

# ALIAWest is reborn

In October 2006 a meeting was called in Perth for those interested in the future of ALIAWest. The timing was deliberate, aiming to capitalise on the renewed enthusiasm for ALIA following the successful ALIA CLICK06 conference held in Perth, combined with a raised awareness of ALIA due to the forthcoming proposal to amend the constitution.

For a moment in time, everyone was talking about ALIA.

A little background for readers: ALIAWest was formed in 2001 after the incorporation of ALIA. Since its inception, ALIAWest has maintained the Awards established by the WA Branch Council, introduced the online BIBILA newsletter and held regular functions to keep people in touch. Its purpose is to co-ordinate and communicate professional issues across the large state of Western Australia as well as provide professional, social and networking opportunities.

However over the past few years, attendance at functions and committee numbers have waned, and it was decided that a new breath of life was needed. The State Library of Western Australia hosted the 'call to arms' and Michelle Brennan from the ALIA Board of Directors chaired the brainstorming session. Discussion topics and outcomes are provided below.

About 30 people attended, from all sectors and all levels within

the industry, and even though it was late in the week and late in the evening the energy was palpable; you could hear it in the loud voices and the diverse opinions, you could see it in the brightly coloured pages of writing on butcher's paper.

At the meeting we also endorsed our new convenor. Warmest congratulations to Liz Burke, Associate Librarian at the University of Western Australia, who will take on the role of Convenor, ALIAWest for 2006/2007, effective from October 2006.

Since the brainstorming session, a new ALIAWest committee has formed, two meetings have been held, a schedule of events for 2007 has been developed and importantly, the new committee has held its first function to ensure the momentum from the brainstorming session as well as the conference continued to grow.

Over 60 people attended the first function for the new ALIAWest committee, which was held to celebrate the end of the year as well as relaunch ALIA West.

The ALIA West committee has several events planned for 2007 and is looking forward to a year of renewed vigour for the committee as well as increased interaction, dialogue and professional networking for the library sector as a whole in Western Australia.

## ALIAWest committee

### What is the role of ALIA West?

- Awards such as; FA Sharr Medal, Fellowships, Special Librarian, Silver Pin, Certificates of Achievement and the like
- Communication
- Policy issues for the profession
- Provide a discussion forum (face to face communication), which leads to a point of view, which can then be presented to the Board.
- Provide unity of all sectors; therefore including such organisations as ASLA, AISWA, PLA, WASLA, RMAA, ASA, IIM as well as others.
- CPD; focusing on subjects of interest to us all including new graduates and older practitioners

### How do we get more people involved?

- Include leaders from all sectors
- Pre-planned and co-ordinated meeting dates
- Easily accessible venues
- High quality programs including tours to regional areas and trying to include regional librarians when they visit Perth
- Specific sector events and trying to share costs to enable wider audience access
- Members-only lists (divided opinion)
- Encourage non-members of ALIA
- Look for people interested in entering the profession
- Utilise other Listservs

### Where to from here?

- Define the committee roles
- Devise an annual plan / calendar inclusive of other groups activities
- Immediate 'do-able' events
- Training
- Blogs
- Update the information on the ALIA website
- Invite graduates to dinner, industry meeting

### Contact details for the new committee

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And why not join our e-list at  
<http://www.alia.org.au/alianet/e-lists/>