Conference News

The 1st Asian-Pacific Special and Law Librarians Conference, to be held at the Hilton Hotel, Melbourne from 1-6 September 1985 is now in the final stages of planning and the programme is being prepared. There will be both general sessions together with those of a more specialised nature.

While registration brochures were as widely distributed as possible during April interested people may contact the Secretariat to obtain one. Contact: Secretariat, 1st Asian-Pacific Special and Law Librarians Conference, PO Box 29, Parkville VIC 3052.

The ninth ASLA national conference will take place in Brisbane from 26–30 September 1985.

Its theme will be the creative partnerships within education; resource sharing from local to international levels and the application of technology for information service.

To find out more contact the Conference Secretary, 29 Ronald Street, Shailer Park 4128. Telephone (07) 209 9929.

Education for library technicians in NSW

In 1985 the NSW Library Technician Certificate Course commenced at Mr Druitt Technical College, making the fourth location for the course in NSW. A recent study into the feasibility of extending the course into country areas of NSW showed a preference for the 'face to face' course presented at local technical colleges.

The NSW Library Technician Certificate Course is currently being revised. The major change is to expand parts of the course dealing with automated library procedures.

Kaye Barrett is the person to contact with inquiries: Tel: (02) 217-3963.

Bush tunes preserved

A record made by octogenarian bush fiddler Charlie Batchelor and his Hortons River band was launched by Mr Barry Cohen, Minister for Arts Heritage and Evironment at the National Library on April 29. The record was produced with the assistance of the Monaro Folk Music Society, the Australian Folk Trust and the Australia Council with the recordings made by National Library staff members, folklorists Kevin Bradley and Terry McGee.

Charlie taught himself to play as a young man by listening to the tunes and dances played by old bush musicians in the Upper Gwyder River valley. Only in the late fifties and sixties did he start to play for local charities with the Merry Fiddlers.

He attracted the attention of Canberra folklorist Christopher Sullivan, who recorded his music. As a result, Mark Rummery, of Boorowa, and a number of other musicians visited Charlie to learn the old tunes and the band was born. Charlie, who spent his life on his family's property, Emu Vale (using bullocks instead of tractors) had realised he was the only one left who knew the tunes and he wanted to pass them on before he died. The young musicians were just the people he needed to meet.

Charlie heard the recording shortly before his death last year, at the age of 88.

Looking ahead

Something to look forward to in 1986 is the Information Online 86 Conference and Exhibition, to be held at the Sydney Hilton from 20-22 January.

It promises to be the largest exhibition of overseas and Australian publicly available databases ever held in Australia. Business, finance, law, medicine, science, news, technology or the social sciences, the latest developments in online information will be on display at this exhibition.

To find out more contact Mr W. Foda, Australian Convention Management Services on (02) 29 1431.

Worth waiting for . . .

Do you have difficulty in getting back overdue books? A recent British experience suggests that it may be worth while being patient about these things.

Somerset County records office has just had a book returned which was more than 300 years overdue. It was originally borrowed by the Bishop of Winchester and it remained in his office for more than 200 years after which it went to the Church Commissioners who kept it until the mid 1970s when it was given to the Hampshire County records office.

An archivist who had previously worked at the Somerset records office noticed the book. The records officer said they had known that the book went missing in the middle of the seventeenth century but they hadn't known where.

The fine for a book borrowed for this long would amount to more than £3000!

New people at TRIAD

Three well-known people in the library and information world have recently joined Triad.

Katie Blake is well known to users of online systems having represented three of the major systems available in Australia. She comes to TRIAD from SDC/ORBIT where as Manager she established SDC's Australian office. She has frequently presented papers at conferences, online user group meetings and other gatherings. Katie is best known through the many training courses she has conducted on online systems throughout Australia, New Zealand, and Asia.

Tina Reedman has considerable experience in online systems, having worked for Australia's first commercial information broker and in libraries. She worked with Katie Blake in establishing and maintaining SDC's Australian and New Zealand office and has been a frequent speaker at conferences and other meetings.

Ray Walsh, formerly Technical Librarian of the South East Queensland Electricity Board, is well known as a conference speaker and an authority on computer applications in libraries. He is experienced in records management and is interested in integrating the information resources of organisations.

One of the current Directors, Judy Smith, will be returning to Canada in July. Judy's high standard of professionalism will be sorely missed but the infusion of new skills & experience will offer the opportunity to develop new areas of activity.

All issues of InCite should contain the LAA Office Bearers' List and Publications List and also an insert about the 'Books and Computers' Conference. NSW issues will also contain the School Libraries Section Newsletter and a NSW Branch leaflet.