

Introducing the new General Councillors for 1997

Looking forward to meeting members

Libraries and librarians in all sectors are facing significant challenges in an economic environment which places increasing emphasis on cost and return on investment while devaluing the benefit of the services provided. Competitive tendering, outsourcing and a host of other pressures are changing the way in which we operate and whether we exist at all.

In many respects, university libraries are just confronting the reality which many public and special libraries have faced for years. Failure to adapt to the changes will not see the demise of libraries but it may result in some of their functions being carried out by other bodies and will certainly contribute to a higher turn over of senior management personnel and a reduction in the number of people employed in libraries. It will also result in changes in the type of people employed in libraries.

Over the next two years as Vice-President and President, I will be seeking to identify ways in which ALIA can increase the assistance available to members coping with these changes. It is vital that the Association continue to assess its services and activities to ensure that they are meeting the needs of individuals and so retain their membership and involvement. At the same time, the diversity of members makes it difficult for ALIA to meet every expectation and some choices and priorities have to be made.

The Association is already very adept at lobbying, particularly at the Federal level, and has achieved significant results. An important part of lobbying, however, involves changing the perceptions of policy-makers and funding agencies toward libraries. This is a long-term activity in which I intend to be involved and will be using skills and contacts which I developed as President of the Council of Australian University Librarians.

Most of all, I am looking forward to meeting members of the Association and consulting with them.

John Shipp, Vice-president

New chair of the Board of Education

I moved from the Northern Territory to Cairns at the end of 1995 to take up the position of director of Health and Com-

munity Services with the Cairns City Council.

I have worked for twenty-five years in the library and information sector in the Northern Territory. During that time I was actively involved in the Association and in school, public and community libraries, and the Northern Territory Library. From 1991 until 1995 I was the director of the Northern Territory Library.

In addition to my qualification in librarianship I have post-graduate qualifications in education, applied linguistics and management.

Colette McCool

Ensuring involvement in decision making

Upon graduation from the Library school of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, 1982 I began working for the Department of Defence in a RAAF Supply section buying Macchi and Mirage jet parts! This typifies my work ethos — librarians are flexible and adaptable. Having since then worked in special libraries and my active involvement in ALIA, I now look forward to serving the Association and its members in my new capacity as the Victorian General Councillor.

My aims are to ensure the various ALIA sectors are involved in the decision making process of General Council; together with membership re-generation by encouraging younger members to become more active in ALIA. I look forward to building on and furthering my network of colleagues in all sectors to ensure I truly represent all views.

Trevor Wakely, Victoria

Professional networks important

I am currently corporate librarian at Australian Newsprint Mills in Hobart, the only full-time librarian employed by an industrial firm in Tasmania — a dying breed! I began work at the State Library of South Australia and my career has spanned public, special and TAFE libraries in South Australia, ACT and Tasmania. However specials have always been my first choice and I enjoy the involvement that comes from working in a company or government department.

For the last two years I have been President of the Tasmanian Branch, prior to which I served terms as Treasurer and President of the Specials Section, Tasma-

nia and Branch Councillor. One of the most significant events of my term as Branch President was the re-forming in Tasmania of the Library Technicians Section. This was spearheaded by a group of Library Technicians in the North West of Tasmania and I was honoured to be able to support their establishment and continuing success.

ALIA has always been an important part of my professional life and the network of friends and associates that I have formed through my involvement with the Association has been invaluable. I look forward to continuing my contribution to the Association and the profession as Tasmania's General Councillor.

Chris Richardson, Tasmania

ALIA must be involved in industry changes

I am currently the librarian-in-charge at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) — a special, Commonwealth Government Library in Townsville. GBRMPA is a statutory authority within the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Sports and Territories. I came to GBRMPA in 1990 from the Australian Institute of Marine Science Library — so you can see I enjoy the marine science field. I enjoy special library work because of the exceptionally close relationship between my library work and the agency's core work. The library staff often feel like we really make a difference! Special library work is challenging, especially in hard financial climates.

Special librarians are often isolated from their professional colleagues — regionally-based librarians are often isolated from their professional colleagues. I see these two elements as important issues for ALIA to continue to address. ALIA must try to extend its services throughout regional Australia, and continue to support the already well developed and vital networking activities of special librarians.

Another pet issue of mine is industrial relations, and its impact on library staff and their lot in the corporate world. The world of industrial relations is undergoing major change in Australia, and I believe ALIA must be prepared to have substantial input into that change in order to achieve the best possible outcome for its members.

Susie Davies, Queensland ■