

# Prahran Mechanics' Institute update

In the May 2004 issue of *inCite* (p26-27), Christine Worthington from the Prahran Mechanics' Institute talked about membership libraries in the modern era. On 1 May 2004, the institute celebrated its 150th anniversary. During the celebrations the current secretary librarian gave a lecture about the original objectives of the Institute in the modern era and a former secretary librarian, Bruce Turner, gave an overview of the highlights and lowlights of the Institute's history. Bruce was then presented with a certificate of life membership.

A highlight on the day was the announcement by Tony Lupton, on behalf of the Minister for Local Government, of a \$10 000 grant which will be used to set up a publishing arm of the Insti-

tute. Mr Lupton then opened the 150th Anniversary Gallery, a permanent installation in the Institute's library which includes images and documents from the Institute's history.

The purpose of the publishing project is to facilitate the publishing of Victorian history, particularly local histories. The aim is to assist those individuals and organisations, particularly historical societies, who would otherwise have difficulty in getting their small histories into print. Watch out for Prahran Mechanics' Institute Press! ■



Catherine Milward-Bason, secretary-librarian, Prahran Mechanics' Institute; Mr Tony Lupton, Member for Prahran; Councillor Melina Sehr, Mayor of City of Stonnington; and Mr Alfred Lazer, AM, president, Prahran Mechanics' Institute Committee

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Australian  
Library and  
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## ALIA's excellence awards

Nominations are now being called  
for the following excellence awards of the  
Australian Library and Information Association

### National Excellence Award [2003]

The National Excellence Award recognises excellence in any area, field or aspect of practice in the library and information services sector. This award is peer or self-nominated. Nominees may be: a personal member of ALIA or the nominated ALIA representative of an institutional member; a group comprising personal members or the nominated ALIA representatives of an institutional member; an institutional member.

### Metcalfe Medallion

The Metcalfe Medallion recognises high achievement by a personal financial member in their first five years of practice in libraries and information services. Achievement would be commensurate with experience and should show a contribution beyond the normal requirements of the nominee's employment. This may include but not be limited to initiative, a commitment to innovation in practice, and leadership. This award is peer-nominated.

### Nomination forms

Nomination forms and further information:  
<http://alia.org.au/awards/>

ALIA National Office, PO Box 6335, Kingston 2604  
ph 02 6215 8235, [awards@alia.org.au](mailto:awards@alia.org.au)

**Nominations close 1 August 2004**

## Expressions of interest called for ALIA advisory groups

### ALIA By-laws advisory group

The role of the By-laws Advisory Group is to review and revise on a continuing basis the by-laws of the Association to ensure clarity and internal consistency, without the intention to change the Association and its structure.

The group acts on matters referred by the ALIA Board of Directors. It may also advise the Board of Directors of elements of the ALIA Constitution and By-laws potentially requiring review.

At least two members are required on this committee.

### ALIA interlibrary lending expert advisory group

The role of the Interlibrary Lending Expert Advisory Group is to advise the Board on:

- the Association's management of actions referred by the ACLIS National Council;
- interlibrary lending and resource sharing policy and practice matters of interest and concern to members;
- matters relating to the Association's responsibilities for the ILL voucher system;
- representation on appropriate bodies;
- development of policy statements or documents relating to interlibrary lending and resource sharing;
- other matters as determined by the Board.

There is one vacancy on this committee.

### ALIA new generation policy and advisory group

The New Generation Policy and Advisory group exists to help strengthen the participation of a new generation of library and information professionals in the Association. The group advises the Board of Directors on services for students and new professional members.

There are four vacancies in this group.

The term of all appointments is two years from the 2004 annual general meeting. Further details and information about how to nominate are available from Mary Ann Ryan, phone 02 6215 8214, or e-mail [maryann.ryan@alia.org.au](mailto:maryann.ryan@alia.org.au).