

# ALIA 2008 Biennial Conference: dreaming08



It's less than a year until the next ALIA Biennial Conference! The conference theme, **dreaming08**, reflects the unique location of the conference in Arrernte country. The conference will be held in the fascinating outback town of Alice Springs from 2–5 September 2008.

This is the first of several articles that will keep you informed about the conference as it develops.

The call for papers is open until 30 January 2008. The program focuses on the theme, dreaming, and the topics include dreaming the future, research, engagement, access and meeting places. Indigenous issues will be addressed in all sections. For more details, visit the conference website at <[www.alia2008.com](http://www.alia2008.com)>.

Each month, the conference organising committee will be posing readers a question about Alice and the Centre. If you know the answer, email one of the committee — check out the website at <[www.alia2008.com](http://www.alia2008.com)> for our contact details — and on the first working day of each month, we will draw a winner who will receive a gift token to be spent

in Alice Springs next September. Answers and winners will be announced in the following issue of *inCite*.

Alice Springs is the red centre of Australia, the desert heart of the country and where the traditional owners of the land, the Arrernte peoples, have lived for thousands of years. It's where the locals race camels, hold regattas in a dry river bed and drink champagne while watching the sun set over the MacDonnell Ranges. Note that the 2008 Henley on Todd Regatta is to be held on the Saturday following the conference, 6 September 2008 — an enticement for delegates to stay longer in town.

Alice is a small town with a population of around 26,000, 30% of which is Aboriginal, but it is also the centre of a large geographical area that is sparsely populated by small Aboriginal communities spread out across the desert — some 25kms from town, others 500kms.

It is the centre of a thriving Indigenous art industry with several galleries in town and artists exhibiting in major galleries

worldwide. With its large Aboriginal population, Indigenous lore and legends are part of everyday life.

It is a major international tourist hub where visitors swell the population each year between April and September.

It is the centre of a magnificent tract of country where spectacular, dusky pink rock formations rise out of the desert and turn a deep red at sunrise or sunset. Areas of permanent water can be found within the gorges and after rain the desert turns green and wildflowers populate the land. It is well provided with camping areas and the Larapinta Trail runs 223kms from Alice Springs west to Mount Sonder.

It is a place that every Australian must visit during their lifetime so why not make the ALIA **dreaming08** conference your opportunity to visit this iconic location.

**Sonia Sumner, Alice Springs Campus Librarian, Charles Darwin University**  
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Co-convenor, **dreaming08**

**November's question:** *What is the name of the mountain which is part of the MacDonnell Range and can be seen from any location in Alice Springs?*

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Applications close on Friday, 11 January 2008.

### More information

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