National **Advisory Congress success** stories

ALIA Red Centre: Organising the ALIA 2008 Biennial Conference

It has been a momentous year for our small regional group as we worked together to get our teeth into the enormous task of organising the ALIA 2008 Biennial Conference. We started on a huge learning curve at the end of last year as we worked collectively to create our brand, which had the ALIA logo thematically included, and created networks of support around Australia and in Alice Springs. We produced a DVD in collaboration with local artist and comedienne Fiona O'Loughlin to promote our conference. The DVD was successfully viewed at click06 along with our choreographed handover ceremony.

Red Centre Group launches dreaming08 at click06

We saturated delegates at click06 with all forms of promotion. ALIA National Office gave us a huge boost when we had a stall of our own next to theirs. We have since inundated other conferences including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network (ATSILIRN) Conference, New Librarians Symposium, Top End Symposium and the Library Technicians Conference among others. Our stickers and postcards from Territory Discoveries worked a treat with a tag team approach to staffing our booth and being out on the floor approaching potential delegates and exhibitors. What a blast! That was all before our Professional Conference Organiser was appointed (before we even knew what a PCO was!).

Our PCO, Lynne John from ICMS, has since come to visit us twice and meets and works closely with us on a regular basis to ensure the conference maintains its 'Alice Springs' flavour. The local committee meets every fortnight to help support each other with each of the roles we are undertaking, including, tours, marketing, the social program, entertainment, venue assessment and bookings. This is a huge job as the sub-committees tend to comprise a single individual co-ordinating and carrying out the duties themselves.

Non-local committee members Jayshree Mamtora, Philip Keane and Jane Hardy have been out to visit us in order to get a stronger understanding of the site and what is needed throughout the conference. The design of the program, led by Jayshree, has had full involvement from the whole committee with active discussion on various keynote speakers. The keynote speakers have now been booked and we have researched and created a list of suitable Indigenous speakers relevant to the library industry

and Central Australia wherever possible. Our other milestones for the program include the Call for Papers which opened in September and will close in January 2008. This is when the Program Committee will take full flight!

We have already confirmed bookings for the venue, dinner venue, the entertainment and are currently negotiating terms with other providers. This is a huge job for such a small (yet enthusiastic) team but we're certainly rising to the challenge.

Phew what a ride. And we're only half way there!

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ALIA SA, Adelaide: Basic 101 Workshops

ALIA SA is always responding to the professional development needs of our members. It was clear that members were keen for more practical workshops, and in all library sectors there is a growing interest in Web 2.0 technology—blogs, wikis, podcasting, RSS feeds and other social technologies.

Inspired by a library group in Western Australia, we decided to run a trial workshop in November 2006 on 'Basic Blogging 101'. The response was so enthusiastic that we expanded the concept for 2007. ALIA ran a series of regular workshops called the 'Basic 101 series', with dates throughout the year. Each workshop covered one Web 2.0 application or idea. The workshops were run by Kate Sinclair and Helen Kwaka. Several of the workshops were booked out and had to be repeated to meet demand. A total of 146 people have attended the workshops. A workshop was also run with ALIA members prior to the Regional National Advisory Congress at Gawler.

The notes have been shared with other ALIA groups around the country and workshops will continue into 2008. Access some of these workshop notes by visiting <**http://www.alia.org.au/members-only/governance/obg/?realm=10**>.

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