

Empowering library and information services in the top end

ALIA Top End has been involved in a busy and very rewarding program of activities this year, with more exciting events planned. At the group's first meeting in February, members welcomed Robin Hempel, project librarian at the Northern Territory Library, as the new convenor with a hearty vote of thanks to Ruth Quinn, head librarian, Northern Territory University who had held the post for the previous two and a half years.

One of the highlights of the year has been the development of the program, 'Graduate mentoring: An opportunity for new graduates'. Under the guidance of Ann Ritchie and Stelios Podias, a mentoring training group was formed in 2002 and this year the program has been offered to ALIA members who have been undertaking library studies and who have reached the new or 'soon to be' graduate stage at both technician and librarian level. The program has provided a much needed forum for graduates to come together to discuss issues and ideas: everything from getting that first job to establishing and maintaining a professional profile. So far meetings have been well attended, with participation enthusiastic as the focus of each meeting is very much geared to the needs of the mentorees. The group's facilitators have proved to be a real strength, able

to offer participants the benefit of their expertise and experience. The program looks set for a very bright future.

In turn the mentoring group was able to demonstrate its support for our Top End Group by assisting with preparations and arrangements for the great debate: 'Are libraries cultural institutions?' which was one of the main events in the Territory-wide celebrations for Library and information Week (see p9 of this issue for details).

ALIA Top End Group has also been involved in supporting a range of community programs including the Territory-wide tour by children's author Maurice Gleitzman and the Itinerant's Project in Palmerston and Darwin. Despite all this activity, and keeping the Library and Information Week flame alive, a special group committee has planning well under way for the major event of the year, the first ALIA top End Symposium, *Power our Territory: Information literacy for development of the Northern Territory* to be held 12-13 September 2003 in Darwin. For further information on the symposium please contact Jayshree Mamtara, chair of the organising committee on 08 8946 7881 or by e-mail: Jayshree.mamtara@ntu.edu.au.

Robin Hempel, convenor, ALIA Top End

Breaking barriers: reaching users in a digital world

IFLA Interlending and Document Supply International Conference,
28 to 31 October, National Library of Australia

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Full registration details, including the registration form, are at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/ilds/registration.htm>. Or e-mail ildsconference@nla.gov.au if you have any questions. The conference has a tremendous program covering areas of interest to most interlending and document delivery practitioners. And an exciting social program (included in the registration fee) gives you the opportunity to hotly debate the issues of the day with new and old friends, over dessert at Parliament house, or during the great outdoors entertainment evening at the Botanic Gardens. See you in Canberra in spring!

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