

# From the edge

Cheryl Hamil, *On the edge* conference committee

## ACT

• **10/12 APSIG**. *Christmas lunch at the Vietnam Restaurant* (downstairs off Hobart Place). 12:15pm, \$20, including wine and orange juice. Voucher parking nearby and over the road. RSVP to: Dorothea Polonyi, ph 02 6249 5652 (bh), Dorothea.Polonyi@library.anu.edu.au.

• **11/12 ACT Special Libraries section**. *Librarian's libations join the Specials on the first payday of every month*, come along to the Hyatt, at 5:30pm. Contact: Libby Coates, ph 02 6266 2346.

• **17/12 ACT Branch meeting**. 5:30pm, NLA, Mezzanine Room. Contact: Lisa Spillers, ph 02 6249 3388, Lisa.Spillers@anu.edu.au.

## NSW

• **1/12 NSW School Libraries section**. *Seasonal function*. Executive meeting 5:30–6pm, function 6–9pm. Contact: Andrew Barber, ph 02 9519 1544, fx 02 9519 1657.

• **1/12 Far North Coast Regional group**. *End-of-year party*. Details: TBA. Contact: Glenda Kimmins, ph 02 6620 3181, fx 02 6620 3875, gkimmins@scu.edu.au.

• **3/12 NSW Health Libraries section**. *Marketing and income generation — food for thought*. Royal Women's Hospital, Medical Library, Barker Street, Randwick (near roundabout), 5:30 for 6pm. All welcome. Contact: Kaye Lee, ph 02 9267 6936, fax 02 9767 7630, klee@lib.crg.cs.nsw.gov.au.

• **10/12 NSW Special Libraries section**. *Christmas cheer at Christensens*. Christensens, 45 Phillip Street, Sydney. \$10 members, \$15 non-members, 5pm. Contact: Therese Bendeich, fx 02 9284 9358, therese@westpac.com.au. Cheques made payable to: ALIA NSW Special Libraries.

**10/12 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars**. Introductory DIALOG. Sydney contact: 02 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

• **15/12 NSW Cataloguers' section**. *AGM followed by Anne Huthwaite giving a report on the International Conference on AACRII*. State Library of NSW, Level 11, Sumitomo Room. 6 for 6:30 pm. Contact: Sue Thomas, ph 02 9273 1639, fx 02 9221 5260,

Almost 600 specials, health and law librarians gathered in Perth from 12–16 October to confront issues on the edge. This 'themeless theme' took many rich and varied directions but we arrived at some exciting and stimulating destinations. Those of you who are fans of Douglas Adams may have read of one of his character's navigation system which consists of following someone who looks as though s/he knows where they are going which results in arrival where you need to be, even if it's not where you thought you wanted to go. Conferences are an intellectual journey a bit like that — some solid information paths and the occasional serendipitous arrival at an idea that could not have been anticipated but is just what you need to know.

The imported plenary speakers and the home-grown speakers inspired, enlightened, invigorated, educated and shared ideas that were both pragmatic and philosophical. The trade exhibitors brought us up to speed with products and services. The networking groups and specialist meetings held on Wednesday afternoon kept us in touch with colleagues. The breakfast annual general meetings proved the vitality of the sections. The social networking came close to being a health hazard

— but on second thoughts perhaps it is good aerobic exercise to dance for three hours at a time? A sociable 440 delegates crammed into the conference dinner and were given a very entertaining dose of light opera and fine cabaret singing (as well as some food and drink). This was followed by a physical workout dancing to a Beatles cover band, and an attempt to break the record for the number of people able to fit onto the dance floor and jump about vigorously without injuring other delegates with flailing limbs. As a South Australian colleague who will not remain nameless, observed, who could have imagined that buried in so many memories were the words to 'Hey Jude' (Greg Fowler).

The social highlights cannot be reproduced for those not present but the program papers have been reproduced for one year on the Trimagic Software site [<http://www.trimagic.com.au>]. They are fully searchable with Trimagic's LYCOS Spyder. For those dedicated to the printed page, there are a very limited number of proceedings left for sale at \$60 plus \$10 for postage. Contact Motive Conventions, PO Box Z5327, St Georges Terrace, Perth 6831. [motive@vianet.net.au](mailto:motive@vianet.net.au), phone 08 9322 2666 or fax 08 9322 1417. ■

## Competency workshops in Alice



(L-R) ALIA members in Alice Springs participated in the ALIA Competencies Workshops, conducted by Marie Murphy in September. Pictured at a welcome reception for Marie are Lyn Johnson from the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industries; Graeme Shaughnessy, Alice Springs Public library; Di Clifford, Anzac Hill High School; and Marie Murphy from ALIA National Office.

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