

# Hard work and enthusiasm pays off

Margaret Drury and Beth Clary, *InterACT*ion conference committee

The cool Canberra weather could not dampen the enthusiasm of 510 delegates at the 9th National Library Technicians Conference held at the National Convention Centre 24–26 September 1997.

The National Library of Australia hosted eight pre-conference discussion groups ranging from school, special and public libraries, to ac-

quisitions, serials, cataloguing, reference and inter-library loans/document supply. Delegates were also able to go behind the scenes of various working areas within the National Library including the preservation unit, newspaper collections, manuscripts, stack areas, document supply and Asian collections.

The 'Welcome to Canberra' cocktail party at the National Convention Centre set the pace for the rest of the conference. Senator Margaret Reid opened the trade exhibition and warmly welcomed visitors from Fiji, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, the United States of America and every Australian state. Stan Grant a member of the Wiradjuri people, welcomed everyone in his native tongue and spoke of his affinity with libraries. Entertainment was provided by 'a Bunch of Posers'.

Governor general Sir William Deane officially opened the conference and talked about the role libraries had played in his life and in particular the work of library technicians who had assisted him in his career in the High Court of Australia.

Each day of the conference had a theme — 'the client', 'the profession' and 'the technology' — with keynote speakers, Warren Horton, Jane Klobas and Bob Pymm, introducing these topics each morning. Keynote addresses were followed by parallel sessions in the afternoon with the majority of the papers being presented by library technicians (many for the first time). The Dunn and Wilson oration was given by Jean Bailey who presented her report titled 'A case study of higher-level technicians'.

More than sixty delegates braved an early and chilly Canberra morning to attend the Education Forum breakfast which proved



Governor general Sir William Deane with members of the *InterACT*ion conference committee

to be a lively and interesting discussion. Educators and technicians discussed the implementation of the new national Diploma of Library and Information Studies curriculum.

Delegates had the opportunity to visit more than thirty Canberra libraries. The exhibitors were kept busy during the three days with morning and afternoon teas and lunches served in the trade exhibition area giving delegates time to visit the stands, socialise and interact. The conference dinner held in the Federation Room of the Hyatt Hotel was attended by more than 300 delegates, who wined and dined and were entertained by students from Radford College. Awards were presented to the Library Technician of the Year, Kaye Bartlett from Northern Territory University, and the Dunn and Wilson Scholarship to Lorraine Denny from the University of Wollongong.

Informal dinners, city tours, Floriade, hot air balloon rides, midnight bus tours as well as a trip to Thredbo, historic villages and a local winery were just a few of the activities that delegates participated in before, during and after the conference.

Positive and enthusiastic delegates attended the closing ceremony with Donna Reid giving a brilliant summing up of the conference. The 1997 conference committee would like to thank all of those who contributed to *InterACT*ion, through their support, attendance and good wishes and that the positiveness and enthusiasm that was felt during the days of the conference and will continue to grow amongst library technicians. The conference committee had much delight in handing over to the Perth committee for the 10th National Library Technicians Conference in 1999, and wish them well. It's hard work but worth it! ■



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stthomas@ilanet.slnsw.gov.au.  
RSVP for catering purposes.

• **16/12 NSW Branch Council meeting.** State Library of NSW, Mitchell Wing, Jean Garling room, 6pm. Observers always welcome. Contact: Jo-anne Fuller, ph 02 9906 6000, fx 02 9906 5987, jojo1@ozemail.com.au.

• **31/1/1998 NSW OPAL meeting.** Guest speaker: Judith Siess. McDonald's Room, State Library of NSW, Macquarie St, Sydney, 2–3:30pm. RSVP/Enquiries: Claire Pillar, ph 02 9334 1716, claire.pillar@nbcc.org.au

• **6/2/98 NSW Special Libraries section.** *Tour of the Opera Centre of Opera Australia.* 480 Elizabeth Street, Surrey Hills. 11–12pm, \$20 (includes lunch). Contact: Marianne Shepherd, 85 Moore Street, Leichhardt 2040, ph 0411 372 929, fx 02 9568 3271, sydney@cox.com.au (put Marianne's name in subject). RSVP with payment made out to: ALIA NSW Special Libraries section by 9/1/98, numbers limited.

**12–16/2/98 Stepping up Summer Institute '98** A mixture of one and two day courses offered in areas like information organisation and management, market research, public relations, education, community services and technology. Further information: Dr Harry Bruce, Director, Summer Institute '98, ph 02 9514 2737, fx 02 9514 2723, h.bruce@uts.edu.au.

## QLD

• **8/12 Qld Cataloguers section.** *Christmas function including: talk by Ann Huthwaite on the International Conference on the Principles and Future Development of AACR, AGM.* QUT Kelvin Grove Library Tearoom, 5:30 for 6pm, cost: free. Contact: Nathalie Schulz, ph 07 3875 5242, n.schulz@ins.gu.edu.au

• **8/12 Qld Library Technician section meetings** *AGM and Christmas lunch* (venue: TBA). State Library of Qld, Metway Theatre, 5:30pm (unless advised otherwise). Contact: Heather Gray, ph 07 3226 6184

• **10/12 Qld Branch.** *Christmas breakfast and AGM* Heather Gordon, Sunshine Coast Uni College Librarian will speak about setting up a University Library

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