

LAA/NZLA Conference — latest news

THE CHRISTCHURCH contingent of the Conference committee have been hard at work planning social functions to take place during the Conference week. At this stage all traditional Conference dinners have been arranged and several alternative functions have been organised.

Transportation will be provided for all functions. Members will be able to book for these functions on the Conference registration papers to be posted to all members in July.

MONDAY 19 JANUARY

An alternative dinner — Dux de Lux Restaurant 8-11.30pm. Want something a little different? Join us for a gourmet vegetarian meal. Folk or jazz group will entertain. Three-course meal with wine.

Sextathlon (Sports night) at QEII Park — Pack your shorts and sneakers, bathing togs and your sense of humour — for the Trans-Tasman Sextathlon (swimming, squash, pool, table-tennis, darts). You don't need to be sports-minded to cope with our modified rules. Enjoy an evening of light-hearted competition and relax over a drink and a light supper meal.

TUESDAY 20 JANUARY

University/College/Research Dinner — Brevet Club, 7pm-midnight. Pre-dinner drinks followed by a buffet meal and dancing. Full bar service throughout. Attractive modern building near the airport.

Public Libraries and Local Authorities Dinner — Mona Vale, 7pm-midnight. Champagne hour in a beautiful historic house in a lovely riverbank garden setting. Buffet meal in a marquee on the lawn. Dancing.

Children and School Libraries Dinner — Russley Golf Club, 7pm-midnight. Pre-dinner drinks followed by a buffet meal in the attractive and comfortable clubhouse.

WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY

Special Libraries Dinner — Mykonos Greek Restaurant, 8-11.30pm Christchurch's best ethnic restaurant. Greek orchestra. Four-course meal with wine.

Harbour cruise and barbecue — One-hour cruise, land at Diamond Harbour for a barbecue buffet meal with wine.

THURSDAY 22 JANUARY

Byron's Birthday Gala — Student Union Building. This is the Conference's closing function and your ticket is included in the registration fee. Bars will be open from 7pm, the buffet meal served from 8 till 10pm, and the band will entertain the energetic till 1am.

Other gatherings

If you wish to organise other Conference gatherings for special interest groups, please write to the Social Convenor: Helen Tait, Deputy City Librarian, Canterbury Public Library, PO Box 1466, Christchurch. Give approximate numbers, the type of function required and the day and time. You will receive a reply suggesting venues and prices. Deadline 31 August, but the sooner you can get in touch the better.

Income tax

IT appears that members attending the Christchurch Conference will be able to claim income tax deductions.

The LAA wrote to the office of the Commissioner of Taxation seeking amplification of the taxation provisions which cover attendance at professional conferences.

The Taxation Office has replied, stating '... it is accepted as a general principle that a taxpayer engaged in a professional or skilled occupation is entitled to an income tax deduction in respect of expenditure which he incurs for the purpose of maintaining or increasing his knowledge or ability in that particular profession or occupation, provided, of course, it is not of a private, domestic or capital nature. Expenses incurred by a taxpayer attending the Association's conference could, therefore, be deductible. It would not, however, be conceded that costs that relate to any part of his family accompanying him would be allowable. In addition, any part of the total expenditure which is attributable to private activities such as sightseeing and social gatherings, would be regarded as private expenditure and accordingly not an allowable deduction ...'

The Commissioner advises further that any claims for deductions will be considered on an individual basis, taking into account the nature and extent of the actual expenditure, considered in the light of the information

supplied with the individual's income tax return.

So, keep all those receipts. This will enable you to detail your expenditure in your next income tax return.

Public Service Board says Christchurch is not 'overseas'

THERE'S good news for Commonwealth Public Servants. The Public Service Board has advised that Christchurch as a conference location is just like attending a conference in Adelaide or Brisbane. The Board does not see attendance at the LAA21 Conference as being an 'overseas visit'.

If the Department's travel vote can afford the cost of the ticket there is no impediment in sending the departmental librarian to Christchurch.

As a matter of interest, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand are treated in this fashion by the Commonwealth Public Service Board.

Cheap at half the price!

In the Conference Preview section in the last issue of *Incite* the Conference fee was incorrect. The Conference fee will be NZ\$65, which converts to approximately AUS\$56 — not \$75 as stated previously. The actual registration fee payable will be determined by the exchange rate applicable at the time of registration.

One in the 'Bush'... Two in the Library

SINCE DARWIN's new Public Library at Casuarina opened on 12 February this year, the Library has enrolled 8000 members and by the end of April had loaned 59,418 books.

Librarian Bruce Turner says the Library has been an 'overwhelming success showing that "Top End" residents are not just interested in drinking beer and going "Bush".'

Since opening, the Library has received a large and increasing demand for inter-library loans.

A vigorous and well organised program of school visits to the Library has been organised

Casuarina Public Library... overwhelming success

by Cathy Flint, Children's Librarian (formerly of Carringbush, Melbourne) so that many thousands of Darwin children have had their first experience of modern public library service.

Things are looking up on the public library scene in the Territory. Ron Davis (formerly Assistant State Librarian in WA) was appointed Director of Library Services, NT, early this year; a new public library will open at Alice Springs in the next few months, and other new libraries throughout the Territory will open soon.

The Northern Territory Library Service will soon commence the training of Aboriginal Library Assistants in several libraries in the Territory.

