

Leadership institute migrates south for the summer

IMA Training and Consultancy Services Ltd have just announced the first Aurora Leadership Institute will be held at Thredbo in November.

Based on the highly acclaimed Snowbird Institute held annually in Utah, the six day residential program is open to Australian and New Zealand information professionals and those from associated disciplines. Applicants must be sponsored by a referee within the profession and be outstanding in their background and work performance.

AIMA, and major sponsors Dynix Australia, are bringing the original facilitators, Schrieber Shannon Associates, from America to facilitate the Australian program.

Aurora is about trying to identify and develop potential leaders of the profession. Participants will spend six days with information industry leaders, honing their leadership skills and learning about interaction styles, power and influence, creativity and risk-taking. Brenda McConchie, Executive Director of AIMA, attended the 1994 Snowbird Institute as one of the eight current industry leaders — the mentors. She found the program to be an extraordinary one in its genuinely participatory approach, involving mentors as much as participants in the exploration of leadership skills. Mentors and participants work in groups as equals, interaction that benefits everybody.

The four Australian librarians who have attended Snowbird all speak of the experience as being amongst the most valuable professional development exercises in their careers and comment on the usefulness of the broad background experience brought to the Institute by the mentors.

AIMA was keen to see the program made available here, a plan endorsed by the organisers of the original program and enthusiastically supported by the Chairman of the AIMA Board, Warren Horton.

'The demonstrated commitment

of the American library industry to Snowbird has been impressive, and I am sure that the Australian industry will have the same enthusiasm about Aurora', he said. He described Aurora as the best developmental opportunity for younger staff that he has seen, and added that he wished there had been such an opportunity when he was a young professional.

AIMA is pleased to welcome Dynix as major sponsor of the program. Although Dynix Australia is quite separate from Dynix Inc in the United States, sponsors of Snowbird since its inception, both companies share a commitment to the industry beyond their commercial interest.

David Malpas, General Manager of Dynix Australia, said his company was delighted to be able to participate in such an important program.

Applications for the Aurora Leadership Institute will close on 16 June 1995. Further information is available from AIMA on phone (06) 262 1552, fax (06) 257 1703 or e-mail aima@nla.gov.au

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