



# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

**6.12 pm Wednesday 18 May 2016**

**ALIA House, 9-11 Napier Close, Deakin ACT 2600**

## MINUTES

### 1. Notice of convening meeting

The meeting opened at 6.12pm on Wednesday 18 May 2016. In accordance with the Association's constitution, the President, John Shipp, gave notice of convening the meeting. He welcomed everyone, including long standing members, past Presidents and Board members. John introduced the Vice President/President-elect Patricia Genat, Chief Executive Officer, Sue McKerracher and Ian McCallum, Parliamentarian for the Annual General Meeting.

42 members were present, including some members who attended via videoconference, which constituted a quorum. The President called the meeting to order.

Voting rights for members voting in person were established. Proxies were received from 4 members. The voting procedures were outlined by the Parliamentarian.

It was with sadness that the passing of several long-time ALIA members was noted. The significant contribution made to the Association by John Brudenall, Averill Edwards, Gary Gorman, Kerry Webb and Chris Williams was acknowledged.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Frieda Evans, Pamela Sotkik, Maxine Rochester, David Barkla, David Fricker, Anne-Marie Schwirlich, Jan Shaw, Margaret Allen, Sherrey Quinn, Eric Wainright, Margaret Burn, Alyson Dalby, Duncan Furphy, Helen Roberts, Karna O'Dea, Libby Cass and Rebecca Barber.

**Motion: That the apologies be accepted.**

*Moved: John Shipp*

*Second: Roxanne Missingham*

*Motion Carried.*



### 3. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

The draft minutes of the 2015 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 2015 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.**

*Moved: John Shipp*

*Second: Vanessa Little*

*Motion Carried.*

### 4. Reports

#### a. President's Report

The President presented a report based on the following script:

It has been an enormous pleasure serving as ALIA president for the second time. The Association has changed considerably since the last time I was President in 1998. New challenges abound but some were around 17 years ago. What has remained constant is the need for a strong association to represent the profession and the commitment of members.

ALIA has tried to predict and prepare for the future rather than react to change after it has occurred. This has involved altering some of the services and activities undertaken especially by ALIA staff. The Association now employs about half the number of staff than 17 years ago. Our focus is increasingly on promoting the profession, lobbying policy and funding agencies and supporting education.

A wide range of activities were undertaken during the year and they are detailed in the Annual Report. Campaigns run under the FAIR banner proved to be an effective way of improving lobbying and advocacy. The success of these campaigns lay in the engagement of ALIA Members, library users and other concerned members of the broader Australian community.

The Board also considered the future of scholarly communication and the likely implications for the two academic journals published by the Association - *Australian Library Journal* and *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*. After lengthy consideration, the Board resolved to merge the journals and to commence a process to take greater advantage of emerging technologies. The overall intent is for ALIA to support research through an internationally pre-eminent library and information services publication - JALIA.



Another area of ALIA activity and success during the year was our interaction with other organisations in the GLAM sector. Representatives of the peak bodies met a number of times to identify ways in which the sector can work cohesively to promote mutual issues. This is a long term strategy and one that depends on understanding the differences and similarities of the constituent professions.

Accreditation of library and information education courses continues to be an important ALIA function along with support for continuing professional development. Forty per cent of members now participate in the ALIA PD Scheme and from 2020 participation will be mandatory for new Members wishing to retain professional status. Members of other professions, such as teaching, pharmacy and medicine, are already required to undertake a minimum level of structured professional development each year.

The future for ALIA and the profession will be bright but there are challenges ahead. We need to improve our member numbers. Currently only 15% of the library and information services workforce are members of ALIA. Some non-members belong to related organisations that represent sectors of the industry but many have no affiliations. ALIA has established memoranda of understanding with other organisations in the sector to encourage greater interaction. An issue for the future will be to reconsider what qualifications are required for membership of ALIA.

Every meeting of the Board has included consideration of ALIA finances. Through judicious and prudent operation, the Association is in an excellent financial position. Our major asset is ALIA House in Canberra which we own outright. It is also one of our potential major liabilities. We depend on rental income for 75% of the building and have had difficulty attracting new tenants in a highly competitive property market.

The Board considered whether the building should be sold and other premises acquired but decided that it was not an option at this time. Consultants were engaged to advise on strategies for improving the building in order to make it an attractive rental proposition. ALIA House opened in 1990 and no major upgrade to the fabric has occurred. Renovation will be a major charge against our financial reserves over the next few years.

My thanks to every member of the Association for your support. I urge you to remain a Member, increase your involvement and encourage colleagues to join. I am also thankful for the assistance and support given to me as President by members of the ALIA Board and by ALIA staff. We are extremely fortunate to have such a competent workforce. Our Chief Executive Officer, Sue McKerracher, has provided a very high level of leadership which has increased the profile and reputation of ALIA. My congratulations and best wishes to Patricia Genat and the incoming Board.



## **b. Chief Executive Officer's Report**

The Chief Executive Officer presented the following report:

For new initiatives in 2015, we focused on professional development and advocacy as unique strengths of the Association.

Our learning team broke new ground with a PD specialisation for government library and information services, while rolling out the health, public and school library specialisations which we launched over the previous 18 months. The team also followed up the successful completion of a public libraries proficiency program trial with LINC Tasmania, with a further pilot program for Libraries ACT.

In February, at the Information Online conference, we launched the FAIR (Freedom of Access to Information and Resources) platform for advocacy. This enabled us to build an audience of people from outside the profession who share our values and will campaign alongside the library and information sector.

The FAIR platform proved its worth with Cooking for Copyright Day on 31 July, drawing attention to the need for copyright law reform. Thanks to the efforts of our communications team, Members and thousands of supporters, we ran a highly successful social media campaign around vintage recipes and on 23 December, the Australian Government released a draft Bill for copyright law reform incorporating many of the changes we had been lobbying for through the Cooking for Copyright campaign.

2015 was also an important year for relationship-building.

We partnered with the Australian Society of Archivists and Records and Information Management Professionals Australasia to develop a joint accreditation process for higher education library and information science courses. We were one of the lead organisations behind the GLAM Peak Bodies roundtable, promoting digital access to collections, together with galleries, archives, museums, historical societies and other collecting institutions. In the absence of the promised Book Council of Australia, we built closer ties with book publishers and we collaborated with other school library associations to deliver the FAIR Great School Library campaign.

We have always had good relationships with our equivalent associations overseas, but we were especially pleased to be able to announce that the first joint ALIA LIANZA conference since 1994 will be taking place at the Gold Coast Convention Centre between 30 July and 2 August 2018.

We were also active with participation outside the GLAM sector. We welcomed the opportunity to be part of the Roundtable on the Draft National Strategy for International Education at Parliament House in June, attended by no less than five Government Ministers; the inaugural



Friends of the Internet meeting at Parliament House in September, and we were pleased to be invited to join the Telstra Digital Inclusion Index Working Group, which met for the first time in November, in Melbourne.

As ever, the Association's lively calendar of events and activities was largely thanks to the contribution of approximately 250 Member volunteers through our 40 or so Groups.

Despite a challenging environment across the board for professional associations, we ended the year on a positive financial footing, with a healthy surplus of just over \$176,000. This included the sum of \$54,000 earned by ALIA Groups through professional development and other activities, and carried forward for their use in 2016.

I would like to conclude by thanking our retiring Directors, President John Shipp, Beatriz Aroche and Aileen Weir for the significant contributions they have both made to the Board and the success of ALIA over the past two, and in the case of Aileen, four years.

## 5. Presentation of the 2015 annual report and financial statements

The annual report, financial statements and auditors report for the year ended December 2015 were tabled.

*Question:* Fiona Blackburn noted that the income from membership fees and expenses were both lower than anticipated and queried what the Association planned to use the surplus for?

*Answer:* The CEO indicated that the Association whenever possible aims to achieve a surplus in the order of \$50,000. This allows for the lean years where a loss is anticipated, and also leaves some capacity to take on new initiatives that arise during any given year. It was also noted that the surplus in 2015 was larger than anticipated, but that \$54,000 had been generated by ALIA Groups and would be carried forward for their use in subsequent years.

The President noted that ALIA staff reductions and operational efficiencies have contributed to the surplus, and that it was unlikely that there could be any further reductions in these areas. He also advised that it is likely in the coming years that some of the reserves will need to be utilised to maintain ALIA House, the major asset of the Association.

**Motion: That the 2015 annual report, annual financial statements, Directors' report and CEO report as tabled be received.**

*Moved: John Shipp*

*Second: Aileen Weir*

*Motion Carried.*



## 6. Election of Directors

The meeting considered the confirmation of the election of Directors to the ALIA Board. The President thanked the large number of high quality candidates who had nominated for the Board and congratulated the successful candidates on their election.

**Motion: The meeting notes that Vicki McDonald was declared elected as Vice President (President-elect) , Marian Morgan-Bindon was declared elected as Institutional Director and Monika Szunejko and Jane Cowell were declared elected as Directors of the Association for the term commencing from the conclusion of the 2016 Annual General meeting.**

*Moved: John Shipp*

*Second: Fiona Emberton*

*Motion Carried.*

## 7. Appointment of auditors

The meeting considered the confirmation of the appointment of Houston & Hanna as auditors for 2016 subject to ASIC's approval of the resignation of Price Waterhouse Coopers.

**Motion: That Houston & Hanna be confirmed as the auditors for 2016** subject to ASIC's approval of the resignation of Price Waterhouse Coopers.

*Moved: John Shipp*

*Second: Marian Morgan-Bindon*

*Motion Carried.*

## 8. Fixing of auditors' fees

The meeting considered the fixing of the auditor remuneration.

**Motion: That the remuneration of Houston & Hanna, the Association's auditors, be fixed by the ALIA Board of Directors for the ensuing 12 months.**

*Moved: John Shipp*

*Second: Beatriz Aroche*

*Motion Carried.*



## 9. Notices of motion

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

## 10. General business

### a. Presentation of pins to newly elected Board members

Incoming President, Patricia Genat acknowledged and congratulated the new Directors, and presented them with their ALIA gold pins and name badges.

### b. Thanks to outgoing Board members

Patricia also thanked the outgoing Directors, John Shipp, Aileen Weir and Beatriz Aroche for their contribution to the work of the Board and presented them each with a small token of appreciation on behalf of ALIA members.

No further items were raised.

## 11. Meeting closed

There being no further business, the President thanked members for their attendance and declared the 2016 Annual General Meeting of ALIA closed at 6.45pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Genat".

---

President

18 May 2017

---

Date