

Centenary of Local Government in Preston

1871 - 1971

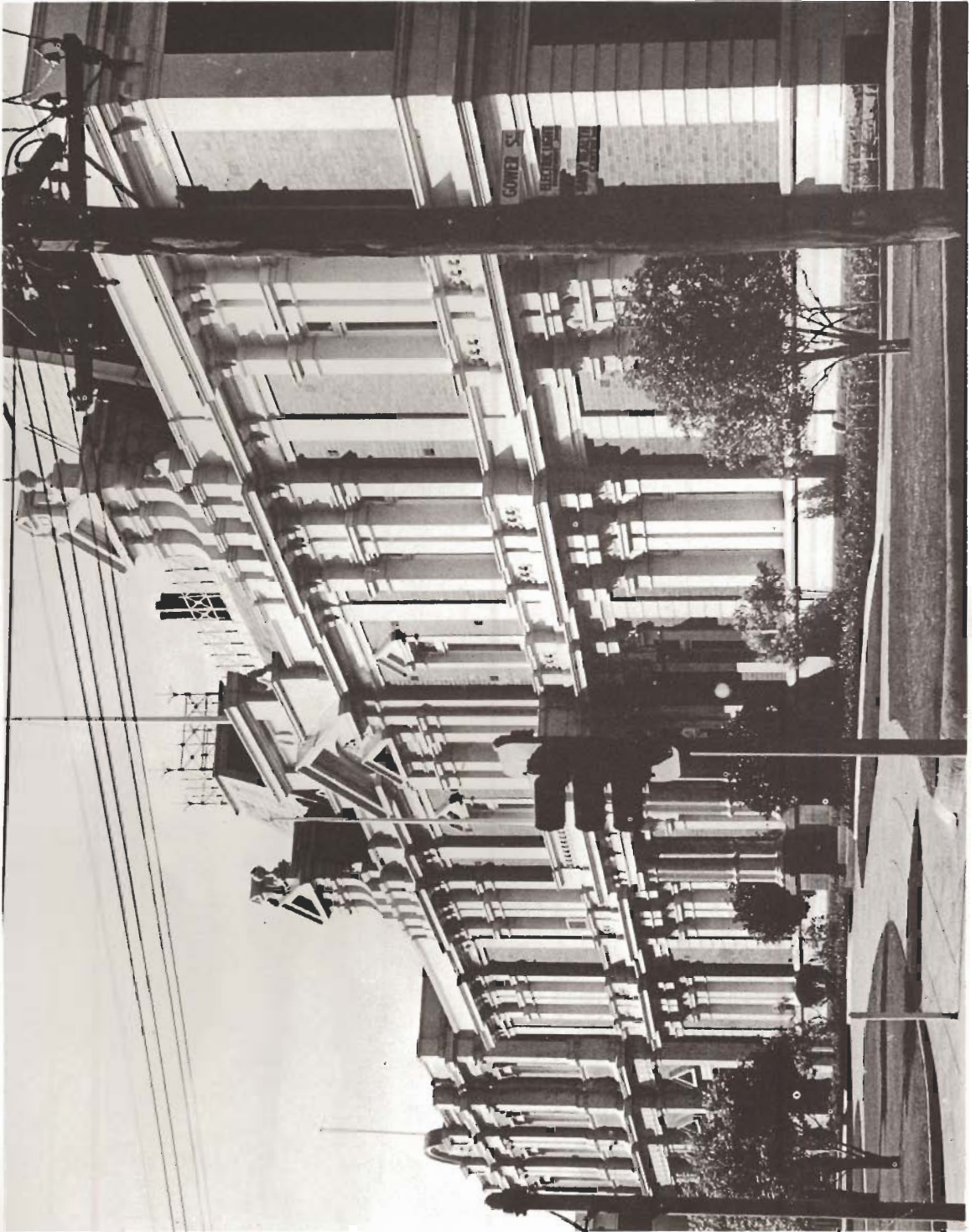


A Pictorial Record
with a brief review of
Preston's Progress and Achievements

*Centenary of Local Government
in Preston*

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Foreword

This is the second book produced by the Preston Historical Society with the object of placing on record some of Preston's progress and more important achievements in one hundred years of Local Government, with special emphasis upon the preservation and enrichment of natural surroundings and in the provision of material benefits for its citizens.

It will complement two recent books on Preston, "Preston Lands and People" by Mr. Harley W. Forster, and the Society's "Brief Biographies of Prominent Preston People".

In this book the story will be told rather through pictures based upon photographs old and new, with narrative restricted to essential and special articles which it is hoped should prove to be of interest to our Citizens.

From a very slow start, and notwithstanding two severe depressions and two world wars which set back progress, Preston is now one of the fastest growing and the largest of Melbourne's Northern suburbs. It is essentially a residential suburb, homes are well built, well kept, and mostly owner occupied. The population is now 94,000.

Preston has the added advantage that substantial acreages have been zoned by the Council for industry in East Preston and Northwest Reservoir. This has attracted a wide range of diversified industrial development in these areas and thousands of new residents have chosen Preston as a good place to live in and work locally.

The Preston City Council congratulates the Society upon the production of this book which the Council was pleased to subsidize. It wishes the Society success in the sale of this record of our districts progress and achievements.



Mayor of Preston 1970-71

Centenary of Local Government in Preston

1871-1971

Prepared by the Preston Historical Society, September, 1971.

TABLE OF ARTICLES

FOREWORD

	Page No.
The Evolution of Local Government in Preston	1
List of Presidents and Mayors	3
Early Industries	6
Tanneries	7
Parks & Gardens	16,18,22,23
Bridges	24
Hotels	26
Education	28
Latrobe University	31
Preston Newspapers	34
P.A.N.C.H.	36
Public Transport Facilities	38
Welfare Services Preston City Council	42
Preston Library	44
Returned Servicemens League	48
Industrial Development	50
Preston City Council Electricity Undertaking	56
Preston Municipal Band	60
City of Preston Chamber of Commerce and Industry	65
Preston Public Baths	66
Commonwealth Buildings	67
Lions Rotary & Legacy	70
Statistics	72
Local Government in Preston 1971	74
Preston Historical Society	75
Locality Map of Preston	76

The Evolution of Local Government in Preston

The whole of Preston prior to 1838 was Crown Land and Colonial Officers from Sydney by that year had completed the survey of this district and subdivided it into 12 blocks. These were submitted to public auction in 1838-39 and all sold at prices up to £2-1-6 per acre in South Preston, down to 8/3 per acre in North Preston. The total amount of the sales for the 9,000 odd acres was £8168-12-0. Today that sum would barely be sufficient to purchase 3 house lots.

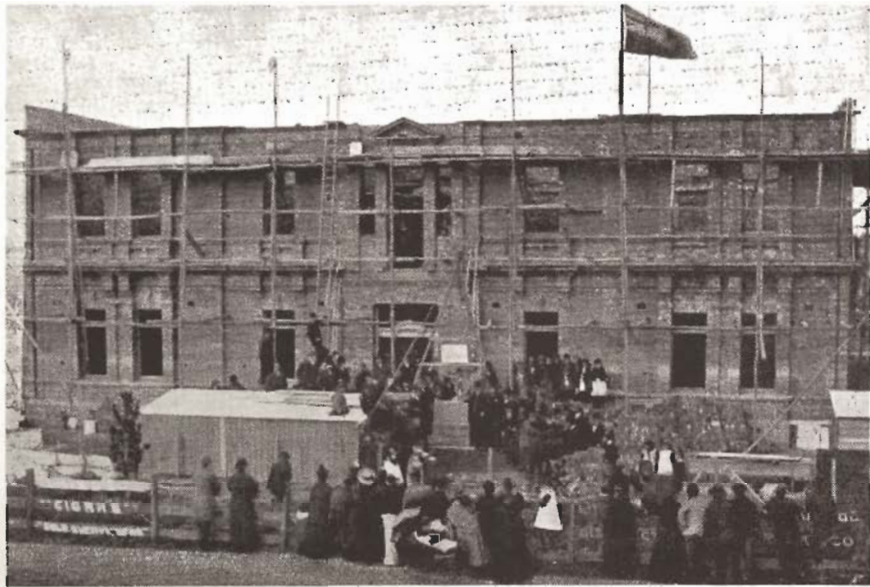
Some early history of Preston was made in the Wood's Store and home situated at the corner of High and Wood Streets. The store was the first in Preston, it was Preston's first Post Office, and the focal point for meetings and discussions, in addition there was a "compulsory stop" outside where a toll gate operated. It was in the parlor of the Wood's home that a group of early settlers named the district Preston, as the countryside greatly resembled the district of Preston in Sussex, England.

The first step in obtaining representation on a Local Roads Board occurred in 1854 when a group of early Preston settlers, who had literally carved their homes out of the virgin bush, met with the view of obtaining some representation in the management of the district in which they lived. Accordingly, a petition was prepared and submitted to the Authorities and as a result most of Preston down to about Bell Street was included in the Roads District of Epping. The balance of Preston was added in 1860.

By 1870 the early settlers had been joined by many others, and at meetings they agreed that the time had arrived, when they should be granted increased representation in the Local Government of their district. Their Roads Board was limited in scope, being mainly concerned with roads, while the residents wanted additional services and amenities which could be provided only if the district was raised in status to that of a Shire, with wider functions and facilities. The matter was taken up with the Authorities which agreed to their request, and created the Shire of Darebin by the amalgamation of the Road District of Epping, with the adjoining Roads District of Upper Plenty, Morang and Woodstock.

However, the creation of the Shire of Darebin did not solve Preston's Local Government needs. It failed to provide satisfactory Local Government mainly because of its tremendous size having an area of 79,360 acres and represented by 22 Councillors. It was obviously too cumbersome, and at the urgent request of the Preston and Northcote Councillors, the Authorities soon rectified it by excising Preston and Northcote from the Darebin Shire, and the creation of a new shire named Jika, which gave Preston effective Local Government from 8th November, 1871. Subsequent events are as follows:—

- 25/5/1883 The Northcote Riding was severed from the Jika Shire and became the Borough of Northcote. Gazette No. 1883/1062.
- 11/9/1885 The Shire of Jika was re-named Shire of Preston.
- 14/3/1922 The Shire of Preston was advanced to the Borough of Preston.
- 14/5/1922 The Borough of Preston was advanced to the Town of Preston.
- 14/7/1926 The Town of Preston was proclaimed the City of Preston.



The Foundation Stone of the Town Hall was laid by the President of the Shire, Cr. William Paterson, on August 26, 1893. The land was purchased before the land boom for the sum of £280, and the building was erected at a total cost of £3,200. The design of the hall was the subject of a competition, the first prize winner being awarded £100, and the second £40.



THE COMPLETED SHIRE HALL BUILDING

This photograph taken prior to 1907.

Note: The brick and iron fence, the gas street lamp and the Post Office Receiving Box.

Presidents and Mayors of the Municipality

PRESIDENTS

1872-73-74	E. Bastings
1874-75-76	W. Paterson
1876-77-78	J.C. Clinch
1878-79	W.H. Dennis
1879-80	J. O'Keefe
1880-81	J.C. Clinch
1881-82	E. Bastings
1882-83	W. Paterson
1883-84	W. Bartlett
1884-85	E. Short
1885-86	J.T. Ellison
1886-87	W. Paterson
1887-88	W. Paterson
1888-89	E. Short
1889-90	F.R. Bayliss
1890-91	L. Brock
1891-92	C. Showers
1892-93	F.A. Harris
1893-94	W. Paterson
1894-95	F.R. Bayliss
1895-96	G. Crawley
1896-97	I. Barrow
1897-98	W. Braithwaite
1898-99	E.H. Bond
1899-1900	W. Paterson
1900-01	C.T. Crispe
1901-02	A.G. Robertson
1902-03	C.T. Crispe
1903-04	J. Howse
1904-05	J.C. Newton
1905-06	C. Stanlake
1906-07	C.H. Warr
1907-08	J. Paterson
1908-09	E. Allchin
1909-10	J.P. Howe
1910-11	A. Robertson
1911-12	A. Robertson
1912-13	C.T. Crispe
1913-14	W. Braithwaite
1914-15	C. Bricknell
1915-16	C. Stanlake
1916-17	C.H. Warr
1917-18	E. Allchin
1918-19	E. Allchin
1919-20	L. Jones
1920-	C.T. Crispe

MAYORS

1921-22	C.T. Crispe
1922-23	G.E. Robinson
1923-24	J.W. Bartrop
1924-25	J.W. Adams
1925-26	L. Jones
1926-27	A.E. Newton
1927-28	J.W. Adams
1928-29	G.E. Robinson
1929-30	G.C. McPherson
1930-31	G.E. Robinson
1931-32	L. Jones
1932-33	A.E. Newton
1933-34	H.P. Zwar
1934-35	J.W. Adams
1935-36	H. Swain
1936-37	A.G. Davis
1937-38	G.H. Mott
1938-39	F.G. Pike
1939-40	C.T. Barling
1940-41	J. Croft
1941-42	J.S. Grey
1942-43	T.W. Andrews
1943-44	W.H. Robinson
1944-45	J.E. Moore
1945-46	T.W. Blake
1946-47	R. Coleman
1947-48	W.H. Robinson
1948-49	H.L.T. Oulton
1949-50	A.G. Davis
1950-51	J.E. Moore
1951-52	R. Coleman
1952-53	R.H. Ford
1953-54	A.H. Capp
1954-55	A.H. Arnold
1955-56	W.A. Nimmo
1956-57	R.W. Gardiner
1957-58	C.P.W. Kirby
1958-59	E.A. Doherty
1959-60	W.S. Tunaley
1960-61	A.E. Houston
1961-62	G.E. Gayther
1962-63	I.W. Dole
1963-64	B.T. Connor
1964-65	C.H. Sullivan
1965-66	T.A. Cochrane
1966-67	H.C. Young
1967-68	K.P. Hardiman
1968-69	C.W. Kirkwood
1969-70	W.K. Larkins
1970-71	A.H. Capp
1971-72	L. Cotchin



Preston City Council in session on July 14th, 1926 when Preston was proclaimed a City.

Reading down on left:

Cr. C.T. Crispe
 Cr. H.J. Pratt
 Cr. A. Newton
 Cr. G. McPherson

The Mayor Cr. L. Jones
 The Town Clerk Mr. A. Kelly
 The Assistant Town Clerk
 Mr. L.W. Williams

Reading down on right:

Cr. J.W. Adams
 Cr. G. Bransgrove
 Cr. J. Bartrop
 Cr. G. Robinson

Long Service of Preston City Council Principal Officers

Preston ratepayers have been well served by its present senior executive officers, many of whom have given long service.

Mr. J.C. Donath J.P., F.I.M.A., has been with the Council for 45 years, the last 28 as **Town Clerk and Treasurer.**

Mr. N.E.L. Robinson A.A.S.A., A.I.M.A., Accountant and Deputy Town Clerk, has served for **37 years.**

Mr. R.B. Bramham C.E., E.W.S., M.B's., A.M.I.E. (Aust.) the City Engineer has 10 years service, and his **Deputy Mr. G.H. Priest, C.E., A.M.I.E. (Aust.)** has been with the Council for 15 years.

Mr. R.S. Smith, C.E.E., A.I.M.E., A.F.A.I.M., who after 18 years as Deputy City Electrical Engineer, was appointed City Electrical Engineer two years ago on the retirement of **Mr. C. Kendall.**



PRESTON CITY COUNCIL 1970 - 1971

Mr. J.C. Donath Town Clerk, Cr. A.H. Capp Mayor, Mr. R.B. Bramham City Engineer.

Reading down on left:

Cr. T.A. Cochrane
 Cr. K.P. Hardiman
 Cr. A. Gibson

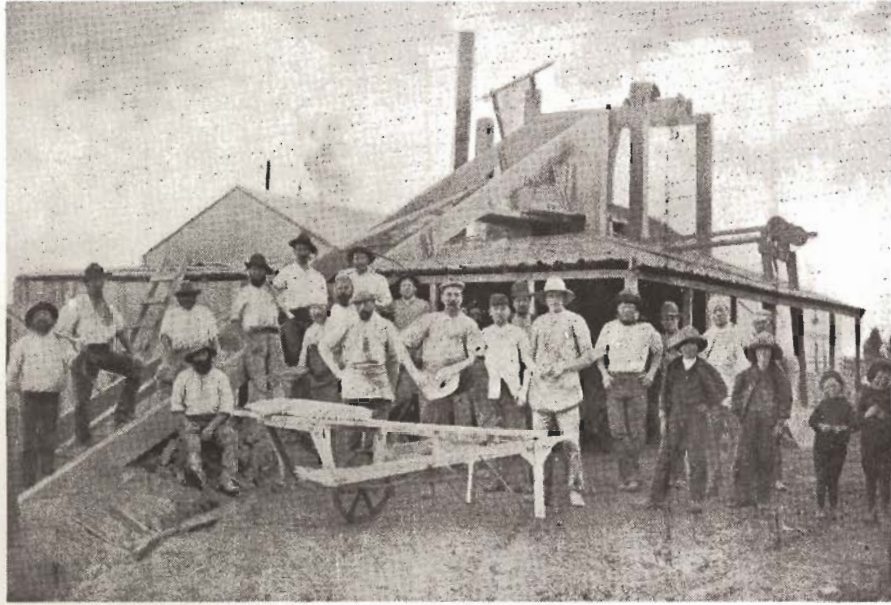
Seated at table:

Miss D. Walsh Secretary to Town Clerk.
 Mr. N. Robinson Deputy Town Clerk
 Mr. R. Smith City Electrical Engineer

Reading down on right:

Cr. C.H. Sullivan
 Cr. J. Hall
 Cr. C.W. Kirkwood
 Cr. A.H. Veale
 Cr. L.E. Cotchin

Early Industries



SCOTT'S BRICKYARD, AN EARLY INDUSTRY

This brickyard was situated at the rear of the present factory of Messrs. Watson and Paterson at the corner of Plenty Road and Dundas Street. The works was the first to manufacture machine-made bricks in Preston, the motive power for the machinery being obtained by horseworks.



Tanneries

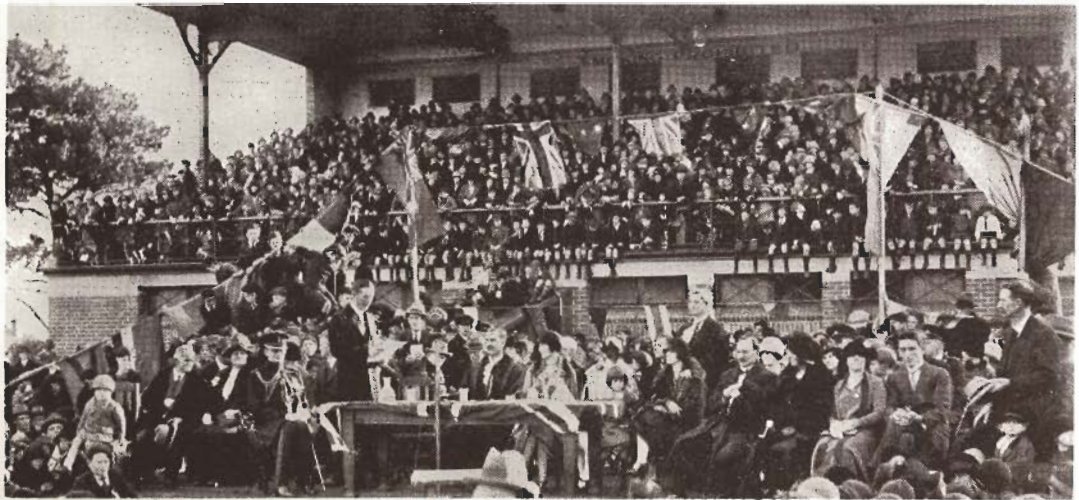
The tanning of hides mainly for boot leathers (uppers and soles) was one of the oldest and more important industries in Preston. In earlier years when the District was sparsely populated, permits were obtained for this noxious trade in Central Preston, and in 1864, 1888, and 1911, tanneries which as the years went on, became big and profitable industries.

In recent years with the tremendous increase in population and buildings, the tanneries sites became valuable areas for business purposes. In addition, leather came under intense competition from plastics and other similar synthetics. It is not surprising therefore that three out of the four main tanneries decided to close down.

The first to go was "Zwar's" in Cramer Street, and its place was taken by a Bowling Alley, later to be converted to the Council Club Hotel. "Braithwaite's" Murray Road and "Broadhurst's" Mary Street were also razed and a large car park, the Preston Market, modern office buildings, supermarket stores, and retail shops are among the businesses established now in these areas.

"Howe's" is the only major tannery still operating in Preston. This tannery specializes in light leather for the footwear industry, fishing and hand bags, and motor car trimmings. Their modern process of tanning by slowly revolving enclosed cylindrical drums, considerably reduces pollution, which was a main objection to this trade. Of course tanneries are not popular with nearby residents wherever they are located, but it should not be forgotten that in the early days when opportunities were scarce, tanneries provided regular employment for many men who came to live with their families in the District, and this in time encouraged traders to commence business in Preston.





Proclamation of City of Preston on July 14th, 1926 by the Governor of Victoria, Lord Somers.



ARCH AT ENTRANCE TO CITY, 1926

The arch formed a portion of the decorative scheme carried out for the proclamation ceremony on July 14th, 1926. Situated in High Street at the southern entrance to the city, the arch, both by day – when it was beflagged, and by night – lit up with coloured electric lights, was well worthy of its place and a credit to the builders.





The original Library

The Original Preston Bowling Club,
High St, next to the Post Office.



Fishing in the Darebin Creek
near Plenty Road.



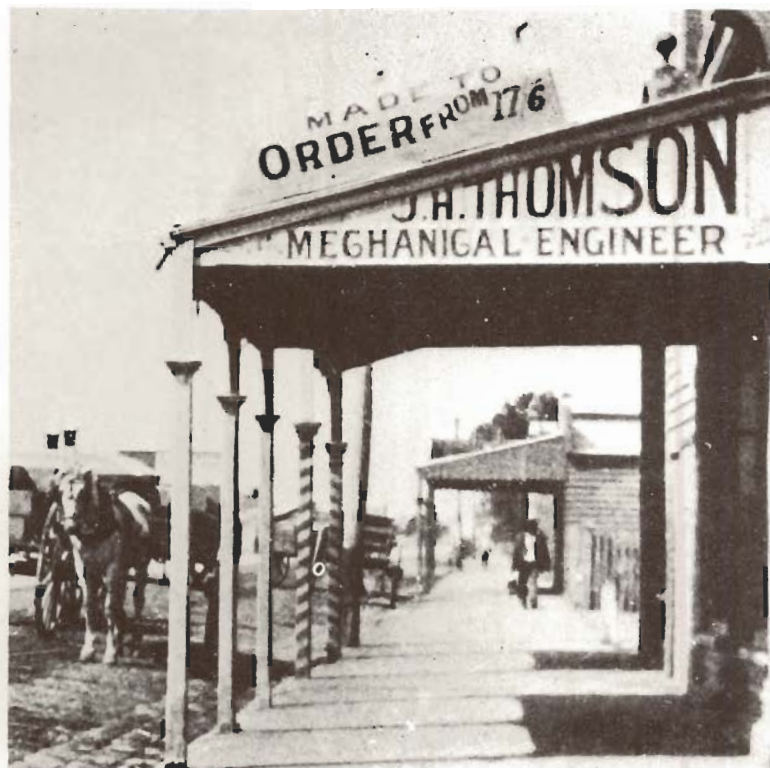
High St, looking south from Town Hall 1907.



Corner of High and Cramer Streets 1966.

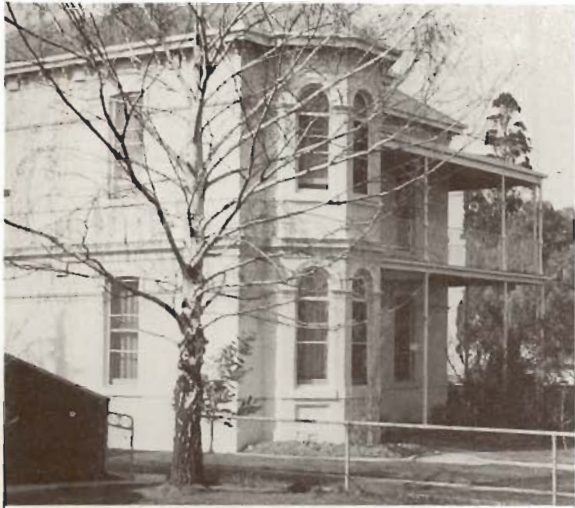
Note: The Council Club Hotel and the Bank of NSW premises have now been demolished and new buildings erected on the same sites.

Early Preston Business Premises





Stately Old Homes



"CARMEL" Hotham St,



"PLEASANT VIEW" Wood Street,



ALL SAINTS VICARAGE Murray Road.



Above: **TERRACE HOMES** Raglan Street. Below: **OWN YOUR OWN UNITS** King William Street.



Preston's Parks and Gardens

When the New South Wales Government surveyed and sold the whole of the district now known as Preston by public auction in 1838-39, no provision was made for a grant of land for parks.

The Preston Council over the years consequently has had to acquire land for parks by, (a) Purchase, (b) Gift and Grant, and (c) Reclamation. In recent years the Council has substantially increased the area of playing fields and now controls a total of 650 acres, including 82 acres undeveloped and 250 acres at Bundoora Park in course of development.

Notes on the abovementioned items follow:

1. PURCHASE:

The great majority of Preston's Parks and Playing Fields were acquired by purchase on the open market, often at considerable cost. As posterity will benefit, purchases were financed by loan monies, and repayments spread over a number of years.

2. (i) GIFT:

Edwardes Park and Lake. Mr. T. Dyer Edwardes of London, in 1916 donated thirty-six (36) acres to the Preston Council. The Council purchased additional land and local residents formed 'working bees' and fenced the whole area with materials supplied by the Council. With Government assistance a new retaining wall was built damming back a fine sheet of water. The Preston Council has, in recent years, filled in a few small quarry holes and graded the area north of the lake. Now there are five (5) bowling greens, scout and guide halls erected on this area. The lake has been mostly edged with blue-stone pitchers recovered from old street channels when modernised with concrete kerbs.

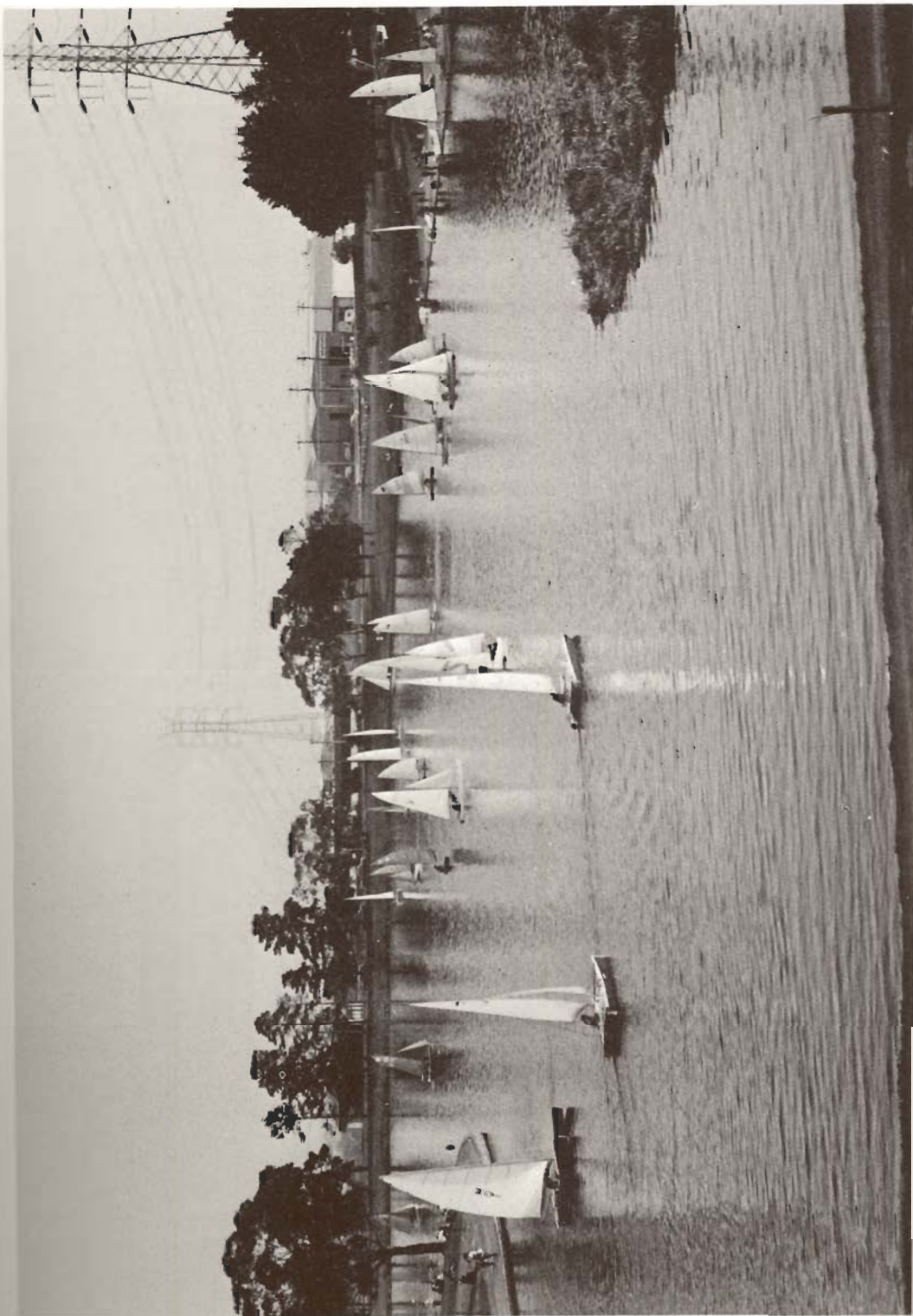
Fine club-rooms and amenities have been built for the use of athletes, including little athletes. An olympic standard athletic track of rubberised bitumen surface was completed for the 1970-71 season. The track and field game facilities have been constructed to rigid specifications conforming to international standards.

A feature is the new Aquatic Sports Pavilion recently erected on the west bank of the lake to provide accommodation for all sporting activities associated with the use of the lake. Basketball courts, additional picnic facilities, and landscaping, are planned.

The lake has recently been drained, cleaned, edges graded and a large tonnage of polluted oily muck and rubbish excavated from the bed, and removed to the tip.

This action is expected to improve fishing conditons when the lake is re-stocked, and also benefit boating.

Residents can feel proud of the recent improvements and the general condition of the park which is largely used by athletes, and in addition is a favourite picnic spot.



Boating on Edwards Park Lake 1971

(ii) GRANT:

A grant of 250 acres of Crown Land on the Police Paddock Bundoora. This is a very worth-while extension of the proposal contained in the Metropolitan Town Planning Commission Report of 1929, which recommended that a strip of land on both sides of the Darebin Creek should be acquired for a park, but no action was taken.

A former Mayor of the City of Preston, in 1962, passed a copy of the 1929 report on to the Preston Council, together with the proposal for a large regional park. The Preston City Engineer forthwith made enquiries through the Committees of Management of the Albert Park and Yarra Bend Reserves of the areas required for various recreational facilities and the system of management involved.

The Council after preparing a scheme for the development of the Police Paddock made a request to the Government for the land. At first the request was not successful, nor was a later one for half the land for a Park, and the other half for an annexe to the Melbourne University. A further bid to have the land for Victoria's Third University also failed.

However, in conjunction with the Shire of Diamond Valley and Whittlesea, further representations were made through the Minister for Local Government from time to time, which eventually bore fruit, as on April, 1967, the Hon. R.J. Hamer M.L.C., advised that 250 acres would be given as a grant for a Park.

The Birth of Bundoora Park

On 4th August, 1971, the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. A.J. Hunt M.L.C., opened the 'Commencement of Works Ceremony' at Bundoora Park before a very large attendance of representative citizens and visitors.

The following speakers were introduced by Cr. B.F. Waters:—

Cr. K.P. Hardiman J.P.	Chairman, Committee of Management
Cr. A.H. Capp J.P.	Mayor of the City of Preston
The Hon. A.J. Hunt M.L.C.	Minister for Local Government
Cr. D.C. McKenzie J.P.	President, Shire of Diamond Valley

The Minister made reference to the outstanding location of the Park and the wide variety of recreational facilities to be provided. He also referred to the important part played by the former Minister for Local Government, the Hon. R.J. Hamer E.D., M.P., who, notwithstanding determined opposition from the Mental Health Authority, carried the day in Cabinet which approved the grant of 250 acres.

Mr. Hunt promised his continued interest in the park and a grant of a total of \$120,000 over several years, towards the estimated work cost of \$400,000. He then planted a tree as a memento.

A brief resume of proposals for the park on this magnificent site include, the development of the area for the use and enjoyment of the public. There will be provision for playing fields, picnic areas, a flora reserve, a lake, a jogging track and a public golf course. The park is ideally situated on a well elevated site abutting the boundaries of Preston, Diamond Valley and Whittlesea.

The Committee of Management includes Council Representatives —

City of Preston	Crs. A.H. Capp J.P., B.T. Connor J.P., K.P. Hardiman J.P.
Shire of Diamond Valley	Crs. H.G. Barnard, D.C. McKenzie J.P., B.F. Waters.
Government Representatives	Messrs. R.B. Bramham, J. Cain, W.K. Deacon, H.W. Nash, J.P., W.S. Tunaley, A.H. Veale.



Top The Hon. A.J. Hunt MLC, the Minister for Local Government, opened the "Commencement of Work Ceremony" on the 4th August, 1971.

Bottom: The Minister plants a tree.





Some fine old red-gum trees on Bundoora Park Plenty Road, East Preston.



Childrens Play area, Edwardes Park.

Reclamation Work

The creation of reserves by the filling with garbage of dangerous clay holes and blue-stone quarries, and the grading of low lying areas along the creeks has a threefold effect, namely:—

Firstly the elimination of dangerous holes which have proved death traps to young children, secondly the cheapest method of disposal of garbage, and thirdly the development of sites for parks.

What were formerly eyesores have been transformed into things of beauty, and for the benefit of present and future generations are worthy of special mention as to their location:—

The "H. Swain" Reserve in Oakover Road
The "J. Adams" Reserve in Milton Crescent
The "T.A. Cochrane" Reserve in Collier Street
The northern section of Edwardes Park
The eastern section near Darebin Creek of "C.T. Barling" Park.

Other holes filled include:—

- (a) Plenty Road clay hole near Junction with Dundas Street
- (b) Plenty Road East, part of sand pit
- (c) St. Georges Road — Clifton Brick Works clay hole
- (d) Off Bell Street on North side of Darebin Creek bridge, quarry hole
- (e) Chifley Drive — Preston Council's quarry hole

Items (a) to (d) were privately owned.

A special feature of the Clifton Brick Company's clay hole was that it was filled on an incentive basis, with an agreement that provided for payment on a sliding scale according to the time taken to fill the hole. The Council received a payment of \$27,000 from the Clifton Brick Company and this has been spent on the development of parks within the city.

This tip was well controlled and the stationing of a bull-dozer in the hole ensured the daily coverage of garbage.

The filling of the holes has improved the surrounding areas and the city has acquired additional parkland reserves. The Clifton, and the Council's quarry holes, have benefited the Council financially, which should be a source of satisfaction to the Council, its executive officers and of course to the ratepayers.

Photographs on a following page show the Clifton hole when filling commenced in 1963, and the progress made by 1965 of filling this 1¼ million cubic yards of clay hole.

Elimination of Eyesores

The filling of some of these holes was not without incident. The "J. Adams" Reserve 'settled down' after being grassed and much soil was required for levelling and re-sowing.

The "H. Swain" Reserve formerly known as "McMahon's clay hole" was a very large and deep hole. In the early stages of its filling there was uncontrolled tipping over the side. This proved most unsatisfactory and the area became a filthy smelly site, and a haven and breeding ground for rats. After protests and deputations this tipping was stopped, and a track cut down to the bottom of the clay hole to enable filling from the bottom up in five foot layers.

The clay hole near the junction of High Street and Plenty Road when draining operations commenced was found to contain water much deeper than anticipated and additional and more powerful pumps had to be requisitioned to get the smelly liquid more quickly into an underground drain in Plenty Road.

This tip was very well controlled by the well known local personality "Peg Leg Smith". An abundance of saw-dust and bark was available from local saw-mills, for use as covering materials, so much so, that when the tip was closed at weekends, boys on several occasions set the tip on fire much to the annoyance of residents and the fire brigade.

The Preston Council quarry in Princes Street had two major set backs. First a fire destroyed the plant, then later the Darebin Creek burst its banks and flooded the quarry which had to be abandoned.

But after the quarry had been drained and filled with garbage topped with soil and the adjoining land graded, it found a ready sale as industrial sites. The proceeds assisted the Preston City Council to finance the acquisition of the large area of land in Gower Street and Town Hall Avenue for the building of the new library and welfare section, to be commenced at an early date. The concept of the proposed buildings, the planning and method of financing reflects credit on the foresight of the Preston City Council and its executive officers.

A little known quarry hole on the eastern bank of the Darebin Creek near the Plenty Road bridge was last used as a week-end "Two Up School". The Preston Post of 20th September, 1944 reports that a police raid captured 55 men alleged to be playing two up. The "Cockatoo or Nit Keeper" failed to give the alarm and when the police swooped the men ran in all directions, some jumped into the creek, others climbed trees while others fled into the cemetery.

This hole was filled as late as 1970-71 when the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works was cleaning up the creek in the area.



Bridges

The greater part of Preston lies between the Darebin Creek in the East and the Merri and Edgar's Creek on the West, consequently the provision of bridges is of vital importance for communications and transport.

There are bridges over the Darebin Creek at Bell Street, Murray Road, Plenty Road, Dunne Street and Chenies Street, while those over the Merri Creek are at Bell Street on our boundary with Coburg, and over the Edgar's Creek at Mahoneys Road, Glasgow Avenue, Broadhurst Avenue, Leamington Street, Edwardes Street and Henty Street.

The original bridges over Bell Street and Plenty Road over the Darebin Creek were of blue-stone construction built relatively low and narrow and on poor alignments. And while they may have been satisfactory for the horse and buggy age, they were positively dangerous when approached at speeds in the modern motor car. In fact there were many accidents, some fatal, but it is satisfactory to note that they have been replaced with modern structures at a higher level and on improved alignments. The same applies to the new bridge at Bell Street on our Boundary with Coburg.

The Murray Road bridge erected in 1965-66 connects Murray Road, Preston with Southern Road, Heidelberg, and is largely used by through traffic and by patrons of the Northland Regional Shopping Centre. It is also availed of by students of La Trobe University and by many bus operators who use the large bus terminal at Northland.

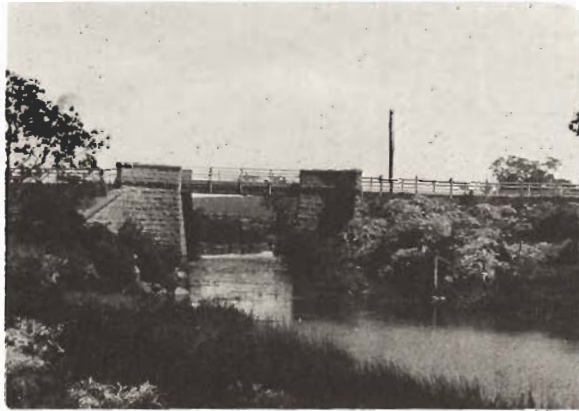
The wide and modern bridge over the artificial lake in Kingsbury Drive in La Trobe University grounds connects Plenty Road, Preston, with Waiora Road, Heidelberg, and is also largely used by through traffic.

The Preston Council has moved with traffic requirements, and in conjunction with the Country Roads Board, has been responsible for the provision of bridges on main roads.

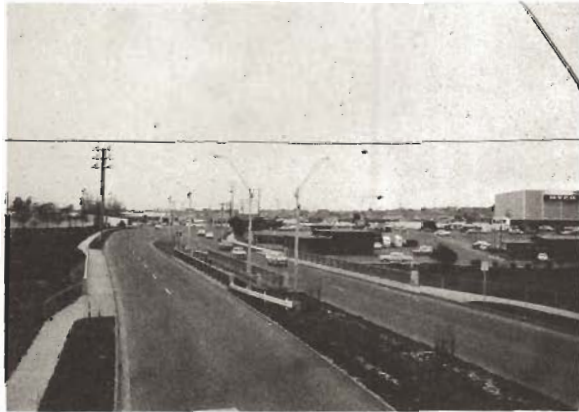
Private enterprise 'Northland' was associated with the cost of the Murray Road Bridge, and the 'Golf Links Estate Company' was responsible for the Dunne Street Bridge.

Several bridges on internal roads have been designed and supervised by the Council's staff under Mr. R.B. Bramham, City Engineer. Recent jobs include bridges over the Edgar's Creek at Broadhurst Avenue and Glasgow Avenue. They are of single span construction supported on nine (9) pre-stressed concrete beams 50-feet long. The Henty Street bridge is most interesting and consists of three (3) 20' x 10' concrete cells or culverts, built in situ and is 125-feet long. Considerable earth works will be necessary to conform with levels of the surrounding area.

The Council is fortunate that it has on its staff such well qualified and experienced engineers, which saves the Council employing outside consulting engineers at heavy cost.



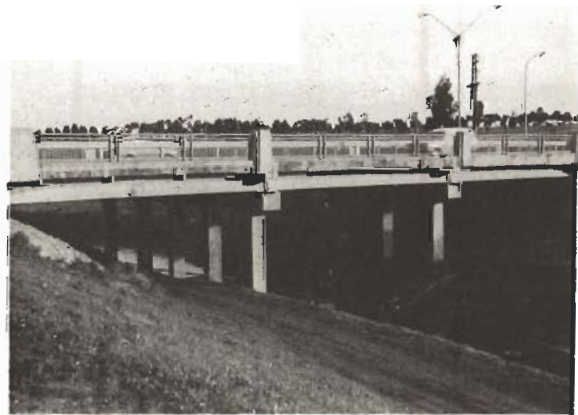
Old Plenty Road Bridge over Darebin Crk.



The New Plenty Road Twin Bridges.



Broadhurst Ave.
Bridge over Edgars Crk. Reservoir.



Twin bridges over
Darebin Crk. Murray Rd.

Hotels

At the turn of the Century when the population of Preston was 3,500 there were six hotels in the district, and now in 1971 there are eight catering for a population of 94,000.

The Junction, The Prince Alfred, the Council Club and the Preston were in High Street, and the Gowerville and the Rose Shamrock and Thistle were in Plenty Road.

The Junction Hotel under the management of the well known and respected Ralph family, had a close link with Preston's early local Government history, for the Council met there prior to building the Shire Hall on it's present site.

Of these, four still operate in their original sites, whereas the Council Club in 1968 reconstructed a Ten-pin Bowling Alley in Cramer Street, which for many years was occupied by the tanner, H.P. Zwar. The Prince Alfred was delicensed in 1922, and it was not until 1956 that the district gained another hotel, the Olympic in Albert Street. The Reservoir in Edwardes Street followed in 1961, and the Summerhill in Plenty Rd, opened in 1964.

The early hotels were small and the income dependent mainly upon the bar trade. To-day, Preston's hotels are substantial and modern and in addition to the sale of liquor, provide high class accommodation, dining facilities and entertainment, most also have "drive in" bottle service and off street parking.

One of the early hotels in Preston, and of considerable historical interest was the Rose Shamrock and Thistle, and "Mine Host" Craig Middleton has recently completed research into the early history of this old hotel and the following is a summary of his notes.

"The first Licensee was Charles Burrell, a ticket of leave man from Tasmania and held the licence from 1854-5, then followed a list of licensees at fairly frequent intervals as under:—

James Smith 1855-1867, Walter Sullivan 1868-69, P. Phelan 1870-89, Miss Jan Gordon 1890-97, Mary Murphy 1897-1904, Walter Pretty 1904-1924, Ben Hughes 1925-27. In 1927 Mary Cora Negri conducted the hotel in her own name until 1955 when the Negri family formed a family company, Negri Pty. Ltd., which still conducts the hotel. There have been four distinct eras in the history of this famous old hotel. The original weatherboard building erected around 1852-54 was demolished in 1912 and replaced in brick, the style of original old building being retained. In 1955-56 a new public bar, bottle shop and mixed lounge was added, 1969-70 brought yet another major change with extensions to both the Northern and Southerly aspects, a big drive-in bottle shop motel type accommodation, a general modernising of the property".



Top: Rose Shamrock and Thistle Hotel Plenty Road Preston.
This photograph taken between 1904 and 1924 during the period Walter Pretty was the licensee.
Bottom: The present hotel showing the same basic design as the original building.



Education

In spite of the difficulties being experienced by the Department of Education in Victoria, it can fairly be stated that over the years Preston has been treated well by the Department in the provision of schools and educational facilities. The fact that in Preston there are now 17 primary schools, 6 high schools, 5 technical schools, an Institute of Technology and the La Trobe University, shows clearly the substantial progress which has been achieved. Mention should also be made of the 10 registered schools in the area, 8 of which are Catholic.

The illustrations provided, and the explanatory captions, indicate how well Preston has progressed in the field of education.

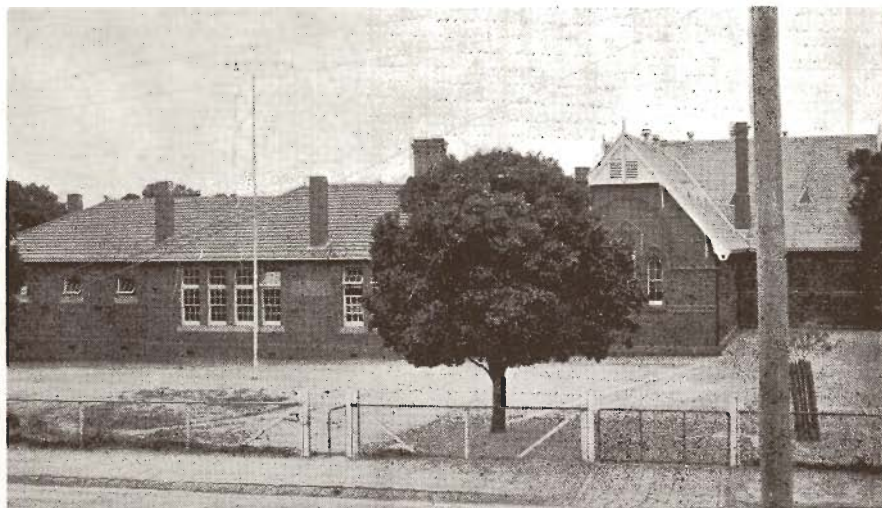
The majority of school buildings are comparatively new, of modern design, and in good order. This satisfactory state of affairs could well be due to the vigilance of the Council and local Members of Parliament, whose submissions have generally been favourably received and acted upon by the Department.

Our first school of any note was at Hotham Street (South Preston), first as a private school and then as a State School under the Education Act of 1872 which made education free, secular, and compulsory.

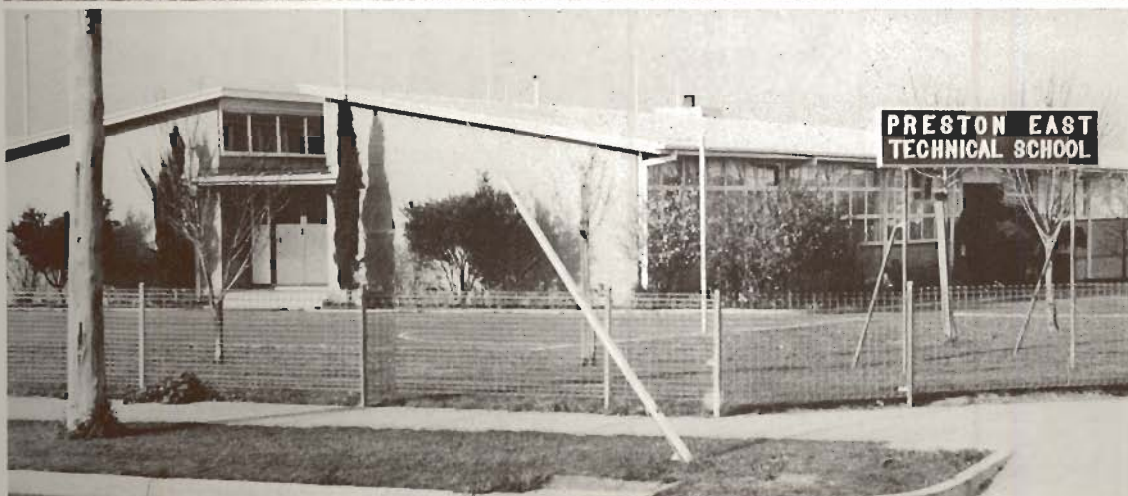
Not long afterwards, the Tyler Street (North Preston) opened, and these two schools cared for the education needs of the district for almost 50 years when the West Preston school was built.

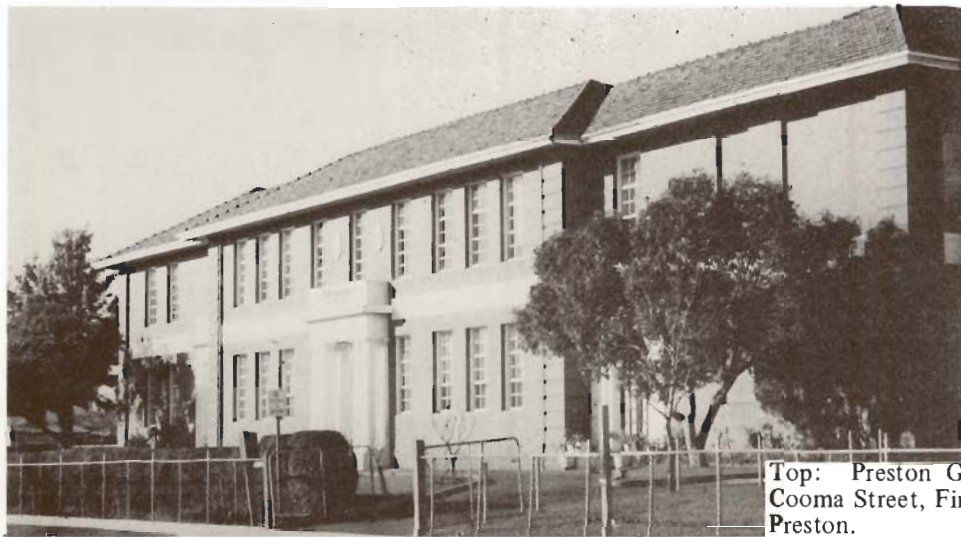
Catholic education had its origins in the Sacred Heart Church at the corner of Bell Street and Clifton Grove. This school had marked success, and is now housed in a modern building, and has in addition in the same area a Marist Brothers Regional College.

It was first proposed to list all the educational establishments, giving location, date of opening and numbers of present pupils, but such a statement would be just another page of statistics. It has therefore been decided to allow our selection of pictures to tell the story of Education in Preston.



Top: The first State School in Preston. Hotham St.,
Centre: Tyler St., North East, State School.
Bottom: Preston East Technical School, Murray Rd.



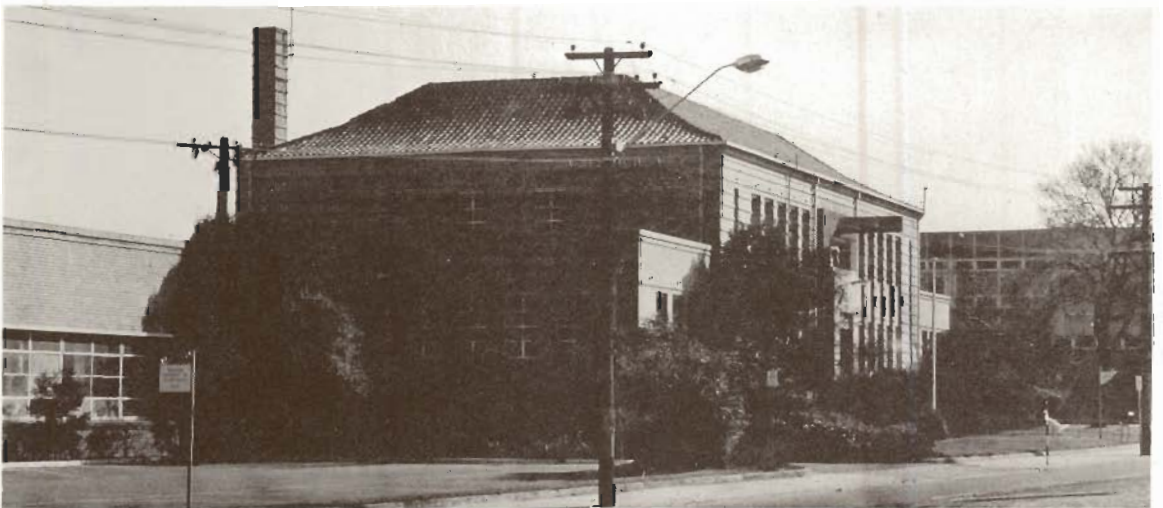


Top: Preston Girls High School.
Cooma Street, First High School in
Preston.



Centre: Reservoir High School
Plenty Road, a modern High School
with Assembly Hall.

Bottom: Institute of Technology,
St. Georges Road,



La Trobe University

La Trobe University stands on 484 acres of land at Bundoora within the boundary of the City of Preston.

When the site was selected for this third University in Victoria, Mr. R. McC. Simpson, of Messrs. Yuncken Freeman Architects, was appointed to act as the Master Planner, to ensure that the building and facilities of the University were designed to harmonise with the proposed academic development, and with this site of the University. The result of his work and his enthusiasm is reflected in this fine University and surrounding grounds.

On 8th March, 1967, the opening was performed by the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Sir Henry Bolte.

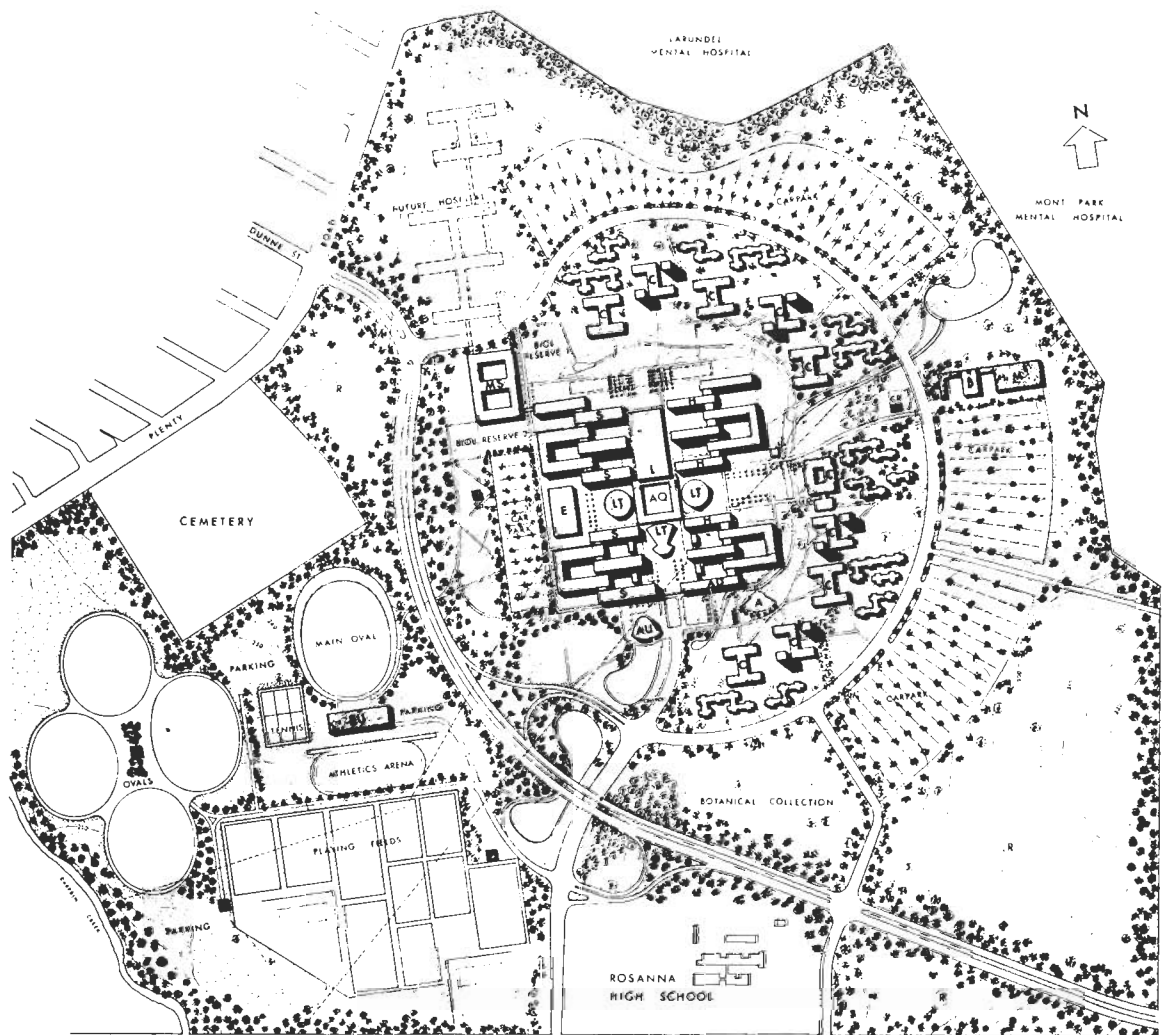
In 1967, 552 students were enrolled and this enrolment increased to 2,519 in 1970. It is expected that by 1980 the intake will have increased to 10,000.

This University is a well treasured asset of the City of Preston, and is one feature of our District of which the Citizens are justly proud.



Panorama of La Trobe University grounds

Master Plan of La Trobe University Development



L Library **C** College **B** Boiler House **H** Humanities **S** Sciences **LT** Lecture Theatre
M Maintenance **E** Engineering Workshops **A** Amphitheatre **SU** Sports Union **AU**
 Auditorium **MS** Medical School **AQ** Academic Quadrangle **R** Reserved areas for
 future Research facilities, staff housing, etc. **P** Dressing Pavilion **AD** Administration
CH Chapel **SS** Switching Station **CR** Creche ---- Main Sewers

Preston's Newspapers

The "Preston Post" and "Northern Times", the two local newspapers circulating in the city, are lineal descendents of the earliest newspapers published in the district.

These were the "Preston Leader", which along with the "Northcote Leader" was first published in 1877 by Mr. George Richardson from an office in Northcote.

Whalley Brothers, from Creswick, later purchased the two newspapers, and after publishing them for 35 years, sold to Mr. D.H. Mott and his sons, George and Walter, in 1924.

Other members of the Mott family became linked with the business when the Leader Publishing Co. Pty. Ltd. was formed in 1928.

In the early days of the depression of the 1930's, a rival paper, "Preston Progress" made its appearance, published by Mr. A.B. Harding. Several years later the copyright was sold to, and incorporated in the "Preston Leader". When free circulation newspapers began to make their appearance in the mid-1930's, the Leader Publishing Company moved into this field, and in 1938 the name of the "Preston Leader" was changed to "Preston Post" when it became a free-circulation paper in 1938. Early issues were frequently only four pages, but over the years "Preston Post" has shown steady growth along with the district's development, with issues often of 40 pages or more.

The years immediately following the Second World War brought another change as Reservoir, an area of wide, open spaces, raced ahead in development. To cater for this area, a "Reservoir Supplement" was incorporated in the "Preston Post". This supplement was the forerunner of the "Northern Times".

Throughout the years the editorial policy of these newspapers, which today are firmly established in the community, has been to foster local development and the welfare of residents, the provision of such local facilities as schools, health services, recreation areas, public transport and so on, and provide a forum for discussion of local affairs.

The "Post" and "Times" played their part in co-ordinating public support in the campaign to establish the Preston and Northcote Community Hospital, and in later years, La Trobe University.

The Mott family has a newspaper tradition dating back to 1856 when George Henry Mott founded his first newspaper on the Beechworth goldfields. Now, 115 years later, members of the fourth generation are still active newspaper publishers.

Alderman George Henry Mott was Mayor of Albury in 1862. His grandson, Mr. George H. Mott, was Mayor of Preston in 1937-38.

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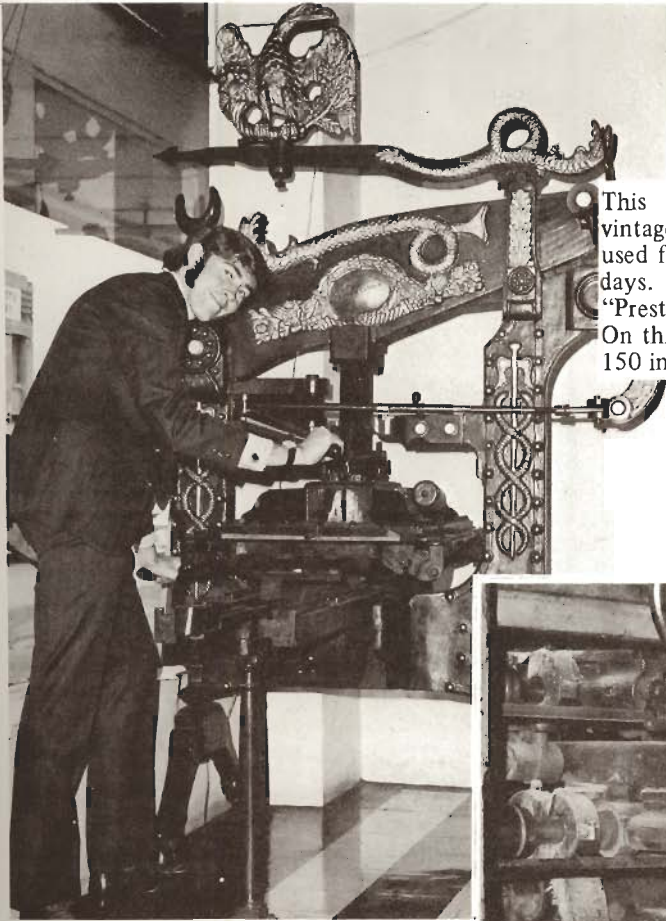
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This Columbian hand-operated printing press, vintage approx. 1835, was the type of machine used for printing newspapers in Melbourne's early days. A similar-type machine was used to print the "Preston Leader" when it was established in 1877. On this machine, a smart crew could print 100 to 150 impressions per hour.



By way of contrast this picture shows a portion of the nine-unit high-speed "Hoe" rotary printing press which has capacity to print a 112-page "Preston Post" at speeds up to 40,000 completed copies per hour. Its use has enabled the Leader Publishing Company to develop into the largest publishers of suburban newspapers in Australia.

Preston and Northcote Community Hospital

The Preston and Northcote Community Hospital (PANCH for short) is situated on rising ground in Bell Street, Preston, close to train, tram and bus services.

It was originally proposed in 1942 by a group of Friendly Society Lodges to be a small community hospital of 25 beds. However, when representatives interviewed the then Charities Board they learned that the Government had tentative plans for 150 to 200 bed hospital in Preston, but it would not be built until after the war. The building of the hospital was protracted, and it was not until 1960 that the hospital admitted the first patient.

PANCH is a real family hospital, and has roomy wards for Midwifery, Surgical, Medical and children, and the State Plastic Surgery Unit. This special unit has been developed to provide facilities for care of complicated cases requiring plastic surgery. Mr. B.K. Rank, C.M.G., the eminent plastic surgeon, is the chairman of the Unit Committee.

The present bed capacity is 304, but tentative approval has been given to increase to around 500 beds. This is a long range programme, and progress will depend largely on the availability of finance.

The number of inpatients for the year 1970-71 totalled 12,307, and the number of babies born was 1958. In addition, PANCH has a very large Casualty section and Outpatient section, and is one of the leading hospitals in Victoria in the emergency field.

The Casualty figures are astronomical and, for the year 1970-71, Casualty attendances totalled 45,145, while the outpatients attendances numbered 49,602.

The principal officers are:—

Executive Director: Dr. I.A.G. Brand, F.H.A., F.A.C.M.A., A.A.S.A., F.S.H.P.
Medical Director: Dr. J.S. Yeatman, D.H.A., M.R.A.C.P., F.A.C.M.A.
Director of Nursing: Miss N.P. Shore, Dip. Nurs. Admin. (N.S.W.), Dip. N.Ed., F.C.N.A.

The Board of Management consists of fifteen members, fourteen of whom are elected by contributors and one Government nominee, as follows:—

President: P.H. Cleland, J.P.
Vice Presidents: J.F. Parks, F.C.I.V., F.R.E.I., A.J. Chessell
Treasurer: A Gray, J.P., F.R.E.I., F.C.I.V.

Board Members:

C.T. Barling, J.P.	H.A. Bean
R.B. Bramham, C.E., M.I.E. Aust.	L.B. Caelli
R. Coleman J.P.	A.G. Davis, J.P., Ph.C., F.P.S.
L. Hales, J.P.	H.A. Jenkins, M.Sc., M.B., B.S., M.P.
D.J. Tyers	F.N. Wilkes, M.L.A.
T. Forristal, O.B.E., Government Nominee	



PANCH View of North and West wings.



Panch has one of the busiest casualty departments in Melbourne and provides instant medical care for patients suffering from accidents on the road, in industry and in the home. In the emergency casualty theatre, the doctor stitches the wound of a young patient who had run into a glass door.

Public Transport Facilities

TRAMWAYS:

Preston's first public transport in those days of the horses, was by means of a four horse wagonette service, connecting Melbourne and Whittlesea with a stopping place at "The Rose Shamrock and Thistle" hotel, next a two horse, wagonette service from Preston to Melbourne daily, with the fare of 6d. each way.

A marked improvement and benefit to Preston residents arrived in 1887, when the Northcote cable tram services commenced operations by private enterprise. The terminus was at the Preston-Northcote boundary. This tram service suffered financial problems so prevalent in those days, because of the after effects of the "land boom", and between the opening date and March 1901, the line was closed and re-opened on no fewer than three occasions. However it was established permanently when in 1901 the Northcote Council purchased the assets and, after some periods of private leasing, eventually took over the line as a Council enterprise until 1920 when the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board came into being and acquired all tramways in the metropolitan area.

The opening of the Electric Tramway on 15th April, 1920, was an outstanding event in Preston's history. This service, through lines in Gilbert Road to Regent Street (West), and Plenty Road to Tyler Street (East) gave access by public transport to many new areas hitherto isolated. With the conversion of the Brunswick Street cable tram service, Preston gained a direct route and a faster service to Melbourne.

The next improvement was the conversion of the High Street-Smith Street-Bourke Street Melbourne, from cable to electric trams, so that the present link with Melbourne from East Preston follows this route, whereas the West Preston goes along St. Georges Road, Brunswick Street, and Collins Street Melbourne.

RAILWAYS:

The first rail link with Melbourne was made by steam trains on 8th March, 1889, when the line to Reservoir was opened and was routed through North Carlton, Royal Park to Spencer Street railway station. On 5th December, 1904, a loop line was constructed from Merri to Clifton Hill, to connect with the Heidelberg line, and then by the shorter route via Collingwood, Richmond to Princes Bridge railway station. Electrification of the Reservoir line in July, 1921, reduced considerably the travelling time to Melbourne, and provided a far more frequent and efficient service.

BUSES:

The district also has numerous bus services over many routes, and as a general rule follow East West directions, connecting Preston with our Easterly and Westerly neighbouring suburbs. They also act as feeder services to the railways and tramways running North and South. Practically all local bus services connect with Northland Shopping Centre, where up to 400 buses pass through each week day.

Bearing in mind the rapid growth in population in the district in recent years, Preston may claim to be reasonably well served with public transport, something so lacking in the days of our pioneer citizens.

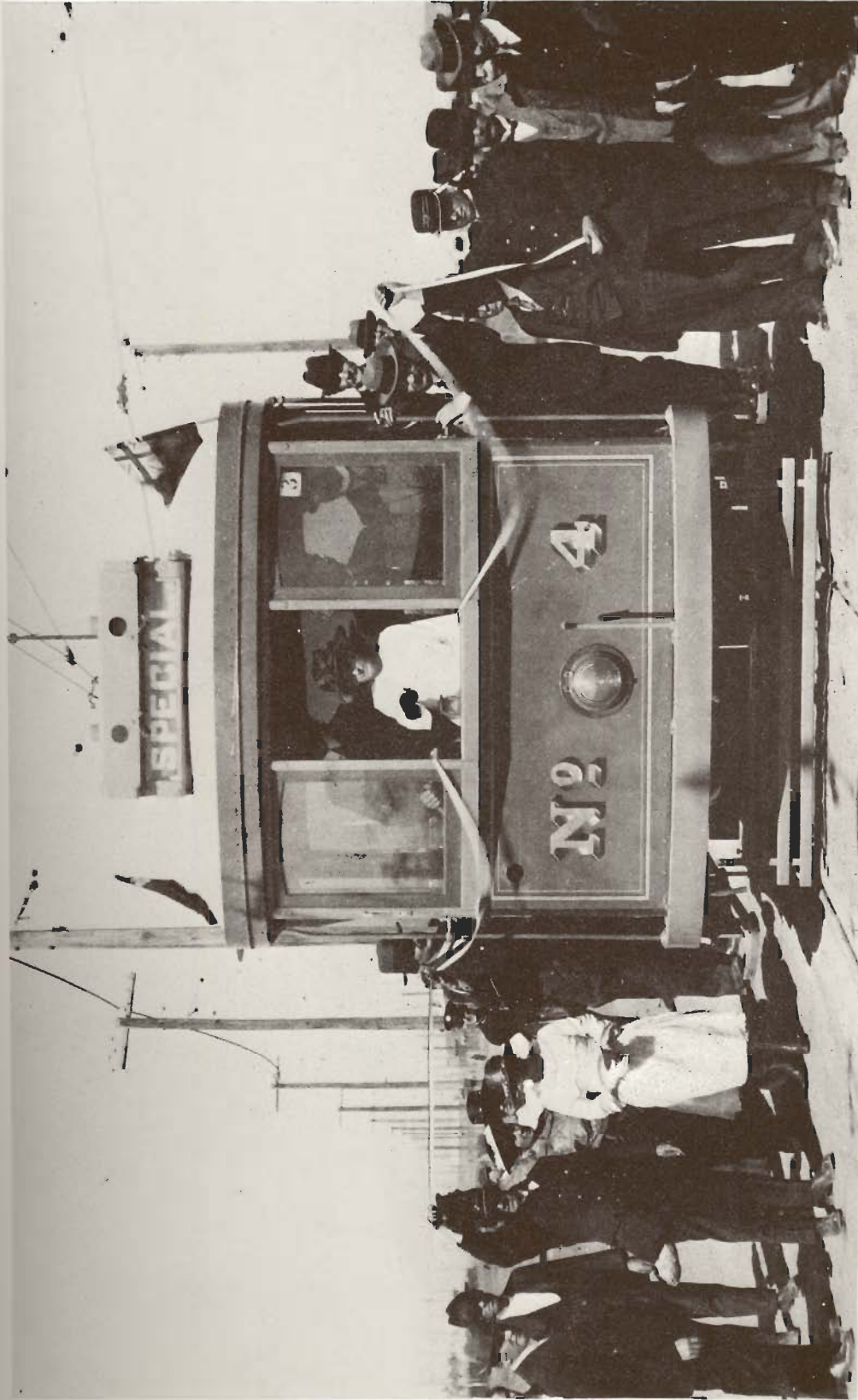


COBB & CO. COACH





CABLE TRAM. CLIFTON HILL to PRESTON



FIRST ELECTRIC TRAM TO PRESTON

Miss Membrey cutting the ribbon. On the left is Mr. C. Ottery the Trust Chairman, standing on the step and Mr. W.G. Swift Secretary of the Trust, is standing on the right hand step second from the front.

Welfare Services Preston City Council

The traditional image of local government as the provider of streets and garbage collection services is changing as Councils move into the fields of health and welfare. Active participation in the affairs of the community by Councillors and Officers originally pinpointed the needs of people in a way not obvious to those in more remote levels of government and led to the involvement of municipalities in these new spheres.

The trend has accelerated since the end of World War II and Councils are now devoting an increasing proportion of their income to Social Services. The emphasis, originally on the problems of the very young, has been extended to meet the needs of the elderly citizens of the community.

The outstanding services of the pre-natal and infant welfare service was one of the causes of the dramatic fall in infant mortality to a point where Victoria has one of the lowest rates in the World. A contributing factor to this decline has been the immunisation campaigns, which have been the means of controlling various diseases suffered by both children and adults.

A further step was the establishment of a dental clinic for pre-school children in an attempt to combat the high incidence of decay in children's teeth and to make people aware of the benefits to be derived from preventative measures.

The latest move was the erection of a day nursery to provide care for 50 children, principally from families in necessitous circumstances or from one-parent homes.

For the elderlies, the provision of four clubs has catered for a long-felt want for places where our senior citizens can meet and enjoy the facilities provided. For those unable to leave their homes, a meals on wheels scheme is in operation.

A housekeeper service caters for emergencies in the home caused by illness of the mother or for those chronically ill, who would otherwise be forced into an institution.

The State Government subsidizes these activities but, with rising costs, Councils are bearing an increasing proportion of the expenditure involved.

No doubt the future will see an expansion of welfare services, particularly in the geriatric field where much remains to be done. With its awareness of community needs, local government is ideally suited as the instrument by which these services may be provided.



Top: BABY HEALTH CENTRE GOWER STREET,
Bottom: DAY NURSERY GOWER STREET,



Preston Library

A successful and widely supported movement by lodges and leading citizens to establish a Shire Library culminated in 1908 in the erection of the ground floor of the present building.

Elsewhere in this book are pictures of the laying of the foundation stone by Sir Thomas Bent, Premier of Victoria, on August 31, 1908; and of the completed building.

With a donation from the Preston Council, and a grant from the State Government, the building opened with a debt of only \$300. This was soon wiped off by the running of a carnival and other forms of entertainment.

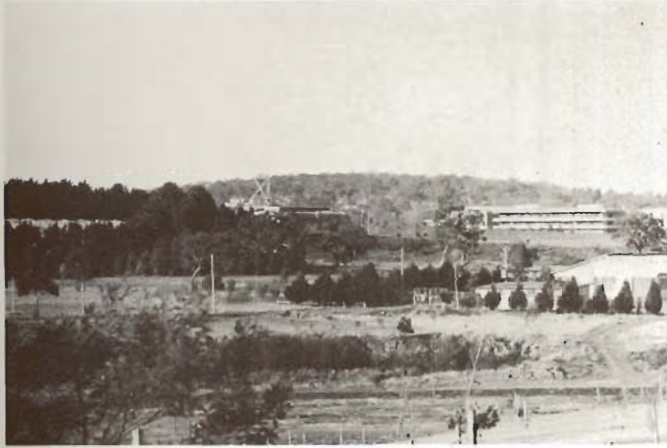
The library was managed by a citizen's committee on a subscription basis until 1945, when the Council took over and it became a free-lending library in its present form. A branch was later opened at the Civic Centre in Reservoir.

For the year 1969-70, the total stock of the two libraries was 50,355 books, consisting of 35,989 adult books and 14,366 children's books. The book issues for the year totalled 276,911, and the number of registered borrowers was 14,544 adults and 17,359 children.

As announced elsewhere in this book, a large prestige building is in the course of construction for a new library complex at the rear of the Town Hall on a fine site fronting Gower Street, Kelvin Grove, and Town Hall Avenue.

The present Library building is shown below.





Left: La Trobe University Campus

Right: Reservoir High School
with Assembly Hall



Left: Darebin Creek and
Plenty Road Bridge.

Right: C.T. Barling Park with
Kingsbury in the
background.





Top: Court House and Police Station Roseberry Ave.

Bottom: Last horse drawn Fire Cart.



Various items of Preston City Council Equipment.



Horse and Garbage Dray



Present method of Garbage collection
by Motor Compactor Unit



Caterpillar 955H. Traxcavator loading
into International AB. 164 Tipper.



Caterpillar 12E Power Grader
metalling on unmaded road.

Electric Supply Department



Elevated mobile work platform



Returned Servicemen's League

The Preston R.S.L. was formed in 1919 with the object of perpetuating the close ties of friendship of members of the First A.I.F. and to safeguard their interests in Repatriation and Rehabilitation.

With the assistance of Councillors and Citizens, supported by the Red Cross, the Fathers' Association, and the Women's Auxiliary, a fund of \$3,000 was raised to erect a Memorial Hall as an additional storey to the Preston Library.

Lord Forster, P.C., G.C.M.G., the Governor General, laid the foundation stone on the 6th March, 1921, and the first meeting was held in September, 1921.

Cr. L. Jones, J.P. Shire President, was the first President of the Preston R.S.L. The local branch pays particular attention to the welfare of ex-servicemen and women, and provides a personal service to the sick and bereaved. It has extensive interests in the youth of Preston including Cricket, Football, Basketball and Marching Girls Teams .

The Memorial Hall reverted back to the Preston Council in 1951 as an extension to the Library. The new Club rooms with modern facilities were built at the rear of the Town Hall in Kelvin Grove.

The new Club rooms were opened by Sir George Holland, K.B.E., M.M., the National President of the R.S.L. on 19th May, 1957. Many of the original first war veterans have passed on, and members to-day of around 800 are mainly ex-servicemen of the 2nd A.I.F., R.A.N., R.A.A.F., Korea, and Vietnam.

The list of men who have given long and distinguished service to ex-servicemen and the community is too long for inclusion in this brief article, however mention is made of two, namely, Mr. N. Osborne, O.B.E., and M.H.P. Zwar, O.B.E., who were both honoured by the Queen, with the award of Officer of the British Empire.

It also should be recorded that Preston had a close association with two soldiers who were awarded the Victoria Cross.

Sergeant W. (Bill) Ruthven V.C., of the first world war, was a resident of Preston for many years, and represented the district in the Legislature Assembly.

Private Bruce Kingsbury of Preston was awarded the V.C. posthumously in the second world war.

There names are perpetuated by the naming of the Ruthven Railway Station, the Ruthven State School, and the Ruthven Park; by the Kingsbury District and the Kingsbury Drive through the grounds of La Trobe University.

The present Office Bearers of the Preston R.S.L. are – President, M. Harris, Treasurer H. White, Senior Vice President L. Gibbs, Vice President J. Jones, Secretary Manager, R. Colston.

A comparatively new but active branch of the R.S.L. has been established in Spring Street Reservoir, where a large retail warehouse has been acquired for Club rooms.

There is also a branch of the Legion of Ex-service Men and Women located in Bell Street, near the railway station.



Top: RSL Club Rooms, Kelvin Grove.
Bottom: Senior Citizens Club Rooms, Donald Street.



Industrial Development

Preston's early industries were mainly Brickworks, Tanneries, Piggeries, Dairy and Poultry farms, but Preston now has a large number of diversified manufacturing industries in modern factory buildings. The main industries, spread over about 600 individual factories, embrace the engineering, extending from fine tools, small automotive parts, diamond drills, conveyers, to heavy structural steel; also, to name but a few, food processing, and the manufacture of footwear, clothing, industrial and medical gases, carpets, building materials and packaging.

The basic reasons for the extraordinary increase in industries are:

(a) The action (as is referred to later) of the Preston Council in setting aside large areas for industry in the South-East and the North West of the municipality;

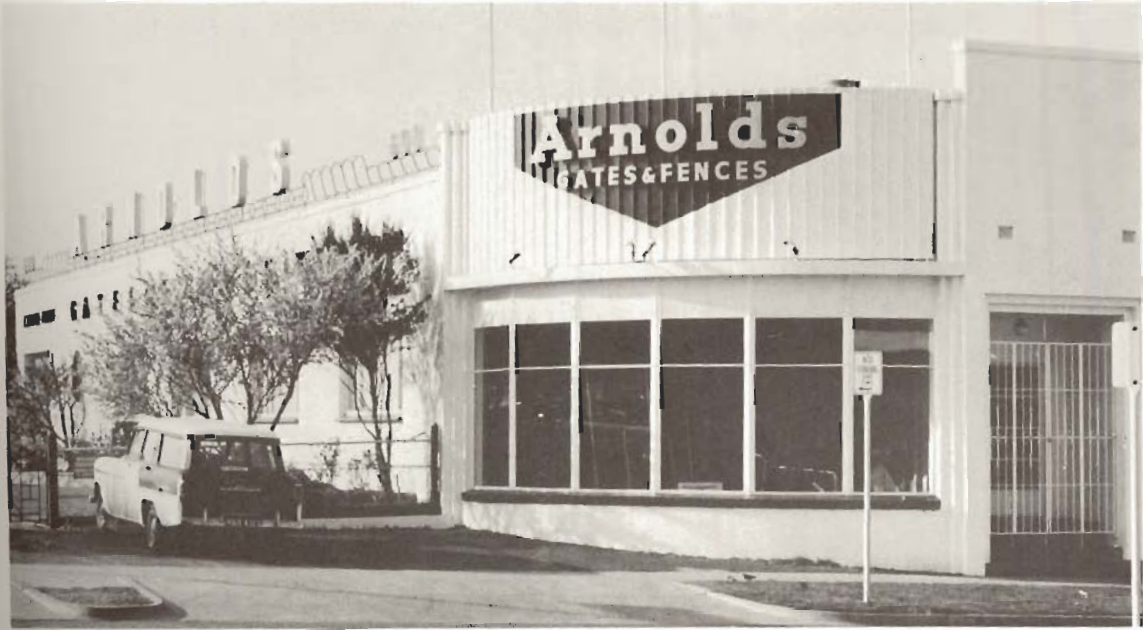
(b) The availability of this land, improvement in the building trade work force, and convenient transport facilities;

(c) Most importantly, finance becoming available after the restrictions imposed during war conditions.

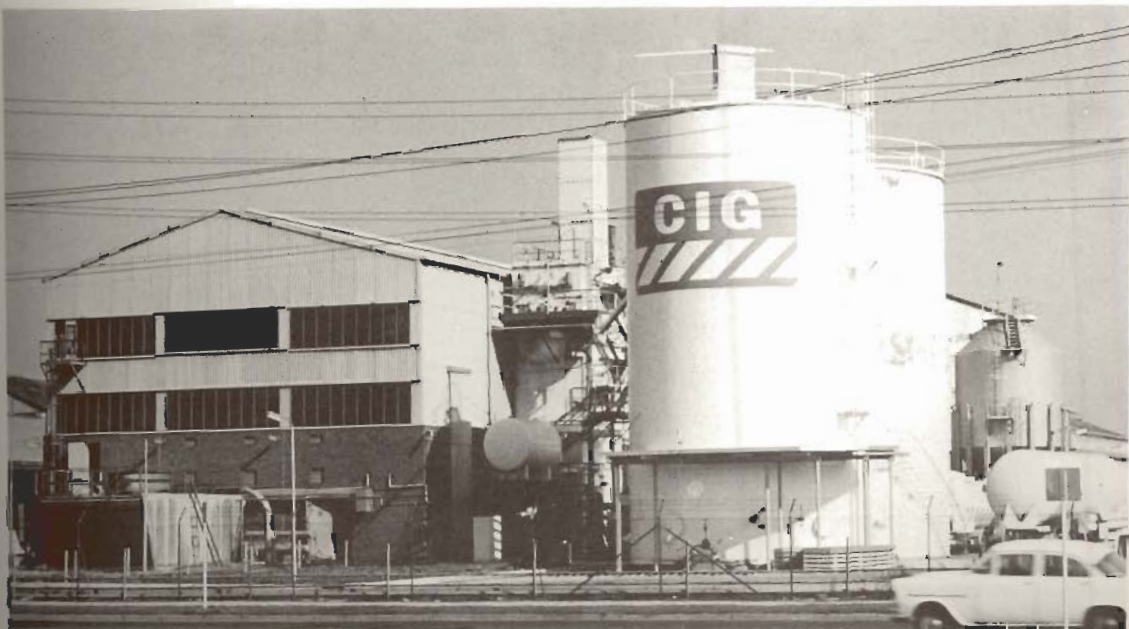
In addition to the above, there is the fact that, during the period of the 1939-45 war, industrial activity expanded throughout the State to an unprecedented degree by the use of improved techniques learned in the local manufacture of a long list of articles which had been imported prior to the war. In the opinion of experts, our manufacturing, within the space of less than a decade, expanded to become equivalent to that of half a century of normal development.

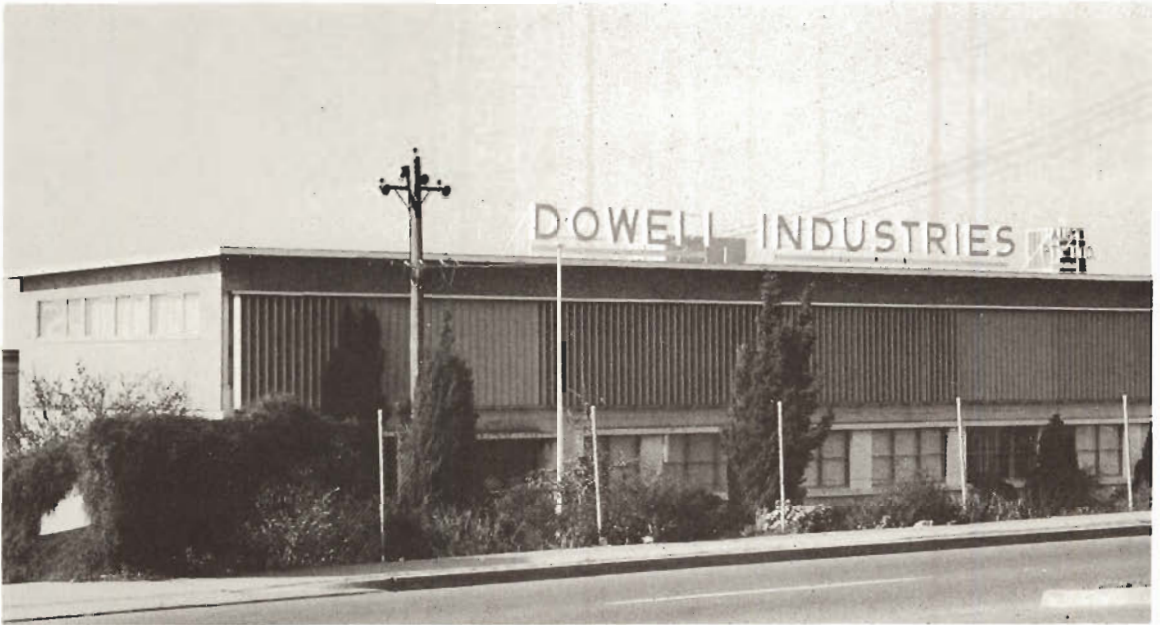
The C.S.I.R.O. which, of necessity, during the war years, had been mainly concerned with Defence projects, was able after the war to direct much research into engineering and building problems, and new technological developments arising from their research became available for the benefit of industry. Preston shared to the full in this benefit.

The pictures shown here give ample evidence of the giant strides which have taken place in the industrial development of Preston.



Top: Arnolds Wire Gates and Fences, High Street.
Bottom: Commonwealth Industrial Gases, Bell Street.





Top: Dowell Industries, Aluminium Building Products, Albert Street.
Bottom: C.I.B.A. Pharmaceutical Products, Albert Street.





Top: Myer Northland, retail complex Murray Road.

Bottom: Preslight Screenwiper Company, automotive accessories, Bell Street.





Top: Bendigo Street, showing growth of street trees.
Bottom: Albert Street, showing divided highway.





Preston Ladies Rowing Team Australian champions 1924.

Violet Radcliffe, Bow. Stella Peters, 2. Edna Twite, 3. Doreen Hamphenkel, Stroke, Sylvia Pridham, Cox.



Preston City Council Electricity Undertaking

Prior to 1911 street lighting in Preston was by kerosene lamps and later by gas lamps. In 1911 the Preston Council made a momentous decision to purchase electricity in bulk from the Melbourne Electric Supply Company. However a problem arose as electric mains would have to run through Northcote, but this was satisfactorily overcome by Northcote Council purchasing the current and reselling to Preston Council.

Mr. F.P. Bird was appointed Preston's first Electrical Engineer and remained in that position until his retirement in 1951, when Mr. C.S. Kendall was appointed in his stead.

With the consent of the Northcote Council, Preston had run a transmission line northward along St. Georges Road Northcote to sub-station at the corner of St. Georges Road and Oakover Road Preston. This became the first sub-station in Preston with 6000 volt three phase electricity which was extended throughout Preston to replace the former single phase supply.

On 29 June, 1925 the Preston Council entered into a 10 year agreement with the State Electricity Commission to purchase bulk electricity and today still obtains its supply from that source. At that time the city's demand for electricity was about 850 kilowatts, supplying some 400 homes and a few factories including Howes, Braithwaites and Huttons.

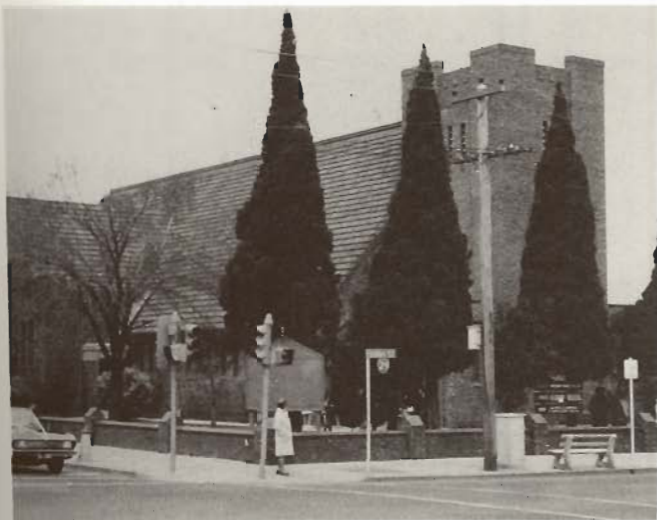
In the post war period 1945 to 1952 Prestons industries expanded very rapidly and the demand for electricity jumped from 2850 to 7000 kilowatts. C.I.G., Myer Northland, and later La Trobe University, three large consumers of electricity, together with the large demand from many smaller industrial establishments and thousands of new homes, caused the Council to increase the number of points of supply of electricity to three, one of which introduced a 22,000 volt supply to the Reservoir area.

In December, 1969 Mr. C. Kendall retired and Mr. Ross Smith the Deputy Electrical Engineer succeeded him as head of a profitable business undertaking of the Council.

Until 1969 electricity had no very real competitor as a source of energy but then natural gas came into being. However one can be bold enough to claim the viability of the Undertaking as the principal source of energy for the city, because unlike any other available energy source, electricity is not a fuel but is pure energy itself, free of pollution and with absolutely no residue of combustion. In order to keep the public informed of electricity's qualities and of the really enormous range of electrical devices available to ease the chores of mankind, the Undertaking, in co-operation with the State Electricity Commission earnestly applied itself to electricity sales promotion.

A Sales Promotion Officer was appointed and displays of electrical appliances at Northland Shopping Centre, together with advertising in the local Press became a common feature. The Undertakings statistics in the year 1971 are maximum demand 53000 kilowatts, number of consumers 28000 Annual revenue approx. \$5,000,000.

The wisdom of the Preston Shire Council in establishing the Undertaking, is reflected in the service it brings to the Citizens of Preston, and in its value as a profit earning concern for the Council.



Top left: Anglican All Saints, Cnr. Murray Rd, and High Street.

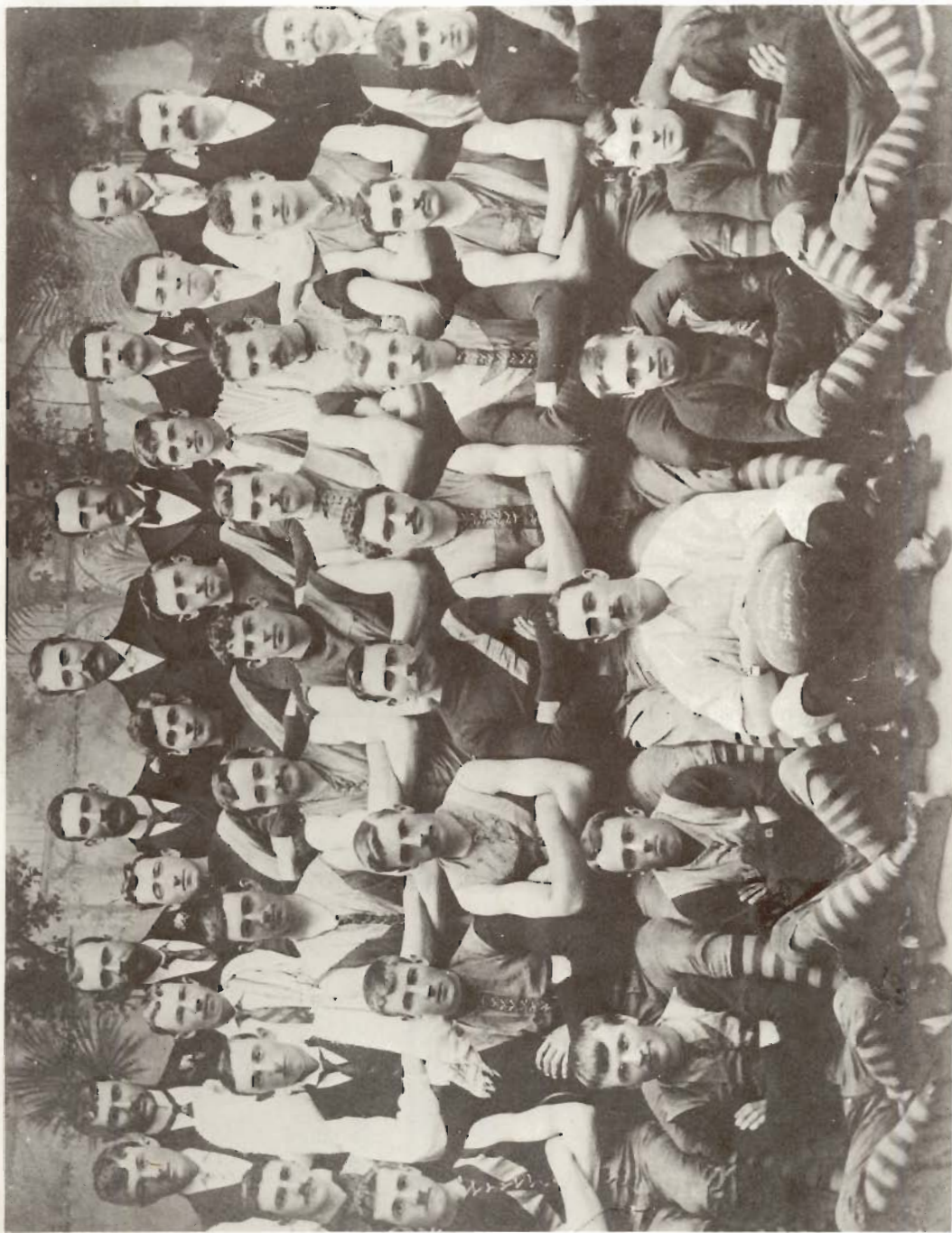
Top right: Roman Catholic, Sacred Heart, Bell Street.

Centre: Roman Catholic, Holy Name, Robb Street.

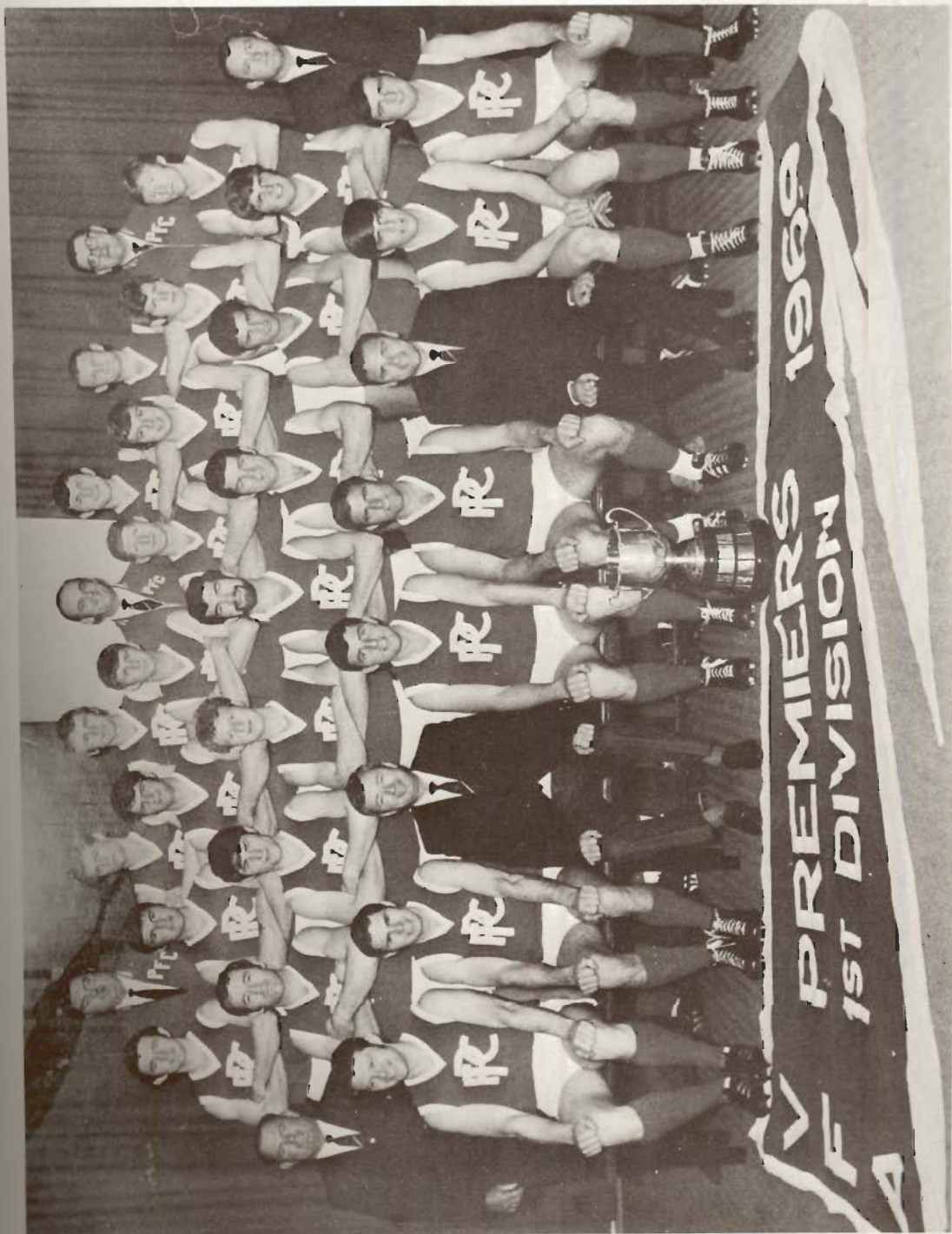
Bottom left: Greek Orthodox, (formerly Methodist) Yann Street.

Bottom Right: Methodist, corner High and Tyler Streets.





Preston Football Team, Premiers 1900.



Preston Municipal Band



Photograph taken at Ballarat when the band won the "A" grade championship of 1969. The band won the same event again in 1970.

- 4th row. B. Low, G. West, M. Beeson, H. Tierney, R. Brown,
3rd row. F. Clark, R. Arnall, A. Withers, C. Dary, W. Griffiths, P. Caldwell, J. Homer, F. Thompson,
K. Stevens, J. Kaye.
2nd row. T. Kett, A. Foley, R. Hislop, D. Findlay, W. Marchingo, J. Kelly, F. Lenne, J. Kett.
1st row. O. Clark, K. Winther, J. Maslen, E. Sincock,
(Front) C. Smith (Musical Director) W. Brown, J. Christenson, J. Grace.

The Preston Municipal Band was formed in 1934 from three existing bands, with the Councils subsidised support. W.S. May was appointed Bandmaster and the band graduated through grades C and B to A grade in 1939. Mr. May was succeeded by Mr. Chas Smith and under his direction the band has continued to win championships. The Preston Band is now rated as one of the two top bands in Victoria.

City of Preston Orchestra



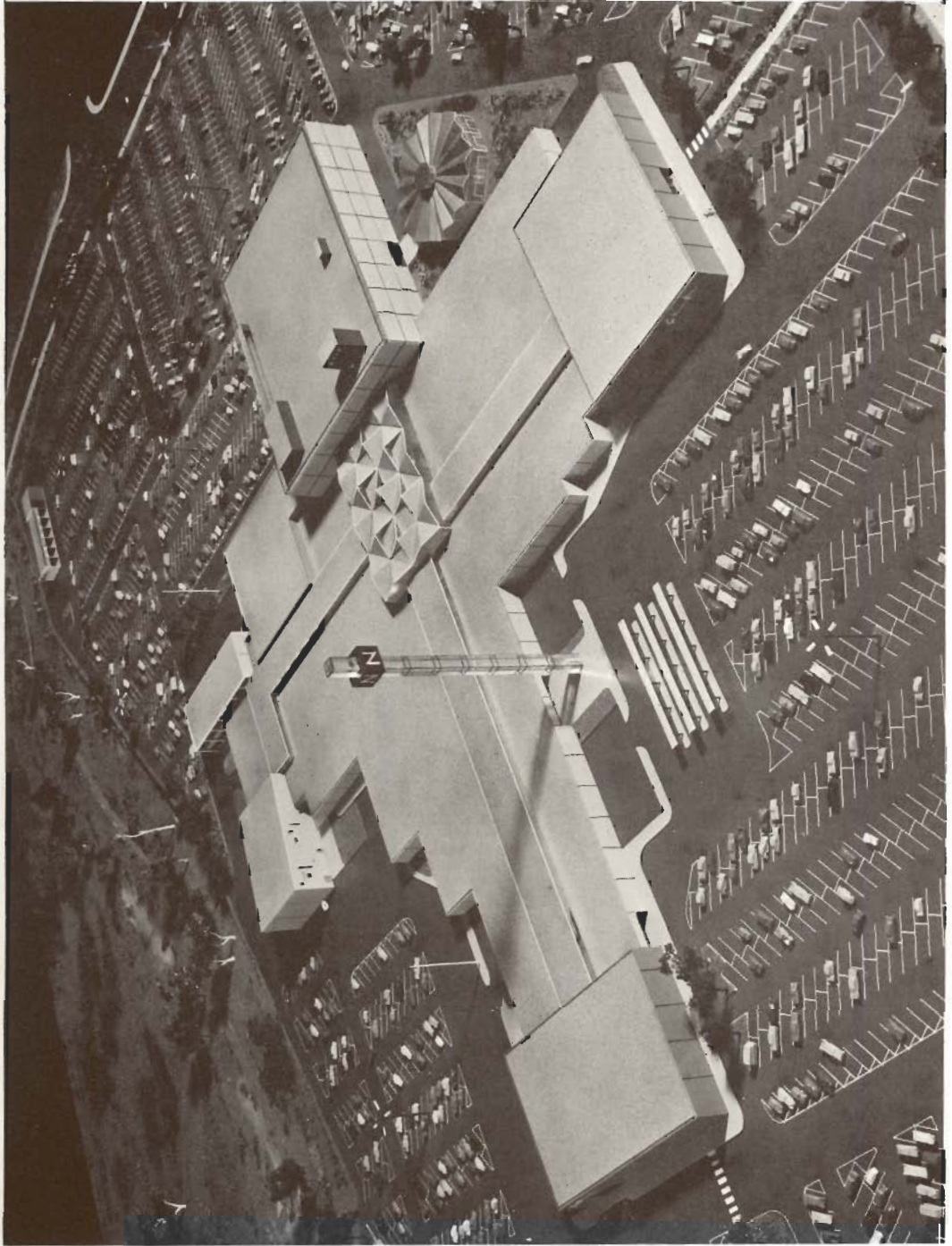
Top: An early photograph of the orchestra.

Bottom: A recent photograph of the 21st Birthday Celebration of the Orchestra.

Pictured: R. Kranz, *S. Nye, E. Shade, President, S. Wilkie, Musical Director, A. Boag, *J. Johnson, N. Wilkie, J. Argenzio.

* denotes foundation member





Myer Northland Shopping Complex, Murray Road.



Top: Interior of Preston Market.
Bottom: A modern Store and Super Market.





Bus Terminal, Northland.



Above: East Preston Tram Terminus, 1922.

Below: A 1971 picture of the same place.



The City of Preston Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The wide range of commercial and professional activities in the District is well served by a Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In 1954, an earlier body known as the "Preston Traders Association" decided to change its name to the "Preston Chamber of Commerce and Industry," and its first meeting was at the office of the Leader Publishing Company with Mr. W. King Snr. President and Mr. T.R. Clinnick J.P. Secretary, Treasurer and Organiser.

Many prominent business men through the years have taken an active part in the affairs of the "Chamber" and as the result of the backing given by it many worthwhile improvements have been recommended and obtained. Over the years no less than three hundred requests with recommendations have been made to Government, Semi Government and Municipal bodies, with more than a fair measure of success for the benefit of the district and its residents.

In addition the "Chamber" cares for social needs of its members and assists in charitable and other worthwhile activities.

The present officers are:— President Mr. J.D. Marshall with the Foundation Secretary, Mr. T.R. Clinnick still in the officer of Secretary and Treasurer.



Preston Public Baths and Swimming Pools

Preston residents, and particularly the youngsters, are fortunate that there are two swimming pools in the municipality, one in Preston and one in Reservoir.

Both pools have been constructed in recent years to Olympic standards and sizes, and each has a separate diving pool, learners' pool, and wading pool.

The pools are well patronised, and on a very hot day up to a total of 8,000 people go through the turnstiles of the two pools.

The design specifications and the supervision of the construction were carried out by the Council's engineering department.

It is of interest to record that the Preston pool was entered in a world-wide pool design competition conducted by "Swimming Pool Age", and the Council was awarded a Certificate of Honorable Mention for the pool design.

This is a credit to the Council's City Engineer, Mr. R.B. Bramham, and his assistants, and shows the versatility of the staff in carrying out so efficiently, specialised engineering work such as public baths and bridges, in addition to the normal engineering work



Reservoir Baths.

Preston Baths.



Commonwealth Buildings

The Commonwealth Offices at 159 High Street, Preston, include the District Office of the Department of Labour and National Service, and the Commonwealth Employment Service; the Divisional Electoral office, and the office of the member for Scullin, shown below.

This new building was opened in 1954 by Mr. H. Holt, M.P., the Minister for Labour and National Service, later to become Prime Minister of Australia. He was accompanied by Mr. H. Bland, the secretary of the Department, who afterwards became Sir Harry Bland, Secretary of the Department of Defence.

Amongst those present was Cr. T.W. Andrews, M.P., and a good cross section of the public.

The District Officer, Mr.C.T. Barling, J.P., introduced Messrs. Holt and Bland to the Mayor, Cr. A. H. Arnold, J.P., who welcomed them to Preston. Mr. Holt, in declaring the office open, said that this office was the first building designed and erected for an employment office in Victoria, all others were in rented premises. He urged the public to make full use of the facilities provided.

Post Offices: New post offices at Reservoir and at Preston were opened on 29th January, 1971, and 11th June, 1971, respectively, by Dr. H. Jenkins, M.P., the member for Scullin, before a large attendance of the public, including the Mayor, Cr. A.H. Capp, J.P., Cr. C. Kirkwood, M.L.A. for Preston, and Mr. J. Simmonds, M.L.A. for Reservoir.

Dr. Jenkins referred to the great increase in population in the municipality of Preston since the close of the second world war, and the need for increased postal facilities which the department fully recognised.

The substantial accommodation in the new two-storied buildings will provide much needed space for the expanding staff, particularly in the mail and postmen's sections.



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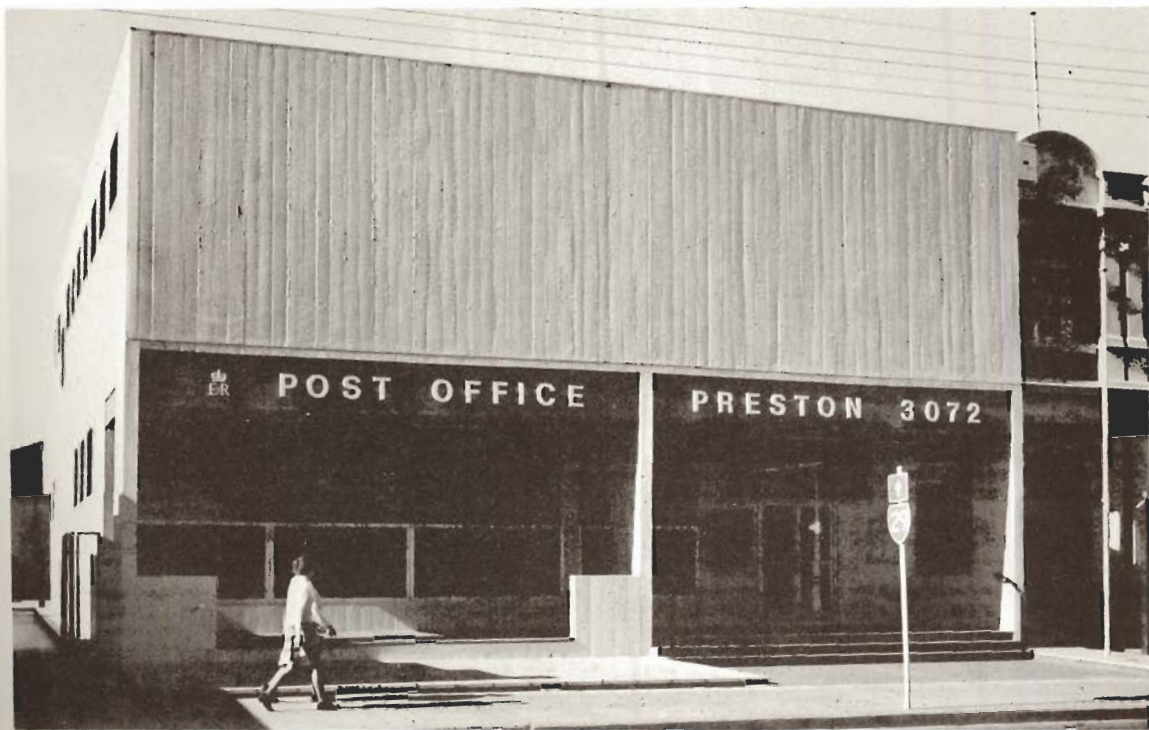




Top: The first Post Office in Preston (Non official) operated at Woods Store, Cnr. High and Woods Streets, from 1856 to 1908.

Bottom: The first official Post Office was opened in Preston, next to the Town Hall, in 1908 and operated to 1970 when it was replaced by a larger building.





Top: The new Preston Post Office, opened in 1971.
Bottom: The new Reservoir Post Office, opened in 1971.



PRESTON LIONS CLUB

The local Lions Club received its Charter in May, 1961. The motto is "We Serve", and this is exemplified by the practical and financial support it has given to local institutions; to name a few - "Ambulance Station", "Seeing Eye" dog, breeding, training and study, "Meals on Wheels", "Panch", "pre-school Day Nursery". It is of interest to mention that the Clubs donation of \$12,000 towards the cost of the Ambulance Station was matched by Government subsidy of \$24,000.

The present office bearers are Messrs. W. Nelson, President, and L. Storie, Secretary.

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ROTARY CLUB OF PRESTON

The Rotary Club of Preston was granted its Charter on 21st December, 1960. This is a world wide organisation with three main objectives, Community, Vocational and International service, as well as the fostering of goodwill in the Community.

Rotary in Preston has initiated and raised money for many community services, to name some, assistance to medical clinics in India and New Guinea, donations to the Pensioners' and Elderly Citizens Clubs. It has also provided scholarships for education, and sponsored training at the Outward Bound School, and other benefits for Preston youth. Yet another service is assisting in the exchange of International students to live in Australia, and sponsoring Preston students to travel and study overseas. The Club has strong and competent office bearers, who at all times, take an active part in the District's improvement.

The present office bearers are Messrs. H. Ellis, President and G. Green, Secretary.

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LEGACY

The splendid work of Legacy is known. After much activity in this work a local Preston branch was formed in 1958, with Legatee J. Paterson, Branch Chairman, and Legatee J. Johns, Secretary.

To-day the branch has a strength of twenty four, caring for one hundred and forty families, consisting of about 300 children and widows, including older ones, some resulting from World War 1. Each legatee accepts responsibility for up to six families, and acts as their family adviser in many ways, including advice on home purchases and sales, general guidance for children on schooling, training, and choice of careers. Above all, the aim is to help the children grow and develop into worthy and useful citizens.

Legatee J.W. Bruce is Chairman for 1971, and Legatee H. Maderson the Secretary.

Right:— Pupils of Preston East State School enjoy friendly talk with Rotary Exchange Student Fumi Ono from Japan.



Below:— Four very alert New Guinea students sample food at Preston East High School cookery section. With them is Rotary International Committee Chairman Keith Gibbs.



STATISTICS

Statistics can be rather dull, but they really are an important subject, especially when they relate to, and emphasise, the development of a District.

As we are absorbed in the daily round of business and social activities, the years pass and we remain to a great extent oblivious to the remarkable change taking place around us, until our attention is drawn to facts of this nature.

This is well illustrated in the following quotation by Shakespeare –

“We are creatures that look before and after, the more surprising that we do not look around a little and see what is passing under our very eyes”.

It is only by a careful examination of the City's statistics over a period that a complete appraisal can be made, and the following statement emphasises the remarkable progress in population, buildings, valuation, and revenue.

In the notes to the statement various comparisons are highlighted, and it will be noted that by far the greatest growth in all respects has been made since the end of the second World war in 1945.

Reasons for this spectacular increase include:—

1. The return of ex-servicemen from overseas needing homes.
2. The revival of homes and factory buildings which had practically ceased during the War.
3. The availability of land for home and factory sites, building materials, a competent work force, and most importantly finance.

Another important factor was the building of hundreds of new factories which provided work for thousands of old and new residents. This aspect is dealt with more fully in an article headed “Industrial Expansion”.

The next page shows some interesting figures and the following explanatory notes are given:—

NOTES:

1. Year 1922-23 Preston declared a borough 14/3/1922, and a Town on 24/5/1922.
2. Year 1925-26 Preston proclaimed a City on 14/7/1926.
3. Year 1929-34 Depression period, little progress made.
4. Year 1934-45 Includes tail-end of depression and period of second World war.
5. Year 1945-55 After the war a very substantial increase in population, dwellings and revenue.
6. Year 1955-65 The upward trend continued.
7. Year 1965-70 " " " "

**PRESTON COUNCIL STATISTICS
1871-1970**

Year	Popu- lation	Dwell- ings	Shops	Fact- ories	Capital Valuation \$	Revenue		
						General Account \$	Electric Light \$	Private Streets \$
1871-2	229	51			18,040	1,192	—	—
1922-3	12,050	3,827			287,084	64,318	25,752	2,504
1926-7	28,000	6,926			625,430	149,670	65,234	17,578
1933-4	33,500	7,895			610,894	206,242	86,638	46,024
1939-40	3,400	9,491			812,668	253,948	140,664	73,668
1944-45	38,991	10,123			916,556	260,190	153,704	18,764
1948-49	46,811	11,951			6,852,116	438,836	461,150	34,566
1954-55	67,374	17,023	800	309	10,463,012	529,756	954,590	150,364
1959-60	82,432	20,355	955	369	19,918,496	1,056,958	1,948,938	566,632
1964-65	89,122	22,271	1,061	473	97,816,838	1,853,718	3,049,136	1,478,826
1969-70	92,933	24,083	1,241	604	133,451,308	2,328,372	4,778,013	680,279

Valuation & Revenue Comparison 1949-1970

In the 21 year period 1949 to 1970 the capital valuation increased by \$126,599,192, from \$6,852,116 to \$133,451,308, an increase of just over twenty times.

General Account Revenue increased by \$1,889,536, from \$438,836 to \$2,328,372, an increase of just over five times.

Electric Supply receipts increased by \$4,316,863, from \$461,150 to \$4,778,013, an increase just over ten times.

Private Street Construction Account showed an increase of \$645,713, from \$34,566 to \$680,279, an increase of just under twenty times.

Population and Dwellings increases compared:—

Population: In the 20 years 1945-1965 the population increased from 38,991 to 89,122, an increase of 50,131 people.

Dwellings: In the same period dwellings increased from 10,123 to 22,271, i.e. more than doubled. **Shops** increased from 470 to 1,061, and they too more than doubled.

There was also a sharp increase in the number of factories in the 15 year period 1955-70, from 309 to 604, i.e. almost doubled.

Local Government in Preston 1971

Local Government is very close to the people and many day to day services provided by the Preston Council are taken for granted.

Prior to 1871, when Local Government commenced in the district, Preston had a rather remote connection with the Epping Roads Board, and as the name implies, its main function was roads. How different is the position in 1971 when the Council is responsible for a very wide range of facilities including:—

The establishment and maintenance of Council properties, including administrative offices, Town and City Halls, Equipment and Workshops.

The valuing of land and properties and the collection of rates.

The arranging of loan monies for capital works.

The construction and maintenance of roadways, channels and footpaths.

The provision of underground drains.

The design and construction of bridges.

The design and construction of public baths and swimming pools.

The purchase of electricity in bulk and its sale to ratepayers.

The maintenance of public health and the regulation of pollution and nuisances.

The collection and disposal of garbage.

The provision of a pan service for unsewered areas.

The lighting and cleaning of streets.

The acquisition of suitable sites for parks, gardens and playing fields and the development and maintenance thereof.

The provision of municipal libraries.

The examination by Health Inspectors, of food shops and manufactures.

The supervision of parking and traffic control.

The approval of plans for new buildings and scaffolding, and the supervision of the work by the Building Surveyor and of Inspectors.

The statutory contribution to the Fire Brigade's Board.

The yearly contribution to the Northern Weights and Measures Union.

The Social Services and Welfare Work. This is an important and growing section of municipal activities, includes, Immunisation, Ante Natal Clinic, Baby Health Centres, Pre-school Dental Service, Day Nursery Centre, Home Help, Meals on Wheels and Senior Citizens Club Rooms.

Assistance to very many clubs and associations, education, sporting and cultural, which in some way receive assistance from the Council, to name a few are, Football, Soccer, Cricket, Athletic, Swimming and Boating Clubs, Band, Orchestra etc.

There is no doubt at all that much progress and many major achievements have been made by Preston Council over the years.

Preston Historical Society

This book is produced by a Sub-committee of the Society comprising of Messrs. C.T. Barling, J.P., Chairman, J.C. Arrowsmith, the Society's President, M. Lia, Secretary, with Mrs. J. Codebrook and Mr. D.L. Ross.

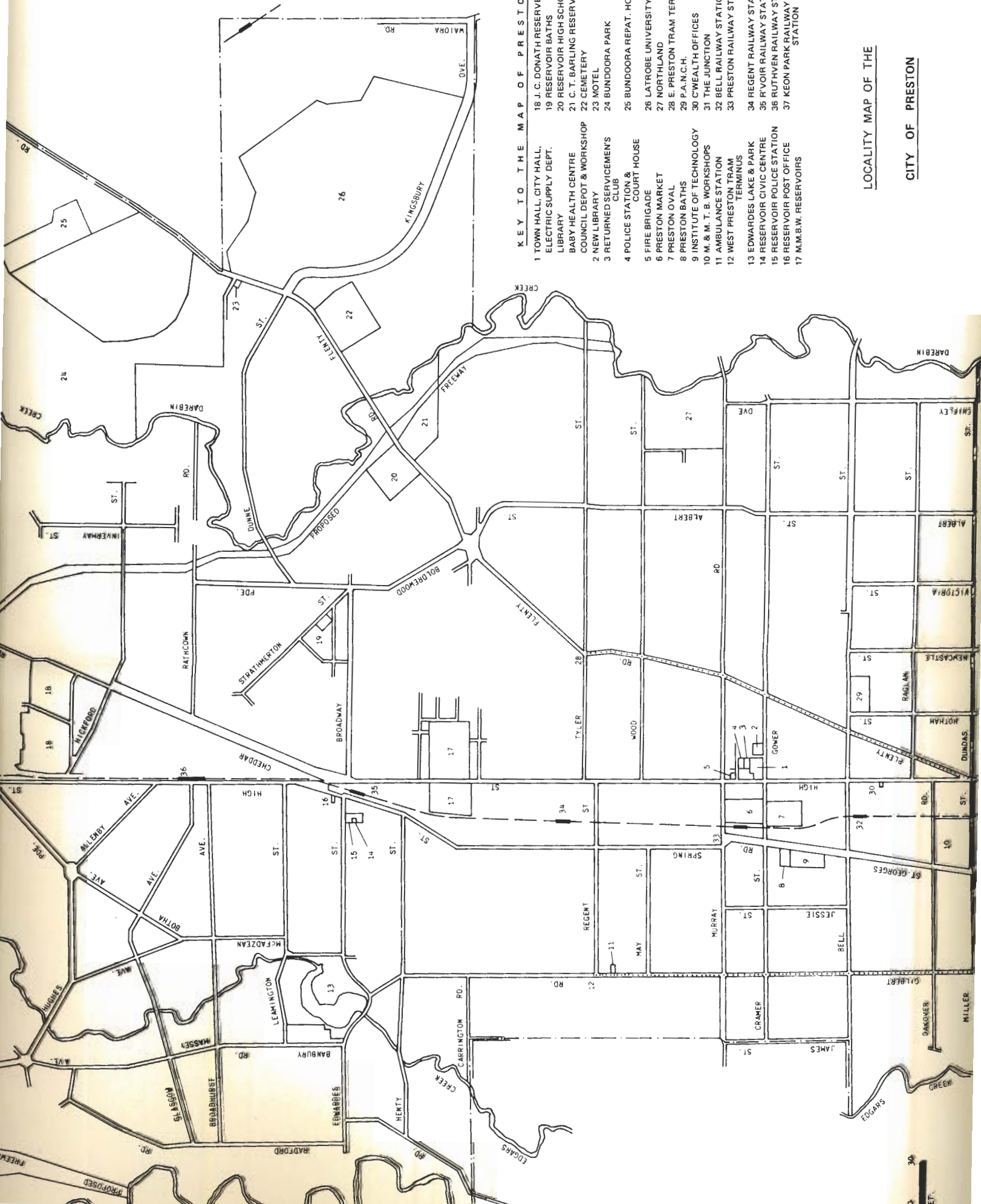
An attempt has been made within the limits of its size and short time made available for preparation, to give some record, mainly pictorial, of a few important features of our district, which has become one of the outstanding cities in the Northern suburbs.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the material and financial support given by the the Preston City Council, without which the production of the book would not have been possible. Many volunteers, friends of the Society, Mr. H. Brewer, & Mr. F.W. Gardiner, have been most helpful in supplying photographs and information. To all who have so contributed the Society extends appreciation and thanks. Special mention should be made of the help afforded by Messrs. R.B. Bramham, the City Engineer, his Deputy G.H. Priest and Mr. N.E. Robinson the Deputy Town Clerk. Also included in those deserving of thanks is Mr. R. McC. Simpson, the Master Planner of La Trobe University, who supplied so much information and photographs concerning this valued institution.

Finally a word of thanks should be recorded upon the efforts of the Society's Secretary, Mr. M.J. Lia, for taking and supplying many photographs, forming such an important part of this publication.

ERRATA

- Page 7:- Sixth line from bottom "fishing" should read "furnishing".
- 13:- Caption "Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Preston Library by Sir Thomas Bent Premier of Victoria on 31st August, 1908" has been omitted.
- 17:- "Edwards" should read "Edwardes".
- 25:- Captions "Plenty Rd & Murray Rd Bridges" are transposed.
- 26:- Seventh line "it's" should read "its".
- 34:- Ninth line "it's" " " "its".
- 48:- Tenth line from bottom "there" should read "their".
- 50:- Heading "Developement" should read "Development".
- 65:- Caption "Reservoir Civic Centre" has been omitted.



KEY TO THE MAP OF PRESTON

- 1 TOWN HALL, CITY HALL, ELECTRIC SUPPLY DEPT. LIBRARY
- 2 NEW LIBRARY
- 3 RETURNED SERVICEMEN'S CLUB
- 4 POLICE STATION & COURT HOUSE
- 5 FIRE BRIGADE
- 6 PRESTON MARKET
- 7 PRESTON OVAL
- 8 PRESTON BATHS
- 9 INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
- 10 M. & M. T. B. WORKSHOPS
- 11 AMBULANCE STATION
- 12 WEST PRESTON TRAM TERMINUS
- 13 EDWARDS LAKE & PARK
- 14 RESERVOIR CIVIC CENTRE
- 15 RESERVOIR POLICE STATION
- 16 RESERVOIR POST OFFICE
- 17 M.M.B.W. RESERVOIRS
- 18 J.C. DONATH RESERVE
- 19 RESERVOIR BATHS
- 20 RESERVOIR HIGH SCHOOL
- 21 C. T. BARLING RESERVE
- 22 CEMETERY
- 23 MOTEL
- 24 BUNDOORA PARK
- 25 BUNDOORA REPAT. HOSPITAL
- 26 LATROBE UNIVERSITY
- 27 NORTHLAND
- 28 E. PRESTON TRAM TERMINUS
- 29 P.A.N.C.H.
- 30 C'WEALTH OFFICES
- 31 THE JUNCTION
- 32 BELL RAILWAY STATION
- 33 PRESTON RAILWAY STATION
- 34 REGENT RAILWAY STATION
- 35 F'VOIR RAILWAY STATION
- 36 RUTHVEN RAILWAY STATION
- 37 KEON PARK RAILWAY STATION

LOCALITY MAP OF THE

CITY OF PRESTON

