

Recruitment sub-committee in Qld

The Queensland Branch of ALIA has formed a subcommittee to consider the recruitment of members to ALIA and the retention of current members.

A recent meeting of this committee raised some important and controversial issues. We considered them important enough to raise amongst the general ALIA membership.

- Should members without library qualifications be accepted into ALIA? This includes people who have an interest in the profession such as subscription agencies and book publishers. We feel that it is an association for working and non-working professionals. Do other professional bodies in other professions allow outside membership?
- Should institutional membership be allowed into ALIA? Is this not deterring personal membership as the same benefits are obtained with no cost to the individual? Why not raise institutional membership to such a high level that personal membership is the cheaper alternative. Let ACLIS, the professional body for libraries, be the body for institutional membership and ACLIS be the distributor of vouchers.
- Should employers be encouraged to consider only employing ALIA members?
- Should we not also be keeping a professional outlook on our qualification and work practices? To retain membership of ALIA, a certain number of

continuing education activities or courses ought to be completed each year. Are we not heading towards best practice and enterprise bargaining in our organisations?

- Membership fees are due in January. This is a very expensive time for parents of school age children. Why not have our fees due in June and then claimed in July?
- Why are non-members not joining our association? Are we asking them?

I raise the above points for comment. Perhaps other Branches could consider these issues and use *inCite* to publish the results of their discussions.

*Julie Woodyatt
Convenor, Recruitment and retention Sub-committee, Qld Branch*

Marketing expert should do his homework

The grin of Robert Muir greeted me in April's *inCite* (page 9). He owns a company in Kansas. His promo photo shows that he tries hard to enjoy 'the age of enlightenment'; this is symbolised by his elbow prop, the PC, and the pop-art poster on his wall showing a lugubrious Albert Einstein drinking a bottle of lager.

Robert asserts incorrectly that degrees for information professionals in Australia do not include studies of marketing or business strategy in their curriculum. He urges untrained professionals to beat a path to his conference presentation to experience full empowerment — maybe even 'enlight-

enment'?

His is a hollow strategy. The Bachelor of Business degree in Information and Library Management at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology has for five years required its students to undertake marketing, business computing, planning and strategy, and other business subjects as part of their studies. Muir demonstrates a crass ignorance of his target market, thereby failing to follow a basic marketing precept.

His personalised product reeks of excessive froth and bubble from the truer view from the distance of 'Down under'.

*Graeme Johanson, Course coordinator,
Bachelor of Business, RMIT*

Calling PNG librarians

I am trying to locate all those Australian librarians who either taught in the Library Studies Section of the then Administrative College of Papua New Guinea and/or who may have had some influence in the development of librarian education and training in Papua New Guinea.

As part of my PhD research at the UTS Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences' School of Information Studies, I need to contact the above persons for the following topic: *The influences on and effects of the development of librarian education and training in Papua New Guinea.*

Please contact me at Unit 4, Croydon Avenue, Croydon Park NSW 2133.

Margaret Obi

Qld Special Librarian of the Year

Congratulations to Diana Rylatt, winner of the 1995 ISA Queensland Special Librarian of the Year award. Pictured below are Beth Mayo, President of the ALIA Specials Section (Qld), Diana Rylatt (1995 award winner), and Ann Hanger, 1994 winner.



Re-presentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Information

Above: At a planning meeting for the Re-presentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge in the Distributed National Collection were (L-R) Alex Byrne, Chief Librarian, Northern Territory University; Katherine Shaw, Information Technology Librarian, Tech Search, University of South Australia; Alana Garwood representing both AIATSIS and ATSILRN; and Alan Barnes, Faculty of Aboriginal and Islander Studies, University of South Australia. The meeting was held in Adelaide at the Faculty of Aboriginal and Islander Studies, University of South Australia on 3 May.