

CITY OF MOORABBIN HISTORICALSOCIETY.

(Affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria).
PRESIDENT: Mr. T.A. Sheehy, 12 Munro Ave., CHELTENHAM.
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NEWSLETTER NO. 5DECEMBER, 1961.HISTORY IS AROUND US ALL THE TIME.

History dead stuff? No! It's the change and progress that is going on around us all the time. Just look at what's happened in the City of Moorabbin in 1961.

There have been seven buildings of major importance opened - the Central Library - the third of its kind since 1958 to serve as a sign of the city's cultural growth, the ambulance station, which Moorabbin will share with Brighton, Sandringham and Mordialloc, the Cheltenham Police and Citizens' youth club, the Methodist Church, West Bentleigh, the Presbyterian Church at Highett, the Methodist Youth Centre at East Bentleigh and the Lutheran Church Hall in South Road. The City Band's new hall has been completed and a drinking fountain has been placed in the Bentleigh Recreation Reserve.

In March Moorabbin saw the climax reached in its first Trade Fair with an attempt to portray the City's commercial and industrial progress, with a procession, exhibits and several functions.

Two new organizations have been formed - the Moorabbin Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Highett West Youth Club.

Three elections were held during the year - a State Election in July when Mr. R.H. Suggett was elected for Moorabbin to the Legislative Assembly, a Council Election in August when Councillor D.H. Blackburn was elected for the Cheltenham Ward and Councillor Basterfield for Moorabbin Ward, and a Federal Election for Higinbotham in which Mr. Don Chipp won the seat in December, 1960, following the death of Mr. Frank Timson who had held the position as M.H.R. for the electorate since its inception died was being challenged by Messrs. Fowler and Cameron. While we await the counting of votes we will survey other items of civic progress.

Two new swimming pools came into existence - one, the first heated and covered in the City at Barrett Street, Cheltenham, and the other at the St. John of God Home on the Highway.

There were two important railway events: The opening of the Paterson station (it was talked of in 1924!) and the decision by the Railways Department to abandon plans for the proposed line from Moorabbin to Beaumaris.

The June census revealed that Moorabbin is now Melbourne's second largest suburban city. Its population of 95,642 is less than 4,000 lower than the first city, Camberwell.

There is movement to influence the Victorian Football League to admit Moorabbin to its ranks... the three most discussed topics throughout the year were the new Town Hall, the City Swimming Pool and the proposed bowling alley. The Town Hall is going up. The Swimming Pool Committee has set about raising the necessary money and hopes that the pool will be ready by December, 1963... and after applications, protests and much debate the council decided against allowing bowling alleys to be established in Moorabbin. It also reaffirmed not to allow service stations in residential areas.

A new City Engineer has been appointed. He is Mr. W.W. Dennis.