

## Are you Into history?

If not, Ralph Reid wants you to send him your contact details

The 4th edition of *Into history* will be compiled in the first half of 1994. This new edition of the definitive guide to historical, genealogical, family history and heritage societies, groups and organisations in Australia will be reformatted to create the *Australian historical directory*, containing about four thousand entries for organisations in all facets of local and topical history, family history and genealogy, and museums.

The reason for this change is that Ralph plans to market the 4th edition in the UK and the USA, and wishes to broaden its coverage in order to maximise its appeal and usability. Because of this overseas marketing, an expansion of the listings of researchers and professional historians is also planned.

As with previous editions, there will be no charge for inclusion. Ralph is now updating the names and contact details

of the organisations, which we shall contact in a data-collection mailout from early 1994.

If you wish your organisation or activity to be contacted during this mailout, please ensure that your current details are registered with: RS and AF Reid, 1 Ian Street, North Ryde NSW 2113. Copies of the 3rd (1992) edition are still on sale, price \$32 (inc. post and packing) from that address. ■

## CE in academic libraries

Diane Costello has been fired with enthusiasm by an address from Professor Margaret Cameron

Professor Cameron, the University Librarian of Deakin University since 1977, spoke at a meeting in August organised by the Victorian Group of UCRLS. Her subject was *The role of continuing education in academic libraries*. In a thought-provoking address, Professor Cameron focused on what employers must do to encourage the quest for learning by their staff—the 'staff' also including any casual or part-time members.

We all know that there are gaps to fill in our basic education. We need to keep ourselves up to date with changing work practices and structures, and we need to develop a cultural awareness. Employers need to develop a climate of inquiry, in which their staff see the availability of continuing education activities as a motivation to become involved, in which the staff wish to be kept up to date and to share their new experiences with their colleagues, in which the staff can become better informed in order to provide better information and advice to their employer on change and the future.

Employers should want their staff to be preparing for their next career move, to become more interesting, better educated people. The employers should encourage their staff to broaden their academic education as well as their professional education, so that they can communicate better with the academic community, so that the academic community can in turn have greater confidence in them.

A method is needed to identify staff development needs and to keep track of who attends CE activities, to find out why others don't go. Efforts should be made to find activities that will attract this latter group to attend. It is important to

recognise those who are doing well. One way of achieving this may be to support going to a conference as a reward. This may have the added benefit of encouraging other staff to look on such activities as rewards...

Needless to say, this address triggered a lively discussion. ■

### ALIA National Library Technicians Section

Nominations are called for positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Publications officer.

Nomination forms should be signed by two financial members of the Association.

Nominations close at 5.00pm on 5 November, 1993. They should be sent to the Executive Director, ALIA, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace ACT 2600.

## That Asian-Pacific conference

Barbara Laffan has thank yous for everyone concerned

Like me, many other Librarians in one person libraries, will have just caught up on the work that piled up while they were away at the Asian Pacific Special Law and Health Librarians Conference in August.

We go on holidays and come back to work relaxed and ready to work. But most people I know go to a Conference and come back so fired up with enthusiasm and new ideas that they have a new vision of what they can achieve. We champ at the bit to try something new, something extra, and hopefully our funds are sufficient and our managers receptive.

One Librarian I know was told by management that she had come back from the Conference 'positively dangerous'. She had learnt new applications and had been given much to think about, and act on, after networking with other Librarians, visiting the Trade Exhibits and listening to the papers delivered. Follow up on contacts made, look again at the Trade Information you collected and go over the subject

matter of the Conference papers—technology, users, management and processes (for those of you having trouble with the computerised Conference papers check that you have an up-to-date version of DOS).

The Conference Committee would like to thank firstly you, the participants, for the success of the Conference. We would also like to thank Intermedia for their efforts on your behalf. The Committee's employers deserve appreciation for their cooperation in giving us time off for meetings, planning and answering the many queries which flow from a large Conference such as ours.

We hand over to the New South Wales Committee the responsibility for the next Asian Pacific Specials Law and Health Librarians Conference and wish them, too, every success. Our Association needs these Conferences because of the conflicting diversity and similarity of location, subject area, library size and technical facilities. The responsibility lies with us to continue *Creating our Future*. ■