

Networking at *neXt*

neXt
2005
National Library & Information Technicians Conference

6–9 September, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour

Conferences are not just about learning opportunities, listening to great speakers, workshops and checking out the exhibitors stands. Conferences are also about the great networking opportunities! At a conference there are always plenty of opportunities to put faces to those names you only ever see on e-mail lists or at the end of ILL requests. Whether it is standing in line for tea or coffee, waiting for lunch, or exchanging business cards with people you have suddenly found a shared interest with, networking allows you to meet and greet a range of new acquaintances and contacts.

At *neXt 2005* the committee aims to assist the always-important networking process by giving attendees the opportunity to socialise (along with all the great speakers and wonderful program we have in store!). On Tuesday 6 September, there will be a First Timer's Dinner, designed to allow those first-time attendees to get to know other first timers as well as to meet some of the organising committee and get a feel for the conference. If you are going to be a first timer, then this dinner is a must. For those of you who aren't first timers (the seasoned professionals amongst you), there is a fantastic array of great restaurants available within easy walking distance of the conference venue.

On Wednesday afternoon we will be breaking into 'communities of interest' to discuss matters of mutual interest in various types of libraries and disciplines. Then there will be the Welcoming Cocktail Party, a highlight of any conference. The cocktail party will embrace Communities Coming Together. After this there will be the opportunity

to join the other members of your Communities of Interest group and head off to one of the local restaurants for a meal (after allowing time to slip back to your accommodation for a change of clothes). Or else you might like to grab some of your state colleagues or some other grouping of diners and go somewhere different — the choice is yours!

A major highlight of any conference is the conference dinner. The theme of the *neXt 2005* dinner is 'A night to remember' and the Conference Committee is working hard to ensure it is just that. Not only will you get to eat a great meal in the stunning surrounds of Dockside on Cockle Bay, and find out the 2005 Dunn and Wilson Scholarship winner, but at *neXt 2005* you can groove and dance to ... the Enormous Horns! The Enormous Horns is a fantastic ten-piece all-singing, all-dancing party band and one of Australia's hottest dance bands — sure to be a sensational hit at the conference dinner. You really must be there for this one! Check out the band at <http://www.livemusic.com.au/enormous/>.

The conference will conclude with some surprises before the closing conference cocktail party, an opportunity to celebrate what will be an amazing conference.

The Organising Committee of the *neXt 2005* National Library and Information Technicians Conference looks forward to welcoming you to the Sydney Convention Centre, 6–9 September 2005. Check the next issue of *inCite*, or go to our website <http://conferences.alia.org.au/libtec2005/> for updated information. ■



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CALL FOR PAPERS

You are invited to submit abstracts addressing the electronic management of information in the library and information services environment. The closing date for abstract submission is 30 April 2005.
For further information go to: <http://www.vala.org.au/conf2006.htm>

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