

At a school committee meeting held in the autumn of 1961, new Head Teacher, Frederick J.C. Rodgers was welcomed to the school. At the meeting Mr Rodgers advised that the school's enrolment was 104 pupils but would fall to 90 once the new Park Orchards school opened.⁵² Twelve months later, District Inspector Richard J. Chapman noted that the school's enrolment was 97 and that it was likely that 33 pupils would be transferred later in the year to the new primary school in Mullum Road.⁵³ Of interest in this report is that the inspector was moved to comment on the excellent décor of the buildings. He noted that the vases of dahlias added much colour to the classrooms. This simple attention to detail clearly did impress.

When Mullum Primary School opened in February 1963, Inspector Chapman noted: "On my arrival this morning, the school had just assembled and marched in to music. The decrease in the attendance was most noticeable because the opening of Mullum Primary School last February caused a change in net enrolment from 99 to 61."⁵⁴ As a consequence, Ringwood North State School was re-classified to a Class 111 and Head Teacher Mr Allan Smith was advised to adjust his position.

The opening of two new schools in the district had obvious and immediate consequences for the school. Enrolments had risen as the long awaited housing development occurred in the locality. The installation of services, especially water by the Board of Works during the 1950's opened up new opportunities for housing and land development. By the time the school was in a position to manifestly maximise further facilities development, enrolments were swiftly brought back to pre 1950's levels.

Throughout the decade of the 1960's very little changed in the structure and organisation of this 'rural' school. Three classroom teaching areas remained in operation, considerable effort being put in to the grounds and school plantations by successive school committees and Mothers' Clubs. Teachers went to considerable individual and collective effort to impress inspectors on their annual visits. At the school committee meeting in October, 1965 Head Teacher John Moten asked his committee to arrange a working bee so that the "...grass could be cut and some general cleaning done before the inspector's visit..."⁵⁵

The accommodation provided for students at Ringwood North was reported as 'barely adequate in 1965 and in 1966 Richard Chapman stated that: "Accommodation in the three classrooms of various sizes is rather taxed at present and, in view of the small classrooms (19ftx20ft; 16ftx20ft) and the advance of local house estate development south of the school, a letter recommending the remodelling of the structure and the addition of one classroom to cope for the near future is to be forwarded..."⁵⁶ Consequently, in 1968 another classroom and storeroom were added.

Inspector Noel Pruden conducted his 1969 annual inspection in early June reporting that "the school continues to function in a semi-rural area, and the natural surroundings

⁵² School Committee Minute Book: November 1955-March 1966: Meeting-9 March 1961

⁵³ School Inspection Report, Inspector's Report Book: 3 April 1962, p.1

⁵⁴ School Inspection Report, Inspector's Report Book: 9 April 1963, p.5