



# ALIA Board of Directors meeting

## Take home messages

Monday 17 and 18 August 2020

Via Zoom

### Present

Viv Barton (President)

Vicki Edmunds (Vice-President)

Stefanie Gaspari

Justine Hyde

Kim Sherwin

Clare Thorpe

Emily Wilson

## Meeting summary

In response to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the August meetings of the ALIA Board of Directors were held via videoconference. Discussion at the meetings covered a wide range of issues including:

### 1. COVID-19 strategy

ALIA's ongoing [response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#) in support of ALIA Members was noted. Board members acknowledged the efforts of the ALIA team to provide additional support to ALIA Members in these uncertain times.

### 2. Strategic planning

Board members took part in a strategic planning session, taking the opportunity to view issues differently in an extraordinary 'new normal' environment with contracting revenue streams, reduced staff training budgets, limited travel and face-to-face event opportunities, and increasing use of online forums to connect, learn and share. Directors were united in their vision and commitment to strong governance and fiscal responsibility to ensure the long-term sustainability of ALIA; enhancing Member value and engagement; advocacy; and future-proofing LIS education and the LIS profession.

Four strategic priorities were endorsed:

- Supporting a resilient, diverse workforce
- Developing alliances and collaborative ventures
- Succeeding through advocacy
- Enhancing Member value.



A revised ALIA strategic plan will be confirmed at the December Board meeting.

### 3. Relief Fund

The Board offered their thanks to many donors who contributed additional funds to the [ALIA COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) to support ALIA Members facing financial hardship. ALIA Members experiencing financial difficulty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are encouraged to apply for the relief funding. At the December 2020 Board meeting, consideration will be given to the distribution of any remaining funds.

### 4. ALIA Conference

The work of the ALIA Information Online conference committee was acknowledged by the Board. Given the evolving situation relating to COVID-19 restrictions, it is not certain that hosting the conference in its traditional format will be possible. ALIA has contracted with the International Convention Centre in Sydney to host the conference. This is a significant financial investment which may not be refundable should we decide to cancel at this time. The Board agreed to meet towards the end of September to make a final decision about what format the conference will take.

### 5. National Simultaneous Storytime

Board members were pleased to support the announcement of details for the [2021 National Simultaneous Storytime](#) which will feature the book 'Give me some space!' and include a reading of the book from the International Space Station on 19 May 2021.

### 6. ALIA Awards


The Board was pleased to confirm two awards to ALIA Members.

Anne Girolami was conferred the award of an [ALIA Fellowship \(FALIA\)](#), a distinction awarded to ALIA members who have reached an exceptional standard of proficiency in library and information science and have made a distinguished contribution to the theory or practice of library and information science. Anne has made a significant contribution in the school libraries sector.

Cheryl Hamill, FALIA (CP) was awarded the [HCL Anderson Award](#), the Association's highest honour awarded to Associate Members in recognition of outstanding service to the library and information profession in Australia, to ALIA; and to either the theory of library and information science or to the practice of library and information services. Cheryl is a major contributor to the international health librarianship field with a focus on evidence, quality, searching and open access publishing.

### 7. Appointments

The appointments of Sara Altmann, Elizabeth Harris and Lorraine Rose to the [New Generation Advisory Committee \(NGAC\)](#) and Wanda Pomeroy to the [Vocational Education Libraries Advisory Committee \(VLAC\)](#) were confirmed. The Board thanked the incoming Members for



their willingness to contribute in this way, providing input into strategic issues being considered by the Board.

The resignations of Alison Fields as the Book Reviews Editor for the [Australian Library and Information Association](#) (JALIA), and Fiona Russell as Associate Editor effective from January 2021 were acknowledged. The Board thanked them for their service and was pleased to note that Alison and Fiona have agreed to join the JALIA Editorial Board in order to ensure continuity and leverage their expertise with the scope and requirements of the journal.

## 8. Advisory Committee Reports

The Board acknowledged the significant projects undertaken by the ALIA Advisory Committees and particularly thanked them for the work currently being undertaken or recently completed projects including:

- [Australian Public Library Alliance](#), reviewing the [Guidelines, standards and outcome measures for Australian public libraries](#).
- [Book Industry and E-lending Advisory Committee](#), a [Snapshot of eLending in public libraries survey report](#).
- [Education Advisory Committee](#), developing a new core skills policy titled *Foundation knowledge and competencies for entry-level library and information professionals*.
- [Health Libraries Australia](#), commissioning a study titled 'What Place has the Library Space? Lessons & reflections from COVID-19' with particular focus on health libraries, curating a [webpage of COVID-19 related resources](#) and [COVID-19 live literature searches](#), and undertaking a review of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the [Guidelines for Australian Health Libraries](#).
- [New Generation Advisory Committee](#), collating and reviewing the results of a survey on the Impact of COVID-19 on early career GLAM professionals.
- [School Library Advisory Committee](#), developing national guidelines for the time allotment for teach librarians and revising guidelines on the recommended minimum level of staffing for school information centres.
- [Special Library Working Group](#), updating the [Special Libraries Directory](#).
- [Vocational Education Libraries Advisory Committee](#), undertaking the annual review of the TAFE libraries directory.

In addition, the Board was pleased to acknowledge the work of [Blue Shield Australia](#), particularly Sue Hutley as the current chair, and Annette Mills the secretary/treasurer and endorse the *Blue Shield International Rules and Principles: Our Approach to Cultural Property Protection*.

## 9. Course Accreditation

The Board was pleased to confirm the re-accreditation of the Diploma of Library and Information Services offered by the Pacific Technical and Further Education (TAFE).

An accreditation extension was also approved for four courses offered by the University of South Australia: The Master of Information Management (Library and Information Management), the Graduate Diploma in Information Management (Library and Information Management), the Master of Information Management (Archives and Records Management), and the Graduate Diploma in Information Management (Archives and Records Management). These courses are



jointly accredited with the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA), and the Records and Information Management Professionals of Australasia (RIMPA).

## 10. ALIA Submissions and Reports

Several recent ALIA submissions were noted by the Board including:

- [Submission in response to the Australian Government Senate Inquiry into COVID-19](#)
- [Submission in response to the senate Inquiry into issues facing diaspora communities in Australia](#)
- [IFLA-ALIA joint submission for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in Australia](#)
- [Submission in response to the Australian Government Senate Inquiry into the future of Australia Post's service delivery](#)

## 11. Financial sustainability

The financial report for June 2020 was considered and approved by the Board. It was noted that the results were below budget expectations, largely due to the cancellation of the ALIA National Conference in May 2020. A briefing was provided on the potential financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the association and mitigation strategies that are being implemented. It is anticipated that a more complete picture of the impact of COVID-19 will be available in the next few months.