

Getting bright and funky in Brisbane



The inaugural ALIA New Librarian's Symposium lived up to its Bright and Funky theme in December 2002. 195 new members of the profession converged on the Carlton Crest Hotel in Brisbane for two days of professional and personal development.

The conference was opened by Janie Dickenson, the youngest Mayor in Australia, who inspired the audience. Day One sessions began with Ann Ritchie encouraging participants to consider the future of libraries in Australia. The rest of day one enabled everyone to get to know their individual MBTI [Myer-Briggs Type Indicator] personality styles and to consider and undertake career planning under the guidance of career architects, Edwin and Alan from Trevor-Roberts and Associates. Day one concluded with the very memorable 'Meet the Big Wigs' Cocktail Party where eighteen high-ranking members of the profession adorned colourful and imaginative wigs to mix it with the crowd. Merv Murray from 3M, sponsors of the Cocktail Party, was inspired to think of an icebreaker which involved everyone finding a Big Wig with their Dewey classification numbered nametag.

Day two began with a panel session exploring the topic of '2020: where is the library'. Futurist Tony Stevenson, marketing guru Stuart Ayling, practitioner and University of Queensland Cybrarian Janine Schmidt all gave their views and Year 11 student Anna Wallis said that she hoped that a childcare centre might be joined to the library to look after her children.

The most popular session of the conference was conducted on day two. Fiona Emberton, PLS director from the State Library of Queensland, spoke and conducted exercises on leadership and management skills for the future.

To finish the conference there was lots of boot-scooting and celebrations at the conference dinner at popular Brisbane nightclub Aurora's Bar and Restaurant.

Meal breaks were sponsored, and sponsor representatives introduced the meal break they were hosting. Static display booths at the back of the conference room enabled participants to browse through the displays and talk



Big Wigs at the 3M cocktail party held during the ALIA New Librarian's Symposium

to company representatives during meal breaks.

Pre- and post-conference events included a tour of the UQ Cybrary and Sunday breakfast at the new Borders Brisbane Bookstore where the marketing manager spoke about retailing techniques used in the store.

Reports, speakers notes and photos are all on the Bright and Funky website at <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/newlibrarian/>.

And thank you...

I would like to thank all those involved with organising the conference. Without the hard work and dedication of the committee, and the support from ALIA National Office, the conference would not have been such a success. The delegates too are to be congratulated for their enthusiasm. And last, but not least, a big thank you to the conference sponsors, without whom the conference would not have taken place. The sponsors were: Civica, 3M Library Systems, Resource Options, James Bennett Pty Limited, Aurora Foundation, Bolinda Publishing, Raeco, Queensland University of Technology, epixtech, Thomson Gale, The One Umbrella group, EBSCO Information Services, Borders Bookstore, Softlink Australia and UTS Library School.

Sue Hutley, convenor

Did you know...

- To celebrate the life of Margaret Trask [see p6] the Association is seeking recollections of how Margaret touched the lives of those in the library profession. Stories will be collated into a folder and presented to Margaret's family. An electronic copy will also be presented to the University of Technology, Sydney library. To contribute your story, visit <http://www.alia.org.au/membership/trask/>, or contact Emma Davis at the ALIA National Office, phone 02 6215 8231, or emma.davis@alia.org.au. Contributions are due by 21 February.
- We are seeking comment on the draft plan: *ALIA making the difference*. The plan is available from <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/planning/>, or hard copies can be obtained by contacting the ALIA National Office [phone 02 6215 8222, or e-mail enquiry@alia.org.au]. The deadline for comments is 14 February [p43].
- ALIA group treasurers should note that the new finance officer at ALIA National Office is Pamela Fedorow who replaces Elaine Fitzgerald. Pamela can be contacted on 02 6215 8219 or e-mail pamela.fedorow@alia.org.au. Ruby Akrong will be taking over reception duties. Ruby can be contacted on 02 6215 8222, or e-mail ruby.akrong@alia.org.au.
- The UNTL Library Project has a new website at <http://untl.labor.net.au>. The website contains information about how you can help with the rebuilding of this important educational facility [p9].
- Grants are available for those in developing countries to assist with the costs associated with travelling to conferences. Details can be found at <http://www.usaid.gov.au>. ■