

Join us at ALIA 2004



Jennefer Nicholson

ALIA executive director
jennefer.nicholson@alia.org.au

September is biennial conference month, this year on Queensland's Gold Coast from Tuesday 21 to Friday 24. The format and content of the biennial conference is designed to encourage delegates to network across the various library and information services sectors and related areas, to learn from colleagues and speakers, to celebrate success, and to spark new ideas for practice and professional development. This is certainly the case for ALIA 2004 *Challenging Ideas* [<http://conferences.alia.org.au/alia2004/>]. It is a particular pleasure and rare opportunity for ALIA to have both the president of IFLA Kay Raseroka and vice-president, president-elect Alex Byrne speaking. Kay will also be the guest speaker at the New Graduates Group dinner.

Being in Queensland, the theme and program are in keeping with the Queensland government's theme of the Smart State. There will be warm sunshine (though the locals would love rain) and a stimulating social program — the ALIA directors and staff are off to the Sunset BBQ at the Surf Club on Wednesday night with all the other ex-surfies and 'couldabeens'.

In August the conference committee had a site tour of the just-opened venue the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. It is ideally located close to accommodation — a walkway across to the Conrad Jupiters Hotel and the monorail — two large shopping complexes, restaurants, transport and the beach. All our conference rooms and the exhibition hall are close together. With lots of glass and natural light there is a feeling of space and connection with the outside environment.

Come and see us at the ALIA stand — Jason Hargraves, Susan Magnay, Georgina Dale and I, as well as ALIA directors will be there. Kay Poustie, our WA Local Liaison Officer will be there to promote the ALIA 2006 conference in Perth.

IFLA conference

As IFLA made one of its rare ventures into the southern hemisphere for the World Library and Information Congress in Buenos Aires in August. ALIA president Imogen Garner hosted a reception to recognise Alex Byrne's vice-presidency of IFLA. ALIA and LIANZA members, the IFLA governing board and staff, the executive of the Management of Library Associations Section, and the WLIC conference committee attended.

Don't mention the Free Trade Agreement!

We have now begun our campaign with the government, opposition, Democrats, Greens and Independents to get amendments incorporated into the *Copyright Act* to redress the imbalance in favour of rights holders created by the terms of the Australia US Free Trade Agreement. See Colette Ormonde's article (p12) for details on the implications for access to information of the FTA legislation.

National Simultaneous Storytime

Storytime of *The Muddled Up Farm* happened all around the country at 11:00am on 3 September. We are very pleased to have Australia Post as the sponsor this year. Our NSS advisory committee is working on new ideas for the book selection and related activities for NSS 2005. We have recently been successful in taking out the trademark for National Simultaneous Storytime. NSS continues to be a part of National Literacy and Numeracy Week (NLNW) and included in the launch of NLNW by the Federal Minister. This year our Childrens and Youth Services Section was invited by NLNW to judge an online writing competition.

Membership renewals

The response rate for membership renewals this year has been terrific. Thank you to all who have renewed. If you have not yet renewed, you will find that you are restricted in accessing some services, such as the members-only section of our website. It is easy to renew and if you want quick access to the website contact us here at National Office and pay over the phone or by fax and you can be online again without delay.

Farewell Trish

Patricia Lee retired from ALIA on 1 September after ten years of terrific service to members as membership officer. As Trish said to the Board when they farewelled her at the July meeting, her job is the best because she gets to know so many members and things that happen in their lives — like the new baby's name, the new job, and the new house. With ALIA National Office being relatively small (twenty-two full- and part-time staff), we get to experience a lot in our lives together, and Trish has been a big part of that. Her quiet thoughtfulness, celebration of events, creativity, and that new idea a day will be dearly missed. Probably not so much by Trish, as she and husband Phillip head off to Italy for a walking holiday. ■