

A CAMPAIGN, A CONFERENCE AND A CELEBRATION OF LIBRARY LEADERS

A *LIA has been busy so far this year, and we're only half way through, with plenty more initiatives to come in 2018.*

At the time of writing, we were in the thick of the annual Library and Information Week campaign (21–25 May). Our theme 'Find yourself in a library' fired the imagination of our Members and library users, and we saw an unparalleled level of activity on social media and through community newspapers, print and digital.

ALIA Members posted videos explaining how they found themselves working in libraries, and we trended in the top two on Twitter at the start of Library and Information Week, which gives you a good sense of the level of activity in libraries across Australia.

National Simultaneous Storytime, mid-week, reached new heights, with more than one million children taking part in this celebration of early reading and Australian picture books. In 2017, we crossed the 680,000 barrier for the first time. To go beyond a million in 2018 was extraordinary, and involved a combination of even greater participation across libraries, schools and early childhood centres, and our first storytime partnership with LIANZA, our New Zealand counterpart.


International collaboration is taking us to new places and helping us achieve more, and this will be in evidence at the Asia Pacific Library and Information Conference, on the Gold Coast, from 29 July – 2 August. In the past, we partnered with LIANZA to run conferences – Christchurch in 1981, Brisbane in 1984 and Wellington in 1994. It has been more than 20 years since the last time, and we felt a joint event was long overdue. We were even more thrilled when the opportunity came about to turn it into a three-way partnership with the Library Association of Singapore.

The exciting program, sell out exhibition and star keynote speakers have already attracted hundreds of delegates, but if you haven't booked your place at this ground-breaking event, there may still be time to register (aplic.alia.org.au).

Acknowledgement and celebration of library and information professionals' contribution to society is very much part of ALIA's remit, and we were delighted to announce at our Annual General Meeting in May that the ACT Government

will be naming two roads in the new suburb of Coombs after pioneering librarians. Ena Noël Street and Trask Street will recognise the outstanding service of teacher librarian Phillipena (Ena) Noël OAM (1910–2003) and LIS educator Margaret Trask AM (1928–2002).

At the ALIA Board meeting preceding the AGM, the ALIA Directors were also pleased to confer a Fellowship on Dr Suzanne Lewis, one of the driving forces behind evidence-based practice in Australian librarianship; an active member of ALIA Health Libraries Australia; and a leader in the health library field.

In these and other ways, ALIA is constantly advocating for libraries and library and information professionals. We can only do this because of your support. July is the month when most of our Members renew their annual membership. Thank you for remaining an ALIA Member and by doing so, making your own contribution to this important work. 

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Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference
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30 July - 2 August 2018**



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