



34th Annual General Meeting

6.00pm Monday 16 May 2022

National Convention Centre, Canberra

31 Constitution Ave, CANBERRA ACT 2601

MINUTES

1. Notice of convening meeting

The meeting opened at 6.10pm on Monday 16 May 2022. In accordance with the Association's constitution, the President, Vicki Edmunds, gave notice of convening the meeting. She acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and welcomed everyone, including long standing Members, past Presidents and Board members. Vicki Edmunds introduced the Ian McCallum, Parliamentarian for the Annual General Meeting, Nicole Barnes Acting Chief Executive Officer and Sheree Murray, Auslan Interpreter.

Members were present which constituted a quorum. The President called the meeting to order.

Voting rights for Members voting in person were established. Proxies were received from 3 Members. The voting procedures were outlined by the Parliamentarian noting that the special resolution relating to proposed changes to the ALIA Constitution must be passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by members entitled to vote on the resolution and who voted at the meeting in person, online or by proxy. In order to ensure the special resolution was passed by the required percentage, voting for the special resolutions relating to Constitutional amendments was conducted by a show of hands and by use of a poll for Members attending via webinar.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Judy Brooker

3. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

The draft minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting were available to members present at the meeting and had also been posted to the ALIA website.

Motion: That the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: Vicki Edmunds



*Second: Emily Wilson
Motion Carried.*

4. Reports

a. President's Report

The President presented the following report:

As the very first ALIA President with a two-year term, this is my first contribution to the Annual Report. I would like to say, over the last 12 months, libraries and library staff have again risen to the challenge of a second year of uncertainty, city lockdowns and state and territory border closures. Libraries across Australia have continued to demonstrate exceptional leadership and innovation by offering invaluable support, services and programs to their members and wider community.

I wish to commend those Library and Information Services that have continued to provide for their community, despite the challenges of the year and I believe you are showing other industries how to remain in touch, relevant and essential to your members.

2020 was the year that libraries pivoted their services and programs to an online environment. 2021 was the year that libraries refined these services and programs to cater to their unique communities.

ALIA too was part of this online revolution, hosting the ALIA Information Online conference completely online, with a number of other programs and seminars throughout the year also taking on virtual formats.

Building on the previous Presidential theme of "Education", I have chosen "Diversity" as the theme for my term in office. I have already started work in this space, and I hope many of you will participate in the initiatives that will be rolled out as part of this theme.

Diversity is a strategic priority for ALIA in the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, which outlines the need for a 'resilient, diverse workforce: attracting and developing talented, committed individuals from different cultural backgrounds, who will have the strength and agility to navigate a rapidly changing workplace.'

To this end, I have been involved with many diversity-themed actions already including:

- Attending the free online event for ALIA Members on 1 June to hear the research findings from a Deakin University study of public library children's picture books – Rainbow families: collection development considerations.
- Launching the ALIA Disability Group on 29 June



- Attending the launch of the Australian Government National Disability Gateway on 2 September
- Attending the launch of the National Simultaneous Storytime book for 2022 *Family Tree* by Josh Pyke and illustrated by Ronojoy Ghosh on 15 September,
- Hosting the launch of the ALIA funded National Survey on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment in Australian Libraries by Kirsten Thorpe
- Chairing the Sustainable Development Goals Round Table session on 1 November
- Chairing the Professional Pathways Board meetings

I have also spoken to librarians in the Maldives, and Tasmania, all from the comfort of my own home. I also attended the Online IFLA conference. Other Board activities include reviewing member value and engagement; supporting a resilient, diverse workforce; continue to develop alliances and collaborative ventures; continued LIS sector advocacy and the investment of Reserve Funds as part of a wider financial strategy, following the sale of ALIA house in 2020.

I know this has been a very uncertain year for many, but I want to thank the ALIA Board members on endorsing the ALIA Board COVID Statement. This put us ahead of the State Governments, and other organisations who looked to ALIA for a clear stand on this very important community issue.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Sue McKerracher for her 10 years as ALIA CEO. Sue has been a strong leader and advocate for ALIA, and created solid partnerships with other library-related, not-for-profit bodies, with all levels of government, the book industry, early literacy, and GLAM organisations. She has raised the profile of the library sector and increased our visibility with decision makers. I want to thank Sue for these incredible achievements for ALIA.

5. Acting Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Acting Chief Executive Officer presented the following report:

The COVID pandemic dominated once more in 2021. We expected this to impact membership significantly, but the value of membership remained strong. Although many of our Members and Groups were restricted by extended COVID lockdowns in their respective States and Territories, there was still plenty of activity - most of it online.

ALIA Information Online was available entirely online for the first time, along with a new series of half-day conferences. Our INCITE in Conversation series allowed readers to interact directly with article authors, and ALIA's research agenda gained a greater profile with the launch of the Research Review Seminar series.

National Simultaneous Storytime 2021 broke all previous records. In May, storytime from Space beamed down from the International Space Station to nearly two million children and carers



across Australia and New Zealand. The National Early Language and Literacy Strategy were launched in September 2021; this strategy was the culmination of five years' work by ALIA and nine other national organisations in the early language and literacy space and attracted support from federal, state, and territory government representatives.

Our work on a draught national media literacy strategy unveiled in October for Media Literacy Week was a similar initiative. ALIA's advocacy profile was raised across portfolios, particularly with the Departments of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Social Services, Health, and the Australian Digital Health Agency.

COVID lockdowns from the previous year prompted the launch of online storytime, a partnership between ALIA, Australian children's picture book creators, and publishers. The success of the pilot scheme in 2021 prompted investment by the Australian Government through its RISE Fund and the Australia Council. The Online Storytime program complements our annual participation in Australia Reads and the Australian Reading Hour with book industry partners.

ALIA's major initiative for 2021 was the transition to a new website and database. We planned a six- to nine-month refinement period after the soft launch in August 2021 to help us shape our services to the needs of our members.

Despite COVID, our public library's digital health literacy programme in partnership with the Australian Digital Health Agency and Professional Pathways, our ambitious plan to develop the library and information profession, increase diversity, and produce a future-ready workforce remained on track. The Professional Pathways technical report published at the end of 2021 provided a comprehensive picture of LIS education, knowledge, and skills in Australia and worldwide. This highlighted the requirements of school, health, and law libraries and led to the commissioning of special investigations targeting these fields in 2022. The Association finished the year in excellent financial shape, with a very active membership and exciting projects planned for 2022.

6. Presentation of the 2021 annual report and financial statements

The 2021 Annual Report and the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 together with the Directors' report and auditor's report in respect of those financial statements were tabled.

The President noted that Annual Report records the outstanding achievements of the preceding 12 months.

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

7. Confirmation of newly elected Directors

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

Motion: I put the motion that the meeting notes that Clare Thorpe was declared re-elected as Institutional Director and Kathryn Eyre, Janette Wright and Hero Macdonald



were declared elected as Directors of the Association for the term commencing from the conclusion of the 2022 Annual General meeting.

Moved: Vicki Edmunds

Second: Emily Wilson

Motion Carried.

8. Notices of motion

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

9. Special business

The meeting considered the special resolution relating to proposed changes to the Australian Library and Information Association Limited Constitution. The proposed amendment had been unanimously endorsed by the Board of Directors and the Board recommended that ALIA members accept the amendments. Details of the proposed amendment were provided to members attending the meeting and had been made available on the ALIA website.

For the resolution a table that identified the clause to be amended, the current wording of the section and the proposed new wording was provided to Members.

Special Resolution 1

The President explained that the special resolution dealt with the restructuring of the Board and election of Directors.

The proposal amended sections 12.3 and 12.4 and 12.5 of the ALIA Constitution to:

1. Include the position of President, Institutional Directors and general Directors for a three-year term elected directly by both Personal and Institutional ALIA Members.

The new Board structure would comprise:

- President (3-year term elected by ALIA Personal and Institutional Members).
- General Directors – 5 positions (3-year term elected by ALIA Personal and Institutional Members).
- Institutional Director (3-year term elected by ALIA Institutional Members).
- Vice-President (Annual appointment by the Board of one Director other than the President from the current Board membership).

All Directors would be elected by ALIA Members as is the current practice.

Operational provisions of the Constitution are also amended to:

To provide for the carryover of the corporate knowledge on the Board the terms of office shall be overlapping, for a period of three Years each.

Rotation of Directors clauses are amended to accommodate the changes to the Board structure and new election cycle introduced in section 12.4 and 12.5. To provide for the carry-over of corporate knowledge the current practice of overlapping terms of office would continue. Two



general Directors and the President would be elected in one year for a period of three years and in year two, three general Directors and an Institutional Director would be elected for a period of three years. There will be no election held in year 3.

- Transition arrangements to introduce 3-year terms for Directors are.
- The Directors elected at the 2021 AGM will serve out their 2-year term and retire from office at the conclusion of the 2023 AGM. If eligible they may stand for re-election.
- The Directors elected at the 2022 AGM will serve out their 2-year term and retire from office at the conclusion of the 2024 AGM. If eligible they may stand for re-election.
- Directors elected in 2023 and subsequently shall hold office for three years.
- Year 1 of the election cycle will commence in conjunction with the 2023 AGM and repeats in every third subsequent year. For the avoidance of doubt, the President and Directors elected in 2023 retire at the AGM in 2026.
- Year 2 of the election cycle will commence in conjunction with the 2024 AGM and repeats in every third subsequent year. For the avoidance of doubt, Directors elected at the 2024 AGM retire at the AGM in 2027.
- Year 3 of the election cycle will commence in conjunction with the 2025 AGM and repeats in every third subsequent year. For the avoidance of doubt, there are no elections of Directors in year three of the cycle.
- From 2026 the three-year cycle is repeated.

The Election of Directors section is extended to:

- Allow for the transition to the new Board structure
- Where casual vacancies in the positions of Director occur more than 3 months prior to the next scheduled election to fill that vacancy the Board may appoint any eligible Member to fill that vacancy. Such appointee shall hold office for the remainder of the original term.
- If the casual vacancy is in the position of President, the Board may appoint another Director or any eligible Member to fill that vacancy. Such appointee shall hold office for the remainder of the original term. If the Board appoints another Director to fill the casual vacancy in the position of President, this will create a casual vacancy in the position of the Director and the Board may fill the vacancy in accordance with clause 12.5b).

Motion: With Regard to Special Resolution 1, that the Constitution of the Australian Library and Information Association Limited be amended by in the relevant section of the Constitution deleting the words in the 'Current Wording' column specified in Special Resolution 1 Table of Changes and inserting in their place the words in the 'Proposed Wording' column specified in Special Resolution 1 Table of Changes and as detailed in the explanatory notes accompanying the Notice of Meeting for this annual general meeting with the change to apply from the conclusion of this annual general meeting.

Moved: Vicki Edmunds

Second: Tricia Genat



Speakers for:

- Clare Thorpe: Newly elected directors encounter a steep learning curve to becoming confident and capable in their contributions. Experienced board directors in the NFP sector state it can take 18 months to reach their full potential as board directors. Provides national office team with more certainty in working with directors. Motion is consistent with similar boards in the NFP sector. Three years may be a deterrent to some, but many have contributed longer terms as volunteers in groups. Confident participation will remain high.
- Stephanie Gaspari: Benefits threefold – directors participating are better able to give back to the ALIA team, members benefit from directors seeing projects to finish and being able to advocate on their behalf. Important step in sustainability of board.

Speakers against:

- Nil

Motion Carried.

10. General business

Presentation of pins to newly elected Board members

President Vicki Edmunds acknowledged and congratulated the new Directors and presented them with their ALIA gold pins.

Thanks to outgoing Board members

Vicki Edmunds also thanked the outgoing Directors, Stefanie Gaspari, Emily Wilson, and Justine Hyde for their contribution to the work of the Board and presented the retiring Directors that were present at the meeting with a small token of appreciation on behalf of ALIA members.

No further items were raised.

Meeting closed

President thanked members for their attendance and meeting closed at 6:47 pm.

President

16th May 2022

Date