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Newsletter of the Australian Library & Information Association

Achieving excellence!

The 4th Asian Pacific Special & Law Librarians Conference and the 9th Biennial Health Librarians Conference is (almost) upon us...

Senator the Hon Bob McMullan opens the 'Achieving Excellence' Conference on 2 September. The conference brings together librarians from Special, Law and Health libraries and has a wider appeal than previous meetings. This diversity of background and interest is reflected in the variety offered by the program, and in the large and diverse trade display.

The theme has attracted speakers eager to address the questions of quality, value and innovation in library services and library management.

We need to be committed, accountable and enthusiastic.

Delegates to this conference share the common objectives of all special librarians — that of providing a specialised service to meet the information needs of the organisation which employs us. As Guy St Clair explains in his keynote address on 'Small libraries achieving excellence', we must recognise that we need to be committed, accountable and enthusiastic if we are to provide a quality service to our organisations. A focus on quality encourages innovation — doing the best we can for every client on every enquiry. Without excellence, we cannot contribute as our organisations expect.

The conference will have an emphasis on the Asian and Pacific region. Delia Torrijos, the UNESCO Information Adviser for the Asian Pacific Region, based in Bangkok, gives the opening keynote address. Other speakers from the region



The Conference Committee. (Seated, left to right) Jacqueline Elliott, Lorraine Weinman, Rosemary Bell (Convener), Judy Grant. (Standing) Gail Hawke (Capital Conferences), Margaret Saville, Wilma Hewitt, Julie Butler, Kay Winter, Ann Rutledge, Fleur Flannery (absent: Prue Deacon and Nicholas Pengelly).

include Kim See Ch'ng, Librarian of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, Primo Afeau, Principal Legal Officer of the Solomon Islands Attorney General's Department, and Margaret Gibson Smith, Medical Librarian of the University of Auckland.

The conference is generously supported by organisations and businesses. Six librarians from the Pacific Islands region have been brought to Australia through AIDAB's International Seminars Support Scheme. The Commonwealth Attorney General opens the program and his Department has sponsored a speaker representing the Pacific States. Bennett Ebsco has provided generous financial support towards the expenses of one of our New Zealand speakers. The Conference Committee also acknowledges our major sponsors, Stowe Computing Australia and IBM Australia. Other sponsors of the conference include Geac Computers Pty

Ltd, CCH Australia Limited, DA Books and Journals, Law Book Company, and R Hill & Son Ltd.

The exhibition is an important element of this joint conference. The conference has attracted 53 organisations, representing most areas of the information and library industry, who have booked 62 trade stands. In addition to online database vendors and the many suppliers of books, journals, stationery and equipment, exhibitors include organisations which provide the latest software solutions for information management. The Exhibition Hall of the Convention Centre is a first class venue which allows exhibitors, delegates and visitors to gain maximum benefit from the exhibition. Long daily opening hours, from 8.30 am until 6 pm, provide ample opportunity for delegates to visit the many displays throughout the 4-day conference.

Rosemary Bell

Convener, Conference Committee

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