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• **5/9 WA Special Libraries section.** *Breakfast at King's Park.* Speaker: Mr Alan Brian, Visitor Services and Cultural Studies. Fraser's Restaurant, Kings Park, \$15. Contact: Ling Heang, ph 041 894 1861. RSVP by 29/8 with choice and cheque payable to ALIA Special Libraries section, PO Box 7582, Cloisters Square 6850.

• **18/9 New Norcia Library Lecture.** Speaker: Barry Jones MHR. Topic: *The information revolution, threats to the book culture and libraries.* Time: 10-3.30pm. Venue: St Ildephonsus College, New Norcia. Cost: \$40 adult, \$20 student. RSVP: Sue Johnson, ph (089) 654 8060 (Wed-Fri), New Norcia Library, New Norcia 6509.

## National

• **17-19/8 Edutech 1997.** Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre. Contact: George Angelis, Project Manager, ph (03) 9819 0211, edutech@a-t-e.com.au.

• **23/8-7/9 IFLA Study Tour.** Draft itinerary available from ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, ph (06) 285 1877, fx (06) 282 2249, enquiry@alia.org.au.

• **11-13/2 The New Zealand Law Librarians' Group conference 1998.** *Challenges to tradition: law and knowledge for the new millenium.* Auckland, NZ. Contact: The Conference Secretariat, The Conference Company, PO Box 90-040, Auckland, NZ. Ph +64 9 360 1240, fx +64 9 360 1242, info@tcc.co.nz, <http://www.knowledge-basket.co.nz/nzllg/welcome.html>.

## Conference

• **25-26/8 ALIA National TAFE section Biennial conference.** *Partnerships.* Venue: Marriot Hotel, College Street, Sydney. Contact: Joanne Fuller, ph (02) 9906 6000, fx (02) 9906 5987, jojo1@ozemail.com.au.

• **11-12/9 12th National Cataloguing conference.** *New opportunities for cataloguers.* Contact: Prue Deacon, ph (06) 289 7062, prue.deacon@health.gov.au. Conference information is now at <http://www.alia.org.au/~actbran/catconf.html>.

• **19-20/9 ALIA Local Studies conference.** *Timekeepers: forging links in local studies.* Venue: South Perth Heritage House. Contact: Alison Gregg, Education Department WA, 151 Royal Street, East Perth, ph (08) 9264 4952.

• **24-26/9 9th National Library Technicians conference.** *InterAction: the Client, the Profession, the Technology.* Venue: National Convention Centre, Canberra. Contact: Brigitte Gunn, Conference Solutions,

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on the edge

# The tale of the early bird and the worm

On the Edge, 7th Asian Pacific Specials, Health and Law Librarians' Conference, Perth 12-16 October 1997

It's an oldie but a goodie. The fit, the fast, the birds on the edge, know that 1 September 1997 is the critical day for saving money. All registrations received by 1 September are *cheaper* than those that come later.

Well — you have the program, and if more persuasion is needed, consider tacking on a holiday to either edge of the conference. Break that east coast nexus — venture west and see the other half of Australia. We love it, and you will too.

Four tour suggestions were included in the registration program but the Western Australian Tourism Commission have many more. If you are interested in other alternatives, contact the Commission on 1300 361 351, (fax 08 9481 0190). You could also check out the Commission's home page: <http://www.wa.gov.au/watc>. Eventscorp lists major events planned for Western Australia on their home page: [http://www.microbase.com.au/events/ec\\_home.htm](http://www.microbase.com.au/events/ec_home.htm).

Perth is a great host city for a conference. It's clean, safe, affordable, easy to move around in, and very attractive. All bus travel in the central city area is free as are the special city routes on CATS (Central Area Transit buses).

The conference venues at the Concert Hall and the adjacent Duxton Hotel are a short walk from the Swan River. The Duxton Hotel is new and has brought a new level of competition to the accommodation scene in Perth. It offers four star comfort and fittings at prices closer to its three star competitors. When you see it try to imagine it in its former life as the Taxation Offices!

Spring in Western Australia means wildflowers, over 8000 named species. It is not necessary to travel too far to see them either. Kings Park, just over a kilometre from the centre of Perth, has a magnificent display both within the park itself and in a special festival display to be held this year from 20-29 September. Generally the displays are best in early spring in the North and mid-Spring to early Summer in the South as the weather warms.

## What to pack?

Well, it is spring so the weather can be a bit changeable. The temperatures in Perth in

October average from a minimum of 11.8°C to a maximum of 21.9°C, whilst rainfall averages 55mm. At the extremes (rare) maxima have ranged between 11.9°C and 37.3°C and minima between 2.2°C and 22.2°C.

## Conference attractions

You have seen the program, the quality of the speakers lined up, but as we all know, the official part of the program, however valuable instructive and illuminating it may be, is only part of the benefit gained by attending conferences. Just as valuable is the opportunity to network, talk through issues with colleagues, participate, interact with speakers. A four-day conference gives time to fit in more of this interaction.

Wednesday afternoon in particular is devoted to SIGs SIGs SIGs. Many special interest groups have already been identified and are listed in the program. This afternoon is what you make of it — it is your chance to take control, to move to a learning edge that will work for you and your fellow specialists. Health and Law librarians have organised formal programmes.

For do-it-yourself and organised library tours, check the special interest group notice boards at the conference.

You may find it most valuable to use Wednesday afternoon to talk intensively with our exhibitors and sponsors. Not only does their generous support make the conference possible, but they are the ones we rely on year by year to supply us with our tools of the trade. They bring us news of new services and products that keep us at the cutting edge of our profession. The exhibition area will be open to all local librarians as well as conference delegates on Wednesday afternoon.

## Further information

Registration brochures have been mailed to all members of the Specials and Health Sections, the Asia-Pacific Special Interest Group, and the Australian Law Librarians' Group. If you did not get one, contact Motive Conventions, PO Box Z5327, St Georges Terrace, Perth 6831, phone 08 9322 2666, fax 08 9322 1417, e-mail [motive@vianet.net.au](mailto:motive@vianet.net.au), or check the conference home page at <http://www.lib.murdoch.edu.au:80/edge/edge.html>