

Corio Library

CELEBRATING

50 *years*



GEELONG
REGIONAL
LIBRARIES



GEELONG
HERITAGE
CENTRE



Opening Corio Library

The Shire of Corio John Drysdale Library was opened on Saturday by Mrs. M. W. Haines.

Mrs. Haines was deputising for her husband, Cr. M. W. Haines, who is ill.

The highlight was the unveiling of a plaque to the late John Drysdale by his wife, immediately after the opening.

John Drysdale was president of Corio Shire for several terms and, altogether, served 28½ years with the municipality. During this time, he was a strong advocate for library facilities.

Dedicating the plaque,

the Rev. F. Dearnley, of the Lara Church of England, said John Drysdale was a rich man, not by way of money, but because he was a pleasure to know.

Mr. Dearnley said John Drysdale spent himself so that other people could enjoy life. In his home town of Little River, he was active in many organisations and he was also a good husband and father.

About 300 people heard the State Librarian, Mr. K. A. R. Horn, describe the plush new building as "absolutely superb."

He said libraries were not meant to be talked about: they are meant to be demonstrated and experienced.

Mr. Horn said there were five elements in a library and the first was the external appearance.

"If you look through the window you will see books: this is the second of the elements that makes up a library. You will also see an active staff which is the third element."

Mr. Horn said the fourth was the borrowers, and the rules they had to abide by, and the fifth was the governing authority.

Here, he had special praise for Corio Shire and said that, on his tours of Victorian library facilities he had been astonished at the work carried out by municipal councils.

He urged people to use the abilities and knowledge of the staff members.

Mr. Horn said the lib-

rary was undoubtedly the best branch in Victoria and perhaps the best in Australia. However, it could only be effective if it met people's demands.

"Libraries are like the rest of us; they need exercise. Unless serious demands are made upon them, they become flabby, inefficient and uneconomical."

Earlier, the chairman of the Geelong Regional Library, Cr. V. Hill, spoke of the regional library service and said it was a good example of municipal co-operation.

The president of Corio Shire (Cr. J. W. Pettitt) thanked the members of the design panel which consisted of the shire engineer (Mr. B. F. McMurrich), the regional librarian (Mr. C. P. Billot), the building surveyor (Mr. G. L. Bowden) and the assistant engineer, who also supervised construction (Mr. G. W. Park).

The library, which boasts such facilities as adults' and children's sections, a public auditorium, meeting room and workroom, cost \$268,000 to build and equip.

A break-up of the costs is building \$121,344; air conditioning \$37,400; furniture and fittings \$13,800; landscaping and equipment \$12,000 and books \$84,000.

Located in Cox Road, Norlane, the building's front section is adorned with sculptural panels designed by the head of the department of art and design at the Gordon Institute of Technology (Mr. Edward Heffernan).



Geelong's Northern Libraries

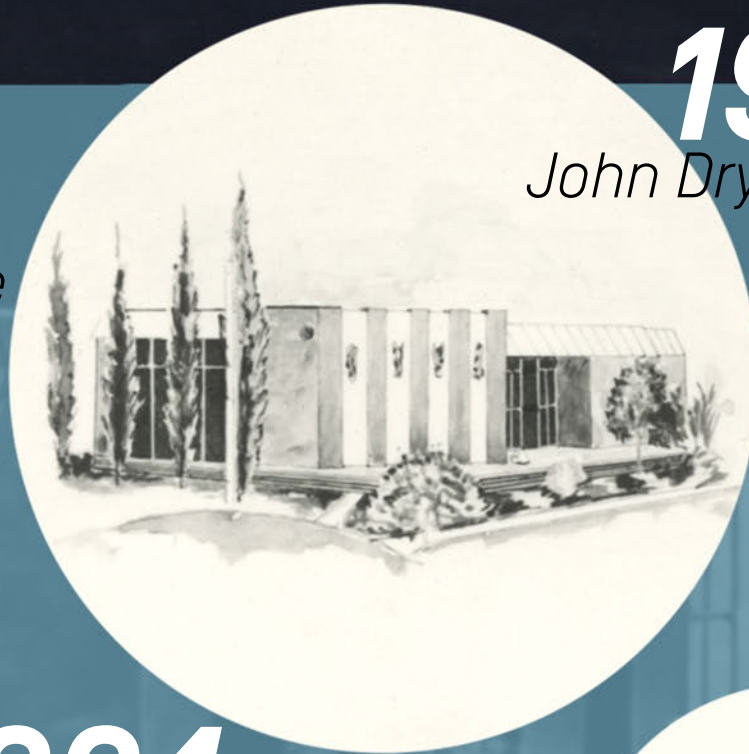
1963

Corio Bookmobile



1970

John Drysdale Library



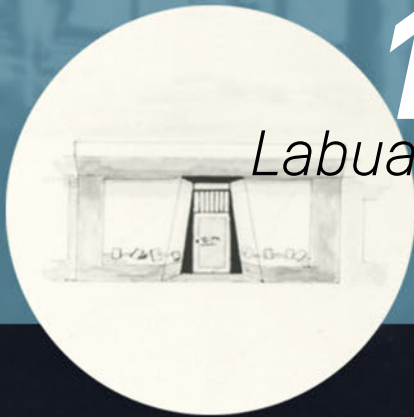
1974

Pettitt Park Branch



1964

Labuan Square Branch



1971

Bell Park Branch



Explore Corio Library

Besides the normal issue of books through your new Library, you may borrow gramophone records and films. The record service will cost you a subscription of \$5 per year, and for this you may borrow records as often as you wish. The Film Library is a centre of the State Film Centre and film loans are free of charge. You can get full details at the Corio Library. Films are available for loan to schools, organisations, etc.

We have an excellent liaison with all schools in the area, and we help them to supplement their own libraries, and in other ways.

We are always pleased to prepare special book lists for you, not only of the books on a chosen subject in the Library's stock, but also of all the books on the subjects in print.

We also offer an Enquiry Service, which undertakes to try to obtain the answers to any questions you may have, no matter what the subject, and not necessarily connected with books.

Try us, and see if we can answer it! s

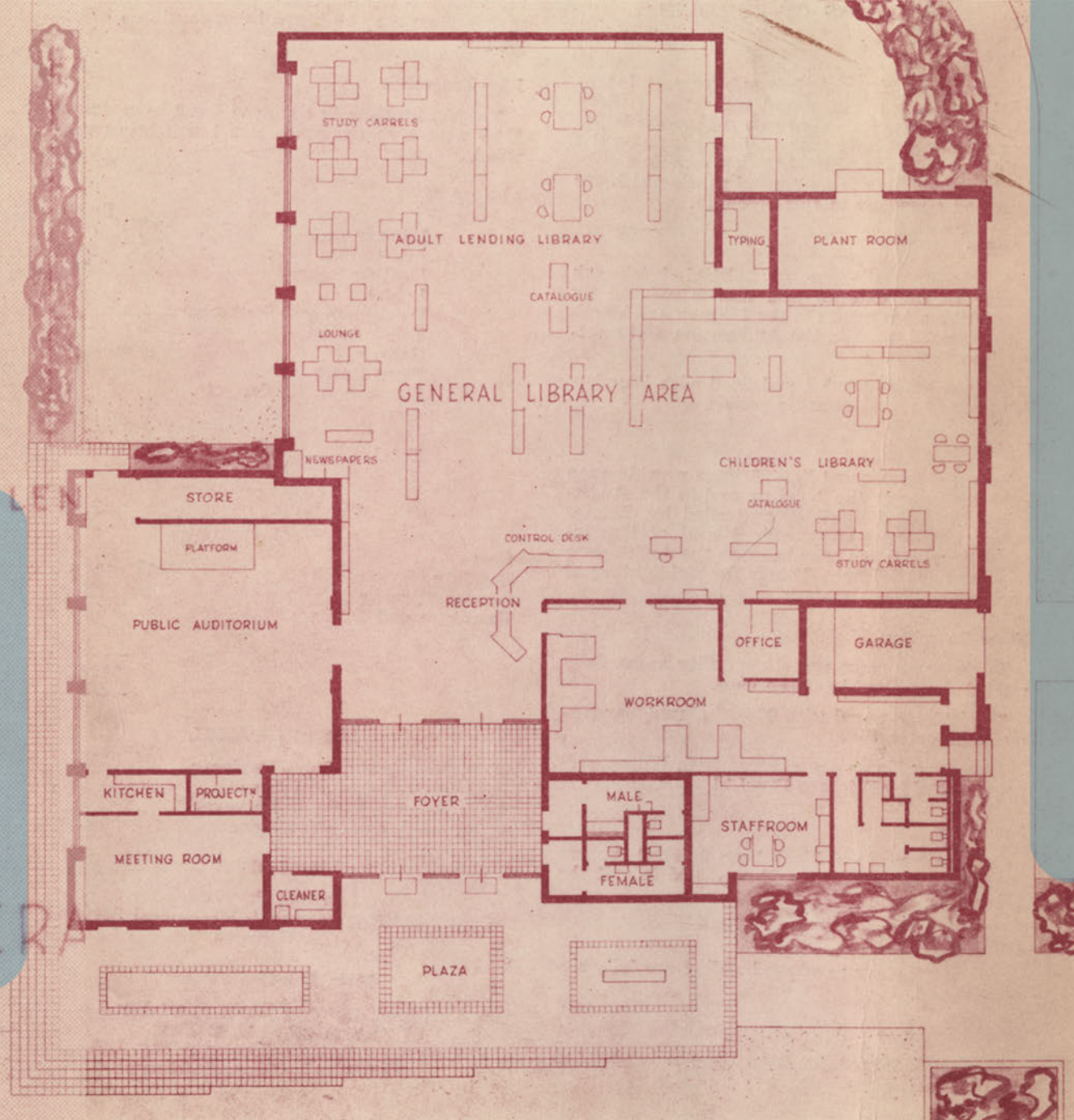
YOUR LIBRARY — AT YOUR SERVICE



The complete Public Library should provide books, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, maps, pictures, film, music, scores and recordings, and give guidance in their use.

The Public Library should offer children, young people, men and women, opportunity and encouragement to keep abreast of progress in all fields of knowledge; to maintain freedom of expression and a constructively critical attitude towards all public issues; to be better social and political citizens of their country and of the world; to be more efficient in their day to day activities; to develop their creative capacities and powers of appreciation in arts and letters; to aid generally in the advancement of knowledge; to use their leisure time to promote personal happiness and social well-being.

The Public Library should be active and positive in its policy and a dynamic part of community life. It should not tell people what to think but it should help them to decide what to think about.



Public areas will be fully carpeted, and the whole building air conditioned.

There will be a large children's and reference section to the library, and the opening stock of 30,000 new books is being purchased now.

Half the books will be for the children's section, as young people form a large percentage of the population of the area.

Twelve special study cubicles will be a feature of the children's section, and a further 24 will be provided for older students in the adult section.

The new library, with an area of 12,600 square feet, will cater for the needs of a potential population of 40,000, all living within a mile and a half radius of the building.

Sculptural Panels

In the designing of these sculptures a number of important points were considered. The first of these, naturally, was that the design concept should be in harmony with the architecture, and similarly, the theme chosen should reflect the activities the building will house.

The third point considered was that the material used for their fabrication has some association with the district, and that the treatment of the material takes advantage of contemporary manufacturing techniques and technologies.

With these aspects in mind, the theme finally selected for the panels as definitely reflecting the builder's purpose, was of type or letter, and book shapes. The panels, although separated by brick piers, are conceived to present a unity of design with a rhythmic flow through all four.

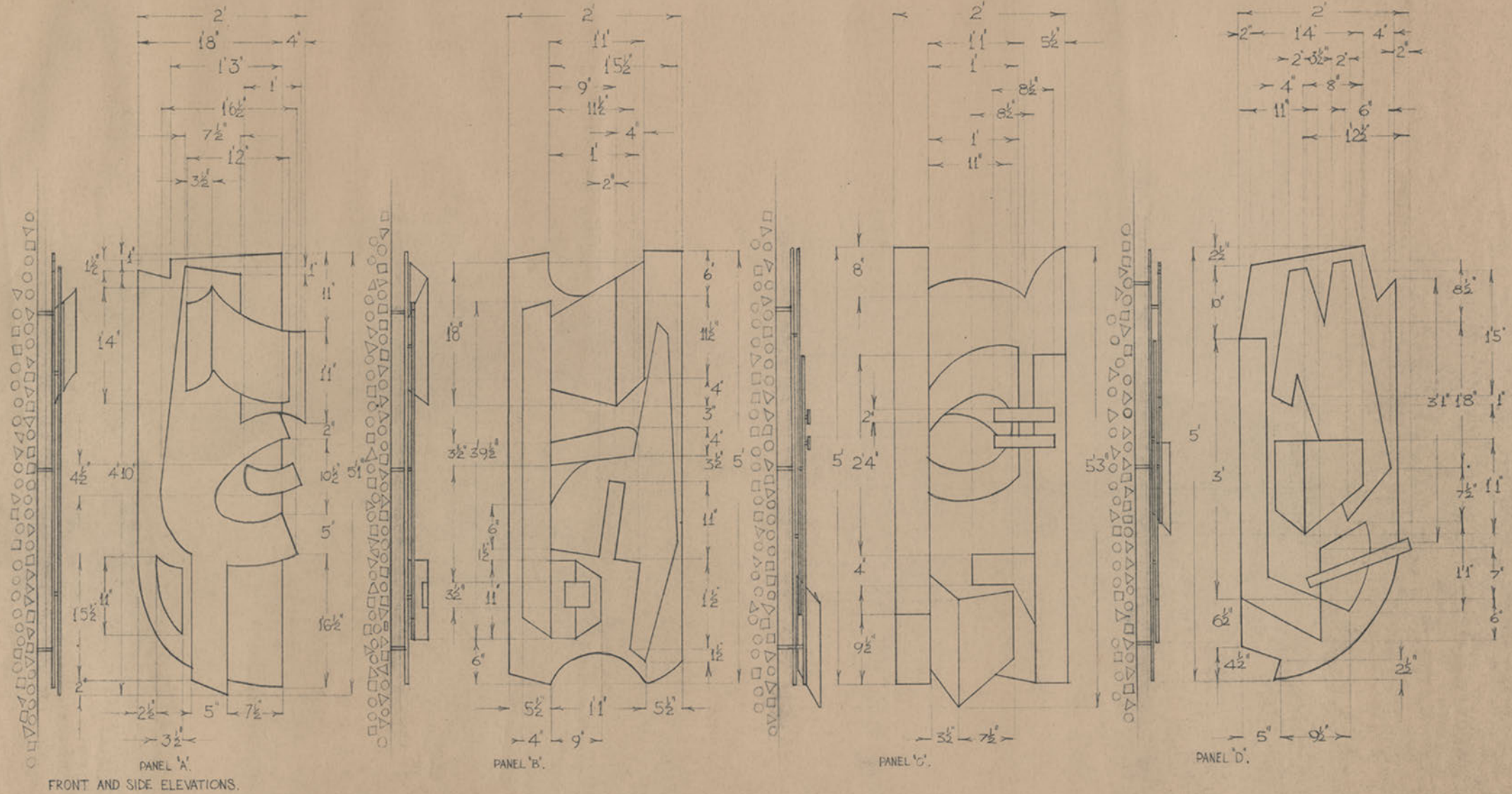
The sculpture project a little from the concave wall surface, allowing the shadows cast from them to form part of the design concept. The play of changing light should produce variations in this shadow effect at different times of the day, and they should respond well to artificial lighting. The cut-out sections in the design are intended to create a sense of depth and an interplay with the wall surface, not only of shadows, but of textures also.

The material selected for the panels was aluminum alloy, both for its association with the district and its flexibility as a contemporary material. The finish on the aluminum is a special anodising process which, beside the necessary aspect of protecting the alloy, enhances it by allowing a range of colours to be used. The method of construction line with trends in the field of contemporary sculpture. Each section is cut and shaped to drawings and full sized templates produced by the artist-designer. In the final stage, the metal sections are assembled by being bolted together, the bolts used being of the same material. This method differs greatly from the traditional ones of casting or welding the metals, but truly reflects this modern age of technology.

THE DESIGNER

Edward Heffernan, F.R.S.A., A.I.D.I.A., studied at both the National Gallery School and Swinburne Technical College, Melbourne. He is represented in the National Gallery, Melbourne, as well as the Geelong, Shepparton, Castlemaine and Broken Hill Galleries. In 1963, he was awarded the "Silver City" Art Prize (Broken Hill) and has works in many important private collections in Australia, America, England and India. His scope of works produced includes many commissioned portraits, murals, sculptures and landscapes. He is a resident of Geelong where he is Head of the Department of Art and Design at the Gordon Institute of Technology.





Designed by Edward Bonaventure Heffernan

Corio Bookmobile



Expanding the Network



On 24 August 1963 the Corio Bookmobile would become the second library in the Geelong Regional Library Network



Travelling Library

The new Bookmobile which will give a travelling library service to Corio Shire was inspected by members of the Shire Council yesterday. Costing £5500, the unit will operate from the Geelong Regional Library and is expected to be in operation within the next few weeks. Photograph shows the Bookmobile, which is in blue and white colors, and which can carry more than 3000 books, being inspected by (left to right): Cr. A. A. McClelland, Cr. J. A. Murray, Mr. F. Sutcliffe, Shire engineer, and Mr. W. Myers, Shire secretary.

GEELONG
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Corio Bookmobile



Return by below date
or renew by phone

221900

The bookmobile, which is actually a mobile branch library, will visit ten sites throughout Corio on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week, and on Tuesdays it will spend the whole day visiting schools in the area.

The books cater for every possible taste; in fiction, ranging from light romances and mysteries to the works of O'Hara and Zoe Oldenberg, and in non-fiction from books on philately, to those on zoology and memoirs of the great wars; from how to build an aviary or make a dress to the latest in rocketry and the exploration of the unknown on our own planet. Every subject from philosophy and religion to fine arts, science, languages, literature, history and travel will be included in the stock, and there will be a special collection of books in French, Dutch, German, Russian and Italian for the use of European friends. There will also be books on learning English written in the above languages.

An Auspicious Opening



State Governor Opens Bookmobile Service In Shire Of Corio

"Your library at your service" would be the motto of the Corio Bookmobiles library service, the Governor of Victoria (Sir Rohan Delacombe), said on Saturday.

Several hundred people watched the Governor officially unveil a plaque to mark the opening of the service.

The opening was performed in the open air at the Rose Avenue, Norlane, shopping centre on Saturday morning.

Corio scouts, cubs, girl guides, brownies and local marching girls, all appropriately dressed, formed a guard of honor for the arrival of the vice-regal party.

Sir Rohan Delacombe's first move after arriving was to inspect the guard informally, chatting to group leaders and children.

The bookmobile, was parked at the kerb near the raised dais from which the Governor was welcomed, and responded, over an amplifying system.

Notable Visit

The president of the Shire of Corio (Cr. J. Murray) introducing the Vice-Regal party, said the visit of the Governor was a notable event for the municipality.

"In almost the century-long existence of the Shire of Corio, there have been many occasions when the Governor of Victoria has attended gatherings in the municipality, but mostly, they have been associated with activities outside the municipal scope.

"There is reason to believe that it is almost 50 years since a Governor of Victoria has attended an occasion which the municipality considered important enough to warrant a direct invitation" he said.

Cr. Murray said the invitation to the Governor was two-fold. First, it was to give him the opportunity of visiting the municipality and secondly, the bookmobile project was considered important.

The Regional Library Service to which the Governor was giving his patronage, was something new in the Geelong district.

The service was the joint responsibility of the Shire of Corio and the City of

Geelong, but it was the bookmobile section which would serve Corio.

To Serve Many

An estimate of population to which the bookmobile service would be available in the municipality showed that there were 16,000 adults and 14,000 children.

Cr. Murray referred to the industrial importance of the shire, and said he hoped the visit of the Governor would focus attention on it.

"At the moment, there is afoot agitation, the basis of which is that a large part of our municipality should suffer the fate of Jonah and be swallowed up. But that is something for which only time will produce the answer" he added.

The chairman of the Geelong Regional Library Committee (Cr. V. H. Andrews) supported Cr. Murray's welcome.

Cr. Andrews said all work for the introduction of the bookmobile had been done in the past three months, and the vehicle would carry 2500 books.

The bookmobile service at Corio would be used as a gauge to see where permanent library centres

could be put in the shire and the bookmobile then could be used for a similar purpose in other centres.

Two-fold Purpose

Sir Rohan Delacombe said he had two reasons for visiting Corio. The first was that on his first visit to the city he had heard of the shire of Corio, and the second, to launch the worthy bookmobile service.

When he had come to Geelong in May, he was impressed by the City Library, especially the children's section.

The service would be free to the people of the shire, and he knew it would live up to the motto of being "your library at your service".

"I wish it a most successful career", he added.

There was a distinguished gathering of leading citizens at the opening, including mayors and shire presidents, town clerks, councillors, parliamentarians, industrial and business and professional leaders.

Corio Bookmobile Through the Years



'60s



'80s



'70s



'90s

Corio Libraries in Action



References

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- 2 **Photograph** - Aerial view of Norlane and Corio by Robert Pockley
News Article - Geelong Advertiser 30 November 1970
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- 4 **Photographs** - Interior views by Ian Hawthorne
Text - Opening Brochure, Geelong Regional Library Collection
- 5 **Text and Plan** - Opening Brochure, Geelong Regional Library Collection
News Article - Geelong Advertiser 19 November 1969
- 6 **Photograph** - John Drysdale Library, Geelong Harbor Trust Collection
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- 7 **Drawing** - Sculptural Panels by Edward Heffernan, 14 May 1970
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News Article - Left side, Geelong Advertiser 21 April 1962
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