

## State Library to create state-of-the-art conservation lab with \$4 million donation

8/8/2018

The State Library of New South Wales today announced a major donation of \$4 million by Mr Len Ainsworth AM and Mrs Gretel Ainsworth through the State Library Foundation for a new world-class conservation laboratory at the Library. The gift was announced by President of the Library Council of NSW the Hon George Souris AM and the State Librarian Dr John Vallance.

Dr Vallance said that “the State Library of NSW is the home of a vast collection of priceless treasures illuminating our history and our place in the world. Protecting and conserving these treasures so they can be made accessible today and into the future requires dedicated and highly specialised work on the part of expert conservators.”

“This extraordinarily generous two-part donation by the Ainsworths will fully fund the construction of a world-class conservation laboratory on Macquarie Street, with state-of-the-art facilities.”

“The Ainsworth Family Conservation Laboratory will place the State Library at the front line of research and best practice internationally in the conservation of original materials,” said Dr Vallance.

Dr Vallance went on to say that “this gift could not come at a better time for the Library, as it embarks on a major project to put some of its rarest collections on permanent public display.”

In thanking Mr and Mrs Ainsworth for this imaginative act of generosity, Dr Vallance noted that the Library has been a story of great public and private partnerships since its early beginnings, and that this benefaction will go down as one of the most significant and important in the Library’s long history.

Library Council President Mr Souris said that Mr and Mrs Ainsworth have carved a significant business empire including manufacturing and export and have not forgotten the place and purpose of this great cultural institution. “The benefaction is a truly magnificent contribution that will make the State Library an even greater place of world excellence.”

# Media Release



NSW Minister for the Arts Don Harwin said, “I’d like to thank Len Ainsworth and his family for this very generous donation that will go towards preserving the State Library’s legacy. More than just a financial contribution, this donation highlights the vital opportunities that philanthropy brings to arts and culture in NSW.”

Mr and Mrs Ainsworth said they had always admired the leadership the State of Library of NSW gives in the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of the nation and continued that it has been a pleasure to give the institution the means to further its capacity to remain at the forefront of preservation and conservation. It is also a way of giving back to the whole nation from the success that has been achieved in the Ainsworth businesses.

**For more information, please contact:**

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