

## 'DISASTER' IS A WORD IN VERY COMMON USE IN AUSTRALIA JUST NOW

ALIA members, library vendors, friends and supporters have all voiced their sympathies and demonstrated their generosity for survivors of the Queensland and Victorian floods, while communities are rebuilding in Western Australia from both fire and flood.

The whole library community in Australia has been affected by these disasters and ALIA has provided the connection for all sectors, coordinating and hosting meetings with booksellers, publishers and authors associations and key stakeholders to facilitate organised and effective support. Like everyone else, we learnt a lot from the Victorian bushfires of 2009. Along with the many phone calls to individual library staff and association representatives, we have drawn on the valuable work done through the ALIA Disaster Recovery Project to help with practical advice and share resources.

Our experience though is that recovery takes a long time, and ALIA will be planning for this. Some of the library recovery projects, in Queensland especially, will take months to plan and carry out. Your generosity in time and donations will be needed again in these coming months. Keep watch on the ALIA Disaster Recovery web pages and especially your state ALIA e-list for more information and requests for assistance when needed [www.alia.org.au/disasterrecovery](http://www.alia.org.au/disasterrecovery).

To all the library staff in flood affected areas, we hope that you know that you are doing a great job, not only in the recovery of physical items, but more importantly in the recovery of the social fabric of your communities. Following disasters, libraries of all types become safe havens for our communities; the contribution we make through providing people with free access to important resources, compassionate service, a welcoming public space and a means of escaping the grim realities of recovery cannot be overestimated.

These disasters have enabled many of us to make connections that we may not have envisaged – connecting with old friends and colleagues to check on their wellbeing and offer assistance, links between our library sectors, links with our vendors to help us get supplies to rebuild, connections with the Association by some of who may not have needed it before, so that we can assist.

For those libraries that have not been affected by disasters this summer, I hope what Mother Nature has thrown at our colleagues acts as an incentive to revisit or develop your disaster recovery plans and preparations. Look in this issue for information on the MayDay campaign run by Blue Shield Australia and supported by ALIA. This campaign helps organisations prepare for natural disasters and if you haven't yet begun on a disaster plan, the tools on their website will be a valuable aid to get started. I also hope that partnership funding will be made available very shortly to enable us to re-fill the position of ALIA Disaster Recovery Project Officer, enabling greater co-ordination of effort and resources for libraries through the many months of recovery and rebuilding to come in so many Australian communities.

There will be ripple effects from these disasters over the months and years ahead that will add more to the body of knowledge and learnings on managing recovery. What we already know is that we must stay connected to our colleagues and communities to survive physically and emotionally. Please do whatever you can to help.

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## YOUR ALIA SNAPSHOT

### New look inCite

Notice anything about inCite this month? Welcome to the new-look news magazine for Australian LIS. Why a new look? Because we wanted to bring you your magazine with a new font and layout we hope you find more readable and enjoyable. Simple.

A key feature each month will be our library centrepiece photo on the inside front cover. This month it's the enticing Discovery Lounge at the State Library of Western Australia. Which means there are exactly 10 more opportunities to see your library featured in inCite so get your pic in to us at [incite@alia.org.au](mailto:incite@alia.org.au) as soon as you can to be in the running to grab one. Images have to be high resolution (minimum 2MB please), supplied as jpeg files and of course anyone appearing in them must give permission for us to publish in print and online. We'd love your feedback on the new look – email us at [incite@alia.org.au](mailto:incite@alia.org.au).

We also farewell our Library Provocateur and thank him/her for much food for thought. But we're still seeking opinions - check out the new column on page 5.

### Mo-ALIA moolah mounts up

Congrats to the moustachio-d ones at National Office

who raised \$3,739 to support men's health programs in Australia. It makes a few itchy upper lips worthwhile.

### On the move

ALJ's book review editor (not to mention his other roles including Editor, Online Information Review for Emerald and Associate Editor for Elsevier's Library Collections, Acquisitions and Technical Services) Gary Gorman, is on the move from Wellington's Victoria University in New Zealand to the University of Malaya for a year's posting with their Department of Information Science. His ALJ role will travel with him, as will his email address of [gormange@gmail.com](mailto:gormange@gmail.com).

### New year, new name

ALIA has a staff member (part-time) in every State and Territory of Australia who's main focus is helping members. You have known these people as 'ALIA Local Liaison Officers' but their title has now changed to better describe their work. From January, our people on the ground are called State / Territory Managers. If you want to contact them for information or advice, please find their contact details on the inside cover of inCite.