

A spirit of optimism

Report of the first ALIA Board of Directors meeting
from Jennefer Nicholson, ALIA executive director

At the recent CREATE conference in Melbourne Lord David Putnam, British Minister for Arts and Education (and formerly movie producer with credits including *Midnight Express*, *Local Hero* and *Chariots of Fire*) told the story of Robert Fulton, American engineer and nautical inventor testing his steam boat engine. As the crowd gathered on the banks there were those amongst it who declared 'it won't start'. As the boat chugged successfully along the river their declaration changed to 'it won't stop'. Stop it did, work it did, and the rest is history.

The Association's members should gain a great deal of confidence from the May Board of Directors' meeting and National Policy Congress that the new ALIA will work. Both were conducted in a spirit of optimism for the future. A key feature was recognition of the need to move from a structure based and focussed organisation to an organisation which focusses its energies and resources on meeting its objects.

As a first step the Board, for its July meeting, will prepare a conceptual paper on Object 1 [*To promote the free flow of information and ideas in the interest of all Australians and a thriving culture, economy and democracy*], which includes an interpretation of the Object's scope and a framework for the development of ideas to achieve its aim; a paper based on Object 4 [*To represent the interests of members to governments, other organisations and the community*] which addresses social, community and economic issues as well as a strategy to ensure member's interests are effectively represented; and a paper outlining data collection priorities and ways to identify or create data sets which profile the sector.

The outcomes of the National Policy Congress provide the impetus to create a flexible organisation which ensures opportunity for member participation in policy development, practice issues and strategic implementation of the Objects. The recommendations from the National Policy Congress will be worked through at the July Board meeting.

Further matters arising from this Board meeting for consideration at the July meeting are a review of the Association's awards, and proposals for membership recruitment and retention activities.

The ALIA Board of Education has been asked to prepare a paper for the September meeting on strategies required to ensure the Association as a whole achieves Object 3 [*To ensure the high standard of personnel engaged in information provision and foster their professional interests and aspirations*].

The Board of Directors considers that open communication between it and the members of the Association is essential. It resolved that members and divisions can forward matters for consideration and decision to the Board through the executive director. Board meetings will primarily deal with matters requiring decision. A quarterly report will be prepared on the Association's activities and will identify benefits to members of these activities. This will be available on ALIANet and from ALIA National Office. A report on each Board of Directors meeting will be provided through *inCite*, ALIANet and aliaNEWS. Board business will be conducted face-to-face, by tele-conference, or electronically as and when required.

The Board set the membership fees for July 2000 to June 2001, passing on a one per cent saving to members. This saving has been identified through an examination of the anticipated impact of the GST on the Association's profit and loss statement.

Procedural matters concerned:

- confirming the process for appointment of auditors at the 2000 annual general meeting;
- resolving that the terms of office of the 2000 president and vice-president be extended to the 2001 annual general meeting.
- resolving four additional clauses under By-law 4: Elections, to provide for the destruction of invalid voting papers, storage of voting papers after one year, and challenges to the process of the election.
- confirming the directors 'modus operandi' which sets out roles and responsibilities, including a duty statement for the president.
- resolving that the president and executive director may authorise members to inspect the Board of Directors minutes where appropriate; noting that *Corporations Law* restricts members access to Board minutes.
- resolving to agree in principle to the Board of Education's *Interim statement of purpose* and that Alan Bundy would represent the directors on the ALIA Board of Education.

Recognising achievement

The first resolution of the elected Board of Directors was to commend the Interim Board — John Shipp, Craig Anderson, Mairéad Browne, Colette McCool, Beth McLaren, Trevor Wakely and Alan Bundy — for their outstanding contribution to the renewal process and incorporation of the new Association.

Fellowships were awarded to John Shipp and Dagmar Schmidmaier. ■



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ph 02 9715 8329, fx 02 9715 8311,
margaret.roberts@tafensw.edu.au

21/7 Advanced internet research skills. University of New South Wales, School of Information Systems, Technology and Management. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 7128, fx 02 9662 4061, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

• **26/7 NSW Children & Youth Services section.** *Committee meeting* (everybody welcome). Parramatta City Library, 6pm. For further information, please contact: Sarah Steed, publicity officer, ph 02 9806 5159, fx 02 9806 5919, ssteed@parracity.nsw.gov.au

28/7 Keeping up with internet developments: how do they impact on information services. University of New South Wales, School of Information Systems, Technology and Management. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 7128, fx 02 9662 4061, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

• **25/8 NSW School Libraries section.** *Book week celebrations.* Venue: to be advised. Contact: Ian McLean, ph 02 9886 7501 (w), ian.mclean@det.nsw.edu.au

• **28/8–30/10 NSW School Libraries section.** *General meeting.* Joint Council Meeting Rooms, Corner Marion & Norton Streets, Leichhardt, 5:30–7:30pm, often concluding with an Italian meal in one of the suburb's restaurants, all ALIA members are warmly welcomed. (28/8, 30/10.) Contact: Ian McLean, ph 02 9886 7501 (w), ian.mclean@det.nsw.edu.au

• **27/10 NSW Children & Youth Services section.** *Management Seminar.* Burwood Council Chambers. For further information, please contact: Sarah Steed, publicity officer, ph 02 9806 5159, fx 02 9806 5919, ssteed@parracity.nsw.gov.au

• **27/11 NSW School Libraries section.** *End of year function.* Venue: to be advised. Contact: Ian McLean, ph 02 9886 7501 (w), ian.mclean@det.nsw.edu.au

• **29/11 NSW Children & Youth Services section.** *Committee meeting* (everybody welcome). Burwood Public Library, 6pm. For further information, please contact: Sarah Steed, publicity officer, ph 02 9806 5159, fx 02 9806 5919, ssteed@parracity.nsw.gov.au

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• **12/7 NT Branch.** *General meeting.* NTU, 4:30pm. For further information contact: Linda Winzar, ph 08 8999 8931, fx 08 8999 8998, linda.winzar@nt.gov.au

• **16/8 NT Branch.** *General meeting.* NT-LIS Winnellie, corner Albatross & Witte Streets, 4:30pm. For further information contact: Linda Winzar, ph 08 8999 8931, fx 08 8999 8998, linda.winzar@nt.gov.au

• **13/9 NT Branch.** *General meeting.* NT-LIS National Mutual, 4:30pm. For further information contact: Linda Winzar, ph 08 8999 8931, fx 08 8999 8998, linda.winzar@nt.gov.au

• **18/10 NT Branch.** *General meeting.* NT-LIS National Mutual, 4:30pm. For further information contact: Linda Winzar, ph 08 8999 8931, fx 08 8999 8998, linda.winzar@nt.gov.au

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