



ALIA Board of Directors meeting

Take home messages

Monday 4 May 2020

Via GoToMeeting

Present

Robert Knight OAM (President)
Viv Barton (Vice-President)
Helen Ebsworth
Vicki Edmunds
Paula Kelly Paull
Kim Sherwin

Monika Szunejko

Observers

Stefanie Gaspari
Justine Hyde
Clare Thorpe
Emily Wilson

Meeting summary

In response to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the May meeting of the ALIA Board of Directors was held via videoconference. It was the final meeting of the 2019/20 Board of Directors, and the incoming Members of the 2020/21 Board were in attendance as observers. The meeting incorporated discussion of a wide range of issues including:

1. COVID-19 strategy

The ALIA strategy for responding to COVID-19 was confirmed by the Board. The Board progressed plans to manage the long-term impact of COVID-19 on the Association.

2. Relief Fund

The Board offered their thanks to many donors who had contributed additional funds to the [ALIA COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) that was established to support ALIA Members facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. ALIA Members experiencing financial difficulty are encouraged to apply for the relief funding.

3. Financial sustainability

The Board considered and approved the financial report for March 2020 noting that the results were positive and ahead of budget expectations. A briefing was provided on the potential financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the association. It was noted that there will be no increase in membership fees for the current year as a further measure of support for Members experiencing the impact of the pandemic.

4. National Simultaneous Storytime

Board members were provided with an update on the National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS). Now in its 20th year, the Storytime has been repositioned as a largely online event to be held on Wednesday 27 May. The 700,000-plus registered participants will receive a number of electronic resources including videos and audio recordings allowing everyone to take part regardless of where they are. The book selected for this year is *Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas* by Lucinda Gifford.

5. Annual General Meeting

The 2020 ALIA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 4 May. Due to restrictions on large gatherings imposed in response to COVID-19, this was the first online-only ALIA AGM. The Board was pleased to note that over 70 ALIA Members attended the meeting. A feature of the meeting was the presentation of two clapping sticks created by Indigenous artist, Wayne 'Buddy' Martin. The sticks will be passed from one President to the next, symbolising the passing on of knowledge, experience and goodwill from the current Board to the next Board.

6. Vice-President appointment

Following amendments to the ALIA Constitution passed at the 2019 AGM, a new Board structure is being phased in. As part of the restructure, the Vice-President is to be appointed by the Board from one of the Directors other than the President. Members of the 2020/21 Board were consulted and determined that Vicki Edmunds is appointed as the ALIA Vice-President for the 2020/21 ALIA Board of Directors.

7. Board sub-committee and advisory committee liaison appointments

The function of each Board sub-committee and ALIA Advisory Committee was reviewed and Board members agreed on their appointments to the following Sub-Committees and to liaison roles with Advisory Committees and external Committees commencing 4 May 2020:

ALIA Board Sub-Committees	Board members 2020-2021
Finance	Vicki Edmunds (Chair) Stefanie Gaspari Kim Sherwin Clare Thorpe
Risk & Governance	Justine Hyde (Chair) Vicki Edmunds Emily Wilson
Accreditation and Standards	Emily Wilson (Chair) Viv Barton Justine Hyde



Advisory Committees	Board liaison 2020-2021
ALIA Australian Public Library Alliance	Justine Hyde
ALIA Book Industry and eLending Advisory Committee	Emily Wilson
ALIA Community on Resource Description	Vicki Edmunds
ALIA Education Advisory Committee	Viv Barton
ALIA Health Libraries Advisory Committee	Kim Sherwin
ALIA Interlibrary Lending Advisory Committee	Clare Thorpe
ALIA International Relations Advisory Committee	Stefanie Gaspari
ALIA New Generation Advisory Committee	Emily Wilson
ALIA Research Advisory Committee	Clare Thorpe
ALIA School Libraries Advisory Committee	Emily Wilson
ALIA VET Libraries Advisory Committee	Vicki Edmunds
External committee	Board Liaison 2020-2021
Blue Shield Australia	Vicki Edmunds