



DIRECTLINE ROUND-UP

ALIA is proud to be a founding member of a new group that represents the interests of the Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums (GLAM) sector. The first meeting took place in June at the Queensland Museum, where the discussion centred on digital access to cultural collections. A further meeting took place at the State Library of NSW in July and the third meeting is planned at the National Library in October.

Other participants include National and State Libraries Australasia, the Council of Australian University Librarians, Museums Australia, the Australian Society of Archivists, the Federation of Australian Historical Societies and a number of other peak bodies covering national, state and territory and local collecting institutions.

This is an exciting opportunity for us to work even more closely with colleagues across the GLAM sector around advocacy, research and professional concerns, and we will let you know more as this initiative takes shape.

Another exciting collaboration is the coming together of ALIA and school library associations to form a coalition under the FAIR umbrella to advocate for school libraries. This month (October) we will be launching the Great School Libraries campaign, seeking nominations of school libraries that really make the grade and deserve national recognition. Check the FAIR website on 15 October for the full story.

Unlike some other states and territories, the ACT has very definite seasons and we are enjoying the arrival of spring, with heavy white blossoms appearing on the trees outside ALIA House in Deakin.

It says a lot about the foresight and financial acumen of past leaders of the Association that ALIA owns this \$5 million property in a highly desirable inner-south business area, yet many members don't realise that ALIA House is their debt-free asset. The property provides a long-term investment, but it is an asset that requires careful management especially when, as now, the property market is in the doldrums in Canberra.

The building was designed by renowned architect Philip Cox, who was also responsible for the Australian National Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour in Sydney and City Library Melbourne. The spacious glass-roofed atrium has a marble floor – at its best when viewed from the gallery above – which features a geometric pattern including a stylised eucalyptus leaf.

If you are coming to Canberra for work or leisure, we hope you will visit us. We welcome the opportunity to show Members around. Besides the architecture, other points of interest are an original bark painting, commissioned for an ALIA conference in Darwin in 1986; our wall of presidents' photos dating back to 1937, and our archive room with many other photographs, bound volumes and Association ephemera.

We remember two ALIA Members who died in August: Gary Gorman, Book Reviews Editor for *Australian Library Journal*, and Alexandra (Sandy) Dailakis, a long-term member of our Vocational Education and Training Libraries Advisory Committee (formerly the TAFE Library Advisory Committee).

Tributes have poured in for both, praising their contribution to the profession and to the Association. They will be sadly missed by us all.

Australia was once again well represented at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, held in Cape Town in August. Former ALIA presidents Margaret Allen and Christine Mackenzie joined the IFLA Governing Board and many others took up roles on committees.

At the closing ceremony, ALIA Members were called to the stage again, following last year's triumph in the Poster Award. In 2015, the prestigious IFLA Professional Unit Communication Award was presented to the IFLA Public Libraries Section.

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