

YOU AND ME: WE'RE US

As I write, it is coming up to that time of the year when we have our National Advisory Congress (NAC) meetings. These annual ALIA Member meetings are a vital part of ALIA's communication and planning strategy, as it is through these meetings we receive incredibly rich feedback from our Members on what works and what currently needs to be redeveloped or refined.

The annual ALIA Member meetings are chaired by ALIA Board members and we will be holding a forum in every state and territory in Australia. I would strongly urge all ALIA Members to go along to a NAC meeting and voice your opinion on the direction of ALIA and our ALIA Futures publications. If you want something changed in what ALIA does, then the annual ALIA Member meetings are a great place to get the ball rolling.

Having attended the Tasmanian event in late July (with our highest number of attendees in a very long time) we discussed a range of issues around membership, ALIA Groups, funding and advocacy. The majority of the issues raised are going straight to the ALIA Board and the relevant Board sub-committees for further work. Once these issues have been worked through, they will be reported back to all those who attended the meeting.

These sessions give us a chance to answer questions and an opportunity to explain the reasoning behind certain decisions that have been made. They also give us a chance to answer questions like, 'can you pay your membership by the month?' We can respond immediately with a 'yes, you can'.

It is vital that ALIA reports back to its members on the decisions it makes. ALIA reporting back to ALIA Members is actually ALIA Members reporting back to other ALIA Members.

We need to change the way we look at ALIA.

Whenever I get a chance to talk to any groups or people interested in ALIA, I talk to people about the good work ALIA Members do. The Association is its Members. ALIA Members make up the membership of the ALIA Board, sub-committees, Groups, advisory and reference committees, and the decisions made by these committees go to improving the benefits you receive as an ALIA Member.

The ALIA National 2014 Conference starts on 15 September in Melbourne. I would like to thank the organising committee (made up of ALIA Members) who have worked tirelessly over the last year to build a tremendous program with fantastic speakers.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference!



DAMIAN LODGE AALIA (CP)
ALIA President

INCITE
NOV/DEC 2014
KID STUFF

A child's place... is in the library. In our November/December issue we will be featuring stories about children's resources and services. It's time to share your successes and ideas for capturing the attention of the next generation of library users and advocates.

The deadline for contributions is 22 September 2014. Check the guidelines for contributions on the ALIA website and email your stories and images to incite@alia.org.au. Please note all images must be high resolution (at least 300DPI, 500KB or higher) and sent separately as jpg files. Images may be reproduced in print and online.