

Feedback

ALIA '92

Exhibitors prepare to show all

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) has announced plans for its biennial conference and exhibition, which will take place in Albury-Wodonga from 28 September to 1 October 1992. The theme of the conference is 'The Heart of the Matter', which was selected to depict the importance of information in today's world and the role of libraries as a key element in the collection and distribution of information.

This will be an important event for exhibitors. Between 1200 and 1500 delegates will attend and there will not then be an ALIA national conference

in Australian for another 4 years. The venue in 1994 will be Wellington, New Zealand.

ALIA has now made its plans for a major exhibition at ALIA '92. The organiser is Exhibitions and Trade Fairs Pty Ltd (ETF). Exhibitors are expected to include suppliers of books, encyclopaedias, computer equipment and software, cataloguing and record systems, furniture, video tapes and audio cassettes.

The trade exhibition will benefit both exhibitors and conference-goers. Companies exhibiting at the ALIA trade exhibition will be promoting their products and services to highly qualified and interested prospects in an environment that will be conducive to making both contacts and sales. The exhibition will give library and information professionals the opportunity to update their knowledge of the latest technology, systems, products and supplies.

The conference program is taking shape in such a way as to appeal to, and inform, all levels and interests within the library and information professions. The conference will provide all participants with the opportunity to upgrade their knowledge, as well as to create, adapt and share innovative strategies and

work practices.

Exhibitors will be eligible for one free conference registration as part of their package, presenting an opportunity for them to make new contacts and build their networks, as well as to stay abreast of developments in their clients' profession.

The 1992 conference and exhibition will be the first event of its kind to be held outside a capital city. The location allows the association to provide a conference that will be affordable to the majority of its members, including younger members of the profession.

ALIA selected Albury-Wodonga as the venue for the 1992 biennial exhibition and conference because of its central location, the suitability of its conference venue and facilities, the variety of recreational and social activities available, and the quality and comparatively low price of available accommodation.

Potential exhibitors should contact ETF, Keith Blunsden, telephone (02) 413 3322, Garry Burns, telephone (03) 696 0666 or Geoff Millard, telephone (08) 362 9966. All other inquiries to Dave Thompson, the Conference Manager, at ALIA House.

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ALIA and getting involved with adult literacy

New booklet launched in Melbourne

Mrs Hazel Hawke launched an information kit for local government bodies on adult literacy, *Opportunities for Leadership*, at the Australian Council for Adult Literacy (ACAL) Conference in Melbourne on 3 October. The kit contains a booklet, *How libraries can get involved with adult literacy*, which was produced by the ALIA National Public Libraries and Literacy Sections in conjunction with the Victorian Ministry for the Arts and the Victorian Ministry for Education and Training.

How libraries can get involved with adult literacy gives examples of what some libraries are doing in literacy as well as providing practical advice on how to get involved. The booklet lists key contacts for funding and a resource list and suppliers. The resources listed in the booklet are currently being catalogued onto ABN and will be available at a publicly accessible library in each State and Territory.

The funding for this project was provided by the International Literacy Year Secretariat in recognition of the vital role public libraries have and can make in the adult literacy field. ALIA will distribute copies of the booklet to all public library services in Australia.

Another component of the International Literacy Year National Project was the first national survey of public libraries' involvement in adult literacy. The report *Adult Literacy: the role of Australian Public Libraries* was launched by Mrs Margaret Whitlam, the Chairman of the National Consultative Council for International Literacy Year, in March this year. In her foreword Mrs Whitlam said 'One significant achievement of ILY was the recognition of the legitimate role of public libraries in assisting adults to acquire basic literacy skills.' The survey indicates that half the public libraries in Australia have some involvement in adult literacy and have made a significant



Mrs Hazel Hawke launches *Opportunities for Leadership*.

contribution to adult literacy provision.

For further information on the National Public Libraries and Literacy Project contact Judy Peppard at the Victorian Ministry for the Arts (03) 649 8712 or George Eraclides, ALIA

Literacy Section (03) 481 9425.

Opportunities for Leadership will be made available to all local government authorities through the International Literacy Secretariat, GPO Box 9880, Canberra, ACT 2601.

Judy Peppard □

Board of Education Chair visits Western Australia

The WA Section of the Education for Library and Information Section (ELISS) in conjunction with the WA Branch recently hosted a visit by Anne Hazell, Chair of the Board of Education.

Anne's busy schedule included visits to Library and Information Science Schools/ Departments at Curtin University of Technology, Edith Cowan University and Perth Technical College.

WA Branch President and Board Member Kay Poustie chaired a special meeting to discuss WA education issues. Present at this meeting were Jannie Douglas (WA Branch

Vice-President/President elect), Anne Hazell, Cynthia Dzeggel, Maggie Exon, Marie Wilson, Vicki Williamson.

Anne was also guest speaker at the WA Branch's Special topics series *Branching Out* where she spoke on the topic *Branching Out*. The WA Branch of ELISS will be publishing the education papers from this *Branching Out* series later this year.

The Section and Branch thank Anne for taking time out to visit Western Australia, and trust she enjoyed the wildflowers!

Vicki Williamson
ELISS WA Group □

1 year on...

The Central Australian Regional Group

The arrival of new librarians during 1989 in Alice Springs and the efforts of other librarians to welcome them and blend them into the network of Central Australian librarians, lead to the decision to form an ALIA regional group. Chief movers were Margaret Gaff, Department of Mines and Energy Librarian and Carmel Leonard, Librarian at the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory.

We now meet regularly, and about 50 invitations are sent for each meeting. We include Tennant Creek in our invitation list, and once somebody actually came from there, travelling 500 kms to the meeting.

Robert Broughton and Veronica Perry, were elected Interim President and Secretary respectively. But Bob's departure from Alice Springs and Veronica's withdrawal from secretary led to an election of new office bearers immediately after formal recognition as a Regional Group in July 1990. The President is now Carmel Leonard; Vice-President/President elect — Margaret

Gaff; Secretary/Treasurer — Valerie Johnson; Councillors — Cathy Robertson and Anne Fry. Marita Thompson later agreed to act as correspondent for the NT Branch of ALIA.

Activities have been varied as we make use of visitors to Alice Springs. We held a lunch with Alex Byrne, NTU Librarian, to discuss University plans to run courses in Alice Springs. We had dinner with Professor Amey and talked about joint-use libraries. Fabian Hutchinson shared his experiences of the Royal Archives in Tonga. The weekly meat supply being shared out in the library was one of many things that Cathy Robertson learnt about while working in Laos.

Interviewing and recording oral history was the theme of a stimulating talk by Francis Good of the NT Archives. The latest in theories of Leadership was Cheryl Gargan's contribution from her studies. What's happening in the wider world? Margaret Gaff visited Sydney and shared her findings from the 'Information Online Ondisc

Conference'. We all contributed information about our own libraries which Valerie Johnson and Carmel Leonard turned into an article for the Australian Library Review.

All these interests and experiences have led to many enjoyable and rewarding meetings. Attendance fluctuates, but looking back, this past year has seen the continued support of one another that is necessary for an isolated group in the centre of Australia. We look forward to the year ahead, anticipating lots of visitors and more interesting events.

We are a friendly, vital, vivacious group who will take the opportunity to talk to, listen to, learn from or share with our colleagues from other parts of Australia. Drop in for a chat, or a meal, or perhaps even an overnight stay. Contact us through the Nevil Shute Memorial Library, telephone (089) 52 2303.

Valerie Johnson
Secretary □

Student recruitment night Successful outcome to annual function

The Victorian Branch held its annual Student Recruitment Night on Friday, 20 September, at the State Library Theatre. Thirty three students attended, and 23 signed their applications that night to join ALIA. The majority of students also indicated their interest in specific Sections, including 17 who nominated to join the Specials Section.

Trevor Wakely, Vice-President of the Victorian Branch, gave a brief overview of the Association and introduced speakers from various ALIA Sections. The speakers for the evening were: Max Borchardt (UCRLS); Jennifer Evans (Information Consultancy speaker); Joan Martin (Health Libraries); Alasdair Wardle (Public Libraries); Jan Wright (Specials); and Sir John Yocklunn's

paper on international connections was presented by Fay Pattinson. Representatives from other Sections and interest groups were available after the formal program to discuss the employment opportunities in the information profession, and the benefits of belonging to ALIA.

Barbara Jacoby
Branch Councillor
Victorian Branch □

Writing for children Joan Lingard stimulating and stretching minds at SLNSW

The State Library of NSW was host to children's writer, Joan Lingard, on Thursday, 5 September. The evening was organised by the Children's and Youth Services Section (NSW) of ALIA and the Young Adult Librarian's Network.

Joan told us her aim in writing was primarily to entertain but she also hoped to stretch minds and stimulate the imaginations of her readers. Her talk that evening achieved the same

results, as we were treated to a fascinating look at Joan's life and writing.

She discussed her childhood years in Belfast and how they influenced her work later on. She began writing at 11 years of age, setting her stories in exotic place like Brazil, Rangoon or the Yorkshire Moors, in an attempt to escape from 'boring Belfast'. However 'boring Belfast' was seeping steadily into her blood to emerge later as *The*

Twelfth Day of July: the first of the Kevin and Sadie books.

This was the first of many insights into Joan's work. She also spoke about *The File On Fraulein Berg* which came from her experiences with a German teacher in the post war years. Her daughter's involvement in CND led to her writing *The Guilty Party*.

These and many other anecdotes enlivened a very stimulating and entertaining evening.

Susan Pescud □