



Media release

For immediate release

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Subiaco Library a city landmark

The Subiaco Library was officially recognised for its contribution to Subiaco's heritage and sense of community when council voted unanimously to adopt the building on its Register of Places of Cultural Heritage Significance last month.

Mayor Heather Henderson said: "The Subiaco Library is a hub of activity in the centre of our city and many of our library patrons have been enjoying the facility for decades. It is wonderful that we were able to formally recognise the significance the library holds in our community."

The heritage assessment of the property, which was undertaken by Prue Griffin and Gemma Smith from Hocking Heritage Studio, identified the library as being of considerable heritage significance, as the building has changed very little since it was built and continues to be used for its original purpose.

The library has an interesting history. After pressure from residents and considerable local press coverage, the Subiaco council joined the public library scheme in the 1960s. Membership increased fourfold by 1969 which then led to the construction of the current library building in 1970-1971.

Mayor Heather Henderson added: "Whilst there had been a library operating on the site since 1927, and a small lending library had operated since at least 1898, the opening of this new building was a significant gesture by the city at the time – a decision that we are most thankful for today."

The building was designed by Silver Goldberg – a very accomplished and successful Perth practice during the era, and was opened by the then Governor General of Australia, Sir Paul Hasluck, on 25 February 1971.

Apart from its significance to the community, the building design itself is valued as an excellent example of twentieth-century architecture. Heritage consultant Prue Griffin said: "The bold design of architects Silver Goldberg is emblematic of the 1970s and ever since it has been a landmark in the city."



Silver Goldberg's other well known building designs included The Pier Street Car Park on the corner Pier and Murray streets in Perth, the Commonwealth Bank at 86 James Street Northbridge and Belmont Forum Shopping Centre.

Other prominent places to be adopted on the city's Register of Places of Cultural Heritage Significance include the Regal Theatre, Subiaco Hotel and Daglish Railway Station.

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Photo

Photograph attached: front entrance Subiaco Library, 29 April 2013.

Notes to Editor

The City of Subiaco is recognised as a local government leader in a range of areas such as environmental and social initiatives, and long-term planning for the future. It is located in the inner metropolitan area of Perth and includes Subiaco, Daglish and parts of Nedlands, Shenton Park, Crawley and Jolimont. A major centre for employment with a diverse and growing business sector, the city provides important services including waste collection, town planning and public recreation facilities to more than 19,000 residents. The city aims to maintain its vibrant sense of community and enhance the lives and well-being of everyone who lives, visits and works in Subiaco. For more information about the City of Subiaco, visit www.subiaco.wa.gov.au