

And for the social butterflies...

ALIA2000 will be a very social occasion. There are a range of activities packed into the three or so days, and there will be a few surprises.

The first official social event is the welcome reception which follows the conference opening. This will be a great opportunity for you to catch up with old friends, meet new ones and make those important contacts for the days ahead. You will also have a great opportunity to see the trade exhibition and plan your return visits.

The first timers' breakfast on Tuesday morning will give all of those people who are new to ALIA conferences a chance to meet others who are in the same situation. At the breakfast you will be introduced to people who have been to many conferences and are keen to pass on their wealth of experience as well as people who were newer to these conferences and can give you some helpful tips for beginners.

A real highlight of the conference comes on Tuesday evening from 6:00–7:30pm with the reception at the National Library of Australia. Hosted by Jan Fullerton, director-general of the National Library of Australia; Brendon Smyth, ACT Minister for Urban Services; and Mairéad Browne, ALIA president, this will be a time to take in the environment and the architecture of the nation's largest library. Wander around the public areas and visit some of the reading rooms while you continue to network and enjoy the company of colleagues.

The trade exhibitors have a rare chance to relax and enjoy breakfast together on Wednesday morning at the National Capital Convention Centre. Take time out from your busy schedule

to meet other exhibitors and ALIA representatives.

Wednesday evening presents the major social event of ALIA2000 with a Federation Celebration cocktail party and dinner at Parliament House. Places are limited for this 'once in a lifetime opportunity' so make sure you get in early. Come along ready to mingle in the Foyer and dine and dance in the Great Hall. This night provides options — you can come to the cocktail party only or stay for the dinner.

After such a wonderful night everyone can blow the cobwebs away at the 'Great library fun run'! Get your team together and take up the challenge of a run, stroll, ride or walk around beautiful Lake Burley Griffin. The emphasis is on *fun* but if you are keen to do your usual jog or morning run that's OK with us.

The conference finishes with the closing reception. Your final chance to catch up with everyone you have missed during the previous days of the conference and also time to make new friends for the future. Many people rush away once the program has finished but the ALIA2000 conference committee is keen for you to stay and help them unwind after a very busy week.

In addition to the official program, you may like to network with colleagues and savour some of the cuisines offered in the city area. As Canberra is a strong multi-cultural society, and where 46 000 of a population of over 308 000 speak a second language, one can find restaurants delivering a wide range of food to meet many tastes.

Canberra is well known as a tourist destination and this is experienced in the environs of the conference and the surrounding areas of Lake Burley Griffin. Many major attractions are in close

proximity to the National Library of Australia, and you may like to plan to visit the National Gallery, National Science and Technology Centre, High Court or the National Portrait Gallery in Old Parliament House.

On the Convention Centre side of the Lake, you will find an historic farmhouse, Blundell's Cottage, and at the northern end of Anzac Parade, there stands the Australian War Memorial.

If you are planning to enjoy the 'Great library fun run' you will see most of these buildings as you jog around the lake!

For those of you who enjoy nature, and perhaps can extend your stay, you are encouraged to visit the National Botanic Gardens at Black Mountain where there is an excellent display of Australian flora all year round. If you can arrange transport, a visit to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve will reward you with close encounters with Australian fauna.

Canberra is renowned for its world-class education and research facilities and their related libraries and information centres. Many of these libraries are available for visits, and bookings are being taken. If you have not booked to visit a library, you are encouraged to join in. Making contact with another colleague in a similar type of library to yours can add a personal dimension to your visit to this conference. For information about the conference social program and library tours visit the conference web page at <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/alia2000/>. ■



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