

## Your voice

### **Katherine Public Library – one year on**

It is approximately one year since the 1998 Australia Day flooding decimated Katherine in the Northern Territory. Katherine Public Library was not spared and we lost half of our book-stock as well as carpeting and furniture. It will take a long time for complete recovery to be effected.

Whilst I have endeavoured to personally thank as many libraries as possible for the many donations we have received, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the library community around Australia for the support provided in the aftermath of the flood. We have received a wealth of donations during the course of the year which has facilitated our recovery.

The generosity of spirit that has been demonstrated serves to illustrate that the Australian library community is indeed a community in the true sense of the word.

I would particularly like to thank Haydee Adel, library manager of the Alice Springs Public Library and Theresa Jude, chief librarian of the Darwin Public Libraries, for the relief effort they organised within the Northern Territory.

There have been some positive effects from the flooding though, and it is to these issues that we now direct our efforts. The flooding has forced us to re-focus the direction of the services we offer to the public. In other words, we have become more client focussed in our restructuring of library services with emphasis on customer service. It also means that our collection development policy now reflects this client focus.

Katherine Public Library will be relocating to new premises in early February, after spending a year 'camped' at the Katherine Town Council Civic Centre. We are looking forward to this relocation as the central business district shop-front location will ensure that we will be providing effective access to library services for the public.

We have not been immune to the changes currently facing the library profession, particularly in relation to technology and funding. The flood has forced us to focus on these issues considerably earlier than perhaps would have occurred during the normal course of events. I would not however, recommend that flooding be recognised as a technique to facilitate down-sizing!

Once again, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the library community who rallied to our assistance with donations and wishes of goodwill in the aftermath of the worst flood in Katherine's history. It is to be hoped that the Katherine River obliges us by remaining within the confines of its banks during the coming wet season.

**Carol Banks, Katherine Public Library**

### **Your voice**

**Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed.**

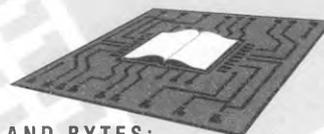
*All letters should be addressed to the inCite editor and may be e-mailed to [incite@alia.org.au](mailto:incite@alia.org.au), or faxed to 02 6282 2249, or posted to: Your voice, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604. Please include your name and postal address with your letter or e-mail.*

*Letters will be accepted for publication until the 18th of the month.*



## **10th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION**

**16-18 February, 2000  
Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne**



### **BOOKS AND BYTES: TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE HYBRID LIBRARY**

The 10th Biennial Conference and Exhibition of the Victorian Association for Library Automation Inc, will be held at the Melbourne Convention Centre from Wednesday 16th February to Friday 18th February 2000.

The VALA conference is the Australian forum where the use of technology in libraries is discussed. The programme will feature overseas and Australian keynote speakers, plenary and concurrent sessions and an exhibition showcasing a comprehensive range of the latest products from leading suppliers.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**DEADLINE – 28 April, 1999**

You are invited to submit abstracts addressing technologies for the hybrid library, including electronic and digital management of information. The deadline for abstract submission is 28 April, 1999. Further detail on possible topics and the procedure for abstract submission is available on the VALA2000 home page at:

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~vala/conf2000.htm>

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** For further information regarding abstract submission, Sponsorship and Exhibition opportunities or to order your copy of the Main Announcement and Registration brochure please contact:

### **VALA2000 CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT**

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