committee of the Board and the actual physical work is now well in hand.

Residents of Ringwood may peruse these plans by enquiring at the Town Hall.

VALUATIONS

The Council recently invited tenders from suitably qualified persons to make a general valuation of all properties within the Municipality as required by the Valuation of Land Act. The successful tenderer was Mr. E. T. Miles of 175 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood, who satisfactorily revalued the Municipality some years ago. The basis of the general valuation is on market values pertaining as at 31st December, 1961. The valuations so made shall be operative as from the 1st October, 1964, and could remain in force for four years.

PRIVATE STREET CONSTRUCTION

The private street construction programme continues with undiminished speed and vigour commensurate with the availability of finance and contractors who have the capacity to construct streets which, at present, are known as "heartache" streets. At the present time,

street construction schemes totalling £390,000 are in progress and nearing completion in a satisfactory manner, both as regards speed and cost.

The Council has been authorised to borrow £123,500 for construction of private streets for the year 1963/64, and is pleased to report that arrangements to borrow the whole of this sum have been successfully concluded. The Council is also negotiating to borrow, by way of overdraft, an additional £100,000 to further extend its private street construction programme.

Tenders will be invited and in some cases have been accepted, for the construction of Kennedy Avenue, Louis Street, New Street group (comprising New Street, Walmer Street and Sylvia Grove), whilst in the case of Woodside Avenue, Wood Street group (comprising Wood Street, Green Street, Howard Avenue and Vonadawn Avenue) Olive Grove and Scenic Avenue, when the requirements of the Local Government Act have been complied with and the contributors given the opportunity to object to the construction, tenders will be invited for these Schemes also. The total estimated cost of all of the foregoing schemes amounts to £102,000. 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 1964 in addition to the above:

Bellvue Avenue,
Garden Street,
Miles Avenue,
Linden Road.

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:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Berea Avenue, | Balfour Avenue, | Muir Court, |
| Collett Avenue, | Eden Avenue, | Grey Street, |
| Fyfe Avenue, | Orchard Grove, | Dunn Street, |
| Daisy Street, | Cuthbert Street, | Kemps St. (west end) |
| Kirk Street, | Milton Street, | Charles Street, |
| Fremont Road, | Heath Street, | King Street, |
| Tudor Court, | Mont Street, | Glencairn Avenue, |
| Tagell Road, | Vine Street, | Bardia Street, |
| City Road, | Surrey Street, | Suda Avenue, |
| Regina Street, | Bedford Court, | Khassa Parade, |
| Ireland Street, | Lena Grove, | Larissa Avenue. |
| Greenwood Avenue, | Willis Street, | |

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

OTHER NEW WORKS

The Council has been permitted to borrow £81,500—in addition to that required for private street construction—which will be used for the following purposes:

Footpath Construction (additional to that provided from General Rate Revenue).
In all an extra three miles will be constructed.

Re-construction portion of Maroondah Highway from the clocktower to the Mount Dandenong Road turn-off.

Loughnan Road from the western boundary of the Municipality—adjacent to the new bridge over Deep Creek—to Ceillette Avenue.

Caroola Road and other miscellaneous roads,

Pavilion and stand—Jubilee Park,

Kerbing and channelling and pipe drainage,

Elderly Citizens Clubrooms (additional amount required to complete),

Purchase of land for Reserves,

Road making plant,

This loan money has been obtained and the legal requirements of the Local Government Act before the money is raised and spent are nearing completion, and it is anticipated that the actual construction works in respect of a number of the above will commence in the immediate future.

PLANNING SCHEME

Subsequent to the Council's previous report in respect of the proposed Drive-In Regional Shopping Centre at the rear of the Town Hall and abutting Maroondah Highway, Ringwood Street, and Warrandyte Road, legal action, brought by a number of Plaintiffs challenging the validity of the Scheme and the bona fides of the Council, prevented the Scheme from

proceeding. The case was heard in the Supreme Court extending over almost five weeks, during July and August, 1963, before His Honour Mr. Justice Gillard.

His Honour's Judgment in the Council's favour was to the effect that the Planning Scheme was what it purported to be — a redevelopment of the Ringwood shopping area. He dismissed the Plaintiffs' application that the Interim Development Order was illegal and void; that all steps taken to implement it were illegal; that the Scheme was not authorised by the Town and Country Planning Act and was invalid; and an injunction restraining the Council and its members from proceeding further with the Scheme. His Honour further stated that the Councillors acted bona fide on advice given them, that it was sound advice for the redevelopment of the Ringwood area.

Subsequent to the Judgment being handed down an Appeal to the Full Court of the High Court of Australia has been lodged to the Judgment given and the Order made by His Honour Mr. Justice Gillard. The appellants (plaintiffs) seek an Order that the whole of the Judgment Order be set aside and that in lieu thereof Judgment be entered for the appellants.

No date has been set down for the hearing, but it is anticipated it will be dealt with during 1964.

GENERAL

The Church of England plans to establish a boys' school on 71 acres of land it has purchased which fronts Plymouth and Kalinda Roads within the City of Ringwood. The School will cost about £250,000 and will, it is expected, be ready for use at the commencement of the 1966 school year. It will eventually provide for a total of approx. 800 boys from sub-primary to matriculation standard.

Aquinas College, the Roman Catholic Secondary High School situate Thomas Street and fronting on to St. Ryrie Street continues to grow. This College which has been in existence for only three years admits boys from a defined region, is the equivalent to the Education Department's High schools. At present it has almost 300 students and when its master plan has been achieved it will cater for over 700 students.

The second stage of its building programme has been under way for some weeks and the estimated cost of these extensions is £80,000.

It is indeed most encouraging to see the progress which is being undertaken in the interests of education by the various bodies, for the present and future schoolchildren of the Municipality.

Reconstruction of Maroondah Highway between Warrandyte Road and Mt. Dandenong Road has commenced and it is estimated that the actual road pavement and the new type lighting will be completed in approx. 12 months time and sowing of grass in the medians will follow.

Loughnans Road. This very vital road, which permits residents in the northern portion of the Municipality to gain direct access to the Maroondah Highway via Deep Creek Road in the City of Nunawading, will act as a by-pass road, thus freeing the Highway for through traffic for Croydon and beyond. Stage one of construction will be a 24 ft. wide sealed road pavement from just east of the new bridge, constructed by the Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe, to the existing sealed road at Cielterre Avenue.

Warrandyte Road from the Highway to the Mullum Creek will also be reconstructed.

ELDERLY CITIZENS' VILLAGE

The Village now known as "Lionswood" situate Kirk Street, comprising 6 double and 16 single self-contained units has been completed, and is now occupied by elderly people. The village was opened on the 7th May last, by the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. H. E. Bolte, M.L.A. The success of this project was due to the efforts of the Ringwood Elderly Citizens' Appeals Committee, the Lions Club of Richmond, and latterly the Lions Club of Ringwood. This is an illustration of co-operation at its best.

ELDERLY CITIZENS' CLUBROOMS

The Clubrooms on Greenwood Park have now been completed and were open for the purpose of an "Open Day" on two occasions recently to enable persons interested to inspect the rooms and equipment. Quite a deal of interest was evinced in this community centre for the City's elderly citizens. It is expected that these citizens, to whom we owe so much, will derive much enjoyment and pleasure by having a "home" of their own for their activities. The City of Ringwood Elderly Citizens' Clubrooms Committee of Management has been formed and this Committee, with the Council, are jointly making arrangements for the Official Opening of the clubrooms early in 1964.

COOL STORES SITE

The Council was successful in obtaining a lease, for a period of 50 years, of half the area of the railway owned land previously occupied by the Ringwood Cool Stores Society fronting Maroondah Highway. The particular area leased by the Council is that which abuts Wantirna Road and it will, in due course, be developed for civic purposes.

WANTIRNA ROAD WIDENING

Negotiations have been completed with the Victorian Railways in connection with the erection of an additional bridge span over Wantirna Road to permit widening and straightening the road at this point. The preparation of the necessary plans for the bridge have been receiving the attention of the Railways Engineers for some time and the Council is hoping the plans will be finalised in the immediate future to permit construction and re-alignment of the road to proceed without delay, and this work when completed, will increase traffic flow and remove an extremely bad traffic hazard.

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 domestic fly spray.

DOGS

Drives through the district by employees of the Lost Dogs Home, under the supervision of the 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.

Alsation 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 1964, 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.

IMMUNIZATION

Immunization 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., has completed a fourth (Booster) Salk Vaccine injection against poliomyelitis for all pre-school and school children who have received their third salk vaccine injection at least one year ago. It is strongly recommended that all adults should also avail themselves of this further cover against poliomyelitis. Injections have already commenced, and in this respect notices will be inserted in the local papers giving information as to when further fourth (Booster) injections will be given. To assist residents these injections will be given in the evenings.

To parents who have received immunization record cards for children who have completed injections at school, if they desire that fourth poliomyelitis injections be included on these cards, it will be necessary to return the record card to the Health Inspectors for completion. Some parents have not received any record immunization cards as yet, but it is anticipated these cards will be forwarded in the near future.

As has been said "Be Wise — Be Immunised."

DO YOU KNOW —

That the Council pays for all street lighting in the Municipality? There are over 1,060 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 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 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 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.

TRIBUTES:

The Council, recently, saw fit to honour two of its citizens who, over a period of years, had worked un-ceasingly to make Ringwood what it is today — a much sought after, desirable, healthy residential suburb.

The first was the late Frank Russell Lucas, who was the original Engineer of the Borough as it was then known. Mr. Lucas was appointed soon after Ringwood became a Municipality in its own right after having been severed from the Shire of Lillydale in 1924, and served the Municipality continually — with the exception of a break during the war years — until his retirement in 1958.

The works with which he was associated during the formative years of the Municipality were legion and the foundations so conscientiously laid when the Municipality was developing bear tribute to his skills and foresight. To perpetuate his memory the Council fittingly named the main sporting Oval on Jubilee Park "The F. R. Lucas Oval".

The second was ex-Councillor R. O. Spencer who, during his period of over 9 years as a Councillor of the Municipality and representative of the Council on many Boards, Associations and Committees was always to the fore in initiating movements which would be of benefit not only to today's citizens, but the children of today who will be the citizens of the future.

Mr. Spencer worked unceasingly to obtain additional areas of land for future reserves, whilst the land was available — at reasonable prices and conditions favourable to the Council — and also to improve the standards of the existing sporting reserves. He was, and still is, associated with the Ringwood Jubilee Park Development Auxiliary, an organisation which over

the years has raised hundreds of pounds to be spent on improvements at Jubilee Park — which is the main sporting area for Ringwood. Due to his foresight, energy and determination, the Council has now accepted a tender for the construction of a pavilion adjacent to the "F. R. Lucas Oval" at Jubilee Park. The pavilion of which the contract price is £29,842 is expected to be completed by July, 1964.

What more suitable name could be selected than the one decided by the Council — "The R. O. Spencer Pavillion"?

The Auxiliary with which Mr. Spencer is President has offered to pay to the Council £1,500 during the current year and £500 for each of the next four years towards the redemption of the loan raised by the Council to pay for the construction of the pavilion. This is an illustration of self-help by an organisation, at its best, and it is only one of many.

A group which one hears very little about, but goes on its way working quietly and efficiently year after year, is the Henley Carnival Committee. The work of this Committee — which reaches its peak each A.N.A. Weekend when it conducts a Carnival at the Lake Reserve, is for the specific purpose of raising funds to purchase equipment for installation at the various children's playgrounds scattered throughout the City. The Committee, which has been in existence for over twelve years has also raised many hundreds of pounds and has equipped thirty-five playgrounds with various and varied pieces of children's equipment.

Ringwood is indeed fortunate in having such men and organisations as previously referred to, to assist the Council in its task of promoting and furthering Ringwood as a place to live, in a healthy and progressive environment.

There are numerous other organisations which are interested in the promotion of cultural and other activities for the enjoyment and benefit of Ringwood's citizens.

The public spirited citizens who comprise these organisations and have devoted their time and talents to the betterment of the City can look with satisfaction on the fruits of their labours.

YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

MAYOR: Cr. Peter Vergers, J.P. (East 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, J.P.
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.

F. P. DWERRYHOUSE, Town Clerk and Treasurer.

