

A REPORT OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
ON
LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE SHIRE OF LILLYDALE
SEPTEMBER 14 1976

CHAired BY: Cr. GWEN HARDY, PRESIDENT, SHIRE OF LILLYDALE

MEETING CONVEnED BY: LILYDALE COMMUNITY GROUP and
LIBRARY PROMOTION COMMITTEE OF
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CONTENTS

Brief summary of needs, suggested solutions, action highlighted by the meeting.

2. Introduction.

3. Talks by: Mr. W.Denis Richardson (Librarian, Baillieu Library, Melbourne University).

Mr Douglas Savige (Deputy Executive Officer, Public Libraries Division, Public Library of Victoria).

Cr. Alan Smith.

4. Solutions and recommendations.

5. Action.

6. List of Apologies and those present.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD BY THE LILYDALE COMMUNITY GROUP AND THE LIBRARY PROMOTION COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 14.1976

MAJOR NEED HIGHLIGHTED BY MEETING

A public library service which serves all residents of the Shire of Lillydale and which also suits the needs of all the residents.

SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY THE MEETING

A central public library, located in Lillydale, with a bookmobile service to outlying areas.

A central public library and branches throughout the Shire.

A central public library using selected secondary schools as branches. A network of primary and secondary schools.

ACTION HIGHLIGHTED BY MEETING

The need for further discussion between the Shire of Lillydale, the Library Council of Victoria and the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Library Service, to determine a library service that will qualify for State Government Subsidies and also suit the needs of the community.

INTRODUCTION

Invitations were extended to all Federal and State Members of Parliament relevant to the Shire of Lillydale; all Shire of Lillydale Councillors; service groups, schools, Churches and interested community groups.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss library services in the Shire of Lillydale.

Mrs. Sue Thompson, Convenor of the Lillydale Community Group, spoke briefly on the two groups which had jointly organised the meeting- the Lillydale Community Group and the Library promotion Committee of Victoria.

The meeting was chaired by Cr. Gwen Hardy, President of the Shire of Lillydale, who welcomed all those present and introduced the guest speakers- Mr. Denis Richardson and Mr. Doug Savige.

MR. DENIS RICHARDSON

Mr. Richardson noted the change in emphasis and interest in the nature of libraries, the change in libraries, the change in needs of the community. However, libraries are still concerned with information in the form of books, video tapes, micro films, films or non-book materials.

Libraries provide information, education and recreation. A community today and tomorrow, must have an unrestricted access to the things that are in library services, if it is going to function effectively as a future-type or present-type community. He emphasised that the library service must be accepted by communities as their responsibility and controlled by the community at the local level.

As well as catering for people with, particular interests, libraries also cater for special interest groups such* as migrants and aged people.

Community libraries are an important facet of local government.

Because of the pattern of interrelationships and co-operation between libraries which has been built up over the years, once you have a public library service, you have a tap into the reservoir, the whole national resource, the bookstock, information service capacity and the professional skills of the library community.

MR. DOUG SAVIGE

Brief Statistics:- 98% of Victoria's population has access to public libraries. 184 of Victoria's municipalities have subsidised public library services with 146 of these in 28 regional library services. The other 40 operate single municipal services.

32% of the state's population are registered users of libraries with, a further 10%-15% of the population using libraries without being registered users- therefore between 40%-50% of the state's population are regular users of public libraries.

State Government subsidies and grant are \$2.00 for each \$1.00 allocated by the municipalities, paid to municipalities operating a public library service. An annual grant of up to \$2.50 per head of population is payable to municipalities operating a public library service.

The state Library Council also has a Regional Library Development Grant allocated to municipalities in regional library services from a pool of just over \$500,000.

The Library Council regards local control of public libraries as important, and this is why public library services are operated by municipalities.

The Library Council policy on library service is that the most economic and effective way of providing a library service is by means of municipalities forming into regions. By regionalisation, bookstock can be combined and spread throughout the region, specialisation of staff and career structure can be developed to provide the various library services such as children's service, teenage service, community information, referral service, reference service etc.

In keeping with its plan for regional development in the State, the Library Council has advised the Lillydale Shire Council to talk with, the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Library Service to investigate the possibility of joining with the region. By joining with the region, the people of Lillydale will have immediate access to the whole bookstock of the region; could draw on staff resources of the region and the region's specialised staff and make the establishment of a library service very much easier and much better than a single municipal library service.

CR. ALAN SMITH

The guidelines of the State Library Council are not advisory, but mandatory.

Main problems that face Council are the population spread and the cost:- to service all areas of the Shire and the cost to i.. i maintain the service and the buildings would be conservatively \$300,000 annually.

The scheme of the Library Council will be second-rate from the point of view of the outlying areas which would have to use a bookmobile service which calls to their area either once a week or once a fortnight for half a day.

For \$6.00 a year, residents of Mooroolbark and Kilsyth can join Croydon Library. Council has been willing to pay the necessary amount per head of population for these residents to join with Croydon, however this must apply to the whole Shire, not just two townships.

Although only 1/3 of the population use a public library, it justifies the provision of a library service.

The Shire Council has sought to have a resource supply of books and a basic librarian service instead of a full public library service. There is a definite decision of Council not to seek a full library service, specially in the technical fields because these are the services which, eat up the large amount of funds required in a library service.

Five years ago, the Shire Council called together existing secondary schools in the Shire and they agreed that it would be worth altering the libraries as they existed, to provide extra areas that could be used to house books.

The Shire's proposition was that the Council would fund the cost of providing librarians, be they teacher-librarians who were willing to come back and work overtime, or librarians who are now housewives, willing to work some hours per week. This service could be set up, so that at major points throughout the Shire, there would be for some hours per day and some hours per weekend, a basic library service.

This proposition was unacceptable to the Library Council because,

1. the buildings are unacceptable.
2. librarians trained by the Education Department are unacceptable
3. a part-time service is unacceptable
4. less than a full library service, as we see it, is unacceptable

Council was seeking to use an existing library that had been built for Education Department services but had been amended to serve the community.

FURTHER POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INVESTIGATION
OFFERED BY THE MEETING.

1. That the Shire Council forgets the Library Council and its Government subsidies and puts the funds set aside by the Shire into improving existing high school libraries. That the Shire approaches the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Library Service with a view to joining with that service.

ACTION

No motions or resolutions were put forward, at the meeting, but it is anticipated, that a Library group will be formed in the near future.

APOLOGIES

P.Block- Member of the Legislative Council for Boronia

S.J.Plowman - Member of the Legislative Assembly for Evelyn

Marshall Baillieu - M.H.R. for Latrobe

K.Foley - M.L.C for Boronia

N.Lacey - M.L.& for Warrandyte

.Borthwick - Minister of Conservation, M.L.A. for Monbulk

Rev. B.Hansford R Rev. H.Abbey

Mrs. R.Thompson Mrs. O.Howard

R.Warwick Mrs. H.McConachy

Ms.H.Pye Mrs. A.Foyle

R.Hausman MR. Rushworth

Mrs. V. Walker- C.A.E. Mrs.D. Brown - C.A.E.

Father Tricurico Cr. G. de Pury

Cr. R.Yates

