

After the elections

(An open letter to the candidates)

As a member of ALIA, I would like to convey my thanks to all the candidates for taking the time to nominate and run for the ALIA Board. It was a case whereby the Association would have 'won' with whoever was elected.

I'd suggest that the support of the ALIA New Graduates was – perhaps – a key factor in the outcome? While my 'controversial' call of the card proved prophetic (if I could only pick the Lotto numbers so well!), it was certainly no reflection on any of the candidates or their nominations...and, as a personal member of ALIA, I thank all the candidates for putting themselves forward and applaud their efforts in wanting to serve the Association.

Thank you for standing...and, as someone who stood three times before he got elected to (then) General Council (possibly because the voters thought 'Oh, if we don't, he'll NEVER go away!'), I hope this won't be the last endeavour of the unsuccessful candidates.

Trevor Wakely, Melbourne

An apple for the teacher? Oh no!

The apple, pencil and musty tones on the cover of *inCite's* April 2007 issue raised a wry laugh at our place. These images could be said to be as representative of contemporary school libraries as a twinset, a date-stamp and a box of index cards are of wider LIS environments. To balance any misconception – and the disappointingly

limited coverage of school libraries in an issue intended to 'look at issues for teacher-librarians' (page 3) – we would draw attention to the vibrancy of many school libraries as learning-engaging knowledge hubs.

A quick scan of journals such as *Access* (published by ASLA), *Scan* (Library Services, NSW Department of Education), *Synergy* (School Library Association of Victoria), or the OZTL-NET online discussion list (managed by the School of Information Studies at CSU), reveals the dynamism and diversity of teacher-librarians' roles as educators and information professionals. As leaders and collaborative partners in their school communities many teacher-librarians contribute variously to curriculum development and teaching; the management of high-use, learner-focused information centres; integrated information literacy across disciplines and year levels; the promotion of children's literature and reading; the creation and use of innovative resources and ICTs for learning; support for and engagement in research; evidence-based practice and professional development; the school community's outreach; events organisation.

Readers are encouraged to explore the dynamic world of school libraries represented by these publications, through professional interaction and collaborative partnerships with teacher-librarians.

Hilary Hughes and Raylee Elliott Burns, Brisbane

Using e-lists better

David Pruss, in the May *inCite*, provided information on the cost to ALIA of running e-lists and he asked whether non-members should be permitted to use a service paid for and maintained by membership subscriptions. To the factors he identified as pertinent to the discussion, I would add some more.

The e-lists could be viewed by ALIA as a marketing tool, which is used to persuade a small proportion of non-members to join the association. The number of duplicate posts is high (I subscribe to five ALIA e-lists and most posts appear on each list). Discussion is minimal (most posts promote events or distribute news). The quality of discussions, when they occur, is generally not high (in comparison with discussions on the e-lists of some other professional groups), and, although occasionally useful, are rarely productive. The differences between the public, education and corporate sectors of ALIA are not as great as is sometimes claimed; each sector learns from the others. Blogs, wikis and RSS feeds are, at the moment, complementary tools rather than alternatives to e-lists.

The ALIA e-lists should continue to be open to all. Management of the e-lists could be improved, however, without impairing the work of groups, by reducing the number to two – one for news and events and one for discussion.

Paul Bentley AALIA, Bondi Junction

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RSVP by 27 August 2007

