



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

5 April 2012

TIME CAPSULE UNEARTHED AT LIVERPOOL COURT

Builders working on the \$6.5 million renovation of Liverpool Courthouse have unearthed a 40-year-old time capsule, the NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, and Member for Menai, Melanie Gibbons announced today.

The time capsule was buried on 18 December 1972 as part of a ceremony to commemorate the opening of the courthouse and the centenary of Local Government. According to a plaque, the time capsule is not to be opened until “the sesquicentenary of Local Government in 2022AD.”

“It is intriguing to ponder what might have been included in the capsule in 1972 – a time when Australia was undergoing significant changes,” Mr Smith said.

“It was the year conscription ended and our troops were withdrawn from the Vietnam War and the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission ruled that women doing the same job as men had the right to be paid the same wage.”

The 1972 ceremony attracted a host of dignitaries, including the then Justice Minister, John Maddison, whose contribution to law in NSW was so significant that one of Sydney’s largest court complexes, John Maddison Tower, was named in his honour.

Ms Gibbons said the time capsule had to be dug up this month to enable the construction of a ramp at the entrance to the courthouse.

“The expansion of Liverpool Courthouse is not just delivering better justice facilities for the future, it is also preserving an important piece of local history,” Ms Gibbons said.

“The time capsule will remain on the court grounds and will be reburied in an area that will be easily accessible in 2022, when it is due to be opened.”

The renovation of Liverpool Courthouse began in February. It will include:

- an additional courtroom and additional interview and meeting rooms;
- improvements to holding cells and general courthouse security;
- an air-conditioning upgrade; and
- improvements to accessibility for people with a disability.

The courthouse is due to re-open early next year. During the renovation, Liverpool court matters are being diverted to courts in Bankstown and Campbelltown.