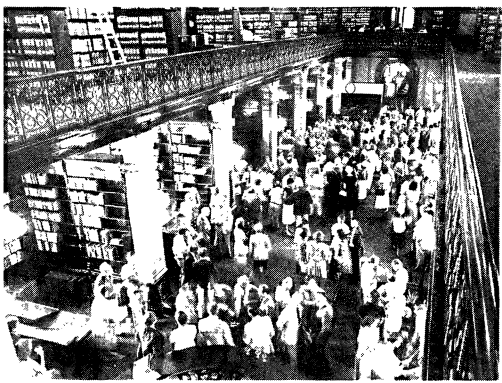


# South Australian library opens

Palm Court quartet, period costumes and pop shell catering combined with the mid-toriam splendour of the new Mortlock Library of South Australiana, made the official opening on February 12 a very memorable occasion.

Three hundred and fifty guests assembled for the opening by H.E. The Governor of South Australia, Lt Gen Sir Donald Dunstan, BE, CB. Most were donors to a public appeal that raised over \$300,000 towards the \$1.5 million refurbishment of the 102-year-old Perseus Wing of the State Library, which housed the first free public library service in South Australia.



Hour of inspection of first gallery.

The Mortlock Library of South Australiana forms an enduring contribution to the State's centenary 150 celebrations, holding as it does, the largest and most comprehensive collection of information on all aspects of life in South Australia. Its huge diversity of historical materials includes posters, periodicals, newspapers, photographs and films, as well as sound recordings and papers on people, places, industries, societies, clubs, churches and schools.

In addition to nineteenth century treasures such as the personal papers of Colonel Light (the founder of Adelaide), and George Fife Angas, it holds a comprehensive collection of memorabilia of Sir Donald Bradman. Not only his papers, but also the bats, balls, stumps and trophies marking his many triumphs.

The Mortlock Library is named in recognition of John Andrew Tennant Mortlock, a healthy pastoralist from the State's mid-

north, who provided a \$3 million bequest to the State Library of South Australia in 1980.

State Librarian Mr Euan Miller said that the building itself has stood the test of time surprisingly well and all the original shelving, readers' tables and chairs, as well as the enquiries desk were able to be restored.

Much of the cost of the present project was in providing ideal climatic controls and a fire repressant system that ensures the best possible environment for paper preservation. This was a complex task because of the size of the main chamber, the overhanging balconies and the myriad of small rooms and alcoves in the building.

A mellow sandstone has been used for the building's exterior, with similar earthy colours inside. The rich cedar browns of the shelving blend with muted tones on the walls and the deep red inlaid leather-topped tables. The wrought iron on the balconies is highlighted in gold leaf.

As well as raising a substantial sum of money the public appeal brought forth considerable donations of private archival material. The Appeal committee used a number of novel ideas to raise funds. As well as approaches to companies with significant investment in South Australia, members of the public were encouraged to donate their first dollar coin, a period ball was held in the library itself, and school children throughout the State signed a commemorative book now displayed in the Mortlock Library. Inscribed plaques on bays in the main chamber or on some of the public rooms in the building record major donors.

# VISARTS 85 a winner!

Congratulations to the Richmond Tweed Regional Library!

The library's publication VISARTS 85 has just won a Merit Award in the Serif Awards for Excellence which are made annually by the Society of Business Communicators. The award was presented last month and Vivienne Sigley accepted it on behalf of the library.

VISARTS 85 is described as a publication aiming to identify the visual arts as an important and active cultural aspect of the region and to provide the information required to produce a network connecting artists, commercial outlets, supply shops, colleges and buyers.



Left to right: Vivienne Sigley, Sall Druitt of Westpac and Roy Adams, Vivienne's father.

Productions of VISARTS 85 was undertaken jointly by the Richmond-Tweed Regional Library and the Lismore Regional Art Gallery, with funding through the Community Employment Program. The book contains biographies and illustrations of the work of 180 artists and crafts people in the region as well as comprehensive information on galleries, suppliers, courses, competitions etc.

The very attractively produced result of these joint endeavours is modestly priced at \$7.50 per copy and enquiries should be directed to the library at PO Box 80, Lismore, NSW 2480.

**HAPPENINGS:** Notices for Happenings should be sent to the Assistant Publications Officer by the correct closing date. Notices are then retained on file until the due date, so a second notice is unnecessary unless there has been a change.

## AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL LIBRARIES NEWS

ASLN now has a new editor, Ray Walsh and material should be submitted to him at PO Box 176, North Quay 4001.

Advertising and production are being handled through the LAA Head Office. Contact Brenda Pittard (02) 692 9233.

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