

Interviews with...

Kevin Dudeny

(Note: these interviews were conducted in March before the election results were available.)

This year Meredith Martinelli's term on the ALIA Board finishes. Rebecca Evans has nominated for a position as an ALIA director. I asked a number of questions, of Meredith about her experiences on the ALIA Board and Rebecca about her nomination.

Meredith Martinelli

Why did you become an ALIA director?

To give back to the profession, with a particular focus on identifying member professional development needs. To represent grass-roots needs of members!

What were the good points of being on the ALIA Board?

Being part of a very committed team who were focused on identifying the best way ALIA could help and support its members while continuing to lobby and provide expert knowledge to the wider community. Meeting other Board members, each of whom brought their own knowledge and skills to the role. Being part of a change process for the organisation.

What were the not so good points on being the ALIA Board?

Not always being able to achieve your

own vision for the Association. As a team member discussions around issues and or directions must rely on consensus and the recognition of priorities for the association. Individual passions do sometimes have to take a back seat! It is sometimes hard to explain to members that directors are not there to represent a particular sector but to oversee the management of the Association in accordance with legislative requirements and operational demands.

Over the time of your appointment have you seen any change in ALIA Board?

There are of course the obvious changes each year when new members join and retiring members depart. Recently, ALIA's new executive director was appointed. New reporting systems are currently being implemented, to assist the Board to identify key issues and/or concerns quickly.

Over the time of your appointment have you seen any change in ALIA?

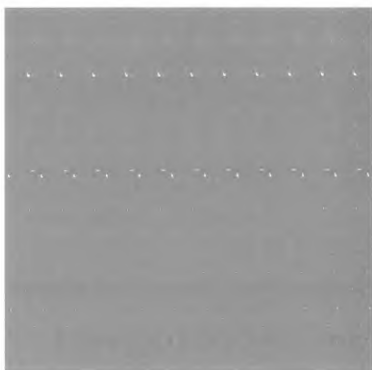
The involvement and commitment of new graduates has become very strong which is good for the future of the association. Equally, the dedication of older members continues to drive much of the group activity throughout Australia.

The main changes have been to do with operational approaches that would not, as yet, be obvious to the members. This includes a review of the publications role of ALIA, a focus on building up the group and member services and the reporting processes that contribute to the smooth running of head office.

Do you consider your experience on the ALIA Board has been of benefit to your employment or other activities?

I do, but then I feel all experiences can contribute in one way or another to your working and/or personal life. It has been particularly relevant to my current role where I have been involved in project managing our library's restructure. Board experience exposed me to a much broader governance responsibility which can be adapted and applied to our restructure. The negotiation, liaison and communication skills I developed will be of immense benefit in any position and the relationships established have already proved valuable as sources of knowledge and assistance for both my work and professional life.

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Interviews with...

What do you intend to do once your term on the ALIA has finished?

Take a deep breath and a short rest... When I took on the directorship I didn't expect that my professional life was going to change quite as much as it did. I convened a national ALIA conference in 2005 and during that year also began the project management role for the library's restructuring. I've also started a core course in human resource management and, once that is completed, will do a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education Leadership (focus on HRM). At some stage in the next two years I would like to do a volunteer stint overseas – maybe India or Sri Lanka. There is always a new challenge...

Rebecca Evans

Why did you nominate for the ALIA Board?

After meeting other members of ALIA at last year's conference, I was prompted to nominate for the Board position, I had

previously been convenor of the national Library Technician Group and I knew I still had a contribution to make on the national level. I have strong opinions and ideas on many issues and I wished to be able to have an opportunity to voice them.

Should you be elected what would you like to achieve?

I have a number of areas that I would like to address; I believe that there should be better services and support for rural and isolated members in general and specifically in making continuing professional development and mentoring more accessible. Library services as need to stay relevant to the community.

What is your current work role and is your workplace supportive of your nomination?

I currently work in library and information support services particularly the corporate sector. Both my current employers have expressed not only support of my nomi-

nation, but they have encouraged me in my decision.

What aspects of your role as a library technician will you bring to your role as a director, should you be elected?

I have wide experience in many different library environments; it is this experience that I believe gives me a wide and balanced outlook on the library field. Whilst I have mainly been in the role of a library technician, many of the issues that concern the library field are broad across all library roles.

Over the next five years, what do you see the role of ALIA?

ALIA is a professional organisation that exists for the benefit of its members; it can only be of relevant service if it stays relevant and addresses issues as they arise in the industry. As we work in an 'Information Industry' we need to stay abreast of current and future demands. ■

Who's where

Recent movements in the library and information sector

Retirement from Tamworth

Alan Barclay retired from his position of library services manager, Central Northern Regional Libraries, Tamworth, NSW, on 6 February 2006. His retirement is for health reasons.

Alan worked in public libraries during his career in both Victoria and NSW. He has worked on professional library committees. He has seen the catalogue card and the Brown system of loans disappear in favour of online library technology and information retrieval and would never want to go back. He still believes that librarianship has to be one of the most exciting, challenging and rewarding careers to work in.

UNSW to Deakin (Burwood campus)

Sue Owen is leaving her position as online services co-ordinator for The University of New South Wales Library in Kensington, NSW, to become associate librarian – client services at Deakin University Library, Burwood, Victoria.

New managers at UQ Library

The new manager of the Law Library of the University of Queensland is **Julie Oates**, and **Tanya Ziebell** has been appointed manager of the Ipswich Campus Library.

New university librarian

Victoria University has appointed **Philip Kent** as university librarian, replacing Doreen Parker. Philip comes to the university with extensive experience in higher education and research organisations, including stints in university and TAFE libraries and a variety of library, IT, knowledge and information management roles at CSIRO. He began work at Victoria University in late April 2006.

Librarian joins James Bennett

James Bennett has announced that **Janetta Mascilongo** is the company's new sales representative. She will be based in Melbourne from July and will manage Victorian academic libraries, as well as all South Australian, West Australian, Tasmanian and New Zealand libraries. Janetta most recently worked at Flinders University library in Adelaide. ■

ALIAppointments

<http://alia.org.au/employment/vacancies.html>

WORK WANTED

Library assistant/ customer service/ technician position

I am Michael Swire. I am a qualified library technician currently employed (permanent Saturdays only) by a Sydney Council as a library assistant. I also work as a casual shelver in a University Library during term time (March – November).

I am a hard working and conscientious individual constantly striving to give the best quality customer service. I am a cohesive team player in an extremely busy and culturally diverse environment.

To increase my skills and experience, I recently completed a volunteer library project, please follow link: <http://media.uow.edu.au/news/2006/0302a/index.html> to see the results or see *inCite*, April 2006, p17.

I am looking for a permanent full-time, library assistant/customer service/technician position. I am willing to travel and am flexible with regard to hours of work.

Please contact me at: mmswire@bigpond.com.

Regards,
Michael Swire