



33rd Annual General Meeting

6pm AEST Monday 24 May 2021

ALIA House 9-11 Napier Close Deakin, ACT 2600 and over the Zoom online platform.

MINUTES

1. Notice of convening meeting

The meeting opened at 6pm on Monday 24 May 2021. In accordance with the Association's constitution, the President, Viv Barton, gave notice of convening the meeting. She acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and welcomed everyone, including ALIA Fellows, past Presidents and Board members. Viv Barton introduced the Vice President/President-elect Vicki Edmunds, Chief Executive Officer, Sue McKerracher and Ian McCallum, Parliamentarian for the Annual General Meeting. It was noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on public meetings, the AGM was being held as a hybrid meeting with most Members attending over the Zoom platform and the majority of ALIA Directors present at ALIA House.

51 Members were present, including 9 proxies, which constituted a quorum. The President called the meeting to order.

Voting rights for Members voting in person were established. Proxies were received from 9 Members. The voting procedures were outlined by the Parliamentarian noting that in addition to voting by the raising of hands for those in the ALIA office, the Zoom poll facility would be used to conduct a poll for Members attending over Zoom for two items to be confirmed by Members. In addition, the chat functionality enabling Members to second the motions to ensure Members could ask questions during the meeting were outlined.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Eric Wainwright and Dr Marie-Louise Ayres.

3. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

The draft minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting were available to members attending via Zoom and had also been emailed to these Members and posted to the ALIA website.



Motion: That the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: Viv Barton

Second: Stefanie Gaspari

Motion Carried by a majority of Members attending over the Zoom platform, attending at ALIA House and those who had provided proxy forms.

4. Reports

a. President's Report

The President presented the following report:

What an incredible year. Unprecedented, disruptive, adaptive, opportunistic, pivot, resilient, futures focused, next normal, misinformation and media literacy – these are just some of the new terms and catch phrases recently added to our vocabulary. The ongoing effects of the global pandemic have fundamentally changed our lives – how we think and behave, work, and deliver services to our communities.

Whilst some associations and industries have reduced services during this difficult year, ALIA and the LIS sector have risen to the challenge, demonstrating exceptional leadership and innovation. Invaluable support and services to Members and patrons has continued, and in some cases expanded, despite the challenges.

The ALIA AGM was held via webinar on 4 May 2020, and a turning point for future communication and engagement with the Board and LIS sector. Whilst the online medium attracted high attendance numbers and provided opportunities for ongoing engagement with Members, the lack of face-to-face interaction was bittersweet. The transfer of message sticks commissioned by Past President Lyndall Ley 2018-19 and created by Indigenous artist Wayne 'Buddy' Martin, symbolising the passing on of knowledge, experience and goodwill from the current Board to the future Board didn't occur in person. I'm delighted to be at ALIA House to pass these message sticks tonight to the incoming President and Board. They are an important gesture which also seeks to raise awareness and increase engagement with Indigenous matters.

In rapid succession, scheduled events, conferences and meetings were cancelled, with ALIA quick to reconvene as virtual events where possible. Despite the setbacks, the Board focussed on supporting the ALIA Team and Members, whilst ensuring the financial and long-term sustainability of the Association. During the past year, discussions and decisions at Board level have included:

- Increasing communication and support to Members during the pandemic including ALIA Connect networking forums and ALIA Relief Fund
- Enhancing Member value and engagement



- Supporting a resilient, diverse workforce
- Developing alliances and collaborative ventures
- Succeeding through advocacy
- Sale of ALIA House in December 2020
- Investment of Reserve Funds strategy, following the sale of the property
- Reconfiguring ALIA Information Online to a highly successful virtual conference
- Supporting the presidential Education theme, including future-proofing LIS education and the LIS profession
- Launch of the Professional Pathways initiative, including participating in the Professional Pathways Town Hall meeting series and Professional Pathways Summit
- Encouraging greater engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people including greater representation in the LIS profession and as ALIA Members.

Congratulations are extended to Sue McKerracher following ALIA's appearance at the Senate Inquiry into Nationhood in November 2020, with the Committee recommending that Australian government (via Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet) works with the Australian Media Literacy Alliance (of which ALIA is a member), through a co-design process, to develop a national strategy to tackle fake news and misinformation. National recognition of the role library and information professionals play in this arena is a major achievement.

I am delighted at how warmly this year's presidential theme, Education, has been embraced by ALIA, Board Directors and Members as a means to empower our profession as leaders through continuing professional development and lifelong learning. The *ALIA LIS Education, Skills and Employment Trend Report 2019* and *ALIA Workforce Diversity Trend Report 2019* provided value information about the LIS Education and GLAMR workforce environments. The resultant Discussion Paper *The Future of Library and Information Science Education in Australia* generated significant interest.

The launch of the Professional Pathways initiative, and subsequent feedback sessions has been a highlight. Members have discussed the values of continuing professional development, encouraging and welcoming diversity in the workforce and sector, promoting the value of the profession and library qualifications, flexible career paths, and the need for contemporary LIS education that produces future-ready graduates. Integrating professional development and education, this initiative will create a strong future and ensure long-term sustainability for the profession and LIS education.

It has been an honour and privilege to be part of the ALIA Board for two years, particularly as President during the last twelve months, and give back to the Association which continues to support its Members. I would like to thank and congratulate ALIA CEO Sue McKerracher for her ongoing commitment and leadership in superbly handling the challenges of managing the



Association during the ongoing global pandemic, as well as embracing opportunities to support Members and ensure a sustainable future for the Association.

Sincere thanks are extended to Past President Robert Knight OAM 2019-20 for his ongoing contribution to ALIA matters, particularly the sale of ALIA House, and collegial spirit in supporting my term as President. I would also like to thank the ALIA team, fellow Board Directors and colleagues for embracing my presidential Education theme, and their commitment in delivering successful outcomes for the Association and Members during such a challenging year.

In closing, I encourage all Members to continue to support and become actively involved in ALIA and making a significant contribution to the library and information sector. Participate in ALIA's PD Scheme, support a colleague, join a network group, or nominate for the Board and be involved in setting the strategic direction for the Association. Whatever you choose, you and ALIA will continue to grow and succeed.

Thank you.

b. Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO presented the following report:

2021 began well. We were looking forward to a steady run into a busy May, at the start of which we would present our National 2020 Conference, and at the end of which we would produce Library and Information Week, with National Simultaneous Storytime providing live storytime sessions for more than a million children and carers across Australia and New Zealand.

Alongside our National Conference, we had scheduled a summit to develop a national conversation about the Future of LIS Education, which we had initiated in 2019.

By the end of February, these plans and ambitions were looking less firm and by the time the World Health Organisation declared a pandemic on 11 March, the ALIA Board had already made the decision not to hold a face-to-face conference in Sydney in May. This meant that our conference team had to work with the venue, exhibition suppliers, speakers, keynote presenters, sponsors and exhibitors to close down what would have been a \$1 million event. They had to do the same again in October, when the Board decided to cancel Information Online in physical form for 2021. Thank you to the Board for their support in this decision making process.

This team also had to rework National Simultaneous Storytime to transform something which had worked as a physical event for the last 20 years into something which could be equally engaging and impactful online; as well as introducing a new program of online events, along with our learning and training team, to help satisfy the sudden, huge demand for professional development from library staff who found themselves working from home or in libraries empty of users.

Just as the demand for professional development was insatiable, the need for information was urgent and persistent. We were in uncharted territory, and Members looked to ALIA for advice and guidelines about how to handle a situation that was unparalleled in our lifetimes. Where our communications team didn't have the answers, for example about the best scientific practice



for quarantining books, the team was able to source the information from colleagues around the world. And while we were pulling in information from other countries, our resources, such as ALIA Health Libraries Australia's live literature reviews and the ALIA Australian Public Library Alliance COVID experience reports, were being used by libraries internationally to guide service delivery.

Recognising the isolation experienced by many people working from home, we began weekly online ALIA Connect sessions, separate from our training activities, to enable Members to network informally and share their own COVID stories.

One of the biggest issues for the Board was the timing of the sale of ALIA House. After taking expert advice, the Directors decided to put the property on the market in September and the timing proved to be excellent. With investors unable to make a return on cash investments, bricks and mortar appeared more attractive, and our agent was able to achieve a price of \$6.2 million. The sale completed on 22 December.

The Directors not only had to make tough decisions; they also went the extra mile to provide regular updates to Members, participate in the ALIA Connect sessions, and create the ALIA Relief Fund to assist Members experiencing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic.

COVID-19 made 2020 a year like no other. The painful effect of the pandemic on libraries and library staff was all too clear, and yet it would be wrong to say there were no positive elements for the sector and for the Association.

The pandemic highlighted the incredibly valuable and valued role of libraries in schools, universities, TAFEs, the corporate and public sector, cities, towns and communities.

ALIA was able to try new formats for conferences, campaigns, events, training and professional development, which will help us provide an expanded range of activities, reaching a wider audience in future.

We recorded a solid financial surplus from our operations and added \$1 million to our reserves.

Our membership numbers remained relatively steady.

The future of education discussion resulted in industry endorsement of an inspiring four-year Professional Pathways initiative, with the goal of creating a diverse, skilled, qualified, future-ready workforce.

Although our original plans for 2020 were upended, Members can be assured that the Association came through the year in good shape and even better prepared to weather any future disruption.



5. Presentation of the 2020 annual report and financial statements

The 2020 Annual Report and the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 together with the Directors' report and auditor's report in respect of those financial statements were tabled.

The President congratulated the ALIA team responsible for the production of a high quality and informative annual report.

There were no questions from Members relating to the Annual Report or the financial statements.

The chair noted that the 2020 Annual Report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 together with the Directors' report and auditor's report in respect of those financial statements were duly tabled.

6. Confirmation of newly elected Directors and Vice-President

The meeting considered the confirmation of the election of Directors to the ALIA Board.

Motion: I put the motion that the meeting notes that Vicki Edmunds was declared elected as the President and Mary Carroll and Alissa Sputore were declared elected as Directors of the Association for the term commencing from the conclusion of the 2021 Annual General meeting.

Moved: Viv Barton

Second:

Motion Carried by a majority of Members attending the meeting at ALIA House, over the Zoom platform and those who had provided proxy forms.

Vicki Edmunds and Mary Carroll were presented with gold ALIA pins that are traditionally given to incoming Directors. Alissa Sputore was unable to attend the meeting in person and her pin was sent to her prior to the meeting.

Members were advised that the 2020/21 Board of Directors had appointed Stefanie Gaspari as the next Vice-President for a period of one year following the conclusion of the AGM.



Notices of motion

The President advised the meeting that there were no motions or special resolutions to put to the meeting.

7. General business

a. Message sticks

The ALIA Board, continues to work to raise the Association's awareness and engagement with Indigenous matters. In 2020, Indigenous artist Wayne 'Buddy' Martin crafted the clapping sticks which could be passed from one President to the next to symbolise the passing on of knowledge, experience and goodwill from the current Board to the future Board. The outgoing President, Viv Barton presented the clapping sticks to the President-elect, Vicki Edmunds. The sticks have added significance as Vicki has selected 'Diversity' as her Presidential theme for the next two years.

b. Thanks to outgoing Board members

Vicki Edmunds thanked the outgoing Directors, Viv Barton and Kim Sherwin for their contribution to the work of the Board. The retiring Directors were presented with a small token of appreciation on behalf of the ALIA members.

No further items were raised.

8. Meeting closed

There being no further business, the President thanked members for their attendance and declared the ALIA 2021 Annual General Meeting closed at 6.28pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VE', followed by a period.

President

25/05/2021

Date