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Executive Director

**O**ur theme this month is school libraries. Within ALIA there is a strong focus on school and children's librarianship through the School Libraries Section and the Children's and Youth Services Section. Together these Sections produce a quarterly journal, *ORANA*, which covers issues of specific relevance to our members who are involved in library, resource and information provision in the school community and those interested in children's and youth librarianship more generally. Producing a journal can be a difficult and time-consuming passion and the team that publishes *ORANA* is to be congratulated for the task it performs with a high degree of professionalism. Information about subscriptions to *ORANA* can be obtained from the National Office.

School libraries are facing some tough times. Library closures, amalgamations, professional development, definition of workplace roles, copyright issues and resource funding remain matters of concern. Some outstanding work is being done by school librarians to address these issues and there are some exciting innovations underway in other areas such as the provision of online information to school students. I hope that you will enjoy reading about these issues and projects in this edition of our newsletter.

#### Government inquiries

One of the important aspects of our role as the Association representing the library and information sector is ensuring that governments are aware of our involvement in issues of broad community interest. One way of doing this is to provide submissions to relevant inquiries which state our case in a thoughtful and professional manner. The inquiries to which we have responded in recent months are listed below. Copies of our submissions are available from the National Office.

- Inquiry into The Organisation and Funding of Research in Higher Education (Senate Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training);

- Inquiry into Research Data Networks (Australian Science and Technology Council);
- Inquiry into Broadband Services (Broadband Expert Group);
- National Review of Education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (Department of Employment, Education and Training);
- The Present and Future Role of Open Learning in Education and Training (Senate Standing Committee on Employment Education and Training);
- Plain English (Australian Language and Literacy Council).

#### Australian Library Week

17-21 October

The theme, *Destination Information*, emphasises the principal role of libraries—the source of well-organised and easily accessed information. Members will be provided with a library promotion kit overflowing with material you can use to lift the profile of your library. Press releases, posters, activity guides and much more will be available in September. The promotion kit will contain information which will assist in the general promotion of your library as well as material specifically designed around the Library Week theme which has been carefully selected to have application to the broad range of libraries. We will keep you posted on developments through *inCite* but put the dates in your library diary now!

#### Australian Library Fair

22-25 June

A number of enterprising library suppliers have decided to organise a trade fair which will piggy-back onto the very successful Australian Book Fair at Darling Harbour in Sydney. Entry is free and all ALIA members and their colleagues are encouraged to attend. We will be mounting a display of ALIA services and staff from the National Office will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about education and training, professional development, industrial reform and membership entitlements. Our Man-

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ager, Industrial and Human Resources, Phil Teece will be hosting a seminar on recent industrial relations reforms. Phil will be happy to answer any questions you have on workplace issues. His seminar will be held from 2.00pm to 3.30pm on Thursday 23 June. Phone the National Office to reserve a spot.

#### Joint Conference

26-30 September

Conference planning is proceeding extremely well. Full details can be found in the registration brochure which is included with this edition of *inCite*. The formal conference program and associated satellite conference activities offer excellent professional development and networking opportunities for all library and information professionals. The cost of attending the conference is comparable with previous conferences as registration costs have been kept to a minimum. A special deal for domestic air travel within New Zealand has been negotiated with Air New Zealand for those delegates who wish to extend their stay.

#### Redmond Barry Award

The Hon. Edward Gough Whitlam AC QC has accepted the Redmond Barry Award which is the most prestigious honour that ALIA can bestow upon a non-librarian. The Award will be presented at a special function to be held on Friday 22 July in Canberra. The timing of the presentation corresponds with a meeting of General Council and it is hoped that other ALIA members, who may be able to travel to Canberra, will join in the celebrations.

During his period as Prime Minister of Australia Mr Whitlam was (and remains today) a strong supporter of libraries. The 'Horton Inquiry' (conducted by Mr Allan Horton) was an initiative of his Government and probably remains one of the most outstanding studies of public libraries that this country has seen. We are delighted that Mr Whitlam has agreed to accept this Award.