

Protocols published

ALIA has published the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for libraries, archives and information services* for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network (ATSILIRN).

The *Protocols* recognise that information agencies have a role to play in the national process of reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They provide a guide to good practice in such areas as the content and perspectives of collections, intellectual property issues, accessibility and use, description and classification of materials, the handling of secret and sacred and offensive materials, governance and management, staffing, education and training and the role of information agencies in developing awareness of indigenous peoples. As a guide to good practice, they will need to be interpreted and applied in the context of each organisation's goals and responsibilities, collections and client community.

Draft statements, called protocols, were developed for ATSILIRN a working party of Alana Garwood (AIATSIS), Heather Moorcroft and Alex Byrne (Northern Territory University) and Alan Barnes (University of South Australia). They were informed by a survey of existing practices and improved through a series of national consultations and wide circulation to interested parties. The first ten were adopted by ATSILIRN in December 1994 and the eleventh at the end of September 1995.

In addressing the needs and concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, libraries, archives and information services have a great opportunity, and responsibility, to contribute to the nationally vital process of reconciliation, to the realisation of the vision of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation:

A united Australia which respects this land of ours; values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage; and provides justice and equity for all.

Alex Byrne,
Northern Territory University

Reading the future

Program update

Setting the program for the 1996 centenary conference is a stimulating and challenging exercise. The committee has been meeting on a monthly basis and the structure of the program is now coming into place.

Recognising the debt the library profession owes to the trade for their role in continued attendance at conferences, the afternoon of the first day has been allotted to highlight future issues and changes that will impact on the trade and therefore on libraries. After a keynote speaker, five parallel panel sessions, each focusing on a particular trade sector, will be held with the opportunity for audience participation.

We are eagerly awaiting replies from possible keynote speakers — their invitations went out in August. Our wish list began with Nelson Mandela and Bill Gates — then reality set in!

Meanwhile the committee is sifting through the many excellent abstracts received and asking referees to comment on prospective speakers presentation, and knowledge of their

subject. We are determined that *Reading the Future* will reflect the excellence of the sector as a whole and we have a special opportunity as it is the centenary conference for the profession in Australia. Reading of papers will not be acceptable — dynamic presentations will be guaranteed.

Day 2 will focus on global and society issues including management, copyright, access and research, services to distant users, user orientated libraries/services, the library workforce, and libraries in business and schools. There will be no set session on the Internet as papers covering electronic delivery will be included with the appropriate subject matter.

Day 3, after the AGM, a hypothetical or debate will lighten the hangovers from the previous night's conference dinner. Then the serious discussion begins on the roles of the individuals.

The whole conference committee look forward to your participation either as a speaker or as a participant. It is your conference!

Meg Paul, co-convenor, Program

AIMA says it's a different world

In ten years AIMA Training and Consultancy Services has seen information professionals become better managers. Now they need to be analysts, leaders and economic jugglers', says AIMA Executive Director, Brenda McConchie, as AIMA celebrates its 10th birthday.

In 1985, the Australian Information Management Association was formed by a group of senior librarians to meet the demand for improved standards of management through the provision of continuing education in the field. The move met with considerable success, with training courses now presented all over Australia and New Zealand.

The milestone is being celebrated with a proud glance back to those beginnings, but full focus is definitely on the next ten years.

Brenda McConchie says the economic demands on information sector services are now tougher than ever, and so are the demands on expertise. Librarians have to develop business and marketing plans that perform, and relate to their parent organisation's plans. The result, training needs

have changed dramatically.

It's not only the information professionals that have to meet these challenges, they mean changes for organisations like AIMA too. The need for diversified training has led the company to review their training products and, as a result, AIMA now concentrates on supplying a whole training solution to clients.

AIMA works with the client to put together a complete package — staff training, ongoing evaluation structures, or a practical marketing plan that does not need to be adapted from a general theory for the organisation's needs later.

AIMA's well-known 100 and 200 Management Institutes will continue into the next decade, and these, too, are under constant review. Continuing evaluation by participants is part of the course structure and is invaluable in keeping the programs relevant to participants' needs as they develop and change.

Managing change is clearly a focus not only for the trainees, but also for the trainers.

Lee Welch