



# TRIENNIAL REPORT

1954-1956

Ernest NORMAN, J.P.  
*Mayor of Auburn*

**MAYOR:**

Ald. Ernest NORMAN, J.P.

**DEPUTY MAYOR:**

Ald. Frank D. SMITH, J.P.

**ALDERMEN:**

Walter G. BOWMER, J.P.	Charles KENNEDY, J.P.
J. Colin BURROWS.	Arthur MANTOVA.
Gordon A. BYRNE, J.P.	Patrick McLAUGHLIN, J.P.
Frank CHADWICK, J.P.	Archibald R. B. McVICAR.
Herbert T. JONES, J.P.	Donald N. STAPLES.

TOWN CLERK: Bryan J. MOONEY, J.P., F.L.C.A.

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK: Wilfred R. AMES, J.P., F.L.C.A.

CHIEF ENGINEER: Eric W. BLACK, A.M.I.E. Aust.

CHIEF HEALTH & BUILDING INSPECTOR: Alan P. HAYES, J.P., M.I.H.S.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT: Percival J. CASEY, J.P., L.L.C.A.

CHIEF RATES CLERK: Gordon J. LANE, J.P., L.L.C.A.

OFFICES: Town Hall, Auburn Road, Auburn.

TELEPHONES: YX 6011, 4 lines

OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays to Fridays

COUNCIL MEETINGS: Fortnightly at 8 p.m.

# TRIENNIAL REPORT 1954-1956

## 1. Introduction:

As Mayor of the Municipality for the triennial term now about to end, I have much pleasure in presenting my report covering that period.

Considerable progress has been made, evident on all sides, and as shown in the facts and figures now presented. No doubt the most outstanding achievements were the completion of Auburn Shopping Centre Replanning Scheme, the building of the bridge over Duck River at Wellington Road, and the initiation of the Civic Centre project.

## 2. Finance:

The Council must be concerned to preserve financial equilibrium at all times and the annual Statement of Accounts provides conclusive evidence that our aim has been achieved. In their latest Annual Report the Council's Auditors, Messrs. Allen & Allen, congratulated the Council upon the healthy state of Municipal finances.

The total overall expenditure was £1,114,800, an increase of £234,800 over the 1951-53 period. Assets substantially exceed liabilities and all projects and essential services were financed without recourse to bank overdraft.

## 3. Public Works:

### (a) General:

Total expenditure by the Engineer's Department on Public Works and Parks and Gardens amounted to £687,760 made up as follows:-

Road Construction .....	£156,640
General Maintenance, reinstatements, bituminous resurfacing of roads, maintenance and improvement of Main Roads .....	181,406
Stormwater Drainage Construction .....	56,269
Concrete Kerb and Gutter Construction .....	27,991
Bridge Construction .....	18,000
Concrete Footpath Construction .....	4,905
Repairs, reinstatements and resurfacing of footpaths .....	10,510
Gutterbridge Construction .....	21,388
Street Cleansing .....	49,560
Parks and Gardens — maintenance, improvements and Bowling Greens Construction .....	65,680
Street and Traffic Signs .....	1,813
Purchase of Road Plant .....	28,237
Works Depot and other buildings .....	7,551
Depot Expenses, holidays to Employees and Sick Pay .....	31,014
Engineer's Department salaries, office and transport expenses .....	26,796
<hr/>	
Total .....	£687,760

The total tonnage of stores and materials handled by the Engineer's Department for Public Works amounted to 161.200 tons.

# DUCK RIVER BRIDGE



*The old "Bridge".*



*Work begins.*



*Here a modern pre-stressed concrete bridge replaces the plank of pioneering days.*

### **(b) Bridge over Duck River at Wellington Road:**

The building of a bridge over Duck River in the vicinity of Wellington Road has been talked about since the early years of this century, and until recently it was regarded by most people as something for the dim and distant future. Due, however, to the splendid co-operation of Alderman E. A. Hunt, Mayor of Parramatta City, and his Council, this bridge will be completed and opened for traffic early next year. Estimated cost is £18,000, which will be shared equally by the two Councils. A heavy traffic road from Cumberland Road to the bridge is now under construction. Already the Council has agreed to support an extension of local bus services over the new bridge to South Granville and Guildford Station.

This project is an outstanding example of effective co-operation between adjoining Municipalities to promote district and general progress and community welfare. Here I would like to pay a special tribute to the Mayor of Parramatta City, Alderman E. A. Hunt, his Council and his Officers as well as to my colleagues of Auburn Council, the Town Clerk and Engineer and all those associated with this historic development.

### **(c) Roads, Footpaths, Kerb and Gutter:**

Construction includes 16 miles of roads, 4 miles of kerb and gutter and 1 mile of footpaths.

It is interesting to note that in the Municipality there are 130 miles of roads and 229 miles of footpaths. The present position is as follows:—

**Roads:** Concrete 3 miles 15 chains; asphalt 77 miles 58 chains; gravel 28 miles 60 chains; formed only 20 miles 27 chains.

**Footpaths:** Concrete 57 miles 36 chains; asphalt or brick 49 miles 4 chains; formed only 122 miles.

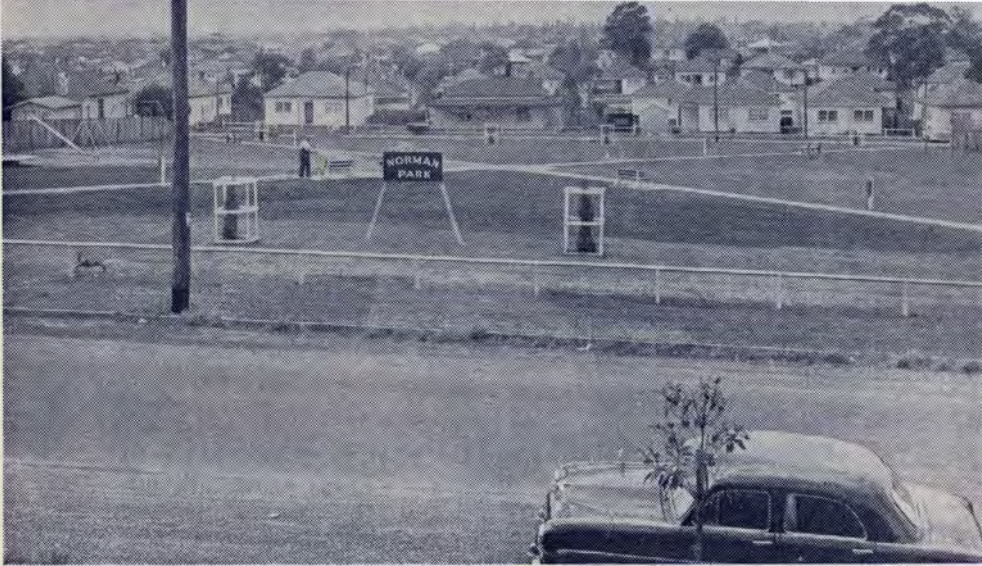
**Kerb and Gutter:** Concrete 108 miles 74 chains; earth watertables 119 miles 46 chains.

### **(d) Stormwater Drainage:**

Construction under this head includes the catchment areas in South West Auburn (Albert Road/St. Johns Road and Regents Park), Platform Street/Swete Street locality, Lidcombe, and part of the Avenues drainage area at Berala. The Council is determined to push on with its Drainage Programme—no progress can be made with road works until stormwater is satisfactorily disposed of. Progress in this regard will be largely determined by the availability of loan moneys. At the moment, the Loan Council allocation for Local Government loans will not permit of further borrowing and although the position may improve during next financial year, the future in this regard is somewhat obscure.



*A quiet reach of Duck River.*



*NORMAN PARK. The most recently completed of the several new parks established in the municipality.*

#### 4. Parks and Playgrounds:

The Council now has under its control a total area of 295 acres, which includes Carnarvon Golf Course and not including the Duck River Open Space, some of which has not yet passed from the control of the Cumberland County Council to our Council. When this is finalised the Municipality will have a total area of 458 acres. When it is realised that, little more than 10 years ago Auburn had only 29 acres of parklands and Lidcombe had hardly more than 100 acres, the extent to which the position has been improved will be fully realised.

Apart from the large playing areas throughout the Municipality we now have rest parks and children's playgrounds in almost all parts of the Municipality within less than a quarter of a mile of any home. Additional parklands acquired during the period are as under:-

<u>Park</u>	<u>Area</u>
Norman Park	1a. 1r. 7p.
Grandin Park	3r. 24p.
Kibo Reserve	1a. 2r. 24p.
Progress Park	9a. 1r. 38p.
Extension of Phillips Park	2r. -p.
Jack & Jill Playground, Tilba St.	32p.
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>13a. 3r. 25p.</b>

## **5. Duck River Open Space:**

This area of 163 acres between Chisholm Road and Duck River will be developed in stages in co-operation with the Cumberland County Council, which is paying for acquisition of all the land, apart from that owned by the Council prior to the advent of the Cumberland County Plan. This area together with that adjoining on the west side of the River, to be developed by Parramatta City Council, will provide multiple playing fields and adequate open space for a very extensive district.

## **6. Tree Planting:**

Flower seedlings, shrubs and trees are propagated at very small cost in Council's own nursery. Flowering shrubs are provided at 1/- each to ratepayers and residents for planting in footpaths. During the period over 1000 trees have been planted in various streets. The Rotary Club of Auburn-Lidcombe, to mark the Golden Jubilee of Rotary International, planted Eucalypts on the western side of Park Road from South Parade to Regents Park.

Unfortunately, many trees and shrubs have been destroyed or damaged by vandals. I take this opportunity of appealing to parents and teachers to make an effort to inculcate in the younger generation a love of trees and a greater measure of civic pride. I do not for a moment suggest that school children are responsible for more than possibly a small proportion of the damage (such evidence as we have been able to procure points rather to teenagers of both sexes returning to their homes in late evenings after various diversions) but I do suggest that if children are taught in schools and homes to do the right thing in this regard, then future teenagers (and adults too) will want to co-operate and build rather than destroy. I also appeal to residents generally to assist the Council to beautify the area with trees and to preserve all the assets and amenities in parks and elsewhere which have been provided for public use and enjoyment.

## **7. Health Services:**

### **(a) General:**

During the period the Health Department staff carried out nearly 3,000 inspections of premises throughout the area.

### **(b) Sanitary Services:**

A total of 487,692 services were rendered during the period. Services decreased from 170,056 in 1954 to 151,136, in spite of the establishment of many new industries and homes in unsewered areas. The reduction in services is, of course, due to extension of the sewerage system for which we



must thank our vigilant representative on the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board, Alderman A. N. Campbell who, through all the years of his representation, has never let this Municipality down.

Many factories in the Silverwater area have installed septic tanks, for which the Council provides adequate services for disposal of effluent. Sewer extensions are now being carried out in the Silverwater area, in south-west Auburn and other parts of the Municipality and we hope that before long the antiquated pan system will be a thing of the past. In this regard we are assured of Alderman Campbell's complete co-operation.

#### **(c) Garbage Services:**

The number of garbage services rendered during the period was 1,507,976 representing approx. 119,109 c.yds. of garbage.

A large area of eroded land was reclaimed in Wyatt Park which will considerably extend the playing fields.

#### **(d) Trade-waste and Clean-up Campaigns:**

Prior to 1954 the Council carried out one Clean-up Campaign each year and there was no real trade-waste service. Our Chief Inspector then reorganised the garbage runs to occupy four days and on every Monday all trucks are used to pick up rubbish from households so that every resident now has the benefit of four "Clean-up" services each year. This accounts for the removal of about 10,000 c.yds. of household rubbish each year, apart from thousands of tons of trade-waste which is deposited from factories and industries throughout the area, and for which a small fee is charged. Total fees received for trade-waste services amounted to £4,750.

Disposal of all this waste made possible the reclamation of much land adjacent to Duck River for the extension of Mona Park.

#### **(e) Infectious Diseases:**

During the period 163 cases of Infectious Diseases were reported. In 1956 we did not have one case of Diphtheria although we had three in 1955 and 7 in 1954. Total cases were about the same (approx. 50) each year but the 54 in 1956 included 38 cases of Infectious Hepatitis.

In clinics organised by our Health Department 12,000 injections were given for Diphtheria immunisation and during the six months of 1956, 12,000 children received Anti-Polio-myelitis Vaccine.

Full co-operation was given to the Anti-T.B. Association and more than 45,000 people had chest X-rays.

**(f) Baby Health Centres:**

The Centres at Auburn and Lidcombe functioned very efficiently under the several Sisters-in-charge. During the period mothers brought 51,715 children to these Centres for advice, attention and guidance.

**(g) Licences etc.:**

Through the Health Department 1,467 licences were issued in connection with which 2,500 inspections were carried out. Notices and general inspections and enquiries amounted to 22,618.

Certificates issued under Sec. 342AS (Town Planning) totalled 4,674.

**(h) Argentine Ant Eradication:**

In co-operation with State Department of Agriculture and Commonwealth C.S.I.R.O. a total of 436 acres were sprayed, using 36,265 gallons of Chlordane or Dieldrin. The Council's contribution for this service was £7,500.

On behalf of the Council, ratepayers and residents I express deep gratitude to the Departments and their efficient and courteous officers for a mighty fine job. The fight against the Argentine Ant is not yet over, but the astounding progress made guarantees ultimate success provided that all ratepayers and residents will co-operate fully with the Council by promptly reporting any new infestations and by not taking any infested plant pots, plants or other material into clear areas.

**8. Buildings:**

Cost of new buildings approved by the Council totalled £4,134,912, while the cost of approved alterations and additions was £2,393,946 — a grand total of £6,528,854.

The total applications received were 2,953, the fees paid being £5,562.

Auburn shopping centre has had numerous shops altered and enlarged and some new premises have been built, the total cost being £250,000. Major projects were the new Auburn Hotel £125,000 and Traversi Jones' hardware store £40,000.

**9. Children's Free Library.**

When, in June 1947, the Council took over the Children's Library, at the request of the Ladies' Committee, there were about 200 books and less than that number of children members. Now the Library has 4,245 volumes and 2,080 members, mainly children from schools within the Municipality. Unfortunately accommodation is restricted so that at the moment proper expansion of this service to adequately meet requirements is not possible.

Splendid work over the years has been done by the Auxiliary Committee — Miss E. Stutchbury (President), Mrs.

E. Coulthard (Hon. Secretary) and members. Mrs. E. Fraser (Chief Librarian) and her staff have worked wonders in spite of all difficulties which they have cheerfully and loyally overcome.

The Rotary Club of Auburn/Lidcombe has given invaluable help by continued donations of special books and by their constant interest in the Library. To all these good folk I express my own and the Council's profound gratitude. There is no doubt as to the benefit that the children have derived from this service and there is no doubt about their appreciation. This paragraph, taken from the Library Auxiliary's Annual Report (5/7/56) speaks for itself:—

"I should like to thank our Library members for their gifts of books. It is with a great deal of satisfaction that we find our average members donating a book as thanks for the many happy hours the Library has given them."

#### **10. Naturalization:**

Since the Commonwealth Government asked Councils to take over Naturalization Ceremonies, 158 candidates have received their Naturalization Certificates as citizens of Australia and British subjects. It is expected that for the final ceremony this year (14/11/56) we shall have more than 40 candidates, bringing the total to 200.

The ceremonies were held in the Council Chamber until the numbers and attendances by the public made it necessary to use the Town Hall. Ceremonies now attract capacity attendances and, with music and dancing, have become a real community feature. Congratulations upon the organisation and general conduct of the ceremonies have been received from the Minister for Immigration, Hon. Harold Holt, M.P., as from his Chief Officer in Sydney.

Former States of our new citizens may be of interest here: Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Jugoslavia, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and U.S.A.

I welcome again all our new settlers and I feel sure all our residents will do everything possible to help them to find happiness and success and to "Advance Australia Fair."

#### **11. Town Planning:**

Good progress is being made with the preparation of the Local Plan and the work so far accomplished reflects great credit on the Planning Staff. The Town Planning Committee has worked as an excellent team, voluntarily and gladly giving many hours in this important service for community and



*Alderman  
Frank D. Smith, J.P.  
Deputy-Mayor.*



*His Worship the Mayor,  
Alderman Ernest Norman, J.P.*



*Mr. Bryan J. Mooney,  
J.P., F.L.C.A.  
Town Clerk*



*Alderman  
Walter G. Bowmer, J.P.*



*Alderman  
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*Alderman  
Frank Chadwick, J.P.*



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*Mr. Wilfred R. Ames,  
J.P., F.L.C.A.  
Deputy Town Clerk*



*Mr. Eric W. Black,  
A.M.I.E. Aust.  
Chief Engineer*



*Mr. Alan P. Hayes, J.P.,  
M.I.H.S.  
Chief Health and Build-  
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*Auburn's "front door" prior to replanning. (Station Road bridge in foreground.)*



*Old shops on Queen Street frontage.*

national advancement. In addition to the members of Council, the Town Planning Committee comprises the following:- Councillor Norman G. Crook and Messrs. E. Murray Johns, Charles W. Phillips, Harry J. Rogers and Allen Wilson.

### **12. Auburn Shopping Centre Replanning Project:**

This project was finalised when, on 15/9/56, the residue of the land was sold for £62,400. From all points of view, this scheme, initiated in 1947, must be regarded as an outstanding success, justifying the comment of the then Minister for Local Government, now Premier the Hon. J. J. Cahill, M.L.A., when he visited Auburn in November 1948: "This is the sort of thing Councils should do."

### **13. Civic Centre:**

Since the Council, on 4/7/56, resolved to proceed with the acquisition of land with frontages to Northumberland Road, Station Road and Rawson Street adjacent to the Auburn Railway Station, the purchase of one property has been finalised and negotiations are proceeding in respect of all the other land. This scheme, which will be carried out in stages over a number of years, envisages the provision of a modern office block, Town Hall, Municipal Library, Youth Welfare Recreational Centre, facilities for mothers and young children and rest and recreation rooms for Pensioners and elderly people.

The proposal has already been given considerable publicity and the public can rest assured it will be kept informed as to intentions and developments.

### **14. Auburn Combined Sports Committee:**

This Committee, formed in 1946 by the late Alderman Alex Kerr, has achieved brilliant success in co-ordinating all sporting interests in the Municipality and in raising funds for the improvement and extension of sporting facilities.

Perhaps the most outstanding achievement was the flood-lighting of Lidcombe Oval at a cost of £7,912, giving the Municipality one of the few up-to-date areas for night sports and entertainment in the Metropolitan Area.

The Committee raised and handed over to the Council to date the sum of £13,809. Apart from Lidcombe Oval flood-lighting this money was spent to make Mona Park, to improve Coleman and other parks and to provide children's playing equipment in many parks throughout the Municipality.

As far as I know this Committee is quite unique and it certainly has a fine record of achievement.

I express deep gratitude to the officers, Messrs. Harold Moon and W. Grandin and to all members of the Committee representing as they do practically every sporting activity in the Municipality.



Children's Free Library



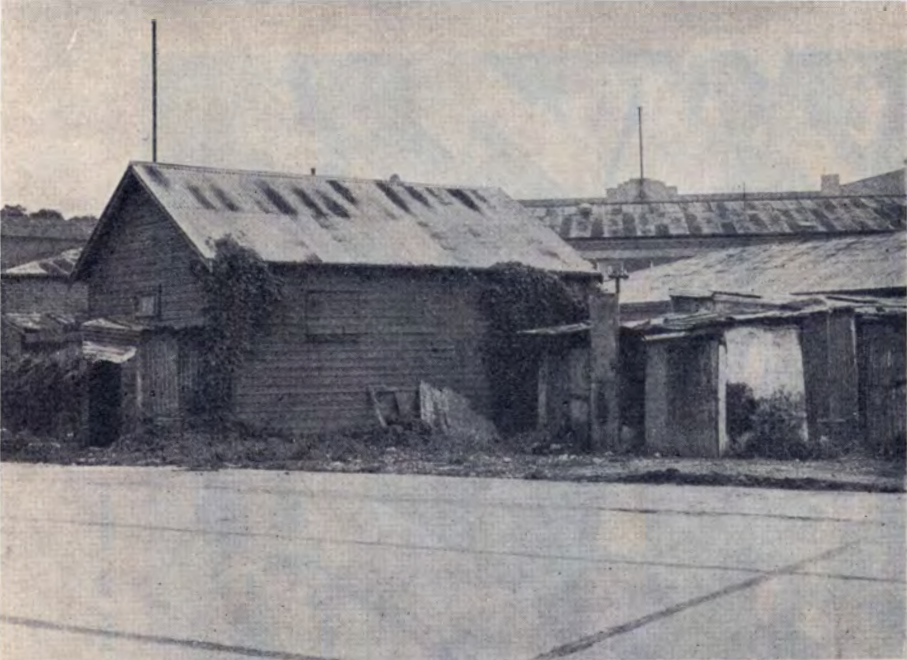
*Quiet enjoyment.*



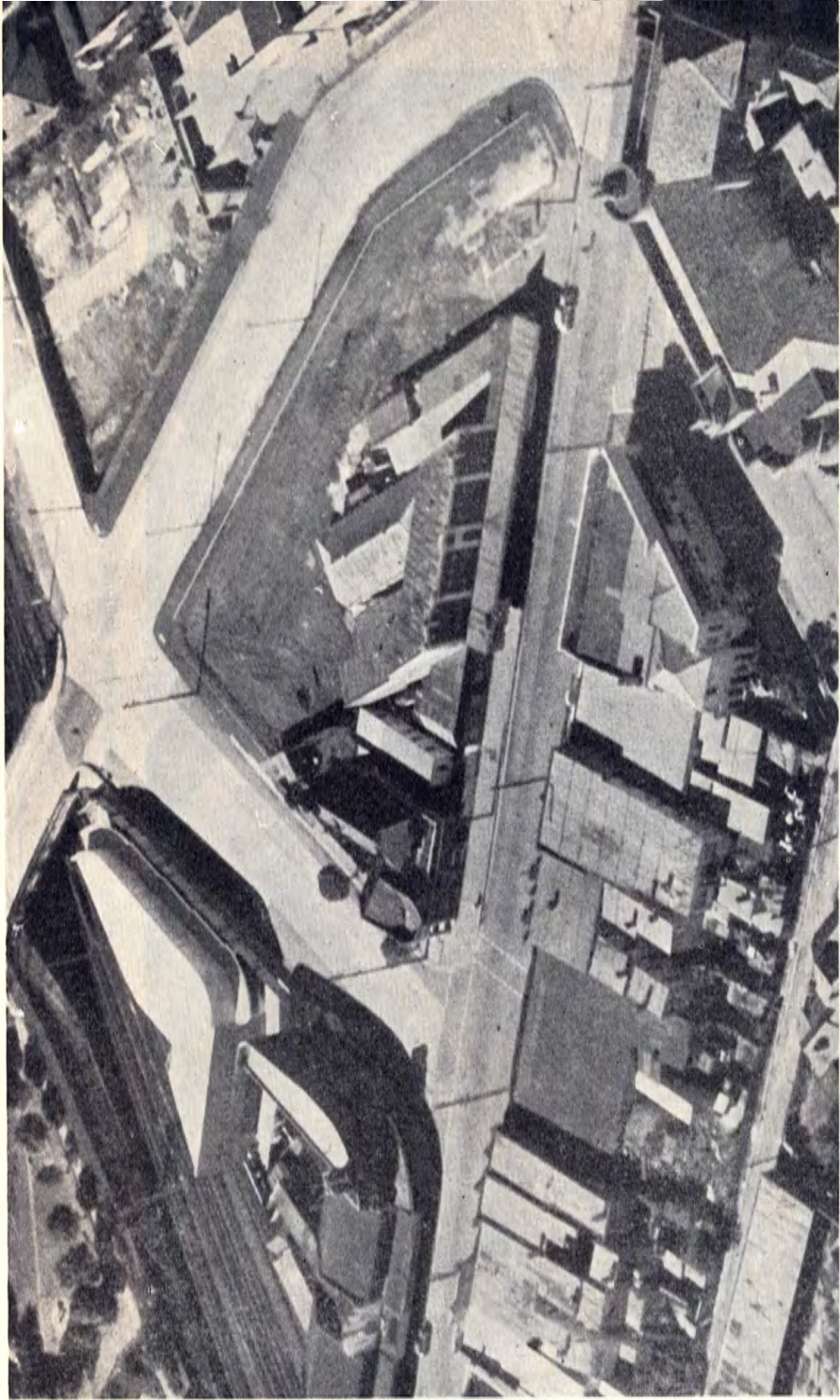
*Careful choice.*



*Centre section of photo shows area before resumption, with old railway bridge at top left.*



*Some of the buildings demolished to make way for the new Civic Road and shops.*



*View above shows land which the scheme made available for modern commercial buildings.*



*Aerial view indicating the location (centre of photo) of new Civic Centre project. (Auburn Railway Station in right foreground.)*

## 15. Land Values:

The following statement of land values tells the story of remarkable progress:-

Aggregate Values at 15/10/56.			
	U.C.V.	I.C.V.	A.A.V.
Ratable Land .....	£10,825,817	£47,415,307	£2,577,172
Non Ratable .....	£3,223,521	£8,242,944	£422,266
All Lands .....	£14,049,338	£55,658,251	£2,999,438
Values 1949 .....	£4,034,135	£17,689,792	£1,217,579
Increases .....	£10,015,203	£37,968,459	£1,781,859
		<b>AREA</b>	<b>U.C.V.</b>
Non ratable land owned by Commonwealth Govt. ....		743 acres	£995,462
Non ratable land owned by N.S.W. Govt. ....		854 acres	£2,019,259
Total .....		1597 acres	£3,014,721
	<b>1st Ward</b>	<b>2nd Ward</b>	<b>Whole Area</b>
Percentages Govt. Non Ratable Land .....	16.047%	27.849%	22.944%
If this land were ratable —			
The Commonwealth Govt. would pay .....			£31,108 3 9
The State Govt. would pay .....			£63,101 16 10
Total Rate Loss .....			£94,210 0 7

In other words, the Ratepayers (and indirectly, the residents) of Auburn Municipality are subsidising Government Undertakings to the tune of £94,210 yearly.

The following are some recent sales of vacant land:- Parramatta Road west, approx. 1 acre, £17,750; Chisholm Road (Auburn West), land 330' x 675', £10,000; Parramatta Road near Duck River, 4 acres, £80,000; land Parramatta Road and Newton Street, 3r. 23p., £13,000; Nyrang Street Lidcombe, 16 acres, £127,100; Bachell Avenue Lidcombe, 7 acres, £57,400.

## 16. Appreciation:

I am most grateful to the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress, Alderman and Mrs. Frank Smith and to all members of the Council who have worked so hard and so unselfishly in the public interests. Sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to all our people for their valued co-operation and more particularly to the following:- Our

Parliamentary representatives, Messrs. E. James Harrison, M.H.R., T. V. Ryan and T. P. Murphy, M's.L.A. (and here I pay a well deserved tribute to the work of the late Mr. Edgar Dring); Press Representatives, the Auburn "News" and "Auburn-Lidcombe Advertiser"; Combined Sports Committee; 2GB Happiness Club Auburn/Lidcombe; Parramatta/Auburn Ambulance Transport Service; local Hospitals; Rotary Club of Auburn/Lidcombe; Returned Servicemen's and Women's Organizations; St. John Ambulance Brigade and all other co-operating organizations.

I am grateful to the Town Clerk, all Executives and Senior Officers and all members of our Staff, both administrative and outdoor, whose efficiency and loyalty have contributed so much to Civic progress.

### 17. Conclusion:

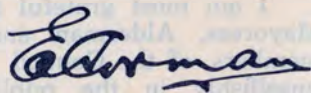
The administration of a developing Municipality like ours, with an area of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  sq. miles and a population of nearly 50,000, involves heavy responsibilities and calls for much hard work. Due consideration must be given to every factor and the basic principles of justice must be preserved always to promote the common good. My impression, after twelve years of Civic Office and three years as Mayor, is that the public generally have some appreciation of these things.

"We have here a warm-hearted people. That is proven by their generous support of local appeals which raised £3,586/17/- for the following: Mayor's Distress Fund £124/16/7. Flood Relief Fund £2,959/12/3. Westminster Abbey Restoration Appeal £125/19/7, and the proceeds of the Mayoral Ball to local charities, £376/8/7."

I fully appreciate the invaluable help freely given at all times by my wife; and I gratefully acknowledge the co-operation accorded by my Firm, Messrs. Babcock & Wilcox of Aust. Pty. Ltd.

I am confident our Municipality will continue the advance to ever greater prosperity and status; and, feeling sure our people will gladly co-operate for Community and Commonwealth Progress, I look to the future with complete confidence.

Mayor's Room,  
Town Hall, Auburn.  
October 19, 1956.



MAYOR OF AUBURN.





