

End of an era...

Kay Poustie, 1996 chair, Board of Education

This is my last report as Chair of the Board, following the completion of six years on the Board, the last four as Chair. I have thoroughly enjoyed the professional stimulation and the enduring friendships developed through this period, and thank all those who have supported me.

Once again, it was a busy meeting on 26 and 27 September 1996. Colette McCool, Julie Dow and Jenny McCarthy completed their terms in 1996. All were successful in their re-election for 1997-1999. For 1997, Kerry Smith will join the Board as President, and John Shipp has been appointed as the Genral Council nominee.

Strategic focus

As usual, at our last meeting for the year, we set our forthcoming strategic focus and priorities. This will be available on ALIANet.

Innovation in education

From this year the Board will be seeking information on innovation in library and information studies courses through the annual return provided by those institutions offering ALIA recognised courses. This will be reported in *inCite*.

ALIA Education Statements

The Education Statements have been revised to better incorporate the concept of lifelong learning, and the refocusing of library technician education on competency based learning. General Council has endorsed these changes and the new statements are available on ALIANet, from the National Office, and will be included in the next Handbook.

Education issues

The Board agreed that a clearly defined process is required for determining the future needs of teacher librarians. A planning proposal will be further developed this year and it is aimed to ensure that teacher librarians, administrators and educators are involved.

Strategy development

Donna Reid, Deputy Chair, reported on her role as project manager of the ALIA/DEETYA project. This RPL project fits within the context of the broader project being undertaken by our industry training advisory body, CREATE, on assessment. Details on the project are in Donna's article in the December 1996 *inCite*.

Guest speaker

Cassandra Parkinson, executive officer of CREATE addressed the Board on current Vocational Education and Training policy, cultural industry development priorities for the CREATE development plan 1996-2000 and the CREATE Project for the design of an assessment system for the Cultural and Recreation Industries. She also foreshadowed changes to the MAATS system.

Survey on member needs

The Board discussed the survey of member CPD needs which had been included in September *inCite*. It was agreed that, to most effectively determine member CPD needs in the next three years, information relating to sector and postcode, types of delivery and format will be included in the data analysis.

Division support

Liaison on continuing professional development issues between divisions, National

Office, and the Board has been very successful in 1996, assisted by the Education Officer. Support networks have been established for the sharing of ideas and exchange of information.

Review of *Framework for continuing professional development*

The Board is to review the effectiveness of the *Framework* as a planning document. The evaluation strategy for the *Framework* was agreed to which includes the research questions, a timeframe and budget estimates. Given the qualitative nature of the evaluation the timeline allows for a preliminary report of the evaluation process to be presented at the second or third Board meeting in 1997.

Board representation on awards panels

Board representatives on ALIA Awards panels this year are: Metcalfe Medallion, 1996 — Ross Todd (Convener); Study Grant Award 1997 for 1998 — Roslynn Membrey (Convener); ALIA Manager of the Year — Margaret Findlay; Dunn & Wilson Scholarship — Donna Reid.

Meeting of educators and practitioners

A meeting between educators and practitioners was held on the Monday prior to the ALIA biennial conference. Approximately forty attended and topics ranged from the role of the ALIA Board of Education to issues affecting the education of teacher librarians.

Soapbox presentations from educators covered topics such as the research recently undertaken on perceptions of librarians by school leavers, benchmarking for library schools and general collaboration in the LIS sector.

1997 Education Forum

The Board is planning an Education Forum adjacent to the May Board meeting. Educators and practitioners in library and information studies and related disciplines will be invited to undertake a strategic review of education leading the sector into the 21st century.

Proposed Board dates for 1997

The Board meeting dates for 1997 are 6-7 February, 28-30 May (incorporating an Education Forum) and 9-10 October 1997. ■

New Chair of the Board

Colette McCool has been elected as Chair of the Board of Education for a two-year term commencing January 1997. She replaces as Chair, Kay Poustie who completed her term on the Board at the end of 1996.

Colette, a member of the Board since 1994, will lead the Board's education and practice focus on issues and challenges facing the library and information services sector in a time of change. Colette's skills in advocacy will assist in publicising more widely the work of the

Board of Education.

Colette is currently Director of Health and Community Services, Cairns City Council. She has worked extensively in libraries in the Northern Territory, including school libraries and most recently as Director of the Northern Territory Library Service. Colette was actively involved in the introduction of library courses at the Northern Territory University. ■

