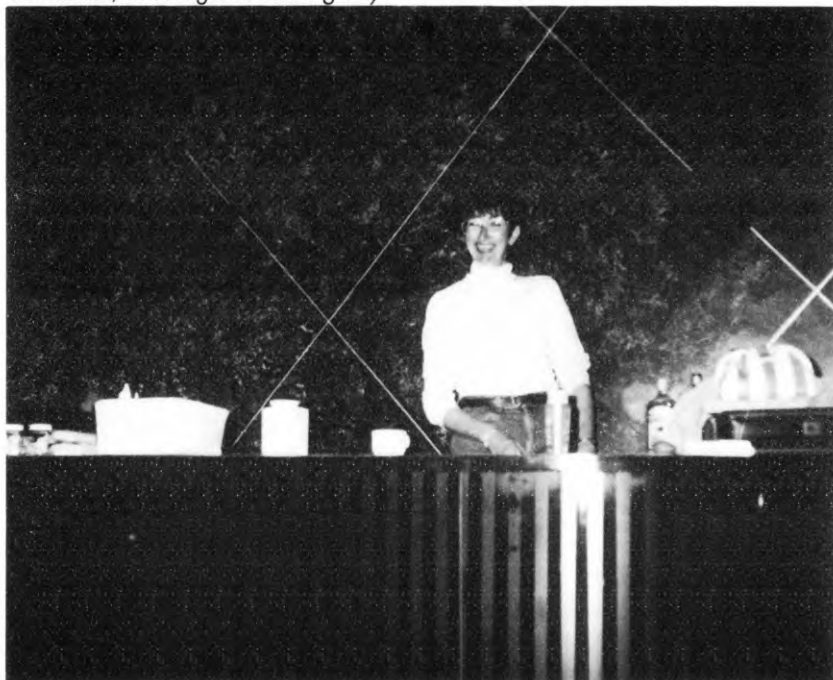


Getting the message out

What's the point of a conference? I mean — really? Lots of experts having lots of things to say about the cutting edge of the profession? Lots of like-minded people gathering together to digest all that's new and in the news?

Wellington saw the joined forces of the trans-Tasman information force. Papers, meetings, book launches and trade exhibitions aside, the real power of the conference was the people. As always, it is the meeting of individuals and the forging of new bonds that sets a conference apart and has the most value — for me, at least.

It was interesting to watch the *Julie Young, NSW General Councillor, relaxing after a long day*



Standards and library computer applications

On Friday 30 September in the Wellington Town Hall, fifty people attended a workshop on standards and their place in library automation. The workshop was organised by Standards Australia Committee IT/19 and was originally planned as a joint undertaking of the standards organisations of the two countries. The New Zealand organisation was not sufficiently advanced to achieve this, so it went ahead as an Australian initiative, in the expectation that it would generate interest in New Zealand.

There were two Australian speakers — Warwick Cathro from the National Library (who represents ACLIS on IT/19) and David Gregory from SIRSI, who is ALIA's formal representative on the Committee. Warwick spoke about the work that IT/19 has been doing, especially in developing Australian equivalents to the Z39.50 standards for inter-system searching and the North American ILL standards. David outlined the benefits to systems vendors in participating in these committees, and what the committees gained from having the vendors there.

Members of the audience were very interested in the standards process, and indicated that there will be a renewed effort to establish a New Zealand counterpart to IT/19.

Kerry Webb

high-profile Maori side of the team at work — a real culture-sharing experience that backfooted a lot of us and gave us something to think about. It was good to hear non-librarians supporting us from the podium, though it was clear we still have a lot of work to do to get the message of our potential value across. But that's okay, it does us good to be reminded.

Wellington served to remind me of the work still to be done to get the message out. It offered a personal opportunity to 'return' and get my feet wet (literally too!), and it served as an ideal opportunity to catch up with the winds of change. Absolutely, positively, worth it.

Lee Welch



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