

Notes and Comments

Reduction in hours of opening

On 1 August 1981 the Library began opening to readers and visitors at 10.30a.m., Monday to Friday. Saturday hours for readers and visitors (9a.m. to noon) and evening hours for readers (5p.m. to 8p.m.) are unchanged. These changes will reduce the total hours of opening from 55 hours to 47½ a week. The Minister of Education was advised by the Trustees of the National Library at their meeting on 12 May 1981 'That . . . now that the National Library building has been sanctioned, and to relieve pressure on Turnbull, the establishment of a public reference service (with a strong New Zealand component) by the User Services division of the National Library in the Wellington city area be regarded as a matter of urgency . . . to approve a change in the Turnbull Library's time of opening . . . to 10.30a.m. Monday to Friday . . .' and 'to approve an amendment to the Turnbull's "Rules for the Use of the Library and Reading Room" to allow for differing levels of access to the collections for visitors and bona fide research readers'. In June the Minister accepted the Trustees' advice on hours and conditions given in terms of the Alexander Turnbull Library Regulations 1966.

The reduction in hours will give the staff an uninterrupted period between 8.30 and 10.30a.m. to undertake the essential housekeeping necessary to maintain public services at an acceptable level. The reduction is regarded as a temporary measure and as soon as staffing levels and user demand are in better balance consideration will be given to an increase in the hours of opening. Changes in the rules and procedures to allow for differing levels of access to the collections for visitors and bona fide research readers are being reviewed.

The Turnbull Winter Lectures 1981

This year during May and June the second series of Turnbull winter lunchtime lectures was held at Turnbull House. The first series consisted of seven lectures between May and September in 1966, the first year of the Turnbull's incorporation in the National Library of New Zealand. On four occasions (three Mondays and the Tuesday after the Queen's Birthday holiday) about a hundred people, mostly members of the Friends, gathered in the upstairs rooms at Turnbull House between 12.30 and 1.30 to hear lectures on the theme 'New Zealand Through the Arts: Past and Present'. The lecturers were Sir Tosswill Woollaston on painting, Jack Body on music, Allen Curnow on poetry, and Witi Ihimaera on literature and Maori life. The series was sponsored by the Friends and tickets were made available first to Friends at \$8 for the series and then to the public at \$10. The 100 tickets available for sale were all taken up some