

General Council meeting: a summary

An initiative for this General Council meeting was the attendance of all Branch Presidents. The Branch Presidents and General Council saw this as an extremely useful exercise and will assist with communication between the Branches and General Council throughout the year.

Portfolios

The 1995 General Council portfolios are included in *Direct Line* on page 7 of this issue of *inCite*. It was noted that some guidelines were needed to assist both General Councillors and members to better understand the role of portfolio holders. ALIA members are encouraged to contact the General Councillor who holds the portfolio for their sector or area of interest if they have any questions or comments throughout the year.

Each portfolio holder will, within the area of the portfolio:

- become familiar with existing policy;
- establish effective contact and communication with all groups;
- identify policy issues through consultation, needs assessment, and by observing overseas practice, and will draft policy proposals;
- will consult with stakeholders on draft policy proposals before finalising papers for submission;
- will liaise with the National Office on administration of Association policy and receive and consider management information as appropriate;
- shall keep General Council informed on matters of interest and developments;
- will liaise with individuals and groups beyond the Association who may have views or ideas relevant to the improvement of policy or the achievement of programs.

The next AGM

A number of issues that had been referred to the By-laws and Regulations committee were discussed at this meeting. These included: eligibility to vote in ALIA elections, Honorary membership, Election timing, Division elections, Tied votes and National Sections. A new expanded 'how to' guide for holding Division elections will be distributed as an addendum to the *1995 Division Office Bearers Guide* in order to assist Divisions in holding elections and conducting ballots. The 1995 Annual General Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Specials, Health and Law Librarians Conference on 29 August this year in order to enable as many members as possible to attend. It was noted that the Association's finances remain on a firm footing and that the 1994 audit would be starting shortly. The vacancy left by ADI on the first floor of ALIA House had been filled and new tenants are moving in — the space remained untenanted for only 2 weeks. General Council reflected on the successful launch of ALIANet on Thursday evening 16 March by the Governor General Mr Bill Hayden. ALIA received a wide range of media coverage following launch, from both the print and electronic media.

The Association's strategic plan was discussed in some detail. General Council resolved that the paper written by the President be renamed *Strategic Directions for General Council 1995* and that it be used as a working document for General Council. General Council also discussed the need to revise the Association's Vision Statement: the Vice President will provide a paper to the July meeting of General Council, for consideration. General Council discussed work undertaken by the Board on the *Framework for Continuing Professional Development*, and commended the Board on the work put into the framework. The framework will be provided free on request to personal financial members. General Council noted reports on Industrial activity on behalf of members and a progress report on the Competency Standards. A report on the progress of DEET funding for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recruitment and Career Development Strategy was tabled. If the proposal is successful, DEET will fund two positions for this project: the staff employed will be located in the National Office. February membership figures were higher than at the same time last year — renewals are still being received by the National Office.

Policy statements and guidelines

General Council decided to review all ALIA's Policy Statements with the intention of ensuring that statements were not dated and that they reflected current policy.

The Association's Education Policy Statements were discussed by the meeting.

General Council discussed the Health Libraries Guidelines and suggested that a preamble should be added to the document noting that the Health Library guidelines are guidelines for an ideal situation, are not prescriptive and that the document should be edited accordingly.

Awards, promotion and lobbying

Proposed new awards 'ALIA Library of the Year Award' and 'ALIA Journalist of the Year' were discussed. Progress on Australian Library Week, 1995 was discussed and it was noted that the April issue of *inCite* would have a special 8-page supplement. The Executive Director reported on the Association's Electoral Strategy, noting that this was a very important initiative for the profession and encouraged Branches to identify team leaders in each electorate as soon as possible.

ALIA Publications

The Executive Director provided a report on the review of ALIA publications. General Council endorsed the recommendations that an ALIA Publishing Policy Committee be established and that this committee have responsibilities covering the development and oversight of publishing policies across the broad range of ALIA publications. A copy of the *1993/94 Handbook* was tabled.

Conferences

The ALIA Vice President, Convenor of the 1996 Biennial Conference provided a report on progress of the organising committee. Ms Tait noted that an insert 'calling for papers, suggestions for speakers and topics' was distributed with the March issue of *inCite*. General Council agreed that Conference Committees should be encouraged to involve the President of the Association in conference programs. This will be added to the *Guidelines for the organisation of ALIA Divisional Conferences*.

General Council also agreed that the feasibility of a National tour of an information brokerage seminar similar to that held following the *Information Online and On Disc* Conference in January be investigated. Updated lists of ALIA Conferences and Non-ALIA Conferences that may be of interest to ALIA members were provided to General Council. Copies of these lists can be obtained from the National Office.

Relations with other associations

General Council discussed ALIA's relationship with a number of Associations, including the Australian Council of Library and Information Services (ACLIS), the Australian Book Publishers Association (ABPA), the Council of Australian Public Libraries Associations (CAPLA), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the Association of Local Government Librarians (ALGL), the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) and Technilib.

Government inquiries

General Council noted the inquiries in which the Association still has an active interest. These include:

- Networking Australia's future
- Inquiry into the development of open learning in Australia
- Whereas the people... civics and citizenship education
- Review of post-1997 Telecommunications Regulation
- Future needs study
- Inquiry into migrant access and equity
- Inquiry into the impact of 1991 amendments to the Copyright Act 1968.

General Council noted that issues raised in ALIA's submission to the Broadband Services Group had been the subject of the group's principal recommendations. ■