

• **8/10 ACT Library Technicians.** *Where to from here?* Post-conference coffee/drinks at Waldorf on London, 5.30 pm. Please come, even if you didn't go to the conference. *RSVP to:* Margaret, ph 02 6249 9649, margaret.drury@ga.gov.au

13/10 PEARLS. *Meet at BOOK-PLATE* in the NLA foyer, 2:30pm. Anyone with library connections who has retired (or is about to retire) is welcome to join our informal group to enjoy coffee, cake and conversation. Contact: Eileen, ph 02 6262 4105, warndon@optusnet.com.au

• **15/10 ACTIVE ALIA.** *Outreach: 'Quirky tales' talk and tour of the ACT Heritage Library* by Judy Becker, manager. Corner Corinna and Furzer Streets, Woden, 5:30pm. Contact: Judy Brooker, ph 02 6207 5725, judy.brooker@act.gov.au

16/10 APESMA: short course. *Advanced technical writing skills.* Canberra. Cost: members \$350, non-members \$450. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

• **6/11 APSIG.** *Lunchtime talk, 'Trading books: publishing and selling books about Asia and the Pacific'.* Guest speakers: Sally Burdon and Ian Templeman. Conference Room, 4th floor, NLA, 12:15–1:30pm. Refreshments will be served, gold coin donation. Contact: Marie Sexton, msexton@netspeed.com.au or Amelia McKenzie@nla.gov.au 1519, amckenzie@nla.gov.au

12–13/11 APESMA: short course. *Managing consultants and contractors.* Canberra. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

NSW

• **1/10 Hunter Regional Group (NSW).** *Committee meeting.* Contact: Dianne Schofield, diane.schofield@hunterlink.net.au

8–9/10 APESMA: short course. *Finance for non-financial people.* Sydney. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

15–16/10 APESMA: short course. *Strategic asset management.* Sydney. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750.

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Celebrating success

National Policy Congress (NPC) 2003 highlights, 19–20 September, ALIA House

The underlying theme of this year's NPC was celebrating success. Delegates presented success stories from the regional NPC meetings and from the invited groups and committees. The success stories covered a broad spectrum of activities from the past year, ranging from highly-successful seminars through to strategic plans and working in partnership with other organisations.

A regional roundup provided the opportunity for delegates to summarise the main points of the regional meetings they represented and those from invited groups and committees were able to inform fellow delegate of the policies and issues dealt with by their groups.

Friday night's congress dinner was an animated affair with lots of chatter and networking. The theme of celebrating success continued with presentations of ALIA Silver Pins to a number of delegates.

Further success was celebrated with the launch of the *ALIA Career-long learning handbook* (a virtual document) and the online interface designed to assist members of ALIA's CPD scheme with recording their CPD activities. The handbook guides members through the ALIA Education Framework, the revised CPD scheme and explains how formal education combined with CPD and other experience can be recognised for gaining credentials. One of the changes to the CPD scheme sees it move away from weighted hours to a points system. Some new activities have also been added to the scheme. The handbook will become available to members by the end of October, along with the online recording of activities. A revised edition of the *ALIA career development kit* was also launched at the NPC. The kit is now available to ALIA members online (<http://alia.org.au/education/cpd/career.kit.html>). Ivan Trundle, who also brought delegates up-to-date with the further development of the membership database, demonstrated these new services. Ivan also showed delegates how they could make maximum use of their group pages on the ALIA website.

Christine Mackenzie, ALIA president, led the session on *ALIA Towards 2010* and the feedback from the regional NPC meetings on critical issues. The NPC endorsed *ALIA Towards 2010* as an aspirational document setting out the broad directions for the Association for the coming years. The approach of the document along with the content and key themes were discussed and it was agreed that more explicit reference would be made to regional and remote members. The feedback from the NPC will be incorporated and the revised document endorsed at the

November Board meeting. From the critical issues for ALIA that the regional meetings identified, three were given top priority by NPC delegates

- membership recruitment
- marketing careers in the library and information sector, and
- continuing professional development.

Delegates went on to propose actions that ALIA could take for each of the three issues. It was agreed that these would be taken up in planning beyond 2003–2004.

Deanne Barrett, ALIA Board member, continued the theme of celebrating success by summarising ALIA's achievements against the 2003–2004 plan from the Board's point of view. Details can be found in the background paper for this session at <http://alia.org.au/governance/npc/2003/highlights.html>.

A proposal for a review of member engagement and participation (background paper <http://alia.org.au/governance/npc/2003/engagement.html>) was put to the Congress and was whole-heartedly endorsed by delegates. In the ensuing discussion delegates put forward suggestions to fine-tune the methodology and timeframes for the review. It is anticipated that the review will be finalised in March 2004.

The session 'Celebrating success in making and taking opportunities: symposia, workshops and conferences: some opportunities taken reviewed the conference model adopted by the Association in 2001', discussing the broad range of activities held by groups. Delegates noted the success, in particular, of one-day events and recently held ALIA conferences.

A simplified approach to group budgets and the annual planning cycle for groups was outlined for delegates. Budget guidelines and a new template for submitting a plan of group activities and budgets will be available in late September. This was followed by Jennefer Nicholson, ALIA executive director, explaining some of the financial reporting requirements of operating as an association and as a not-for-profit organisation. ALIA's external auditing process is extremely rigorous and is reflected in its transparent, accountable and risk-adverse financial policies. Questions on notice sent in through the regional NPC reports were also discussed.

Last, but not least, Angela Bridgland and Kevin Dudeney told us all why every member should consider becoming an ALIA director.

A full report on the NPC will be available in October at <http://alia.org.au/governance/npc/2003/>. ■