



# ALIA



**ALIA - 80 years strong**

**Our association celebrates its 80th anniversary in August 2017**

**Wednesday 31 August 2016 Adelaide:** The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is proud to announce it will be celebrating its 80th anniversary next year as the member organisation of choice for the library and information sector.

ALIA President, Patricia Genat, today told delegates at the ALIA National 2016 Conference, being held in Adelaide, that we will be celebrating '80 years strong in 2017.



*Photo: Courtesy of the Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW*

'The anniversary marks the inaugural gathering of the Australian Institute of Librarians outside the Albert Hall in Canberra on 21 August 1937.'

'Then as now, there was recognition that by working together we can achieve more - improving the quality of the profession which in turn improves library services.'

'When I look at the photograph of the occasion, I am impressed by the formality of the day and the seriousness of the occasion. You can't help but wonder how the photo would look today - of course there would be a much wider range of ethnicity and gender reflecting the changes in Australian society.'

'But I am sure that the love of this profession and our core values such as the free flow of information and ideas through access to recorded knowledge, information and creative works, has not changed.'

'The aim of preserving the human record is still paramount but the way it is done, through digitisation, creation of digital works and accessing information online through cloud based services could not have been imagined in 1937.'

'But I am sure that the increased accessibility of information would have been welcomed by our founders and we owe it to them to continue to innovate and transform the way we deliver our services in this information-rich world.'

One of the ways ALIA will commemorate the occasion will be a function at ALIA House in Canberra and other groups within our national organisation are planning their own State and Territory-based events.

Delegates to the ALIA National 2016 conference can start their celebrations early by visiting the ALIA stand in the exhibitor's hall -where they pick a bookmark, pick up a tag and write a wish for the future and pin it on a tree.

## **ENDS**

### **About the Australian Library and Information Association**

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is the professional organisation for the Australian library and information services sector. With 5,000 members across Australia, we provide the national voice of the profession in the development, promotion and delivery of quality library and information services, through leadership, advocacy and mutual support. [www.alia.org.au](http://www.alia.org.au)

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