



As I write my first Directline as Acting Executive Director of ALIA, it is impossible not to think of the commitment made by the many people who have guided the Association in honorary and staff positions over the last 75 years.

My 21 months with

the Association makes me a real baby, but in that short time I have been constantly amazed at the broad range of issues that the Association deals with every day. Any perceptions I had of Library and Information professionals and the work they do have been turned on their head in that time.

As Executive Director for six years, Sue Hutley

OUR VOLUNTEERING MEMBERS CONTINUE TO DEDICATE ENORMOUS TIME AND ENERGY TO THE ASSOCIATION...

preached the ALIA mantra from the Ministers of the Australian Government to children at small country schools, from the executive corridors of Google to the marketing teams of suppliers to the professions. I am sure that thousands of people know more about our profession and Association as a result of her fantastic commitment and evangelism.

My focus as Chief Operating Officer (my regular job) has been to lead the operational side of the Association to free up more of the Executive Director's time for those critical elements of advocacy and lobbying and the other professional aspects of the Association's work. Fortunately, during 2011 I got to be involved with many of our members and the public library community through the "Increasing Accessibility Library Initiative". This Initiative, funded by the Department of Families,

Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and managed by ALIA, has introduced (and reintroduced) thousands of people with a print disability to the beauty of the written word that we who are reading this take for granted.

Our volunteering members continue to dedicate enormous time and energy to the Association and for many members this is best exemplified in our National Conferences that enjoy such a fantastic reputation.

Fides Lawton, Janet Fletcher, and their team are working very hard on the Biennial Conference in July. (See more Biennial News from the Committee on p5). The National Year of Reading has not yet officially launched and already it is possibly the most covered Advocacy program in ALIA's history. ALIA, the other founding partners, and organisations around the country will all be heavily involved in launch events during February.

Rob Miller

ALIA Acting Executive Director

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ALIA SNAPSHOT

Director, Member Services, Adam McLeod will be finishing in his role on 31 January. We thank Adam for his work in this role and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

We are also sad to lose Carol Newton-Smith from her role as State Manager of WA, who has filled her role since September 2009 with energy and commitment.

ALIA wishes to offer sincere thanks to Lee Welch for all of her hard work as Interim Publishing Manager for the last 14 months.

We welcome ALIA Publishing Manager, Kate van der Veer, back from parental leave. Any publishing queries can now be directed to her, kate.vanderveer@alia.org.au, or phone 02 6215 8231.

We are also pleased to welcome a new State Manager for NSW, Vassiliki Veros. Vassiliki can be contacted via email, vassiliki.veros@alia.org.au or phone 0425 351 770

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