



ALIA Board of Directors meeting

Take home messages

9 December 2019

ALIA House, Canberra

Present

Robert Knight OAM (President and Chair)
Viv Barton (Vice-President)
Helen Ebsworth
Vicki Edmunds

Paula Kelly Paull
Kim Sherwin
Monika Szunejko

Meeting summary

The final meeting of the ALIA Board of Directors for 2019 incorporated discussion over a wide range of issues including:

1. Advisory Committee appointments

The Board was pleased to confirm the following appointments or reappointments:

- ALIA Community on Resource Description (ACORD) Advisory Committee; Alissa McCulloch, Ben Chadwick, Judy Richter, Lynn Farkas and Sara Davidsson
- ALIA International Relations Advisory Committee; Vicki McDonald, Margaret Allen, Roxanne Missingham, Jan Richards, Janine Schmidt, Philip Hider, Christine Mackenzie and Alison Dellit
- ALIA Book Industry and E lending Advisory Committee; Aileen Weir
- ALIA VET Libraries Advisory Committee; Paul Metcalfe.

The significant contribution made by ALIA Members to the Advisory Committees was acknowledged by the Board.

2. Advisory Committee reports

A number of reports were provided by ALIA Advisory Committees to update the Board on work being undertaken by the Committees.

The Board considered a survey of TAFE libraries conducted by the VET Libraries Advisory Committee. The survey sought feedback on how changes in structure and funding have affected TAFE libraries and the library and information professionals who run them. The survey results will be made available on the ALIA website shortly.



The Board considered a report of a review of the Interlibrary Resource Sharing (ILRS) Code conducted by the ALIA Interlibrary Lending Advisory Committee (ILLAC). The Board was pleased to welcome Margarita Moreno, the Chair of the Committee to the Board meeting to discuss the findings and recommendations contained in the report.

Aileen Weir, Director, Digital Business, National Library of Australia also joined the Board to provide a useful update on Trove Collaborative Services.

3. Excellence Awards

Each year the ALIA community recognises excellence in professional practice and research within the field of library and information management.

The Board was pleased to confirm the awarding of an [ALIA Research Grant Award](#) to Kirsten Thorpe for her research project '*National Survey on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment in Australian Libraries*'.

The [HCL Anderson Award](#) is the Association's highest honour that can be bestowed on an Associate Member of ALIA. The Board was especially pleased to confer this award on Jan Richards AM FALIA (CP) in recognition of her outstanding service to the industry domestically and internationally.

An Excellence Awards panel is appointed each year to review nominations for the various ALIA Awards. Board members expressed their appreciation to the following ALIA Members for their willingness to serve on the 2020 panel: Robert Knight (chair), Lyndall Ley, Vicki McDonald, Ann Ritchie and Jan Richards.

4. ALIA policies & guidelines review

As part of an ongoing review the following ALIA policies and guidelines were approved by the Board:

- [Australian guidelines on library and information services for people with disabilities](#)
- [Professional development for library and information professionals](#)
- [ALIA's role in the education of library and information professionals](#)
- [Courses in library and information science](#)
- [Employer roles and responsibilities in education and professional development](#)
- [ALIA Australian Public Library Alliance library fines statement.](#)

The Board thanked all those who contributed to the development and review of these important guidelines and policies.

5. Strategic plan update

An updated strategic plan that sets the direction for the Association to 2023 was confirmed by the Board. The updated plan is available on the [ALIA Website](#).



6. President's theme update

Leadership is the theme chosen by Robert Knight, the current ALIA President. The Board received a report noting that a survey has been conducted to ascertain where the sector is performing well, and where there is room for improvement, in order to produce the 'NextGen Leadership Scorecard', highlighting where we need to invest our energies going forward to improve leadership in the sector. The survey results are currently being analysed, and the resulting scorecard will be utilised as part of the ALIA Leadership & Innovation Forums that will be held around Australia early in 2020.

Viv Barton, ALIA Vice President (President-elect) has nominated education as the theme for her Presidential year commencing in May 2020. A briefing paper and survey have been produced to assess our current LIS education position and the size of the gap between where we are now and our vision. The survey results will be used to inform discussion at the ALIA Education Summit to be held on 4 May 2020 in Sydney in conjunction with the ALIA National 2020 Conference

Indigenous matters was the theme selected by former President Lyndall Ley. The Board discussed continuing progress in areas associated with this theme.

7. Events

The Board received a summary of a number of events and meetings attended by Board members and ALIA staff including:

- A reception in November at Parliament House co-hosted by ALIA, ALIA Australian Public Library Alliance (APLA) and the National and State Libraries associations (NSLA) to celebrate the achievement of Australian libraries in 2019. Speakers included author/journalist Peter FitzSimons, Minister for the Arts Paul Fletcher and Shadow Attorney General Mark Dreyfus.
- Representatives from GLAM peak bodies across Australia gathered at ALIA House to debate stretch targets for the sector as part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. From this discussion, a report was produced and an accompany survey has been prepared to aid wider consultation on the stretch targets. The survey and report are available at this [link](#).

8. Advocacy

The Board considered the following ALIA reports and submissions and thanked all those involved in their preparation:

- [2019: a year in libraries](#)
- [ALIA submission in response to the data sharing and release legislative reforms discussion paper October 2019](#)
- [Submission in response to the Senate inquiry into nationhood, national identity and democracy discussion paper September 2019.](#)

9. Conferences

An update was provided on the planning for upcoming conferences including the [ALIA National 2020 Conference](#) to be held in Sydney in May 2020.



The Board thanked the organising committee for the successful National Library and Information Technicians' Symposium that took place in Melbourne in November 2019. The enthusiastic committee comprised: Bradley O'Brien (convenor), Renate Beilharz (convenor), Margie Anderson (convenor), Libby Brackenridge, Fiona Caskie, Edith Fullalove, Robyn Hazlett, Kylie Hill, Eileen Loudon, Fiona Malcolm, Peta Noonan, Patricia Stott, Karen Williamson and Stacey Zarifopoulos.

10. Board election

Board members were pleased to note that nominations had been received from ten ALIA Members for the Board positions that become available in May 2020. Information about the candidates and the election process is available at this [link](#). Voting will commence on 20 January 2020.

11. Memorandum of Understanding

The Board was pleased to confirm two agreements with like-minded associations:

- Library Association of Ireland
 - ALIA Health Libraries Australia (HLA) and Canadian Health Libraries Association (CHLA).
- Further details are available on the [ALIA website](#).

12. Financial sustainability

The Board considered and approved the financial report for October 2019, noting that the results continue to be positive and ahead of the budget expectations.

The Board also approved the 2020 operating budget and the 2020 capital expenditure budget. The operating budget estimates provide for a return to a small surplus in 2020 while the capital expenditure budget allows for an upgrade to the ALIA website and Member database.

Next Meeting: Friday 27 March 2020