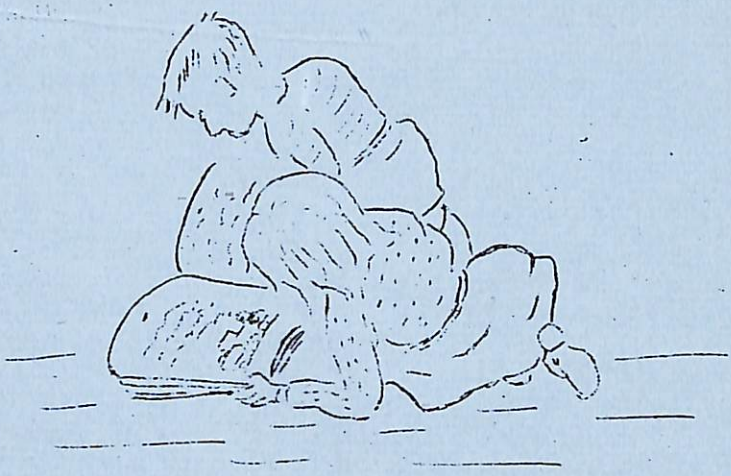
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5TH STATE PRE-SCHOOL

CONFERENCE

OF THE

VICTORIAN MUNICIPAL PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

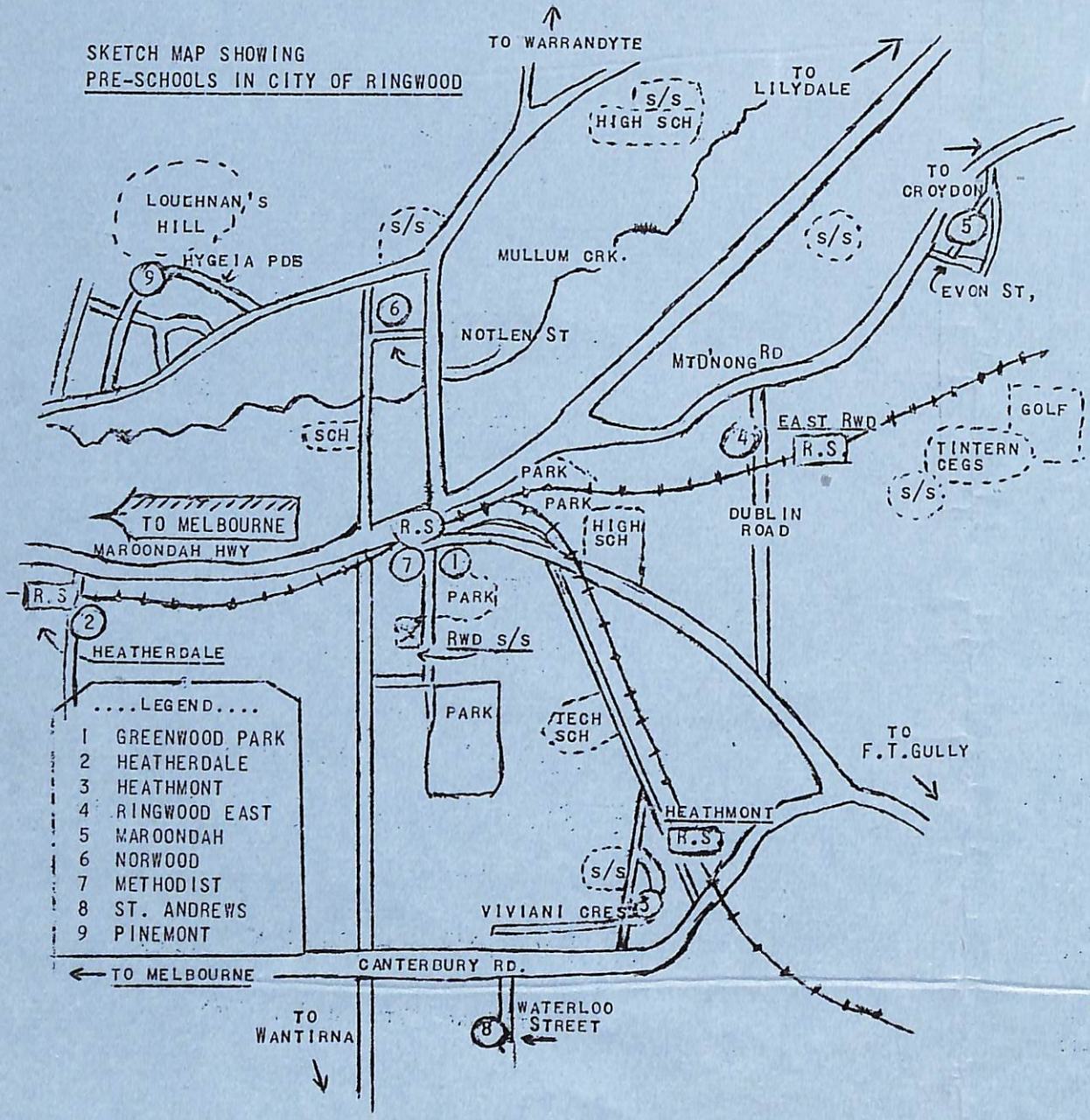
HELD IN THE

CITY OF RINGWOOD

26TH AND 27TH APRIL, 1963

This short history was compiled by
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Research Group.

SKETCH MAP SHOWING
PRE-SCHOOLS IN CITY OF RINGWOOD



THE STORY OF RINGWOOD'S KINDERGARTEN GROWTH

THE CITY OF RINGWOOD IS A FAST-GROWING AREA WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN 26,000 WHICH HAS GROWN TO THAT FIGURE FROM 4000 IN 1945. THE FACT THAT THERE ARE NOW EIGHT PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES IN THE CITY WITH PLANS UNDER WAY FOR A NINTH, INDICATES THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS A KEEN SENSE OF THE NECESSITY FOR KINDERGARTEN TRAINING FOR ITS YOUNGER POPULATION.

IT WAS THE ACTIVITY IN THIS DIRECTION WHICH GAVE BIRTH TO THE RINGWOOD PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION TO CO-ORDINATE THE WORK OF ALL CENTRES. THIS COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH KINDERGARTEN IN THE DISTRICT AND IS AFFILIATED WITH THE VICTORIAN MUNICIPAL PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF MRS.E.V.PULLIN (WHO IS ALSO SECRETARY OF THE V.M.P.S.A.) THE COMMITTEE DEALS WITH THE OVERALL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH KINDERGARTEN ADMINISTRATION AND THE QUARTERLY MEETINGS ALSO SERVE AS A FORUM AT WHICH MUTUAL PROBLEMS CAN BE DISCUSSED AND RESOLVED. THIS IS OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO INEXPERIENCED COMMITTEES OF YOUNG PARENTS.

THE CENTRES

OF THE EIGHT CENTRES IN EXISTENCE - THE FIRST PUBLIC MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED FOR THE NINTH - ONLY ONE, HEATHMONT, PURCHASED THEIR LAND. FOR THREE OF THEM, LAND WAS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RINGWOOD UNDER PERMISSIVE OCCUPANCY, ONE HAD THE LAND DONATED PRIVATELY, AND THREE ARE CONDUCTED IN CHURCH HALLS UNDER A COMBINATION CHURCH AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

AT ALL TIMES COMMITTEES ENDEAVOUR TO FIND FULLY TRAINED STAFF FOR THEIR CENTRES, AND FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE MAJORITY OF DIRECTORS HAVE BEEN GRADUATES OF THE KINDERGARTEN TRAINING COLLEGE.

RINGWOOD PRE-SCHOOL PARENTS' CLUB

ADMINISTERING

GREENWOOD PARK KINDERGARTEN

This kindergarten was designed by well-known architect, Mr. Horace Tribe, and cost £5237, with another £1000 spent on fencing, playground, etc. The Government grant amounted to £2250. Advantage of the increase in grant has recently been taken to further enlarge the play area, which has greatly enhanced the Centre.

The Kindergarten was the first to operate in (1945) Ringwood, being held for many years in an old Church Hall where equipment and furniture had to be stacked away at the end of each day. The Kindergarten is conducted by the Ringwood Pre-School Parents' Club which was formed by a group of women only, except during the money-raising period for the new building when a special Men's Committee was formed to help in this direction.

The building is in contemporary style. From an impervious concrete slab, doubling as foundation and flooring, the timber frame is supported by open web joists. Large areas of glass in fixed and opening frames provide warmth and light in winter, while the wide over-hang gives summer shade. Internal finish is brickwork, waxed timber and plaster.

The official opening by Lady Brooks took place on 10th December 1955, which was a fitting climax to ten strenuous years of conducting a centre as well as raising money for a building of high standard.

HEATHERDALE KINDERGARTEN

ADMINISTERED BY

HEATHERDALE DISTRICT PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Heatherdale is situated on the border of Ringwood and Mitcham and the first proposal to build a Centre came in 1947 when the Progress Association began raising funds. The land - 116 feet by 158 feet - was donated to the Association by Mr. W. Madden, and in 1951 the Heatherdale District Pre-School Association was formed and the funds handed over to that body.

The Centre is a timber-framed weatherboard building with a playroom 42 feet by 24 feet, and a kitchen, office and toilet room. A builder was engaged, but much of the work was done by voluntary labour.

The building itself cost £3400, and approximately £400 was spent on equipment. Of this, £1600 was raised by local efforts and the remainder was Government subsidy.

Unfortunately for this very attractive building, due to re-zoning of the area to light industry, the Kindergarten is now surrounded by S.E.C. installation and factories.

HEATHMONT KINDERGARTEN

The year 1949 brought together a group of people who realized that Heathmont which although part of Ringwood, was on the outer fringe, and was rapidly being settled by people with young families, and that a central meeting place was necessary both for young and old.

From this, the Heathmont Advancement League was born, and money was raised to build a Community Hall which could be used as a Kindergarten. Funds came from personal loans from members, and three blocks of land were purchased. Many money raising projects were held and in 1950 sufficient money had been collected to make application to the Department of Health for a subsidy.

Voluntary labour was used for clearing the land and the architect - Mr. Frank Secomb - designed the combined hall which was opened in 1952. The design is an unusual one - a timber building with one wall of windows. A natural stone fireplace and chimney breast is a prominent feature of the western wall, and the northern and southern walls are covered with murals of animals of the hot and cold climates of the world. These were executed by well-known artist, Mr. George Browning.

The original cost was £5800 of which £2250 was Government subsidy.

The maintenance of the building until this year has been in the hands of the League and the Kindergarten controlled by a committee of interested people. But, shortly, the full responsibility for the care and use of the building will be vested in the Kindergarten committee.

RINGWOOD EAST PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE

In July 1950, a public meeting was called by the Baptist Church at Ringwood East to ascertain the need for a Pre-School in the district. The Church offered the use of its existing accommodation.

In 1951, a play centre was opened with administration in the hands of a committee of six - three Church representatives and three members of the general public, with the Minister of the Church as chairman.

By 1952, it was felt that the service could be extended to a full pre-school centre program, and a capital grant was sought for a more suitable building with a fully trained kindergarten director. The present building, completed for the commencement of 1953, was built by voluntary labour supplied by the Church, and the capital grant was used to pay for the materials used.

Administration has been carried out by a committee of five representatives from the Church and five members of the public, with the Minister or his appointed deputy as chairman.

Although the Kindergarten is housed in a building used for Church activities, it was erected with the assistance of a capital grant, and because of this, the Centre is undenominational and under direct supervision of the Health Department.

MAROONDAH PRE-SCHOOL PARENTS' CLUB

ADMINISTERING

MAROONDAH PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE

In July 1956, parents in this area saw the need for a Kindergarten and a small group of mothers were able to start a Centre in temporary premises at the old "Ware Holiday Home". For four years, the group moved from one place to another until finally a public meeting was called.

The meeting was well attended by men as well as women, and a strong money-raising and building committee was formed. In March 1962, the children moved into their own brand new building.

The Kindergarten is on land made available by the Council under its permissive occupancy scheme and the Committee raised £1500 to enable the Government grant - which by this time had been raised to £3000 - to be received.

The building of this Centre was supervized by the Ringwood City Council which had by now perceived the need for Centres and was moving from a passive to an active role in the building of them.

Cost of construction was approximately £4500, with playground and outside equipment costing another £550.

NORWOOD PRE-SCHOOL PARENTS' CLUB

ADMINISTERING

NORWOOD PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE

This Kindergarten could almost be referred to as one of the more fortunate of the Centres in Ringwood, in that its planning committee was experienced, and that there was money in hand right from the outset.

When the original Ringwood Pre-School Parents' Club accepted the Greenwood Park site on the south side of the highway and railway-line from the Council, it did so on condition that a suitable site in the North be set aside both to provide a service to the community, and in deference to the many workers for the Committee who lived in the North Ward and who could not benefit from the Greenwood Park site.

With the raising of a magnificent sum through a Queen Carnival, the debt on Greenwood Park was erased, leaving a surplus of over £800, and it was therefore decided in 1956 that a committee be set up to take advantage of the Council site allocated in Notlen Park, and proceed with the building of a new Centre there.

A committee of four men who had been instrumental in raising funds for Greenwood Park, and four mothers who had also worked for that Centre formed the building committee, and were fortunate to secure the services of an honorary architect - Mr.W.Thomas.

The total cost of the building including lino, fencing, playground, materials, etc. was £4474.

The building was officially opened for the beginning of the 1958 year.

RINGWOOD METHODIST PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE

THIS SOLID BRICK BUILDING WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED AS A PRIMARY SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH DECIDED THAT IT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR A DAY KINDERGARTEN AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE.

NO BUILDING GRANT WAS RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH AND IN ORDER TO CONFORM TO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REGULATIONS ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR WAS PROVIDED AT THE OUTSET. IN 1959 A FULL SERVICE WAS INITIATED WITH CHILDREN FROM ALL DENOMINATIONS AND AREAS BEING ADMITTED.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PRE-SCHOOL IS IN THE HANDS OF A COUNCIL OF ELEVEN PERSONS TWO OF WHOM ARE TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH, TWO ARE PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING THE CENTRE, AND THREE ARE MEMBERS OF THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (SUNDAY SCHOOL); THE MINISTER OF THE CHURCH IS PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN, AND THE HONORARY SECRETARY, HONORARY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, HONORARY TREASURER AND HONORARY ASSISTANT TREASURER ARE OFFICE-BEARERS.

A LADIES' SUB-COMMITTEE OF SEVEN MOTHERS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING THE PRE-SCHOOL DEALS WITH SUCH MATTERS AS FUND RAISING, CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENTS, SOCIAL EVENTS, REPLENISHING DOMESTIC SUPPLIES, REPAIRING TOYS ETC.

PINE-MONT PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

A PUBLIC MEETING HAS BEEN HELD TO INTEREST PEOPLE IN THE NORTH RINGWOOD AREA AND THREE SITES GIVEN BY THE COUNCIL WERE DISCUSSED.

THE MAJORITY DECISION WENT TO LOT 16, HYGIEA PARADE WHICH IS HIGH ON LOUGHNAN'S HILL. THE SITE WILL SERVE PEOPLE AT THE BACK OF THE HILL, AND RELIEVE THE LONG WAITING LIST AT NORWOOD PRE-SCHOOL. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE FUNDS FOR THIS BUILDING WILL BE RAISED BY A CO-OPERATIVE SCHEME.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN KINDERGARTEN

AT PRESENT, THIS IS THE ONLY CENTRE IN THE AREA WORKING UNDER TEMPORARY CONDITIONS WITH NO VERY CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT LIES AHEAD. BECAUSE HOUSES IN THIS IMMEDIATE AREA ARE A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM EXISTING CENTRES, AND TRANSPORT IS A PROBLEM, IT WAS FELT AROUND THE END OF 1961, THAT SOMEHOW A CENTRE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CANTERBURY ROAD.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MADE THEIR HALL AVAILABLE AND THOUGH THE CENTRE IS NON-DENOMINATIONAL, THEY TOOK AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KINDERGARTEN.

IN ITS PRESENT FORM THE COST WAS IN THE VICINITY OF £1000. THIS INCLUDES ALL INDOOR AND OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT, MODIFICATIONS TO THE CHURCH BUILDING AND THE FENCING AND GENERAL GROUNDS FORMING THE PLAY AREA. THE GROUNDS INCLUDING SAND-PIT AND TAN BARK AREA, THE CONCRETE PATHS AND LAWNS AND NEW SEPTIC TANK AND TOILET FACILITIES, WERE PLANNED WITH A VIEW TO INCORPORATION IN THE NEW BUILDING WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY BE BUILT.

MONEY WAS RAISED PRIMARILY BY INTEREST-FREE LOANS OF £5 FOR 3 YEARS, BY INTERESTED PARENTS AND FRIENDS. THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAS GIVEN DONATIONS TOWARDS SPECIFIC WORKS AS WELL AS A GENEROUS LOAN, AND THE BALANCE OF MONEY HAS BEEN RAISED AND DONATED BY THE MOTHERS' AUXILIARY.

THE CENTRE OPENED IN FEBRUARY 1962 WITH A FULL QUOTA OF CHILDREN AND A LONG WAITING LIST. THE MANAGEMENT CONSISTS OF A COMMITTEE OF TWELVE - SIX ARE ELECTED BY THE CHURCH AND INCLUDES THE MINISTER, AND SIX ARE ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING BY THE ASSEMBLY AND ARE USUALLY PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING KINDERGARTEN. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ARE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER AND ROSTER SECRETARY. THIS COMMITTEE IS IN CHARGE OF ALL AFFAIRS CONCERNING THE ACTUAL KINDERGARTEN AND CONTROLS ALL MONIES, EXCLUDING A SEPARATE ACCOUNT HELD BY THE MOTHERS' AUXILIARY WHICH HAS A PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND TREASURER.

OTHER SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN RINGWOOD

In addition to the eight Pre-Schools just described, there are three Infant Welfare Centres. One is in Civic Place in the centre of the City; one in Heathmont adjacent to Heathmont Kindergarten, and one in East Ringwood adjacent to the shopping area.

Ringwood City Council sponsors an efficient home-help service under the supervision of Sister N. Gibson - one of the Health Inspectors on the Council Staff.

Regular immunisation programs are carried out under the direction of Ringwood's Medical Officer - Dr. W.E. Hewitt.

In order to retain as much of the rural atmosphere as possible, the Council has generously set aside 35 areas for children's playgrounds. The Ringwood City Council has installed sturdy playground equipment on these playgrounds. The Ringwood Henley Carnival Committee has raised funds to purchase and instal the equipment and a subsidy for this work has been obtained from the State Government.

For the past nine years, in East Ringwood Community Hall, a small Children's Library has functioned, supported and maintained by the voluntary assistance of a small but enthusiastic committee. This is open to any child living in Ringwood, and is open twice weekly for exchange of books.

SCHOOLS.

There are eight Primary Schools with a further two anticipated by 1965. There are two High Schools and one Technical School.

Among the denominational schools are one Church of England, two primary Catholic, and one new Catholic Secondary School.