

ATSILIRN Bursary: an ALIA experience

As a result of receiving the ATSILIRN Bursary from ALIA, I was able to attend the ALIA Biennial Conference, *dreaming08*, in Alice Springs. The Bursary of \$1500 covered my registration fee and my airfare. Without the bursary I would not have been able to attend the conference, so thank you ALIA.

At an ALIA conference there are always choices to be made about which presentations to attend. My focus was on presentations by Indigenous presenters or about Indigenous library issues. It was not possible to attend all of these on the Wednesday as there were some concurrent sessions with an Indigenous focus. From my perspective I would have liked to have seen the Indigenous papers spread more evenly over the three days, so that I could have gone to them all.

I found the Indigenous presentations I attended really interesting, especially Martin Nakata, Melissa Jackson, Sharon Firebrace and many more, but the ones which really made me think and got to me were those by Anita Heiss and Sylvia Perrule Neale.

Anita was fabulous and just owned the stage. She talked about Indigenous literacy and the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous literacy and the positive things that are happening to bring about change. One quote I noted down from Anita was, "you can't imagine a world without books, but many, many people live in that world", which is so true.

Sylvia spoke from the heart about her life growing up in Alice Springs and her personal experiences which lead her to working at the Alice Springs Public Library. I really appreciated that she was able to share her story with us. Thank you Sylvia.

Attending *dreaming08* also gave me the opportunity to talk about two things that I have been passionate about for many years, namely the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library, Information and Resource Network (ATSILIRN) and the ATSILIRN Protocols. You can read the Protocols here: <http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/>

dreaming08 gave me the opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues who I hadn't seen for a while. One such person was Chris Szekely who is the Chief Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library in New Zealand, and who is a founding member of Te Rapu Whakahau, the national network of Maori library workers. When I first met Chris and other members of Te Rapu Whakahau in 1993, they inspired me and others to form ATSILIRN.

For me, the main benefits of attending *dreaming08* were all the networking and contacts made during the tea breaks, lunches and evening activities. By the time the conference was over, I was exhausted: there had just been so much to do, papers to listen to, people to talk to, the President's lunch to attend, and social activities. I loved the location in Alice Springs, and the venue was fabulous. Also have to thank 3M for drawing out my business card in their competition. I won an ipod Nano; now I just have to figure out how to use it.



Loriene Roy, Melissa Jackson, Chris Szekely, and Ronald Briggs at the conference dinner

Alana Garwood-Houng
Collection Officer

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Studies
Alana.Garwood-Houng@aiatsis.gov.au



Call for Expressions of Interest for **ALIA** Advisory Committees

The ALIA Board of Directors is calling for Expressions of Interest from ALIA members for the following Advisory Committees:

Existing Advisory Committees

By-laws Advisory Committee – vacancy for 1 member

New Generation Advisory Committee – vacancy for 3 members

Public Libraries Advisory Committee – vacancy for 1 member

Government Publications Advisory Committee – vacancies for 3 members

New Advisory Committees

TAFE Libraries Advisory Committee – 8-10 members

Special Libraries Advisory Committee – 8-10 members

The primary role of ALIA Advisory Committees is to provide advice in the form of identification of issues, opportunities, activities and in general assist in developing a strategic direction with the ALIA Board of Directors. Advisory Committees are formed and dissolved, and members are appointed, under ALIA By-law 8.

Members of Advisory Committees must be ALIA personal financial members or the nominated institutional representative. They are experts in the area of interest. Work done by Advisory Committee members is purely voluntary.

At the time of nomination, members should carefully consider whether they have sufficient time available to take on committee responsibilities, and have sought the approval of their employer (if required) to be an appointed member to an ALIA Advisory Committee.

Members hold office for an initial three years, with the Board being able to appoint the member for a further three year term. The Board may also appoint individuals for longer terms if required ie. longer than 6 years.

Interested members are asked to submit a 100 word CV outlining their suitability and interest in the committee to the Executive Director. Nominations will go to the ALIA Board of Directors for approval. If more than one nomination is received for a vacant position, the Board will select the member to be appointed, in consultation with the Chair of the committee.

Deadline for EOI: 14 January 2009

Enquiries: Sue Hutley, ALIA Executive Director, sue.hutley@alia.org.au, ph 02 6215 8215