

Flying the flag in Norway

Jo Marshall, Vic Branch reports on the 4th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries in Oslo

I was delighted on taking the stage for my conference presentation to see an Aussie flag on the podium.

This patriotic gesture was the work of Melbourne colleagues Anne McLean and Enid Meldrum, who with Margaret McKinnon and myself made up the Australian contingent.

The 600 delegates from 35 countries included for the first time a number of librarians from former Soviet bloc countries.

The theme 'Health information — new possibilities' explored issues facing the changing profession including management, marketing and electronics and included special interest sessions ranging from history to pharmaceutical information.

Among keynote speakers was Associate Director of the US National Library of Medicine, Lois Ann Colaiani.

I spoke in two sessions, 'Defining our professional roles and services', where other speakers were President of the Irish Library Association, Beatrice Doran, Shane Godbolt from London, and Susan Crawford from the US Medical Library Association.

The second paper was in a smaller session, 'Special needs and special users', where I presented research by President of the Health Section Lisa Belkin, Victoria and myself. Other speakers were from Denmark and Estonia. Social highlights included the opening reception in the massive Oslo City Hall with its impressive Munch



Proud to be Australian: Jo Marshall in Oslo

murals and the conference dinner at the Norwegian Folk Museum.

It was a privilege to participate in such a gathering of the profession and exciting to know the Europeans are very interested in our Australian professional groups.

Proceedings of the conference will be published by Kluwer later this year.

Conferences of the European Association of Health Information and Libraries are held every two years, with the next in Coimbra, Portugal from 18-21 September, 1996.

Contact me for details regarding the Association and conferences at: The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne 3050, e-mail: marshallj@wehi.edu.au.

Sweet inspiration boosts regional group

A technician group has been formed within NSW's Far North Coast Regional Group, thanks to the inspiration given by last year's technician's conference in Adelaide.

Another motivation has been the success of the library practice course introduced to Lismore TAFE in 1990, which has attracted mature-age students and produced results above the state average. When the latest crop of students graduate, the area will have over 40 qualified library technicians.

So together with the enthusiasm generated by the Adelaide conference, the next logical step toward

contributing to information services in the area was to affiliate with ALIA Far North Coast.

Among the benefits seen by the new 30-strong technician group are increased support and communication among their peers and the ability to more effectively share in the trends and developments that impact on their work.

The group is particularly keen to hear from technicians in other more isolated areas and from other groups that have formed as a result of the Adelaide conference. Contact Glenda Kimmins, LIC, Southern Cross University, Lismore 2480, or e-mail gkimmins@scu.edu.au.

In brief...

New Christian buying group

A new name will soon be appearing in Christian book stores all over the country, with Christian retailers from Perth to Sydney and from Tasmania to North Queensland joining together to form Headland Australia, now the largest buying group of Christian retailers in Australia. The move will enable even the smallest of local book stores to tap into a world-wide network of contacts and to obtain the right books at the right price.

Book bounty

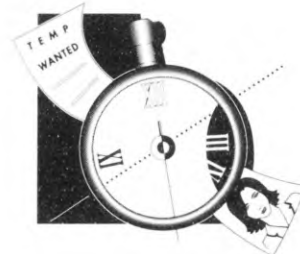
The Australian Customs Service has returned \$22.2 million to the Australian printing industry under the Government's Book Bounty Scheme in 1993-1994. A new publication outlining details of the Book Bounty Scheme is available from Customs Houses.

The book bounty publication is aimed at helping the domestic book printing industry to compete with overseas book printers.

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