

EDITOR'S NOTE OH, WHAT A FEELING!



It's quite a moment, to be in the same room with names you have grown up with in your chosen profession.

They might have been your teacher, your boss, or an expert whose name is synonymous with best practice or scholarly research.

Over recent months, ALIA has been paying tribute to some of our longest standing Members with the presentation of the ALIA Member 25 Year Club pin. Which is why I was in the agelessly elegant Circulating Library at the State Library of South Australia a few weeks ago, amid the richly polished timber and a collection of well-travelled books that had likely served South Australians at least as long as many of us there had been Members of ALIA.

Here's a statistic for you (and my thanks to Geoff Stempel for doing the maths): there are 69 ALIA Members in South Australia who have passed that magic 25 year mark. The longest standing SA Member has been with ALIA for over 60 years and between us all, we had clocked up 2,493 years with the Association. Just imagine what the national numbers would be!

It's moments like this that reaffirm the collegiate nature of our profession. I think such moments are enormously important. They both respect the substantial contribution of support and experience, and encourage us to continue to stay connected and stand proud.

This month, we're looking at awards. ALIA bestows a number of awards each year and a lot of hard work and consideration goes into that process. But what does receiving an award feel like and does it change things for recipients? We decided to find out.

We're also gearing up for ALIA Information Online 2015, and our cover story this month is a chat with keynote speaker Siva Vaidhyanathan, Robertson Professor and Chair of the Department of Media Studies at the University of Virginia.

You'll find our special State of the Nation report on life and LIS in Australia as it is now in this issue too, and if you've ever wondered where publishing a mega-success series can lead, Bloomsbury Press tell us what life has been like for them since publishing Harry Potter.

As you settle in for a good read, let me encourage you to make just one more New Year's resolution: to put pen to paper for *INCITE* in 2015. Check the features planned on the ALIA website, or choose your own topic. After all, it's your magazine.

LEE WELCH
Editor

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