

THRIVING DESPITE HARSH CONDITIONS

We haven't received the results of the census yet, but it won't surprise anyone that our ageing and retiring population is starting to have an effect on workplaces around Australia.

As part of our planning for the future, at ALIA House we are working toward 2020 and making it easier to formally record and reflect on your PD and become ALIA Certified Professionals. We hope that all our members will be on board as active learners within their profession.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics predicts other events for 2020 that will have an impact on our plans and yours:

- In 2020, Australia's population will be over 25 million and that figure will double by 2075.
- In 2020, the median age will be 40, and there will be more 65-year-olds than one-year olds; the population pyramid will be inverted.
- The youth of 2020 are part of the most formally educated generation in history; they are starting education younger than ever and are projected to stay in education for longer than ever.⁽¹⁾
- Not only will they be learning longer, but they will also live better because of their education. A UK longitudinal study of ageing has reported that adults who took courses of study tended to show greater life satisfaction and self-efficacy.⁽²⁾

Last week I headed to Yulara, the small town around Uluru and Kata Tjuta. We put up our tent, changed into shorts and headed for the nearest hill to enjoy a beautiful sunset. Over the next few days, we were reminded about the beauty and challenge of a desert environment. Because of recent unseasonal rain, the wildflowers were


abundant. Some flower for only a day before they set seed and prepare for bad times. Others grow centimetres in hours and strive for the attention of bees and butterflies in order to propagate themselves.

I'd like to think that we can be as evolutionarily agile as those flowers, that we can take advantage of the good times we have now, in the midst of continuing Australian economic growth. There are, of course, threats on the horizon – an ageing population, a fragile environment and extremist views and actions that evoke terror and put thousands of refugees on the move.

The plants and animals of Central Australia respond to their harsh environment and take advantage of it. We should respond similarly to our environment, despite the changes in our world that threaten our ability to handle daily life and plan for the future.

Take control today of the things that you can – plan to learn and learn to plan. There will never be a better time to carve an education space back into your life – however busy you are.

You will become a better person and that will mean your community, your family, your workplace and your future will all benefit.

As always, if you'd like to discuss ALIA, our policies, membership or courses, please drop me a line. 



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For more information about ALIA courses and workshops, go to bit.ly/2cTgTHB.

⁽¹⁾ Mark McCrindle. 'Australia in 2020: A Snapshot of the Future.' McCrindle Research

⁽²⁾ www.elsa-project.ac.uk. The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing.

ALIA BOARD ELECTIONS 2017

**YOUR ASSOCIATION. YOUR OPPORTUNITY.
NOMINATE FOR THE ALIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

Nominations for the ALIA Board of Directors open on Monday 21 November 2016. This is your opportunity to make a significant contribution to your Association. We are seeking nominations for the Vice-President (President elect) and two general Board members. The successful candidates will take office at the Board meeting following our Annual General Meeting in May 2017 and serve on the Board for two years.

Nominations open
on Monday
21 November 2016
close Friday
20 January 2017

WHAT DOES BEING AN ALIA DIRECTOR MEAN?

As a Director, your role is to help shape our Association's future direction, provide guidance to the executive team, make policy decisions and have oversight of the financial sustainability of the Association.

Being a Director gives you a unique opportunity to ensure your Association is supporting our members into the future. Further details about the role of a Director can be found on the ALIA website www.alia.org.au/elections.

WHO CAN NOMINATE?

Nomination for the Board is open to all personal financial members of ALIA.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO NOMINATE?

Nomination forms and nomination requirements are available on the ALIA website at www.alia.org.au/elections.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Visit the ALIA website at www.alia.org.au/about-alia/governance-and-structure.