

for the child to go..."⁴⁶ The parent's intention was to keep the child home until the transfer was granted. The transfer was disallowed in the first instance on the grounds that children excluded from the school with paralysis were refused transfer under Departmental order.

Of interest here is the letter to the secretary of the Education Department from Mrs F.E. Dickson, secretary of the North Ringwood State School Mother's Club. Mrs Dickson wrote requesting sufficient coupons to purchase six roller towels- three for girls and three for boys, for use in the school. In the first instance, Mrs Dickson had written to the Rationing Commission but was advised by that office to direct the inquiry to the Department. "In consequence, would you please consider this request as we think it so necessary. Most of the children live some distance from the school and are in need of washing their hands especially for lunch. After all, cleanliness is what we most desire in our growing children."⁴⁷

Inspector Loughrey reported in May 1938 that Ringwood North was within two and a half miles of three other schools: Ringwood, Ringwood East and Warrandyte South. Zoning would have little effect on attendance and would cause 'much local disturbance.' While the excess enrolment, to his thinking, was small, "I think needs would be met well by making this pavilion suitable for a small class and by erecting a partition in the present building."⁴⁸ Despite the best efforts of the school, no new buildings were erected in this period.

Through the mid 1940's correspondent, Mr John Rule continued pressing for a partition to be erected in the single room school house. By 1945 the linking of the school to the reticulated water system provided by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and electric light connection and the increasing population of the district motivated the school committee to again try for an additional building.

Head Teacher Hugh Coleman reported in February 1946 that the net enrolment was 53.⁴⁹ In September of the following year Temporary Head Teacher Bernard Egan reported the enrolment to be 48. While Egan reported the benefits of separating junior and senior students in two rooms, the original school room and extension was sufficient for the enrolment. With the end of World War 2, the demands on the government purse for maintenance of existing assets and the requests for new facilities placed increasing necessity on the need to prioritise expenditure. Without the maintenance of enrolment patterns at high levels, it would not be difficult to appreciate that conditions at Ringwood North were not necessarily substandard to other schools in a similar position.

⁴⁶ School Correspondence Files, (VPRS: 640, Box 3211), Weeks to the secretary, Education Department: 28 April 1938.

⁴⁷ School Correspondence Files, (VPRS: 640, Box 3686), Dickson to the secretary, Education Department: 17 April 1944.

⁴⁸ Correspondence Files, (VPRS: 640, Box 2970), Loughrey to the secretary, Education Department: 27 May 1938.

⁴⁹ School Correspondence Files, (VPRS: 640, Box 2970), Coleman to the secretary, Education Department: 14 February 1946.