

IFLA President and Secretary-General visit Sydney

The President of IFLA, Dr Hans-Peter Geh, and the Secretary-General Mr Paul Nauta were in Sydney from 16-18 November to meet members of the planning committee for the 1988 IFLA/LAA Conference, and to look at venues and other facilities for the conference. Dr Geh is based in Stuttgart at the Wurtembergische Landesbibliothek — a large combined academic/city library. Mr Nauta hails from IFLA headquarters in The Hague, Amsterdam.



Dr Hans-Peter Geh with Mr Paul Nauta

During their brief visit — their first to Australia — Dr Geh and Mr Nauta looked over the main conference and exhibition venues at the University of NSW, attended a concert in the Concert Hall of the Opera House, where the opening of the IFLA portion of the conference will take place, and saw some of the major hotels where accommodation has been booked for conference delegates.

Dr Geh and Mr Nauta said they were delighted that the Opera House is to feature prominently in the conference, and that delegates will have an opportunity to visit the new State Library of NSW buildings, where the opening reception will be held.

At a reception held at Richmond Villa on Observatory Hill Dr Geh and Mr Nauta met conference sponsors and organisers, and media representatives.

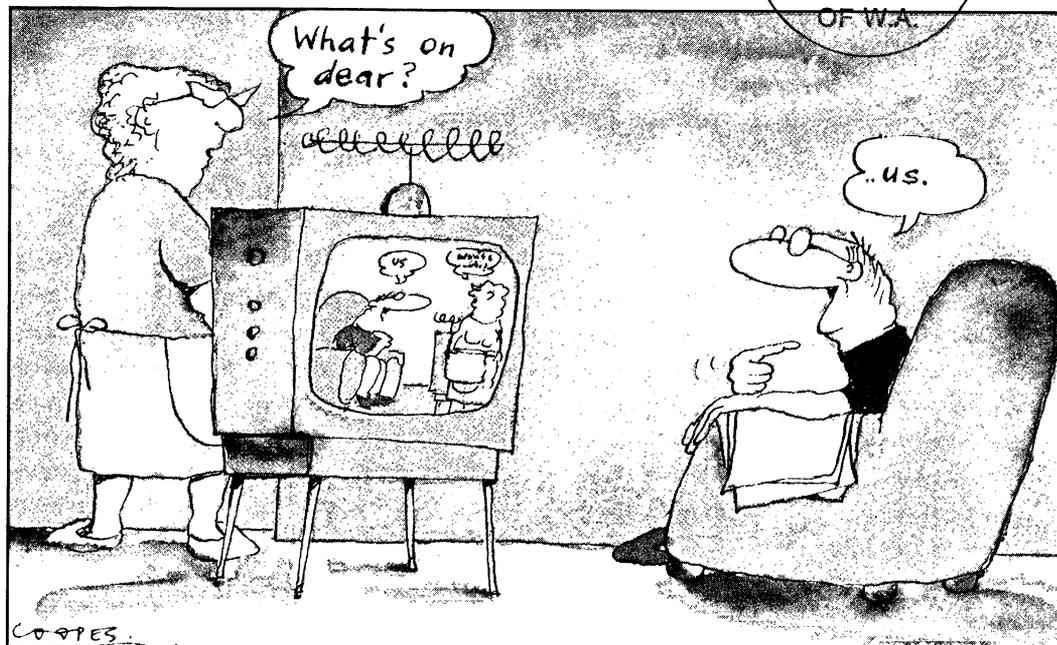
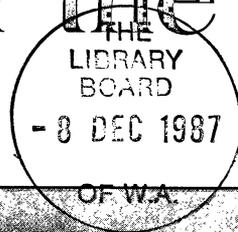


Mr Gavin Crawford, Marketing Manager, James Bennett Library Services (left) with Mr Paul Nauta.



Some of the sponsors who attended the evening.

Bracing up for the Bicentenary



Jenny Coopes cartoon courtesy of ABA

The Bicentenary is nearly upon us. Contemplating the celebration of the nation, the national knees-up, is more like going to a party than its organisers think. Will it really be worth the effort of dressing and getting there? Being enthusiastic about the Bicentenary, at this stage, is like being the first guest to arrive.

But this is December, come January things will be different. Desperate to latch onto anything in the post-Christmas, post-New Year, post-sanity lull we will all become suckers for sentimentality and nationalism. Tall Ships and fireworks will be the cream and passionfruit on the party's pavlova.

Sydney stood still the day the US navy sailed up the harbour. George street thronged with sailors, girls, women pushing strollers and children with balloons. It was 1945 all over again. And all this happened with minimal hype beforehand!

But will the Bicentennial party last the distance? After January when the fireworks are spent, the global TV link-up unhitched, we may well ask 'what Bicentenary?'. For libraries there will be some lasting reminders. The Historic Record Search, something which will be covered more fully in *InCite* next year, is presently locating and recording privately-owned resources throughout the country. A database will give location and content details for letters, diaries, photos and business financial records and correspondence. Researchers will have access to this through major libraries and archives.

Stories from the 200 Greatest Stories Never Told Project will also be available to researchers as the National Library will preserve and keep entries. The stories will provide a wealth of anecdotes and insight into lesser-known incidents in our history.



Hopefully, the best Bicentennial spin-off for both libraries and the nation will be a long-term interest in Australia's past. This interest is bound to bring libraries and their collections into sharp focus and further convince the public of their relevance and worth.

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