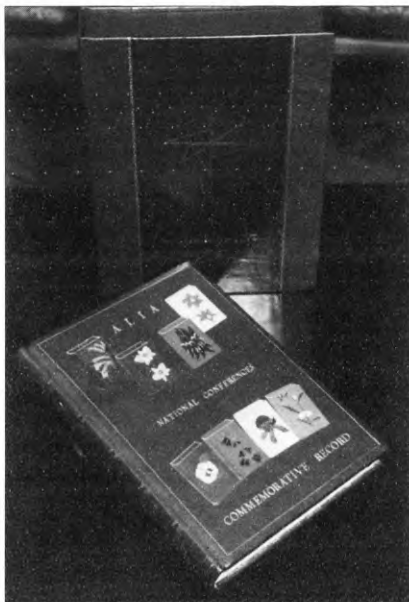


After the conference...

The ALIA Conference Book

A new treasure for the Association



At the conference in Perth ALIA received a magnificent product of the bookbinder's art. The volume will commemorate ALIA's national conferences. It is a book of blank pages waiting to chronicle in calligraphic hand the highlights of this, the first,

and subsequently the next 24 occasions. The title page, introduction and record of the 1990 Conference have now been entered and duly signed by conference dignitaries.

It featured at the Opening Ceremony when the Western Australian Minister for Education, the Hon Dr Geoff Gallop, who officially opened the conference, was invited to sign it as part of the ceremony. The book was officially handed over to the Chairman of the Albury-Wodonga 1992 Conference Committee at the Closing Ceremony. However he has allowed it to remain in Perth and it is at present on display in the Alexander Library Building as part of the Parchment to Print-out exhibition being held there until November. The volume will then be taken to Canberra for the opening of the new ALIA headquarters building and will remain there until the next conference.

The book was conceived as a commemorative gift from the Perth Conference to future ALIA conferences. The Western Australian College of Advanced Education, one of Perth's tertiary institutions for professional library

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education, kindly sponsored the volume and Dr Douglas Jecks, the Director of WACAE, presented the finished

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ALIA 1990 Conference obituary

The conference is over ... long live the conference!

ALIA's 1990 Biennial Conference is over! It is great to see the Albury-Wodonga Committee so enthusiastic about their turn in 2 year's time.

The Perth Conference seemed a very happy one, though not without one or two hiccups. The Conference Committee went into mild panic when the Opening Ceremony finished ahead of schedule (who said politicians only give long speeches?) and the last item on the program, the Françaix Wind Quintet, was still en route from an earlier engagement! But once they arrived, they were great. The audience very patiently returned to the Concert Hall for their performance, and were again treated to a WA Youth in Music event, the first being the University of WA Collegium Musicum chorale. A number of other cultural events were held throughout the conference.

We all tucked into our first conference meal after this ceremony, and the food and conference wine were pronounced delicious. Mustard Caterers of Perth did the bulk of the conference catering; SWETS sponsored the wine for the opening ceremony and the dinner held later in the week. None of us suffered from weight loss ...

People commented favourably on the Program Committee's decision to have the plenary for the day set the daily theme and for this to be held first thing each morning, bringing all delegates together. We were very fortunate that each plenary offered an outstanding paper, with each appealing to differing segments of the audience. ALIA President Lynn Allen set a very high standard with her thoughtful and thought-provoking opening address. The Conference Committee soon real-

ised that a number of plenary speeches were rewritten to match it!

The plenaries all mentioned the importance of the role of libraries in preserving and encouraging human knowledge. Technology was also mentioned, mainly in the light of our use of it as a tool and our not being driven by it. In his Geraldine Doogue video interview with the Librarian of Congress Dr James Billington, Dennis Richardson reminded us of the problem of capturing segments of time with constantly updated databases. A later paper by Alison Crook reminded us of the need to capture magnetic information for archival purposes.

User pays, and level playing fields for all users came up in the pre and conference discussions. Lauchlan

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Chipman's erudite delivery on Privacy and Freedom of Information provided us with a sound reference source for the future. Numerous other issues were also addressed.

In an effort to encourage all delegates to visit the large Trade Exhibition, morning and afternoon teas were served in it. This caused a few hassles with queues, and highlighted Perth's desperate need for a suitable Conference and Exhibition venue. We utilised the staff carpark at the Concert Hall for the Exhibition, and it scrubbed up very well. Nevertheless, the narrow entrance and pockets of mugginess did not help delegate/exhibitor humours, particularly as conference days one and two were a trifle warm.

Conference ancillary venues, Council house, Government House and the city were within an easy walk of the main venue, the Perth Concert Hall. Perth taxi drivers rued this as they did not get the fares they would have liked. Some delegates remarked how nice it was to stretch one's legs. Thank goodness it didn't rain!

A number of library tours were held, most of them fully booked. Delegates were pleased with their variety and the opportunity they gave for catching up with Perth's sights. Lunchtimes were often as busy as session

times, with the Trade Exhibition Opening, book launches, the Baker & Taylor literacy luncheon and other events. It was just as well lunch was scheduled to last 2 hours.

*Cameras don't lie,
as we saw in the
next day's issue of
the Conference
daily Hills Hotline!*

Most evenings were taken up with social events, the highlight being the Conference Gala Dinner on Conference Wednesday night. Cameras don't lie, as we saw in the next day's issue of the Conference *Daily Hills Hotline!*

The volunteer crew never rested: aiding here, guiding there, always (well nearly always) smiling. It was pleasing to see two former WA State Librarians Ali Sharr and Bob Sharman, plus (*will-be-never-retire?*) Peter Maskell, helping out in a number of ways, adding their considerable knowledge and experience to that of the other helpers.

The conference received considerable sponsorship and acknowledge-

ment of this was made in the Program Booklet.

Donald Treeve closed the conference in fine style. Those who emerged unscathed from his wit breathed huge sighs of relief. We were not able to tape his remarks, which was probably just as well.

Most of the committee went into a stunned silent state after the conference. Wise ones, Ros Membrey and Lynn Allen, led the very successful Singapore post conference tour. The rest of us are now resurfacing, chasing Plenary papers for *ALJ*, and generally tidying up.

A conference tries to satisfy everyone, but it is impossible to be all things to all people. We are grateful to those who filled in the evaluation sheets, which contained opposite comments about a number of things, except the location for morning and afternoon teas. That was universally disliked. The evaluation sheets give very useful guidance for Albury-Wodonga.

We thank all delegates for their smiles, laughter and patience. We loved seeing you and look forward to catching up with you again. All in all, we had a lot of fun and learnt much. Thank you for your participation.

*Margaret Medcalf and all of the 1990
White Rose Brigade
(Conference Committee) ■*

Australian Library Week 1990

(see accompanying story on page 10)



Anne Levy presenting Rock Up Enrol awards, with Ita Buttrose looking on, part of a campaign to join every child to a public library.