

A man, a library, a collection and a quest

My Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, ladies and gentlemen. This is a very happy day in my life because it marks the achievement of my ambition, an ambition I have had for many years past. I believe that most people are interested in their local history and will be pleased to learn or reminisce from the photographs in my collection.'

This is how Mr Bert Lovett described his feelings on the recent opening of a special exhibition room named in his honour at the Newcastle Region Library.

Mr Lovett has generously donated his personal collection of photographs to the library. The collection comprises several thousand prints and negatives amassed from Mr Lovett's own photography and from donations.

At the opening of the Lovett Room the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Alderman John McNaughton, described the great number of photographs in the collection coming directly in response to Mr Lovett's 'persuasiveness, persistence and insistence'.

One such acquisition came from the *Newcastle Herald* which handed over around 150,000 negatives dating from 1950 to 1970. Another major collection of around 30,000 negatives is about to be acquired from the well known Newcastle photographer, Ron Morrison. A thousand photographs are about to be purchased from the NSW Government Printer and negotiations are proceeding with the State Rail Authority.

According to Mr Lovett the idea of starting a collection came about after his retirement when he was able to merge his interest in local history and photography. The search for a permanent exhibition spot for his burgeoning collection has some history itself.

The collection's first home was Fort Scratchley Maritime Museum (a museum brought into being largely through the efforts of Mr Lovett) but as the collection grew and its scope widened from maritime themes a new venue was needed.

Then the *Newcastle Herald* succumbed to some of Mr Lovett's 'persuasiveness and persistence' and agreed to enlarge and frame 100 historic photos for exhibition. This exhibition was staged at the Newcastle Regional Art Gallery and was outstandingly successful. It attracted 10,000 people in four weeks! With in-

Photos. (right) The Windeyer sisters go cycling in 1890; (below) The French barque Adolphe fast on the Oyster Bank at Stockton in 1904.



terest at this peak the search for a permanent exhibition space began in earnest.

It was at this stage in 1985 that the Newcastle City Council and the City Library Manager, Mr Charlie Smith, stepped in and offered space for the collection in the library. Of course Mr Lovett's quest was well known to library staff as he had been a frequent visitor to the library over the years while looking for information and researching historical material.

Final arrangements were soon worked out. Mr Lovett undertook to not only to donate his vast collection but to also organise regular exhibitions. The Council and the library began alterations to create an exhibition space and working on the logistics of integrating the collection into the library's Local History Section. Even private sponsorship was sought and this came in the form of photographic equipment for an adjoining dark room being donated by Howard Smith PL.

So now half the rooms in Mrs Lovett's house can be used for their original purpose, the Newcastle Region Library has a new exhibition space, and library users, researchers and local historians have access to a new resource — one which brings Newcastle's history dramatically to life!

Exhibitions in the Lovett Room will be free and open to the public from 10.00 am to 8.00 pm Monday to Friday, and from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday, excepting public holidays.

HERITAGE WEEK 5 — 12 APRIL

The 1987 Heritage Week activities throughout Australia, organised by Heritage Week organisations and National Trusts in every state and territory, provide an exciting introduction to the Bicentennial. It is a time when Australia should reflect on its past, and on ways to ensure its conservation and preservation.

Western Australia

Heritage Week became a national event just a few years ago with the entry of Western Aus-

tralia.

The America's Cup, and particularly the rejuvenation of Fremantle, highlighted heritage conservation in the state. So it is with much pleasure that the eastern states can, belatedly, welcome Western Australia to the Heritage Week club.

One of the most exciting Heritage Week events is a special exhibition at the Museum of Childhood at Subiaco. Toys of early Western Australians, some dating back to the early years of colonisation, as well as toys made in the state, form the nucleus for the display.

Following a successful formula, country fairs will again be held across the state. Another favourite, the Avon Valley Car Rally,

taking in several historic points of interest, will be repeated this year.

The Heritage Week opening event will be a commemorative race meeting at Gloucester Park.

New South Wales

In Sydney, Heritage Week begins with a trip back to the early nineteenth century. The time is 1810 and a pioneer family make their way from Parramatta to Sydney Town. The head of the family is an emancipist and he seeks an audience with Governor Lachlan Macquarie in order to secure a land grant.

HERITAGE WEEK 5 - 12 APRIL

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On Thursday 2 April the family will reach the city. They will be met by troopers and escorted to Hyde Park where a camp will be established. Over the next three days, a wide range of activities and demonstrations of colonial skills will take place. On the morning of Sunday 5 April, the family will break camp and trek into the midst of the Macquarie Street Fair, the official opening event for Heritage Week, to meet with Governor Macquarie.

'Pioneers in the Park' will give life to the Department of Education's 'Project 88'. A teaching lead-in to the Bicentennial, it studies the period 1810-21 and the growth of the colony during the administration of Governor Lachlan Macquarie.

The Macquarie Street Fair on Sunday 5 April opens Heritage Week in New South Wales. The Library Society will have a stall at the fair, and guided tours of the State Library will take place throughout the day.

Heritage Week activities extend throughout the state. A notable event will be the Hunter Valley Steamfest, with historic steam trains operating from Central Station to Maitland on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 April.

On Sunday 12 April, the Balmain Vintage Yacht Race will excite interest on the harbour shores. To the west will be the Parramatta Colonial Day at Parramatta Park.



Northern Territory

Heritage Week will reach throughout the Northern Territory, from the major cities of Darwin and Alice Springs to such out-of-the-way places as Katherine, Tennant Creek, Pine Creek, Adelaide River, and Borroloola.

The Chief Minister of the Northern Territory will launch Heritage Week at Casuarina Shopping Square, Darwin on 5 April.

Throughout the week, a large number of displays, with a decidedly Territorian flavour, will be sure to attract interest.

Another notable event will be tours of the Holmes Jungle National Park, conducted under the catchy title 'There's No Place Like Holmes', by the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory. A display of notable items from the Northern Territory Archives in Darwin can be viewed in tandem with an inspection of the building and its activities.

Of the regional activities, some of the more fascinating include a parade of vintage cars through the streets of Katherine, and an interpretive tour of the old telegraph station in Alice Springs. Also originating from 'the Alice', on 11 April, is a field trip to Hermannsburg, the historic mission station established in 1877 by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia and the Hermannsburg Mission Society of North Germany.



Tasmania

This year Heritage Week in Tasmania has a decidedly maritime flavour. With the theme 'Discover Your Maritime History', events are being held throughout this most historic of states. From a book launch at the Australian Maritime College at Launceston on 4 April to daily tours of the Low Head Light Station at George Town, visitors will be able to reflect on the immense importance of sea travel on the development of Tasmania.

Heritage Week in the state formally begins

on Sunday 5 April with a family picnic day at Clarendon near Evandale, an outstanding Georgian residence. It is one of the more outstanding examples of residential architecture to be found in Tasmania and provides an imposing background to the Heritage Week opening by the Governor of Tasmania.

On 12 April, Clarendon, along with a number of National Trust and National Parks and Wildlife properties will be open free of charge to the public.



Queensland

The Caltex Starlight Showcase '87 is the name given to Queensland's opening Heritage Week salvo. In the late afternoon of 5 April, the dedicated will assemble on the lawns outside Old Government House, Brisbane, and celebrate with brass bands and opera. Cruises along the Brisbane River will be conducted on 7 and 9 April, taking in historic points of interest.

Outside the capital, Heritage Week is attracting enormous support. In tropical Cairns, there will be an open day at the Atherton Joss House to display the latest restorations. At the Royal Bulls Head Tavern in Toowoomba, Ned Kelly's guns are among the exhibits in a display of historic firearms. At the Currumbin Sanctuary, surely one of the most unusual of the National Trust's acquisitions, a bushmen's picnic is to be held on Sunday 12 April. Currumbin celebrates its 41st anniversary this year, making it one of the Gold Coast's most enduring attractions.



Victoria

This year, the state theme celebrates the gold rush of the 1850s and its effect on Victoria. The official opening to Heritage Week begins with the State Premier, the Honorable John Cain, travelling to Warrandyte by Cobb & Co coach. In 1851 Warrandyte, or Anderson's Creek as it was then known, was the site of the first gold strike in the colony.

Shire and municipal libraries feature largely in Heritage Week, with several organising heritage walks of their areas. Dr Miles Lewis of Melbourne University, locally known as the Sherlock Holmes of architecture, will host walks from the Carringbush and Fitzroy public libraries.

Heritage Week 1987 will also see the opening of a number of Melbourne's most historic homes. One of the best will be the Villa Alba at Kew. Although much dilapidated in recent years, it is undergoing restoration. Another fine residence open for inspection is the Italianate dream mansion, Werribee Park. Built between 1873-78, it was the home of pastoralist Thomas Chirnside.



Australian Capital Territory

With over 80 events, Heritage Week in the Australian Capital Territory promises to be as outstanding as any of the larger states. At the Albert Hall from Saturday 4 to Tuesday 7 April will be an extensive heritage and history exhibition.

On Sunday 5 April, Duntroon will be open for inspection, while on Saturday 11 April, bus tours of Lanyon is a prime example of a mid-nineteenth century colonial homestead. On 12 April the Lodge and Government House will open their doors to visitors.

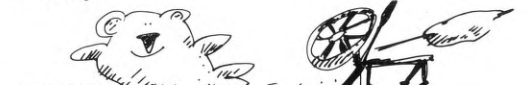
Libraries throughout the ACT will also take part in Heritage Week. Among the notable is the Belconnen Town Centre Library, which will hold a campfire and damper bake on 9 April. The Woden Town Centre Library will concentrate on children's storytelling.



South Australia

The National Trust's SA headquarters, the distinctive bow-fronted Avers House in North Terrace, Adelaide, is the focus of a most interesting Heritage Week display. Among the special Heritage Week displays, will be a bunch of third generation, Adelaide-establishment teddy bears acting out a school scene. There will also be exhibitions of quilts, fans, lace-making, spinning and weaving.

Heritage walks will stress the unique historical character of Adelaide. One such walk takes in Light's lookout, Light's Statue, the Holy Trinity Church, Parliament House, the Social History Museum, and the Mortlock Library.



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