

FOR PRESS:

DUKE OF EDINBURGH TO BE PATRON

Statement by Sir Ian McLennan, Chairman of the Executive Committee
of the Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Foundation

His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, has accepted the invitation of the Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Foundation to become its Patron.

The Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Foundation was established in 1959 as a non-profit organisation to honour the memory of the late Sir Ian Clunies Ross, C.M.G., D.V.Sc., Honorary LL.D. (Melbourne), F.A.A., who was Chairman of the C.S.I.R.O. from 1949 until his death in June, 1959.

His life had been one of outstanding service to Australia.

The first project of the Foundation is the building of a National Science Centre in Melbourne. This will provide office accommodation for the scientific and technological societies, a number of which have their national headquarters in Melbourne. It will also provide an auditorium and smaller meeting rooms for lectures, exhibitions, committee meetings and other gatherings of scientists. By supporting the work of the societies in this way, it is hoped to strengthen considerably the Australian scientific community.

A site at 187-195 Royal Parade, Parkville (Melbourne) has been purchased for a sum of £50,000. This is admirably suited to the purposes of the Foundation since it is close to the city, opposite the University of Melbourne and in an area where there are a number of other scientific and technological bodies. It is also in an area where car parking will not present difficulties. The Governors have appointed Messrs. Godfrey & Spowers, Hughes, Newton and Lobb, as architects for Clunies Ross House and have given their general approval to preliminary sketch plans for a building. The ground floor will be devoted to auditorium and meeting rooms and the upper floors to the societies' offices.

As a result of a campaign for funds conducted on a national basis, a sum of £242,000 has so far been received and a further sum of £42,000 promised. The Governors of the Foundation are confident that it will be possible to raise more money for the purposes of the Foundation and negotiations are at present being undertaken with several possible sources of funds. Final details of the building will not be decided until the Foundation's financial resources are more accurately known, but it is hoped that it will be possible to call tenders and start building operations during 1964.

Although the Foundation's first project is the establishment of the National Science Centre in Melbourne, it plans to work in all States. At present negotiations are in hand for opening an office of the Foundation in Brisbane.

CANBERRA,
23rd January, 1964.

Further information may be obtained from -
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