

libraries Mairehau, Burwood, Beckenham, and Opawa could be developed as secondary level branches with part-time paid librarians assisted by voluntary labour. These four would give adequate coverage of the areas outside the effective range of the larger branches. Hoon Hay is a special case. It should remain a children's library while the district remains young but eventually should probably be developed as a secondary level branch. A paid qualified part-time children's librarian should, however, be appointed as soon as possible.

*Closed 7/71*  
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Addington, Linwood, North New Brighton, St Albans, Sydenham, and Waltham all come within the effective area of the central or main branch libraries and their continued existence would not be justified if the branches were established. Mt Pleasant, Redcliffs, St Martins, Sumner and Woolston would be better served by a bookmobile if the present units found themselves unable to operate under the new scheme.

The \$55,000 spent on suburban libraries this year is yielding a mediocre return and still leaves many areas of the City unserved. The adoption in principle of a policy aimed at the establishment of a two-tiered branch system supplemented by mobile service would clear the way for detailed planning along these lines and would form the basis of a sound metropolitan library system.

#### MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE :

Wholly unserved districts are Merivale, Bryndwr, Richmond, Shirley, North Linwood, Wainoni, Aranui, South New Brighton, Avonside, and Bromley, while Hoon Hay lacks adult service. Only two of these districts would rate library buildings but the rest would be more economically served by a bookmobile.

Bookmobiles cannot be regarded as an adequate substitute for library buildings but for the initial cost of a small suburban library and a reasonable annual cost thereafter, a bookmobile can provide service to a number of suburbs which would otherwise be unserved for many years.

Bringing books to people by bookmobile is the most dramatic, colourful type of everyday public library service and it has been proved most cost-effective in terms of loans per dollar spent. It can be used to estimate the likelihood of success of a library building in alternative possible locations and great flexibility allows for the seeking of service points located most conveniently for the greatest use. The bookstock, though limited, can be renewed daily by drawing on headquarters stock and the per-circulation book and salary cost is  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd to  $\frac{1}{4}$  that of a small branch library.

The provision of one bookmobile initially, would enable service to be given to five suburbs and the five most deserving cases would appear to be :

1. Shirley - corner of Marshland and Shirley Roads.
2. Linwood - corner of Buckleys Road and Linwood Avenue.
3. Merivale Post Office area in Papanui Road.
4. Wainoni shopping area.
5. Bryndwr shopping area.

*Approved 16.6.69*  
Buildings would eventually be required in Shirley and Linwood at which stage mobile service would be extended to areas where existing libraries were affected by the developments outlined above.