

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Canberra building

With the assistance of the LAA's auditors, Coopers and Lybrand, a financial proposal is being compiled to send to financial institutions to seek the finance for the Canberra building. The financial proposal is based upon a draft LAA budget, as discussed by the General Council in August, and upon the premise that the Ultimo building would not be sold.

The responses from this approach should be back by the end of October. Coopers and Lybrand will also assist with evaluating these responses which will be available for consideration by the General Council in November.

Australian Council of Local Government Officers

The LAA has been discussing with the Australian Council of Local Government Officers (Australian Council) the possibility of having representation on their council.

The Australian Council aims to provide an effective forum for professional bodies, operating at the federal level, to speak with one voice on issues of national importance to local government generally, and in relation to management related and professional matters.

It also seeks to have itself accepted by the industry as a legitimate representative voice of local government professional bodies operating at the federal level and to ensure it effectively contributes to the resolving of issues of national importance to local government.

Libraries and statistics

The Cultural Ministers Council has established a Statistical Advisory Group to improve the definition, range and quality of statistics needed by the culture-leisure industry. A key element of this task is to consult on specific topics with representative industry groups. To this end, a workshop on libraries has been planned for October 1988, and will be held in Perth.

Libraries have been targeted as they are seen as having 'a central role in the cultural/educational life of the nation'. However, there is some evidence to suggest that this is not reflected in all policy and financial decisions made on this sector of the industry. Timely statistical information about libraries is essential to enable governments, the community and libraries to make improved decisions on direction and growth.

One of the outcomes of this project could be to influence the statistical information collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The LAA's representative to this workshop is Andy Exon of Curtin University of Technology.

Sue Kosse
Executive Director

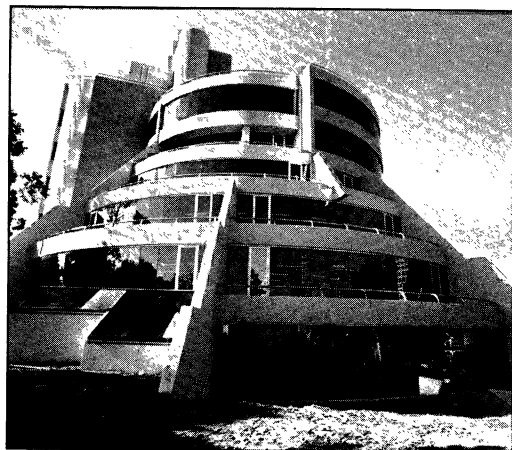
Another jewel in the crown

After the opening of the new State Library Building in May, Sydney can now boast yet another jewel in the crown with the re-opening of the Stanton Library in North Sydney.

After being closed for almost five months for renovation, Stanton Library re-opened on 27 August with a week of celebration activities. The program included demonstrations of calligraphy, spinning and paper making. Special highlights included Aboriginal dances and legends along with a didgeridoo recital, and a performance of traditional folk songs and dances by children from the Armenian community.

The library has maintained all its familiar features while adding several new and improved services. The computerised system which links Stanton with the other Shorelink libraries has been updated and streamlined, and for the first time, online public access terminals will make the catalogues of all the Shorelink libraries easily accessible.

The Sound Room has been doubled in size and its collection enlarged to include about 21,000 cassettes. Other features include a microcomputer, typewriters and a special terminal for quick retrieval of community information.



The new look Stanton Library, designed by architect, Feiko Boeman, who also designed the Stockman's Hall of Fame at Longreach, Queensland.

display of archival photographs from the Water Board, and another featuring calligraphy created by Lavender Bay Calligraphics.

Exhibition space

Another feature of the new Stanton Library is a large exhibition space on the third level. Regular exhibitions are being planned including a



Items from the Luna Park Collection decorate the stairwell down to the new lower ground floor where, for the first time, a separate Young Adult Section has been set up.

Art purchase scheme

The new library will also house a collection of paintings purchased under a scheme devised by the library committee under the chairmanship of Alderman Bill Coppell.

The library committee has been considering setting up a trust to acquire works of art which depict the appearance and convey the atmosphere of North Sydney, both past and present. The paintings will carry plaques indicating their sponsors' names and will do much to enhance the decor of the newly refurbished library.

Alderman Coppell hopes the Art Purchase Scheme will be an on-going project and sees it as an ideal way for members of the North Sydney community to make a contribution to the cultural life of the municipality. Anyone interested in sponsoring the scheme should contact Mr Coppell on (02) 929 0624.

Local history

The Local History Department occupies a larger area including work space for researchers. Specially designed shelving has been installed to hold large volumes and picture rails will facilitate a permanent changing display from the large holdings of photographs and paintings.

Exchange Position

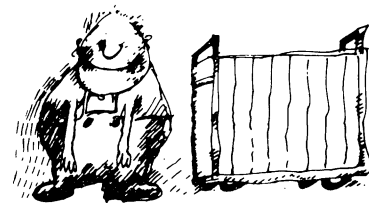
Monique Carroll who works in the Periodicals Section of the Acquisitions Department, University College, Dublin, Ireland, wishes to exchange places with a library technician or a library assistant, in NSW. The exchange would cover a period of 12 months. Monique's work involves maintenance of a periodical collection of some 5,000 titles on the arts, humanities, commerce, law, science and agriculture. Her specific duties include the maintenance of periodical back-runs, updating records, typing and binding.

Monique may be contacted at 'Greenogue', 29 Grenville Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

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