

IT'S OPEN

Colour, sound and action were the focus as 15,000 people streamed through the State Library of NSW's bright new complex on Saturday, 7 May. The spectacular Open Day was a fitting climax to a busy week which saw the Queen officially open the new 11-storey building on 4 May.



Royal Visit

Arriving at 5.00pm the Queen and Prince Phillip were met by NSW Premier, Nick Greiner, together with State Librarian, Alison Crook, and Library Council President, Dr Mark Hertzberg.

A short opening ceremony was followed by a tour of the new complex and a brief viewing of the 'Coming of the Strangers' exhibition — housed in the refurbished Galleries of the Mitchell Wing. Alison Crook described to the Royal party the significance of the 13 Newton Powell letters, won back from a Sotheby's auction last December following a successful public campaign for funds.

Highly detailed letters, one running to 26 pages, cover the young midshipman's experiences aboard HMS Sirius during the

First Fleet voyage to Botany Bay and Sydney Cove. Other letters recount the later dash to Cape Town for urgent supplies to sustain the starving colony and the subsequent shipwreck of Sirius at Norfolk Island on 19 March 1790.

Concluding the tour Library Council President, Dr Hertzberg, presented the Queen with prints of the three-sheet panorama of Sydney, in 1823, by Major James Taylor. These watercolours are considered the finest and most accurate depictions made of Sydney Town.

Following a brief reception in the new building the royal party left the State Library and returned to Britannia, moored in Sydney Harbour.

People Place

Excitement was building for Saturday and a 'popular' response from the public was anticipated for the State Library's Open Day — the celebration of its transition into a more recognisable 'people place'.

Clear indications that the new Library was going to be 'different' were marked by radio ads (featuring Jonathon Coleman and Angry Anderson) and print ads which presented Albert Einstein, Marilyn Monroe and Henry Lawson in somewhat strange circumstances.

Saturday was a raging success — in every way. The entertainment was high-standard, lively and continuous; the public poured through the complex in droves and the 'behind-the-scenes' exhibition guides were often overwhelmed. Almost 300 staff — decked out in T-shirts sporting a giant Library logo — worked enthusiastically to give the public what they wanted. The fun and excitement was infectious. Music, dance, film, food, clowns, talks and demonstrations — it was a



day-long round of non-stop activity.

And the people loved it. Families and kids were out in force. The majority of those surveyed were first-time visitors — they wanted to see what all the fuss was about and couldn't believe just how much this new complex has to offer everyone. A primary task was to let people know the State Library is accessible — and is not just about 'books'. The new and expanded services — film, video, compact disc, family history, special needs service, all won acclaim.

With the State Library now housed in one complex (rather than seven different locations) service delivery will be streamlined. The historic Mitchell wing now houses, exclusively, the Mitchell and Dixon Australiana Collections and the bright, light and spacious new building contains the two-tier General Reference Library, with its new and expanded facilities.

The hectic week was exciting and stimulating — a memorable milestone in a 162-year history — and marking the beginning of what is clearly a new era for the NSW State Library.



Above: two views of the new facilities: (top) natural light and the feeling of space are features of the new general reference area; the library — a place to unwind listening to the latest CD.

Left: 'A day of insight, a little knowledge and a whole lot of fun.' Press advertisement covering the opening

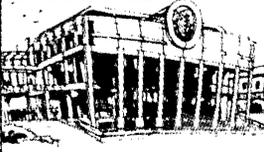
This Saturday the State Library will be mind boggling.



When Macquarie Street and the State Library come alive this Saturday with clowns, dancers, foodstalls, live music, stilt walkers and street theatre, the traditional residents of the Library could well be excused for rolling their eyes a little.

The changed atmosphere is all to do with celebrations marking the opening of the brand new state of the art library extensions.

So don't miss a major day in Sydney's history. It's a day for the whole family. A day of insight, a little knowledge and a whole lot of fun.



STATE LIBRARY OF NSW
MACQUARIE STREET SYDNEY TELEPHONE 230 1516

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT, WHERE, AND WHEN THE FUN IS. SATURDAY 7TH MAY 9AM - 5PM

<p>9.00am Exhibition opens until 5.00pm including foodstalls, (Lewer's Buns) and bookshop • All departments open to demonstrate how to use the facilities • The 'Coming of the Strangers' Exhibition open for viewing • 9.00am Family History talk • Storytelling for children • 10.00am Films and slides until 12.30pm • 10.00am Newspapers and magazines talk • Storytelling for children • 10.45am 'Works on the World' • 11.00am Macquarie Street (Lewer's Buns) • The amazing Kurweil machine • 11.15am Hollywood Musical Band • Mime Act • 'Festera'</p>	<p>11.00am Kodaly Hungarian Dance Group • Rare books talk • 12.00 noon Panini in Buns until 1.00pm • Erasmus the Clown • 12.15pm Movies 1.00pm • 'Punch & Judy' show • 12.30pm Kodaly Hungarian Dance Group • History talk • Storytelling for children • 12.50pm Ballets release • 1.00pm Rare books preservation • The amazing Kurweil machine • Peter O'Shaughnessy, Botany Bay 1788-1988 • 1.15pm 'Works on the World' • Mime Act • 'Festera' • Harbourside City Jazz Band • 1.40pm Family history talk</p>	<p>• Morris dancers • Pireless pictures talk • 1.45pm Abernethy Aboriginal Dance performance • 2.00pm Children's 'colourful history' • Simon French, author • 2.45pm Mime Act • 'Festera' • Shakespeare's sonnets performed by John Bell and musician Michael Atherton • 3.00pm 'Works on the World' • 3.15pm 'Works on the World' • 3.30pm Family history talk • 4.00pm Compact Disc demonstration • Film and video viewings • Storytelling for children • 4.30pm Pireless pictures talk</p>
--	--	---