



ALIA Board of Directors meeting

Take home messages

Tuesday 30 May 2023

In Person at ALIA House

Present

Vicki Edmunds (President)
Clare Thorpe (Vice President)
Hero Macdonald
Janette Wright
Kathryn Eyre
Mary Carroll
Alissa Sputore

ALIA staff

Cathie Warburton
Kylie Fiddy
Trish Hepworth

Observers

Jane Cowell
Amy Walduck
Nicole Johnston

Apologies

Christina Granata

Meeting summary

The all-day meeting was held in person at ALIA House. The incoming board members were welcomed as observers. A wide range of issues were discussed by the Board, some of which are set out below.

1. President's Report

Vicki Edmunds provided her final report as President. The report reflected on her time as President and in particular the work done in progressing her presidential theme of Diversity. Some of the initiatives she was particularly proud of establishing or supporting were:

- ALIA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Expert Advisory Group
- ALIA Disability Group
- ALIA float in the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras for the last 2



years

- Important statements from ALIA on:
 - o Voice to Parliament
 - o Free Access to Information in Libraries
 - o Respect for Public Library staff

2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Advisory Group (EAG) Presentation

Representatives of the EAG, Rebecca Bateman, Ryan Stoker and Lesley Acres presented to the Board on issues relating to First Nations peoples in the library and information sector including recommendations relating to:

- Representation and communication
- Cultural safety and cultural load
- Library workforce and leadership

These recommendations will be considered by the new ALIA Board at its first meeting in July.

3. National Simultaneous Story Time (NSS)

The record for NSS participation was broken for the second year in a row with over 2.3 million participants. The book's author and illustrator read the story live from Sydney Zoo. The Australian Children's Laureate Gabrielle Wang and TV personality Grant Denyer also recorded readings of the story. ALIA also gave interviews to ABC radio in WA and Queensland.

4. Information Online 2023

ALIA's flagship conference was successfully delivered online to over 2,000 registered participants.

5. Membership Fees

Despite inflationary pressures it was agreed not to increase Membership Fees for the 5th year in a row to support ALIA personal members.

6. JALIA future options

A discussion was held as to the current publishing arrangements for JALIA. JALIA is currently a green open access journal and covered under the read and publisher agreement between Taylor and Francis and CAUL. The ALIA Board agreed that further information and exploration of future possibilities, including increased open access, would be useful and will look to establish a working group later in the year.

7. Fellowships

The ALIA Board awarded two ALIA Fellowships to Aileen Weir and Margarita Moreno in recognition of their years of dedicated service to ALIA and library and information services in Australia and internationally.