

Building for the future - Canberra building to proceed

At its meeting on 25 November 1988 the General Council of the Library Association of Australia resolved that the Association should construct a national headquarters building in Canberra. It will be built in the area of West Deakin ACT, adjacent to the Royal Mint, reserved by the Australian Government at a low cost for the many national associations now seeking to relocate their national secretariats to the capital.

In resolving thus, Council has considered the short, medium and long term implications of this major development for the Association. It has sought advice from its auditors, property agencies and finance agencies. The advice is that the development is a unique opportunity; that it presents no risk to the viability of the Association; that the subleasing prospects are excellent; that building costs will be favourable; and that the building will provide a long term source of revenue for the Association which is likely to be second only to membership fees.

Council has accepted, on behalf of members, that to fund the best option of constructing and then subleasing 50 percent of the largest building which may be constructed on the site, it may be necessary to sell the Association's current headquarters building in Ultimo. Some constraints in Association initiatives and operations may also be necessary in the short term.

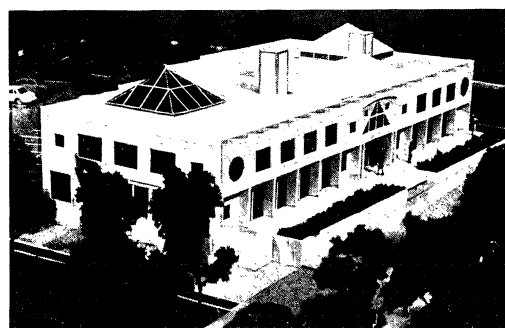
In requesting the goodwill of all members for its decision, the Council recognises that the debate about the relocation of the Association's head office to the national capital is longstanding and has occupied much time and energy. Council recognises that there will be reservations about the construction of the Canberra building and the relocation of the Association's head office to Canberra. It also recognises that the Canberra development will affect valued employees of the Association. However General Council, as the elected decision making body of the Association, considers that the overall interests and the future of the Association, and of library and information services in Australia, must now take priority over those factors. The perceived need is for the Association to position itself politically, financially and operationally to help achieve maximum awareness of library and information services as a dynamic and essential part of Australia's future.

Council believes that the congruity of the forthcoming change of the Association's name to the Australian Library and Information Association; its new objects; the development of its major presence in the national capital; the development of local presences initially in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney; and the development of the Information For The Nation campaign, will assert the Association's determination to further increase its growing membership base; and its capacity to assist in underwriting the development and recognition of library and information services in Australia's future.

Site works for the release which includes the Association's land have commenced. A full architect's brief is being developed. Construction will commence early in February 1989 and on completion will be worth \$4.1 million.

A Canberra Building Project Team has been established, and a Project Manager is being selected. Council acknowledged the major contribution Ian McCallum, in association with the Executive Director Sue Kosse, has made already to the project. Mr Philip Cox, the renowned Sydney architect has accepted the commission.

Design concept of ALIA Canberra building



The major considerations in the design selection were:

- a building of lasting architectural quality. It is anticipated that it will meet the Association's needs for fifty years
- a building on which the Association would wish to have a valuation of its role, and that of library and information services, placed
- a building that will be practical; provide an improved working environment for staff; and return maximum revenue because of its attractiveness to lessees.

Council appreciates that members have already indicated they wish to contribute funds directly to this exciting project. Proposals to facilitate this to the best advantage of both members and the Association are being evaluated. Outcomes will be advised to members early in 1989.

Alan Bundy
President

NEW STATE LIBRARIAN OF WA



Congratulations to Lynn Allen on her double header! LAA Vice-President and newly appointed State Librarian of

Western Australia. She will take up her position with the State Library in January. Lynn obviously has a hectic year ahead. Congratulations!

The counting's done!

New Vice-President

Lynn Allen has been elected LAA (ALIA) Vice-President 1989/President Elect. Lynn is General Manager of Harris and Sutherland Pty Ltd, a Western Australian-based information and management consulting company, and is just finishing off a year as WA Branch President.

Board of Education

Nine candidates contested two seats on the Board of Education and the winners were Eric Wainwright and Twila Herr! Both candidates were standing for re-election. Eric is Deputy Director General at the National Library of Australia and Twila, a Senior Lecturer at the School of Librarianship, University of Tasmania.

Voting slips

There were 744 valid votes counted this year, a drop of 8 on 1987 elections despite a substantial increase in members and the opportunity to return votes via free-post. Alas, we'll have to think of yet another incentive to entice the remaining 88.25 percent to make their mark next time around.

Jo-Anne Fuller
Program Support Manager

Some words from the new Vice President ...

To my colleagues in the LAA, thanks to those who have supported me in my election as Vice-President/President Elect of our Association.

I am looking forward to what I am sure will be a rewarding and fulfilling experience as President in 1990. Of course, we have our 1990 conference in Perth so it will be doubly pleasing to welcome our interstate visitors.

I am conscious of the name of our Association and hope I can contribute significantly to the encouragement of non-librarians in the information sector to join us. Of course, we should remember that many librarians are still not members of our Association and we should try to continue to try to attract them to our ranks.

We face some interesting challenges and it is important that we focus on what our proper business is as an Association. For an active and vigorous profession, proud of its achievement and strong in its self-esteem will do much to persuade clients of our services, of our value to the communities we serve.

Thanks again for your confidence and thanks especially to my 'campaign team' who worked hard at the Sydney conference and thereafter with me in my seeking office. I look forward to hearing opinions from all walks of the profession on the performance of the Association and to widening my knowledge of the world of libraries and librarianship throughout Australia.

May I offer you all the best wishes for the festive season.

Lynn Allen
Vice-President/President Elect of the LAA.

