

# The thin green line...

The success of the NSW pay equity test case is a great achievement to wrap up this year with and lead the way into the new year. Moving the findings into other awards and sectors will dominate the industrial relations agenda in 2003.

Related to the test case is the work done this year on LISEKA, the library and information science education for the knowledge age project. ALIA's *Work Level Guidelines* (WLG) and membership categories are key components of the draft framework developed as part of LISEKA and the test case and that link will need to be maintained in further work on the framework and WLG.

Stage 1 of LISEKA involved extensive consultation across the library and information services sector. A consistent thread running through the views expressed was the need to retain and strengthen professional status. ALIA has a role as a standards body and this is being picked up in the next stage with the proposed reviews of the core knowledge statement and course recognition purpose and process. An area where ALIA has not met its potential is in promoting (in all senses) continuing professional development as a standards measure.

The IFLA conference in Glasgow this year wove a red thread through the program and related activities. A Dutch colleague has turned this into a 'green' thread for looking forward, drawing an obvious analogy with a green — go — light. This green thread concept is very apt for outlining the way forward for LISEKA with its challenge to draw together entry-level education, continuing professional development, work level guidelines and theory and practice knowledge or capabilities in ways that improve practice and uphold standards. The active delivery of CPD and career planning

that can be embedded into professional practice standards is a real and practical challenge for ALIA next year.

The Board of Directors is in the process of consulting on the draft plan for 2003 and 2004. It was considered at the recent National Policy Congress (NPC) and is now going out for wider consultation. Though the plan has an extensive list of activities, all of which the NPC identified as needed, there are green threads running through it. Without wishing to pre-empt in any way the final content of the plan there are I believe some things that are absolutely necessary for ALIA to do successfully next year.

The new web-accessible membership database will change the way services and products can be delivered. It will provide that long sort after members only access feature, bringing greater value to membership. While the database is being developed extensive work will be being done on rewriting the website to improve content and add member only information.

Another must is to better define and distinguish the advantages of services and activities to institutional and individual members. Further, success in our recruitment and retention programs for student and recent graduate members is essential to the regeneration and growth of the Association.

2002 has undoubtedly been a busy and eventful year in our lives. The world has changed considerably over the last eighteen months or so requiring us to re-evaluate our actions, commitments and aspirations. The need to defend and uphold our fundamental belief in an individual's right to freedom of access to information and ideas is strong.

As the year closes with the traditional Christmas and New Year holidays and celebrations I hope you all have the opportunity to relax, enjoy and appreciate the joys in life. I join with the staff of National Office in thanking you for your support for the Association throughout the year. May your thoughts and plans for 2003 be positive. And may all those Christmas and holiday bills be paid for by the time membership renewal comes around next May. ■



**Jennefer Nicholson**

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## Feedback to your Board of Directors

Do you have an idea, compliment or concern about your Association? Contact any director below on personal issues and ideas will be reviewed at each meeting of the Board.

E-mail to [feedback@alia.org.au](mailto:feedback@alia.org.au) will be automatically forwarded to all Board members.

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## IFLA nominations

**A**re you interested in actively participating in the international library and information scene? IFLA is calling for nominations for Section standing committees. Membership can be very rewarding through the opportunity to share information with colleagues from other countries, promote the Australian library and information services sector, and contribute to the formulation of international policy and activities. There are commitments to be met though so if you are interested then refer to the IFLA website <http://www.ifla.org/III/misc/callscm-.htm>.

ALIA is a member of a number of sections. If you are already a section member and interested in being nominated contact Jennefer Nicholson. If you are not already a member of IFLA but interested in being actively involved then join. ■