

The practice of receiving school visits continued to help in acquainting young people with the services available in the interest of their studies and recreations. The libraries were visited by councillors, council officers, architects from several municipalities and visitors from interstate and overseas.

699,304 books were loaned over the 296 days that the libraries were open to the public. Average daily loans were 2,362 and loans per staff member were 31,786, which is above the desirable maximum of 30,000. Enrolment increased from 26,000 to 29,300 (almost one in every three of the whole population of the city) on a system which rejects the cards of inactive borrowers.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH OFFICER'S REPORT.

Coinciding with the presentation of the Library report to council each year is the Historical Research Officer's annual report. The History Department in Moorabbin is run on an honorary basis, the first duty of the Historical Research Officer being to check for accuracy all items brought forward by citizens to be included in the local history files of the city's free libraries. He also arranges for a continuous spread of displays covering history and art and the work of organizations in the city. The H.R.O. is an active member of the City of Moorabbin Historical Society and Field Officer to the City of Mordialloc Society. As Historian to the Moorabbin society he receives assistance from members in compiling the history of that city and at the same time works in co-operation with the historian and office-bearers of the Mordialloc society.

In the year just ended the H.R.O. covered 800 miles of Victoria in a study of methods followed by other historians in presenting material to the public, gave numerous talks to churches, schools and other organizations and began writing the manuscript for a book covering the history of a Cheltenham church.

Information recorded for posterity must be written from a reliable source. That is why the City of Moorabbin Historical Society begins its research by consulting the columns of the Moorabbin "News". Assured accuracy minimizes checking.