



The interior of the new Liverpool City Library showing some of the artwork which adorns the building

Community input to library design and services

Over the next few years population growth in Liverpool is expected to account for twenty-five per cent of Sydney's total growth during this period. Liverpool City Council has embarked during the past four years on an ambitious plan to provide this growing population with the best possible library services.

Libraries have traditionally been seen as places for cultural expression, knowledge, learning and leisure. The staff of the Liverpool City Council have worked with the community to ensure that the redevelopment of the Liverpool City Library not only upholds these traditions but also embodies community needs and aspirations. The opening of the new central library celebrates the fortieth year of modern library service in Liverpool. With the redevelopment of the central library and with branches at Miller, Moorebank, Casula and Green Valley, all the principal population centres in Liverpool Shire will have access to a library service.

In addition two mobile libraries provide service to people who are unable or have difficulty in accessing

branch libraries. The large mobile library visits outlying villages, stopping particularly at schools and pre-schools. The special services mobile library provides service to nursing homes, senior citizens' centres and housebound people.

Many residents and user groups including Friends of Liverpool Library, the Family History Society, Local Studies co-ordinating committee, and Aboriginal Land Councils met with library staff to help plan the library building and services.

Local artists were involved in the design of carpets, windows, bookends, signs, murals, balustrades, hand rails



The main entrance to the library

and ceramic features. In the future, artworks will feature in the redevelopment of the Plaza leading into the main entrance of the library, and will also be incorporated into the paving, sculptures and Aboriginal figure pieces. The library is undertaking one of the most comprehensive public art commissions anywhere in Australia which reflects Liverpool Council's commitment to public participation and community cultural development. ■

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