

Your voice

Yerbut...

Some readers of *inCite* will have met the memorable character, Yerbut, through reading Jan Mark's novel, *Handles*. Others, less fortunate, constantly meet Yerbut and his female counterpart in person. During 1993-5 while representing ALIA on the Library Competency Standards Development Project Taskforce, I met many Yerbuts: 'Competency standards? Yerbut ... the union won't let us, the Vice-chancellor is opposed to them, the rest of the staff do not like the idea, we have just implemented a new classification structure, we already have enterprise standards...'

What a pleasure therefore to participate in the *Future challenge, future change: national library competency standards conference*, organised by the Education for Library and Information Services Section in Melbourne in December 1995 and see the yerbuts becoming no buts. Strongly supportive union leaders, competency standards in institutions with previously violently opposed management, librarians understanding that linking their training needs to the standards empowers them in discussion with their managers, library competency standards successfully integrated with enterprise standards

and used as the basis of compulsory competitive tendering negotiations...

As David Haynes from the CPSU said at the conference, 'the process of implementation of the Library Competency Standards at the workplace level will accelerate when libraries have in their hands models which clearly show the advantages of

competency based training, based on actual implementation in a couple of key libraries.'

Congratulations to the more than a 'couple of key libraries' who are already showing the rest the way.

**Anne Hazell,
Dept for Education and
Children's Services (SA)**

Your voice

Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed.

All letters should be addressed to the *inCite* editor and may be e-mailed to incite@alia.org.au, faxed to 06 282 2249, or posted to: *Your voice*, ALIA, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600. Please include your name and postal address with your letter or e-mail.

Marvellous Melbourne

The social highlight of the biennial conference will be the dinner on Wednesday 9 October in the Great Hall of the National Gallery of Victoria. The dinner will be a stylish masked ball affair — keep this in mind when planning your wardrobe for the conference. An informal welcome to Melbourne cocktail function will be held in the World Congress Centre with registration on Sunday evening. The opening function on Monday 7 October will be in the John Batman Theatre, World Congress Centre, and will be followed by the official opening of the Trade Exhibition in the Exhibition Centre. The closing ceremony and farewell cocktail party will be held in the Atrium of the Congress Centre immediately after the final conference session. Sections and groups are also planning an exciting range of social functions, see *inCite* and Branches and Sections newsletters for details. **Jan Wright, convenor social committee**



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