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The Board has successive meetings in May, bringing together incoming, continuing and outgoing directors, and holds the Annual General Meeting. This year Imogen Garner completed her presidency, chairing the Board meeting of 19 May followed by the Annual General Meeting. Dagmar Schmidmaier AM and Rachael Browning attended that Board meeting as observers. Following the AGM, directors farewelled Imogen and Kevin Dudeney over dinner. On 20 May Gillian Hallam commenced her presidency, chairing a half-day meeting of the 'new' Board. New directors had previously attended a Board orientation on Wednesday 18 May.

The Board endorsed:

- Dagmar Schmidmaier as ALIA's representative on the newly established Digital Content Working Group of the National Broadband Strategy Implementation Group (NBSIG). The invitation to participate came following a presentation by ALIA to NBSIG in February this year which emphasised the important role the library network can play in assisting NBSIG to achieve its goals. NBSIG is a representative body of federal, state and local governments;
- Carolyn Bourke as ALIA's representative on the federal Department of Education, Science and Training's Reading Summit steering committee;
- the budget for the New Librarians Symposium 3 to be held in Sydney in December 2006;
- the proposal by the ALIA Library Technicians Group (Vic) to host the National Technicians Conference 2007;
- the Libraries and Privacy Guidelines;
- appointments to ALIA advisory groups and bodies.

The Board is considering:

- further action from the very successful *Digital amnesia: challenges of government online* seminar held on 21 April, which was well supported by parliamentarians Special Minister of State Senator Eric Abetz and Senator John Watson, chair of the Senate Publications Committee, and federal government representatives;
- a draft advocacy statement to clearly articulate ALIA's proactive advocacy agenda;
- a plan for the future development of ALIANet and priority allocations against the 2005–2006 plan;
- the review of the education statements and outcomes of the very successful ALIA Education Forum held on 11 April.

The Board is finalising:

- terms of reference for the taskforce on future directions for ALIA publishing;
- the program for the National Advisory Congress regional meetings.

Highlights from reports to the Board Membership

At the end of April the overall member retention

rate is 91.75 per cent and growth rate is 0.61 per cent — the target growth rate is 3 per cent. The growth rate is encouraging, as it is positive for the first time since a drop in numbers in 2000 coinciding with the introduction of the GST and change of the membership year to the financial year. There are 5034 Personal members (5005 as of 30 June 2004) and 878 Institutional members (871).

Georgina Dale, manager, member services and groups liaison, has been invited to speak at the International Not-for-Profit Conference and Exhibition in Sydney in August on how ALIA has achieved its high member retention rate.

Activities from our advisory and reference groups, and appointees to other bodies:

Interlibrary Lending Expert Advisory Group — has commenced work on the review of the ILRS Code through development of a discussion paper, which will be followed by policy and practitioner-level consultations. An online 'best practice' resource will be developed as an adjunct to the revised code. The Group will also prepare a forward-looking issues paper on resource sharing.

New Generation Policy and Advisory Group — has identified eight priorities and is currently working on the first: a list of Frequently Asked Questions addressing why new graduates and new librarians and library technicians should be part of ALIA and part of the industry.

Online Content and Regulation Reference Group — ALIA completed the questionnaire for Australia for the IFLA/FAIFE (Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression) 2005 world report, which will be launched at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Oslo in August.

Public Libraries Reference Group — watch out for public library related articles in *inCite* on a regular basis. PLRG is also developing for release this year two resource guides: *Children and the internet* — to be based on the NetAlert Librarian's guide to internet safety; and *Libraries and privacy* — to be based on the ALIA guidelines. Subscriptions to aliaPUBNEWS continue to grow.

Purchasing and Consortia Reference Group — based on the success of the purchasing agreements and licensing seminars, this year PCRG is focusing on workshops on negotiation.

Standards Australia Knowledge Management Committee — ALIA's representative Dale Chatwin advised that the standards should be ready for release in June.

Annual General Meeting

The draft minutes will go up on the website after the July Board meeting. The main item of business, a special resolution to change the name of the National Policy Congress to National Advisory Congress, was carried unanimously.

Prior to the AGM, Imogen Garner launched the new events online registration facility on ALIANet. ■