

Looking ahead

As I take over the role of President of our important professional association, I have considered what I would like my legacy to be this time next year.

ALIA, like many professional associations, is challenged by changes in the industry and society generally and the need to do more with less. By May 2013 I hope that, working with the Board and with all of you as members, ALIA has considered some of the challenges for the Association and for the various library and information sectors, and that we have not only a sense of where we are going,

but one of collaborative action to – dare I say – “move us forward” as a profession and as an association.

At this time I would like to thank most sincerely Margaret Allen, our outgoing President. Under Margaret's wise, strategic, and balanced presidency the Association has been well-led and developed in a year that has seen many local and national responsibilities and demands. Margaret has a wealth of knowledge and has been able to represent all members with enthusiasm and understanding. I will certainly miss her from the Board and will be tapping into her knowledge and advice over the coming year.

Thank you also to the outgoing Board members, John Bayliss and Graham Black. John has presented a regional perspective to the Board on many occasions and has been an advocate for public librarians throughout his term. Graham has provided important perspectives on the academic library sector and I understand that ALIA's loss of Graham is now CAUL's gain on their Board. Thank you both for your significant contributions to ALIA.

We would have also lost Julie Rae from the Board this year, but she decided to re-nominate as Vice-President and this is a great bonus for the Association. Julie is an experienced and valued Board member and I am looking forward to working with her. Julie comes from the special library sector and contributes to the diversity of the new Board line-up.

And we welcome to the ALIA Board Edmund Balnaves, Aileen Weir, and Elke Dawson. Each of these new members brings a fresh perspective to the Board. I am looking forward to getting to know them as your new representatives and working with them on the exciting and challenging year ahead.

There is no doubt that 2012 will pose its opportunities and challenges for our profession and our Association. Based in Canberra as I am, we are now watching the impact of the 2012-13 Federal Budget on the many special and government

libraries in our city reveal itself. ALIA is monitoring this issue and will work with AGLIN, should the need arise.

One of our strongly held values in libraries is freedom of information. The digital age has not only made information more accessible to people, but can mean that unscrupulous people can take advantage of the vulnerable in our community. Some in society would have us filter and judge information. As your representative association, ALIA works in partnership with other like-minded organisations to ensure that information is freely available and that the community is better skilled at knowing the difference between accurate and inaccurate information. To that end, I will be representing ALIA at the Joint Select Committee Inquiry into Cyber Safety for Seniors. I plan to promote the role of libraries in educating the community, students, workers and others in how to be safe whilst enjoying the benefits of the freedom of information online.

All in all, I am looking forward to a busy and exciting year. I hope that I can contribute in some way to the growth of ALIA and the development of our profession and look forward to meeting as many members as possible throughout the year.

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ALIA President

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PS: Don't forget to send in your registration for the ALIA Biennial in Sydney in July. It is a great program and I hope to see you there.

INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

Dewey's back

The Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system remains the world's most widely used library classification system. The very latest edition – the 23rd – is available in a four volume print format, online at WebDewey and in a simpler abridged edition for smaller collections.

And so are fees

Many Australian libraries used to charge a fee for every reservation but few do it today. Now some American public libraries are charging a small fee to check out items with long wait lists. Are we headed back to the future? **portsmouth.patch.com/articles/poll-should-libraries-charge-fees-for-popular-books.**