

## State Library of Victoria seeking funds

### Renaissance appeal

**A** GOVERNMENT report in 1964 described the Library as 'a great library now moribund.' Since then, successive budget cuts have deepened the problem. Books moulder on shelves and in piles on the floor, staff work in Dickensian conditions and the book vote has diminished.

However the Renaissance of the State Library of Victoria has begun. The present State Government has committed funds for the rebuilding and refurbishment to create adequate space and facilities required to meet the needs of the next century. The three-stage redevelopment programme will return the State

Library of Victoria to its rightful position as one of the finest in the world. Stage 1, the two in-fill buildings facing Russell Street, is well advanced and the Electrical sub-station on La Trobe street is nearly completed.

The State Library will take over the space now occupied by the Museum of Victoria, once its new building is built on the South Bank of the Yarra. The timing of the completion of the redevelopment, hopefully set at eight years, is dependent on the building of the new Museum and the continuation of government funding.

The Council of the State Library, aware of the need for extra funding to bridge the gap between adequacy and excellence, has asked Mrs Everard Baillieu and Ms Meg

Paul, two of the members of the Council, to form a Promotion and Fund Raising Committee of the Council.

It is the first time in 137 years of history that the Library has appealed for funds. The purpose of the Renaissance Appeal is to

complementary computer-based indexing/retrieval system for public use.

- The Education Centre funded by the William Buckland Foundation, which has developed pro-active ways of helping VCE students and teachers, to

reduce the level of strain on the collections.

- The Touch-Screen Directory funded by BHP Community Trust, which provides 120 pages of information about the Library's resources.

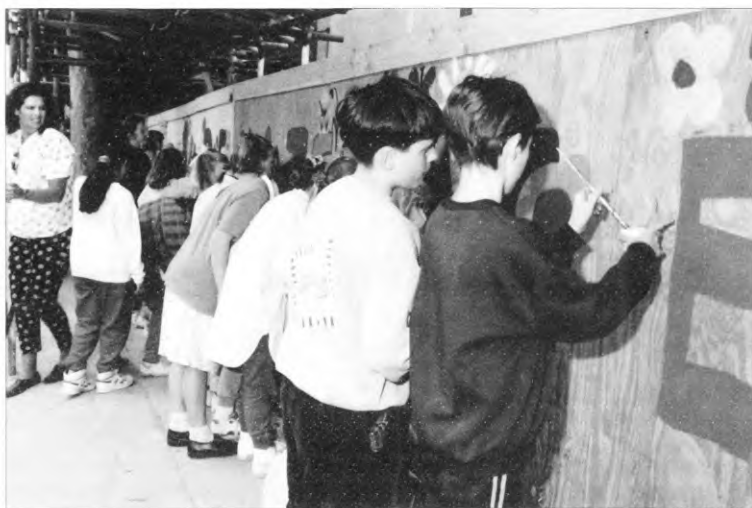
During Australian Library Week the Appeal went public with the 'Adopt a Book' program, asking individuals and groups to pay for the conservation of from one page to a whole book. Launched with wide media coverage, the response to

the Appeal has shown that Victorians care for their Library. A conservative estimate is that the Conservation Department, at its present staffing levels would take 950 years to repair the collection. The money from 'Adopt a book' goes to the Department.

The Library has played a significant role in the historical and cultural life of our state; Deakin and Curtin, two of our great prime ministers, spent much time reading there; Ray Lawler wrote *Summer of the 17th Doll* there; the list of people who have used the resources are endless and fascinating. Over 4.5 million people visit the Library every year.

Meg Paul

Co-chair, Renaissance Appeal



Spensley School, Clifton Hill, paints the Appeal Mural on the hoarding of the redevelopment building site.

maintain and conserve our history and heritage, and also to promote education and intellectual pursuits for the enjoyment and benefit of all Victorians and the wider Australian Community.

The 2 million books and 10 million other items, ranging from the petition from the miners at Eureka to the Burke and Wills' diary need money for care and conservation. Over a million dollars has already been raised, mainly for Trusts and Corporations. Special projects that have been funded include:

- *Victoria in Pictures*, funded by the Myer Foundation. This will enable the Library to produce a laser disc containing 110 000 images with a

## Library Locums

Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane  
Tel. (02) 699 1855  
Fax. (02) 698 4534  
Free Call 008 244 337

With over 7 years' experience we believe there are not many library problems we haven't tackled sometime, somewhere.

We understand the pressure to keep cataloguing down, to keep acquisitions moving, to keep the library functioning whatever the crisis.

This is why our expertise really pays off. Because we know the best way to handle these situations we offer the best and most cost-effective solutions. Whether you need temporary or permanent library staff, call on us for total professional help and understanding.

### Special confusion

Some confusion appears to have arisen between two directories of Special Libraries which are presently available.

The 8th edition of *Directory of Special Libraries in Australia* is available from ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600.

*Special Libraries in Queensland 1990: A Directory* is being distributed on behalf of ALIA Special Libraries Section (Queensland) by Lyn Bergstrum, AWU Library, GPO Box 88, Brisbane, 4001.