

# Anne Floyd and her TAFE conference committee come through with a passion

*Passion Power People: TAFE Libraries Leading the Way*

The theme of the ALIA 2001 TAFE Libraries Conference held from 21 to 23 October 2001 in Brisbane certainly was fulfilled. Delegates to the conference voted it a resounding success and pledged they would return to Brisbane anytime if this was the standard of conference presented.

Producing the goods means a lot of hard work and the ability to draw the best from a team. Anne Floyd, the conference chair, put in lots of hard work and she and her team came away with loads of great experiences and wonderful memories.

Planning began in May 2000 with an enthusiastic, but admittedly, inexperienced committee. With the appointment of our excellent conference organiser, Organisers Australia, and various committee sub-groups (professional program, exhibitions/sponsors, publicity and social programs and tours), the momentum increased, actions were realised and goals achieved.

An intensive and comprehensive promotional campaign resulted in pleasing numbers of delegates attending and abstracts for papers submitted. Plenty of butterflies were in evidence at the meeting prior to the conference with last minute details being finalised and the committee advised to prepare to delight in the fruits of their labour.

Delegates enjoyed a visit to the scenic Sunshine Coast and its tourist attractions during the social tour. Brisbane's beautiful spring weather was in evidence throughout the conference. The conference began on a balmy Sunday evening with a welcome reception on the pool deck of the Sheraton Hotel. Delegates from all Australian states and the Northern Territory mingled happily with people from the Fiji Islands, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

The proceedings commenced with Alan Bundy, ALIA president, giving the welcome address. Both days began with a keynote speaker and this approach was well received, each speaker providing a relevant and well presented presentation which set the tone for that day's papers. Feedback

obtained from the delegates via surveys and general discussion indicated a high level of satisfaction with the standard of the presenters as well as with the variety and content of the papers and presentations.

The conference dinner was held on the Kookaburra Queen Paddle Steamer as it wound its way along the river through the spectacular light show that is Brisbane city at night. The evening was a huge success with a student group from the Southbank Institute of TAFE entertaining the delegates. Adding to the excitement, the award for 2001 ALIA Manager of the Year was presented by Dr Alan Bundy, ALIA president, to Barbara Sullivan-Windle, manager of the intellectual property unit at Southbank Institute.

A final keynote speaker completed the conference with an enjoyable address, 'Life is uncertain, eat dessert first' with delegates provided with a choice of wine or juice. Certainly a very pleasant way to wind down. The conference convenor, Anne Floyd officially closed the conference.

Many delegates stayed on for an information literacy workshop held the following morning. The workshop was jointly organised by the National Working Group for TAFE Library Services and the ALIA National TAFE section, and participants enthusiastically examined the CAUL standards for use and adoption in the VET sector.

A technical site visit conducted in the afternoon, was well attended. Delegates visited three Brisbane TAFE libraries, each of which provided opportunities to ask plenty of questions and load up with quantities of brochures.

Members of the committee were united in their opinion that their participation in a conference organising committee had provided them with some invaluable experience, which they could apply in both their professional and private endeavours. Great teamwork, good times and valued friends — all this and professional development too.

*Sue Moss, secretary, ALIA 2001 TAFE libraries conference*

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