

## A friendly RAISS

Territorians are known for their initiative. They organised the 1986 LAA Biennial Conference in Darwin which was a milestone for Australian librarianship and is well remembered as 'the friendly conference'. The Northern Territory Branch's achievement is underlined by noting that it remains, to date, the largest academic/professional conference staged in Darwin.

Similar initiative was shown in the establishment of the first state group of the Reference and Information Services Section and ready agreement to host the 1993 RAISS Conference in Darwin. It, too, will be a friendly Conference running for three days from Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 July preceded by a welcoming function on the Tuesday evening. The venue is the Casuarina campus of the Northern Territory University in Darwin's northern suburbs, 15 km from the city centre.

As Australia's international focus shifts to the Asian region the Conference theme *Infobridges: linking Australia and Asia* is appropriate in Darwin, Australia's most multicultural city and our front door to Asia. The program reflects the increasing interest in Asian information and collaboration throughout Australia. Themes address cultural issues in reference services, information skills and training and performance management in reference services.

The Conference has attracted three prominent keynote speakers from diverse backgrounds: Mick Dodson, Jenny Cram and Alison Broinowski.

Mick Dodson is a highly respected Aboriginal leader who has worked with the Northern Land Council, for eight years as a legal adviser, and for the past three years as Director. He leaves the Land Council in April to take up an appointment as the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner. The position, within the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, is part of the federal government's response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. Mick Dodson is supremely well qualified to address delegates on cultural issues and library services.

Jenny Cram, the President of ALIA, has had a distinguished background in

public libraries, notably as Chief Librarian of the Brisbane City Library Service. She is now with the Queensland Education Department.

Australian diplomat, journalist, writer and consultant on Asian affairs, Alison Broinowski has written and edited numerous volumes on ASEAN and Australia's relations with Asia. She has been a regular contributor to Australian and overseas newspapers and journals and the recipient of many literary awards. Her latest book, *The yellow lady: Australian impressions of Asia*, published in 1992, is essential reading for all those who are interested in Australia's place in the world.

These themes will be elaborated in other papers. Some Conference sessions will be devoted to workshops, e.g., on INMAGIC and DIALOG. There will be opportunities for delegates to visit libraries in the Darwin area. A trade display, Tradelink, will provide a chance to view products and services and to meet representatives from a number of companies and organisations. The display will be complemented by a CD-ROM playground.

Darwin's perfect dry season climate lends itself to the social functions. Visitors will find Darwin a diverse and interesting city and many will wish to extend their stay to take one or more of the optional tours available to Kakadu National park, Litchfield Park, Katherine Gorge and Bathurst and Melville Islands or to nearby Southeast Asia. As a big bonus, the International Guitar Festival will take place in Darwin the same week as the Conference. Delegates have the opportunity to hear renowned classical guitarist John Williams on Thursday evening 8 July and can reserve their tickets for this event when they register.



The RAISS 93 Conference Committee. Seated L-R: Anne Wilson, Alex Byrne (Conference Convener), Murray Maynard, Robbie Braithwaite. Standing L-R: Jenny Michel, Colleen Pyne, Ruth Quinn (Absent: Felicity Williams, Oliver Mann)

You should already have received your registration brochures for the RAISS Conference with the last *inCite*. If you need further copies or any information about the Conference contact Convention Catalysts Inc, phone (089) 811 875, fax (089) 411 639. ■

(Advertisement)

### SBS Library : A successful move

An extract from the newsletter of SBS

At the weekend Sport moved to Artarmon, including the Youth Cup team. Up the highway also trekked the Operations supervisors and the maintenance guys with their gear and the technical store. But most noticeable of all was the move of the Videotape Library, trolley after trolley laden with U-matic cassettes and 1" tapes was gobbled up by Atlantis trucks which then trundled along the Pacific Highway till they reached the Pearly Gates.

There the trucks proceeded to disgorge their loads and an incredible number of blue-clad men and women shuttled between them and the assigned locations. (By the way, it's a pleasure to see quite a number of women amongst them, including a slip of a girl armed with a cellular phone going off every thirty seconds, running the entire show. She's Atlantis' Library specialist.)

Everyone agreed the Atlantis people are terrific. Anyone who's ever dealt with removalists cannot but be impressed. Not just efficient, not just competent, but extremely helpful. It was good choice.