



**Dagmar Schmidmaier AM**

ALIA President  
dagmar.schmidmaier@alia.org.au

## Feedback to your Board of Directors

Do you have an idea, compliment or concern about *your* Association? Contact any director and ideas will be reviewed at each Board meeting.

E-mail to [feedback@alia.org.au](mailto:feedback@alia.org.au) will be automatically forwarded to all Board members.

Dagmar Schmidmaier AM  
[*president*], ph 0411 140 817,  
[dagmar.schmidmaier@alia.org.au](mailto:dagmar.schmidmaier@alia.org.au)

Roxanne Missingham  
[*vice-president*],  
ph 02 6277 7102, fx 02 6277 2634,  
[roxanne.missingham@alia.org.au](mailto:roxanne.missingham@alia.org.au)

Ann Ritchie,  
ph 08 8999 7364, fx 08 8999 6927,  
[ann.ritchie@alia.org.au](mailto:ann.ritchie@alia.org.au)

Rachael Browning,  
ph 0407 310 870,  
[rachael.browning@alia.org.au](mailto:rachael.browning@alia.org.au)

Philip Keane,  
ph 08 8222 3224, fx 08 8222 3152,  
[philip.keane@alia.org.au](mailto:philip.keane@alia.org.au)

Michelle Brennand,  
ph 08 9405 5490, fx 08 9405 5697,  
[michelle.brennand@alia.org.au](mailto:michelle.brennand@alia.org.au)

Helen Partridge,  
ph 07 3864 9047, fx 07 3864 1969,  
[helen.partridge@alia.org.au](mailto:helen.partridge@alia.org.au)

# Click06, NAC, LIANZA and LIAC

A heartfelt thank-you to Imogen Garner and her Click06 conference committee for a splendid biennial conference in the new Perth Convention Centre. I have had some very positive feedback from participants about the depth and range of papers and particularly the presentations from keynote speakers. For the participants everything went smoothly, from registration to the Spanish themed gala dinner with a great band. Dr Click (aka Kerry Smith) kept us all in order and well informed and I suspect that there is another career waiting there for Kerry.

The National Advisory Congress, NAC was held in conjunction with the conference this year. The agenda focused on the key issues identified in the discussion papers issued by ALIA. The meeting began with reports of success stories from representatives of the states and this was followed by members workshoping issues. In addition members of the Board provided a brief overview of the work of the newly created Standing Committees, which have been established to focus on the Association's key priorities. The proposed governance changes were also on the agenda and the convener of the Governance Standing Committee, Vice-president Roxanne Missingham, led this discussion. The Board held a meeting while we were all in Perth which allowed us to discuss the feedback received to the planning document for 2007 from the national and regional NACs as well as the proposed governance changes. Details of next steps are outlined elsewhere in this issue.

I attended the LIANZA annual conference in Wellington, NZ. It was a well-attended and very lively conference and I certainly feel that the profession there is setting an exciting new direction for its members and clients. The LIANZA AGM was one of the hottest items on the program. The item that was the hot topic was

the proposal to introduce individual certification for professional membership, based on the UK model. It was approved with a two-thirds majority at the AGM. The implementation of individual certification is a development that ALIA and, I am sure, ALIA members will be watching with interest. The discussion paper is available on the LIANZA website ([http://www.lianza.org.nz/about/profile/committees/Prof\\_Registration/index.html](http://www.lianza.org.nz/about/profile/committees/Prof_Registration/index.html)). This new approach will certainly ensure a focus on professional education, and LIANZA is keen to work more closely with ALIA in that area. As it is one of our key priorities, we look forward to sharing our knowledge and expertise with our colleagues in New Zealand. A closer collaboration with our New Zealand colleagues will be on the Board's agenda in the new year. There were a few Australian colleagues at the conference in Wellington, which was good to see, and I was particularly encouraged to note the ongoing connections and networking between Aurora alumni both at the Australian and New Zealand conferences.

One of the other interesting recent initiatives in New Zealand is the Library and Information Advisory Commission (LIAC), which was set up three years ago under the National Library of New Zealand Act 2003. The Commission provides advice to the Minister on library matters and was instrumental in supporting the establishment of New Zealand's digital strategy. I attended a conference lunchtime session where the commissioners discussed issues with members of the profession.

I thought that the inclusion of the AGM and the LIAC in the program of the conference provided a balance between specific professional content and issues management. It gave an important focus on leadership and strategy that we should consider for future ALIA conferences.

## Letters [continued from p5]

### Farewell, Phil

I always turn to Phil Teece's column in *inCite* first, so I am very sad to see that this month's column was his last. As a New South Wales government librarian, and a member of the PSA, I would like to extend my thanks to him for all the work he contributed to the NSW pay case – it has made our lives immeasurably better, and the final decision was, as he said in his last column, a ground-breaking piece of law.

No-one looks after library staff in special libraries in departments dominated by other

professions, so I can assure you that being able to get onto the Award made a great difference for us.

Thank you to Phil for his well-informed and insightful advice on industrial relations for library staff – his expertise will be sorely missed. I do hope he will have a long and happy retirement – he deserves it.

**Gayle Davies, Manager, Library Services (and staff), Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)**

## Your voice

### Proposal to change governance arrangements

I – and many others I have spoken with – would like to know exactly what the problem is that the Board is trying to address with the ‘Proposal to Change Governance Arrangements’.

The discussion paper, the meeting held here in Melbourne, and reports from the recent Perth NAC haven’t enlightened us any. While the Perth NAC should have seen this item discussed, the feedback I’ve received from members present is that “at the Perth NAC, the State reps were not asked to provide feedback from the meetings [about the governance changes], we were only given the opportunity to speak for 2 minutes each on the success story. At the end of the meeting, Roxanne reported that there had been 13 meetings around the country, and that there had been some individual submissions received on the proposals, but gave no indication of whether there was general support or opposition.”

Until it is clear what the Board is attempting to address/fix/resolve, I can only reject the proposals. They seem to me to further disengage members by reducing the frequency of elections; they offer *less* continuity by allowing the possibility of a totally new Board every two years; they limit the expertise/advice the Board can call on to ONLY two people (where the current model allows many more, without the need for them to be Board members). In short, the proposed changes do nothing to warrant me supporting any of the items.

I look forward to further discussion and I hope to receive responses to the queries I have sent to the Board that will convince me that there is some merit in the proposed changes.

**Trevor Wakely, Melbourne**

### UNILINC is not UNISON

May I suggest a correction to Dagmar Schmidmaier’s *Frontline* in the October issue of *inCite*? She may wish to note it herself. Mention is made of “the CLANN network, now UNISON”. CLANN became UNILINC. UNISON is an entirely separate body.

**Margaret Macpherson, Bathurst**

*[Formerly a member of both UNILINC and UNISON]*

### Don’t go, Yoon Soo Ching

Long retired, I had resolved to abstain from comment on the NSW State Librarian appointment. John Shipp almost got me moving with his letter in the September *inCite*. As he says, in all modesty: “Some of the best library administrators do not have professional qualifications but enhance the title of librarian. Some of the worst are professionally qualified but defile the name”.

Yes, but what does ‘some’ mean here? It would surely be accepted that a very large proportion of the best of us – for at least the last hundred years, here and overseas, certainly in the developed world – have chosen to take the trouble to gain formal qualifications for the calling we have been proud to belong to. No harping on about ‘defiling’ qualified librarians should be accepted as justification for sliding merely competent administrators into top library jobs, and that has rarely occurred here or in the USA or Britain.

As to the appointment itself, I find it difficult to accept that there are not librarians of distinction possessing all the qualities required by the selection committee in the world somewhere, even in this country, even in NSW, even in

the State Library. Regina Sutton may prove to be a star. My good wishes go to her. Good luck, Regina. You will need it if the calibre of the Library Council of NSW is fairly indicated by Dr John Barclay’s letter on their behalf.

Back to the letters by Barclay and Yoon Soo Ching, in October *inCite*, which have flushed me out. They provide a useful insight into the problems now facing the library profession in this country, perhaps in the world, and would provide useful case study material for courses, not only in library management, but also in management generally. Certainly they prove that, in letters as in life, size isn’t everything. I resist, as far as I am able, succumbing to a detailed appreciation of Dr Barclay’s load of platitudinous condescension – I hope his five ex-colleagues from Curtin enjoyed it as much as I did and are all the better for the lecture. Yoon Soo Ching’s letter, whoever, wherever he/she may be: I wish I’d said that.

Dr Barclay seems to be saying that the library bits can be left entirely to the librarian underlings: “Furthermore, in these major roles such leaders have called on, or continue to call on, countless excellent and highly professional librarians and other information professionals who work in so many major and associated information institutions.”

Not for much longer if quality goes from the intake to the profession, as seems likely if young people of ability heed Yoon Soo Ching’s advice: “As we are all mortals, it is matter of time before we will eventually fall ill. When that time arrives, I hope, the attending medical doctor who attends to all of us, possesses a medical degree and not other qualifications. In the meantime, I would strongly discourage new students from taking library courses. The death knell has struck for our profession of librarianship.”

Don’t go, Yoon Soo Ching: battle on and become State Librarian of NSW. I am sure the best wishes of many distinguished librarians go with you. I hope this helps.

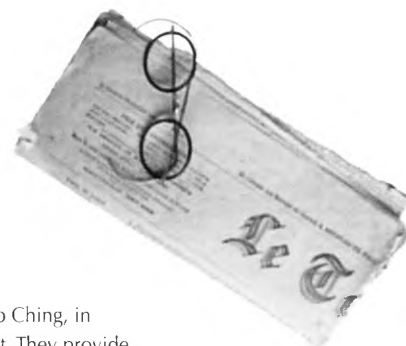
**Ted Flowers, FALIA, D.LITT., OBE [Over Bloody Eighty]**

### Everybody’s future

I think that the dumping of Telstra and other monies into an undefined ‘future fund’ shows a complete lack of imagination about the sort of Australia we all want to have.

For many years, I have been trying to get federal aid for Australia’s public libraries, without any success. But the fact remains that 60 per cent of Australians belong to a public library and we would all love to have better libraries. Federal library funding, therefore, would be relevant to everybody’s future!

**Arthur Mortimer, Exeter**



**Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed.**

All letters should be addressed to the *inCite* editor and may be e-mailed to [incite@alia.org.au](mailto:incite@alia.org.au), or faxed to 02 6282 2249, or posted to: Your voice, ALIA, PO Box 6335, Kingston 2604. Please include your name and postal address with your letter or e-mail.

Letters will be accepted for publication until the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## Libraries Alive!

Library and information services consultancy. Fresh, pragmatic, effective. Tactical planning, technology management, service improvement. Proving library value. Information? Please contact Sherrey Quinn or Ian McCallum on (02) 6257 9177 [www.librariesalive.com.au](http://www.librariesalive.com.au)

Letters continued on page 4...