



**Virginia Walsh**  
*Executive Director*

**I**t is traditional at this time of the year that we reflect on the events of the previous twelve months and develop the strategies for the next twelve. I will therefore take this opportunity to summarise some of the highlights of 1994.

### Advocacy

It is in the area of government relations that we have achieved significant successes. Our meetings with Government Ministers and members of the Opposition parties have been a key element in achieving recognition for the role of libraries in the ALP policy platform and in the cultural statements of both Government and Opposition. ALIA has gained representation on some high-level advisory bodies that will ensure that we have an ongoing role in the development of public policy in areas that are critical to the future of our sector. These include the Working Party established by the Deputy Prime Minister to look at information access and equity issues, the Libraries Working Group of the Cultural Ministers' Council and the State of the Environment Advisory Council.

There is no doubt that the profile of the library and information community has received a boost from our advocacy activities at the federal level. ALIA Branches and Regional Groups have also been active in promoting our interests to state, territory and local decision makers. It is important that the momentum we have created in this area is maintained throughout the coming year.

### Enterprise agreement

On 19 July we negotiated the *ALIA Enterprise flexibility agreement* before Vice President Ross in the Industrial Relations Commission. Described by Commissioner Ross as a model agreement, the story of our negotiations will be available as a booklet before the end of this year. Phil Teece, whose industrial relations skills have proved a great asset to personnel management within the Office and who has travelled widely throughout 1994 to run workshops for members, has prepared this document which we believe will assist individuals

and organisations who may be involved in similar negotiations.

### Finances

The Tax Commissioner approved our application for income tax exemption during the year. This, together with some stringent financial administration under the competent administration of Helen McMillan, has resulted in the generation of a surplus which will allow us to lower our mortgage commitments on ALIA House. We received a good audit management report for 1993 and anticipate a strong financial performance during 1995.

### Membership

Carolyn Cherrett and her team in membership administration have performed admirably in the face of ongoing glitches in the membership database. Membership numbers exceeded our expectations in 1994 and we have seen a reversal of the decline which has been a feature of the previous four years. In 1995 we will see a record number of ALIA members, a position which owes much to the recruitment and retention efforts of ALIA Branches and Regional Groups throughout the country. Our plans for 1995 include an overhaul of the database and this should enhance our capacity to efficiently service our 8 000 members.

### General Council

During the year we have benefited from the strong leadership of our President Bill Linklater. Bill has used his experience as a consultant in the Asia Pacific area to rebuild the International Relations Committee, has ensured that issues of relevance to libraries in the higher education sector have been promoted and has been an active participant and leader in our negotiations with government on matters of broader concern to the sector. We say goodbye to Jenny Cram who, as President during 1993 presided over the substantial administrative changes (including the recruitment of a new Executive Director) in the National Office. We thank Jenny for her personal contribution and strong commitment to the library

*At Christmas play and make  
good cheer,*

*For Christmas comes but  
once a year.*

sector over the last three years and hope that she will enjoy her 'retirement' from active service on General Council. In 1995 we welcome Jan Gaebler as President and Helen Tait as Vice-President.

### Board of Education

Chair, Kay Poustie, and her team on the Board have worked industriously to continue to maintain the high standards of formal education and professional development opportunities for the library and information community. In particular, their oversight of competency standards development has been critical to the success of this process. Special mention must be made of the efforts of Anne Hazell and Jennifer Nicholson in representing ALIA throughout the period of development of the competency standards.

### Publications

A review of our publication activities was commenced during the year. We believe that it is important that we develop a corporate identity for the broad range of publications and this activity will be a high priority for 1995. Special thanks are due to Ivan Trundle who has produced *inCite* and all of our office publications while juggling his responsibilities for the office computer network management. We said farewell to Peter Judge as Editor but continue to draw on his skills for other publishing tasks.

### Towards 1995

1994 has been a rewarding and successful year for our Association — a testament to the diligence and prescience of elected officials throughout our 128 Divisions and to the dedication of staff in the National Office. We plan to build on these successes next year and look forward to further developing the recognition that due to the library and information sector.

**TO ALL OUR MEMBERS  
AND INCITE READERS**  
**GOOD CHEER — UNTIL  
NEXT YEAR...**