

National Library Building Turns 40

The year 2008 saw the National Library of Australia celebrate the 40th anniversary of the opening of its building on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. With its elegant classical lines, the building is a tribute to the vision of architects Bunning and Madden, and includes important contributions from renowned artists Henry Moore, Tom Bass and Leonard French. The National Library is a landmark building in Canberra's Parliamentary Triangle and a great storehouse of Australia's documentary heritage.

To celebrate the 40th birthday of the National Library's building, the past met the present in a day of celebration on 25 August. Canberra ABC Radio 666 broadcast from the foyer of the Library, featuring an interview with Director-General Jan Fullerton, and talks with past and present staff.

The Hon. Peter Garrett AM, MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, cut the 40th birthday cake.

Former and current staff gathered to reminisce about life at the National Library over the last 40 years.

Rarely seen photographs and architectural plans were also displayed at the National Library to celebrate the anniversary. *The Opening Chapter* examined the physical attributes of the building and revealed the vision of architects Bunning and Madden. Among the exhibition highlights were striking photographs of the interior commissioned from Max Dupain, and films showing building construction, the fabrication of the Leonard French windows and the official opening ceremony.



'This anniversary is not just about the past. It is a time to embark on the National Library's vision for the future, including a focus on preserving our digital memory and the creation of a new Treasures Gallery.'

Jan Fullerton AO, Director-General