

# MUNICIPALITY OF AUBURN



# TRIENNIAL REPORT

1969 — 1971

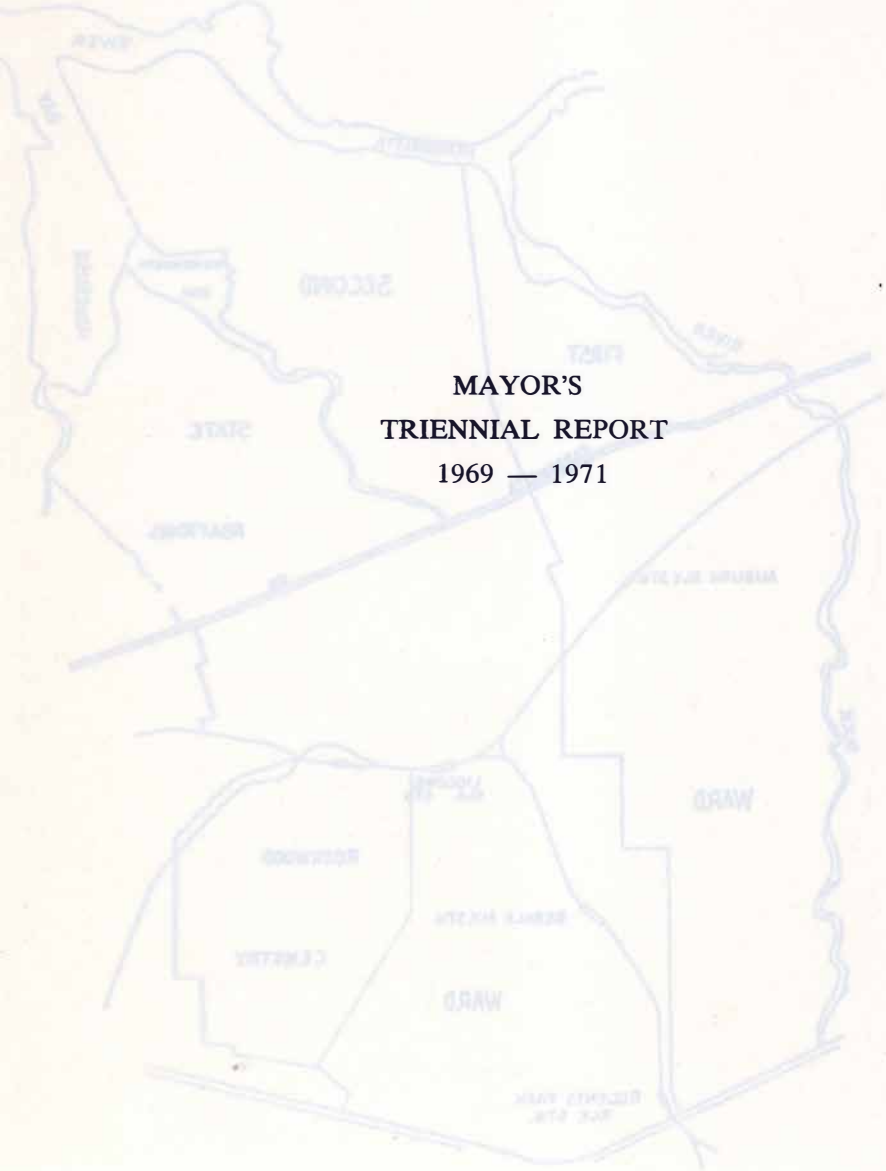
ALD. S. L. HEDGES, J.P.  
*Mayor of Auburn*





MUNICIPALITY OF AUBURN  
Scale 30 miles to an inch.  
Date of Municipality 12.17.67  
Area in Square Miles 13.3  
Population 69,000

**MAYOR'S  
TRIENNIAL REPORT  
1969 — 1971**



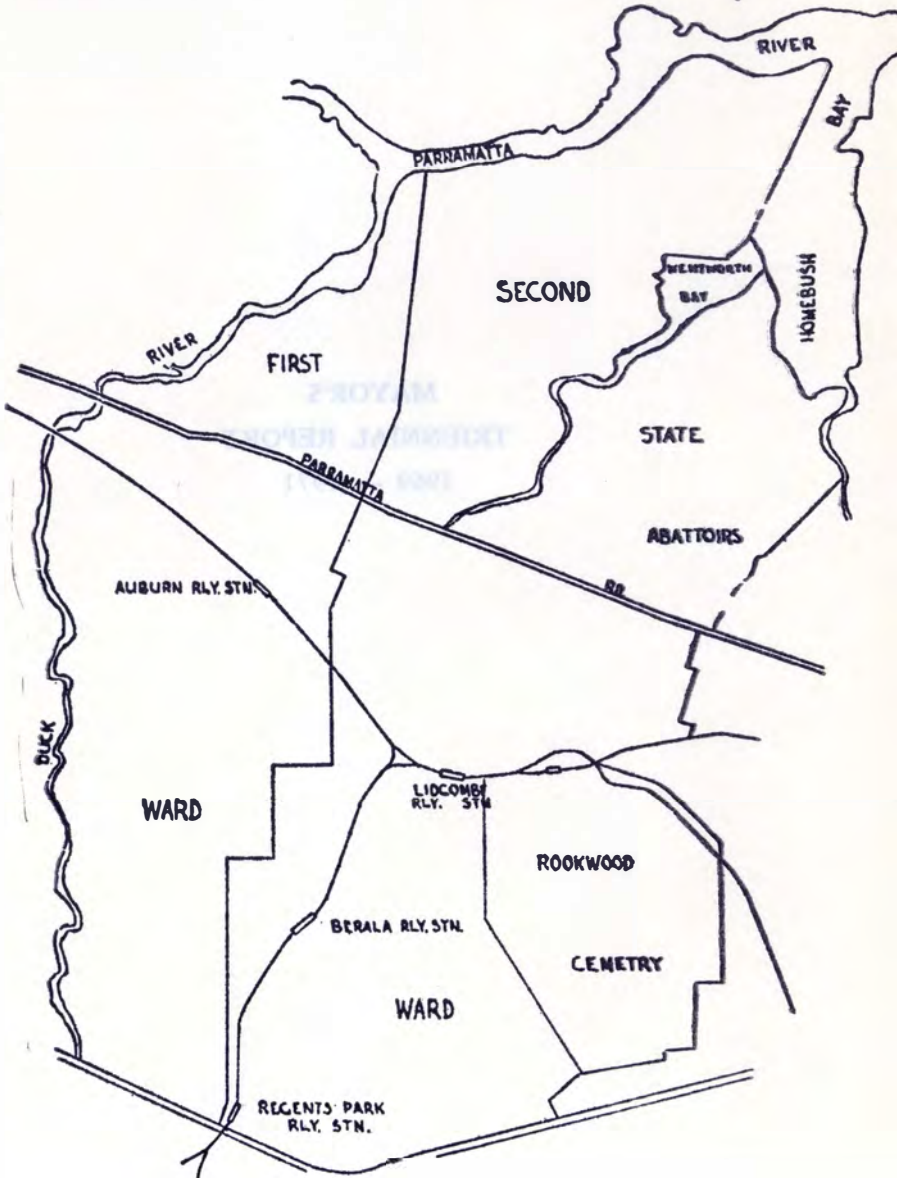
# MUNICIPALITY OF AUBURN

Scale: 70 chains to an inch.

Area of Municipality: 12.17 sq. miles.

Miles of Roadway: 123 miles.

Population: 49,000.



## INTRODUCTION

With the current triennial term drawing to a close, it affords me a great deal of pleasure in my capacity of Mayor, to submit to ratepayers and residents, a summary of Council's activities during the preceding period. Amending legislation by the State Government and the introduction of new procedures has had a profound effect on the machinery of local government and I propose to dwell further on these at various stages during the report.

The term has been one of achievement in relation to resources available and the works and services which must be provided. In this connection, mention must be made of the enthusiastic support given by my fellow Aldermen who applied themselves to the task of allocating and supervising the expenditure of funds in a manner which enabled no curtailment of Council's normal activities despite the impact of salary and wage increases brought about by Awards and national wage level variations.

Our modern society brings attending problems which, at one stage or another, affect the daily environment of all. It is Council's endeavour at all times, to meet these problems when charged with the responsibility to do so, in order that the Municipality may continue to progress without sacrificing any basic rights of the individual to live and work in congenial surroundings.

Of course, this responsibility is shared by the community at large and Council looks to the support of the people by continually striving to maintain a high level of civic pride among the residents of the Municipality with the view that such a standard must result in a better area in which to reside.

Following the abolition of compulsory voting in local government elections, a heavy decrease in the number of votes cast resulted at the 1968 elections. The affairs of the Municipality are of far reaching significance and should be looked upon not merely by the figures on the annual rate notice, but in the sense of how they affect the every day life of the community and planning for the well-being of those of the future.

The importance of maintaining an interest in local affairs and exercising the right to vote at the elections cannot be understated and I, along with my fellow Aldermen, strongly urge that all eligible electors make a practical demonstration of this interest in their Municipality and cast a vote at the elections to be held on 18th September, next.

Whilst the Council of the Municipality of Auburn had a Common Seal to which as a body corporate it was entitled,

the design of such was purely an artist's conception of what a seal should look like and had no relationship to Municipal history or the social, domestic or civic characteristics as related to the area.

The present Seal of Council used the native fauna as the effigy and was evidently borrowed from a State or Commonwealth Coat of Arms, however, in effect the design was being used without authority and had no status of honour.

Many Councils these days are exercising their proper right and authority by having an "Armorial Bearing" or Coat of Arms correctly designed and covered by letters patent issued by Her Majesty's College of Arms. The College of Arms was founded by letters patent under the hand of Richard III on 2nd May, 1484, by incorporating the "Heralds". This com- portation is the authority in England which records and main- tains all the records relating to the Arms granted by the King of Arms.

Armorial Bearings or Coat of Arms are granted by the King of Arms under the authority of the Earl Marshall, the Duke of Norfolk to whom "the power determining the order of all matters touching Arms" has been delegated by the Crown. They are therefore, granted by the reigning Sovereign who is the Fount of Honour and whilst the Coat of Arms is not an honour in the sense of a Peerage of Knighthood, it is if properly granted, most certainly a "token of honour".

Council approved of a proposal to apply for the grant of an approved Coat of Arms and received official assent to the design and description on 13th July, 1970.

Detailed hereunder is the description incorporated in the application which explains the significance of the various parts of the approved Coat of Arms — The bird as shown is the Eastern Swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus melantus*); this bird is of historical significance as it is still to be found in the upper reaches of Duck Creek and it is quite certain that this species is one that has existed since before the foundation of the colony.

Historical records show that the first contact white man had with the area incorporating Auburn, Lidcombe, Berala and Regents Park (now known as the Municipality of Auburn) was "when Captain John Hunter on a fine day on the 5th February, 1788, sailed up the Parramatta River to Homebush and carefully scanned the heavily forested shores of this fine stream"; Captain Hunter was without doubt the first white man ever to set foot within the Municipality. This party was engaged in the first exploratory survey of the Parramatta River. Ten days later Governor Phillip with a party, entered and explored the Duck Creek tributary as far as the depth of water permitted"

and records indicate that the Eastern Swampen had, for decades before, been colonised in the Duck Creek area.

### **Shield:**

The Shield, the principal part of the Coat of Arms, is divided by a wavy line across the middle, representing the Duck River, into halves of green and gold, the livery colours of the Blaxland Arms, from which are taken the three falcons' heads in gold with black ermine spots. Bestriding the middle of the shield is a triangular figure in reversed colours (gold on the green and vice-versa). This with the crossing portion of the wave, suggests the letter "A" for Auburn. It is called in heraldry a "pile", and is associated with three heraldic "millrinds" to allude to the firm of Mills and Pile, Estate Agents, who arranged the first land sales in the area. The millrind (the iron clamp in the centre of ancient millstones) is an accepted symbol of engineering and industry, so appearing on the arms of such British industrial towns, as Salford, West Bromwich and Rochdale. These are coloured black on the gold. The shield thus epitomizes the early history of the settlements at Newington, Lidcombe and Auburn, and the subsequent establishment of industry there.

### **Crest:**

Above the shield is the closed helmet proper to civic arms, with its twisted crest — wreath and decorative mantling or tournament cloak in the basic colours of the arms, the Blaxland green and gold. In the crest itself, the Eastern Swampen, a characteristic of the local fauna, is seen among rushes, within a circlet of gold eight pointed stars taken from the State Shield.

### **Supporters:**

The supporters illustrate the importance of Auburn in the State services, viz. the railways, Navy and Air Force. The railway engine building industry is typified by the "Iron Horse" breaking flames, coloured green with gold mane and hooves to suggest the railway's liveries and to harmonize with the general colour scheme. Each horse is collared with a gold cable from which hangs a gold anchor, taken from the Admiralty flag. The anchors also suggest (a) the part played by two R.N. Officers, Captain Phillip and Captain Hunter, in the discovery of the district; (b) the fact that two R.N. Officers, Captain Waterhouse and Lieut. Shortland, had the first two grants of land; (c) the importance of St. Joseph's Hospital as a naval sanatorium, and (d) the present R.A.N. Magazine. To represent the R.A.A.F. Depot, white wings are added to the horses, which transform them into pegasi, symbols of speed and aspiration.

**Motto:**

The motto "LIBERTY, WITH STEADY ZEAL" has two significant references:

- (a) the word "LIBERTY" records the historical fact that in the colony of felons it was a matter of some pride for settlers to be free men or to have gained their freedom. The Auburn, Lidcombe and surrounding districts can claim to have attracted the first free men ever to have entered the country to stay and they were given the privilege by a grateful Governor of choosing their own grants in 1793. For this reason part of the area is known as the Parish of Liberty Plains.
- (b) "WITH STEADY ZEAL" indicates the civic pride of the Municipality and is an extract from Oliver Goldsmith's poem "The Deserted Village" from which Auburn "Love-liest Village of the Plain" was named.

**Official Description or Blazon:**

**Arms:** Per fess wavy vert and or, a pile reversed counter-changed, three falcons' heads erased ermine on the vert and three millrinds sable on the or.

**Crest:** On a wreath of the colours, within a circlet of six mullets of eight points or, amid rushes an Eastern Swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus melantus*) close proper.

**Supporters:** On either side a Pegasus vert, wings addorsed argent, maned, hooved and gorged with a cable pendent therefrom by the ring an anchor or, and breathing flames proper.

**FINANCE**

As mentioned earlier, the effect on Council's finances of various salary and wage increases, accompanied by the increased cost of items purchased, was, to a large degree, offset by sound budgeting control and proper planning. However, the compulsory contributions to the various statutory bodies and the need for payment of payroll tax is still of great concern to local authorities and it is hoped that some measure of relief will be obtained during the next term when the State Government proceeds with its intention to abolish the payment of levies to the County of Cumberland Main Roads Fund. On current figures, this will result in a considerable saving to Council per annum provided some other indirect form of subsidising works on main roads is not introduced.



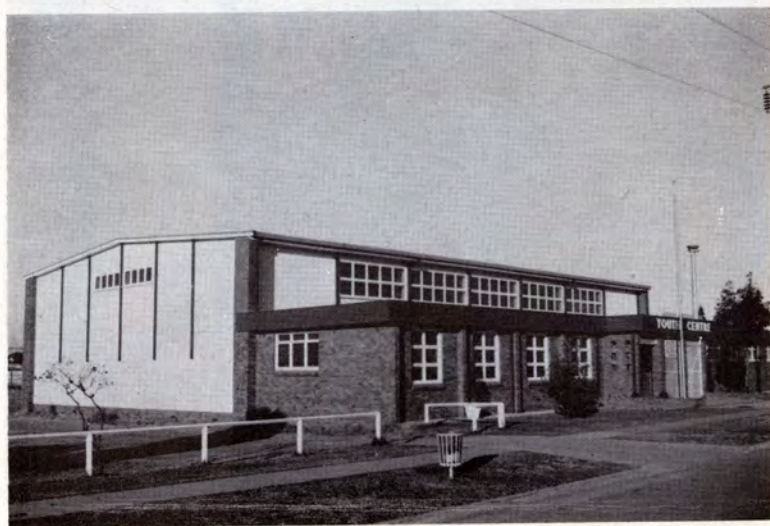
MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE



Staff members of the Rural Bank at Auburn engaged on Meals on Wheels activities during personal time.



Ornamental Fountain — Wellington Park.



Auburn-Lidcombe R.S.L. Youth Club Centre

Over the term, payments to such bodies incurred Council expenditure as follows:

Main Roads Fund .....	\$656,046
Board of Fire Commissioners .....	\$87,910
Sydney County Council (street lighting) ....	\$371,054
State Planning Authority .....	\$161,531
Pay Roll Tax .....	\$57,207

I have always been of the opinion that street lighting charges are inequitably levied and should be a responsibility of the consumer as a whole rather than a direct assessment on Councils which is then passed on to ratepayers only. With this in mind, I have continually pressed my views as a Councillor on the Sydney County Council and with increasing support, hope to have this anomaly rectified in the near future with a resultant saving to ratepayers generally. Removal of this burden is a continuation of Council's policy to explore all avenues of reducing outgoings with a view to obtaining a minimum annual rate levy to property owners.

With the handing over to the State Parliaments of the proceeds of the Pay Roll Tax, it is anticipated that some relief to this expenditure item will be enjoyed in the near future.

Council's policy of "balancing the budget" has been pursued along similar lines to those adopted in previous terms with satisfactory results and this will be reflected in the state of finances when the incoming Council takes office, as it is considered highly desirable that deficit budgeting should only be applied in extreme circumstances. This triennial period has been shortened by three months, following recent legislation to hold local government elections during September on future occasions in lieu of December; the theory behind this legislative measure is that it will permit incoming Councils to fully understand and appreciate Local Government financing prior to the preparation and fixing of the annual estimates of income and expenditure.

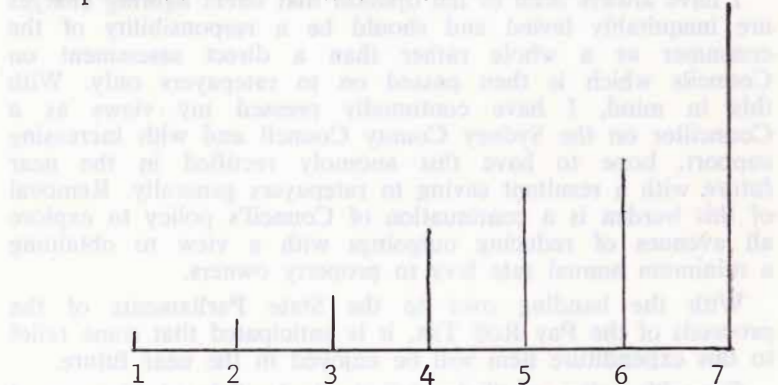
To maintain financial stability and ensure that rates levied on ratepayers were kept at a reasonable level, it was found during the current year that the appointment of a sub-committee to examine draft Estimates of income and expenditure was a sound decision. The determination of priorities is always a difficult task and the sub-committee is to be commended for its efforts in pruning estimated expenditure to a necessary minimum without any undue effect on works and services to be provided or maintained.

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR  
THREE YEARS ENDING DECEMBER, 1971**

**EXPENDITURE**

Council's expenditure over the triennial term totalled \$7,674,788 and a more detailed dissection of this sum appears below.

Expenditure as related to each dollar -



1. Municipal Property	1.8 cents in \$
2. Miscellaneous	3.8 cents in \$
3. General Purpose	5.2 cents in \$
4. Health Administration	12.1 cents in \$
5. Capital	16.4 cents in \$
6. Public Services	16.8 cents in \$
7. Public Works	43.9 cents in \$

**EXPENDITURE**

	1969	1970	1971	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
General Purposes	120,700	133,988	145,918	400,606
Public Works	1,050,790	1,203,280	1,109,072	3,363,142
Health Administration	274,832	309,008	444,477	1,028,317
Public Services	408,227	411,928	472,019	1,292,174
Municipal Properties	41,952	42,731	55,529	140,212
Miscellaneous	90,590	95,286	109,056	294,932
Capital	541,199	535,390	178,816	1,255,405
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,528,290</b>	<b>2,731,611</b>	<b>2,414,887</b>	<b>7,774,788</b>

## INCOME

	1969	1970	1971	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
General Purposes .....	1,829,522	1,945,994	1,943,495	5,719,011
Public Works .....	165,330	120,657	78,118	364,105
Health Administration .....	78,365	99,636	80,050	258,051
Public Services .....	117,347	292,954	113,162	523,463
Municipal Properties ..	15,373	15,475	25,644	56,492
Miscellaneous .....	28,635	116,927	28,500	174,062
Capital .....	264,150	289,115	314,000	867,265
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>2,498,722</b>	<b>2,880,758</b>	<b>2,582,969</b>	<b>7,962,449</b>

### Particulars of General Rate Levy

Year	Rate in \$	Unimproved Capital Value	Yield
1969 .....	1.60	\$114,345,005	\$1,727,558
1970 .....	1.65	\$115,818,695	\$1,800,385
1971 .....	1.71	\$115,333,087	\$1,908,695

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Details of Expenditure

Although various public services and amenities were expanded, an extensive public works programme was maintained, and perusal of the undermentioned expenditure details for public works will serve to illustrate the importance which Council placed on this essential aspect of local government administration:—

Road construction (including main and secondary roads) .....	\$807,406
Road maintenance (including main and secondary roads) .....	\$654,552
Stormwater drain construction and maintenance .....	\$124,536
Footpath paving construction and maintenance .....	\$220,378
Kerbing and guttering construction and maintenance .....	\$202,277
Bridge construction .....	\$12,568
Street and gutter cleaning .....	\$168,986
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$2,190,703</b>

## **Full Width Sealing of Roads**

An important phase of Council's Public Works Programme has been the progress made in the full width sealing of roads throughout the Municipality. The sum of \$45,000 was provided this year for this purpose and over the triennial period the amount which will be expended in this connection will be \$200,000.

Full width widening work requires the completion of associated work such as stormwater drainage extension, reconstruction of kerb and gutter to give suitable driveway access to private properties and to establish final levels for footpaths, tree planting, etc.

## **Main Roads**

Continuing representations are being made to the Department of Main Roads concerning the severance effect of the Western Expressway between Wentworth Street, Homebush, and Wentworth Road, Granville, as Council is concerned with the interests of surrounding residents and the likely effects of vehicular and pedestrian traffic movement restrictions. For similar reasons, the effect of the proposed deviation of Main Road 190 to the west of the Joseph Street shopping centre is also being investigated.

For some time, Council has viewed with concern the growing volume of traffic on certain connecting roads within the Municipality and is conducting traffic surveys in relation to an application for the proclamation of Water Street, Park Road and Wellington Road as secondary main roads and should this be achieved, grants will be forthcoming from the Department of Main Roads to assist Council in meeting maintenance costs of such roads.

Construction and reconstruction works undertaken by Council at the cost of the Department of Main Roads included full width roadway works in Joseph Street between The Boulevard and James Street, St. Hilliers Road and the intersection of Boorea Street and Olympic Drive which also incorporated reconstruction of the bridge over Haslam's Creek.

Inevitably, following the re-alignment or deviation of roads, land residues appear which can become unsightly if not properly maintained and Council has endeavoured to attain the desirable objective that such residues within this Municipality are transformed into small beautification areas.

## **Traffic Generally**

Consequent upon a heavy increase of traffic flow in recent years, Council has been investigating various proposals for

relieving traffic congestion within the various shopping centres. Items under consideration are:—

**Auburn.** Totally enclosing the island at the Auburn Road, Civic Road, Queen Street intersection to encourage through traffic diversion around the shopping centre and thus materially reduce peak hour congestion.

**Lidcombe.** The Police Traffic Branch has been requested to investigate traffic conditions within the Lidcombe Shopping centre generally with a view to submitting definite proposals to eliminate traffic bottle-necks.

**Berala.** A proposal is being studied for the channelisation of the Woodburn Road, Lidbury Street, Elizabeth Street intersection following consultation with the Police Traffic Branch to improve the safety aspect of this location as well as ensuring the smooth flow of traffic.

**Regents Park.** As many motorists are aware, the congestion, at the intersection of Amy Street and the two over bridges at the western end of the Regents Park shopping centre can be very frustrating and time wasting. Council is currently investigating a suggestion that a bridge be constructed at the extreme southern end of Kingsland Road in conjunction with Bankstown Municipal Council and the imposition of "no standing" restrictions on the western side of Park Road between the water supply pipe line and Rose Crescent.

### **Homebush Bay Reclamation Projects**

The development of the Homebush Bay reclamation area by various waterfront industries is proceeding under Council's planning control and Council has agreed to the private road connecting the Homebush Bay area to Underwood Road, Strathfield, being dedicated as a public road.

Council is also acquiring sufficient land from the Metropolitan Meat Industry Board to extend Hill Road from Parramatta Road, to Haslam's Creek. Arrangements have also been finalised between Council and the Maritime Services Board for the acquisition of land along the northern banks of Haslam's Creek, to extend Hill Road, after bridging of Haslam's Creek, to Bennelong Road, Homebush Bay.

### **Construction Force**

The works content undertaken using the contract and sub-contract system has been materially increased with a consequent increase in both output and savings. Presently, the major portion of stormwater drainage, drainage pits, kerb and gutter, footpath construction and reinstatement work is carried out by contractors.

Council's day labour staff is used mainly for road construction and maintenance and for those works which are difficult to specify for contract work.

### **Road and Traffic Signs**

The necessity for well signposted roads continues to receive the consideration it deserves and during the triennial term, the sum of \$10,560 was expended upon signs for installation at numerous locations.

### **Car Parking**

Although Council has, in previous triennial terms, devoted a great deal of expenditure to the provision of car parking facilities, it continues to maintain a close interest in this important aspect of local amenities.

Property was acquired in Queen Street and Kerr Parade with a view to either ultimately providing additional car parking facilities or possibly utilising the sites for other civic purposes. Council, as yet, has not determined the eventual use for the property but is mindful of the fact that either of the proposed uses are very desirable objectives.

The planning of the public car parking area at the rear of the shops on the western side of Woodburn Road, Berala, has commenced and with the dedication or acquisition of further suitable land it should not be long before additional off-street parking is provided for some fifty vehicles with rear access for the unloading of goods to the various shops.

### **Tree Planting**

The allocation for tree planting in the triennial period exceeded \$50,000 and has enabled a small tree planting gang to be employed continuously. The planting of trees in various streets has been carried out in accordance with three annual programmes and in most cases planting has followed improvement works such as kerb and gutter or footpath or full width widening work.

Additional trees have been planted by the Apex Club as a service project in 1970/71 and Council is very appreciative of the community minded attitude of Apex Club members. Tree planting operations have been extended to the parks system and massive plantings have been made in Mona Park and Progress Park, Silverwater Park and Wilson Park as well as along the Parramatta River foreshores at Council's Silverwater Garbage Disposal area. This aspect has also been the subject of negotiation between residential flat building and factory building developers.

A growing percentage of the trees to be used in Council's



planting programme are being propagated in Council's nursery in an endeavour to reduce the cost per unit and thus permit extension of this activity.

### **Street Cleansing**

An increase in the mileage of gutters swept daily in the shopping centre, residential and industrial areas has been effected by the purchase and operation of a mechanical street sweeper at a cost of \$19,000. The use of the mechanical sweeper has been extended to the removal of mown grass, cleaning of blocked culverts, emptying of drainage pits, removal of loose screenings from intersections. Purchase of this machine has enabled extension of manual street cleaning operations following release of staff previously being fully engaged in such work within the shopping centres.

## **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

### **Municipal Baths**

Council continues to give special attention to Learn-to-Swim Campaigns for children and adults, in association with the Education Department and the Auburn Amateur Swimming Club. An extension of the Learn-to-Swim Campaign occurs when the Centre is made available for school children for weekly swimming classes and for school and district school carnivals.

Council is looking into the question of heating of one of the pools in the Swimming Centre for winter swimming and also examining a proposal for leasing of the Centre as a means of reducing the annual operating and maintenance costs as related to income received by way of admissions and other sources.

### **Municipal Golf Course**

The last three years have seen many major improvements in the Auburn Municipal Golf Course which today presents a well-landscaped public golf course of 66 acres, with a length of 5010 yards and par of 66. Green fee revenue in the three years will exceed \$100,000 and continues the trend whereby the cost of operation of the golf course is being met by green fees.

The course has been made more attractive to residents and golf course patrons by the installation of a barbecue/picnic enclosure which was donated to Council by the Auburn R.S.L. Club. The popularity of this new amenity continues to grow and the keen interest in local affairs by the Auburn R.S.L.

Club is appreciated. In conjunction with the care and maintenance of the existing trees additional tree planting has been carried out along the river banks and throughout the course. Commencement has been made with a scheme to highlight a different variety of tree for each hole.

Council has been successful in obtaining a pumping licence from the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission and is using water from Duck River for irrigation purposes. Mowing equipment has been renewed and enlarged to cope with the resultant additional growth of grass being generated by improved turf maintenance methods.

Major alterations to the kiosk building have been completed and the garden surrounds to the kiosk building, first and tenth tees have received a merit award in the Sydney Morning Herald Garden Competitions.

### **Parkes and Reserves**

Auburn is fortunate to have within its boundaries many acres of parks and reserves including a foreshore reserve at Silverwater and the Duck River Parklands. Major improvements to playing fields and recreational facilities have been carried out in Coleman Park, Progress Park, Silverwater Park, Lidcombe Oval and Wilson Park.

The benefits of re-planning the Wilson Park area are now beginning to show as evidenced by the eight quality playing fields and a playground section for children. Situated near the northern entrance to the Municipality, this park, in years to come, will serve as a pleasant adjunct to the industrial areas which surround it.

Silverwater Park, on the banks of the Parramatta and Duck Rivers, has also received beautification treatment by the erection of a sea wall and an extensive tree planting programme following landscaping of the area. Its use as a spectator position for boat racing enthusiasts, will ensure enjoyment of the site by many people and the park was further enhanced by the erection of a modern club house by the Silverwater Speedboat Club.

To improve the aesthetics of Wellington Park, Council arranged for the installation of a picturesque fountain and this has rapidly become a matter of great local pride as evidenced by the regular attendances of camera enthusiasts. The fountain incorporates a device which raises or lowers water stream heights as they become affected by variations of wind levels and the attractive illumination of the installation has added to its appearance.

A commencement has been made on earthworks and preliminary drainage associated with the establishment of the

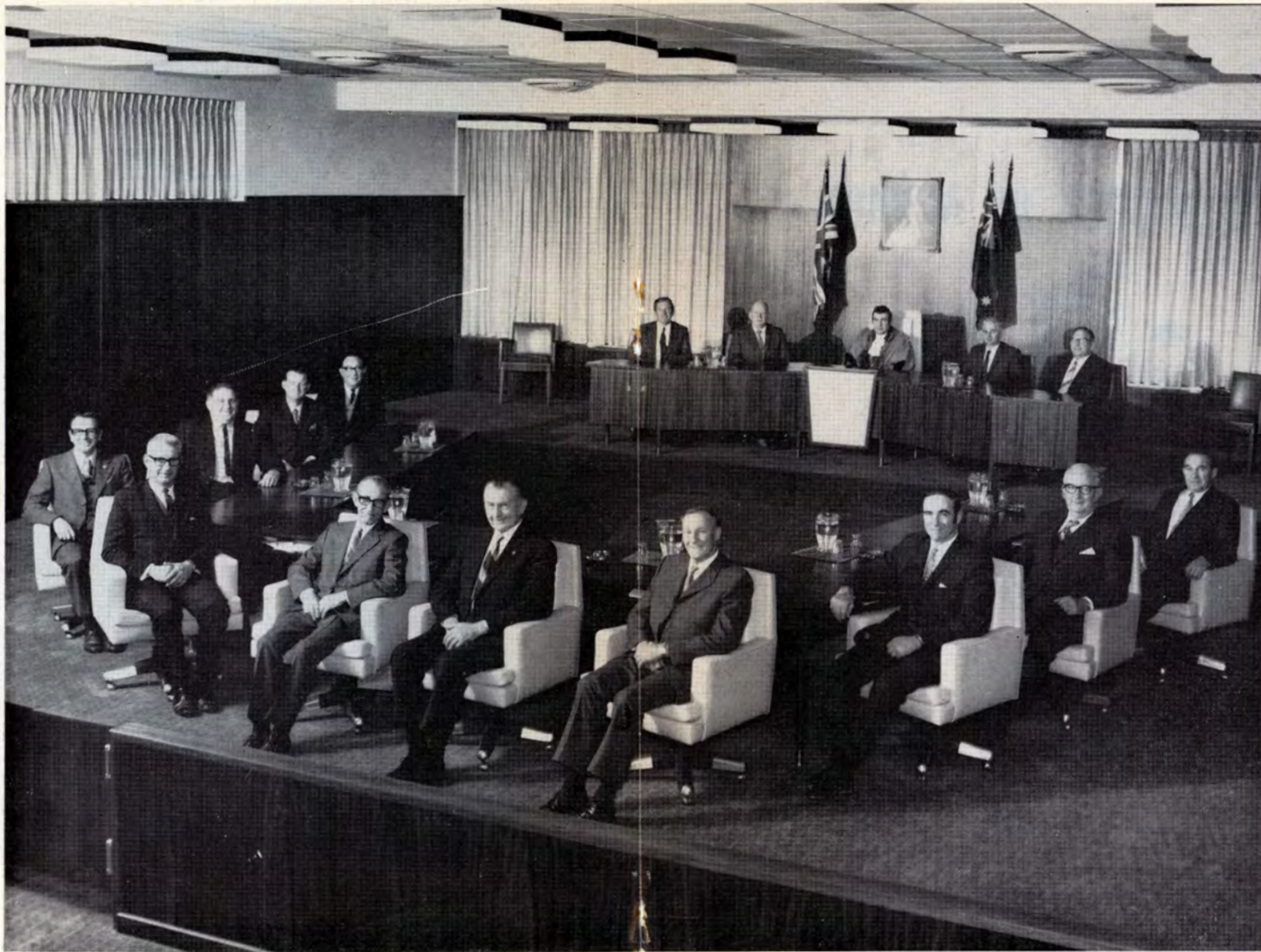


His Worship the Mayor  
of Auburn  
ALD. S. L. HEDGES, J.P.



His Worship the Mayor, Alderman S. L. Hedges, J.P. A.L.C.A., A.I.M.A., Town Clerk; E. W. Black, A.M.I.E., Ald. W. Lawrence; Ald. D. R. Stanmore, J.P.; Ald. Smith, J.P. (Deputy Mayor), Ald. A. L. Wilson, J.P.; Al J.P.; Mr. A. P. Hayes, J.P., F.A.I.H.S., M.B.S.I., Health Deputy T

MUNICIPALITY OF AUBURN — COUNCIL IN SESSION



His Worship the Mayor, Alderman S. L. Hedges, J.P. in the chair, then reading anti-clockwise: G. J. Lane, J.P., A.L.C.A., A.I.M.A., Town Clerk; E. W. Black, A.M.I.E., Engineer; Ald. J. Fowler, J.P.; Ald. T. H. Keegan, J.P.; Ald. W. Lawrence; Ald. D. R. Stanmore, J.P.; Ald. J. H. A. Stibel, J.P.; Ald. S. G. Bradburn; Ald. F. D. Smith, J.P. (Deputy Mayor), Ald. A. L. Wilson, J.P.; Ald. K. F. Jones; Ald. L. Meakin, J.P.; Ald. A. R. Hunt, J.P.; Mr. A. P. Hayes, J.P., F.A.I.H.S., M.B.S.I., Health Surveyor; Mr. C. Goldworthy, J.P., A.L.C.A., A.I.M.A., Deputy Town Clerk.

N — COUNCIL IN SESSION



in the chair, then reading anti-clockwise: G. J. Lane, J.P., Engineer; Ald. J. Fowler, J.P.; Ald. T. H. Keegan, J.P.; J. H. A. Stiebel, J.P.; Ald. S. G. Bradburn; Ald. F. D. d. K. F. Jones; Ald. L. Meakin, J.P.; Ald. A. R. Hunt, Surveyor; Mr. C. Goldsworthy, J.P., A.L.C.A., A.I.M.A., own Clerk.

# MUNICIPALITY OF AUBURN



# COAT OF ARMS

proposed botanical gardens in the 17 acre parcel of land between Chisholm Road and Duck River at Chiswick Road. It is considered that this project is the only one of its type to be undertaken by a municipal council and will serve as an attractive addition to extensive recreational development already completed by Council in the Duck River area. The gardens, which will incorporate artificial lakes, will also contain a scented garden for the blind.

Rose gardens and boundary trees and shrubs have been planted in Auburn Park near the Auburn Bowling Club, with a view to providing beautification appropriate to the memorial site and separate same from the adjacent active recreation by intensive planting.

Each year Council has consistently received awards in the Herald Garden Competition for the Administrative Building surrounds in Queen Street and Susan Street, for the Wyatt Park Picnic Area and for the kiosk surrounds at the Municipal Golf Course.

In maintaining its policy of actively encouraging the provision of sporting and recreational facilities, Council is endeavouring to co-operate fully with the Sydney Hockey Association in the provision of land between Everley and Princes Roads for the construction of three hockey fields.

At least one of the fields is proposed to be constructed to international standards and if brought to fruition, will be constructed in a manner which will in all respects, comply with Council's overall plan for beautification of the Duck River Parklands.

This area could become State Headquarters for hockey playing activities and Council will be gratified with the knowledge that it has assisted in fostering a sport which in recent years has earned Australia world renown.

## **HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

### **Mobile Nursing Service**

The value of this service has been the subject of numerous complimentary letters from patients, their relatives, or other interested parties and Council is appreciative of the fact that its decision some ten years ago for establishment of the service has produced such satisfactory results.

During the triennial term, nurses employed within the service made professional calls totalling 30,129 in addition to ancillary services and assistance in maintenance or organisation of Meals on Wheels benefits.



## Mobile Blood Bank

Due to changing methods of medical treatment and other causes, the demands upon the Red Cross Society for blood supplies has greatly increased in recent years and the Society has, on many occasions, been forced to make urgent appeals for donors despite the magnificent response from those already enrolled.

Council fully supports the activities of the Society's Blood Bank Appeals and urges a similar level of support from persons who are not enrolled as donors. Although appeals over the last three years have resulted in the receipt of 1668 pints of blood it is emphasised that more regular supplies are needed.

The procedure is painless, not time consuming and transport is provided to and from Auburn Town Hall on Appeal Days for those who have difficulty in attending due to transport difficulties.

## Infectious Diseases

It is extremely gratifying to note a further decrease in the incidence of infectious diseases reported to Council during the preceding term as compared to previous periods.

Cases notified during the triennial term were:—

Infectious Hepatitis .....	37
Infantile Diarrhoea .....	13
Rheumatic Fever .....	1
Q Fever .....	1

The total cases reported disclose an overall decrease of twenty per cent with a 34 per cent reduction in cases of Infectious Hepatitis. It is interesting to note that no cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis were reported which, I feel, must be a tribute to Council's very active immunisation campaigns conducted in the past and which are still available.

## Immunisation

	1969	1970	1971
Poliomyelitis (Sabin Oral) .....	4647	4860	4800
Triple Antigen .....	2921	2225	2300
C.D.T. (Combined Diphtheria and Tetanus) .....	173	220	250
Total Figures .....	<u>7741</u>	<u>7305</u>	<u>7350</u>

Combined Number Immunised 1969/71, 22,396.

**Baby Health Centres**

Consultations by Clinic Sisters at the three centres totalled 37,220 and numerous visits were also paid to private homes and hospitals to offer advice on maternal and baby welfare.

**Ladies' Rest Centres**

Provision of these amenities in the Auburn, Lidcombe and Regents Park shopping centres during previous terms was found to be fully justified when attendants' records disclose that a total of 187,200 visits to take advantage of the facilities available were recorded at the centres.

**Inspections**

In administering the provisions of the Local Government Act and Ordinances thereunder, the Public Health Act, the Pure Foods Act and others, staff of the Health and Building Department carried out 91,800 inspections of premises over the three year period.

**Garbage Service**

It is estimated that garbage collection services over a triennial period now exceed one and one half million following the earlier introduction of the bi-weekly garbage collection service combined with the effects of residential flat building construction and occupation.

To improve the aesthetic appearance of residential flat buildings, Council altered its policy and now requires the construction of garbage tin alcoves to be constructed at the rear of the buildings. Allied with this decision, a smaller type garbage compaction unit was purchased and this permits the collection of the multitude of garbage tins at the point of disposal.

**Dog Registrations**

The machinery for implementation of the Dog Act is now operating efficiently and during the term, registrations totalled 9905 which involved the receipt of \$14,365 in registration fees.

Some saving in impounding of dogs will now be achieved following the construction of a new animal shelter and pound in Rookwood Road, Chullora, by the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

**Licences**

Licences issued in conjunction with an inspection comprised the following:—

Refreshment Rooms	.....	83
Smallgoods	.....	240

Fruit Shops .....	84
Fish Shops .....	30
Butcher Shops .....	134
Barber Shops .....	122
Dog Kennels .....	16
Painted Signs .....	416
Illuminated Signs .....	564
Illuminated Sky Signs .....	140
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>1829</b>

### **Buildings**

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Applications</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Fees Paid</u>
1969	805	\$13,337,584	\$22,087.26
1970	875	\$11,683,584	\$22,636.83
1971	850	\$11,150,250	\$22,200.00
New Dwellings .....			132
Add/Dwellings .....			1303
Factories .....			192
Flats .....			130
Add/Factories .....			386

The figures in relation to erection of new dwellings remain static but those for residential flat buildings have shown an increase.

New industrial subdivisions within the Abattoirs area, Silverwater and South Auburn have resulted in the opening of new roads. The standards imposed by Council in relation to site coverage, car parking facilities and landscaping resulted in an atmosphere far removed from the popular impression of "factory areas" and no doubt this standard will result in a similar elevation in this connection elsewhere.

### **Legal Proceedings**

Prosecution was launched in fifty cases for breaches of the Local Government Act and other Acts which resulted in the imposition of fines and recovery of costs to the extent of \$3,560.

### **Berala Play Centre**

This Centre which is conducted at the Berala Public School each January in conjunction with the Department of Education continues to be well patronised.

Parents who enrol their children at the Centre are assured of their welfare and the varied activities and outings which are organised invariably bring about an enthusiastic response from the children when the question of re-enrolment arises in future years.

### **Anti-Litter Act**

Introduction of anti-litter legislation by the State Government has conferred stronger powers upon Council to prevent littering and ensures that adequate penalties may be imposed upon guilty parties. To encourage tidiness, Council has installed numerous additional litter bins throughout the Municipality and has appointed a Security Officer who regularly patrols all sections of the area for the purpose of policing anti-litter laws and prevention of vandalism. The activities of the Security Officer have resulted in the launching of many successful prosecutions against offenders who have committed acts of vandalism or breached the provisions of the Ordinances in relation to depositing of litter.

This legislation also provided Council with the authority to appoint persons who may, in such cases, impose "on the spot" fines for littering offences and as a further step, Council appointed twenty members of its staff in this capacity with appropriate instructions to implement the provisions of the Act with a view to obtaining a cleaner and thus a brighter Municipality.

### **Pollution Control**

Pollution in its various forms is of great concern to Council and every co-operation is given to the Division of Occupational Health, Department of Health, to ensure that pollutants are readily traced and checked. This Department maintains a continuous 24 hour reporting service and any instances of pollution observed are reported immediately, to enable a more rapid check to their source. The telephone number which should be used in such cases is 649-2222 if unable to submit a complaint to Council due to the occurrence being outside normal office hours.

Council has also taken up membership with and subscribes to the Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River Pollution Committee which, as its name signifies, was constituted to check pollution of waterways within or beside member councils' boundaries. Although only a relatively young committee, it is anticipated that significant results will be achieved as a determined application to its tasks is pursued.

Detailed hereunder is general information relating to Council's Health Services:—

**Immunisation Clinics** are conducted by Auburn Municipal Council for the immunisation of children and adults in order

to prevent the spread of diseases such as Poliomyelitis, Tetanus and Whooping Cough. The clinics are free and all parents are advised to ensure that their children are protected against these diseases.

### **Dates of future Clinics to be held in Auburn Town Hall, 1971**

8th September, 6th October, 3rd November, 8th December, also 12th January, 1972.

### **Hours for Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough Immunisation**

10 a.m. to 12 noon, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

### **Hours for Poliomyelitis Immunisation**

10 a.m. to 12 noon, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### **Immunisation against Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough**

Children over the age of 3 months and up to 2 years of age.

Children over the age of 2 years and under 8 years receive immunisation for Diphtheria and Tetanus.

Persons who have been or are thought to have been contacts or cases of Diphtheria receive A.D.T. immunisation.

**Note.** Children who have had the Triple Antigen immunisation for Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough can have a Diphtheria and Tetanus booster immunisation prior to commencing school. That is children up to 7 years of age.

### **Immunisation against Poliomyelitis**

All persons over the age of 3 months who have not been immunised should have the Sabin Vaccine.

### **Baby Health Centres**

Council has three Baby Health Centres where a fully qualified Nursing Sister may be consulted about the care of infants.

The centres are located at—

Auburn: Northumberland Road, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lidcombe: Bridge Street, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Regents Park: Amy Street at rear of Library Building, Monday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### **Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service**

Each quarter a Clinic is conducted by the Australian Red Cross Society at the Auburn Town Hall between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3.15 p.m.

Advertisements are inserted in the local newspapers notifying the date on which the "Blood Bank" will be conducted and an appeal is made to everybody to become a donor. You may enrol at the Health Department, Administrative Building, cnr. Queen and Susan Streets, Auburn.

### **Council Rubbish Tips**

For the convenience of residents, Council conducts public tips at the following locations:—

**Hill Road (Abattoir Area) — Trade Waste Only.** Prohibited materials — rubber, rubberised material, oil, oil base, sludge, kerosene, distillate and similar materials, tar, bituminous trade waste, insecticides, pressure pack cans, materials that give off obnoxious vapours, large crates, neutral sludge only, putrescible matter, materials of high inflammable nature in bulk. Hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. No Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday.

**Jamieson Street.** Only putrescible household garbage. Prohibited material—all types of trade waste. Hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. No Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday.

**Chiswick Road.** Household clean-up rubbish only from residents, ratepayers and occupiers without charge. Hours: Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### **Household rubbish and waste matter "clean-up" collection**

In order to assist householders to keep their premises free from rats, vermin, ants, etc., Council conducts a "Clean-up" Collection in a certain area of the Municipality each week. Prior to the collection taking place, householders are notified.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES**

### **Library Services**

The Municipal Library Service has largely been consolidating its position in the past three years. No new branch libraries have been opened, but an effort has been made to give better service to borrowers at each of the three libraries, notably by rostering more staff to work at nights whenever possible.

At the end of 1968 the membership of all three libraries was 18,004 borrowers, the book stock for all three libraries totalled 56,298 and the annual issues of books during 1968 for all three libraries reached 357,109. Midway through 1971 the total number of borrowers reached 20,389, the total book stock 67,702 and the number of books issued during the first half of 1971 was 186,774, which will probably mean an annual issue for 1971 of about 380,000 books.

Regular visits to each of the three libraries are made by classes from local schools and talks are given at schools by the members of the library staff. Council recently agreed to co-operate with a local school which was anxious to obtain assistance in rejuvenating the school library.

Advice has been given also on how to conduct a library, book selection and particularly book selection for backward readers. In the past three years each library has added a section of Remedial Readers and books in large print for people with poor sight. Each section has been well used. Talks have been given to P. and C. Associations, Careers Nights and Mothers' Clubs. Storytimes are held regularly at all three libraries and Auburn has a Creative Activities Group for older children. There is an Auburn Arts Society, Photographic Group and a Musical Appreciation Group which all have associations with the library service.

Recently an Auburn District Historical Society was formed, originally under the auspices of the library service. Anyone anxious for further information on any of the above groups should enquire at any of the three libraries.

Various exhibitions have been held in the libraries, e.g., painting, pottery and photographic exhibits from local evening classes or societies.

Auburn Municipality uses its library services well but the aim for the next three years must be for more borrowers, more books issued and for an even better service to borrowers.

### **Town Planning**

The Auburn Planning Scheme was gazetted on 18th September, 1970, and was the culmination of Council's objective to provide an environment for better living, working and recreational conditions in the Municipality.

In the Planning Scheme, the land use in the Municipality has been divided into zones to the following extent:—

Residential 2(a): Dwelling houses only.

Residential 2(b): Town House, Villa Home, Duplex Flats.

Residential 2(c): High Density flat zone.

Industrial zones.

Special Use zones.

Open Space zone.

Due to the increasing scale of change in the pattern of urban life, Council is reviewing the Planning Scheme and is revising its code for residential flat developments and industrial land use.

At present there is a requirement that the occupancy density for residential flat buildings shall not exceed 80 persons per acre and at least 40% of the site given suitable landscape treatment.



Recent Industrial Development



## HOMES FOR THE AGED



Western wing of the Senior Citizens' Units featuring lawn area and ornamental pond.



Villa or Town House Development

Council has also embarked on a proposal to restrict development of some high density areas to the erection of residential flat buildings to a maximum height of two storeys.

### **Senior Citizens' Homes**

To cater for the increasing demands for housing of the aged, Council by agreement assumed the responsibility of completing the construction programme already commenced in the Euston Road - Tavistock Street area by the Auburn Senior Citizens' Welfare Association; as a result three double storeyed blocks were built at a cost of \$234,966, thus increasing accommodation to fifty-five units. This expenditure was subsidised by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services on a \$2 to \$1 basis. Due acknowledgement must be given to the Association for its efforts, since same made the finalisation of the building programme so much easier.

The units were officially opened by the Hon. W. C. Wentworth, M.H.R., Minister for Social Services, on December 12, 1970, and inspection of the units by those in attendance resulted in many favourable comments concerning the project. Appreciation is expressed to the Lions Club of Auburn, which financed as a project the installation of an ornamental pool and the gardens at the centre. The buildings were officially designated as Council's contribution to the Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Celebrations.

The association still functions under the chairmanship of the Mayoress for the purpose of maintaining the buildings and surrounds in conjunction with Council and to ensure the continuity of the Meals on Wheels service. This service is worthy of your support and requires very little time of helpers; the feeling of well-being after becoming involved with the service more than compensates for the small personal sacrifice made and membership can be conveniently arranged through Council.

### **Undergrounding of Electricity Mains**

Provision was made in annual estimates to meet road and footpath restoration costs, following the undergrounding of electricity mains in the commercial sections of the Municipality adjacent to Auburn and Lidcombe railway stations.

The replacement of the timber poles and overhead wiring by concrete light standards of attractive appearance in the Auburn section has proved aesthetically beneficial and the completion of the Lidcombe portion of the project is anticipated before the end of 1971.

### **Street Lighting**

Council has finalised its programme of replacing the incandescent system of street lighting to the fluorescent type, and at the same time has greatly increased the standard of lighting throughout the residential areas.

The alteration of the main and secondary road system to conformity with lighting standards has been nearly completed, in accordance with the traffic route lighting subsidy scheme.

### **Youth Welfare and Activities**

In conjunction with the Auburn and Lidcombe Sub-Branch of the R.S.L., Council entered into a joint venture for the erection of the Auburn-Lidcombe R.S.L. Youth Club Centre.

Situated in Church Street, Lidcombe, adjacent to the Auburn Swimming Centre and Lidcombe Oval, the centre has proved to be an outstanding success since it was officially opened on February 15, 1969, and a tribute must be paid to the committee responsible for its management. Erected at a total cost of \$138,714, Council provided the land and contributed half cost, whilst the two R.S.L. Sub-Branch Clubs subscribed the balance.

It is stressed that membership of the centre is not restricted to persons with R.S.L. affiliations and further enquiries regarding the varied activities available for participation will gladly be answered by its representatives who are regularly on duty at the centre.

### **CONCLUSION**

The successful operation of any organisation or community is mainly dependent upon teamwork and I cannot speak too highly of the instances which continue to emerge within this Municipality.

Co-operation extended by the various sporting, social and R.S.L. clubs, the service clubs and the numerous committees, associations and the like has always been a great encouragement to Council when administering the affairs of the Municipality. This support, which has been consistently forthcoming, reflects their genuine desire for the continued progress of our area for the betterment of all.

Similarly, I must pay tribute to the sincere efforts of our Parliamentary representatives who, at all times, displayed a very keen interest in the needs of the Municipality and extended assistance in a praiseworthy manner.

Council's staff are also to be commended for their enthusiastic approach to the daily demands of their respective positions as this, coupled with the diligence necessary for the effective rout-

ine of Council administration, lightened the tasks of Council members.

Finally, I pay a special tribute to the Deputy Mayor, Alderman Frank D. Smith, for so ably assuming my duties due to my enforced absence following illness over an extended period. This appreciation is also extended to my fellow aldermen who have responded in an excellent fashion towards the obligations of their office.

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## FACTS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

### Council Telephones

Office 649-6011, 649-6012, 649-6013, 649-6014, 649-6015, 649-4413.

Swimming Centre 649-9125, 649-4876.

Public Golf Course 649-9972.

Municipal Libraries — Auburn 649-4815, Lidcombe 649-9387, Regents Park 644-7558.

Baby Health Centre — Auburn 649-8621, Lidcombe 649-7941, Regents Park 644-7540.

Civil Defence 649-6331.

### Postal Address

All correspondence should be addressed to the Town Clerk, Municipality of Auburn, Box 118, P.O., Auburn, 2144, or Council Chambers, Auburn.

Office Hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays to Fridays.

Electors enrolled 31,000.

Area of Parks and Reserves 348 acres.

### Local Mobile Nursing Service

This service is located in the Council's Administrative Building, Susan Street, Auburn, and can be contacted by ringing 649-6011, Health Department, during ordinary office hours.

### Municipal Libraries

Auburn: Mondays to Fridays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Lidcombe and Regents Park: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

### **Swimming Centre, Wyatt Park, Lidcombe**

Swimming season: October 1 to March 31 (tentative).

Hours open to the public: Mondays to Saturdays 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sundays 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. — 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the months of December, January and February.

Night bathing: December, January and February, Mondays to Fridays 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Centre is available for carnivals.

### **Municipal Golf Course**

Open every day except Christmas Day.

### **Parking Facilities for Shoppers**

All main shopping centres are subject to the half-hour parking restrictions.

Adequate car parking facilities are available in Auburn, Lidcombe and Berala.

Accommodation for approximately 850 vehicles is available at the undermentioned sites at all hours:

Susan Street adjoining the public school and at the corner of Queen Street.

Kerr Parade — railway overbridge to Marion Street — angle parking.

North Parade — railway overbridge to St. Hilliers Road — angle parking.

South Parade — between railway station and western overbridge.

Queen Street — between Auburn Road and Harrow Road adjacent to the Royal Hotel.

Church Street, Lidcombe, between Olympic Drive and railway station — angle parking.

Bridge Street, Lidcombe, at rear of hotel.

Off New Street adjacent to Bridge Street.

Berala. Shopping Centre.

Mary and John Streets, Lidcombe, at rear of Court House.

Amy Street, Regents Park, at rear of shops, entrance from Regent Street.









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