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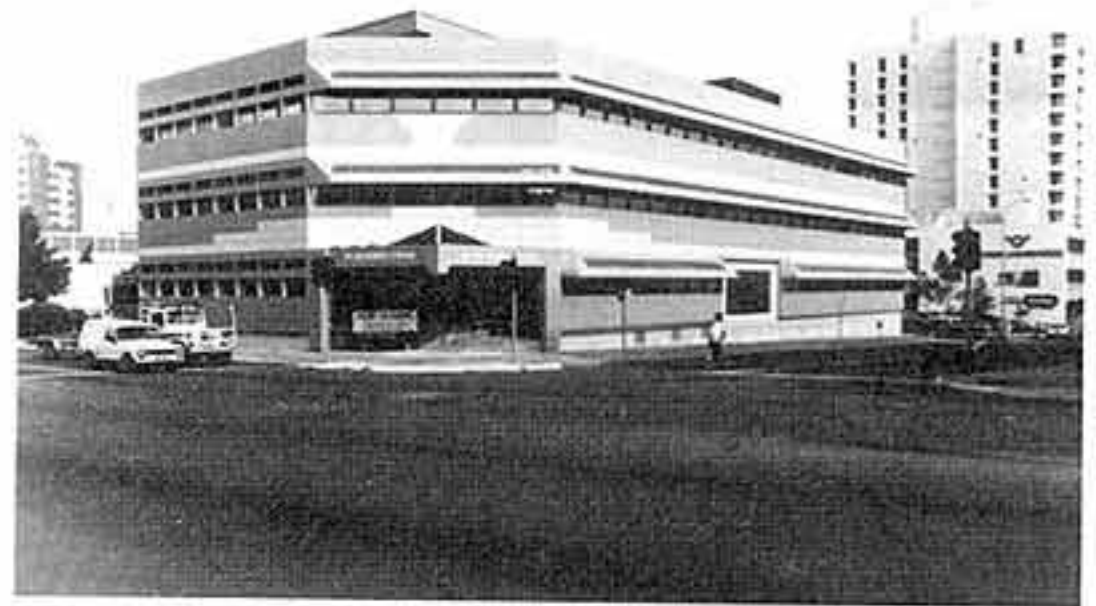
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**THE RUSSELL CENTRE**



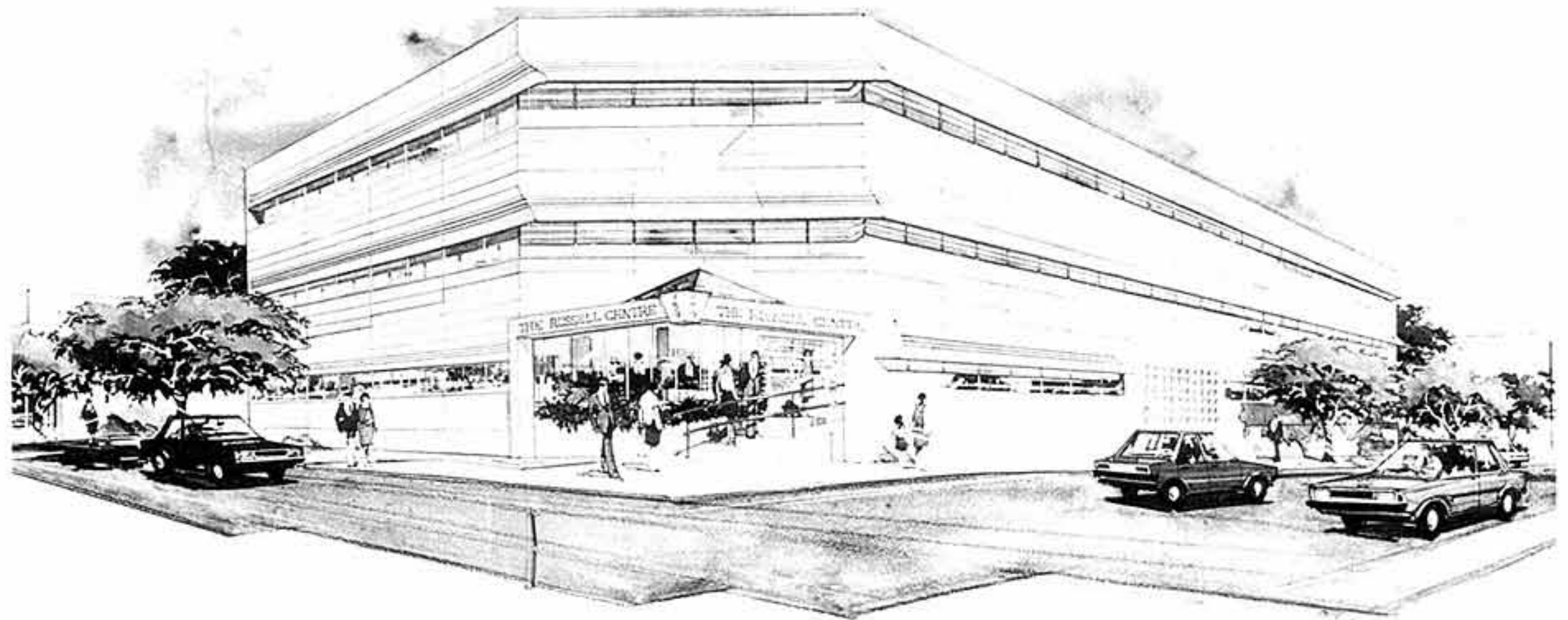
*To refresh the memory of members, this photograph shows the building as it was when the League bought it in 1983. On the right of the picture can be seen the entrance in Bennett Street and the steps which had to be climbed.*



*This photograph shows the building after the extensive renovations have been completed. The new entrance can be seen clearly on the corner of Adelaide Terrace and the glass bricks which now cover the original entrance.*

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**GRAND OPENING  
OF  
THE RUSSELL CENTRE**



**THE RUSSELL CENTRE**  
159 Adelaide Terrace, Perth

On the 18th September Sir Charles Court, A.K., K.C.M.G., O.B.E. will unveil a plaque and officially declare open the renovated building to be known as the "Russell Centre" in honour of Mrs. Dora Russell the General Treasurer and long time member of the League.

When the League bought 159 Adelaide Terrace in 1983 it was a building consisting of large areas of black tinted glass and a side entrance involving climbing several steps — a hard task for some of the elderly. By 1985 the tinting was peeling from some of the windows and its poor condition made it difficult to attract and retain tenants. After discussions with Peter Gregory, Property Consultant to the League, it was decided that the building warranted major refurbishment.

To accomplish this aim the League took the advice of Mr. Peter Gregory and employed Tectoprojects and Mr. Garry Baverstock as the architect. Mr. Baverstock set out to design a building giving special attention to reducing running costs and introducing as much natural light as possible. This meant designing something which would maximise the sun in winter but reduce the heat of the sun in Summer — not an easy job. Mr. Baverstock, however, is a leading exponent of the use of passive solar energy in buildings and League members will, I am sure, be delighted with the result he has achieved. One writer has described it as "the ugly duckling which matures as a white swan" and indeed the transformation itself is something of a fairy tale. Those of us who have worked in the building during

these months have watched this transformation, sometimes wondering what the result would be and, indeed, if there would be a result!!

Any description must start with the part of the building which will be seen by the majority of members, the outside. The dark, dismal look of the old has given way to a pink and beige (my description) much more in keeping with the outlook of today's pensioner. The flat look has been replaced with aluminium sun hoods which cover half the window depth and allow for maximum summer shading and winter sun penetration without blocking the views some of which, especially from windows on the top floor, are lovely and include a view of the river.

To assist me and so that I could fully appreciate all that has been achieved Mr. Peter Gregory kindly took me on a guided tour, starting with the basement parking area and working up to the top floor and perhaps this is a good way to introduce you to it as well.

Anyone who has visited the building over the past months will remember having to come in via the car park. The car park has always suffered with a problem of "pirate" cars taking up the authorised bays. To counteract this problem a tilting door has been installed which is to be operated by remote control. Only those cars provided with the necessary control will be able to gain access.

Easier and safe access has been a big consideration but security is also important and to make this possible the

main building doors are automatically locked at 6.00 p.m. Any authorised tenant can obtain entry by means of a special card-key or, if inside, can get out by pushing a special button.

Entrance to the building is from the corner of Bennett Street and Adelaide Terrace. A gentle sloping ramp, a tenants direction board and a picture window with a magnificent display of greenery greets the visitors and an automatic door opens to allow them through. Now that you have entered the building you will see to your left office space and then the specially designed boardroom for future C.E.C. meetings. In the centre of this room, on your right, is entry to a delightful atrium with, once more, the restful use of greenery. This atrium is carried right through the building with access to a floored verandah on the first floor.

The entry to the offices of the League is straight in front of you as you come into the building, past the lift and the stairs. On the right hand side, where the steps were originally, is a decorative glass brick wall and, again, plants in a triangular area.

To get to the other floors you can use the lift or take the stairs. A rail has been added to the left of the stairs and, on the right, plain glass reinforced windows show a view into the atrium.

On the first floor the office space has been updated and is now in a new blue and grey finish, including carpets.

On this floor our good and patient tenants, Action Realty, have their offices and as an added bonus to the League Mr. Peter Gregory the Managing Consultant has taken up residency. In the past few weeks we have also added a new tenant on this floor. Some of the members will already have been up here as a spare section was used for the August C.E.C. meeting.

The top floor was still being finished off when I visited there but the blue and grey colour scheme is continued. As I mentioned earlier the view from some of the windows on this floor are great. The dome covering the atrium is visible here and a drainage trough round the sides means that a hose can be used to clean the glass.

Several added conveniences have been added which include the alteration of the toilets to allow for wheel chair access. Other features include the air conditioning system which allows for the temperature to be set in each set of offices and allows for a cooler flow of air closer to the window and a solar climatic control which nightly sucks out the air heated during the day replacing it with cool evening air. Thought has also been given to the easy placement of flat cabling for computer, power or telephone under the carpet.

The building belonging to the League now is exciting and very modern and shows that they know how to keep up with the times. They must be congratulated on their forward thinking.