



**Christine Mackenzie**

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## Celebrating success

**S**erendipity is a wonderful thing! I was wondering about my theme for this month's Frontline and had a bright flash of inspiration at 3:00am, as one is wont to do. Celebrating success I thought — that's what I can write about. And then this morning reading my e-mails, there was a message from Joanne Fuller (NSW local presence officer) who is shifting the direction of her life and she talked about us sharing and celebrating our successes. Jojo has had a long association with ALIA and our good wishes go with her in her new life.

Further proof that I was on to a good thing was this notification on the same day on the REAP list. 'Two University of New South Wales research students, Jo Orsatti and Weiping Yue, have been successful in the 12th Annual Student Scholarship Essay Competition sponsored by one of the Chapters of ASIST (American Society for Information Science and Technology). Jo Orsatti, in the final stages of writing her thesis for a Master of Information Studies (by research), and Weiping a doctoral candidate in progress, are both Members of the Bibliometric and Informetric Research Group (BIRG) at the School of Information Systems, Technology and Management at the University of New South Wales.' Congratulations to you both.

I think that we librarians on the whole are a fairly modest lot, and while it may be an admirable trait, it is not a particularly useful one in the cut and thrust of organisational politics. By celebrating and promoting ourselves and the good things we do, we bring positive attention to our endeavours, and it's a truism because its true — success breeds success.

At the Brisbane City Council we have quarterly Lord Mayor's Awards which are awarded to staff across a number of categories. The staff really appreciate that the organisation recognises their contribution and there is the added attraction that real dollars are awarded at the end

of the year for the best of the best.

When we were doing our 2010 planning at the May Board meeting, celebrating success was one of the key opportunities that we saw for ALIA. In the draft document there is a key action that we identify ALIA stars and promote them and tell their stories to a wider audience. One of the best ways to start doing this is by nominating yourself or a colleague for the awards and prizes that are available. Having sat on award committees, I am only too aware, sadly, of how few people put themselves forward for awards, or nominate others. ALIA knows that these awards are important and invests considerable time and effort into developing and maintaining sponsorship and administering them. It is really up to us to encourage the ALIA stars amongst us to be suitably acknowledged.

One such acknowledgment that the ALIA Board made at its last meeting was the conferring of an ALIA fellowship on Dr David Jones from the State Library of New South Wales [see p33 for details]. Congratulations David — you join an eminent group of peers who have made significant contributions to the profession and our Association.

Another way of celebrating success is to tell your colleagues about it through *inCite* — we would be delighted to feature your stories about how you are furthering the values and aims of our profession. We have many things to be proud of — innovative projects, service developments, national initiatives, partnerships — that librarians and library technicians are driving or implementing every day. One of the aims of the REAP initiative is to further research in practice and this is another way of keeping in touch with the latest trends and knowledge in our sector.

At the National Policy Congress in September delegates will be celebrating the successes of the past year with colleagues. It will be a great forum to share stories and experiences with each other, and to hear about what groups and sections are achieving.

So please, tell us your successes, tell your funders and your organisations, so that people know and hear about the great things that libraries are doing. ■

### Feedback to your Board of Directors

Do you have an idea, compliment or concern about your Association? Contact any director below on personal issues and ideas will be reviewed at each meeting of the Board.

E-mail to [feedback@alia.org.au](mailto:feedback@alia.org.au) will be automatically forwarded to all Board members.

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