



# ALIA Board of Directors meeting

## Take home messages

Tuesday 23 August 2022

ALIA House Canberra

### Directors Present

Vicki Edmunds (President)  
Clare Thorpe (Vice President)  
Mary Carroll  
Hero Macdonald  
Janette Wright  
Kathryn Eyre  
Alissa Sputore

## Meeting summary

At meetings held over two days in August, the ALIA Board discussed a wide range of issues including:

### 1. Presidential theme update

An update on activities associated with the 2021-2023 Presidential theme of diversity for our workforce and library services.

Highlights of activities this quarter included:

- The Professional Pathways Consultation Launch and Workshop on Wednesday 26 July at the State Library of Queensland.
- ALIA President representing ALIA at the Australian Book Industry Awards presentation night on Thursday 9 June in Sydney.
- ALIA President attending the IFLA Conference 26-29 July in Dublin, Ireland.

### 2. Advocacy

#### **ABC cuts to archive and library positions**

ALIA responded swiftly to the news on 8 June that the ABC proposed to cut 58 professional library and archival staff and for their work to be done by journalists or newly created "content navigator" positions. The next day ALIA issued a media release, a joint statement with the Australian Society of Archivists and sent a letter to the ABC Chair and ABC Managing Director



seeking a meeting. On 10 June ALIA CEO, Cathie Warburton and Director of Policy and Education, Trish Hepworth met with ABC Managing Director David Anderson and Director of News, Analysis & Investigations Justin Stevens to discuss our concerns.

ALIA and ASA posted an open letter to the ABC online and obtained over 3,000 signatures. Hard copies of the letter with a 50 page attachment of names who signed up was posted to each member of the ABC Board. Signatories included a number of organisations both national and international.

It was reported on Friday 12 August that the ABC has wound back plans slightly after lengthy negotiations with staff and unions. The acting chief digital information officer, Rebecca Matthews, said after “consultation and feedback”, four proposed redundant staff will be saved: two researchers; one sound library officer and one reference library officer. However it is still proposed to make 54 roles redundant.

### 3. Professional Pathways

An update on the Professional Pathways initiative supporting a resilient diverse workforce reported that since the May ALIA Board meeting the Consultation Period was launched at a well-attended event at the State Library of Queensland on 26 July, followed by the first Professional Pathways Workshops. Face-to-face and online workshops will be held across Australia through to November, and ALIA Members and non-Members working in LIS are encouraged to contribute feedback at a workshop, by lodging a written submission and by participating in the Survey (October 2022).

### 4. Conference update

#### **ALIA Information Online**

A virtual event planned for 17-18 May 2023.

#### **National Simultaneous Storytime 2023**

The NSS 2023 book is ‘The Speedy Sloth’ written by Rebecca Young and illustrated by Heath McKenzie and published by Scholastic Australia. Registrations are open for the event to be held on 24 May 2023.

#### **Health, Law and Specials conference**

The Asia-Pacific Health, Law and Special Libraries Conference is scheduled to take place 13, 14 and 15 June 2023. The event is expected to take place as an online event with in-person networking events at various locations across Australia and New Zealand.

#### **Library Design Awards and Changing Spaces Conference**

The Changing Spaces conference is planned 22 June 2023 at the State Library Queensland. Nominations for the awards will open in October 2022.

#### **NLSX**

The symposium will be held as an online on 29 July 2023.

#### **ALIA National Conference 2024**

The conference is booked to take place at the Adelaide Convention Centre, 6 May 2024 - Thursday 9 May 2024.



## 5. ALIA Groups

ALIA groups have continued to meet and plan events over this period. Some highlights include:

- The establishment of ALIA Multicultural Group. The group is planning their first event, a webinar, in September on the topic “What is Multiculturalism”.
- The establishment of the ALIA Digitisation Community of Practice and active list.
- A successful collaboration between ALIA Rainbow and NGAC for August #AusLibChat exploring libraries and LGBTQIA+ issues.
- More than 300 registrations for the ALIA Disability webinar on website accessibility.
- Successful Tropicalia symposium with a split physical model across Townsville and Cairns
- ALIA LARK are celebrating their 10th anniversary with the 2022 Symposium on 28 September 2022 at UTS in Sydney.
- ALIA AGLIN are working with special libraries to survey members to understand and inform the future direction of AGLIN.

## 6. Financial sustainability

The financial report for June 2022 was considered and approved by the Board. A year-to-date surplus was reported.

An update on ALIA's investment portfolio to the end of June 2022 was also noted.