

Directline

IFLA2010 and ALIA2010

The Australian National Committee (NC) of IFLA2010 began work on a bid for the Congress in early 2007. Back then it was determined that only a select number of locations in the region would be suitable, due to the size and requirements of the conference. This is why our New Zealand colleagues joined us on the committee, as no location in NZ was large enough to accommodate the conference there. A National Committee was formed with colleagues that represented all levels of government, key sectors, ALIA, and IFLA representatives. Brisbane Marketing and Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre were closely involved in the bid. The local government support, however, was always identified as being limited. The bid was put to IFLA Governing Board and their decision was made at the August 2007 GB meeting. The NC was notified the day before the 2007 Congress that we were successful and it was officially announced at the conclusion of the 2007 Congress in Durban.

During 2008 work began on the tasks assigned to the National Committee. Congrex (the Professional Conference Organiser) started to undertake all contractual arrangements with key suppliers, locations, and vendors while IFLA HQ was coordinating all the programme negotiation details with all IFLA sections. The IFLA Professional Committee received applications and approved all the satellite meetings; IFLA HQ co-ordinates all matters relating to satellites as well. During this IFLA process, I have been inspired by the enthusiasm and willingness of Australian colleagues from the library and business spheres and government funders to support us to find creative funding options. This, unfortunately, in the end did not result in the total dollars required to complete the budget and run a full IFLA Congress, as outlined by IFLA. ALIA, as the National Association Institutional Member of IFLA, on behalf of all of our members, sends our best wishes to the team in Göteborg for a successful event in August 2010.

National Committee members and their staff have worked extensively arranging and hosting meetings, developing materials and documents, constructing proposals, and meeting with government officials over the past two years. Timelines set by IFLA meant that much of this work was not due for release until after August 2009 and the completion of the Milan 2009 Congress. I join the ALIA Board in thanking all those involved in the NC and a number of other key volunteers. I would especially like to acknowledge the work of IFLA2010 Project Officer, Rosemary Newsham at UQ and to the staff at ALIA National Office, Jane Hardy and Kamara Schlegel.

I am truly heartened to see the immediate enthusiasm from a wide range of ALIA members wanting a unique and flexible event to be held in Brisbane 2010. We also hope to include and invite our regional Oceania colleagues to this activity. Large and successful events are not arranged overnight, nor will we wait or delay to move forward to get something started. By the next edition of *inCite* there will be more news of what the Australian ALIA national event will look like. Many members will have commented on

the open consultation wiki <http://www.alia.org.au/events/2010wiki/> that was established following the IFLA announcement to gather suggestions and ideas. Keep a watch on the website, e-lists, and in *aliaNEWS* for further information.

Breaking news: copyright restrictions on the parallel importation of books

The Productivity Commission report, released on 14 July, recommends that the Government should repeal the Parallel Importation Restrictions for books. ALIA's copyright webpage (<http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/copyright>) has links to the ALIA submission, report, and to questions and answers.

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A message from Keith Webster

The relocation of the IFLA 2010 conference from Brisbane to Sweden has been reported elsewhere in this issue of *inCite*. As Chair of the National Committee, I wanted to express my disappointment at this decision, to thank those who have worked so hard on our preparations, and to wish our colleagues in Sweden every success.

When we were selected as hosts for the 2010 Congress, we recognised that a significant challenge would be the need to raise several hundred thousand dollars of local government support. It is a tribute to the determination of my colleagues that we were able to secure the level of funding we had indicated, but disappointing that ultimately the figure was insufficient to guarantee a financially successful event. The likely shortfall coupled with a rapid decline in travel budgets in libraries around the world combined to create a very difficult situation for IFLA. We accept their decision and look forward to supporting our Swedish colleagues as they seek to create a conference in a shortened timescale.

Members of the National Committee have given generously of their time, resources, and wise counsel. I acknowledge with gratitude their support: Dr Alex Byrne, Jan Fullerton, Lea Giles-Peters, Moira Fraser, Sharan Harvey, Sue Hutley, Roxanne Missingham, Derek Whitehead, and Jan Richards.

I also appreciate the support given by the Project Officer, Rosemary Newsham, based at The University of Queensland, and Jane Hardy and Kamara Schlegel at National Office.

Many libraries in the Brisbane region offered to host tours. Their excitement at being part of the conference was considerable, and I hope that their ideas, and the planning and organisation of Jane Alexander at Brisbane City Libraries, will be used on another occasion.

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