

# Board of Directors meeting 21 September



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The Board of Directors met on Tuesday 21 September prior to the ALIA 2004 Biennial conference. The Board met in the Councillors Room at the Gold Coast City Council Chambers (our thanks to Naida Tattersall) and the Association returned the Gold Coast's hospitality that evening with Mayor Ron Clarke as a guest at the conference welcome reception.

### **Fellowship**

An ALIA Fellowship was conferred on Marianne Broadbent in recognition of her distinguished contribution to the theory and practice of library and information science. Marianne was until recently program head, Executive Programs, Gartner Asia Pacific and is currently Associate Dean Executive MBA at Melbourne Business School. Her nominees described Marianne as a shining example of the broadened library and information science profession, and one of our professions strongest innovators and thinkers who has made a career within and outside her profession which can only be described as inspirational. She has a record of sustained high achievement and leadership in the field of library and information science unmatched in Australia, in that it has spanned successfully the core areas of librarianship as well as the newly emerging areas of information and knowledge management in business, industry and government, and demonstrates the ability to cross the boundaries of theory and practice on the world stage. Marianne's Fellowship will be presented at the 2005 ALIA Online Conference.

### **YBP/Lindsay & Howes Research Award**

The inaugural award for collections services research was awarded to Kerrie Hunter for her project to develop and trial policies and methodologies for collection development that could be applied generally to special libraries and special collections of resources; and to develop, through strategy and policy documents, initiatives which could apply to management of distributed collections in special libraries.

### **Strategic Partnerships with IFLA**

Kay Raseroka, IFLA president outlined IFLA's intention to work collaboratively with member associations and identify areas in which they excelled that IFLA could partner with them. Kay advised that information literacy is a priority advocacy area for IFLA and an area in which she believes Australia has developed some excellent programs. Kay suggested that ALIA may consider working with the Australian library sector to share these with IFLA.

### **ALIA/ASLA Standards of professional excellence for teacher librarians**

Anne Girolami and Sandra Ryan, representing the ALIA/ASLA Joint Policy Advisory Group presented the updated *Standards of professional excellence for teacher librarians* to the meet-

ing. The Board commended the Group on the quality of their work in completing this project initiated by the ALIA/ASLA Joint Issues Taskforce. The Board of Directors endorsed the Standards and ALIA will assist the Group with publication and dissemination.

The Standards describe the knowledge, skills and commitment of professional practising teacher-librarians in Australia. At the same time the Standards aim to represent the goals to which Australian teacher-librarians should aspire, and provide inspiration for quality teaching and ongoing professional practice. Within the teaching profession, teacher-librarians have an important role in providing quality information services which support and enhance the curriculum and enable established education goals to be achieved. This role has not always been well understood by colleagues within the teaching profession.

The development of this project by the initial Taskforce was strongly informed by moves in other professional associations for educators, for example the Australian College of Education, Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers, Australian Science Teachers Association, Australian Association of English Teachers, which were committed to developing standards for subject teachers. It was further influenced by outcomes of a National Meeting of Professional Educators held in Canberra in April 2002 attended by ALIA which encouraged continuing work on the development of standards as a means to achieve a national consensus on teaching excellence, enhanced student learning outcomes and generally, as a method for promoting and enhancing teacher professionalism.

These outcomes were subsequently reinforced through the National Forum on Teacher Standards, Quality and Professionalism, Canberra, 2003, again attended by ALIA, which emphasised that professional teaching standards are informed by practice, theory and research and articulate what the profession believes teachers should know, do and value.

In general the Association seeks to develop guidelines rather than standards. At the time the project proposal was first brought to the Board the movement by the teaching profession to identify the distinctive knowledge and skills and the level of excellence required in order to teach in subject specific areas and encapsulate these in a series of standards for subject teachers offered teacher-librarians an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the importance of the service they offer within the teaching profession and to the wider school community. In agreeing to the proposal the Board understood that, if teacher-librarians were to successfully demonstrate their dual professional role in the

teaching profession, they would need to use a methodology and language which would be credibly received by their teaching colleagues. For this reason the Board agreed that Standards be developed.

#### Library and Information Week 2005

On the recommendation of the newly-established cross-sector ALIA Library and Information Week Planning and Advisory Group the Board endorsed a new model for LIW that focuses on building a strong program aimed at raising awareness of the value of libraries and information services and the information professions across the sector through key messages for targeted stakeholder groups, events and activities, media promotion, cross-promotional activities, sponsorship and marketing materials. There will be three concepts for the posters and bookmarks in 2005 promoting services for children, library and information professionals expertise and products and services, and one aimed at the student population, researchers and research libraries. In future Library and Information Week be held in the last full week of May each year.

#### 2004 Federal election

The Board of Directors agreed that the Association write to the major political parties lobbying for support for the recommendations of the report of the Senate inquiry into the Role of Libraries in the Online Environment, in particular building nationally available electronic information resources and public access to digital government publications and information.

#### Events coming up

The National Policy Congress will be held at ALIA House on 19 and 20 November 2004. The Congress will bring together nominated delegates from the regional meetings and invited delegates from the New Graduates, Health Libraries Australia, Information Online, Information Literacy Forum, and Library Technicians Groups, the ALIA/ASLA Joint Policy Advisory Group, the Public Libraries and Publishing and Editorial Reference Groups, the Government Publications Expert Group and the Research committee. Highlights of the program are the sessions on celebrating the successes of groups and finalisation of the 2005–2006 Plan.

Following on from a recommendation of the 2003 Peak Bodies meeting, ALIA and the National Library of Australia are collaborating in holding the one-day policy-focussed Access to Government Information Forum in March 2005.

ALIA will host the IFLA Management of Library Associations Section Mid-term meeting at ALIA House on 3–5 February 2005. The Association will work with the ALIA Asia Pacific Group and regional associations to encourage their attendance as observers and in association management workshops.

The Board endorsed in principle the proposal from members in Western Australia to host the 2006 Biennial Conference in Perth from 19–22 September 2006 at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre. A draft budget and further details on the theme and program will be submitted to the November 2004 Board meeting.

#### ALIA Groups Business

The ALIA Mentoring NSW Group is endorsed. The ALIA South East Queensland Public Libraries Group is dissolved.

Fiona Bradley, Andrew Rayner, Adrienne Harris and Tania Barry were appointed to the New Generation Policy Advisory Group from the ALIA AGM 2004 until the ALIA AGM 2006.

#### Course recognition

The Board of Directors resolved that the Bachelor of Communica-

tion (Information) and the Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Communication (Information) offered by the University of Canberra be recognised by the ALIA for an extension of three years, from 1 January 2005.

#### Reports

The Board accepted the August financial statements and reviewed the Associations risk management strategy.

Membership figures are encouraging with the August figures for both renewals and new members exceeding those for the same period in each year since 2001.

Group reports were received from ALIA Schools Victoria, TALIA Tecs, ALIA Victoria and WA Library Technicians, and the Online Content and Regulation, Public Libraries and Purchasing and Consortia Reference Groups. The reference group reports will be added to the website. Reports were also received from ALIA representatives on CREATE, Public Libraries Australia, ALIA/ASLA Policy Advisory Group, the National Library of Australia Fellowship Scheme Advisory Committee, the Australian Committee on Cataloguing, Standards Australia IT19 Committee, the Library Board of Western Australia and the NSW Department of Education and Training Teacher Librarian Group. In this last report the Board shared the concern of ALIA representative Dianne Simpson over the move by the NSW DET for the proposed graduate certificate to be the minimum required qualification for teacher-librarians as this qualification would not be recognised by ALIA. This will be followed up by the National Office. ■



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