

A flaming good conference

Jill Don, Queensland Department of Emergency Services

The 1998 inFIRE Conference was held in Melbourne in May. Fire information professionals and fire fighters from Europe, North America, Canada, New Zealand and Australia attended the five-day event at the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Training Complex in Melbourne.

The theme *Fire information for the 21st Century* was addressed from a variety of angles — the communication of risk, the information needs for public awareness campaigns and research, the tactical uses of information in fire services and the need for a well-informed fire fighter.

Three days were devoted to the more specific interest of information professionals in emergency services, including information literacy training for front-line personnel, knowledge management, information modelling, intranet and information brokering initiatives, and the opportunities opening up for librarians in emergency services to ex-

pand traditional services and move into new areas.

A common theme throughout the conference was that information and knowledge are not the inevitable outcomes of the increasing availability of information technology and access to the internet. Information and knowledge will only grow from the application of subject expertise and information management skills, knowing what data to collect and how to interpret it, and fostering an information literate user base.

The next inFIRE conference will be held in May 1999 at the New York State Fire Academy. Copies of the proceedings from this year's conference (22 papers) can be obtained from: Ann Kelly, Management Information Center, International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), 4025 Fair Ridge Drive, Fairfax, VA 22033-2868, USA, fax 703 273 9363; e-mail: dirmic@iafc.org. Prepayment to IAFC cost US\$32.00. ■

Valé Barbara Johnston

Barbara Johnston, a library volunteer at the Multiple Sclerosis Society of New South Wales died very suddenly in May this year.

Barbara was born in 1914 and gained a Bachelor of Science degree from Sydney University in 1936. She was the scientific library cataloguer with CSIRO from 1939 to 1972, and was granted a CSIRO Scholarship to study cataloguing in the United States of America and United Kingdom, which re-

sulted in her instigating the cataloguing system at CSIRO which is still in use.

Her voluntary work was extensive and included fifteen years with the Royal Blind Society typing scientific books, a range of roles with 2MBS FM and also in her capacity as a librarian with SPELD and of course with the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Barbara had a wide range of interests and was an avid and extensive traveller. In addition, for fifty years she was a member of WEA, a subscription

member of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, a Friend of the Botanical Gardens and a member of the State Library of New South Wales. For the past three years, Barbara worked at least two half-days a week and often two full days in the Multiple Sclerosis Society of New South Wales library and information service.

She is sorely missed by all the staff at the Multiple Sclerosis Society of New South Wales Library and Information Services. ■

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• **12/8 Vic Library Technicians section.** *Committee meeting and discussion on arrangements for the upcoming State Library of Victoria tour* — everyone is welcome. 6 for 6:30pm, State Library of Victoria, Level 2 function room. Please meet Kerrie at 6pm in the Swanston Street foyer. RSVP: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9037, kerriek@slv.vic.gov.au.

• **15/8–28/11 Vic School Libraries section.** *Committee meetings.* 9:30am at Statewide Resource Centre, 217 Church Street, Richmond. All members most welcome. Dates: 15/8, 12/9, 17/10, AGM — 28/11. Contact: Anne Girolami, ph 03 9267 0228.

25/8 RMIT Publishing. Informit Online-Information Sessions. Replacing NLA's existing Ozline service, Informit Online provides access to over 50 databases via the internet. Venue: RMIT University. Two sessions available: 10am and 2pm. No cost, but registration essential. Contact Kathy McBrien, kathym@rmitpublishing.com.au or fx: 03 9349 4583.

11/9 SilverPlatter Information. *Free LINK TO THE FUTURE presentation.* Find out about ERL 4, links to full text with SilverLinker and more. Melbourne, 9:30–11:30am. For further information contact: Caroline Scharrer, ph 02 9267 9055, cscharrer@silverplatter.com.

21–23/9 Australian Society of Indexers. *Introduction to book indexing course.* ACER Conference Room, 19 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell. Cost: \$250 (\$225 for ASI members) Contact: Max McMaster, ph/fx 03 9571 6341, mindexer@interconnect.com.au.

• **3/10 Vic Library Technicians section.** *State Library of Victoria tour.* Come and see the latest renovations, a behind the scenes tour to see the work of library technicians. 2–4:30pm, preceded by a buffet lunch at 12:30pm, \$8 members, \$10 non-members. The tour is free. Contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9037, kerriek@slv.vic.gov.au.

WA

• **18/8 WA Library Technicians section meeting.** Venue: University of Notre Dame Law Library at 6pm. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, fx 08 9427 3256, wmonaghan@mail.lis.wa.gov.au.

• **21/8 WA Public Libraries section.** *Jean Ryding Award nominations due.* An award for excellence made to a professional librarian who has completed no more than four years professional employment in a WA Public Library. Contact: Duncan Furphy, ph 08 9411 3494, fx 08 9434 2577, cobrn1@icenet.com.au.

• **27/8–22/10 National Special Libraries section.** *Committee meetings dates.* Location: Room G2, Alexander Library Building, Perth, WA at 5pm on 27/8, 24/9 and 22/10 in 1998. New committee members and/or observers/visitors to Perth are welcome. Contact Joyce Steveni ph 08 9366 4746, fx 08 9366

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