



Conference venues: (top row) The Sydney Opera House; The Clancy Auditorium, University of NSW; (Bottom row, left to right) State Library of NSW; The Round House, University of NSW; and the Sydney Town Hall.

Conference: colloquy, conversations, discussion, debate, tete-a-tete, gathering drawing together of people ... IFLA/LAA will be all this and much more. Taking in famous landmarks of Sydney - the Opera House, the Town Hall, the State Library of New South Wales - librarians will come together, not only to relate on professional and social levels but to welcome overseas delegates and international guests to Australian laid-back hospitality. It's definitely not too late to register and become a part of this important event.

The official opening of the LAA biennial conference will be performed by Susan Ryan, Director, Publishing Division, Penguin Books, and will take place at the Sydney Town Hall on Saturday, 27 August at 5.30 pm.

On Sunday the conference will kick off to a dynamic start. The plenary session, 'People, Persuasion and Power — keys to professional and organisational success', features Bonnie Boezman, Time-Life Australia; Caroline Taylor, Corporate Vision; and Rodney Cavalier, Financial Review (former NSW Minister for Education) with John Levett, Head, Library School, University of Tasmania and Editor, Australian Library Journal, as moderator. Delegates can then choose from 50 sessions covering a wide range of topics and interests.

For people unable to come along for the whole conference, single day enrolments are available for Sunday, 28 August; Monday, 29 August; Wednesday, 31 August; Thursday, 1 September; and Friday, 2 September at a cost of \$120 for IFLA/LAA members and \$150 for non-members. The casual day enrolment covers entry to all conference sessions and the exhibition, morning and afternoon teas, and a conference handbook. Enrol at the registration centre in the Round House, University of New South Wales.

The Round House is also the venue for the Trade Exhibition. Julia Jeffrey, official exhibition organiser, reports that you can expect the biggest and brightest exhibition yet. Over 100 companies will be showing off their wares and services. Australian and overseas library suppliers, library equipment and storage companies, booksellers and publishers, binding and printing operations, research and development companies as well as 'desktop publishing companies, online database vendors, computer hardware and software companies will be doing their best to tempt you and you can bet some good offers will be made to those willing to talk turkey. Do take some time to say 'hello' to LAA staff at the LAA stand near the registration area. LAA publications, T-shirts and other conference mechandise will be on sale.

Delegates rummaging through their satchels and feverishly filling in conference quiz sheets, will be the likely scene during registration times. A fabulous boulder opal generously donated by GEMTEC Pty Ltd will be given to the lucky and clever conference delegate who successfully completes the quiz sheet. The boulder opal will be on display in the exhibition area and the draw will be made at lunchtime on Thursday, you must be present to lug your booty away.

Onto the serious business of having fun, the social events planned both major and minor will be a ball. Photos of the last LAA conference in Darwin revealed the good times that can be had (and don't think the city location will dampen spirits!) After the opening ceremony on Saturday, 27 August, the LAA conference reception, a stone throw away from the Town Hall, in the Grand Ballroom, Hilton International will take the form of a cocktail party/dinner running from 7.30 pm onwards.

The LAA conference closing ceremony on Tuesday, 30 August at 2.10 pm in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House incorporates the sound and light show finale. This will lead into the official opening of the IFLA 1988 conference by the Governor General of Australia, Sir Ninian Stephens and will feature City of Sydney organist, David Rumsey. Following this a gala conference reception will be held at the State Library of NSW.

International guests and dinkum Aussie delegates will not want to miss the conference Australiana Night on Thursday, 31 August at the Argyle Cellars in the historic Rocks area. Traditional Aboriginal dances and bushband music will be the order of the day. On-stage entertainment will include sheep shearing. For those who like to keep up the pretence of working while they enjoy themselves there is a trip to Harcourt Brace Jovanovich's warehouse. Buses will leave the University of New South Wales at 5.30 pm, 1 September, to visit the Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Group.... And the pace just won't stop, see page 7 for details of LAA division dinners and activities.