

Members of the ALIA '92 Committee give their in

MORE THAN eleven hundred registered participants thought that ALIA '92 provided a stimulating program, a varied trade exhibition, social activities to suit all tastes and a venue

Macintyre, with a thoughtful address on Libraries, information management and cultural heritage; Professor Klaus-Dieter Lehmann from the Deutsche Bibliothek in Germany who provided insights into the reunification of libraries following the dismantling of the Berlin Wall; James Michalko, Research Libraries Group, USA, who delighted the audience with a fresh look at 'Techno-phoria'; Mariam Abdul Kadir, National Library of Malaysia, concerned with strengthening regional library co-operation; Wharehuia Hemara, from New Zealand, challenging us with the information needs of indigenous minorities.

New technologies and new pressures were explored by speakers representing a number of sectors, including the Preservation Special Interest Group and the Asia Pacific Special Interest Group.

Practical papers and workshops were given on subjects as diverse as storytelling, library buildings, imaging technologies and telecommuting. 'The Fringe' offered special opportunities for poster sessions. Cooperation, performance measures and new information technologies were all issues of great interest to many people.

There were sessions of interest to all, and opportunities for both experienced and less experienced presenters. And the closing address by US fashion expert Kaycee Hale was a rousing talk on the role and image of librarians—a lively and inspirational conclusion to the Conference program.

The Trade Exhibition

This was one of the largest in recent years, with more than a hundred companies represented. It was held in a giant marquee covering over two thousand square metres, sited immediately in front of the main Conference venue. This year the exhibition lasted three days only, from Tuesday to Thursday. Feedback from exhibitors is not yet available, but it seems that the organisers achieved their aim of concentrating delegate attendance, while allowing exhibitors to use the other days for Conference attendance or related activities.

A subcommittee of two librarians and two trade representatives consulted widely with members of the trade over the three years preceding the event, so that exhibitors could

have their special input into the organisation.

The venue was thronged, and most delegates visited it many times, encouraged by morning and afternoon teas being served in the exhibition, with a local catering firm providing a takeaway lunch bar... And over two hundred people who were not Conference delegates visited the exhibition, including local councillors, business personnel and library staff.

'The Fringe'

Images of Librarians in Film was one of the most unusual presentations of the Conference. Grant Stone of Murdoch University was unable to attend in person, but sent his

presentation of audio and video tape, including overhead projections of himself at various stages of librarianship. For over an hour the audience was entertained by his witty and frank analysis of librarians in films such as *Wings of Desire* and *The Music Man*, and the librarian characters played by Goldie Hawn and Peter Sellers...

Another film later in the week, *The Nasty Girl*, was fascinating and frightening for us, as keepers of the records. A timely film about a



A white-gloved James Henri, Chairperson of the ALIA Press, signs the Conference Book

conducive to group cohesion.

Before the Conference some people suggested that a provincial city would be less effective than a metropolitan area. However Professor Klaus-Dieter Lehmann, before his plenary address, commented on the happy intermingling of professional and social occasions because the Conference venues were so close to the accommodation. The ability to 'bump into' colleagues, readily identify other Conference delegates and generally to feel part of a professional 'family' were all enhanced by the location. Let's do it again!

The Program

A total of 150 speakers and sixty chairpeople, representing all types of libraries and many special interest groups, worked to make the ALIA Conference a success. The plenary speakers were particularly well received. They included Stuart



Dorothea Brown, Kay Jerrelyn Brown and J. enjoy the President's



we did it!

Highlights of the recent Conference in Albury-Wodonga

German town's past, with interesting and witty direction.

And party night on Thursday was great fun.

The concept of The Fringe was a fantastic inclusion to the Conference



program, helping to provide a place for those newer to the profession with activities out of the mainstream. Not just social activities—numerous papers, workshops, (even stress management!) and a poster session. Petra Hartstang's design helped convey The Fringe as part of the whole Heart of the Matter. Why not another Fringe in New Zealand in 1994? Too cool!

Social activities

Committee members tried valiantly to keep up with all the social activities taking place during Conference week! Section dinners, breakfast meetings

and luncheons abounded for groups of special people, and informal gatherings of people with like minds and interests. The 'official' Conference social events included:

- A cocktail party, with string quartet and a garden (tho' indoor) setting set the scene for the whirl of social events in the days that followed;
- Two wine and cheese tastings were held during the week, the wines presented by the Winemakers of Rutherglen, and the locally produced, award-winning cheeses from Haberfield's Swissfield Cheeses. The tastings were accompanied by light classical music from the piano;
- Jane Rutter performed for the Conference Concert; a delightful and talented artist who enchanted her audience of 550 delegates and locals;
- 'Putting on the Ritz', the Conference Dinner, was magic! The decorations were superb, the food and wine delicious and the

music lively and appropriate. Old and new friends mingled and had a great time;

- the farewell to the ALIA '92 took the form of a 'prom' party with jukebox, balloons, party food and a huge Heart-of-the-Matter cake.

A fitting end to a marvellous week! ■

The ALIA stand was busy non-stop



Signing copies of Spooner or Later by Paul Jennings, Ted Greenwood and Terry Denton at the James Bennett stand

June Lewis of Leeton Shire Library won an electronic lettering machine from S & M Supply



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