

ALIA Appoints Executive Staff



Sue McKerracher will be joining ALIA as Executive Director on 20 August. You may already have met Sue, currently director of The Library Agency, in connection with the National Year of Reading. Alternatively, you may have attended one of the Every Member an Advocate sessions she carried out for us during 2010, or one of the disaster preparedness workshops which she facilitated in May.

Over the last four years, Sue has travelled around Australia and New Zealand, making contact with library people and gaining insight into the challenges facing public, school, university, TAFE, law, government, health, corporate, and other special libraries.

Before arriving in Melbourne with her Australian husband and two young sons in 2008, Sue enjoyed a varied career in the UK. For 15 years, she ran her own PR agency, and for a further nine was a freelance marketing and communications specialist. She says, "I started out as a journalist and landed

a job working for Reed Elsevier on its food titles. I moved into PR and founded my own agency in London, in 1987. Our clients were the catering arms of many well known companies, including Twinings, Heinz, and Unilever. I sold the agency in 1999 (it's still going strong today) and took on a variety of freelance contracts. I worked for all kinds of organisations, including Ernst & Young and the British Library, but the stand-out contract has to be the one which involved touring Paris, Brussels, and Luxembourg reviewing the cities' many patisseries. For six days, I was paid to eat cake."

During this time, Sue worked with the Framework for the Future team at the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, developing and implementing a marketing strategy for English public libraries. It was this experience that led to her involvement with libraries in Australia, and a high spot has, of course, been the National Year of Reading. "This has been the most exciting campaign I have ever worked on, notwithstanding the French bakery project. The Library Agency team and colleagues in libraries all around Australia have been able to generate a tremendous amount of political goodwill, media coverage, and community awareness, and there is more to come.

"Advocacy for all kinds of libraries will be a big part of my new role and in 2013, ALIA will be helping to capitalise on the achievements of all the National Year of Reading founder partners during 2012."

Janice Taylor has worked in the public and special library sectors since leaving school, with a brief sojourn in the library at the University of New South Wales, Sydney during her course of study in Librarianship.

Janice's many positions have included managing public libraries for Blue Mountains City Council and Bega Valley Shire Council in NSW. In 2007 she took a secondment to the State Library of NSW as the Coordinator in Collections and Acquisitions before taking up her role managing the operations of ACT Library & Information Service (now Libraries ACT) between 2008 and 2011. In mid-2011 she relocated to the City of Ballarat as Manager Library Services, leading the development and completion of a new five-year Library Strategy for the City.

She has represented the ACT on NSLA Re-imagining Library Services initiative and is on the Executive of Australian Learning Community Network Inc.(ALCN) supporting the development and sustainability of learning community initiatives across Australia. In 2011, Janice was awarded the

ACT Commissioner for Public Administration Award in the category of Valuing Emerging Leaders and High Performers.

Janice has extensive experience managing change in the workplace, and is passionate about creating vision and innovation in the development and delivery of relevant and sustainable library services

to all communities. To achieve this she believes ongoing professional development of this diverse sector is critical for success, with ALIA a major player in supporting quality PD and training for the membership.

Janice will step in to the role of Director: Professional Services in August.

