

Heritage Week 86

There's no time to waste in getting ready for Heritage Week, 13-20 April. Already many activities are being publicised in the Heritage Week newsletter, one of this year's particularly exciting additions being the Hunter Valley Steamfest to take place at Maitland on 19-20 April.

The Hunter Valley Steamfest is being co-ordinated with the assistance of the City of Maitland, the State Rail Authority, the NSW Rail Transport Museum and the Lachlan Valley Railway Society. It is intended to involve many working locomotives in the festival as possible.

Steam trains will travel from Sydney to Maitland for the festival and details of ticket prices are available from the Heritage Week office. Special steam shuttle services are also planned to operate on the Saturday and Sunday between Maitland and Newcastle.

One of the highlights of this year's Heritage Week activities will be the presentation of the Heritage Award, which was officially launched on Australia Day. It is hoped the first Australian Heritage Award will be presented at a special Heritage Week function in Sydney. His Excellency, the Governor-General, Sir Brian Stephen. More details on the Award nomination procedures are available through the Australian Council of National Trusts by telephoning (062) 47 6766 or writing The Australian Heritage Award, PO Box 102, Civic Square ACT 2608.

Heritage Week is to be officially opened in Macquarie Street on Sunday 13 April, and will coincide with the temporary closure of the street (to traffic) for staging Macquarie Street Fair. This is not a commercial operation but is aimed at the promotion of non-profit cultural and environmental organisations. A limited number of stalls are available and enquiries could be directed to Karen Thompson, Heritage Week Co-ordinator, c/o National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill, Sydney NSW 2000 (02) 27 1913.

Heritage Week Ball will be held on 19 April 1986 - this is always a popular event so it is advisable to book early. Contact Heather Blasle-Clarke on (02) 909 2086.

Organisations so far represented on the Heritage Week Committee (NSW) are the National Trust of Australia (NSW), the Museums Association of Australia (NSW), the Heritage Council, the Royal Australian Historical Society, the NSW Bicentennial Council, the Library Association of Australia and the Department of Education NSW.

The deadline for inclusion in the Heritage Week programme is 24 February, so don't delay in advising the Heritage Week office of your activities. Their phone no is (02) 27 1913.

Information Online '86

The first Australian Online Information Conference and Exhibition, held at the Sydney Hilton on 20-22 January, was such an outstanding success that the organisers have taken the decision to follow it up with a second conference in January 1987. Twenty-seven exhibitors have already reserved space for the next conference.



At the Conference dinner. Back row: Elizabeth Swan, Exhibition Convener; Mary Bennett; Prof. John Bennett, Opening Speaker; Sue Phillips, LAA Acting Executive Director; Leigh Baker, Manager, Information Retrieval Division, ACI Computer Services. Front row: Dr Roger Summit, President Dialog Information Service; Janine Schmidt, Programme Convener; Dr Prentis I. Cody, Guest Speaker; Alan Walker, Conference Convener; Ginger Summit.

Delegate numbers had to be cut off at 550, leaving 200 people disappointed. The delegates attended three days of papers and product reviews covering a very wide range of subjects relating to online information. Some of the recurring themes in the program were the impact of new technology (notably CD-ROMs) and the roles of end-users and information professionals. There were also sessions on electronic publishing and videotex, as well as critiques of online information services in various disciplines. A detailed review of the conference and summary of the papers is published in a special issue of the *Australian Database Development Association Newsletter*, no. 17 (January/February, 1986). The LAA will publish the conference proceedings as soon as possible.



Conference Treasurer, Enid Roberts teaching delegates how to play two-up, assisted by Andrew Mackenzie (Finance Committee) and Alan Walker (Conference Convener)

Some 2,000 people visited the exhibition. Eight major North American and European online vendors exhibited: BRS, Data-Star, Dialog, Finsbury, I.P. Sharp, Lexis/Mead, Pergamon Infoline, SDC Orbit and STN Inter-

national. Overseas exhibitors also included a number of database producers: Biosis, Chemical Abstracts, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Derwent, Engineering Information, FIZ Karlsruhe, Institute for Scientific Information. The United Nations Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems had a booth with information on the many databases operating in the UN system, and the National Library of New Zealand not

only demonstrated three New Zealand databases, but also kept the conference well supplied with kiwifruit!



Alan Walker opening the exhibition

Australian representation included vendors (ACI Computer Services, CLIRS, CSIRO, Information Express, National Library), the communications utilities (OTC and Telecom) and consultants (Enterprise Information Management, IDAPS, Saztec). The smaller Australian database producers were represented by the Australian Database Development Association; one of them (WESTIRS) had its own booth.

Some important events for Australian online information took place at the conference. One was the launch of an Australian online newsletter, *Online Currents*, edited by Katie Blake (P.O. Box 309, Milsons Point, NSW, 2061); another was a preview of CSIRO's new public online service, Australis.

The conference was organised by the LAA's Information Science Section and the NSW Online Users Group.