

## Challenging ideas...



**Jennefer Nicholson**

ALIA executive director  
[jennefer.nicholson@alia.org.au](mailto:jennefer.nicholson@alia.org.au)

ALIA has had a high profile in copyright and intellectual property advocacy over the last few years. This has been in large part due to the excellent work of Colette Ormonde, our copyright adviser. Colette brought to the position her inquiring mind honed by her dual career as journalist and librarian, an excellent understanding of party political operations, and long experience of the parliamentary process. These she put together with her passion and commitment to defend the rights of libraries and their users to access information in a copyright regime that provides fair balance between the rights of users and copyright rights holders. Colette retired on 24 September and is currently in the Libyan desert on the first of many wondrous retirement travels. Time with grandchildren, writing and the beach all feature as well. I have known and admired Colette since I first worked with her in the Commonwealth Parliament in the late 1980s. She joined ALIA eight years ago to work with then executive director Virginia Walsh as research officer and I am certainly glad that she stayed on when I became executive director. Colette advises that she will be keeping an eye on politics and copyright and will keep in touch with us, and no doubt her letters to the editor will appear regularly in newspapers.

I am delighted that Rob Brian, former New South Wales parliamentary librarian and UNSW law librarian has joined us in the copyright and research position. Rob also brings an excellent understanding of copyright legislation and practice, the parliamentary process and law librarianship. Rob is based in Sydney and [copyright@alia.org.au](mailto:copyright@alia.org.au) and [rob.brian@alia.org.au](mailto:rob.brian@alia.org.au) will reach him. We are fortunate to have Rob join us. To quote a member of our Copyright and Intellectual Property Policy Advisory Group, 'If anything could reconcile me to Colette leaving, it would be the fact that you've got Rob to replace her! Great choice.'

As this issue arrives in your letter box, over 800 delegates will have enjoyed our ALIA Biennial Conference 2004 *Challenging ideas* on the Gold Coast. The program did challenge us with ideas. The strong support of our sponsors and many exhibitors ensured that delegates could benefit professionally from the conference experience, and the social events lived up to the ALIA reputation. Papers will be on our website soon. My thanks go to the conference organising committee for the resounding success of the conference and it was fitting that at the closing ceremony, the Association conferred Fellowship on conference chair Janine Schmidt

for her outstanding contribution to the profession throughout her career. Thanks also to our sponsors, exhibitors, all those institutions who have supported the participation of organising committee members over the past two years, their staff as delegates, and those delegates who attend self-funded. See you in Perth 2006!

We were honoured to have IFLA president Kay Raseroka at conference with us on the Gold Coast. Kay inspired us all and it was great that she was able to spend time with our New Graduates Group members.

During the last week of August, I attended the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Buenos Aires, together with our president Imogen Garner and a strong Australian contingent [which also boosted the local leather goods industry!]. Our Argentinian colleagues are to be commended on hosting the first IFLA conference in South America; and putting together a program that raised the profile of the sector in Argentina and the region. The closing 'page' of the spectacular cultural evening featured more than 100 schoolchildren, each wearing a t-shirt representing one of IFLA's member countries, joining a choir on the stage and placing children's books into a globe frame. The books were donated by the wealthier schools in Buenos Aires to be distributed to less-advantaged schools. To me, this also symbolised the clearly-evident differences in the degree of challenges library professionals around the world face to achieve equitable access to information for library services and freedom of information in their country. On the world scene, the Australian library and information services sector is exemplary and increasingly being promoted in this international forum through the participation of Australian members in IFLA.

Imogen Garner hosted a reception for IFLA president-elect and ALIA Fellow Alex Byrne who is promoting partnerships and collaboration between library associations as one of his presidential themes. Eve Woodberry, Australia's representative on the Copyright and Other Legal Matters committee, advises that she and Canadian colleagues were successful in having free trade agreements as the theme for a CLM open session at the congress next year in Oslo. The Management of Library Associations Section executive will hold its mid-term meeting at ALIA House next February and library association representatives from our region will be invited to participate. The meeting will immediately follow ALIA Information Online 2005 to give participants the opportunity to attend. ■

*The strong support of our sponsors and many exhibitors ensured that delegates could benefit professionally from the conference experience...*