



Kerry Smith

ALIA president

If bears hibernate in winter, what have we been doing?

The sun is past the yard-arm as we resurface after what has been for some of us a fairly gruelling winter. I actually find, if I can escape the miseries of the local flu, winter a much more exhilarating time of the year than the warmer times. This is probably to my disadvantage as a resident of mostly warm and sunny Perth; it can get too hot over here.

I am not alone in not hibernating. My diary tells me that there are many conferences on the horizon, some of which I shall be attending. I can only offer my apologies for those I am unable to attend; there are not enough spare days in my week to enable my departure from work. As well, I am juggling frequent flyer points, the presidential allowance and taking advantage of existing trips to get to those I am able. I have already had the pleasure of meeting with the South Australian and ACT Branches as well as the Central Australian Regional Group. I attend Western Australian Branch Council meetings when I can, and am to visit Hobart and Brisbane before the year's end.

The July General Council meeting in Canberra saw the unanimous endorsement by your Council of the recommendations from the Strategic Review workshop in Adelaide. A number of points were made for our representative on the Steering Committee to carry forward regarding the construction of the Memorandum of Understanding. It is expected that I will sign this document on your behalf by 1 September. After this date the Steering Committee as it currently exists (the members being the immediate past-presidents of ALIA and ACLIS, Helen Tait and Helen Hayes and the director general of the National Library of Australia, Warren Horton) will disband. General Council has recommended that its members on the new Leadership Group be ALIA's immediate past-president, the president and the vice-president.

General Council handled the new GC On-line well and apart from the print-chal-

lenged amongst us, appreciated the ready availability of the majority of General Council papers on the ALIA home page, where you too could seek out those of interest to you. It also handled with some aplomb the award of Library Technician of the Year to one of our Councillors: Kaye Bartlett from the Northern Territory. No one was more surprised than Kaye when I made the announcement. Kay Poustie, whom many of you will remember was the recent chair of the Board of Education, was awarded a Fellowship and Craig Anderson from Victoria, the Library Manager of the Year Award.

July is also the time the ACT Branch hold their winter dinner, which they timed when General Council was meeting. The Branch takes advantage of the occasion to present awards. A very pleasant time was had by all as we witnessed the presentation of best student awards as well as a Merit Award to Roxanne Missingham. Well done all.

July is a time when a number of us take leave or head to overseas conferences. Our executive director reported on the American library Association conference in the August issue of *inCite* and I know of two of our General Councillors who were fortunate to attend the Special Libraries Association conference in Seattle, Washington around the same time. I thought I'd stay around Perth and try and catch up. The July break from lecturing schedules enables many academics to try and set in train research projects, generally clear the assembled piles and write nearly-due or overdue conference papers. Well I tried.

And it is again ALIA election time. I do hope a number of you have seriously considered nominating for office. I can truthfully say that having been an office bearer of the Association at a variety of levels, I have found it a most fulfilling part of my life as well as having given me the opportunity to network in the most amazing ways. Try it, I'm sure you'll agree! ■

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