



**Jennefer Nicholson**

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In March I had the pleasure of representing ALIA at the ceremony celebrating the retirement of Alan Bundy as the University of South Australia Librarian. Alan is a Fellow of ALIA, twice president and a recipient of the HCL Anderson Award, ALIA's highest award for library and information professionals. I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to work with Alan on Association business. Alan retired from only one part of his busy life and is already fully engaged in consultancies, his presidency of Friends of Libraries Australia and Auslib Press.

While in Adelaide I met with Margaret Birtley, the newly appointed CEO of the Collections Council of Australia, an independent body established by the Cultural Ministers Council and incorporated in September 2004. The Council arose from a long consultative process and predecessor heritage collections bodies. It aims to further industry development, industry support and projects; provide an independent forum for discussing and resolving cross-sectoral issues in a strategic manner; and create a different set of relationships with the sector and between the sector and other areas. The Council's secretariat is hosted by the State Library of South Australia.

Anne-Marie Schwirtlich is a director of the Council in an ex-officio capacity as Chair of the Council of Australian State Libraries. In that capacity Anne-Marie included the Council as an agenda item at the Peak Bodies meeting in December 2004 where it was agreed that the recom-

mendations of the report of the Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee's Inquiry into libraries in the online environment be promoted as the core set of issues of interest to the Australian library sector.

Though professional bodies are not represented on the Council, it is keen to ensure that there is a role for associations such as ALIA in areas of particular expertise. As a national advisory body the Collections Council works with federal, state and territory governments at a strategic and policy level. Margaret and I canvassed areas such as education and training — particularly sustaining opportunities for formal education and training, and training for the high number of volunteers in the heritage sector workforce; supporting projects of the Council; assisting the Council in its consultative, communication and promotional activities; and possibilities of its support for ALIA's advocacy with the National Broadband Strategy Implementation Group, one of the areas from the Senate report that ALIA is pursuing.

On 5 April the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) celebrated its 30th anniversary with a seminar in Canberra, *Made Kept and Used*, organised by its Reference, Access and Public Programs Special Interest Group. I have asked the ASA to write an article for a future issue of *inCite* on the seminar, their 30 years as a professional body and future plans. ASA and ALIA are currently renewing our Memorandum of Understanding, which formally recognises collaboration and co-operation between the two organisations. At the celebrations following the seminar Catherine Robinson, ASA President, flagged as a priority for the ASA increasing participation by younger archivists and recent graduates in the work of the Association.

In March I met with Mr Yves Chan Kam Lon, director of the National Library of Mauritius, who was visiting Perth and Canberra. Yves recently established the Association of Professional Librarians and is its founding president. He initiated the national library and its legislation, and also legislation to make librarianship a registered profession in Mauritius, thereby raising its status and profile. ALIA recognises the professional course delivered by Charles Sturt University in collaboration with the University of Mauritius, and ALIA now has a number of members who are graduates of the course.

In May we are looking forward to the ALIA Annual General Meeting, and welcomes and goodbyes to board members and advisory committee appointees. ■

## LIS sector watch

Nada Anderson, ALIA research officer

### *Libraries building communities*

State Library of Victoria and the Victorian Public Library Network (2005)  
<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/news/latest/090305.html>

A comprehensive research report on the value that public libraries bring to their communities in Australia. The study included every public library service in Victoria and sought the views of almost 10 000 people through online and telephone surveys, focus groups and interviews. The report shows that libraries have a breadth of roles, user range and diversity, and potential impact on the whole community unlike any other agency in society. The study is in four parts: Setting the scene; Logging the benefits; Bridging the gaps; and Showcasing the best.

### *Public libraries. Third report of session 2004–05*

Great Britain. House of Commons. Culture, Media and Sport Committee (2005)  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmcomeds.html>

The report examines the role of libraries, strategic framework, funding, accessibility, recruitment and staffing, and school library services. The recommendations focus on the libraries' role in the promotion of reading and the need for effective mechanisms to ensure that all public libraries across the country reach the high standards expected of them by the public. The report also recommends an action plan for the refurbishment of the nation's public library buildings. ■