

State Library of Victoria

The Victorian Ministry for the Arts issued the following press release on 9 May 1989 on the appointment of a new Director for the State Library of Victoria redevelopment.



Victorian Ministry for the Arts

Press Release

NEW DIRECTOR TO OVERSEE STATE LIBRARY REDEVELOPMENT

The Minister for the Arts, Mr Evan Walker, today announced the creation of two new senior positions to strengthen the management of the State Library during its extensive redevelopment in the next few years.

He said a position of Director and Chief Executive Officer would be taken up in mid-July by Ms Leah Mann, a senior manager in the South Australian Government.

Another position of General Manager had also been created, and an appointment would be made shortly.

Mr Walker said the new positions would ensure that existing State Library staff would be able to concentrate upon the improvement and expansion of library services during the redevelopment phase.

The State Librarian, Ms Jane La Scala, will remain the Chief Librarian and primary professional officer of the State Library of Victoria.

The organisational changes would enable the State Library to provide full services while it is being transformed into a world class facility again.

The State Library is to be extensively redeveloped, at a cost of \$90 million, on the original site and extended to include the space occupied by the existing Museum.

On April 28, Mr Walker announced that Sydney architects Ancher Mortlock and Woolley Pty Ltd, led by Mr Ken Woolley, had been appointed to redevelop the State Library.

The redevelopment is to be dove-tailed between now and 1992 with the shift of the Museum to its new home to be built on the south bank of the Yarra, opposite the World Trade Centre and next to the Polly Woodside.

'Ms Mann has extensive experience in management, budgeting, service delivery, administration and finance', Mr Walker said.

Ms Mann is currently the Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Operations in South Australia's Department of Community Welfare, where she has held a variety of senior positions since 1973.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Diploma of Social Sciences from Melbourne University.

ALIA views with considerable concern this senior appointment within the State Library without the position being advertised on a national basis and open to competitive application, and without any reference being made to the need for the appointee to hold professional qualifications in library and information science.

Both ALIA national office and the Victorian Branch have written letters of protest to the Victorian Minister for the Arts, the Hon. E.H. Walker, protesting the procedures adopted for this new appointment in one of the State's most prominent libraries.

Inaugural Margaret Trask Medal

The Margaret Trask Medal has been struck by the Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education to honour Margaret as the Foundation Head of the School of Library and Information Studies from 1974 to 1985. It is to be awarded to the top student graduating from the School each year.

The inaugural Medal was recently presented to Glenda Meaker — one of the first group of Bachelor of Applied Science (Information) graduates of the



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College. Averill Edwards, President of ALIA, and Warren Horton, Director-General of the National Library of Australia, were among those attending the presentation ceremony on 28 April.

Glenda Meaker was selected as the first recipient of the Medal on grounds that included her academic achievements, interpersonal skills, leadership, general intellectual capacity and professional involvements as a student. The latter included vacation work at Touche Ross and Hewlett Packard.

Glenda is now working in the broad information industry as a programmer / analyst at IBM, and intends to pursue her career as an information professional within the computing industry.

3 Margaret Trask with Glenda Meaker, the recipient of the inaugural Margaret Trask Medal for the outstanding graduating student from the School of Library and Information Studies, Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education.

