



President's Letter

14 May 2018

At the AGM on Wednesday, I will be handing over the presidency to Lyndall Ley Osborne. The last 12 months have gone very quickly and I would like to share with you some of the highlights.

Members

Throughout 2017, we celebrated the 80th birthday of the Australian Library and Information Association. Events were held across Australia and on 5 October the ALIA Board had the opportunity to celebrate at ALIA House with current and past members. I, personally, enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with many retired ALIA members who continue to be interested and involved in the work of ALIA.

Other opportunities to meet with Members arose from attending the Australian Library Design Awards and Conference 2017 which showcased our truly world class Australian libraries, and presenting the Presidential Address at the Library Technicians Symposium. The Symposium was such a success that it resulted in a new ALIA Library Technicians' Advisory Committee being formed.

International relations

One of the privileges of being President is the opportunity to set a theme. "International relations" has been my focus, and following a think tank in March 2017, a new ALIA International Relations Advisory Committee was formed to implement an ambitious work plan. These are some of the activities that support my theme.

- The contribution of libraries in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals has become a key agenda item for ALIA.
- IFLA's Global Vision consultation was heavily promoted through ALIA communication channels and our input included survey responses from 400 members and workshops in Geelong and Canberra.
- In October 2017, a panel of distinguished library leaders visited the University of the South Pacific, in Fiji, to assess the Diploma course in library and information science for ALIA accreditation.
- Planning is progressing for the Asia Pacific Library and Information Conference (APLIC), 30 July to 2 August 2018, which will be the first joint venture conference for ALIA, the Library Association of Singapore and LIANZA.
- APLIC will be preceded by Our Global Goals, a summit for library and information professionals in the Asia Pacific on the Sustainable Development Goals.



Governance

During my presidency, the Board has been focused on long-term sustainability of the Association and our discussions have included:

- Implementing a new Strategic Plan that identifies key strategies to achieve our four priorities: leadership and advocacy; members and membership; education and professional development; future-proofing.
- Reviewing our Risk Register to ensure our controls are effective and efficient.
- Maintaining ALIA House as a key asset of the Association by investing in capital works.
- Broadening membership to include the Allied Field category, which is open to members working at a professional level within the LIS sector.
- Communicating the benefits of ALIA membership through a range of channels.

We also agreed to trial a session within Board meetings for Members to observe the discussions of the ALIA Board. We ran this for the first time in March and encountered the inevitable technical issues, but it is something the Board will try again.

It has been a career highlight to serve as President of the Association. I acknowledge my fellow Board members for their commitment and enthusiasm – it has been an honour to work with you. Our strength as a Board has been influenced by the breadth and diversity of our experiences. Looking forward, I am confident that the new Board and incoming President Lyndall Ley Osborne, will find their term to be both rewarding and enriching – professionally and personally.

Thank you for an extraordinary year!

Vicki McDonald