



powering our future

contribute to the information agenda → **ALIA 2002**

Inform, innovate, inspire

The more you give, the more you get!

Every conference is an investment. A quick glance at this program will tell you that this is no 'answers on a platter' event. Whilst 'what has been done before' and 'how it was done' will inform the contribution of delegates, you will need to look deeper into this program to extract maximum benefit — but the return will be significantly greater.

At all conferences, the keynote speakers are the highlights. At ALIA 2002, all presentations are keynotes and will be delivered by world class speakers who are the leaders in their fields, so you can logically expect to be inspired.

Speakers have been asked to contribute ideas and provide background information and a broad overview of their topics. They will talk about the changing technological environment in Australia and give their assessment of critical success factors for each of the enterprises (research and innovation, learning, communities and business) which will influence Australia's success as a knowledge economy. You can expect to be challenged. What you hear will inform your future direction, indeed the future direction for the information industry.

Opening speakers include Dr Terry Cutler, chair of the Australia Council plus psychologist, social commentator and writer Mr Hugh Mackay.

Day one will focus on focus on research and innovation with Dr Christopher Chia, chief executive of the National Library Board of Singapore; Mr Tim Besley, AO, AM, president of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and Professor Vicki Sara, chief executive officer of the Australian Research Council.

Day two will focus on the learning enterprise and Australian communities. Learning speakers include: Dr Marlyn Forrest, chair of the Australian Information and Communication Technology in Education Committee; Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton, AO, pro-chancellor at Murdoch University and Dr Ken Boston, AO, managing director of TAFE NSW and director general of Education and Training.

Speakers for the communities stream (also on day two) include:

Archbishop Peter Carnley, AO Archbishop of Perth and Primate of the Anglican Church in Australia; Ms Sue Middleton from Grassroots Development; and Professor Ann Harding, director of the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (see below).

The business stream on day three will feature Mr Phil Ruthven, chairman of IBIS Information; Ms Patricia Schroeder, president and chief executive officer of the American Publishing Association; and Dr Marianne Broadbent, group vice-president and head of research executive programs Worldwide, Gartner.

The final session — Pulling the threads together — will be presented by Professor Malcom Gillies, deputy vice-chancellor (Education) at the Australian National University and Professor Neil McLean (chair, ALIA 2002 program committee).

The ALIA 2002 program has been carefully crafted to stimulate debate, to raise the public profile of the information profession and to create a public policy agenda for action. It is the very first time that such an outcome has been attempted and the shape of the agenda is very much dependent on your participation.

Take up the challenge. The full program for the ALIA 2002 conference is available at <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/alia2002/>. You can check out biographies for all the speakers and download the registration brochure or register online.

Register now & save yourself \$100 — early bird discount extended from 1 March to 15 March 2002. (retired and unemployed delegates can register at student rate) The starting gun has been fired!

The Issues Forum — an electronic discussion list moderated by Ian McCallum and Sherrey Quinn — is now live. You can join as an e-delegate at <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/alia2002/issues.html>. This is your opportunity to put forward issues affecting your organisation and your sector. Summaries of issues will be fed through to other e-lists and to ALIA 2002 speakers so your contribution can impact the future direction of the information industry ... provided you get in there and have your say. ■

Professor Ann Harding confirmed as speaker at ALIA 2002

After working on major policy reviews in several federal government departments, Ann Harding was appointed Professor of Applied Economics and Social Policy and the inaugural director of the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) at the University of Canberra in January 1993. She is an internationally recognised expert in the fields of microsimulation modelling, income distribution, and tax/transfer policy. In 1996 Ann was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, becoming one of the youngest ever Fellows. Ann holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Economics with First Class Honours from Sydney University.

Ann has been asked to extend the talk she gave at *Beyond traditional boundaries* and speculate on the implications these statistics have regarding people's access to information from a social profile point of view. She was also asked to consider how can we build a model of what libraries could do to assist in developing solutions to these emerging trends, highlighting lower income families and people caught in the poverty trap. ■

