

## Come into the lab . . .

The National Australia Bank Mobile Conservation Laboratory was officially launched in Sydney on 22 April by NSW Premier, Mr Barrie Unsworth. The laboratory is housed in a large pantechnicon which travels far and wide throughout NSW taking two conservators to regional galleries.

LAA members will associate 'Conservation on the Move' with the NSW Branch project involving the LAA's conservator, Helen Price. Helen is based at the University of NSW but travels throughout the state giving seminars and workshops on the preservation of local studies collections within public libraries and local historical societies.

The Conservation Laboratory, however, is the 'flagship' of the \$1 million 'Conservation on the Move Project', funded by the NSW Bicentennial Council. It is equipped with sophisticated facilities and equipment for restoring art works.

During 1987 and 1988 as well as restoring works held in NSW regional galleries, the Laboratory will run a 'Save It for Later' campaign, which will offer a half-day per week advisory service to the public on the care of paintings, drawings, photographs, prints, books and documents.

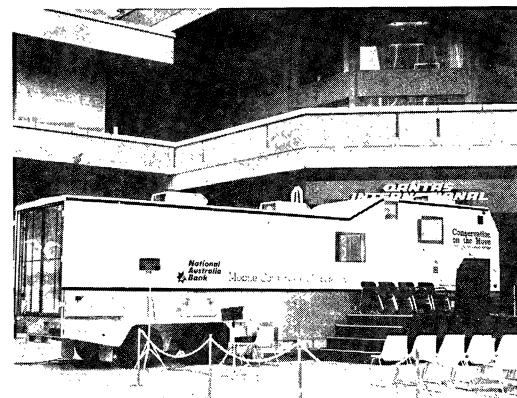
The Regional Galleries Association of NSW estimates that around 50 percent of the State's art heritage is located outside state galleries and museums in libraries, hospitals, schools, universities, civic buildings,

**Photos:** (right) Mr Arthur Sanderson, General Manager National Australia Bank (NSW/ACT) hands the NSW Premier, Mr Barrie Unsworth a \$100,000 cheque for the National Australia Bank Mobile Conservation Laboratory; (below) inside the laboratory, conservator, David Stein shows (left to right) Gerry Gleeson Chairman of the NSW Bicentennial Council, Mr Sanderson and the Premier some of the specialised equipment housed in the lab; and the laboratory in the forecourt of the National Australia Bank Building, George St, Sydney.



churches, historic houses and regional galleries.

For further information about the National Australia Bank Mobile Conservation Laboratory contact Cathy Lillico-Thompson



(02) 225 1719. The Laboratory's schedule for the rest of 1987 is 20 May-17 June, Wagga Wagga; 22 June-17 July, Albury; 3 Aug-28 Aug, S. H. Irvin Galleries; 1 Sept-28 Sept, Manly; 5 Oct-30 Oct, Broken Hill; 9 Nov-4 Dec, Orange.

## Gold Coast City wired for sight and sound

If sitting on a terrace listening to your favourite CD, or spending an hour brushing up your French while the kids are suitably amused in the play centre, or sitting down to a pc to sort out your business affairs is not something you associate with visiting the

library — then read on. Martyn Brown, Audio-Visual Librarian for Gold Coast City Council's Public Library Service, reports on some switched-on developments in public library service Gold Coast style.

The Gold Coast City Council's Central Library has a wide range of audio-visual services available to the public. The Library occupies the entire 8th floor of a high-rise office block which is, in turn, part of the Southport Scarborough Fair shopping complex.

Since moving to this new location two years ago the library has enjoyed greatly increased patronage. Total membership is now 35,000 out of a population of nearly 120,000.

One of the main attractions is the audio-visual listening post facility. Members of the public may listen to music on cassette or compact disc (there are approximately 500 available) at any one of the 16 listening-posts spread throughout the library. Many buy refreshments from the library's food and drink machines, select their music, obtain headphones from the A/V Advice Desk and sit out on the terrace which runs the length of the building and overlooks the Southport Broadwater.

Eight listening-posts are located on the terrace which is landscaped with ponds and pergolas and which has a fenced-in playing area for the children. The A/V Advice Desk houses seven cassette decks, three compact disc players, and a phonograph player. Videos may also be viewed in the two booths provided. There is also a small study cubicle set aside for anyone wishing to use the library's reference language cassettes or phonograph records.

Apple microcomputers are available for public use at the Central Library and its three branches. Central Library has three pc's while the branches have one each and there are around 100 programs available. They include business packages such as Appleworks and Mouselcalc, Jacaranda/Wiley educational

