

# David Mann Library

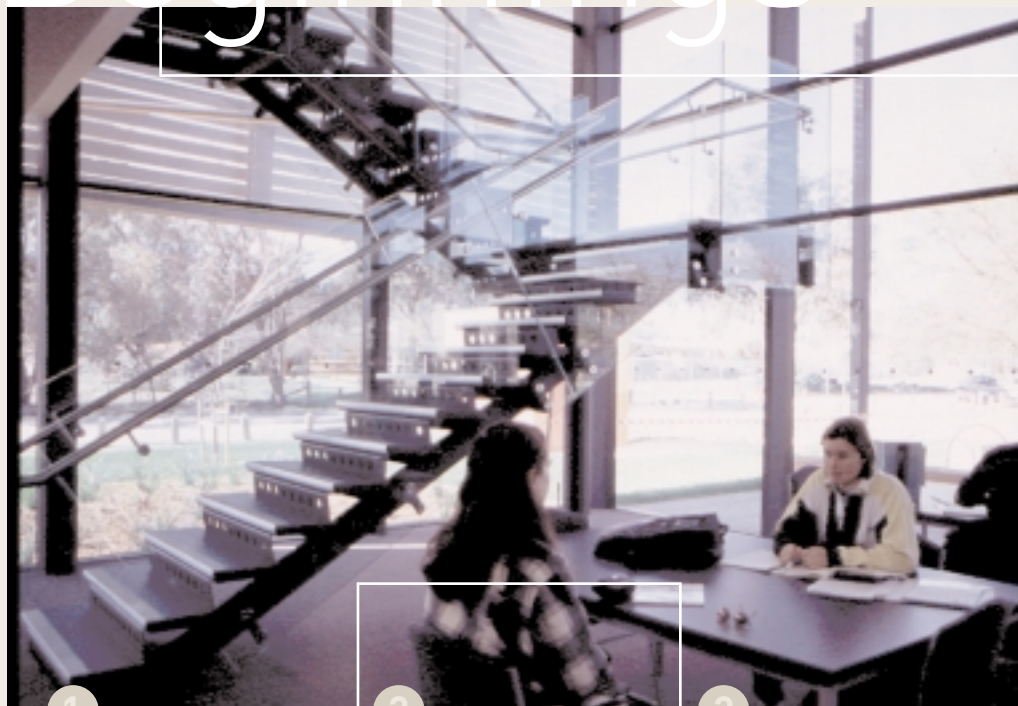


In 1987 Wodonga College of TAFE was officially established at McKoy Street and in the following year the Wodonga Institute of Tertiary Education began operations on the same site, with one library serving both institutions. On January 1, 1991 the Institute was incorporated within La Trobe University to become the Albury-Wodonga Campus of La Trobe University. The library continued to operate as a joint use facility, governed by a Memorandum of Understanding drawn up between La Trobe University and Wodonga College of TAFE.

The library began its life at the College with about one thousand books located in one room. While the building was refurbished in 1988 it was moved to the 'Glasshouse' at 1 McKoy Street, now the Border Mail offices. In June 1990 it moved back into more spacious quarters in Building A, 15 McKoy Street where it remained for the next eleven years. Pat Pettit was appointed as Campus Librarian in 1992 and under her strong leadership the library staff have played a critical role in developing the library's collections and services to support the teaching, learning and research of the campus.

Resource development was the first priority to match the growth of the University and the College of TAFE. At the end of 1991 the library held some 12,000 monograph and serial volumes but by the end of 2001 the total was nearing 70,000. Electronic resources were unavailable in 1991 but the rapid development of the Internet, the introduction of a web-based catalogue and the proliferation of databases, created a growing demand for computer workstations as the decade progressed. By 2001 the library was critically short of space.

# Beginnings



## New features



1

*The Loans and Information Desks have been integrated to assist with inquiries at one service point.*

2

*There is an extensive display case to exhibit library resources. It will also be available for use by other departments. It can be viewed either from the foyer or from inside the Library.*

3

*The Reserve area allows students to browse high-use materials that have been placed on two-hour loan by their lecturers, before borrowing or photocopying.*

The 1993 Master Plan for the Albury-Wodonga Campus of La Trobe University recommended that a new library should be constructed in 1997 in stage 2 of the campus development. With this in mind, Dr David Jones from the Building and Planning Service of the State Library of New South Wales was invited to Wodonga to hold a Library Planning Workshop at the Campus Library in August 1995. This introduction to the planning process proved to be invaluable.

Over the next two years, a team from La Trobe University Library and the Wodonga Institute of TAFE worked on a substantial brief, and library staff and patrons contributed to the process through an extensive survey. Members of the team also visited a number of libraries in Australia and overseas to gather information.

The completed brief was incorporated into the Architect's Preliminary Brief prepared by the Buildings and Grounds Division of the University in 1998. The major concerns it addressed were provision of space to allow growth for collections and technology, flexibility to adapt to future change and a greater variety of spaces and seating to meet the needs expressed by students and staff.

# Planning



# Building

Woods Bagot were appointed as architects and plans were ready by May 1999. However a change in the priorities for the building program at the campus delayed the start of the construction until September 2001. The schedule was extremely tight because it was essential that the move into the completed building take place during the inter-semester break in 2002, when services to students and staff would be least disrupted. Zauner Constructions met the challenges of producing a library building ready for occupation by early July 2002 and it was open for business before the beginning of Semester 2.

# Naming

Mr. David Mann is Managing Director of Mann Wodonga, established almost 80 years ago and he is extremely well known in the Albury-Wodonga region. The list of his contributions to regional and commercial development, community organisations and the arts is too long to include here, however his promotion of the development of tertiary education in the region has been of profound importance to the Campus.

Mr. Mann has been a member of the Regional Advisory Board of the Albury-Wodonga Campus since its inception in 1991 and many of his community interests have provided important links in the development of the University's programs. In 1998 Mr Mann was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (LLD) in recognition of his contribution to the region and to La Trobe University.

The Library is proud to be named for such a distinguished member of the Albury-Wodonga community.

*The Library Conference Room is available to the wider Campus for meetings.*

4

*Four group study rooms cater for the growing need for spaces where students can work in groups.*

5

*The training room, equipped with fourteen computers, is used for database and research skills training.*

6

*The audiovisual collection is now housed in a separate and clearly visible area, making it easier to find and use.*

7

*The curriculum area contains the materials for students from the Institute for Education, particularly for fieldwork.*

8



### From the Library

"It is very exciting to see the broad vision and finer detail of the brief translated by the architects and builders into a reality. The result is an outstanding building that has both visual impact and functionality. The use of light and space create a welcoming atmosphere and add to the sense of comfort. It is a building that will enable the campus to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing educational environment and position it for the future." Pat Pettit, Campus Librarian.

### From the Architect

"The new library at the Albury-Wodonga campus provides a purpose-designed building, implementing the masterplan for the campus. Built at the eastern part of the campus, it provides a focal building of interaction, knowledge and identity, a common contribution made by libraries on campuses.

The building aligns itself with the existing central pedestrian path, a forecourt extends from the path to the library entry, providing a new landscaped civic plaza, where abstracted seating elements allow individuals to sit and interact or read. A transparent glazed southern facade provides visual clarity to the internal activities of the library, giving a sense of openness, lightness and a strong relationship between building and nature. The northern facade in contrast is composed predominantly of masonry with horizontal windows. This allows material and colour to be complementary to the remainder of the campus, and provides a sense of permanence.

In essence, the library provides a new vibrant focus, typifying itself as the "heart" of the campus." Peter Miglis, Architect

### From the Students

Features of the building that students have commented on with enthusiasm are the provisions for group work, the comfortable seating, the extremely good passive lighting and the prominent display case. They find that material is now much easier to find and they like the new open reserve system where they can browse restricted loan material. The students feel that the campus now looks and feels like a true university campus because of the advent of the Library. Comments collected by Ms Cyndy Connole, President, Student Association.

### From the Staff

"The new Library provides a focus for the campus. The building is well laid out with plenty of room to access materials and has abundant natural light. The group study rooms are an asset because staff can set group projects knowing that there is a suitable space for the students to use. The conference room provides a venue for seminars and meetings and it is good to have a display area to show the work of the campus." Eileen Clark, Lecturer, School of Nursing.

"The long gestation was worth it - the new Campus Library is a major resource for TAFE and the University alike. There is strong usage of the facility by staff and students from TAFE, which affirms the value of a shared facility. With the construction of the Institute's new LIRNspace facility (also shared), 2003 will see students on this campus accessing learning environments, technology and resources the equal of anything in regional Australia. This truly is access to the world of learning." Chris Horton, Manager Planning and Educational Services, Wodonga Institute of TAFE.

### Statistics

Floor area	1500 sq.m
Seating:	
Carrels	159
Tables	36
Group Study rooms	18
Easy chairs	6
Internet workstations	28
Cost	\$5.5m

### Collections:

Volumes (books and serials)	70,000
Videos	2,200
Print serial subscriptions	864
Access to electronic serials	18,000 approx.

Client population  
(staff and students of La Trobe and TAFE) 4,450 EFT

Library staff (La Trobe and TAFE) 11 EFT

Loans (Books and Videos) 55,000 per annum

*(Based on 2001 statistics)*

# Realization

### Project Partners

#### Architects

Woods Bagot Pty Ltd,

#### Builders

Zauner Construction Pty Ltd,

#### Quantity Surveyor

Donald Cant Watts Corke Pty Ltd

#### Services Engineer

Umow Lai & Associates Pty Ltd

#### Structural / Civil Engineer

John Mullen & Partners

#### Building Surveyor

Philip Chun & Associates

