

Directline

Your IFLA membership

This edition of inCite has an international focus and you may not be aware that as a financial member of ALIA you are also then a member of the International Federation of Library Associations. ALIA pays the annual membership fee as a National Association member of IFLA so that we, on behalf of all Australian libraries and library staff, can support the important work of IFLA.

IFLA represents us all on international issues that impact on the whole profession, as well as ensuring equality of access to information for the world community. Through this network, we have representation at key international events and in essential advocacy in the areas of copyright, freedom of access to information, freedom of expression and the Internet Manifesto. IFLA also co-ordinates the collection of key international statistics and produces the World Library Report.

A number of Australians are involved in the Building Strong Library Associations program (see Gill Hallam's story in this issue), aiming to strengthen support for libraries through library associations that can advocate more effectively. With library closures and funding cuts in other countries happening this year (noting the US and UK as examples), the support and advocacy provided by strong library associations for every country is essential. ALIA also currently has official representation on ten of IFLA's Standing Committees and we thank all our ALIA members who volunteer their time and expertise on international committees and projects. I encourage you to look through the extensive IFLA website and join an e-list or view an IFLA blog for the latest international news, and to read on to learn more about what your colleagues are doing – and learning – on the international stage.

NBN and libraries

I had an excellent advocacy opportunity last month with an invitation to present a keynote at the CSIRO Broadband for Society Summit in Hobart. This week-long event saw a gathering of a wide variety of local, interstate and international stakeholders of the NBN taking time to discuss the 'what's next' for the National Broadband Network. I was pleased to see the opening speaker of the Summit from CSIRO, Dr Ian Oppermann, mention in his speech the literacy figures for Australia and that CSIRO and others have already identified this as a factor in how effective the NBN might be. He highlighted that 1% of Australians are illiterate, and as we also know, 46% of Australians are prose illiterate (see the fact sheets for the National Year of Reading 2012 at <http://www.love2read.org.au>).

The Summit gave ALIA the opportunity to bring to the fore a number of our key advocacy points around equal access to broadband and the role that libraries play in broadband adoption and training Australians in the productive use of the internet and associated technologies. Delegates were especially interested in the initiatives by the National Library of Australia with the Pandora and Trove programs. Our ALIA media release to accompany the Summit called on the

government to release their national digital strategy as soon as possible and to support cultural institutions to ensure quality Australian content for the NBN. ALIA is working with NBNCo and DBCDE to ensure communication with libraries as the NBN rolls out. We will be hosting further teleconferences in 2011 with library managers from first rollout and regional rollout areas to discuss how we can be more involved in our communities to ensure greater participation, awareness and skill development for our communities to go along with the broadband access.

School Library Roundtable

The first ever meeting of all state and national Australian School Library Associations and ALIA was held in Brisbane on 8 November 2010. This was a historic meeting, concluding an important year for school libraries. With the House of Representatives Inquiry into School Libraries and Teacher Librarians being conducted and with further work next year with the report likely to be completed and released by the government in the first quarter of 2011, it was important for the Associations to get together to work on possible outcomes of the Inquiry, and talk about how to speak with one voice on the common issues.

Our thanks to Karen Bonanno and ASLA for organising and leading the Roundtable and to Softlink for their support to host the day. You can also read the media release about the day at <http://www.alia.org.au/media-room/2010.11.17.html>. If you are an ALIA member and interested in school libraries, please join the aliaSCHOOLS e-list to keep up with the news.

Happy Christmas and on to 2011

On behalf of all the ALIA Staff and the Board of Directors, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. As we get ready at National Office for the festive season, we're proud that our electronic ALIA Christmas Card complements and wraps up our year of 'going green'.

Often during the Christmas and New Years we also start to wonder what will the next year bring. I hope that you will take time to remember 2010 for the achievements you have gained for yourself, your library service and your library association. ALIA looks forward to working with you on your 2011 professional goals, whether it's to advance your skills, volunteer for the Association, find a new job, gain better recognition and funding for your library or contribute to the bigger issues of our profession and the Australian community.

Sue Hutley ALIA Executive Director

sue.hutley@alia.org.au



Sue Hutley

ALIA Executive Director
sue.hutley@alia.org.au

ALIA Executive

Rob Miller
Chief Operating Officer
02 6215 8220
rob.miller@alia.org.au

Robyn Ellard
Director: Member Services
02 6215 8250
robyn.ellard@alia.org.au

Janetta Mascilongo
Director: Professional Services
02 6215 8235
janetta.mascilongo@alia.org.au

Your local ALIA contact

LLOs are ALIA representatives in each state/territory. Their duties include being a point of contact for members and non-members.

ACT: Robyn Ellard
02 6215 8250
robyn.ellard@alia.org.au

NSW: Alyson Dalby
0404 655 319
alyson.dalby@alia.org.au

NT: Jayshree Mamtora
0416 366 634
jayshree.mamtora@alia.org.au

QLD: Claudia Davies
0407 964 967
claudia.davies@alia.org.au

SA: Jeannine Hooper
0437 167 050
jeannine.hooper@alia.org.au

TAS: Sally Murdoch
03 6228 7904
sally.murdoch@alia.org.au

VIC: Margie Anderson
03 9315 1090
margie.anderson@alia.org.au

WA: Carol Newton-Smith
08 9381 5674
carol.newton-smith@alia.org.au