

Nutcote for the nation

North Sydney Council having paid \$2.86m for Nutcote now holds the keys, but the key to Nutcote's future is with each of us who values our national treasures.

The challenge for Nutcote to become a historic house/gallery perpetuating the memory of May Gibbs, exhibiting works of contemporary authors and illustrators and promoting literature, is to every Australian who cherishes our literary heritage and believes in preserving our sacred places.

The Council has generously donated \$600 000 towards the cost but the remaining \$2.26m must be raised within 18 months or Nutcote will be sold. Although Senator Margaret Reynolds met with enthusiastic Nutcote supporters from WA, SA, QLD and NSW who crowded the North Sydney Council chambers in January and promised to appraise the Prime Minister of the merit of their cause, the message really was 'don't ring us, we'll ring you'. So far the phone from Canberra has been silent. Senator Wendy Fatin has replaced Senator Reynolds



and still the interests of Australian women remain marginalised. We must continue to press for the recognition of May Gibbs, a woman whose art has shaped the Australian consciousness about the magic of its bushland and the importance of conservation. Governments must be persuaded to follow North Sydney Council's lead and pitch in to save Nutcote for the nation!

If you care for May Gibbs and all things Nutcote symbolises will you take up the challenge which North Sydney Council has thrown down! Please commend the Nutcote cause to your colleagues, friends and local politicians. Only through the determination of the people of Australia will Nutcote become a place of inspiration and wonder for all people.

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Legal information access centre

As librarians are aware, gaining access to legal information has always been a challenge, especially for the layperson. There are hundreds of laws and even more that has been written in interpretation of those laws. The Legal Information Access Centre aims to raise the level of community access to legal information.

The Law Foundation of New South Wales and the State Library of New South Wales have established the Centre as a joint venture. Both organisations hold a common belief that people should have ready access to information on legal issues, particularly those which affect their daily lives or in which they have a special interest. Access to such information is one of the basic rights in a democratic society.

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publication, edited by Patricia Ward and Judy Washington, was jointly produced by the Local Studies Section (NSW Group) and the Public Libraries Section (NSW Group).

The making of a movie ...

Preserving our heritage

The NSW Branch snatched the opportunity to subcontract Jo-anne Fuller fresh from the rigours of the ALIA national office, to act as Coordinating Producer for the final phase of the Conservation on the Move Project — the production of *Preserving our Heritage*, a paper conservation video kit.

The mission: to commission experts in the field to demonstrate conservation practices and techniques that could be utilised by anyone entrusted with the care of significant paper collections, or simply wanting to preserve a treasured piece of memorabilia. The format: a video, and supporting materials for those wishing to extend their study in this important area.

The experts: Judy Washington, Archivist and Librarian, Lane Cove Municipal Council; Helen Price, Coordinator of Conservation Access at the State Library of NSW; Alan Howell, Manager of the Preservation Department, State Library of NSW; and Kay Soderlund, Senior Paper Conservator and Director, Campbell Conservation Pty Ltd.

The making: a 17 hour filming session on 8 February 1990 on location in the conservation laboratory at the University of NSW, School of Librarianship, beginning for Jo-anne and the film crew at 6 am.

But it didn't end there! The presenters sighed with relief, however for Jo-anne and the Technical Director, Paul Woolveridge, the next stop was the sound studio for the voice overs, followed by an exhausting 61 hours, over a 3-day period, in the editing studio.

The product: 79 minutes of video covering the rescue of Lane Cove Council's records, care and storage of books, disaster management, and care and handling of large format materials, such as maps and plans.

The presenters and the steering committee assembled for a preview, and then it was the Technical Director's turn to sigh with relief. But it didn't end there! The video, after all, was part of a grander idea of a kit, continuing the spirit of the original ALIA initiative in providing conservation information and skills for the community, and bringing together 'Conservation on the Move's' previous successes, the *Stopping the rot* handbook and video.

A Users Guide was developed and includes six professional development modules — focus questions, discussion starters, ideas into action, a case study and a quick quiz. By courtesy of S & M Supply Company, a selection of samples of materials commonly used in conservation was put together, and the NSW Archives Office supplied copies of its *Guide to the general records disposal schedule for Local Government in NSW*.

The kit was then packaged in a specially designed presentation box for easy storage and use. The cover, depicting many a paper treasure was designed by Jo-anne Fuller, with photography by courtesy of Photographis Pty Ltd.

As Coordinating Producer, Jo-anne Fuller commented that she continually met with great enthusiasm and support from all sectors of the library

and information community both at ALIA's commitment to this important topic, and for the format that will ensure its accessibility throughout the profession and general community.

Heather Black
NSW Branch Councillor

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Opened by the Hon. John Dowd, MP, Attorney-General for New South Wales at the commencement of Law Week 1990 the Centre makes legal information available to those members of the public not specifically served by the specialised law libraries. Those targeted by the Centre are the general public, professional and community workers, students and teachers and those involved in community legal education programs.

The comprehensive multi-media collection includes the traditional books and journals as well as videos, cassettes, CD-ROMs, online databases, pamphlets, et cetera. Emphasis has been placed on user-friendly and plain language information. The information services focus on New South Wales and Australian law. It is important to remember that the Centre is providing legal information and not legal advice.



The new Legal Information Access Centre in the State Library of NSW.

Access to the Centre will extend throughout New South Wales via the Library's well-established electronic mail system, ILANET, and other information agencies.

The Centre is open Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. Enquiries made outside opening hours will be answered by State Library reference staff or recorded and passed on to the Centre the next working day.

Kathleen Bresnahan
Manager
Legal Information Access Centre



Julie Young, NSW Branch President (left) with Margy Burn, Manager, Australian Research Collections and Mitchell Librarian, State Library of NSW and John Turner, Member for Myall Lakes (NSW).