

## 6<sup>th</sup> International Toy Library Conference – Australia

Melbourne, 14 – 19 February 1993

**Main Theme : Environments for Play**



This Conference was known called the "World Play Summit" because it was a combination of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference of ITLA and the 12<sup>th</sup> World Conference of the International Play Association (IPA).

It was huge! There are 5 volumes of proceedings! 537 people came.

Delegates stayed in student accommodation, the weather was sunny, and more people came from Asia and Russia and New Zealand. There was a barbecue in a garden full of Korean toy librarians in gorgeous silk gowns and a dinner in a panelled university hall. The opening ceremony was in an art gallery where we were serenaded by dijeridoo before the formal welcome. The programme covered a wider range of the aspects of play than had become usual at toy library conferences, such as outdoor playground design and was more political. It was very refreshing to be there. The visits to toy libraries especially Noah's Ark were illuminating.

*"Another one that was TOPS, shared with IPA which had pros and cons. It broadened our horizons to play in general, but I think the groups kept mainly to their own interests. I was lucky & did the Adelaide (pre conference) tour and made friends with many IPA people.... Superb organization and a wide span of interests. I loved the string quartet at the "barbie" and it was good having children printing all our greetings on the flags. There always seemed to be lots going on - bubble blowing at lunch time, stalls of books & toys, kite flying etc I loved the evening meals in local restaurants" R L*

The conference organizers published a report (ITLA Newsletter no2 October 1993) saying that they believed the joint meeting was of considerable value, and that many delegates had commented favourably on the way it had broadened their vision of play and of play services. They suggested that in the future even wider cooperation with other bodies interested in play could achieve a more representative world play summit.

Mary Sinker and Brij Kul Deepak left the Board of ITLA and Devendra Desai of India, Noriko Minejima of Japan and Sergey Manevsky of Russia joined.

(Compiled by Pat Atkinson)