

Board of Directors report



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The September Board meeting led into this year's National Policy Congress (NPC). The theme for the NPC was 'Celebrating success' and this was certainly the case in presentations and discussions on the Association's achievements over the last year. A report on the NPC can be found on p30.

Financial report – changes in accounting standards

In July 2002 the Financial Reporting Council directed the Australian Accounting Standards Board to adopt International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for the financial years commencing on or after 1 January 2005. The Board is working with the executive director and finance manager, and the Association's auditor PricewaterhouseCoopers on the implementation of these new standards as they will impact on the 2003 financial reports, and the 2004 budget and financial statements.

This represents an enormous change for Australian financial reporting. ALIA has a project in place to manage the likely impact on our reported net assets and earnings and implement the system changes and staff training. Much of the change for ALIA relates to the valuation of assets such as ALIA House and fixed assets. Any changes for 2003 will be outlined in the 2003 annual financial reports.

ALIA will be required to:

1 January 2004 — prepare an opening balance sheet, which is compliant with IFRS so that adjustments to the opening retained earnings at that date have been calculated;

31 December 2004 — create a set of comparative data that are IFRS compliant, and also prepare the financial statements in accordance with Australian accounting standards;

31 December 2005 — prepare the first set of IFRS compliant financial statements including restated comparative information.

ALIA 2003–2004 plan: making the difference — major milestones

Achievements and highlights to September 2003 include the appointment of local liaison officers in Western Australia, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania; a retention rate of eighty-nine per cent at the end of June 2003 (increased from eighty-four per cent in June 2002); an increase in online requests for membership application forms; the ALIA

education framework endorsed; CPD partnerships with Monash Learningfast and APESMA implemented and negotiations underway for further partnerships; online CPD member database and career-long learning user guide launched; Inquiry watch web page; information literacy advocacy kit; new membership database and website; ALIA Co-operative Information Purchasing Services for institutional members launched (see p22); aliaPUBNEWS (public libraries) launched (see p22).

ACOC workshop

The Board has endorsed an ACOC seminar to be held in Melbourne on 2 February 2004, in conjunction with the VALA conference, focussing on Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records. This follows the success of the ACOC seminar held in Sydney on 25 July this year. ACOC is a joint committee of ALIA and the National Library of Australia.

ALIA New Librarians'

Symposium 2004: Beyond the stereotype

The Symposium will be held in Adelaide on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 December 2004. The organising committee is putting together a strong program around the three themes of career and life planning; libraries and the future; and libraries and the world. There will be a call for papers as the committee sees this as an opportunity to encourage new library and information professionals to present their first paper in a supportive environment.

Strategic partnerships

The president Christine Mackenzie and Vicki McDonald, director and convener of ALIA's public libraries reference group, met with representatives from Public Libraries Australia to finalise the memorandum of understanding which will be signed on 13 November.

The memorandum of understanding between ALIA and the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) will be signed at the CONSAL conference in Brunei from 18–23 October 2003. Kerry Smith and Janine Schmidt will represent ALIA.

Both MoUs will be on the website when signed.

Statement on libraries and multiculturalism

In May 2002, the Board of Directors withdrew this policy statement, first adopted in 1984. This decision was made on the understanding that the ideas and values expressed in the statement are now embedded in the Association's foundation statements as essential elements in serving all clients of library and information services. Following representation from some members who see value in retaining a separate statement the Board has forwarded their request to the ALIA Public Libraries Reference Group to include in its review of policy statements.

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 will be automatically forwarded to all Board members.

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► Accreditation for library and information services

Brigitte Glockner presented a paper at the Special, Health and Law Conference in Adelaide in August 2003 that proposed a mechanism for accreditation of special libraries. Brigitte then forwarded it to the Board for its consideration as a possible service to institutional members. This issue was previously raised by Brigitte and discussed by General Council in October 1999 and referred to the 2000 NPC for consideration. A sub-group of the NPC proposed some recommendations to the Board on the understanding that there was no consensus of the NPC as a whole at that time on proceeding with accreditation. The Board subsequently referred the matter to a group comprising members from special libraries, without resolution.

The Board has decided not to proceed with the proposed accreditation scheme for institutional members as it is not convinced that the value given to the accreditation by the parent organisation would justify the allocation of resources to such a scheme. The Board is, however, very supportive of recognising good practice and excellence through such existing avenues as the ALIA Excellence and Ellinor Archer Pioneer awards, employees participation in the CPD scheme and the application of guidelines rather than more prescriptive accreditation standards that many special libraries may find difficult to adopt.

Reports roundup

Highlights from the reports to the Board include:

Groups — Twenty-four groups reported on activities for the January to June period. Georgina Dale will report more fully on these in the November *inCite*.

Health Libraries Census Project — this Board funded project of Health Libraries Australia (HLA) has been completed and has identified the range and number of health libraries in Australia. A database has been developed and will be made available through the HLA webpage in the near future. Further analysis work will be done by HLA on the results.

Copyright — the main activity has been on preparation for the review by the Attorney-General's department of the Digital Agenda amendments to the *Copyright Act*. A survey has been widely distributed to ALIA members and the copyright officer Colette Ormonde has represented ALIA in a number of information and consultation forums. Hot topics for the copyright advisory service include the review and audio-

visual and visual copyright.

Membership — two months into membership renewals overall renewal rates of 72.4 per cent of personal and 80.4 per cent of institutional members have been achieved. The personal renewal rate breaks down to 74 per cent of associates, 65.7 per cent of members, and 71 per cent of technicians. New member applications are higher than at the same time last year.

Conferences — the Special, Health and Law Librarians conference held in August and the Library Technicians conference held in September have exceeded their targets. The 8th Interlending and Document Supply International Conference to be held in Canberra on 28–31 October has exceeded its registration targets. There will be speakers from twenty-one countries representing all continents and there are at least seventy-nine overseas delegates.

ALIA Public Libraries Reference Group — the monthly electronic news bulletin *aliaPUBNEWS* is up and running, ALIA policies relevant to public libraries are being reviewed and the Group is looking at establishing a 'Best practice in public libraries' area on the ALIA website.

Purchasing and Consortia Reference Group — advised on the development of the ALIA CIPS service and is planning a forum to be held in conjunction with the VALA conference.

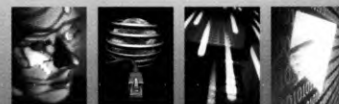
ALIA representation on the Steering committee of the Library Board of Queensland — Barbara Horn, ALIA's representative presented her final report to the Board.

Regional Cultural Alliance (RCA) — Vicki McDonald has replaced Joyce Kirk as the ALIA representative. The RCA will be launched at the Environment Institute *Outback Summit* in Broken Hill in October. The NSW Country Public Libraries Association Central West Zone has agreed to contribute a case study to the theme 'Revitalising communities through culture: the power of communities'.

ALIA/ASLA Joint Issues Taskforce/Policy and Advisory Group — the 'Professional standards of excellence for teacher librarians' have been drafted and wide consultation is being undertaken. Two further main projects are underway: the compilation of appropriate bodies that school libraries can seek representation within; and the design of a survey, aimed for all school libraries within Australia, to provide data on staffing, collection size and budget allocation. Anne Girolami represented ALIA at the July ASLA Council meeting. ■

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