World first?

EBSCO's breakfast speaker was a pyrotechnic psychologist

Over a hundred people headed to Cockle Bay under grey skies on Wednesday morning to hear seventh generation pyrotechnician Robert Foti give the address at EBSCO's breakfast function. Robert, who trained and worked as a psychologist for 7 years before entering the family business, described his as the most secretive of industries and was wary of imparting too many trade secrets for fear of having to kill his audience!

Robert is one of the “famous Foti’s”, well loved by Sydney-siders for their contribution to our New Year’s Eve and Australia Day celebrations. The family company, Foti International Fireworks, is an award winning manufacturer and display of fireworks on the world stage. Fireworks has been a family tradition since 1793, commencing in southern Italy and continuing in Australia when Celestino Foti moved his family here in the early 1950’s.

Robert provided a potted history of the industry, claiming that the two most significant items Marco Polo brought back from the east were pasta and fireworks. He also traced the growth of the family company – its success tied to a universal love of the three inseparable ‘f’s’ – feasts, fetes and fireworks.

Major pyrotechnic credits include being the sole pyrotechnic designers, consultants and suppliers for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, as well as being responsible for the spectacular Sydney Harbour Bridge New Year’s Eve 2000 fireworks.

So when next you look up into the sky and ponder just how big those glorious fireworks are – the giant ones that seem to hang frozen for a golden moment before fluttering to earth – you’ll know the facts: that they are fired from a 24” shell (the largest made in Australia) and measure over 400m (or four football fields) across.

And the mystery and wonder will be every bit as strong, thanks to the Foti’s.

Melanie Kammerman (NSW) with Gillian Wood (NSW) and Kerry Smith (WA)

Papers published in the printed proceedings of the Information Online 2001 conference are also available on the conference website at http://www.csu.edu.au/special/online2001 - Paul Bentley reports that work continues to convert files and substitute final papers for abstracts. Updates will be promoted via aliaINSPEC.

A special thank you to all newsletter contributors – the newsletter worked well because of you!

Craig Anderson (Vic) with Deborah Lisson (NSW) at the National Library of Australia reception at the Maritime Museum

Winners all!

Factiva phones

The winner of the third and final Motorola mobile phone and personal organiser is Janelle Watson from the Southern Sydney Institute of TAFE (Bankstown campus).

Trip to ALA

Michael Gavan from the Federal Court of Australia Library in Melbourne won the trip to the ALA conference in San Francisco in the Gale Group lucky draw.

Sub for The Economist

Juliet Gray, of the Department of Finance & Administration, Canberra won a subscription to The Economist magazine from the Economist Intelligence Unit stand.

Palm Oraniser to go

Deborah Lisson from Marrickville Public Library in Sydney won the Palm II Organiser offered by ELiAS.
The man on the right won hundreds of hearts when he told the band to play on ...

John Shipp & Adam Klein

ISI Thomson Scientific sponsored the hugely successful conference dinner, which was held at Dockside Function Centre at Cockle Bay on Wednesday night. Guests each received a CD with ISI’s compliments and danced the night away with the Robertson Brothers. When the band stopped playing ISI’s Vice President, Asia Pacific Market Development, Adam Klein, sensed the mood and asked them to play on. While rain splashed onto the bay outside, delegates continued to crowd the dance floor, with Adam and the conference committee leading the way.

Thank you ISI for a fabulous night!

UPDATE YOUR EXHIBITION CATALOGUE TO INCLUDE ...

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e-knowledge@ALDIS, a division of Geac Computers, is an information specialist group that facilitates access to a wide range of electronic information resources sourced from Australia and overseas. e-knowledge@ALDIS
• provides the information, the tools and the technology to support libraries and librarians.
• focuses on developing business relationships with libraries.
• empowers information professionals by providing sound and practical information solutions.

Scoot into Sydney for ALIA 2002!

When: 20 – 22 May 2002
Where: Darling Harbour Convention Centre, Sydney

What: Powering the Enterprise: the Information Agenda

It’s time to make a difference. ALIA 2002 will depart from the traditional conference style. It’s time to create a public policy agenda and an open forum for participation and debate.

At ALIA 2002 we will explore information service and infrastructure issues in the context of the parent “enterprise” – research, learning, community, business and so on. Common themes to be explored across each “enterprise” are: connectivity, content, and competencies/capabilities.

ALIA 2002 will feature invited papers only to address these themes from leaders in each enterprise and key information practitioners working in the enterprise. Sessions will allow for spirited delegate participation (real and virtual) via organised debate after each session. Themes and conclusions will be synthesised into an agenda for action by the profession.

Calling all Geoscience Information Workers

An eclectic group of geoscience information specialists met for an impromptu dinner at Nicks Restaurant, Dockside on Monday night. It was a great opportunity to renew old friendships and get all fired up with future networking plans.

The Australian Geoscience Information Association (AGIA) welcomes new members and hopes to organise a national meeting alongside a future information conference. It’s time we caught up on national happenings and issues – and each other.

Enquiries in the first instance to Kerry Smith at the School of Media and Information, Curtin University of Technology, WA, tel (08) 9266 7217, email kerry@biblio.curtin.edu.au

Informit celebrates 10+

On Wednesday evening at the Information Online Conference in Sydney, Informit (RMIT Publishing) celebrated 10+ years of publishing Australian information resources.

Sandra Oxley, Director of RMIT Publishing, thanked the many people who have contributed to Informit’s success over the last decade. Jeff Leeuwenburg spoke, recounting some of the amusing and interesting times in the early years.

A special multimedia presentation was also shown recounting the different phases of the organisation and acknowledging the data providers, staff and partners that have made Informit what it is today.

RMIT Publishing look forward to its next 10 years of publishing Australian information.

Helping you work better

EBSCO is proud to support the Information Online Conference ... and we hope we see you there!

Visit the EBSCO stand in the Trade Exhibition (#57) to check out the latest developments in linking e-journals to databases and meet the EBSCO staff.

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