



ALIA Board of Directors meeting

Take home messages

Monday 15 March 2021

Via Zoom

Present

Viv Barton (President)
Stefanie Gaspari
Justine Hyde

Kim Sherwin
Clare Thorpe
Emily Wilson

Meeting summary

The first meeting of the ALIA Board for 2021 was conducted over Zoom and included discussion of a range of issues including:

1. Professional Pathways

An update on the [Professional Pathways](#) initiative to strengthen the library and information science profession and help create a future-ready workforce was received. The initial consultation phase has been completed with positive engagement and support from all sectors of the library and information services community. The Board endorsed a plan and funding for the roll-out of the project over a four-year period.

2. Relief Fund

The Board reviewed the operation of the [ALIA COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) that was established to support ALIA Members facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Donations to the Relief Fund have been received from a number of ALIA Members and an additional amount of \$10,000 of operating funds was set aside by the ALIA Board to contribute to the Fund. A total of \$7,600 of the ALIA contribution remains in the fund, and as this is unlikely to be needed in full to assist people facing immediate financial hardship, the ALIA Board has agreed to provide \$5,000 to fund a second Indigenous LIS student scholarship. The remainder of the funds will be available to provide ongoing support for ALIA Members who continue to experience financial hardship.

3. Advisory Committee appointments

The appointments of Sara Altman as the Chair of the [New Generation Advisory Committee](#), Lorraine Rose as Vice-Chair and Michelle Coxsen as a member of the Committee were confirmed.



The Board thanked these Members for their willingness to participate in the work of ALIA, providing input into the strategic decisions made by the Board.

4. Fellowship awards

The Board was pleased to confer the award of an ALIA Fellowship recognising the attainment of an exceptionally high standard of proficiency in library and information science and a distinguished contribution to the theory or practice of library and information science to:

- [Sandra Ryan](#) for her contribution to the school library sector over more than 40 years, and
- [Mary Anne Kennan](#) whose scholarly work and important editorial contribution to ALIA journals were particularly noted.

Congratulations to both of these worthy recipients.

5. ALIA Conferences

The Board received an update on the successful *ALIA 2021 Information Online Conference* and *Changing Spaces Library Design Conference 2021*. Both events were organised as virtual events given the continuing uncertainty surrounding travel and hosting public meetings.

2,700 delegates registered for Information Online and positive feedback has been received about the topical and high-quality presentations. Unfortunately, few delegates took advantage of the online exhibition offered by our industry partners, and this aspect of any future online conference will be reviewed to ensure it meets the needs of both delegates and exhibitors.

The Information Online experience has been extended with a series of half day *In-depth* events on offer in the coming months to delve deeper into current issues.

The Changing Spaces Library Design Conference 2021 was held as part of the Asia-Pacific Architecture Forum and highlighted trends in school, public, academic and special library design. The [Library Design Awards](#) showcased 33 new and refurbished Australian libraries. The Board congratulated the award winners and thanked the conference organisers and members of the Library Design Awards judging panel.

6. Course Accreditation

The review of the 12 ALIA accredited [Diploma of Library and Information Services](#) courses has been completed and the Board was pleased to reaccredit all courses.

Board members thanked the reaccreditation panel members: Vanessa Little, Kim Thomson, Patricia Lam Sin Cho, Phyllis Paioff, Philip Kent, Jeannine Hooper and Matthew Griffiths.

7. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement

A briefing was provided on [ALIA engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders](#). The Board is supportive of increased efforts to achieve genuine engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and greater representation in the LIS profession and as ALIA Members. Current initiatives include the [ALIA Reconciliation Action Plan \(RAP\)](#), reinvigoration of the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Library, Information and Resource Network \(ATSILIRN\)](#) and two



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LIS student scholarships. A study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment in Australian libraries is underway, and the Professional Pathways initiative aims to increase the number of Indigenous people in the LIS workforce. Sector diversity will remain an ongoing issue for consideration by the Board.

8. ALIA Research

The Board approved funding for a research project to investigate current practices in Australian libraries in collection development and management. The research will solicit the views of Australian library leaders regarding identifying, categorising and dealing with misinformation within print and digital collections and explore the international context. The research is intended to inform a policy framework to guide collection development and management practices. Expressions of interest from LIS researchers will be solicited shortly.

9. Board election

The Board received an update on the 2021 ALIA Board election process with nominations welcomed from 9 ALIA personal Members for the positions of President and two general Directors. The voting period will conclude on Friday 16 April and the successful candidates will join the Board following the Annual General Meeting on 24 May 2021.

10. Financial sustainability

The financial report for January 2021 was considered and approved by the Board. A small year-to-date surplus was reported at the end of January largely due to savings in salary expenses due to a changeover in staff.

The Board approved the appointment of Playfair Tan, an ethical investment company to assist with the investment of ALIA cash reserves following the sale of ALIA House in December 2020. Former ALIA President's Tricia Genat and Robert Knight were thanked for their assistance in the review of potential investment partners.

Next meeting: Monday 24 May 2021