

This year, 2012, marks the 75th anniversary of ALIA and this issue of *INCITE* celebrates this wonderful milestone.

I'm certain that our founding colleagues would be astounded at the changes in our profession since ALIA was established as The Institute of Librarians. Telecommunications, computers, and other technology, the availability and affordability of books, education practices and standards, censorship, copyright and rights management to name just a few, have created a vastly different working and professional landscape today from that which would have existed in 1937.

While the way in which we work has changed enormously, the essence of what we do has changed very little – we still connect people with information,

knowledge, and stories, and support their learning and their recreation.

ALIA and its predecessor organisations have been strong voices for librarians and libraries within the community and with government and that's set to continue this year.

2012 is also the National Year of Reading and ALIA is a founding partner along with the public library associations and our State and Territory Libraries. This is a great opportunity for all libraries to advocate the importance of reading to our stakeholders and funders – it's a sad fact that almost 46% of adult Australians struggle with literacy and this impacts on our economic prosperity and our social cohesion as a nation.

ALIA and the founding partners

will use National Year of Reading to raise the profile of libraries and highlight our link with literacy to all levels of government.

In our 75th anniversary year the *ALIA Biennial Conference* will be held in Sydney and I look forward to seeing you there in July. There is a great range of keynote speakers already confirmed including Justice Michael Kirby, IFLA President Ingrid Parent, and UK futurist Tom Chatfield.

Our 2011 National Advisory Congress considered the future of our profession and therefore our Association. I was pleased to be able to personally engage with members in South Australia, Northern Territory, and Western Australia and discuss their views on our profession and its

future. It's fair to say there was some lively debate during the various NAC meetings and more than a few differing opinions of what the future holds – other than agreement that change will continue. A summary of the 2011 NAC can be found at www.alia.org.au/governance/nac/.

I would like to pass on my congratulations to those members willing to stand for election to the ALIA Board for their interest in the Association and the future of our profession. Congratulations to Julie Rae who will be Vice President/President-Elect from May and to incoming Board members Edmund Balnaves, Elke Dawson, and Aileen Weir; their commitment to ALIA and the profession is welcomed.

The Board continues to work to position ALIA strategically and financially to support Australia's library community. Like many member-based organisations, ALIA continues to face challenges such as member retention, increased financial pressures, and expectations of members. The Board is strongly focused on improving our financial position, increasing member numbers and considering the longer term outlook for ALIA and its members.

In this 75th anniversary year, I would challenge each member to take the lead from our founders and be an advocate for the profession and for ALIA, and to encourage colleagues and friends to renew their acquaintance with ALIA.

Happy anniversary and happy National Year of Reading!

Margaret Allen
ALIA President
margaret.allen@alia.org.au

INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

The seventh annual TransTasman conference on public libraries has been announced for 13 and 14 September and will be held at the State Library of Victoria. *The Learning for All: Public Libraries in Australia and New Zealand* program will emphasise collaboration and developing a greater appreciation of public libraries by all levels of government.

The Western Australian Group of University Librarians (WAGUL) has stepped up their previous contract with Ingram Content Group to a new level, confirming Ingram as the consortium's sole supplier for print and digital content solutions. WAGUL comprises WA's four publicly funded universities: Curtin, Edith Cowan, Murdoch, and the University of Western Australia.

