

the building in May 1973 when the belated erection of the preferred steel units permitted the shelving of the newspaper collection. Except for some periodicals and manuscript the entire Pacific collection is housed under one roof for the first time in 17 years. Miss Margery Walton's months of detailed planning were magnificently vindicated, the operation itself being carried out by contractors assisted by student labour and the male and female huskies of the Turnbull staff.

The Free Lance building was suggested as a possible headquarters for the Library as early as 1965 when NAC, the then tenant, decided to proceed with the erection of its own building. However, after the passing of the National Library Act the Government Accommodation Board proposed that the building be occupied jointly by Turnbull and the Central Division of the National Library. This scheme was accepted by the parties concerned early in 1968.

Planning for joint occupancy was a lengthy and demanding task, particularly as much of the work coincided with the preparation of plans for the National Library building itself. A complication was that the official forecast of the available area was considerably in excess of the final figures. So far as Turnbull was concerned, senior staff and the Turnbull Committee supported by the Trustees and the National Librarian took the view that the standard of accommodation should be fitting, appropriate and not inferior to that of the Turnbull building in Bowen Street, having regard to the real meaning of "temporary" in the time-scale of Government building. Preliminary planning of the Turnbull area on the second or top floor was substantially the work of Mr R. F. Grover in full consultation with senior staff members concerned and was completed early in 1970. Working drawings and architectural supervision for the refitting of the building as a whole was the responsibility of Messrs W. Pearson and Associates. The costing estimates caused concern to those directly involved, particularly in the light of a policy of Government restraint on such expenditure but in mid 1971 the Cabinet Works Committee made the welcome decision to proceed. The contract itself took the 1972 calendar year although, as seems not unusual in such circumstances, various sub-contracts extended beyond the first quarter of 1973. It would have been most satisfactory to the Chief Librarian if he could have retired in mid-May in the knowledge that all the problems associated with the air-conditioning equipment, the security system, the protective glass panels and the display screens (to be a feature of the main exhibition area) had been resolved but regrettably this was not possible. Patience, persistence and time, however, will soon bring the building to a reasonable standard of working efficiency. The ground and first floors are occupied by the User Services and General Services Divisions of the National Library whose excellent collection of general library catalogues and bibliographies are available for consul-