

INSPIRING EXPERIENCES AT HOME AND ABROAD

By the time this issue of *INCITE* reaches your mailbox, the IFLA World Library and Information Congress (16–22 August), in Lyon, France, will be several weeks in the past, but right now, we are still enjoying the aftermath of another stellar performance by Australians in this global setting.

There are Australians on many of the IFLA Standing Committees who work tirelessly developing programs, strategic directions and develop policies that help libraries and librarians all over the world. The highlights for me at IFLA were the Craigieburn Library in Hume, Victoria, named International Public Library of the Year; State Librarian of NSW Alex Byrne receiving an IFLA Fellowship and ALIA taking the award for best poster of the year for our presentation of the ALIA Futures project. I was also proud to represent ALIA onstage during the IFLA President Elect ceremony, and to give a brief overview of the ALIA Futures reports, which complement the *IFLA Trend Report* published in 2013.

IFLA is a great place to meet up with representatives from library associations throughout the world. From the meetings it is clear that ALIA as an association is in a very strong position in terms of direction, membership and engagement with the profession.

There will soon be a call for nominations for IFLA Standing Committees and if you are thinking about putting your name forward, please let us know. We can help our Members stand as candidates, and we can rally support when it comes to the voting.

A month after returning from Lyon, it was time for the ALIA National 2014 Conference in Melbourne. This was our major event for the year, attracting more than 650 delegates and over 50 exhibitors. The Pullman, Albert Park, provided an excellent venue, big enough to accommodate plenary sessions, conference streams, workshops and exhibition stands. The new venue was a risk for the ALIA conference as it was not in the CBD, but the risk well and truly paid off with a very healthy number of people attending the conference. Both sponsors and vendors commented on the fact that the exhibition hall was always full of people talking about new products and services and the great vibe from the conference goers.

The conference kicked off with a great opening keynote address from Roly Keating, discussing some great digitisation initiatives in the UK. The following day we heard Susan Benton talk about the benefits of collaboration, and on the final day Dr Marianne Broadbent presented a motivational keynote asking conference

goers to follow their passion and take risks. The keynote presenters were outstanding and much in demand after their presentations. In fact the entire program worked extremely well, balancing inspirational talks with practical advice.

I must take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the steering committee, made up of senior leaders from Victorian library and information services, and chaired by ALIA former President Christine Mackenzie, CEO of Yarra Plenty Regional Library. It was the committee's creative vision that made the ALIA National 2014 Conference so worthwhile for attendees and their employers.

I would also like to congratulate ALIA Assistant Director, Conferences and Events, Christina Granata and her team. Christina was responsible for the ALIA National 2014 Conference from its inception right through to the closing ceremony and her knowledge, experience and hard work underpinned the entire event.

It's time now to gear up for ALIA Information Online 2015, which takes place at the Hilton, Sydney, from 2–5 February 2015. Registrations are open and we hope you will be able to join us. I look forward to seeing you there.

DAMIAN LODGE AALIA (CP)
ALIA President



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