

NOTES AND COMMENTARY

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Turnbull Library was held in the Shell Theatre on 4 July 1972. The Annual Report, as presented to a record attendance of over one hundred, prompted discussion on the future of the Library in the National Library Building. The Report, as presented by the Chief Librarian in the absence overseas of the President, was received and adopted with one dissentient voice. The following motion was carried unanimously:

'That the Friends commend to the permanent interest of the Special Committee of the Trustees the separate identity of the Alexander Turnbull Library in both its physical and administrative senses.'

Mr A. D. McIntosh as Chairman of Trustees and of the Alexander Turnbull Library Committee, outlined the present situation regarding the National Library Building plans and stressed that despite the limitations of the design, valuable years would be lost if the whole scheme were rejected. He assured the Friends that there was a legal as well as a moral duty of the Trustees to see that the Library was housed in separate and fitting accommodation, and he felt that the plans, as prepared, were fully in the spirit of that obligation.

At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, the long awaited film on the Library 'Alexander Turnbull's Library', produced by the National Film Unit and directed by Paul Maunder, was presented. The film, which met with a generally favourable reaction from the audience, has since been screened publicly in Wellington and will be shown elsewhere in New Zealand on television and it is hoped overseas. Proposals for a film of the Library go back some fifteen years, but we are now indebted to Mr R. T. Bowie, Producer, and Mr A. G. Scott, Manager of the Film Unit, for deciding that this was the time for this candid, personal but fascinating colour record to be made.

Work on the renovation of the Free Lance Building is more or less up to time, and it is expected that the Library will move into its new 'temporary' accommodation in the new year. The membership will be advised when a firm date is available.

The Chief Librarian left for the United Kingdom via California on 23 August and is expected to return to Wellington on 18 December. While in England, Mr Bagnall will be engaged in a number of duties associated with the acquisition of manuscripts, sketches and paintings in original or photocopy form. He will, also, further negotiations on those