A Century of Local Government in Ringwood

Borough of Ringwood	**1924-1960**
City of Ringwood	**1960-1994**
City of Maroondah	**1994-2024**

Ringwood & District Historical Society

Russ Haines OAM
Peter Tully
Ralph Bartlett

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"There is an orderliness in the universe, there is an unalterable law governing everything and every being that exists or lives. It is no blind law; for no blind law can govern the conduct of living beings."

Mahatma Gandhi

Early Ringwood

Russ Haines

View of Whitehorse Road (now Maroondah Highway) in 1919 with the rebuilt Coach & Horses Hotel on the south side, following the fire of the original Log Cabin. Heatherdale Road is located on the top of the hill, past the large house on the right, in the west. Today, the Eastlink freeway bisects the photograph.

The Parish of Ringwood was first named in 1857, following an early survey of the areas east of Melbourne. The town of Ringwood was named a year later, in 1858, paying homage to the District Surveyor, Clement Hodgkinson, who spent his youth around the New Forest in England and the bordering town of Ringwood.

Subsequent land sales necessitated the formation of Road District Boards, the precursor to local councils. The people of Ringwood, beginning in the 1860s, were involved in mining of antimony and gold, later bricks and tiles. Agriculture, mainly fruit-growing, became the mainstay industry, as the large parcels of land were sub-divided into more manageable orchards.

Indigenous

Ringwood is a microcosm of Victoria's history. It existed for many thousands of years under the supervision and care of the local indigenous tribes who roamed the creeks and tributaries of the Yarra River, as well as the bushland. Even with the indigenous, there was a system of management - of the land, of the people, and between different tribes.

Indigenous communities were prevalent in the Ringwood area, particularly around water sources such as the swamp at Burnt Bridge Creek that was fed by the Nelson Hill spring, along Mullum Mullum Creek, Sandy Creek (now Ringwood Lake) and Brushy Creek to its confluence with the Yarra River at Wonga Park. It was at this later location that William Barak was born, an influential representative for Aboriginal social justice and knowledgeable expert on indigenous culture. From 1840s to the early 1920s, the Wurundjeri people had camps at these locations.

## Squatter's Land Allocation

The District of Port Phillip was established within the colony of New South Wales in 1836, a year after John Batman founded Melbourne.

Due to the great demand for wool back in England, squatter's were keen to access the new pastures in the surrounds of Geelong and Melbourne, that were close to shipping ports.

Thomas Ham produced and published the 1849 "map of purchased and measured lands, counties and parishes" (right). This showed the Parish of Warrandyte divided into blocks of one square mile or 640 acres, unless bordering water courses. Of particular note was the first indication of "Ringwood" land - blocks 19, 20, 23, 24 and 27 nestled between Anderson's Creek in the north and Mullum Mullum Creek in the south. The access track to the Anderson's Creek Diggings (Warrandyte) came via Templestowe.

William Bennett Hull, one of the assistant surveyors under District Surveyor Clement Hodgkinson, submitted a more detailed map of the Warrandyte and Bulleen area in January 1855 to the Victorian Government (right top). It was also important to shown Barker's Track (later straightened to Maroondah Highway). As shown on today's map, blocks 19 and 20 covered Park Orchards, South Warrandyte and Warranwood, while 23 and 24 are North Ringwood (right below).
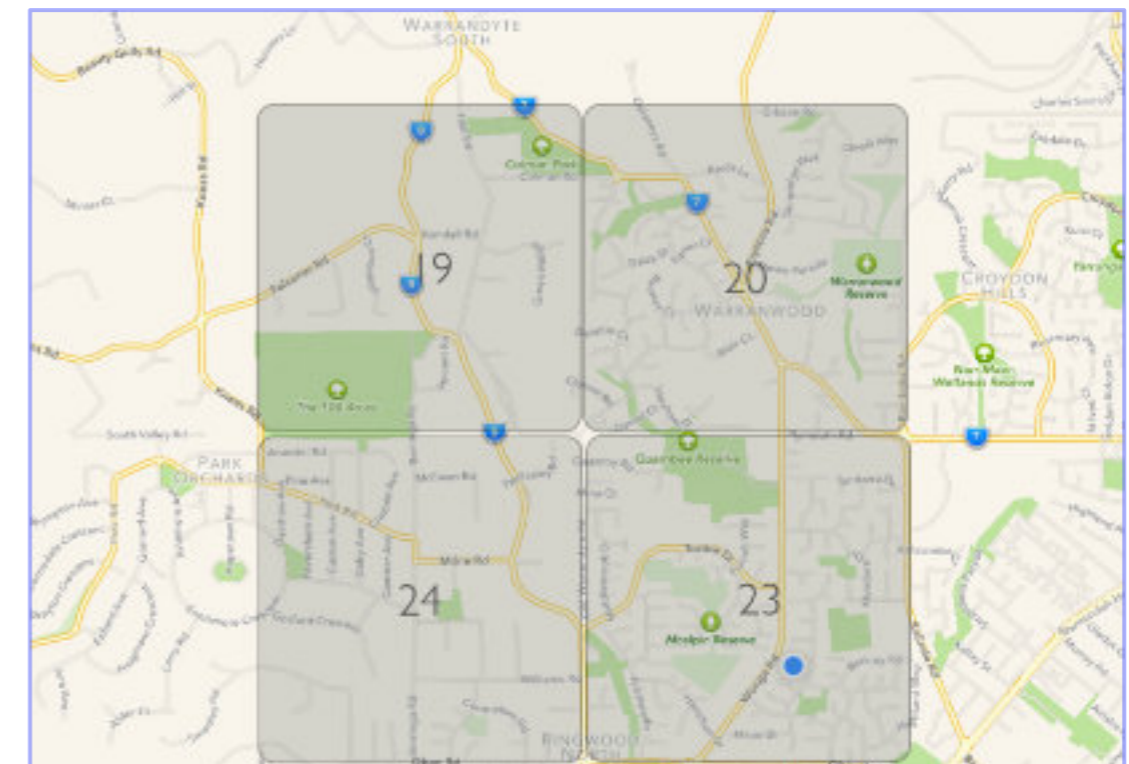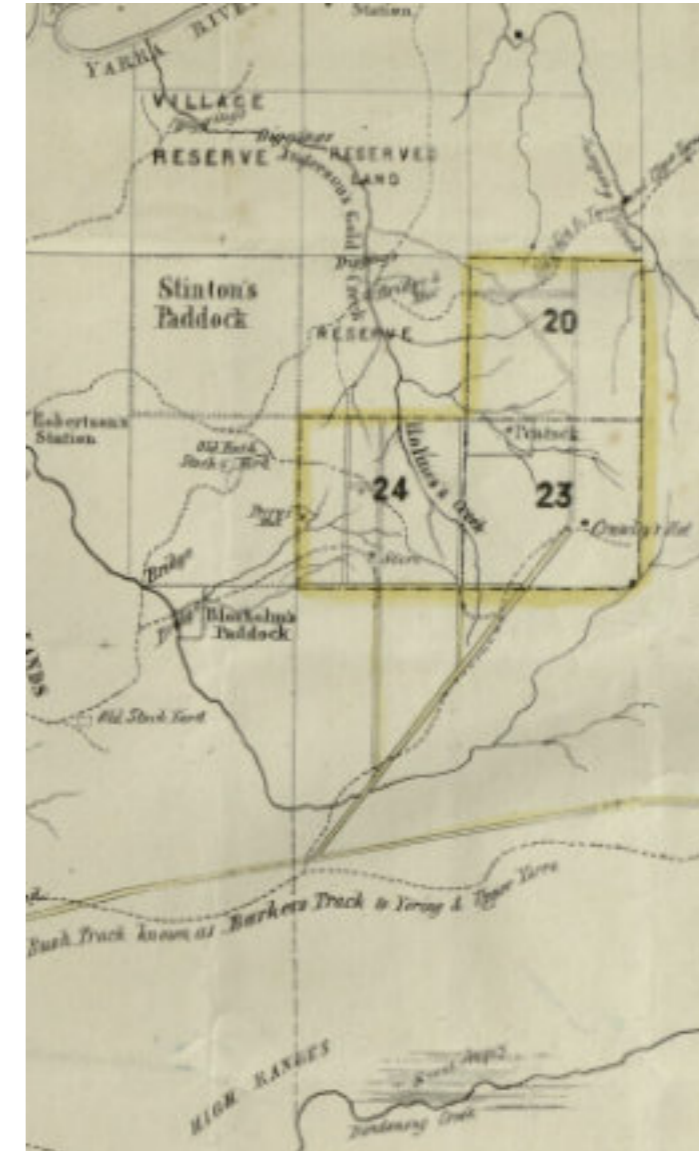
First Land Sales

Thomas Ham, besides being a engraver, lithographer and publisher of the *Australian Illustrated Magazine,* produced the first Victorian stamps and speculated in mining and land sales. He bought blocks 20, 23 and 24 and offered them - over 2,000 acres - for sale in early 1854. This was the first land sales offered in the (soon-to-be) Ringwood area.

Ham, a successful land agent, was probably selling on behalf of the Government on commission. Charles Heape, a Melbourne merchant, bought both 640-acre blocks 23 and 24 at auction for £1/acre in November 1854. Block 20 was bought by Francis Cooke, the original publisher and printer of *The Age* newspaper.

Owners were expected to enhance the properties and maintain fencing, but few did. A small number remained in the area, such as the Falconers and Kendalls but the real pioneers of the Ringwood area came with the subdivisions of the large blocks into more manageable farming lots.

Families such as the Bloods, Pratts, McAlpins, Maggs, Dicksons, Wielands and Kennedys have remained in the area over many generations from the 1860s and 1870s.

County of Mornington

Beginning in 1849, Victoria was divided into counties, then further subdivided into parishes and townships, for real estate or land administration purposes. Mornington County was one of the first to be proclaimed in 1849.

It extended from the Parish of Warrandyte in the north, west over to Port Phillip Bay and south down the Mornington Peninsula, Phillip Island and over to East Gippsland - over 4,200 square kms (see map right).

It was in this county that Ringwood was formed a few years later.
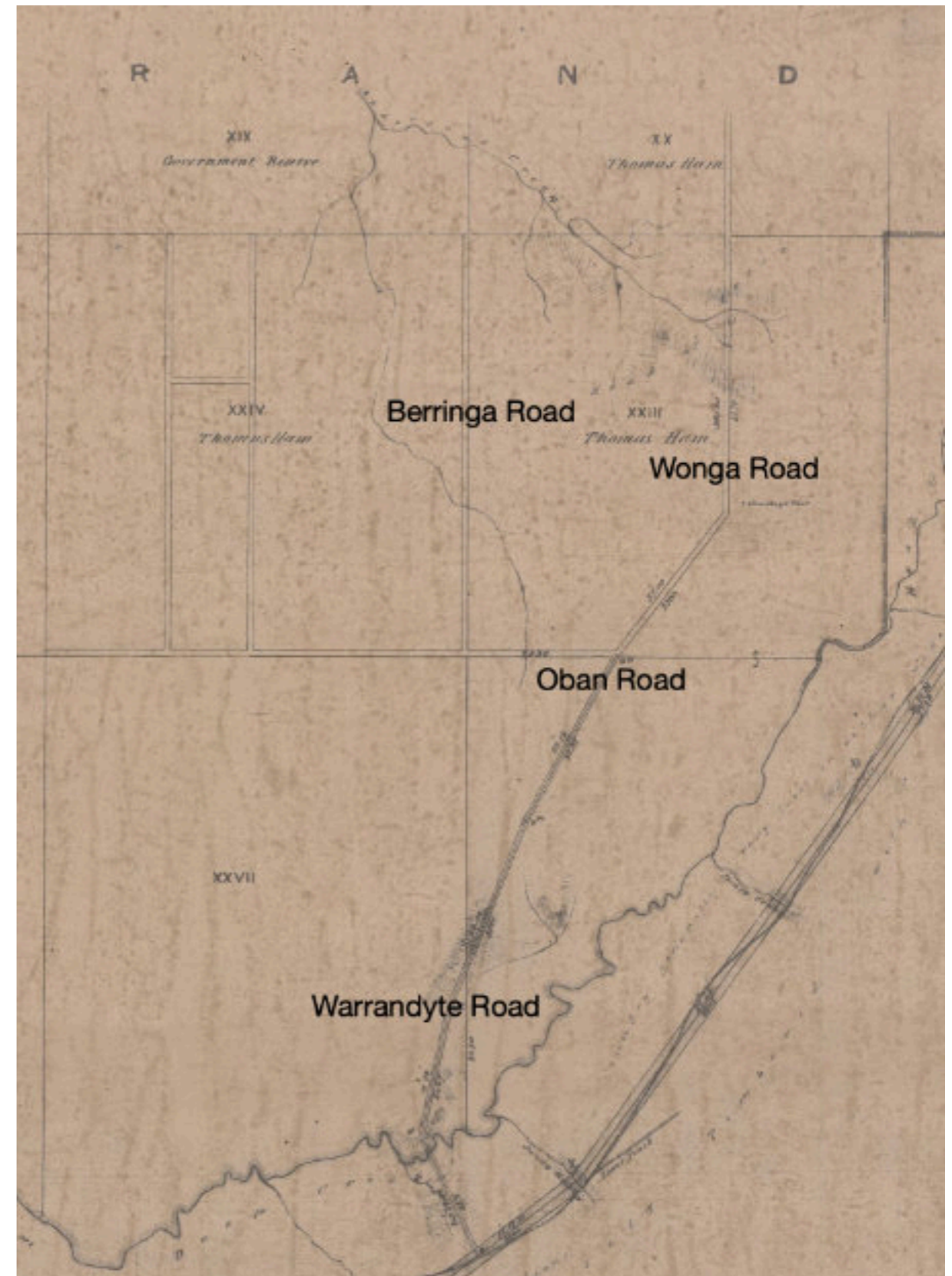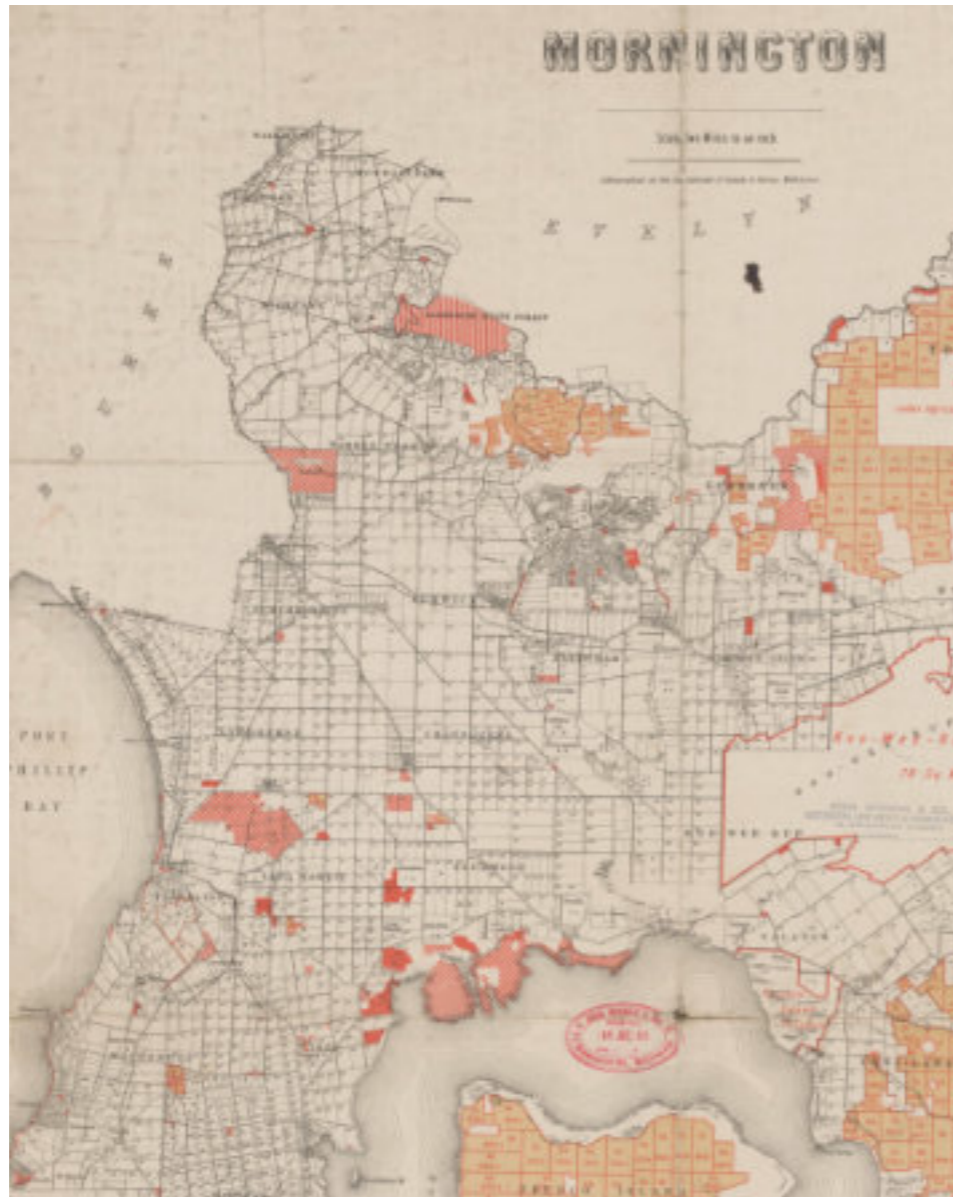
January 1855 map of the Ringwood area prepared by William Hull, Assistant Surveyor. Some of the earlier roads are marked but often these were tracks of dubious quality.

Parish of Ringwood

In 1857, the Parish of Ringwood was documented by Neil Bickford, Victorian Assistant Surveyor in his December 1957 map of *"Country Lands in the Parishes of Nunawading, Ringwood and Scoresby in the Counties of Bourke and Mornington"* (see right). Clement Hodgkinson, District Surveyor and Bickford's supervisor, commented on the map that the land in the survey *"is of inferior quality, moderately undulating and thickly wooded"*.

Often the parish's name came before the naming of any towns. For example, the Parish of Warrandyte existed in 1841 but Warrandyte town only came into being in the mid-1850s. Similarly, there was a delay, but somewhat shorter, between first naming the Ringwood parish, then the town of Ringwood.

Naming Ringwood

It was fairly common for early surveyors to recognise people or places by naming locations after them. Scoresby was named after William Scoresby, the Artic explorer, who died in 1857. In 1858, John Hardy, another of Hodgkinson's assistant surveyors, named Olinda Creek after Alice Olinda Hodgkinson, the daughter of Clement and Alicia Hodgkinson. In all likelihood, he also named Lillydale (original spelling of "Lilydale") while visiting Yering homestead with Mrs Hodgkinson.

Clement Hodgkinson was born in Southhampton, on the east side of the New Forest in Southern England, with the market town of Ringwood on the west side of the woodlands and flora and flora diversity of the royal forest.

Clement was a civil engineer and came to Australia in 1841, as a 21 year-old. Much of his work was in surveying, working closely with engineers on such projects as the Yan Yean Reservoir and the final route of Whitehorse Road (Maroondah Hwy) from Box Hill to Lilydale.

Clement Hodgkinson, Surveyor-General

From his early days exploring in the New Forest, he applied his geological and agricultural knowledge to local circumstances. He was well-aware of the benefit of natural forests and swamps, creating reserves in his plans. He was an avid naturalist and gardener. As his health deteriorated from work overload, he saw recreation in the Crown Land and its parks. He disagreed with von Mueller on the introduction of introduced species, such as the pine trees on the site of Government House.

According to historical records, surveyor Neil Bickford named the Parish of Ringwood in his boss' honour in 1857, as Clement Hodgkinson had a strong, early connection to similar bushland in his home country. Subsequently, the naming of the town of Ringwood followed shortly the year after in 1858. Early land sales confirmed this date.

In the Silver Jubilee year of 1977, celebrating 25 years of reign by Queen Elizabeth II, the City of Ringwood approached Ringwood Town Council in Hampshire, UK and subsequently became the Hampshire town's second sister town.
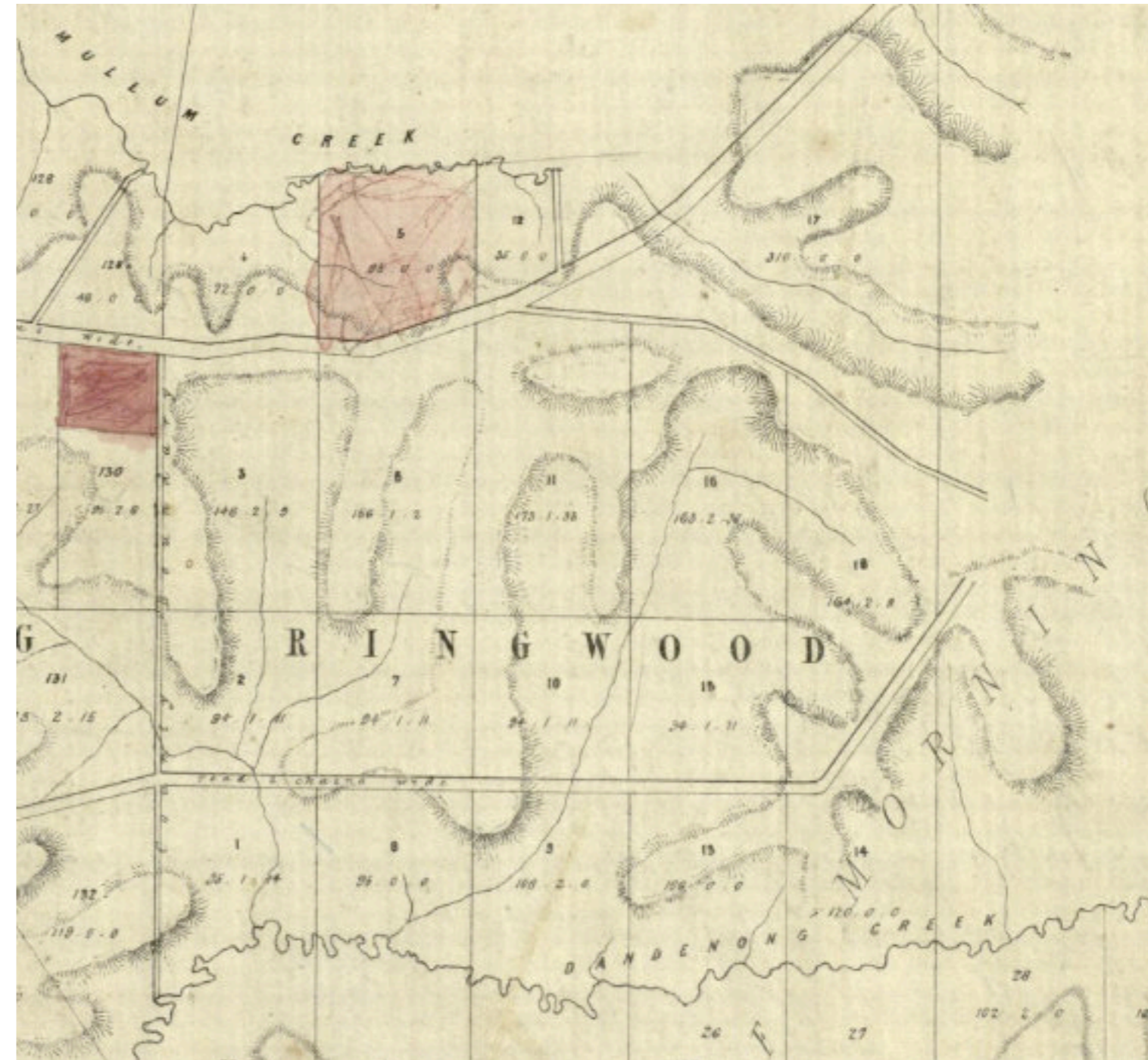
December 1857 plan of the Ringwood parish prepared by Neil Bickford, Victorian Assistant Surveyor. The borders were Heatherdale Road in the west, Mullum Mullum Creek in the north, Dandenong Creek in the south and a line following Dublin Road in the east. The blocks were numbered 1 to 18.

Berwick Road District

Apart from a few government roads, early settlers of rural parishes, such as Ringwood, were required to clear and maintain tracks themselves. Road Districts legislation was passed in 1853 in Victoria and was an early form of local government. Additional responsibilities related to pounds, slaughtering licences, weed management, pest eradication, licensing publicans and hotels were added at various times.

It was not until 1862 that the Berwick Road District was declared. At the Roads Board Conference in June 1863, it was noted that "*Scoresby and Ringwood were so small in population that they would have no weight in electing members of Council; and before they were united to an original district it was necessary for them to form themselves into a road district, and they would then be in a position to join the others.*"

At subsequent conferences in the year, the feeling was, "*Boroondara, Nunawading, Mulgrave, Scoresby, and Ringwood be united to form a shire*". After lengthy discussions, no decision was made. Eventually, later in the year, the boundaries of the Berwick District were redefined by adding the parishes of Scoresby and Ringwood.

In the period that the Parish of Ringwood was part of the Berwick District Road Board, the representative members were always local Berwick landowners, then later influential settlers. Ringwood had no representatives on the Board during the 8 years of inclusion.

Complaints were received from Ringwood residents of the long distance to travel to Berwick to do business with the Road District, or to "*exercise their rights and privileges as voters without great loss of time*". Again, discussions were lengthy but indecisive of where the Parish of Ringwood would go.

Upper Yarra Road District/Shire of Lillydale

Eventually the Parish or Ringwood was severed from the Shire of Berwick and made part of the Upper Yarra Road District in 1871. The following year, in 1872, Upper Yarra Road District was proclaimed as the Shire of Lillydale. Thus began the Ringwood 52-year relationship that lasted until 1924.

The Shire was divided into three Ridings, namely, the South-western Riding, formed by the parishes of Ringwood, Mooroolbark and part of Warrandyte (i.e. Croydon), plus the North-western and Eastern Ridings, containing other parishes of the Yarra Valley.

After 8 years at Berwick and 16 years at Upper Yarra/Lillydale municipal governments, Ringwood finally had its first representative in 1878, namely George T Wiggin, the publican of the Club Hotel in East Ringwood, and son of Thomas, publican of the Coach and Horses Hotel at the west end of Ringwood. He served on the Shire for 11 years up to 1889.

Considered the "grandfather" of Ringwood, Thomas Grant served from 1889 to 1894, James Maggs for 2 years (1887 to 1888) and James Quigley also 2 years (1889 to 1890), all from Ringwood.

There was a gap of 15 years without Ringwood representation, from 1895 to 1909. Then the big three "Ms" became part of the Shire - JB McAlpin (7 years from 1910-1916, President in 1912), William Mackinlay (7 years from 1917-1923, President in 1919) and, finally, AT Miles (2 years from 1922 (President) to 1923), all North Ringwood orchardists and prominent citizens of Ringwood.

Sealing Wantirna Road by horse and cart (above). 1879 Shire Rate Book (below), showing some Ringwood pioneers.

Ringwood's First Councillors

Altogether Ringwood had seven representatives with the Shire of Lillydale. George Wiggin, the first in 1878, began a precedent of 146 years of local self government up the present day. In 2028 there will two jubilees of considerable note - 170 years since the naming of Ringwood and 150 years of local government representation. Below are the stories of these councillors.

GEORGE T WIGGIN

After leaving school, George entered the service of Cobb & Co coaches, where he made a name for himself by setting a never to be broken record of 25 hours for the run from Melbourne to Wood's Point. In 1877, he built the Club Hotel in Mount Dandenong Road, Ringwood East, and later converted an adjacent blacksmith's shop into a public hall. His father owned the Coach & Horses Hotel at the west end of Ringwood.

G. T. WIGGIN,
—RINGWOOD.—
HOUSE, LAND AND ESTATE AGENT,
Properties for Sale and on Lease.
Loans Negotiated,
Valuations Made,
Insurances Effected,
On the most reasonable terms.
Several Desirable Farm Properties for Sale.
Horses and Buggies on Hire.

He took a keen interest in local affairs, and celebrated the arrival of the first train with a banquet. Amongst his keenest interests was the Horticultural Society, and he was a member of the first Ringwood Show Committee. He represented the south-west riding in the Lilydale Shire from 1878 to 1889.

JAMES MAGGS Jnr.

James Maggs Snr. and wife Harriet migrated to Melbourne on the "Ticondergoa" that sailed from Birkenhead in 1852.

Their sons Joseph, Samuel and James Jnr. all established orchards in the Ringwood/ Croydon district.

James Maggs Jnr., who married Marianne Hardidge, (right) was born on 28 April 1862. He cleared 12 acres around the southern part of Kalinda Road. His house was a four-roomed paling structure claiming the distinction of an iron roof. He served on the Lillydale Shire from 1887 to 1888.

James and Marianne had 11 eleven children. She was the local midwife, reputed to have delivered over 500 babies in the area. James died in 1925, buried at Box Hill Cemetery, while Nurse Maggs, died in 1941 aged 81.

JAMES QUIGLEY

James Quigley (right) arrived in Melbourne on board the "Star of England" on the 23rd January 1865 aged 23 years. He went to the diggings in Ballarat, Victoria. On the 21st April 1871, at the home of Mr Burke in Ararat, Victoria, he married Catherine O'Brien.

James came to Ringwood during the mining boom, firstly as a director of the Grand Junction Gold and Antimony Mining Co., working the lease in 1876. Later he leased a 64-acre area between Mt Dandenong Road and Eastfield Road from Joseph Maggs, Cr. James Maggs' brother. James discovered the first deposits in Australia of kaolin, used in the manufacture of fine Porcelain.

He made considerable money by floating the Federal Brick Company and the Ringwood Brickmaking Company, until the land boom went bust in the period when James was a Councillor from 1888 to 1890.
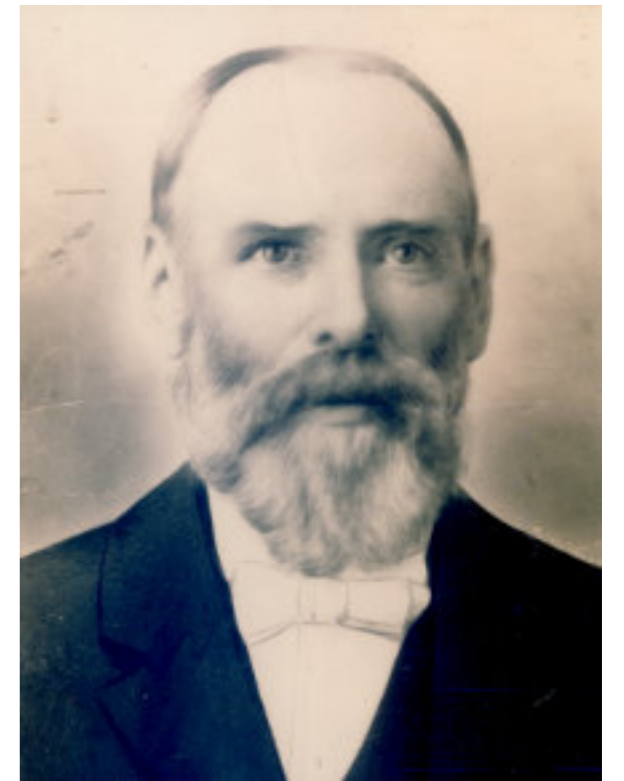
THOMAS GRANT

Thomas Grant came to Ringwood in 1876. He purchased land in the vicinity of the present Drive-In Arcade, building a blacksmith's and coach-building shop. In 1883, Grant moved his "smith" to the corner of Adelaide Street. At the same time, he planted out an orchard on his land which ran from Ringwood Street, to Warrandyte Road, and north as far as Mullum Creek. This land is now occupied by Eastland. In 1909, he sold 8 acres of his land on Ringwood Street (Ringwood Reserve) to the Lilydale Shire.

The Grants were foundation members of the Methodist Church. Thomas was appointed a Trustee in 1879 as well as being an enthusiastic member of many societies and in civic affairs. His interests included forming the Progress Association, Cricket Club, and the Agricultural Society, being a regular exhibitor. He served as a Councillor on the Lilydale Shire, representing Ringwood from 1889 to 1894.

JAMES (JB) McALPIN

James first worked on this father's orchards but was interested in local affairs. In 1903 he was Secretary of the Ringwood Horticultural Society and for many years organized the annual shows. He was an originator of the movement to create the Cool Stores. In 1907, JB McAlpin commenced a successful estate agency in Ringwood. The following year he became a Councillor for the South-West Riding of the Shire of Lillydale, and a year later he married Ethel Hill, a daughter of John Hill of Rosedale Nursery. Ethel died in 1911, and sometime afterwards he married her sister Elvie.

Between 1920 and 1924 McAlpin was an active President of the Ringwood Progress League. In 1924 he was elected to the Borough Council and served until his resignation on medical advice in 1929, when he contracted malaria on a visit to South Africa.

WILLIAM MACKINLAY

The first of the Mackinlay family to come to Sydney in 1838, was George. As a result of the marriage of George and Martha, William Mackinlay was born on 19 February 1853. He attended the Common School there before moving to Warrandyte with his parents. He married Elizabeth White of East Doncaster in 1887, and they lived for some years on a property adjoining that of his parents at Temora, with their three children were born there.

During the Depression of the 1890s, William lost everything except some sheep, which he took on the roads in search of food, while his family were sent to relations in Burwood. About two years later they were reunited and in 1902 took up an orchard in Wonga Road, part of which is now occupied by Norwood Secondary College. William was a member of the Lillydale Council in 1917-23 and President in 1919, and retained his seat until 1924 when he was elected to the first Ringwood Council. By this time he was 75 when he became Mayor and he retired three years later. He died in 1944, aged 91 years.

AUGUSTUS (AT) MILES

Augustus Temple Miles was born at Hobart in 1880, and was a son of the well-known shipowner, Captain ET Miles, who was Minister for Lands, Works, Mines and Railways in the Tasmanian Parliament. He was educated at Officer and Scotch Colleges, Hobart, where he was prominent in football, cricket and yachting. As a young man he entered the service of TA Reynolds and Co., shipowners and railway contractors, and served with the Union S.S. Co. ashore and afloat.

Miles spent some years at the Straits Settlements. He became secretary of the Tongkah Harbor Tin Dredging Coy at Pukit, Siam. In 1910 he came to Victoria and settled at Ringwood, and was director of several tin concerns in the East. He was a keen sportsman, and has been president of the Ringwood District Cricket Association and Foundation President of the Croydon Golf Club. Miles also served on the Church of England vestry, and was a member of the Lilydale Shire Council, of which he was president in 1922-23. Temple Miles (left) at his Quambee property in 1917 (below).

The Buildup to Autonomy   2

Russ Haines

Even though there was discussions on the independence of Ringwood in the early 1900s, much of the decision to form a Borough was dependant on having financial independence for the South-Western Riding.

The Ringwood Railway Siding, Goods Shed and Station building were opened in the 1880s. The mining and brick/tile industries began closing down. The town's business began gravitating between East and West Ringwood, near the railway facilities.

A number of events, shown in the following pages, occurred from 1909 onwards that made Ringwood attractive locality - a Town Hall, hospital, water, electricity, telephone and the development of a commercial centre. The end of WWI brought new couples to the area and, through a number of house blocks being sold in land sub-divisions, began a baby boom in the 1920s. The time was right for Ringwood to stand on its own merits, by creation of a Borough.

1880s - Ringwood's Railway Development

The construction of the railway line to Lilydale in 1882 was a major factor in the development of Ringwood. A siding was constructed with a goods shed in 1887. It was not until 1889, that the Ringwood to Ferntree Gully line was opened. The electrification of the Lilydale line, to Ringwood, was opened at the end of January 1923. Due to increased patronage, electrification was extended to Croydon in November 1924. Two new stations were opened in the district, due to increased demand for residential land - Ringwood East Station opened on 18th May 1925 and Heathmont a year later on 1st May 1926.

Image (above) showing the goods shed and station building in 1912. Below, three years later showing the Station.

1909 - Ringwood's Mechanics' Institute and Free Library

The official opening of the new Ringwood Mechanics Institute and free library took place 22nd September 1909 by the Victorian Premier John Murray. The hall was a major boost to the community and became the initial home of the Borough of Ringwood Chambers. Later it was converted to the Ringwood Town Hall, until its demise in 1971.

1909/1923 - Ringwood Post Office

The location of the post office gravitated, from the west, to central Ringwood, opposite the Railway Station. Later, a new Post Office was built at the Ringwood Street/Maroondah Hwy corner in 1923 (below), Loughnan's Hill in the background.

1911 - Electricity and Water

In April, 1915, electric lighting came to Ringwood with a lamp in front of the Railway Station and 4 other lights at various parts of Whitehorse Road, as well as about a dozen shops and private houses. By June, 1915, there were 50 private consumers connected in Ringwood. Water was connected also in 1915. Photo, Ringwood Market with power lines.

1916 - "Pines" Hospital Opened

Located in Adelaide Street, next to the Ringwood Mail Office. Many babies were born there, including your author.

1922 - Timber Yard and Pratt's Butcher

Warrandyte Road showing Bamford's timber and Ollie Pratt's butcher shop on corner. This shop was copied to build the Blood Bros. General Store on the south side of the railway line, now claimed to be the oldest commercial building in Ringwood.

1918 - End of WWI Celebrations - Start of the First Baby Boom

1915 - Adelaide Street
Adelaide Street connected Maroondah Highway to Mullum Mullum Creek, between Ringwood Street and Warrandyte Road. It was located where the Maroondah City Council offices are today, extending through Eastland.

1923 - New Ringwood State School 2997 Building
With many more children being born in Ringwood after WWI, the State School near the corner of Ringwood Street and Maroondah Highway became overcrowded. A new school was built in Greenwood Avenue. The new Ringwood North State School 4120 was also opened in 1923 on donated orchard land.

1924 - Ringwood East State School 4180
The school opened in 1924 after petitioning from local residents and local politician, Bill Everard MLA

1924 - Ringwood Mail Newspaper
On 8th January 1924, the first edition of the Ringwood Mail newspaper was produced. This gave Ringwood a solid identity and enabled communications not only between the community and local organisations but also Council happenings.

Ringwood Progress League

The Ringwood Progress League, formed in 1917, was the prime mover to gain independence of the South-Western Riding into Borough of Ringwood. Captain Miles arrived in Ringwood around 1906 and immediately purchased considerable areas of land, particularly in North Ringwood, but was also involved in many real estate and other local business projects. Some of these were the "Pines" Hospital and buildings around Adelaide Street such as the Coffee Palace and the Block Building.

He never sat for Council, yet his son was the Foundation Mayor of the Borough of Ringwood. He lived at the magnificent "Glamorgan" house behind the Warrandyte Road Anglican Church. He took the lead in pushing for improvements in all aspects of Ringwood life, and dragged the townsfolk, mostly apathetically, into the 20th century.

The League was made up of Captain ET Miles (President), Dr Langley, PT Young, W Mackinlay, J Hann, and JH Barrett. Captain Miles declared "*he had big hopes of Ringwood, and was prepared to fight shoulder to shoulder with all residents for its rights and progress', but he denied he was a 'monopolist' who desired to own all the buildings in the town. He could not see much hope of improving conditions for the Ringwood resident, he argued, until there was better representation for the South-West Riding, or even better still, a separate Shire with Ringwood as its headquarters.*"

On 19 June 1918, Captain ET Miles moved and PT Young seconded the motion: "*That in the opinion of the Ringwood Progress League the time has arrived to take the necessary steps for forming a Borough.*" It was carried unanimously, and a deputation took the resolution and related maps and statistics to the Minister of Public Works, Arthur Robinson, soon afterwards.

Captain ET Miles (seated below), with his wife next to him and son, Augustus Temple, immediately behind him.

Formation of the Borough

Russ Haines

It was an exciting and rewarding day, on 13th December 1924, when the Borough of Ringwood was finally declared. All of the preliminary work had been done by a band of tireless residents.

Celebrations took place down the main road, particularly involving the local school. A more formal evening and speeches followed.

The Petition and Borough Criteria

The deputation, in September 1918, to gain approval for severance from the Shire of Lillydale fell short due to lack of potential revenue. The next solid attempt was in early 1924 following a deputation to the Minister of Public Works, JP Jones MLC. Cr AT Miles was Ringwood's designated leader of the later Borough movement, his father the first.

The Local Government Act stipulated that the new Borough should not exceed 9 square miles, equivalent to 5,760 acres, and that the majority of residents sign a petition for severance. The proposed area was 5,547 acres with 1,195 assessments giving nearly 4,000 pounds in revenue. These facts were presented to the authorities and approval was, at first, delayed due to political happenings but finally given in August 1924.

Elections were then arranged on 4th December to select 6 Councillors. 14 candidates put their names forward.

Celebrations

The proclamation celebrations, 'a day of rejoicing' for Ringwood, took place on 13 December 1924, but it was also a day of intense heat and dust-laden northerly winds. Later, in the afternoon the temperature fell 21 degrees in 20 minutes and was followed by a storm.

The procession down the bunting and coloured-light festooned Main Street to the Reserve was led by the Ringwood Citizens' Brass Band, and Cr Arthur Blood and Constable Wakeham, who were mounted on chargers.

Behind them came 600 children, decorated bicycles, gigs, and motor cars. The official ceremony was performed from a covered platform by W.H. Everard, MLA., who substituted for the Minister for Public Works, and after numerous speeches, a reception for the parliamentarians and other civic dignitaries was held in the Mechanics' Institute. A carnival followed. 'It was the consummation of the civic aspirations of the people', reported the Mail, 'and in a spirit of thanksgiving it was determined to make a holiday. It is well that the infant municipality should be launched on its voyage of usefulness with fitting ceremonial for no matter how well-founded it will encounter storms of unreasoning and destructive criticism and the uncharted rocks of self-interest'.

At the first statutory meeting of the Council, which was held in the Mechanics' Hall on the morning of 24 December 1924, Cr A.T. Miles was unanimously elected Mayor. This was an outcome of his service as President of the Shire of Lillydale in 1922-23, as well as his efforts towards forming the new Borough. Councillor Miles was instrumental in getting the Borough and but for the time, energy, tact and discernment he devoted to the work Ringwood would have remained part of the South-West Riding for at least a couple of decades, if not longer.

The formation of the Borough of Ringwood was 'a big forward movement for the district', remarked *The Herald* newspaper after the election. It was the culmination of many years' work, but was destined to be successful because 'Ringwood has ceased to be a rural township and has become definitely and actually a suburb of Melbourne'

The Statutory Meeting of the Borough of Ringwood was held at the Mechanics Institute on Wednesday 24th December 1924 commencing at 10.00 am. At this meeting six Councillors were appointed for 1924-1925.

Ringwood and Croydon Mail Extraordinary. December 4, 6.45 p.m.

ELECTION RESULTS.

Crs. Miles, McAlpin, Mackinlay, Blood, McCashkill Wilkins and Returned.

DETAILS OF VOTING.

BARRETT, John William	198
BLOOD, Arthur	409
BURKITT, Thomas Arthur Wentworth	192
GRANT, Thomas	184
McALPIN, James Bell	455
McCASKILL, James Kenneth	311
McCLELLAND, William	177
MACKINLAY, William	427
MADDEN, Nicholas	179
MILES, Augustus Temple	457
PYKE, Frank Cedric	155
REDDISH, Thomas William	162
WIGGIN, George Thomas	82
WILKINS, Roy Gladstone	300

For Full Account of Ringwood's First Council Election see Next Wednesday's "Ringwood and Croydon Mail."

The results of the 1924 election for Councillors of the Borough of Ringwood. The six elected were AT Miles, JB McAlpin, W Mackinlay, A Blood, J McCaskill and R Wilkins. In the years up to the creation of the Borough, much work was done by others on the card to promote the severance from Lillydale Shire.

John Barrett, local dentist, Thomas Burkitt, East Ringwood real estate, Thomas Grant, the "grand-father" of Ringwood, William McClelland, manager of Ringwood Market, Nicholas Madden, Coach & Horses Hotel, Frank Pyke, West Ringwood orchardist, Tom Reddish, Club Hotel and GT Wiggin, a Ringwood pioneer. Wiggin, Grant, McAlpin, Mackinlay and Miles all previously serving as Councillors for the Lillydale Shire.

Ringwood Borough Council. Councillors, officers and architect and builder of Town Hall. Left to right - Front Row. AFB Long, Cr. AT Miles, JB McAlpin. Second Row. JK McCaskill, RG Wilkins, A Blood, W Mackinlay, FR Lucas, Eng. Third row. MJ Jenkins (rate collector), AC Leith, architect, AJ Roberts (builder), Mr Taylor, Health Inspector. On steps of new town hall, August 1927

Councillors

4

Peter Tully

Councillors have served Ringwood since 1878 until the present.

Peter Tully compiled the majority of the details that form the basis of this chapter. He was a former employee of City of Croydon – February 1981 to July 1983, City of Ringwood – July 1983 to December 1994;and Maroondah City Council – December 1994 to July 2019.

Sandra Emery compiled the chronological list in 1994. She was a former employee of City of Ringwood and Maroondah City Council. Minor edits and formatting changes were done by Peter in October 2022 & May 2023, former employee of City of Croydon, City of Ringwood and Maroondah City Council - 1981 to 2019.

Shire of Lillydale Councillors

After the Upper Yarra Road District began in 1871, the Shire of Lillydale was proclaimed a year later in 1872. The Shire was divided into three Ridings, namely, the South-western Riding, formed by the parishes of Ringwood, Mooroolbark and part of Warrandyte (i.e. Croydon), plus the North-western and Eastern Ridings.

The Ringwood representatives were:-

George T Wiggins	1878-1889	James Maggs	1887-1888
James Quigley	1889-1890	Thomas Grant	1889-1894
JB McAlpin	1910-1916 (Pres. 1912)	William Mackinlay	1917-1924 (Pres. 1919)
AT Miles	1919-1924 (Pres. 1922)		

Ringwood & Maroondah Councillors

77 Councillors served the communities of the Borough of Ringwood and the City of Ringwood for 70 years from December 1924 to December 1994. 33 Councillors served the community of Maroondah over 27 years from March 1997 to December 2024.

Councils

Ringwood ceded from the Shire of Lillydale on 22 October 1924 and was proclaimed the Borough of Ringwood on 13 December 1924. The Borough was proclaimed the City of Ringwood on 19 March 1960. Resulting from State Government reforms of Victorian Local Government, the City of Ringwood was amalgamated with the City of Croydon to primarily form Maroondah City Council on 15 December 1994.

Women Representation

Two factors attributed to the low number of only 4 women Councillors for Ringwood up to 1983. The first was the system of only ratepayers voting - as up to the 1960s it wasn't usual to have property either in both male and female names, or solely in a woman's name. Meaning that most property was in one name and that was almost solely male. Making it rare for a woman to be elected as most were not even eligible to be on the voting roll. The second factor was the society norm of that time with women doing almost all of the domestic and child raising duties. Leaving no or little time for Council.

Following the change to adult franchise, 7 women Councillors were elected over the next eleven years making a total of 11 Councillors for the City of Ringwood. None were elected to the Borough of Ringwood 1924 to 1960.

Councillor Elizabeth Penny was the first woman Councillor in 1961/62 and also the first woman Mayor for Ringwood in 1955/67. Additionally, she was also instrumental in initiating the Ringwood Highland Carnival – bringing together Scottish clans and their pipe bands - and had the sound shell at the Ringwood Lake dedicated to her.

GERALD SMART was mayor in 1973/74 and 1976/77 for the City of Ringwood. He also served as a Councillor from 1967/68 until 1981/82. His wife, Sandra, also served as Mayoress for Cr Pat Palmer.

Gerald was instrumental in getting the Wyreena-based local radio station, ECB-FM, off the ground. He was a Chartered Engineer, President Ringwood Arts and Crafts Society, Honorary Secretary of Television Society of Australia, Patron, Ringwood Swimming and Life Saving Club, President Ringwood District Scouting Association, Executive Committee Member of Municipal Association of Victoria and many other roles.

PETER VERGERS, Councillor from 1954-1973, Mayor in 1957 and 1963.

Peter was an orchardist in Wonga Park and North Ringwood. He attended Wonga Park Primary School. His hobbies were cricket and golf. He bowled the first ball at the opening of Jubilee Park. Member Ringwood Bowling Club.

He was a Justice of the Peace, assisting regularly Ringwood Magistrates Court and Secretary Ringwood Co-operative Cool Stores Society, from 1949-60.

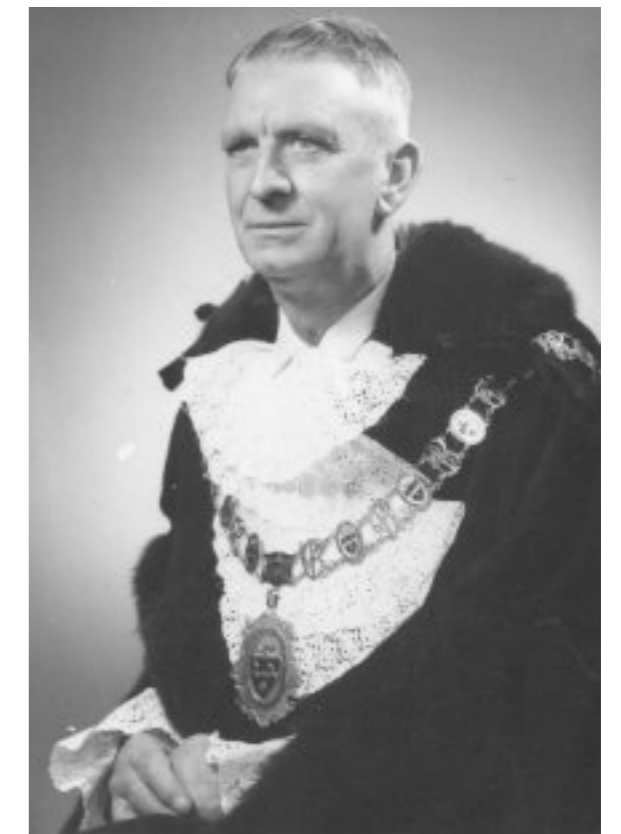BEN HUBBARD, was a Councillor 1945-69 and Mayor, 1949, 1955, 1964 and 1969.
He was a leading tennis player in district for many years, Life Member Ringwood Tennis Club, Life Member Ringwood Horticultural Society, Member of Australian Institute of Parks for 17 years, Member of National Resources for 17 years, and made a Justice of the Peace in 1949. He received an MBE in 1972. He was well-known as a champion flower exhibitor.

COUNCILLORS
BOROUGH OF RINGWOOD
1924 –1960

CITY OF RINGWOOD
1960 – 1994

NAME	COUNCILLOR	MAYOR
	Terms are from August to August. Eg. 1990/91 – 1992/93 is from August 1990 to August 1993. 3 years.	**MB** Mayor Borough **MC** Mayor City
Addicott Albert Frank (Bert)	1983/84 - 1984/85 (to Oct '84)	
Adkins Gregory Alan (Greg)	1990/91 - 1992/93	MC 1992/93
Aird John George (JG or Jack)	1929/30 - 1938/39	
Aus Norman	1963/64 - 1969/70 (to March '70)	MC 1967/68
Baxter Douglas Jackson (Doug)	1956/57 - 1967/68	MC 1961/62
Blood Arthur	1924/25 (from Dec '24) - 1937/38	MB 1929/30 MB 1930/31 MB 1931/32
Caffyn John Robert	1984/85 (from March '85) - 1988/89	MC 1987/88
Caterer Frederick William	1944/45 - 1946/47	
Cheevers Brian James [13]	1993/94 (ext to Dec 1994)	
Cheevers Margaret Ellen [13]	1989/90 – 1993/94 (ext to Dec 1994)	MC 1993/94
Clarke Brian Glensyle	1961/62 (from Oct '61) - 1968/69	MC 1965/66
Colquhoun William Leslie (Dr) [3]	1931/32 - 1933/34 (to April '34) 1937/38 - 1939/40	MB 1939/40 (part to May '40)
Corr Francis John (Frank) [11] [16]	1975/76 - 1989/90	MC 1980/81 MC 1983/84
Corr James Francis (Frank Snr) [6]	1948/49 - 1955/56	MB 1952/53
Dawes Robert Wesley	1929/30 (from May '30) - 1936/37	MB 1932/33
Deuter Maxwell Drage (Max)	1959/60 - 1966/67 (to July '67)	MC 1962/63
Dickson Ronald Kenneth	1969/70 (from March '70) - 1971/72	
Dineen Francis Leopold (Leo)	1987/88 - 1992/93	
Dorman Graeme Michael	1980/81 - 1982/83	
Fraser Ann Catherine [13] [15]	1987/88 - 1989/90 1991/92 – 1993/94 (ext to Dec 1994) [1]	
Gardini Robin	1975/76 - 1977/78 1980/81 - 1988/89 1990/91 - 1992/93	MC 1984/85 MC 1988/89

NAME	COUNCILLOR	MAYOR
Gotlib Patricia (Pat) [9b] [10]	1975/76 - 1986/87	MC 1979/80 MC 1982/83
Hall Thomas Albert [6]	1940/41 - 1943/44	
Hamilton Neil John	1978/79 - 1986/87	MC 1981/82
Hayes Robert Alan	1953/54 (Aug '53 to May '54)	
Henderson Alan Beattie	1976/77 - 1984/85	MC 1978/79
Hodgkins Jack Frederick	1958/59 - 1960/61	
Horman Robert Charles (Bob)	1951/52 - 1962/63 (to June '63)	MB 1954/55 MC 1960/61
Hubbard Benjamin John (Ben) [6]	1945/46 - 1969/70	MB 1949/50 MB 1955/56 MC 1964/65 MC 1969/70
Ibbotson Alfred Marsland	1929/30 - 1931/32	
Kaukas Irene Yvonne (Yvonne) [13]	1993/94 (ext to Dec 1994)	
Kirmos Nicholas (Nick) [13] [15]	1993/94 (ext to Dec 1994)	
Knight Gavan Christopher	1985/86 - 1987/88	
Lavis Albert George (Bert) [8]	1951/52 (from Aug '51) - 1966/67	MB 1958/57 MB Aug '59 – Mar '60 MC Mar '60 – Aug '60
Lawrenson Brian Lawrie (Lawrie)	1972/73 (from Oct '72) - 1981/82	MC 1977/78
Lilburn William Edgar (Bill)	1972/73 - 1974/75	
Llewellyn James (Jim)	1982/83 - 1984/85	
MacDonald Neil Douglas [13]	1989/90 – 1993/94 (ext to Dec 1994)	MC Aug 1994 – Dec '94
Mackinlay William [1]	1924/25 (from Dec '24) - 1928/29	MB 1927/28
Mahoney Kathryn Jean (Kate)	1984/85 (from Oct '84 to Feb '85)	
Martin Richard John (Jack)	1968/69 - 1976/77 (to Nov '76)	MC 1972/73 MC 1975/76
McAlpin Douglas Manson [6]	1949/50 - 1953/54 (to Feb '54)	
McAlpin James Bell [1]	1924/25 (from Dec '24) - 1928/29	MB 1928/29
McCaskill James Kenneth [6]	1924/25 (from Dec '24) - 1930/31 1932/33 - 1947/48 1949/50 - 1950/51	MB 1935/36 MB 1938/39 MB 1946/47 MB 1947/48
McCubbin James Cecil	1969/70 - 1974/75	
McLeod Laurance Hurtle (Laurie)	1958/59 (from Nov '58) – 1961/62 (to Oct '61)	
McRae Christopher (Chris) [12]	1991/92 – 1993/94 (to June 1994)	

NAME	COUNCILLOR	MAYOR
Miles Augustus Temple (Temple) [1]	1924/25 (from Dec '24) - 1938/39 1946/47 – 1947/48 (to Aug '47)	MB 1924/25 MB 1925/26 MB 1926/27 MB 1933/34 MB 1934/35 MB 1937/38
Milton Betty	1985/86 - 1990/91	MC 1990/91
Morris Stanley Charles (Stan)	1962/63 (from June '63) - 1974/75	MC 1968/69 MC 1974/75
Nardella Michael Leonard	1988/89 - 1990/91	
Palmer Patricia Elizabeth (Pat)	1967/68 (from Dec '67) - 1972/73 (to Oct '72)	MC 1971/72
Parker Frank Valentine [4]	1938/39 - 1945/46 (to Aug '45)	MB 1944/45
Parker Henry Ernest (Harry) [6] [7]	1939/40 - 1945/46 1947/48 – 1958/59 (to Sept '58)	MB 1939/40 (part from May '40) MB 1940/41 MB 1945/46 MB 1950/51
Patterson Archibald Donald (Arch) [6]	1949/50 - 1955/56	MB 1953/54
Pearson Harold Fitzjohn (Harry) [2] [6]	1933/34 (from April '34) - 1939/40 (to March '40) 1946/47 - 1948/49	MB 1936/37 MB 1948/49
Penny Elizabeth Jessie [9]	1961/62 - 1967/68 (to Dec '67)	MC 1966/67
Phillips Sylvia Merle [13]	1991/92 – 1993/94 (ext to Dec 1994)	
Purser Edward Thomas [6]	1939/40 (from April '40) - 1946/47 1949/50 - 1957/58	MB 1943/44 MB 1951/52
Richards Doris Merle (Paddy)	1977/78 – 1979/80	
Roberts William Trevor	1956/57 - 1958/59	
Rosewarne Lillian Mary [9b]	1982/83 - 1990/91	MC 1986/87 MC 1989/90
Rourke Edmond David	1950/51 - 1952/53	
Smart Gerald Richard George	1967/68 - 1981/82	MC 1973/74 MC 1976/77
Smith Boris Ripley [8]	1949/50 - 1950/51 (to Aug '51)	
Spencer Reginald Owen (Reg)	1953/54 (from March '54) - 1962/63	MB 1958/59
Stewart Erle [5]	1947/48 - 1948/49	
Tankey Brian Albert	1970/71 - 1972/73	
Taylor Daniel Maxwell (Danny)	1973/74 - 1975/76	
Vergers Peter	1953/54 (from June '54) - 1976/77 (to Feb '77)	MB 1957/58 MC 1963/64
Wademan Clement Williams [6]	1947/48 (from Sept '47) – 1948/49	
Wegecsanyi Laszlo	1976/77 (from Nov '76 to Aug '77)	

NAME	COUNCILLOR	MAYOR
Wilkins Roy Gladstone	1924/25 (from Dec '24) - 1929/30 (to May '30)	
Wilkins William Ronald (Bill)	1976/77 (from Feb '77) - 1988/89	MC 1985/86
Williams Maxwell Richard (Max) [13]	1989/90 – 1993/94 (ext to Dec 1994)	MC 1991/92
Williams Thomas [5]	1939/40 – 1944/45 1945/46 (from Sept '45 to Aug '46)	MB 1941/42 MB 1942/43

Ringwood Borough & City Council Footnotes

(1)   Councillors McAlpin, Mackinlay and Miles. prior to the Borough, served as Councillors and Presidents of the Shire of Lillydale.

(2)   Councillor Harry Pearson resigned in March 1940 as he joined the RAAF as part of Australia's armed forces in World War 2. He was re-elected as a Councillor after the war.

(3)   Councillor William Colquhoun resigned as Mayor in May 1940 during his Mayoral Term of 1939/40. He continued as a Councillor completing the 1939/40 year.

(4)   Councillor Frank Parker was a successful candidate in the 1945 elections but refused to sign the mandatory Councillor Declaration. He resigned from Council.

(5)   Councillor Thomas Williams completed his term as a Councillor at the end of the 1945 Council elections. Councillor Frank Parker was a successful candidate at the 1945 elections but resigned from Council shortly after. Former Councillor Thomas Williams was re-elected to Council in September 1945.

(6)   In August 1949 the municipality was divided into 3 wards with 3 Councillors representing each ward seeing an increase in the total number of Councillors from 6 to 9. The subsequent spill of all existing positions together with the 3 new ones resulted in terms of 4 Councillors being truncated and those elected being allocated terms of varying length – 3 years, 2 years or 1 year - dependent upon order elected in.

a.   Councillors at time of the spill:- Harry Pearson; Erle Stewart; Harry Parker; Ben Hubbard; Clement Wademan; and Frank Corr (Snr).

b.   Councillors elected in August 1949:- North Ward - Frank Corr (Snr); Douglas McAlpin; and Ben Hubbard. East Ward - Edward Purser; James McCaskill; and Thomas Hall. South Ward - Arch Patterson; Harry Parker; and Boris Smith.

(7)   Councillor Harry Parker passed away on 21 September 1958 as a result of a car accident whilst driving on the Ballarat Road.

(8)   Term as Mayor coincided with Ringwood being proclaimed a City. Councillor Bert Lavis was therefore the last Mayor of the Borough of Ringwood from August 1959 to March 1960 and the inaugural Mayor of the City of Ringwood from March 1960 to August 1960.

(9)   Councillor Elizabeth Penny – first woman Councillor elected in August 1961 and first woman Mayor in 1966/67.

a.   11 women Councillors were elected to the City of Ringwood. None were elected to the Borough of Ringwood.

b.   6 woman Councillors were elected as Mayor and 2 served twice as Mayor - Councillor Pat Gotlib in 1979/80 & 1982/83 and Councillor Lillian Rosewarne in 1986/87 & 1989/90.

(10)   Councillor Pat Gotlib's term as Mayor 1982/83 was extended as elections were held in November rather than August due to introduction of full adult franchise in Local Government elections. Prior to November 1983 only ratepayers could vote in Council elections.

(11)   Councillor Frank Corr's Mayoral term for 1983/84 was slightly shortened to November 1983 to August 1984 due to elections being held in November as a result of full adult franchise in Local Government elections.

(12)   Councillor Chris McRae resigned from Council on 20 June 1994. Due to impending amalgamations no extraordinary election was held to fill the vacant position, nor were any elections held in August 1994. Council therefore comprised of 8 Councillors from June to December 1994.

(13)   No elections were held in August 1994 and the 1993/94 term of Council was extended to December 1994 due to State Government amalgamations of Local Government. Conversely the 1993/94 Mayoral terms was not extended and as a result the last mayoral term of Ringwood was only four months from August 1994 to December 1994.

(14)   Small portions of both the Shire of Lillydale and also the City of Doncaster and Templestowe were amalgamated with Ringwood and Croydon to form Maroondah City Council.

(15)   Post-Ringwood, Frank Corr, Nick Kirmos and Ann Fraser served as a Councillor of Maroondah City Council. Frank Corr was also a Mayor of Maroondah.

COUNCILLORS

MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 1997 – NOVEMBER 2024

NAME	COUNCILLOR	MAYOR DEPUTY MAYOR
	Councillors were elected for a 3 year term until 2008 then the term was 4 years. At the end of the term all positions on Council are contested. Elections were initially held in March and then changed to October/November.	**M** Mayor **DM** Deputy Mayor [6]
Corr Francis John (Frank) JP [1]	2000 March – 2003 March	**M** 2002/03 (March 02 to March 03)
Cossari Giuseppe (Joe) [2]	1997 March – 2000 March 2003 March – 2005 Nov	**M** 1998/99 (March 98 to March 99)
Damante Tasa	2018 July – 2024 Oct	**DM** 2022/23 (Nov 22 to Nov 23)
Denham Paul	2001 Dec – 2005 Nov	**M** 2004/05 (Dec 04 to Nov 05)
Dib Tony OAM JP [3] [4]	2005 Nov – 2008 Nov 2010 Feb – 2024 Oct	**M** 2007/08 (Dec 07 to Nov 08) **M** 2010/11 (Dec 10 to Dec 11) **M** 2014/15 (Nov 14 to Nov 15) **M** 2016/17 (Nov 16 to Nov 17)
Fitzgerald Liam	2012 Oct – 2016 Oct	
Fraser Ann [1] [5]	2008 Nov – 2014 Aug	
Gleeson Christina	2012 Oct – 2016 Oct	
Gordon Catherine	2024 Nov – Current	
Graham Marijke	2016 Oct – 2023 Sept	**DM** 2019/20 (Nov 19 to Oct 20)
Gurr Peter	1997 March – 2009 Dec	**M** 2000/01 (March 2000 to March 01) **M** 2006/07 (Dec 06 to Dec 07) **M** 2008/09 (Dec 08 to Dec 09)

NAME	COUNCILLOR	MAYOR DEPUTY MAYOR
Hancock Linda	2022 March – Current	**DM** 2024/25
Heatherich Daniella	2024 Nov – Current	
Henderson Nathaniel	2024 Nov – Current	
Jones Chris	2023 Dec – Current	
Kirmos Nicholas (Nick) [1]	1997 March – 2001 Sept	
Lamont Nora [6]	2008 Nov – 2021 Dec	**M** 2012/13 (Nov 12 to Nov 13) **M** 2017/18 (Nov 17 to Nov 18) **DM** 2016/17 (Nov 16 to Nov 17) **DM** 2020/21 (Nov 20 to Nov 21)
Lowe Mary-Anne	2014 Oct – 2016 Oct	
Macdonald Michael [7]	2008 Nov – 2012 Oct 2016 Oct – 2018 July	
Macdonald Paul [8]	2008 Nov – 2012 Oct 2016 Oct – Current	**DM** 2023/24 (Nov 23 to Oct 24)
Makin Alex	2005 Nov – 2012 Oct	**M** 2009/2010 (Dec 09 to Dec 10)
Marks Samantha – see Mazzuchelli		
Mazzuchelli Samantha [9]	2012 Oct – 2020 Oct	
Munro Marjorie (Marj)	1997 March – 2003 March	
Naylor Maureen [8] [10]	1997 March – 2008 Nov	**M** 1999/2000 (March 99 to March 2000)
Rex Claire	2024 Nov – Current	
Rose Neil [6] [11]	1997 March – 2005 Nov	**M** 2001/02 (March 01 to March 02) **M** 2004/04 (March 04 to Dec 04)
Spears Kylie	2016 Oct – Current	**M** 2020/21 (Nov 20 to Nov 21) **M** 2023/25 (Nov 23 to Oct 25) (2 terms) **DM** 2018/19 (Nov 18 to Nov 19)

NAME	COUNCILLOR	MAYOR DEPUTY MAYOR
Steane Robert (Rob) OAM [12]	2008 Nov – *Current*	**M** 2011/12 (Dec 2011 to Oct 2012) **M** 2018/19 (Nov 18 to Nov 19) **M** 2022/23 (Nov 22 to Nov 23) **DM** 2021/22 (Nov 21 to Nov 22)
Stojanovic Suzanne (Suzy)	2020 Oct – 2024 Oct	
Symon Mike [13]	2016 Oct – 2024 Oct	**M** 2019/20 (Nov 19 to Oct 20) **M** 2021/22 (Nov 21 to Nov 22) **DM** 2017/18 (Nov 17 to Nov 18)
Taylor Jo-anne	2003 March – 2008 Nov	
Thomas Natalie	2005 Nov – 2016 Oct	**M** 2015/2016 (Nov 15 to Oct 16)
Willmott Leslie (Les) OAM JP [8] [14]	1997 March – 2016 Oct	**M** 1997/98 (March 97 to March 98) **M** 2003/04 (March 03 to March 04) **M** 2005/06 (Dec 05 to Nov 06) **M** 2013/14 (Nov 13 to Nov 14)

Current Councillors 2024 - 2028

(l-r) Crs Gordon, Steane, Heatherich, Henderson, Spears, Jones, Hancock, Macdonald and Rex

Courtesy Maroondah City Council

Maroondah City Council Footnotes

(1)	Councillors Frank Corr; Ann Fraser and Nick Kirmos served as Councillors prior to amalgamation with the City of Ringwood. Councillor Corr twice served as Mayor.

(2)	Councillor Joe Cossari after his time on Maroondah Council further served as a Councillor and Mayor with Knox City Council.

(3)	Councillor Tony Dib served as a Councillor prior to amalgamation with the City of Broadmeadows.

(4)	 Councillor Tony Dib was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2019 for services to Local Government and the community of Maroondah.

(5)	Councillor Ann Fraser passed away after a brave battle with cancer in August 2014 while still holding the office of Councillor.

(6)	After the October 2016 elections Council introduced the position of Deputy Mayor and Councillor Nora Lamont was the first elected to that position 2016/17.

(7)	Councillor Michael Macdonald formed a father son team with his father Councillor Paul Macdonald for the entire 5 years 8 months that Michael was on Council.

(8)	Councillors Paul Macdonald, Maureen Naylor, Neil Rose and Les Willmott served as Councillors prior to amalgamation with the City of Croydon. Councillor Willmott served as Mayor four times.

(9)	Cr Samantha Mazzuchelli was elected as Samantha Marks and altered her name in August 2018.

(10)	Councillor Maureen Naylor was the first woman Mayor of Maroondah 1999/2000.

(11)	Councillor Neil Rose served a shortened term as Mayor in 2005 due to the State Government mandating simultaneous elections for all Victorian Councils.

(12)	 Councillor Rob Steane was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the King Birthday's Day Honours 2023 for services to Local Government and the community of Maroondah.

(13)	Councillor Mike Symons was the Federal Member for Deakin from 2007 to 2013.

(14)	Former Councillor Les Willmott was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Australia Day Honours 2019 for services to Local Government and the community of Maroondah.

Mayor Lillian Rosewarne in 1987 (above)

Mayor Frank Corr (right)

Council Structural Matters

Councils prior to amalgamation had very different structures and processes to a Council today. These structures were common throughout the local government sector and are documented as they impacted and shaped the role of Councillors.

There were 211 Victorian municipalities, categorised as a City – 65, Borough – 7, Town – 6 and Shire – 133. Each was defined via statute in terms of population, character i.e. urban or rural; and rate revenue. The principal/leading Councillor for a City, Borough and Town was a Mayor, while for a Shire it was a Shire President.

ELECTORAL STRUCTURE

Elections followed an annual process being held in August and were conducted by Council staff. From its proclamation in 1924 through to August 1949 Ringwood was represented by 6 Councillors elected by the entire municipality, i.e. not in wards.

A spill of all Councillors occurred in August 1949 as the municipality was divided into 3 wards North, East and South with 3 Councillors representing each ward for a total of 9 Councillors. Terms for Councillors varied dependent upon the position they were elected. Councillors elected first in their ward received a 3-year term, elected second received a 2-year term and elected third received a 1-year term.

In all subsequent elections the term of a Councillor was 3 years. So the structure was rotational with a third of the Council – one Councillor in each of the 3 wards – facing election every year. The voting system being simple preferential, whereby to be elected a candidate need to receive 50% +1 of valid votes cast – either on 1st preferences or via preferences from defeated candidates. This electoral structure, with occasional minor ward boundary changes (such changes not substantive enough to trigger a spill of Councillors), was retained until amalgamation in 1994.

MAROONDAH

Maroondah City Council, since its inception, has had three electoral structures:-

March 1997 to November 2008
7 single-member wards returning 7 Councillors.
Term of Council was 3 years with elections held in March until 2005 when elections were held in November. A small alteration of boundaries occurred between 2 wards and changes applicable from March 2003 to November 2008.
Seven wards - Arrabri, Clocktower, Eastfield, Loughan's Hill, Mullum, Wyreena and Yarrunga

November 2008 to Oct 2020
3 multi-member wards returning 3 Councillors for each ward making a total of 9 Councillor.
Change was as a result of an Electoral Representation Review conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission. Term of Council increased to 4 years. Elections were held in November and then October.
Three wards - Arrabri, Mullum and Wyreena

October 2020 to current
9 single member wards returning 9 Councillors. State Government mandated single member wards for all subdivided Victorian municipalities (ie that have wards). Term of Council retained at 4 years.
Nine wards - Barngeong, Bungalook, Jubilee, McAlpin, Tarralla, Wicklow, Wombolano, Wonga and Yarrunga

Note
Single member wards elections are conducted via simple preferential systems (same basis as lower house seats for the State and Federal elections). Any vacancies between elections filled via a by-election (new election).

Multi-member wards elections were conducted via the quota preferential system (similar to Federal Senate). Vacancies were filled by a countback process of existing votes from the last election and continuing the voting pattern – so no need for a separate election.

Maroondah elections are held at the end of each 4-year term meaning all of the Councillor positions are contested at the same time. The Victorian Electoral Commission has run all Maroondah elections since 1997 and is the sole provider of electoral services to all Victorian Councils. The election in October was designed to be 2 years apart from the State Government elections.

The current Local Government sector's election cycle varies markedly from that in place prior to amalgamation when elections were annual, held in August and a third of the Council was elected for a 3-year term. Council staff conducted the elections.

COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

December 1983 saw the introduction of allowances for Councillors across the Local Government sector. Prior to that date, Councillors received no monetary allowance for undertaking their civic duties. Additionally, Councillors could choose not to receive the allowance if they wished to. Initially three Ringwood Councillors chose not to receive an allowance. Note, a nominal Mayoral Allowance was allocated on an annual basis throughout the life of both the Borough and City of Ringwood.

DUAL MANAGEMENT

The management structure of the Council organisation was very different to what occurs currently. Corporate Management – one executive officer being responsible for all Council services and directly responsible to Council – only commenced within the sector in 1979 with Doncaster and Templestowe (now Manningham) being the first to make such appointment. Ringwood adopted corporate management in 1983 with the existing City Engineer appointed as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer for a period of 5 years before retiring in 1988.

From 1924 to 1983, Ringwood worked on a dual management system having the Town Clerk and Borough Engineer/City Engineer being responsible for all services. This dual management system was the norm throughout Victorian Local Government. It neatly divided the Council services between the administration with the Town Clerk and the technical with the Borough/City Engineer. Council Offices were evenly divided space wise between the 2 areas. The success of such a structure depended to a large degree upon the working relationships between the two principal officers.

A number of metropolitan Councils also had a slight variation to the dual management model with a City Electrical Engineer reporting direct to Council. This occurred when the Council supplied electricity rather than the State Electricity Commission, for instance both the City of Box Hill and also the City of Doncaster and Templestowe had electricity supply departments.

DELEGATION

Little to no delegation of Council powers to Officers occurred. Any powers of Officers were statutory powers granted direct from legislation, for instance to the Municipal Building Inspector/Surveyor the power to grant building permits, or to the Chief Health Inspector/Surveyor the power to issue health orders. One result of this centralisation of power with Council was the enormous size of Council agendas being dominated by planning applications for permits. Mostly these were considered in block (together concurrently) rather than individually.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE – MAYOR

Mayors were designated a Justice of the Peace (JP) for their 12 month Mayoral term. At the end of that period they were able to retain the role if they wished to. In September 1990 the State Government abolished this system for Mayors. Justices of the Peace had the primary function of witnessing/certifying legal documents for member of the public.

It would appear that every Mayor accepted the honorary role of JP during their terms as Mayor. Regretfully records are inadequate to conclusively identify every Mayor that retained the role after 12 months.

ELECTION OF MAYOR

Council developed various informal process/conventions for the election of Mayor. These varied from rotation amongst the wards with each ward taking a turn to have a Mayor, through to the Councillor best able to perform the role. This latter process enabled a Councillor to have consecutive terms as Mayor.

COMMISSIONERS OF MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL

Maroondah City Council was constituted by an Order of the Governor In Council on 15 December 1994. Commissioners - appointed by the Kennett State Government to oversee the amalgamation process for Maroondah - were sworn into office on the same day. The term of office of Commissioners ceased with the Inaugural Meeting of Council of the elected Maroondah City Councillors on 19 March 1997.

Chairman of Commissioners

Given Names	Family Name	Term
William (Bill)	Heath	15 December 1994 - 10 July 1995
Morton	Browne	17 August 1995 - 19 March 1997

Commissioners

Given Names	Family Name	Term
Geoffrey John (John)	Nathan	15 December 1994 - 19 March 1997
Andrew	Jackson	15 December 1994 - 22 December 1994
Janice	Bateman	19 January 1995 - 19 March 1997

(Above) Ringwood Councillors & Staff, August 1949. (front row, L-R) Mr AFB Long (Town Clerk), Cr. F Corr, Cr. B Hubbard, Cr. HC Pearson (Mayor), Cr. E Stewart, Cr. HE Parker, Cr. W Wademan. Back Row - J Proudley (Caretaker), LC Steeth (Ranger), SR Taylor (Health Inspector), G Holloway (Clerk), AC Robertson (Eng. Asst.), Miss A Goldie (Typist), C Cox (Cadet Eng.), C Merry (Building Inspector), FR Lucas (Engineer)

(Below) 1973 Councillors JCB McCubbin, JM McRae, SC Morris, P Vergers, AW Hall (Town Clerk), GRG Smart (Mayor), AC Robertson (City Engineer), BL Lawrenson, RJ Martin, WE Lilburn, DM Taylor.

COUNCILLORS (BY YEARS)

1924-1925 (Foundation)
A T Miles (Mayor)
J B McAlpin
W Mackinlay
A Blood
J K McCaskill
R G Wilkins

1925-1926
A T Miles (Mayor)
J B McAlpin
W Mackinlay
A Blood
J K McCaskill
R G Wilkins

1926-1927
A T Miles (Mayor)
J B McAlpin
W Mackinlay
A Blood
J K McCaskill
R G Wilkins

1927-1928
A T Miles
J B McAlpin
W Mackinlay (Mayor)
A Blood
J K McCaskill
R G Wilkins

1928-1929
A T Miles
W Mackinlay
J B McAlpin (Mayor)
A Blood
J K McCaskill
R G Wilkins

1929-1930
A T Miles
J G Aird
A M Ibbotson
A Blood (Mayor)
J K McCaskill
R G Wilkins (to May 1930)
R W Dawes (from May 1930)

1930-1931
A T Miles
J G Aird
R W Dawes
A Blood (Mayor)
A M Ibbotson
J K McCaskill

1931-1932
A T Miles
J G Aird
R W Dawes
W L Colquhoun (Dr)
A Blood (Mayor)
A M Ibbotson

1932-1933
A T Miles
J G Aird
R W Dawes (Mayor)
W L Colquhoun (Dr)
A Blood
J K McCaskill

1933-1934
A T Miles (Mayor)
J G Aird
R W Dawes
A Blood
J K McCaskill
W L Colquhoun (to April 1934)
H F Pearson (from April 1934)

1934-1935
A T Miles (Mayor)
J G Aird
R W Dawes
A Blood
J K McCaskill
H F Pearson

1935-1936
A T Miles
J G Aird
R W Dawes
A Blood
J K McCaskill (Mayor)
H F Pearson

1936-1937
A T Miles
J G Aird
R W Dawes
A Blood
J K McCaskill
H F Pearson (Mayor)

1937-1938
A T Miles (Mayor)
J G Aird
A Blood
J K McCaskill
H F Pearson
W L Colquhoun

1938-1939
A T Miles
J G Aird
F V Parker
J K McCaskill (Mayor)
H F Pearson
W L Colquhoun

1939-1940
J K McCaskill
F V Parker
T R G Williams
H F Pearson (retired March 1940, in RAAF)
W L Colquhoun (Mayor to May 1940 but completed his term as Councillor)
H E Parker (Mayor from May 1940)
E T Purser (replaced Pearson in April 1940)

1940-1941
H E Parker (Mayor)
T R G Williams
E T Purser
T A Hall
J K McCaskill
F V Parker

1941-1942
H E Parker
T R G Williams (Mayor)
E T Purser
T A Hall
J K McCaskill
F V Parker

1942-1943
H E Parker
T Williams (Mayor)
E T Purser
T A Hall
J K McCaskill
F V Parker

1943-1944
H E Parker
T Williams
E T Purser (Mayor)
T A Hall
J K McCaskill
F V Parker

1944-1945
H E Parker
T R G Williams
E T Purser
F Wm Caterer
J K McCaskill
F V Parker (Mayor)

1945-1946
E T Purser
F W Caterer
B J Hubbard
J K McCaskill
H E Parker (Mayor)
F V Parker (Parker was elected but refused to sign the declaration so he was unable to be sworn in)
T R G Williams - (replaced Parker from September 1945)

COUNCILLORS (BY YEARS)

1946-1947
J K McCaskill (Mayor)
B J Hubbard
H F Pearson
F W Caterer
A T Miles
E T Purser

1947-1948
H F Pearson
E Stewart
H E Parker
B J Hubbard
J K McCaskill (Mayor)
A T Miles (to 22 Aug 1947)
C W Wademan (from Sept 1947)

1948-1949
H F Pearson
E Stewart
H E Parker
B J Hubbard
C W Wademan
J F Corr

In May 1949, the municipality was divided into Wards and this division was approved and gazetted thus increasing from 6 to 9 Councillors from August 1949.

EAST WARD	SOUTH WARD	NORTH WARD
1949-1950		
E T Purser	A D Patterson	J F Corr
J K McCaskill	H E Parker	D M McAlpin
T A Hall	B R Smith	B J Hubbard (Mayor)
1950-1951		
E T Purser	H E Parker (Mayor)	B J Hubbard
J K McCaskill	A D Patterson	J F Corr
E D Rourke	B R Smith (to 2 August 1951)	D M McAlpin
1951-1952		
E T Purser	A D Patterson	B J Hubbard
E D Rourke	H E Parker	J F Corr
R C Horman	A G Lavis (elected Aug 1951)	D M McAlpin
1952-1953		
R C Horman	A G Lavis	B J Hubbard
E T Purser	H E Parker	J F Corr
E D Rourke	A D Patterson	D M McAlpin
1953-1954		
R C Horman	A G Lavis	B J Hubbard
E T Purser	A D Patterson	J F Corr
R A Hayes (to May 1954)	H E Parker	D M McAlpin (to Feb. 1954)
P Vergers (from 7 June 1954)		R O Spencer (from March 1954)
1954-1955		
R C Horman	H E Parker	R O Spencer
E T Purser	A D Patterson	J F Corr
P Vergers	A G Lavis	B J Hubbard
1955-1956		
R C Horman	H E Parker	R O Spencer
P Vergers	A G Lavis	B J Hubbard
E T Purser	A D Patterson	J F Corr
1956-1957		
P Vergers	W T D Roberts	D J Baxter
R C Horman	A G Lavis (Mayor)	R O Spencer
E T Purser	H E Parker	B J Hubbard
1957-1958		
P Vergers (Mayor)	W T D Roberts	D J Baxter
R C Horman	A G Lavis	R O Spencer
E T Purser	H E Parker	B J Hubbard

EAST WARD	SOUTH WARD	NORTH WARD
1958-1959		
P Vergers	W T D Roberts	D J Baxter
R C Horman	A G Lavis	R O Spencer (Mayor)
J F Hodgkins	H E Parker (died 21 Sept 1958)	B J Hubbard
	L H McLeod (from Nov 1958)	
1959-1960		
R C Horman	H E Parker (Mayor)	B J Hubbard
P Vergers	A D Patterson	J F Corr
J F Hodgkins	B R Smith (to 2 August 1951)	D M McAlpin
1960-1961		
R C Horman	A D Patterson	B J Hubbard
P Vergers	H E Parker	J F Corr
J F Hodgkins	A G Lavis (elected Aug 1951)	D M McAlpin
1961-1962		
E Penny (4)	A G Lavis	B J Hubbard
R C Horman	H E Parker	J F Corr
P Vergers	A D Patterson	D M McAlpin
1962-1963		
P Vergers	A G Lavis	B J Hubbard
E Penny	A D Patterson	J F Corr
R C Horman (to June 63)	H E Parker	D M McAlpin (to Feb. 1954)
S C Morris (from June 63)		R O Spencer (from March 1954)
1963-1964		
S C Morris	H E Parker	R O Spencer
P Vergers	A D Patterson	J F Corr
E Penny	A G Lavis	B J Hubbard
1964-1965		
S C Morris	H E Parker	R O Spencer
P Vergers	A G Lavis	B J Hubbard
E Penny	A D Patterson	J F Corr
1965-1966		
S C Morris	W T D Roberts	D J Baxter
P Vergers	A G Lavis	R O Spencer
E Penny	H E Parker	B J Hubbard
1966-1967		
S C Morris	W T D Roberts	D J Baxter
P Vergers	A G Lavis	R O Spencer
E Penny	H E Parker	B J Hubbard
1967-1968		
S C Morris	G R G Smart	B J Hubbard
P Vergers	J M McRae	D J Baxter
E Penny (to Dec 1967)	B G Clarke	N Aus (Mayor)
P E Palmer (from Dec 1967)		
1968-1969		
P E Palmer	M McRae	R J Martin
P Vergers	G R G Smart	B J Hubbard
S C Morris (Mayor)	B G Clarke	N Aus
1969-1970		
P E Palmer	J M McRae	R J Martin
P Vergers	G R G Smart	B J Hubbard (Mayor)
S C Morris	J C McCubbin	N Aus (to March 1970)
		R K Dickson (from March 1970)

EAST WARD	SOUTH WARD	NORTH WARD
1970-1971		
P E Palmer	J M McRae (Mayor)	R J Martin
P Vergers	G R G Smart	R K Dickson
S C Morris	J C McCubbin	B A Tankey
1971-1972		
P E Palmer (Mayor)	J M McRae	R J Martin
P Vergers	G R G Smart	R K Dickson
S C Morris	J C McCubbin	B A Tankey
1972-1973		
P Vergers	J M McRae	R J Martin (Mayor)
S C Morris	G R G Smart	W E Lilburn
P E Palmer (to Oct 1972)	J C McCubbin	B A Tankey
B L Lawrenson (from Oct 1972)		
1973-1974		
P Vergers	G R G Smart (Mayor)	D Taylor
S C Morris	J M McRae	W E Lilburn
B L Lawrenson	J C McCubbin	R J Martin
1974-1975		
P Vergers	G R G Smart	D Taylor
S C Morris (Mayor)	J M McRae	W E Lilburn
B L Lawrenson	J C McCubbin	R J Martin
1975-1976		
P Vergers	G R G Smart	D Taylor
F J Corr (Frank)	J M McRae	R Gardini
B L Lawrenson	P Gotlib	R J Martin (Mayor)
1976-1977		
B L Lawrenson	G R G Smart (Mayor)	A B Henderson
F J Corr	J M McRae	R Gardini
P Vergers (to Feb 1977)	P Gotlib	R J Martin (to Nov 1976)
W R Wilkins (from Feb 1977)		L Wegecsanyi (from Nov 1976)
1977-1978		
B L Lawrenson (Mayor)	G R G Smart	A B Henderson
F J Corr	J M McRae	R Gardini
W R Wilkins	P Gotlib	D M Richards
1978-1979		
B L Lawrenson	G R G Smart	A B Henderson (Mayor)
F J Corr	J M McRae	N J Hamilton
W R Wilkins	P Gotlib	D M Richards
1979-1980		
B L Lawrenson	G R G Smart	A B Henderson
F J Corr	J M McRae	N J Hamilton
W R Wilkins	P Gotlib (Mayor)	D M Richards
1980-1981		
B L Lawrenson	G R G Smart	A B Henderson
F J Corr (Mayor)	G M Dorman	N J Hamilton
W R Wilkins	P Gotlib	R Gardini
1981-1982		
B L Lawrenson	G R G Smart	A B Henderson
F J Corr	G M Dorman	N J Hamilton (Mayor)
W R Wilkins	P Gotlib	R Gardini

COUNCILLORS (BY YEARS)

EAST WARD	SOUTH WARD	NORTH WARD
1982-1983		
L M Rosewarne	J Llewellyn	A B Henderson
F J Corr	G M Dorman	N J Hamilton
W R Wilkins	P Gotlib (Mayor)	R Gardini
1983-1984		
L M Rosewarne	J Llewellyn	A B Henderson
F J Corr (Mayor)	A F Addicott	N J Hamilton
W R Wilkins	P Gotlib	R Gardini
1984-1985		
L M Rosewarne	J Llewellyn	A B Henderson
F J Corr	P Gotlib	N J Hamilton
W R Wilkins	A F Addicott (to Oct 1984)	R Gardini (Mayor)
	K J Mahoney (to Feb 1985)	
	J R Caffyn (from Mar 1985)	
1985-1986		
L M Rosewarne	J R Caffyn	B Milton
F J Corr	G Knight	N J Hamilton
W R Wilkins (Mayor)	P Gotlib	R Gardini
1986-1987		
L M Rosewarne (Mayor)	J R Caffyn	B Milton
F J Corr	G Knight	N J Hamilton
W R Wilkins	P Gotlib	R Gardini
1987-1988		
L M Rosewarne	J R Caffyn (Mayor)	B Milton
F J Corr	G Knight	A Fraser
W R Wilkins	F. L Dineen	R Gardini
1988-1989		
L M Rosewarne	J R Caffyn	B Milton
F J Corr	M Nardella	A Fraser
W R Wilkins	F. L Dineen	R Gardini (Mayor)
1989-1990		
L M Rosewarne (Mayor)	M Williams	B Milton
F J Corr	M Nardella	A Fraser
M Cheevers	F. L Dineen	N MacDonald
1990-1991		
L M Rosewarne	M Williams	B Milton (Mayor)
G Adkins	M Nardella	R Gardini
M Cheevers	F. L Dineen	N MacDonald
1991-1992		
C McRae	M Williams (Mayor)	R Gardini
G Adkins	A Fraser	S Phillips
M Cheevers	F. L Dineen	N MacDonald
1992-1993		
C McRae	M Williams	R Gardini
G Adkins (Mayor)	A Fraser	S Phillips
M Cheevers	F. L Dineen	N MacDonald
1993-1994		
M Cheevers (Mayor to Aug 1994)	M Williams	Y Kaukas
B Cheevers	A Fraser	S Phillips
C McRae (to 20 June 1994)	N Kirmos	N MacDonald (Mayor Aug-Dec 1994)

COUNCILLORS (BY YEARS)

Maroondah City Council was constituted by an Order of the Governor In Council on 15 December 1994. Commissioners - appointed by the Kennett State Government to oversee the amalgamation process for Maroondah - were sworn into office on the same day. The term of office of Commissioners ceased with the Inaugural Meeting of Council of the elected Maroondah City Councillors on 19 March 1997

March 1997 - March 2000
Peter Gurr (Arrabri)
Nick Kirmos (Clocktower)
Neil Rose (Eastfield)
Joe Cossari (Loughnan's Hill) (Mayor March 1998 to March 1999)
Marj Munro (Mullum)
Les Willmott (Wyreena) (Mayor March 1997 to March 1998)
Maureen Naylor (Yarrunga) (Mayor March 1999 to March 2000)

March 2000 - March 2003
Peter Gurr (Arrabri) (Mayor March 2000 to March 2001)
Nick Kirmos (Clocktower) (resigned in September 2001)
Paul Denham (Clocktower) (elected in a by-election in December 2001)
Neil Rose (Eastfield) (Mayor March 2001 to March 2002)
Frank Corr (Loughnan's Hill) (Mayor March 2002 to March 2003)
Marj Munro (Mullum)
Les Willmott (Wyreena)
Maureen Naylor (Yarrunga)

March 2003 - November 2005
Peter Gurr (Arrabri)
Cr Paul Denham (Clocktower) (Mayor December 2004 to November 2005)
Cr Neil Rose (Eastfield) (Mayor March 2004 to December 2004)
Cr Joe Cossari (Loughnan's Hill)
Cr Jo-anne Taylor (Mullum)
Cr Les Willmott (Wyreena) (Mayor March 2003 to March 2004)
Cr Maureen Naylor (Yarrunga)

November 2005 - October 2008
Peter Gurr (Arrabri) (Mayor December 2006 to December 2007)
Cr Natalie Thomas (Clocktower)
Cr Tony Dib (Eastfield) (Mayor December 2007 to October 2008)
Cr Alex Makin (Loughnan's Hill)
Cr Jo-anne Taylor (Mullum)
Cr Les Willmott (Wyreena) (Mayor November 2005 to December 2006)
Cr Maureen Naylor (Yarrunga)

November 2008 - October 2012
Peter Gurr (Arrabri Ward) (resigned December 2009) (Mayor December 2008 to December 2009)
Tony Dib (Arrabri Ward) (elected in January 2010 by countback) (Mayor December 2010 to December 2011)
Paul Macdonald (Arrabri Ward)
Natalie Thomas (Arrabri Ward)
Ann Fraser (Mullum Ward)
Nora Lamont (Mullum Ward)
Alex Makin (Mullum Ward) (Mayor December 2009 to December 2010)
Michael Macdonald (Wyreena Ward)
Rob Steane (Wyreena Ward) (Mayor December 2011 to October 2012)
Les Willmott (Wyreena Ward)

COUNCILLORS (BY YEARS)

November 2012 - October 2016
Tony Dib (Arrabri Ward) (Mayor November 2014 to November 2015)
Christina Gleeson (Arrabri Ward)
Natalie Thomas (Arrabri Ward) (Mayor November 2015 to October 2016)
Ann Fraser (Mullum Ward) (passed away August 2014)
Nora Lamont (Mullum Ward) (Mayor November 2012 to November 2013)
Samantha Marks (Mullum Ward)
Liam Fitzgerald (Wyreena Ward)
Rob Steane (Wyreena Ward)
Les Willmott (Wyreena Ward) (Mayor November 2013 to November 2014)
Mary-Anne Lowe (Mullum Ward) (elected in September 2014 by countback)

November 2016 - October 2020
Tony Dib (Arrabri Ward) (Mayor November 2016 to November 2017)
Paul Macdonald (Arrabri Ward)
Kylie Spears (Arrabri Ward) (Deputy Mayor November 2018 to November 2019)
Nora Lamont (Mullum Ward) (Deputy Mayor November 2016 to November 2017, Mayor November 2017 to November 2018)
Samantha Marks (Mazzuchelli) (Mullum Ward)
Mike Symon (Mullum Ward) (Deputy Mayor November 2017 to November 2018, Mayor November 2019 to November 2020)
Marijke Graham (Wyreena Ward) (Deputy Mayor November 2019 to November 2020)
Michael Macdonald (Wyreena Ward) (resigned July 2018)
Rob Steane (Wyreena Ward) (Mayor November 2018 to November 2019)
Tasa Damante (Wyreena Ward) (elected in July 2018 by countback)

November 2020 - October 2024
Chris Jones (Barngeong Ward - elected in by-election December 2023)
Tony Dib OAM (Bungalook Ward)
Mike Symon (Jubilee Ward) (Mayor November 2021 to November 2022)
Suzy Stojanovic (McAlpin Ward)
Paul Macdonald (Tarralla Ward) (Deputy Mayor November 2023 to November 2024)
Tasa Damante (Wicklow Ward) (Deputy Mayor November 2022 to November 2023)
Kylie Spears (Wombolano Ward) (Mayor November 2020 to November 2021 & November 2023 to November 2024)
Linda Hancock (Wonga Ward - elected in by-election March 2022)
Rob Steane OAM (Yarrunga Ward) (DM November 2021 to November 2022, Mayor November 2022 to November 2023)
Nora Lamont (Wonga Ward - resigned December 2021) (Deputy Mayor November 2020 to November 2021)
Marijke Graham (Barngeong Ward - resigned September 2023)

November 2024 - October 2028
Chris Jones (Barngeong Ward)
Catherine Gordon (Bungalook Ward)
Claire Rex (Jubilee Ward)
Nathaniel Henderson (McAlpin Ward)
Paul Macdonald (Tarralla Ward)
Daniella Heatherich (Wicklow Ward)
Kylie Spears (Wombolano Ward) (Mayor November 2024 to November 2025)
Linda Hancock (Wonga Ward) (Deputy Mayor November 2024 to November 2025)
Rob Steane OAM (Yarrunga Ward)

Symbols and Flags

Ralph Bartlett

Vexillology and semiotics are the studies of flags and symbols respectively. Ralph Bartlett, author of this chapter, is the co-founder and Secretary of the Flag Society of Australia. Flags identify one group of people from another. This can be at any level of society, nations, states, provinces, counties, local municipalities, community or sporting groups, and families or individuals. Flags can also identify international or local organisations or authorities.

Symbols create a meaningful representation of their culture, important features or mode of living. Ralph delivered a insightful talk to RDHS in April 2023, part of which is presented here.

Flags

Flags have been used in Ringwood since its inception. Even after Federation, and the adoption of the Australian National Flag in 1908, the British flag often had precedence of the Australian National Flag. The protocol is that the Australian Flag is always flown on the left.

The British Flag overriding the Australian Flag

(above) Mayor Frank Corr Snr. at the ANZAC Day ceremony at the original Clocktower in 1953

(below) Sir Dallas Brooks, Governor of Victoria, declaring the City of Ringwood, with the British flag on the left

The "Miles" family flag

(above) Mayor AT Miles unveiling the Town Hall Foundation Stone in 1927, with the "Miles" flag predominate in the background (below) Paddy Miles, son of AT Miles, showing the "Miles" family flag

(left) Many local organisations have been very proud of their adopted flags, "Presentation of Colours to 4th Ringwood East Group" in February 1959

Councillor Bert Lavis, wearing the Borough of Ringwood Mayoral Robe and Chain. He had the honour of being one of the few to be Mayor for both the Borough and the City of Ringwood, the others being Bob Horman, Ben Hubbard and Peter Vergers. He was the last Mayor of the Borough and first of City of Ringwood.

Ringwood's Borough Crest and City Crest

Municipalities throughout Australia have and do use all types of emblems to represent their Councils and their legal authority. These range from locally devised symbols to formal grants of Coats-of-Arms, together with municipal flags and logos. The previous municipalities to the current Maroondah City Council, being the Borough / City of Ringwood and the City of Croydon, exemplify their use of such emblems.

Ringwood instead of using a formal Coat of Arms adopted "home grown versions" that became known as Crests. The Borough Crest was used from 1925 until 1960 when Ringwood was proclaimed a City. After that date a City Crest was then used until amalgamation in December 1994.

BOROUGH

The Borough Crest adopted in 1925 was very similar to the Coat of Arms of the English town of Ringwood, with one major exception in that Kookaburras replaced the English Blackbirds.

The Latin motto '*Procredere Ne Regredere*' translates into 'Forward Not Backward'.

CITY

The City Crest was devised by Councillor Robert Horman in 1960. Quite a degree of licence was taken with the end design as it only adhered to some of the rules of heraldry.

The shield is divided by a fess dancette - zig zag lines which run horizontally. The details are:-

Divided by 4 lines into 3 equal spaces known as barrulets. These represent the three wards of Ringwood. Three peaks representing the virtues within the community, namely, truth, goodness and beauty.

The devices on the shield are:-

Kookaburra - retained as an essential link to the Borough, & denotes progress by its beauty, speed, courage and strength.

Sprig of Wattle - denotes the pride of home owners in their gardens, parks and streets.

The tree denotes growth, natural resources and progress rooted in unity.

At the top of the shield is a wreath that supports an antique crown and a plain circle of Or (gold) representing the rising sun.

CITY OF RINGWOOD FLAG

The City of Ringwood Crest was included on a flag and suitable coloured in green and gold. It is unlikely that these were official colours, more aligning with a "garden" municipality and the Australian National colours.

LATER CITY LOGO

In 1993, Ringwood adopted a new logo on 12th December 1993, featuring the Ringwood Memorial Clocktower, a bird, parkland and the Lake. It lasted just on 12 months until amalgamation in December 1994. It is shown on the flag, below.

The images have been kindly provided by Maroondah City Council, with both items stored with the Council.

Further Research

The probable colours for both the Borough and City of Ringwood Crests were a yellow background with light or mid-blue features, all outlined in black (see "page 5" on right, that was prepared by Councillor Bob Horman). The details of the design were also included.

The Ringwood Borough Crest was located above the front door of the then newly built Ringwood Town Hall that was opened in August 1927 (see page 28).

The letterheads (below) were used for the Council's official correspondence are in blue only, for visual effect.

The Borough motto was not included in the City of Ringwood crest.

The formal resolution adopting the new "City" Crest eventually dropped the use of light blue, replaced with green & gold (golden-yellow). The changes were approved by the Council on 27th January 1960.
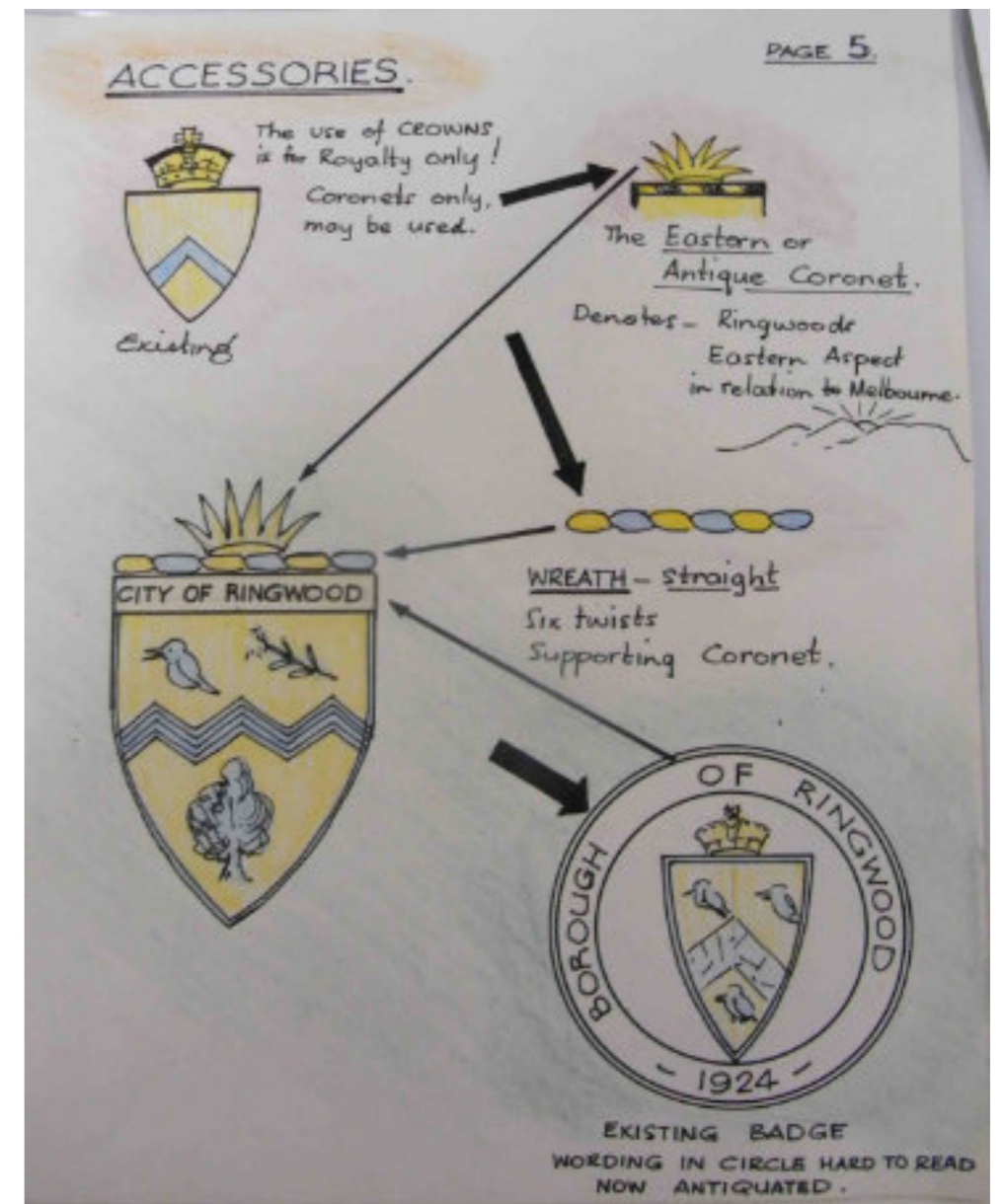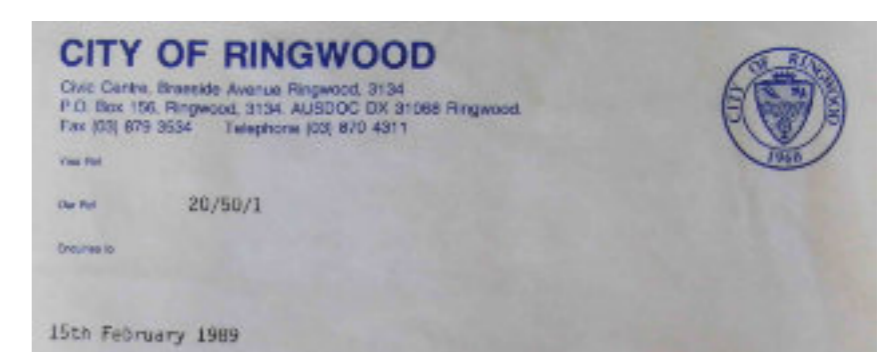
REGALIA – ROBES CHAINS & CITY CREST

BOROUGH & CITY

Councils, prior to amalgamation, were more formal in their conventions and practices. Following the British practice, most cities had a Mayoral Robe and Mayoral Chain. Not only did they reflect the office of Mayor but also honoured the community that the Mayor served.

Traditionally the robes were crimson with lapels and sleeves trimmed in ermine. The Mayor additionally wore a lace fall (neckpiece) and lace cuffs.

Ringwood slightly varied from tradition as it had robes and chains when a Borough. Ringwood had two Mayoral Robes. Black robes with ermine were used up until 1967/68 and robes featuring the more traditional colour of crimson with ermine and a gold trim were used from 1968 to 1994.

The Mayoral Chain was gold-plated with a Drop hanging from the bottom of the Chain. The Drop displayed on one side the Borough Crest and the other the City Crest. It could be detached from the Chain and worn around the neck attached by a ribbon.

The robes and chain were worn at the most formal events of Council, such as functions as Mayoral Ball, Council Meetings, opening ceremonies etc., while the drop was worn in more informal settings e.g. guest of honour at a local club. The Mayoral Chain was elaborate with a gold link for all Mayors that served the Borough and the City of Ringwood with the individual link being inscribed with their name and year.

MAROONDAH

Maroondah dispensed with having a Mayoral Robe and Mayoral Chain that was common practice prior to amalgamation. Instead, Maroondah has a Mayoral Drop, that in appearance is rather like a large medal.

It is gold-plated with the Maroondah Coat of Arms displayed on it and worn with a royal blue collar/ribbon.

MAROONDAH COAT OF ARMS

Commissioners initiated the process for a Maroondah Coat of Arms with an application being made to the College of Arms in London. The Coat of Arms reflects the historical links and common origins of the areas now incorporated within Maroondah. The Garter Principal King of Arms, College of Arms in London granted Maroondah its Coat of Arms on 6th April 1999.

Ringwood and Croydon originally formed part of the Shire of Lillydale – the Borough of Ringwood severing ties in October 1924 and the Shire of Croydon being created in May 1961. Both were subsequently proclaimed a City – Ringwood in March 1960 and Croydon in May 1971. Considerable care was taken to include symbols on Maroondah's Coat of Arms that were associated with the former Cities of Ringwood and Croydon.

The lily in the beak of the kookaburra perched on the helmet above the shield signifies the severance of these areas from the Shire of Lilydale.

The quarters on the shield are green and white: green for the beauty of the trees of which Maroondah is justifiably proud, white to perpetuate the early name "White Flats", coined by pioneering settlers on observing the many white flowering plants which covered much of the area.

The two former Cities had a farming background, hence the bees representing the industriousness and agriculture, are incorporated in the shield.

Maroondah has perpetuated the use of the kookaburra in its Coat of Arms, placing it in the same position in which the Chough appeared in the Croydon Coat of Arms.

Croydon adopted the Cornish Chough as part of its Coat of Arms to demonstrate its affinity with Croydon, England. For similar reasons, the Borough of Ringwood depicted kookaburras on its Crest as they were considered to be similar to the blackbirds, which appear on the Crest of Ringwood, England.

The kookaburra is perched upon what is called the "fountain" in heraldic terms - a knight's helmet from a suit of armour - and it is generic to almost all Coat of Arms.

(above) 1924 Foundation Council:- Mayor Cr. AT Miles, Town Clerk, AFB Long, Engineer, FR Lucas, Ringwood Mail's Samuel Gill and Mr. Ostrom, Rate collector, WT Jenkins, Architect, AC Leith, Councillors, JK McCaskill, R Wilkins, A Blood, W McKinlay, JB McAlpin. Medical officer, Dr. Langley (absent).

(below) Ringwood City Council Staff in 1960