

ALIA advancing

A *LIA is always looking at how best to aid all library and information professionals around Australia to serve their users, and there have been a few changes for ALIA in 2019.*

We were delighted to receive so many excellent submissions for this issue of *INCITE*. These case studies, together with our recently released report *Improving library services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples* (for more information, see page 31) show the many varied and creative ways in which libraries across Australia are engaging with Indigenous communities and Indigenous collections.

The discussions at our ALIA Leadership & Innovation Forums in 2018, which had the Indigenous matters theme (for more information, see page 30), showed that ALIA Members have a keen interest in Indigenous matters, and while we are making some headway, there is more to achieve.

One of the areas of concern is the recruitment and retention of Indigenous library and information professionals. On that front, ALIA has worked with educators to create two scholarship opportunities in 2019; our Learning team is working with the Northern Territory Library on training for remote Indigenous officers, and we are preparing a workforce diversity report which will help us develop an evidence-based response to the issue. We would welcome input from Members about other ways in which we can provide support, please email (nt@alia.org.au).

Judy Brooker, our Director of Learning for the last five years, has played a leading role in expanding ALIA's engagement with Indigenous matters. She has also been responsible for advancing our course accreditation practices, establishing a world-leading professional development scheme for ALIA, building a sustainable mentoring program, developing sector-specific specialisations and creating new pathways for people working in libraries who haven't come through the traditional library and information career structure.

Judy retired at the end of February and she will be very much missed at ALIA House, by our Board, and by our Members who are closely involved in library

and information science (LIS) education. She has passed on a solid legacy to her successor, Kate Bunker, who has worked with Judy as part of the Learning team since 2016, and we are prepared for challenging times ahead, as accreditation of courses by professional bodies continues to come under ministerial scrutiny.

Our industry is under pressure on several fronts, including LIS education, library funding, and the recognition of our value and relevance by senior teams in organisations outside the sector. The Association needs to be in a strong position to tackle these issues and our strength and direction comes from the ALIA Board. If you haven't already voted in the current Board election, we encourage you to do so – and please also consider standing for the Board next time around if you feel you have something to contribute. Nominations will open again in November. 🗳️

SUE MCKERRACHER
ALIA CEO
sue.mckerracher@alia.org.au



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