

The Birth of a Borough

RINGWOOD

The newly-created Borough of Ringwood was the scene of much excitement and interest on Thursday, 4th December, 1924, when the first council elections were held at the Public Hall, under the auspices of the returning officer, Mr. E. Winterbottom, secretary to the Shire of Lilydale, from a portion of which shire the new borough has been formed.

Fourteen citizens offered their services for the honour of being first representatives for

Commencing at a point on the Dandenong Creek at the south-east angle of allotment 39, Parish of Ringwood; thence north by the east boundary of that allotment and allotment 32b to the south boundary of allotment 31a; thence east by the south, north by the east, and west by the north boundary of that allotment to the south-east angle of allotment 28b; thence north by the east boundary of that allotment to East-field-road; thence east along that road to the



BOROUGH OF RINGWOOD.

Members of the First Council, Elected, 4th December, 1924.

Left to right:—(Standing) Councillors J. K. McCuskill, R. G. Wilkins, A. Blood, (Sitting) J. B. McAlpin, A. T. Miles (Mayor), W. Mackinlay.

Photo by "Talma," Swanston St., Melbourne.

the new municipality, the names of whom and the results of the voting for which appear hereunder. Seeing that there are but 703 voters in the borough, the total of votes cast, i.e., 654, at this election came somewhere near a record. There was no postal voting, and it would therefore appear that 90 per cent. out of the possible voted. It is well to note that amongst the six elected councillors are three members well qualified by previous experience in the Lilydale Council to guide the destinies of the new municipality, namely, Mr. J. B. McAlpin, J.P., entered council 1910, president 1912, and retired 1916; Mr. W. McKinlay, 1917-24, president 1919; and Mr. A. Temple Miles, 1919-24, president in 1922.

The boundaries of the Borough of Ringwood are as follows:—

south-east angle of allotment 26a; thence north by the east and west by part of the north boundary of allotment 26a to a point due south of the most easterly angle of allotment 36h, Parish of Warrandyte; thence north by a direct line to the most easterly angle of allotment 36h aforesaid; thence north-westerly along the north-eastern boundary of that allotment to the most southerly angle of allotment 36c; thence north-easterly along the eastern boundary of that allotment and allotment 36b to the most easterly angle of the last-named allotment; thence north-westerly along the north-eastern boundary of allotment 36b and a line to the most easterly angle of allotment 35; thence north-westerly along the north-eastern boundary of that allotment, to the eastern boundary of allotment 39a; thence

northerly by the eastern boundary of that allotment and allotment 40 to the north-east angle of the last-named allotment; thence west by a road along the northern boundary of that allotment and allotment 40a to the north-east angle of allotment 23; thence west by the north and south, by the west boundary of that allotment to the north boundary of allotment 31b; thence west by a road and a line to the north-west angle of allotment 27c; thence south by a road to the north-west angle of allotment 28; thence south by the west boundary of that allotment to the north-west angle of allotment 4, Parish of Ringwood; thence south by the west boundary of that allotment to the north-west angle of allotment 3; thence southerly by Heatherdale-road to the south-west angle of allotment 1; thence easterly by the Dandenong Creek to the point of commencement.

Railway electrification has been mainly responsible for Ringwood's rapid progress, but its geographical position counts for nearly as much, being, as it is, the junction (apart from the railway aspect) of four main roads, and being only 15 miles from the city (38 minutes by rail). Big public facilities (water and electric light) pass right through the town, and the O'Shannessy main along White Horse-road centres the borough. Ringwood East is also rising in importance, and is shortly to have a railway station.

The following interesting data are taken from Cr. Miles' statement, included in the petition for the declaration of Ringwood as a borough:—

1. The annual valuation shown in the petition, based on the municipal roll of June, 1923, is £28,704, and the estimated annual valuation now is £34,704.

2. There are two State schools, one private school, seven churches, four banks, cool store to accommodate 50,228 cases of fruit (being the fourth largest in Victoria), two hotels, coffee palace, and several boarding houses, also public hall, and four public reserves.

3. Train service — About forty passenger trains daily each way, between Ringwood and Melbourne, and many goods trains.

4. Area, 5760 acres; valuation, 1923, £28,704; estimated, 1924, £34,704; estimated revenue from rates, £3300; estimated revenue from other sources, £250; total, £3550; estimated, 1924, £4225.

Expenditure. — Town clerk and assistant, consulting engineer, two daymen, poundkeeper, £1217; interest on loans, £370; Country Roads Board payments, £558; total, £2145.

On 1923 figures, there would be a surplus of £1405 for new works, and on 1924 figures a surplus of £2080.

Estimated loan liability (excluding electric light, which is being taken over by the Commission), £5286; borrowing powers, £25,000.

5. The public hall, enlarged last year at a cost of approximately £800, will be sufficient, and a new hall will not be required.

So far as surroundings and scenic beauty is concerned, Ringwood need stand second to none,

and with all these natural advantages, it should become a great business centre, and one of the most popular pleasure resorts within easy distance of Melbourne. It has started on sound foundations, and we wish the new recruit to the Local Government ranks the best of luck and prosperity

Result of Poll.

1. Miles, Augustus Temple	457
2. McAlpin, James Bell	455
3. MacKinlay, William	427
4. Blood, Arthur	409
5. McCaskill, James Kenneth	311
6. Wilkins, Roy Gladstone	300
Pyke, Frank Cedric	255
Barrett, John William	198
Burkitt, Thomas Arthur Wentworth	192
Grant, Thomas	182
Madden, Nicholas	179
McClelland, William	177
Reddish, Thomas William	162
Wiggan, George Thomas	82
Informal	23

Messrs. Miles and McAlpin were declared elected for three years; Messrs. Mackinlay and Blood, for two years; and Messrs. McCaskill and Wilkins, for eight months.

The first meeting of the new council will be held at 10 o'clock on the morning of December 24, when the first mayor of the borough will be elected by the new councillors.

At the Proclamation Ceremony of the Borough on Saturday, 13th inst., Mr. Everard, M.L.C., in the absence of the Minister for Public Works (Mr. Goudie), read the Executive Council minute proclaiming the borough. He said that Mr. Jones, M.L.C., when Minister for Public Works, had approached the question of the creation of the borough with an open mind, and had recommended its adoption. The advice of the Town Planning Association should be sought so as to lay out the city of the future.

Mr. Jones, M.L.C., said that Parliament had very decided views on the creation of new municipalities, but that where, as in this instance, civic progress depended upon such a step, it should be seriously considered. He had investigated every aspect of their petition, and was convinced that it should be granted. They had the opportunities for a garden city, and he hoped they would avail themselves of these before it was too late.

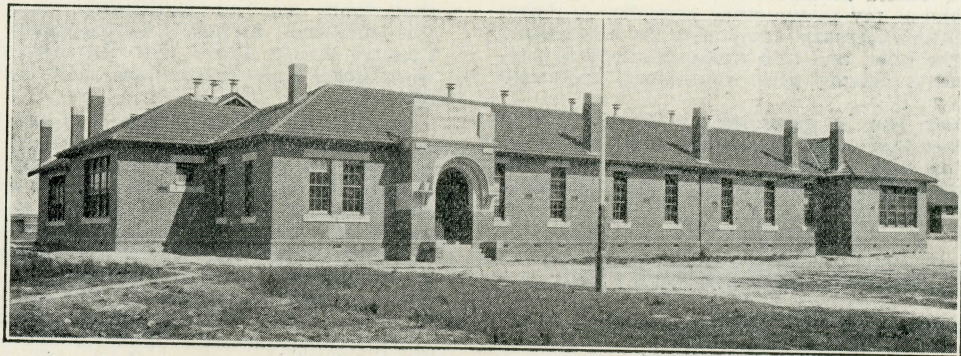
Mr. Chandler, M.L.C., recommended the people to keep a tight hold on every acre of their three recreation reserves, and, if possible, to obtain others.

Mr. Tyner, M.L.C., Councillors J. Wallace, and H. Hughes (Lilydale), and Councillor Treganowan (Ferntree Gully) joined in the congratulations and good wishes for the success of the new borough.

An ambitious programme of sports was directed by a citizens' committee, of which Councillor J. B. McAlpin was President, Messrs. W. Ashton, and A. H. B. Locke, hon. secretaries, and Mr. A. Ingwersen, organiser.

At 1 o'clock a procession of school children, decorated vehicles, trade displays, and an old-time bullock team, driven by the pioneer, Mr.

On a beflagged dais were Councillor A. Temple Miles (first mayor-elect of Ringwood), who presided, Messrs. Tyner, Jones, and



New State School, Ringwood.

W. Hussey, took place, and 700 school children were entertained. A fancy-dress football match was another attraction provided.

Chandler, M.L.C's, Mr. Everard, M.L.A., and the newly elected borough councillors, together with their wives.