

neXt 2005: ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference



6 to 9 September, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour

In six months, delegates will descend on Sydney for four days at the *neXt 2005* conference to share experiences, highlight excellence, and consider the expectations of our industry and ourselves. With the excellent response to our call for papers we have been able to build a program that will offer delegates choices with keynotes, papers, hands-on workshops and tours that cross the boundaries of practice.

On Tuesday 6 September we are introducing a new industry tours arrangement. Running throughout the day, tours have been arranged in the city on a pre-selected pick-and-mix basis. See a library, an archive or an information centre at 10:00am, take a break and then visit another at 2:00pm. Or perhaps join one of the bus tours outside of the city centre and visit three libraries/information centres in the morning or afternoon.

A first-timers dinner is being arranged for Tuesday evening. Make sure you mark 'first-timer' on your registration form and a committee member will be in touch closer to the date. For old-timers, Tues-

day evening is free time to catch up with friends, see the sights or perhaps do one of the organised tourist trips — we can recommend the Sydney Harbour Bridge Walk or a ferry around Sydney Harbour.

Do you need some hints and tips on conference going? Read our 'First timers (and old timers) guide to attending a conference' available at <http://conferences.alia.org.au/libtec2005/hintsandtips.html>.

We are delighted to announce that Dr Alex Byrne will be our opening keynote speaker. Dr Byrne is the president-elect of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA, <http://www.ifla.org>), will be president 2005–2007, and chaired IFLA's Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) from 1997 to 2003. Dr Byrne was also chief librarian of Northern Territory University and an active supporter of *Techs at the Top: 8th National Library Technicians Conference* held at the university in 1995.

On Wednesday we bring a 'community' focus into the program. The sharing of experiences and knowledge is what

makes conferences great. Join 'communities of interest' in the afternoon and discuss the issues, events, developments and possibilities in your sector or professional interest. To continue the exchange, we move on into the *neXt* cocktail party where its time to relax a little before heading out to dinner.

Between 7–9 September delegates and visitors will have access to the *neXt 2005* trade exhibition — a major part of any ALIA conference. A showcase for innovative new products and services, the trade exhibit is a must for all delegates. Spend your time talking with all the vendors and find out what might assist you in your current library, or your future one!

In coming months we will provide more details about keynote and invited speakers, social programs and other events. Check the next issue of *inCite*, or go to our website [<http://conferences.alia.org.au/libtec2005/>] for updated information.

We look forward to welcoming delegates, vendors and visitors to *neXt 2005*.

Meredith Martinelli, convenor, neXt 2005

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