

Celebrate the future



10th Asia Pacific Special, Health and Law Librarians' Conference Adelaide 24-27 August 2003

From the set of the 10th Asia Pacific Special, Health and Law Librarians' Conference comes the news that the organising committee are hard at work producing another box office hit.

In the director's chair is Philip Keane, from the Royal Adelaide Hospital/IMVS Library keeping everything on schedule for what promises to be a brilliant show.

Di Thompson from the Legal Services Commission of South Australia is our financial director and her favourite saying is 'What's the worst thing that can happen?'. Oh no!

The script writers are Wendy Bromell from the South Australian Department of Human Services, and Barbara Coat, from Minter Ellison. Changes to the script can be suggested but will only be made if Wendy receives Haigh's Chocolates and Barbara bunches of sunflowers.

The publicity department's job is to

make the leading men and women look fabulous and to attract the conference delegates. With Jackie Williams, from the South Australian Office for the Commissioner for Public Employment, Karen Dankiw from the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide and Georgia Livissianos from the Federal Court of Australia things are getting hot! The call for papers has been released and details of the keynote speakers will be out soon. '



Committee members (from left): Juliet Marconi, Karen Dankiw, Jennie Speirs, Di Thompson, Georgia Livissianos, Mary Peterson, Barbara Coat, Wendy Bromell, Jackie Williams, Caryl Armstrong, Philip Keane. Inset: Geraldine Wardle, Kate Sinclair, Elisabeth Eaton.

The backing people organising the sponsorship and trade are Caryl Armstrong from the Royal Adelaide Hospital/IMVS and Geraldine Wardle from Motorola. Their job is to make sure the money rolls in.

Entertainment and catering is in the capable hands of Mary Peterson, from the Royal Adelaide Hospital/IMVS. Mary is a seasoned conference presenter and her knowledge of conferences will come in very handy.

Mary Peterson is also responsible for the credits on the conference website.

The technical directors who are providing expert advice on all things special, health and law are Kate Sinclair, Flinders University representing special libraries; Juliet Marconi from the South Australian Department of Human Services representing health libraries; and Jennie Speirs from Piper Alderman representing the Australian Law Librarians Group.

The producer is Elisabeth Eaton from Festival City Conventions and she is putting the whole thing together. Elisabeth is a very experienced conference organiser and if you ruffle her feathers don't forget to send her a bunch of Lizzianthus as they are her favourite flower!

It will all be filmed entirely on location at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

For further information visit the conference website at <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/shllc/2003/index.htm> or contact 2003 Special, Health and Law Librarians Conference Secretariat, Festival City Conventions, PO Box 949, Kent Town 5071. (Street address: 8 George Street, Stepney 5069) phone: 08 8363 1307, or e-mail: info@fccconventions.com.au.

Free report

Chemical warfare agent (CWA) sea dumping off Australia, by Geoff Plunkett

Copies of this very topical report are available directly from the author, free-of-charge. Libraries wanting to obtain a copy of the report should e-mail Geoff at geoff.plunkett@defence.gov.au. Kinetica details and abstract follow:

Title: Chemical warfare agent (CWA) sea dumping off Australia / Geoff Plunkett.

Personal author: Plunkett, Geoff.

Corporate author: Australia. Department of Defence.

Imprint: [Canberra] : Department of Defence, [2002]

Physical description: 1 v. (various pagings) : ill., maps ; 30 cm.

Topical subject: Chemical agents (Munitions)—Environmental aspects—Australia.

Topical subject: Chemical weapons disposal—Environmental aspects—Australia.

Topical subject: Waste disposal in the ocean—Environmental aspects—Australia.

Bibliography note: Bibliography: p. [11–12]

Contents note: SEA DUMPING — Chemical Warfare Agents in Australia—Chemical Warfare Agent (CWA) Sea Dumping Episodes — International Dumping of CWA — CWA Dumping in Australian Waters — Exposure to Dumped CWA — International Incidents — Australian Incidents — The Fate of CWA After Dumping — Corrosion of cylinders — The breakdown of CWA in sea water — Factors affecting the breakdown of mustard gas in sea water — Effects of sea currents and temperature on breakdown rate — Risks to the public in Australia — Potential environmental effects — The Future of Dumped CWA in Australian Waters

Abstract: Although the disposal of material in the sea is now very restricted, historically, the disposal of unwanted waste in the ocean has been a very common practise in many parts of the world. Due to its immense size the ocean was thought to have an unlimited absorptive capacity, with any dumped waste having only a very localised effect. Moreover, the material would be well away from any human activity. Even for fishing trawlers operating in the early 1970s, a depth over 120 metres was considered as 'very deep water'. Nowadays, however, trawlers work in depths to 1000 metres and material dumped decades before can be accidentally recovered. It is important to know where any hazardous material may lie, both to prevent human contact and to assess the possible ecological consequences.