



ALIA House

On the morning of 10 October, 1989, I, as President of ALIA, and Sue Kosse, Executive Director of ALIA, were standing on a windswept and dusty building site in Deakin nervously awaiting the arrival of the Governor General Bill Hayden, coming to set the foundation stone for the new head office building. We did not need to be nervous – quickly Mr Hayden put us all at ease. We went through the formalities and then Mr Hayden had to set the foundation stone. His official secretary said, "I don't think he has done a foundation stone yet – this will be the first!" The site foreman of Kell & Rigby, our builders, was on hand with a trowel and a bucket of cement. Mr Hayden approached the stone, then

unexpectedly handed his suit jacket to his aide, and muttered, "Oh, good, something practical. I have been doing a bricklaying course[at the Canberra TAFE]." He proceeded to take the trowel and using the cement in the bucket very professionally and securely set the foundation stone for ALIA House in Deakin.

The foundation stone in the foyer is in a different place from the place where the Governor General laid it – this was due to the stage the building was at the time.

When the move was made, Sue Kosse, the ED, and the staff had done a wonderful job in moving into temporary premises in Kingston, amid much disruption and illness and reluctance of the staff to move.

Once we moved into the new head office, business was able to be conducted in a more effective manner. We had new staff and a General Council committed to the move. Phillip Cox, our architect, was pleased with the building and had been extremely helpful throughout the exercise. Bill Rushton from Knight Frank and Baillieu worked long and hard to bring about successful sale of the building in Ultimo – at an amazing price, so that we did not have to use any loan money for 12 months, and also to oversee the building project of ALIA House. We owe a great deal to Phillip Cox and to Bill Rushton, and to Sue Kosse, the Executive Director, during a very charged time.

Averill M B Edwards,



AVERILL EDWARDS AND THE FOUNDATION
STONE OF ALIA HOUSE

Scaling down, building up: from Sydney back to Canberra

ALIA was formed as the Australian Institute of Librarians in Canberra in 1937, renamed the Library Association of Australia in 1950, and became ALIA in 1989. Looking to develop a new revenue stream to complement membership and conference income, the then General Council resolved to move head office from the former Avery Scales building in Ultimo, Sydney, and take advantage of Commonwealth Government incentives for national organisations to re-locate to Canberra.

A piece of paddock was allocated, a foundation stone laid by the Governor General, and in 1990, ALIA House was occupied. Today 50% of the building is leased to our commercial tenants, and the paddock is the completely built-up Deakin subdivision, home to many other national bodies.

Ian McCallum