



Culture Complete!

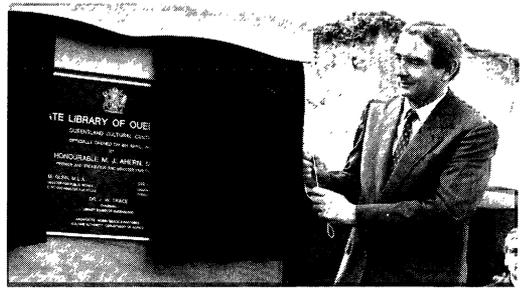
Queensland's new State Library building was officially opened on 8 April. The library completes the Queensland Cultural Centre made up of the Museum, Art Gallery and the Performing Arts Complex. The opening was celebrated by an official function and a festival weekend.

New beginning

The library was officially opened by the Queensland Premier, Mr Ahearn. Special guests included among others the Minister for Works, Mr Gunn, the Queensland State Librarian, Mr Lawrie Ryan, the NLA Director-General, Mr Warren Horton, and Justice Rae Else-Mitchell. In his official speech Mr Ahearn commented that the true importance of the lay lay in the services provided by the library and that the opening marked a major step forward for education and culture in Queensland.

He went on to say that his government was committed to the state's library network and that it was his belief that 'a book — be it the hottest of the best-sellers, the greatest of the classics or the most technical of manuals — should be within everyone's reach. No-one should be precluded from the experience and enjoyment a book can give.

Mr Ahearn also spoke about the outdated range of libraries, as 'silent dinosaurs' of earning. 'Times have changed and so too have libraries. To be successful a library must make the people want to come back again and



The Queensland Premier unveiling the library plaque.

again. This flagship of the Queensland library service certainly does that. Sure, silence is still golden but this place is inviting — and it offers far more than just row upon row of the Dewey system'.

Gala opening weekend

In a PR exercise of large proportions the two-day opening festivities included treating the public to storytelling and singing, mural painting and badge making. The state library's bindery was kept busy with the number of people fascinated by the demonstration of binding techniques and embossing. Buskers, musicians and actors turned the main entry foyer into an impromptu theatre. People were able to take away a souvenir bookmark elegantly written by a calligrapher as a memento of the visit.

The open weekend was a great opportunity for the public to browse through the new

facilities and familiarise themselves with the building. The family activities were considered as a good way to celebrate and a fun way of thanking the public for their patience during the library's closure period.

About the building

The building, with a floorspace of around 8,500 metres, has been designed to take advantage of its riverside setting. Public reading areas are situated on three floors and face the river. There is seating for 565 readers. There will be 20 OPAC terminals and easy access to all floors for disabled users. The library includes a cafeteria and small theatre.

New facilities include a music room complete with piano on which rare scores dating back to the Middle Ages can be played. A special area houses the rare books collection, including the \$3 million James Hardie Collection. The John Oxley Library, one of Queensland's major repositories of historical documents, is housed within the library — allowing for larger displays and facilitating better organisation of the collection. The library's extensive map collection makes up another special area.

Services at the library will include a business information service and the children's library will have a year round program of events for school children.

Canberra building: looking to our future

On 25 March 1988 your elected General Councillors, in the presence of most Branch Presidents and a number of observers, unanimously resolved, on the motion of immediate Past President Peter Dawe, to approve the construction of a major building in Canberra subject to a detailed statement of the LAA's financial resources at the August meeting of General Council.

This resolution followed a presentation from national commercial property agents Baillieu Knight Frank on the viability of a LAA building in Canberra. They consider, conservatively, that for an outlay of \$2.9 million total we can construct a building worth \$4.1 million on completion (building time 36 weeks), and \$9.1 million nine years later.

Startling arithmetic? The basis is the land lease concession still offered by the Commonwealth Government to assist national organisations to establish their national secretariats in the national capital — many have already done this, more are planning to do so. Under the present favourable terms, land is made available at one-third of current market value, and full payment is not required until the seventh year following project commencement.



LAA Canberra building site as it is now — servicing of the area will start soon.

Our intention is thus to construct the largest building possible (2,000 sq metres) and sublet half to a commercial tenant or tenants for the indefinite future. This is acceptable to the Commonwealth Government.

The cash flow model presented by Baillieu Knight Frank showed that by year 16 the Association would have paid for the building from tenants' rent and have enjoyed 16 years rent-free occupation of the building as well.

Coopers and Lybrand, our financial advisers and auditors, have also confirmed the desirability of the building program.

Behind it lie four major objectives:

- to generate an ongoing, sustainable revenue stream to fund more services to members and minimise increases in membership fees
- to facilitate the establishment of a substantial and credible national presence for the Association in our national capital without incurring incurring rental costs
- to own and occupy a building which is consistent with the needed upgrading of our public and political image
- to develop a purpose-designed building providing decent and efficient working conditions for staff.

The factors in the Canberra building program have both professional and economic ramifications.

- A purpose-designed building will enhance the range and quality of Association activities. The former warehouse we occupy at 376 Jones Street, Ultimo, has proved to be an astute investment, and it has served us well — but it is not an inspiring or effective place in which to work or meet, or on which to have valuations of our profession placed. It is possible to retain the Ultimo building for operations best continued or developed in Sydney and for a local presence for our many Sydney members. The redevelopment of

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that site to generate more revenue after the Canberra building is completed is also possible.

- The site of the proposed Canberra building, West Deakin, near the Mint, is just five minutes from the Parliamentary Triangle. Access to the politicians and bureaucrats influencing our funding and our future will be greatly enhanced.
- This is our last chance to secure a site in West Deakin, and on such favourable terms. Future sites for national associations will be in the Tuggeranong Valley some twenty kilometres to the south, and probably on inferior terms.
- Proximity to other national professional associations, ACLIS and the National Library will facilitate co-operative activities.
- The taxation position on rental income is being examined by Coopers and Lybrand (Association's auditors), but they are optimistic. The Association's bank will lend us what we need, at favourable rates. Our collateral, the Ultimo building, is excellent and the whole program comfortably exceeds commercial criteria for financial viability. West Deakin is a very attractive location for commercial tenants and it is anticipated tenants for our building will be identified before the building is completed. Naming rights for the building will be ours. An architect will be selected soon using procedures advised by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

If any members require further information or wish to discuss anything please leave a message for me at the Sydney office toll free (008) 22 1481 and I will return your call as soon as possible.

Alternatively please do not hesitate to contact Sue Kosse, Executive Director, your General Councillor or your Branch President. Contact numbers are listed below with General Councillors numbers appearing first:

- ACT:** Mr Kerry Webb (062) 62 1535; Mr Colin Steele (062) 49 22003
- NSW:** Ms Tanya Whitmarsh ((02) 808 0575; Ms Mairéad Browne (02) 467 9250
- NT:** Ms Ann Alderslade (0889) 46 2259; Mr Michael Friganiotis (0839) 20 4290
- Qld:** Mr Alex Cutts (07) 840 4852; Mr Phil Roberts (07) 227 6163
- SA:** Ms Anne Harris (08) :227 1083; Ms Anne Hazell (08) 227 33241
- Tas:** Mr Peter Cohen (002) 20 2628; Ms Christine Frey (002) 20 2351
- Vic:** Mr Ross Gibbs (03) 429 3644; Mr Bruce Davidson (03) 6351 8231
- WA:** Ms Mary Papachristos ((09) 325 5311; Ms Lynn Allen (09) 381 7396

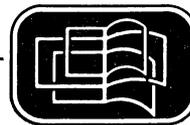
The possibility of returning to the national capital, to where the Association was established, has been mooted for a long time.

In 1980, when it was last reviewed, there were valid practical objections to the LAA in Canberra. These objections are now less valid, and will diminish even further as Canberra continues its growth.

Circumstances have changed: we now have precedents for local offices; with their development in WA and Victoria; we have a major collateral asset in the building in Ultimo; other national associations are developing in Canberra; we have an option on cheap land provided by the Commonwealth Government for organisations such as ours; we are now a stronger Association; we have a better sense of national purpose.

Excepting the membership as a whole, the Canberra building will be the Association's most significant asset, providing the base for long-term financial leverage for the devolution to responsible and accountable local operations.

The Canberra building will serve us for the whole of the second half of our first century. It will also assert that we have confidence in our exciting future; confidence in our capacity to serve our nation's future. *Alan Bundy*
President



James Bennett's Bicentennial Endeavours

The Australian publishing industry is marking the Bicentennial year with a prodigious output of titles covering all aspects of life in Australia.

James Bennett Library Services has a commitment to informing Australian and overseas libraries of all Australian books published that may be relevant to their collection. In Australia's Bicentennial year they are concentrating on providing superior Australian services to all their customers. This is reflected in many regular services as well as particular Bicentennial undertakings such as the James Bennett Library Services Bicentennial List.

The belief that Australian writers are producing world-class fiction and non-fiction has encouraged James Bennett Library Services to sell Australian books to Asia, the Pacific, North America, Middle East and Europe. Promotion of Australian books has incorporated a number of projects including involvement in and sponsorship of the 'Aussie Books for Kids' travelling exhibition in North America.

It has also meant attendance at all major library conferences, such as the ALA, LA, IFLA, CLA and NZLA conferences by Network representatives from James Bennett, John Menzies, John Coutts and Readmore.

In 1988 James Bennett are stepping up promotion and support of the Australian publishing industry; making available vital information on Australian books to the international library scene and to the public at large.

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

INOS Report

In January and February, members of the INOS (Learning and Information Needs of Schools) project team visited Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory speaking to representatives of the Association of Independent Schools, the Catholic Education Office, Departments of Education as well as parents, teachers, teacher-librarians and state librarians. In each state, visits were made to several country centres in addition to the capital cities.

The team has also been analysing a range of literature related to the project and preparing follow-up correspondence regarding the state visits.

Louise Lansley
Manager, Educational and Industrial Services.

EXCHANGE POSITIONS WANTED

Stephen Walker, a cataloguer with a university library in Warrensbury in the USA, is interested in exchanging positions with an Australian cataloguer. Stephen's library serves a student population of 8,000. Cataloguing is performed using Anglo-American cataloguing rules, Library of Congress subject headings and the Library of Congress classification system.

Members interested in arranging an exchange should write to Stephen Walker at 415B King Street., Warrensbury Mo 64093, USA.

Brenda Keyte, a Librarian-in-Charge at the Dick Sheppard School in London, wishes to exchange positions with a school, college or public librarian at a similar level in NSW for approximately one year. The Dick Sheppard School has 500 pupils aged 11-18 years and a library of 13,000 books. She supervises one clerical assistant, teaches library, information and study skills to all pupils, controls the budget, selects stock, and catalogues material.

Brenda would like to make an exchange of accommodation a part of the arrangement. For more information contact Brenda Keyte, 263 Kirkstall Road, London SW2 4HF, phone (01) 671 8231.

Volunteers for IFLA/LAA

Can you spare some time in August? The IFLA/LAA Conference Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with its information desk at the conference. The desk will be located in the registration and exhibition area in the Roundhouse at the University of NSW, and will answer the following types of queries:

- directional and geographic — what and where
- medical and comfort
- conference program, venues
- historical
- library-related
- transportation other than those relating to conference tours.

We will need at least two people to staff the desk — from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm approximately each day from Saturday, 27 August to Saturday, 3 September, and three people during rush periods. One person at all times needs to be experienced in handling reference queries.

If you have experience in reference, and are interested in helping the conference committee, please contact Barrie Mitcheson (02) 805 7520 or Sue Phillips (02) 692 9233 or (008) 22 1481.

Organising an insert for InCite? Need to place an event in the Happenings column? Contact: Tanya Vojsk at LAA HQ on (02) 692 9233 (008) 221481 or Fax (02) 692 0589.