Windows of opportunity: networking around the world

Country Conference 5–7 October, Millicent Library and Civic Centre, SA

This year the country conference will concentrate on the theme *Windows of opportunity*, looking at the opportunities afforded to us by technology and structural reform as well as building on the links between national and country networks. Delegates will be able to participate in an exciting conference program and sample the delights of the famous Coonawarra Region, visit award winning school community libraries and sample country hospitality.

The conference, to be held at the new Millicent Library, will be opened on Friday afternoon by ALIA president, Jan Gaebler followed by a keynote address by Dr Veronica Lunn, *Community networks, models and access for your community.* Veronica has recently returned from a study tour of community networks, including networks in Canada, the United States of America and Great Britain.

Veronica, manager of libraries, information and cultural services at Lake Macquarie City in New South Wales, is, along with Bill Linklater (Newcastle University) and Chris Williams (Newcastle Public Library), managing the Hunter Project. She was recently awarded the prestigious *Mainerd Scholarship* which enabled her to undertake this study tour.

Friday afternoon's panel session will focus on service to the community. Phil Teece, ALIA, industrial services manager, will look at *Workplace reform and best practice*, a local government representative will present a paper entitled *A look at structural reform in South Australia and the impact on your service*, and the Victorian perspective will be discussed in *Making the best change for your service.*

Saturday will focus on networks and emerging opportunities for library service and the community — Veronica Lunn will explain the Hunter Community Information Network, and Vanessa Little will talk about the Public Libraries Automated Information Network. EdNA, community information and national networks will also be covered.

Sunday highlights the role libraries play in distance education. Presenters include Di Booker from TAFE and Open Learning; Anthea Thomas of the University of South Australia; Ian McBain from the Flinders University and Virginia Hill from the South East College of TAFE.

The social side of the conference is not to be forgotten, with a reception on the Friday evening, followed by an informal meal at a local homestead. On Saturday afternoon we will visit Penola to view the Penola School Community Library, sample the school red, and then on to the famous Coonawarra wine district for some wine tasting! The conference dinner will be held at the award-winning Bompas, a renovated early 19th century hotel, at coastal Beachport on Saturday night. Veronica will be the dinner speaker, recounting the highlights of her trip.

For registration forms contact Ian McBain at the Flinders University (08) 201 3290 or Janice Nitschke at Millicent Public Library on (087) 332 602.

Janice Nitschke