

National section re-forms

Val Moon, president, ALIA National Public Libraries Section

Until the late 1980's each State and Territory had ALIA Public Libraries Sections (with varying degrees of activity) with presidents of these sections forming the executive of the National Public Libraries Section.

At a planning forum held in conjunction with the first National Public Libraries Conference (Melbourne 1994), it was suggested that the National Public Libraries Section should be abolished. It was perceived that the National Section had been inactive for the previous four to five years.

The matter was again raised at the second National Public Libraries Conference held in Sydney in 1995. At this time discussion also focussed on the proposal that a Confederation of Public Library Associations (CAPLA) be formed to address matters of national significance to public libraries. A working party had been formed and a proposal was under consideration regarding the nature and scope of CAPLA.

Both in 1994 and in 1995 the executive director of ALIA, Virginia Walsh, had put the view that there would be merit in considering the re-vitalisation of the National Public Libraries Section rather than creating a new organisation. This was based on recognition of the role which has developed within the ALIA National Office in undertaking activities of relevance to public libraries, for example lobbying efforts in relation to securing the \$11.4 million commitment from the previous government for community access to on-line information.

The impetus for the re-ignition of the National Public Libraries Section came with the \$22 000 in surplus funds generated by the 1995 public libraries conference. It was agreed that these funds should be directed towards activities of direct relevance to public libraries and that this could be best accomplished through a National Section which worked closely with ALIA National Office.

The decision to re-establish the national section was confirmed and endorsed during a teleconference held in July 1996. It was agreed that the New South Wales section would take responsibility for the national section until the next public libraries confer-

ence which is scheduled to be held in Brisbane in November 1997. Val Moon, president of the New South Wales section, was appointed the 'caretaker' president of the National Section until November 1997.

The decision to re-establish the National Section was endorsed at a Public Libraries meeting which was held in conjunction with the ALIA Biennial Conference in Melbourne on 11 October in Melbourne.

A range of issues have been canvassed by the re-formed National Section in two teleconferences and one face-to-face meeting. Action identified to date includes:

- an analysis of recent reports and studies relating to public libraries with the view to preparing an 'Issues and action' session at the next public libraries conference;
- a continuous program of publications relating to issues and developments in public libraries will be developed;
- comment will be prepared on the guidelines for the allocation of the \$2 million for on-line access from the Federal Government;
- comment on the Draft Certificate II Traineeship in Local Government Libraries will be prepared;
- a review of the public libraries guideline document *Towards a quality service*; and
- planning for a 'snapshot' of public library activities to be used as a promotional tool.

ALIA members who would like to become involved in the National Section or who would like further information are warmly-encouraged to contact the following members: David Clarke, ACT Library Service; Joan Coatman, State Library of Tasmania; Duncan Furphy, City of Cockburn Library and Information Service (Western Australia); Christine Mackenzie, Mornington Peninsula Libraries (Victoria); Val Moon, Ryde Library and Information Services (New South Wales); Janice Nitschke, Millicent Library (South Australia); Brenda Simpson, West End Library (Queensland); Kathy Stapleton, Wanguri (Northern Territory); or directly through ALIA National Office, telephone (06) 285 1877, fax (06) 282 2249, or e-mail enquiry@alia.org.au. ■



...from previous page

Penrith experience as an electronic public library. Penrith Public Library. 9.30-4.30pm, \$40 includes morning/afternoon teas. Contact: Lorraine Stacker, ph (047) 327 886, fax (047) 327 540, e-mail pclstaff@zeta.org.au.

• **26/2 ALIA One Person Australian Libraries SIG.** State forum and library visit. Blackmores, 23 Roseberry Street, Balgowlah, 3-5pm. Contact: Narelle McGinty (NBMO), ph (02) 9951 0155, fax (02) 9949 1954, e-mail 100356.3260@compuserve.com.

11-25/3 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Hot Business Topics (11/3 am), Introductory Dialog (12/3), Patents (13/3), Biomedical (25/3). Sydney contact: ph (02) 9212 2867, e-mail krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

• **19/3 NSW Special Section.** Adding value: a seminar on enhancing your research. Great Synagogue, 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. \$12 ALIA, \$15 non-members, light refreshments served. 6pm for 6.30pm. RSVP: Vikki Bell, 59 Roseville Avenue, Roseville 2069, ph/fax (02) 9416 3656, e-mail vikkib@giga.net.au.

Qld

4-6/2 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Mini Update (4/2), Hot Business Topics (5/2), Introductory Dialog (6/2). Brisbane contact: ph (02) 9212 2867, e-mail krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

• **5/2 Qld Branch.** Creating World Wide Web Documents using HTML. Griffith Uni, Information Services Centre, Gold Coast Campus. 9-5pm. \$150 ALIA members, \$170 non-members. Contact: Wendy Abbott, ph (07) 3875 7111 ext 8987 — Brisbane or (07) 5594 8987 — Gold Coast, e-mail w.abbott@ins.gu.edu.au. Limit 10 participants.

• **10/2 Qld Special Section.** Balancing home and work seminar/workshop. Metro Inn Tower Mill Hotel, Wickham Terrace. 5.30-9pm. \$15 includes light dinner. Maximum 30 participants. RSVP and prepayment to: Sue Hutley, ph (07) 3405 1124 by 31/1/97.

• **10/2-8/12 Qld Library Technician Section meetings.** State Library of Qld, Metway Theatre, 5.30pm (unless advised otherwise). (10/2; 10/3; 14/4; 12/5; 16/6; 14/7; 11/8; 8/9; 13/10; 10/11; 8/12). Contact: Ailsa O'Donnell, ph (07) 3259 3025, fax (07) 3259 3084.

20/2 ACLIS Automation Sub-Committee. Information Online and On Disc 97' — reviewed. Speakers will

continued next page...