



## CONFERENCE NEWS

### Letter From Darwin

The 'build up' or 'suicide' season, as it is known to locals, is upon us. Current conversation centres around the all important topic — will it be an early Wet? Will it be a late Wet? While we wait for the first storms and relief of the tropical downpours, planning for the 1986 Biennial Conference goes on.

It has been confirmed that Tom Keneally will give the lunchtime Bennett lecture. Professor Ching-Chig Chen from Simmons College Graduate School of Librarianship and Information Science, Boston, will be giving a speech on video disc technology and its implications for librarians. The professor has also indicated her interest in participating in a further period of continuing education programs in libraries.

The LAA Board of Education plans to hold its 1986 meeting of Heads of Schools of Librarianship in Darwin during the 1986 conference. The board will circulate a list of topics and issues it has considered recently and will ask schools to indicate which topics they would like to discuss. Further details will be made available soon.

The LAA has purchased the magnificent rock painting that is to feature on the poster for the 1986 Biennial Conference. By Bobby Bakdjuray Ngainmira of the Gunwinggu Tribe, Western Arnhem Land, the painting represents the artist's dreaming and totem. Bobby is traditionally a rock painter, like his ancestors, and their work is prominent in the rock galleries of Oenpelli. He uses natural ochre stones, white clay and black charcoal from his fire to execute the intricate designs of birds, fish, animals, mimi spirits and ancestral heroes that make up his art. The painting will remain in Darwin until the 1986 conference and then go to head office.

While you are in the Territory for the conference you can see the beautiful rock paintings of Kakadu, the most famous being those at Obiri Rock and Nourlangil. There are also two- and three-day tours into some breathtaking locations such as Jim Jim Falls (accessible by 4WD only), Butterfly Gorge, Jasper Gorge and Yellow Waters. You can take scenic flights over Kakadu and the Arnhem Land escarpment from Jabiru. While in Jabiru you could tour the Ranger uranium mine — just for something completely different.

To find out about the tours available and places to see, the Northern Territory Tourist Bureau is the best source of information. If you have friends of friends of friends, contact them. Most people are quite happy to spend a few days out bush with visitors.

Keep those 'intentions to attend' coming in. If you haven't made up your mind yet, remember the conference is a very relevant theme in today's community, as well as providing a chance to see a unique environment.

While it may be the 'build-up' now, July is deal weather, so don't worry about the heat. Had to get my doona out of mothballs last year. There is one consolation during the build-up: it's not that it is the hottest period, but more importantly — it's mango season!

Elizabeth Desailly  
Darwin Institute of Technology

# Endangered documents on Australian women in history



Janice Gothard at work in the Fawcett Library

Photo courtesy of AAP/AP

**Significant documents in Australian history are in danger of rotting away in the basement of an old tea warehouse in London. Known as Calcutta House, the warehouse is used to store international documents relating to women's history.**

Many documents bequeathed to Fawcett Library have found their way to Calcutta House because lack of money prevents the library from cataloguing them. The *Sun-Herald's* London reporter visited Calcutta House recently and, with Australian historian Janice Gothard, he investigated some of the important documents stored there.

They include the personal papers of Vida Goldstein, the first woman to stand for the Australian Senate; letters written to Australian Prime Minister Andrew Fisher and many diaries dating from the turn of the century.

The Fawcett Library is run by volunteers who have been trying to raise money to employ an archivist and an exhibitions officer. Fading hopes of getting money from the British Government have caused the group to turn towards business women in the hope that help will be forthcoming.

The group, Friends of the Fawcett Library, has been formed in London and is actively seeking donations to preserve this vital part of Australian history. If you would like to help, send your cheque to the LAA, marked 'for the Fawcett Library' and we will forward a cheque and keep readers informed of progress.



The President,  
Mrs. Dulcie Stretton, C.B.E.,  
and members of the Australian Library  
Promotion Council  
have much pleasure in inviting you to a  
Memorial Lecture

**THE MUNN-PITT REPORT  
— 50 YEARS ON**

to be presented by  
Hon. Gough Whitlam, A.C., Q.C.  
Ambassador of Australia to U.N.E.S.C.O.

on  
Wednesday, November 13, 1985,  
at 7.00 p.m.  
in the Galleries, State Library of  
New South Wales

Please reply by  
Friday, November 8  
Jenny Holborow  
Tel. Syd. (02) 331 5258  
Jennifer McLellan  
Tel. Melb. (03) 654 5994

Refreshments  
will be served  
at 6.00 p.m.

Because of the restrictions of space in the  
Galleries at the present time, attendance  
is limited.  
Admittance by entree card only.  
If you wish to attend it is essential that you  
telephone so that we can have your entree  
card at the door.