

**TURNING 50 —
We're almost there**

LAA:50 Commemorative Envelope

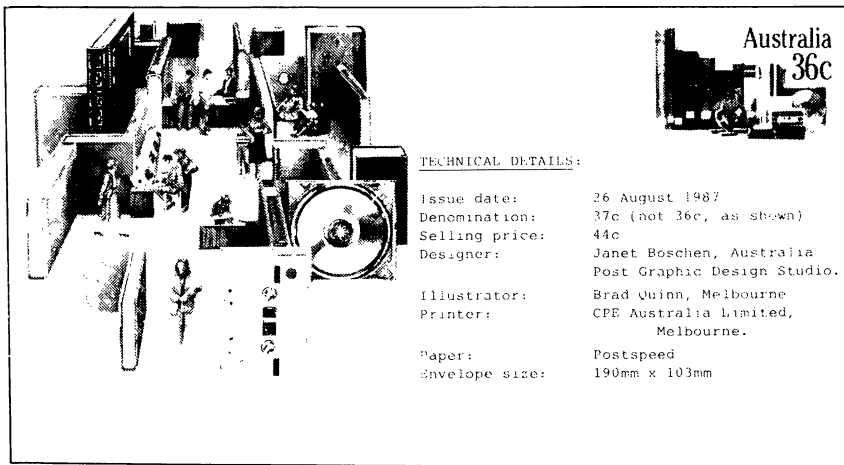
Here is a sneak preview of the LAA's jubilee commemorative envelope. Of course a living black-and-white representation does it little justice. LAA Divisions have already placed their orders with Head Office, so members will be able to purchase envelopes through

their Branch, however, they will also be available from Post Offices across the country from 26 August at the cost of 44 cents each.

More memorabilia (hic!)

Another good reason for writing out a cheque to register for LAA:50 *now* is that there will be an Anniversary wine on sale . . . More details soon!

**LAA:50
Envelopes
on sale from
26 August**



A walk in the White Forest

Librarians going to Canberra for the LAA's 50th Anniversary celebrations will have the opportunity to visit the garden of Sir Harold and Lady White.

Many librarians have visited the garden since it was established in 1936. This is no ordinary suburban front yard, but three acres of woodland and special gardens. It is the largest private garden in the city and is described and illustrated in John Patrick's *Australian Gardens* (1984). It will be on view in the spring when in many ways it is at its best.

The site, on the corner of Mugga Way and Vancouver Street, in the suburb of Red Hill in Canberra, happily chosen in that otherwise traumatic year of the Abdication — 1936 — was the largest (three acres) in Canberra then or since, for private people. It was therefore easy to insulate a modest cottage from passing traffic and passing people. In 1936 the site was a genuine wilderness of builders' rubble, tufted grasses, swamp reeds, stone outcrops and a surface which made a camel's back look smooth as velvet. An army of horses, men and machinery laboured for more than a week to create the present contours.

A curved gravel drive which is lined with Canadian pineoaks and shrubs such as japonica and honeysuckle (chosen for their succession of colour and scent) winds up to the house.

The planting has been carefully arranged to give the illusion of space and the feeling of a woodland and gives the illusion of infinite space. The perimeter of the site has also been planted to be seen equally well from the roads and footpaths. Hawthorns, jasmine and the flowering quince have been generously used, and, in Vancouver Street, wisteria and the banksia rose have been encouraged to spill over on to the nature strip.



There are five 'garden' areas for roses, agapanthus, iris and the camellia and rhododendron family, and finally the cutting garden. None of these can be seen from the cottage and not more than one at a single glance. This preserves the integrity of the woodland and introduces an element of surprise. The joy of the unexpected emerges also from the seclusion of the major planting on the high ground beyond the pond.

Except for the broad sweep of grass seen from the main rooms of the cottage, the landscape is studded with hyacinths, freesias and lily of the valley. Much of it is also covered, for low maintenance as well as for their beauty, with ground-hugging plants such as violets, wild strawberries, helleborus, daisies and 'creeping charlie' and 'snow in summer'.

The 'White Forest' tour is scheduled for 10.30am on Saturday, 5 September and costs \$4.



**LAA:50 Register Now
More Jubilee news on page 7**