



# President's Letter

March 2018

Dear ALIA Member

Voting is about to start for the 2018-2019 [ALIA Board election](#) and we have an excellent line up of candidates. I can assure the new Directors that being on the ALIA Board is a great way to make a positive difference to the future of our profession.

My presidential theme has been international affairs and we have made significant progress over the last nine months in all areas, supported by our highly active new [International Relations Advisory Committee](#).

- In September last year, I was delighted to represent ALIA at the LIANZA conference in Christchurch.
- 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.
- In January 2018, we produced a report how [Australian libraries support the Sustainable Development Goals](#) as a submission for Australia's Voluntary National Review and for the government Inquiry into the Sustainable Development Goals. We also hosted a visit by representatives of the National Library Board of Singapore to ALIA House.
- For the first time, [National Simultaneous Storytime](#) (May 2018) is being run in partnership with LIANZA, resulting in thousands more participants from NZ and the Pacific.
- The [Asia Pacific Library and Information Conference](#) (APLIC), 30 July to 2 August 2018, will be the first joint venture conference for ALIA, the Library Association of Singapore and LIANZA – and APLIC will be preceded by Our Global Goals, a summit for library and information professionals in the Asia Pacific on the Sustainable Development Goals .

The May/June 2018 edition of [INCITE](#) magazine takes international affairs as its main theme and if you have your own story to contribute, the [Editor](#) would love to hear from you.

As an ALIA Member, I hope you will be able to take advantage of the discounted rate to join us at APLIC on the Gold Coast – and if you attend IFLA, whether you work in Australia or overseas, please let us know so that we can invite you to attend the Australian Caucus, which is pencilled in for 24 August in Kuala Lumpur. If you can't make it to the conferences, you can still have a ringside seat from your own device through ALIA's lively social media discussions.

On the home advocacy front, we contributed to the Australian Government's Digital Economy conversation in November with a new report, [Australian libraries: the digital economy within everyone's reach](#). We have just completed a highly successful [Library Lovers' Day](#) campaign, which culminated in a [statement in the House of Representatives](#) about the vital role of libraries



in society, and ALIA is currently at the centre of protests against the closure of ABC sound and reference libraries in Adelaide, Hobart and Perth.

The ALIA Member Survey results were reviewed in detail at our December Board meeting and have been incorporated into the Board's strategic planning process. It's your Association and as your representatives, the ALIA Directors are keen to make sure that we're reflecting your needs and values. If you have any feedback about ALIA, the Board and staff, please do not hesitate to get in touch through [aliaboard@alia.org.au](mailto:aliaboard@alia.org.au).

Warm regards

Vicki McDonald  
ALIA President