



Jan Gaebler  
ALIA president

As this edition of *inCite* goes to the printers we are in the happy circumstance of having much to celebrate!

From 31 January to 2 February we saw a highly successful *Online* conference in Sydney, sponsored by the ALIA Information Science Section, and a tribute to the hardworking conference committee led by Enid Roberts.

Then, thanks to an initiative of the ACT Branch and the ACT General Councillor, John Brudenall, we learned that the Governor General had accepted our invitation to launch ALIA's pilot Internet service for members, ALIANet. The launch was timed to coincide with the March General Council meeting to enable many Branch Presidents and the General Council members to attend this very prestigious occasion for our Association. Virginia Walsh and the National Office found themselves at short notice simultaneously besieged by the meticulous details of Vice-Regal planning, 11th hour teething problems with ALIANet, as well as the demands of our first major Council meeting for the year! Needless to say, they responded with the measured aplomb and finesse we can now depend on from our National Office.

Next month we go into high gear with our nation-wide Australian Library Week promotion from 7–13 May. Last year's successful theme of *Destination information* has been expanded this year to include the subtext *with libraries it's possible*. Virginia Walsh, Jo-anne Fuller and their team of librarian promotion enthusiasts have been busy building on the success of last year and the advance plans that have come

in so far from various states are exciting.

### Online & on disc 95

I had not attended an Online Conference since 1991 and for me, the contrast was a clear case of the theoretical in 1991 evolving into the practical issues that were discussed in 1995. It was a startling example of how far we have come in such a very short time.

The conference had many highlights, especially the conviviality and genuine enthusiasms of the keynote speakers who were obviously happy to mix, mingle and network with the conference participants.

It was heartening to witness Ian McCullum's presentation on a standards-based information retrieval system because our expertise in information retrieval is second to no other profession. Librarians should be leading the development of standards in this realm and Ian's work seems to indicate he's trying to ensure that's what happens.

Ian Hoyle's talk on corporate use of the Internet was inspirational in terms of using one's professional initiative. Reva Basch's talk based on her book *Secrets of the super searchers*, which shares the tips and tricks of online searching from 23 of her 'super searcher' colleagues was a good catalyst for continued networking among us concerning 'what works best with which database'. She, too, made the point that we are changing so fast that her book, less than two years old, doesn't use that word *Internet*, which is springing off everyone's lips these days!

As previously mentioned, the highlights of this conference

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were many, but I suppose we can encapsulate them in the energy, interest and enthusiasm for our library profession which emanated from the speakers' dais, the trade exhibition, the product reviews and the continuous 'networking' which was taking place among participants.

It's the same energy which is being repeated around the country as we all contribute to a massive communication network which offers unequalled diversity, efficiencies and economies of scale for the Australian community.

### Australian Library Week

Australian Library Week is our opportunity to collectively demonstrate that nobody networks better than we do ... *with libraries, it's possible!*

We're in an era when we can all be proud to be a part of this vibrant profession. Our collective co-operation, expertise and ability to share, is the essence of our success. We see it in our libraries, in our professional conferences, and in our willingness to help each other.

Another celebration of sorts is taking place in Los Angeles this month as Hollywood awards its Oscars. The film *The Shawshank redemption*, up for a swag of awards, features actor Tim Robbins as a most endearing prison librarian. They give him glasses as soon as he's made the prison librarian — but that's the only stereotype! He doesn't shush his borrowers, he's cunning concerning problems with his acquisitions budget, and he's a dynamo of tenacity, initiative and enthusiasm for the job. No matter where the Oscars go... it's a win for librarians! ■