

The July General Council meeting: a summary

Elections

General Council noted that calls for nominations for the Vice-President (President Elect) and three representatives on the Board of Education. Eligibility to vote in ALIA elections was discussed and it was agreed that a report with recommendations would be brought to the November meeting. General Council also discussed the progress of ALLIANet.

Strategic plan

The Association's vision and mission statements were revised at this meeting and Divisions have been asked for their comments. The proposed new vision statement is *ALIA: excellence in library and information leadership* and the proposed new mission statement is *ALIA will empower the profession in the development, promotion and delivery of quality library and information services, through leadership, advocacy, co-operation and strategic alliances.*

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment and career strategy

The deputy executive director advised General Council that the DEET Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment and career development strategy was underway and that the agreement with DEET will include: a cross-cultural awareness program, the establishment of cadetships, scholarships and traineeship positions within the sector.

ALIA policy statements and guidelines

General Council continued its revision of all ALIA policy statements at this meeting. It was agreed that the majority of the policy statements would be referred back to the General Councillor responsible and that firm recommendations for change would be brought to the November meeting. General Council discussed a list of suggested new policy statements. These were referred to particular General Councillors for further consideration prior to the next meeting. A listing of all ALIA policy statements, suggested policy statements and the General Councillor responsible is available from the National Office. *The national guide-*

lines for hospital libraries were approved at this meeting.

Awards, promotions and lobbying

General Council awarded Fellowships to Anne Hazell (SA), Derek Whitehead (Vic) and John Horacek (Vic), the *ALIA Manager of the year award* to Roslyn Cousins, the director library services at Alice Town Council, and an Honorary membership of the Association to the Honorable Bill Hayden.

General Council also noted the presentation of the Dunn and Wilson Scholarship to Jean Bailey for her research project to examine the career progression and practice of library technicians who operate at Higher Education Worker 6 or above in an academic library as case studies. The *ALIA Library technician of the year award* was presented to Linley Thornber from Western Australia. Both these awards were presented at the 8th National Library Technicians Conference in Darwin on 12 July.

An *ALIA Library of the year award* was further discussed at this meeting and a feasibility report will be brought to the November meeting of General Council. A report on 1995 Australian Library Week was also discussed.

The Executive Director reported on the progress of the Federal Electoral Strategy. She noted that there was a great deal of support from members for this strategy and outlined the seminar program that the Association is planning to run in order to assist members in their lobbying efforts.

Divisions

The Literacy Section (National Group) was dissolved at this meeting. General Council approved the formation of a new Special Interest Group, which will be known as the *Library buildings and equipment special interest group.*

Conferences

Reports were received on the successful completion of the NZLIA/ALIA 1994 Joint Conference and the planning to date of the 1996 Biennial Conference.

General Council noted the updated list of *The definitive ALIA conference directory for 1995-1997* and

the *Listing of conferences that may be of interest to ALIA Members 1995 to 1998.* Copies of both these lists are available from the National Office.

Three conferences were approved at this meeting. These included an ELISS conference on library competencies to be held in Melbourne in December 1995, the 9th National Library Technicians Conference to be held in Canberra in September 1997 and the 7th Asian Special Health and Law Librarians Conference to be held in Perth in 1997.

General Council accepted the bid from the South Australian Branch to host the 1998 Biennial Conference. It was also decided that the following Biennial Conference would be held in Canberra in the year 2001. Divisional conferences can be spread over both the years 1999 and 2000. The Vice-President will be preparing a paper *Why biennial conferences* for the November meeting. Queries can be directed to Carolyn Cherrett in the National Office.

The *Guidelines for the organisation of ALIA divisional conferences* were also amended at this meeting. A copy of the amended guidelines have been distributed to Divisions and is available from the National Office.

Relations with other Associations

Reports were received on our relations with ACLIS, the ABPA and IFLA.

Compulsory competitive tendering in Victoria

There was some discussion and concern expressed about the implications for libraries on this issue. General Council agreed that a fact sheet be prepared for members setting out the Association's position in relation to compulsory competitive tendering and local government reform, to assist in providing reassurance over current concerns. General Council affirmed that Association focus should be on supporting the development, promotion and delivery of quality library and information services through emphasis on professional standards, and that it is not appropriate for the Association to take a position in respect of the philosophy of competitive tendering. ■