



ALIA Board of Directors meeting

Take home messages

Monday 6 December 2021

Via Zoom

Present

Vicki Edmunds (President)
Stefanie Gaspari (Vice-President)
Mary Carroll
Alissa Sputore

Clare Thorpe
Emily Wilson
Guest
Dr Gill Hallam

Meeting summary

A wide range of issues were discussed at the final ALIA Board meeting for 2021 including:

1. Presidential theme update

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

Highlights of activities included:

- The opening of registrations for the [ALIA National Conference](#) to be held in May 2022 with a diversity theme.
- The announcement of the [National Simultaneous Storytime 2022](#) book that features diverse families.
- A partnership with [Magabala Books](#) to create two children's picture books written and illustrated by Indigenous creators, facilitated by a grant from the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund. The books will be included on the [Online Storytime](#) book list for public libraries to share with their communities.
- The publication of Kirsten Thorpe's final report on a [survey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment in Australian libraries](#). The study was supported by an ALIA Research Award.
- The launch of the Dr Huan Vo-Tran's ALIA Research Award study into [Digital Literacy Programs for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities](#).

2. Professional Pathways

An update on the Professional Pathways initiative to ensure a diverse, skilled, knowledgeable, supported and valued library and information services workforce was received. Dr Gill Hallam presented a summary of the *Technical Report* that is intended to provide an evidence base for the development of a draft professional pathways framework and facilitate ongoing consultation within the Professional Pathways. The report and a summary will be made available to Members in the first quarter of 2022.



3. ALIA Fellows

The Board was pleased to confirm the award of [ALIA Fellow](#) to seven ALIA Members who have each reached an exceptionally high standard of proficiency in library and information science and contributed to the aims and objects of the Association.

The Board congratulated the following Members:

- Margie Anderson (VIC)
- Laurie Atkinson (VIC)
- Judy Brooker (NSW)
- Melanie Foti (Hong Kong)
- Kym Holden (ACT)
- Vanessa Little (ACT)
- Cynthia Love (VIC)

4. Advisory Committee appointments

Board members were pleased to confirm several [ALIA Advisory Committee](#) appointments:

- Laurie Atkinson as a member of the ALIA International Relations Advisory Committee
- Linda Marchesani as Chair of the ALIA Interlibrary Lending Advisory Committee
- Jo Clark as Chair of the VET Libraries Advisory Committee.

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.

5. Research Grant Award

The Board confirmed the award of an [ALIA Research Grant](#) to Nicole Johnston for her project on the impact and management of mis/disinformation at University Libraries in Australia. The research will be presented at the ALIA National Conference in Canberra in May 2022. The Board thanked the members of the ALIA Research Advisory Committee for reviewing the award applications.

6. Conference update

An update was received on the progress of planning for several future conferences, with particular focus on the 2022 ALIA National Conference that is scheduled as an in-person event at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 16-19 May. 'Diversity' is the conference theme and [registrations](#) are now open.

The Board congratulated the organisers of the recent [National Library and Information Technicians' Symposium](#) for a successful online event that attracted a record number of delegates.

7. Board Election

Details of the nomination process for the [2022 ALIA Board election](#) were provided to the Board. Nominations are now being sought for an Institutional Director and three general Directors. Nominations will be accepted from current individual ALIA Members until 31 January 2022.



8. Constitution amendment

The Board reviewed a proposal for an amendment to the ALIA Constitution that will be presented as a special motion at the [ALIA Annual General Meeting](#) to be held on Monday 16 May 2022 in conjunction with the ALIA National Conference. Members will be provided with details of the proposed change early in 2022 and will have an opportunity to provide feedback before it goes to the vote.

9. Relief fund

The Board reviewed the ALIA Relief fund that had been established to support ALIA members facing financial difficulties as a result of the COVID pandemic. It was agreed that the fund would be wound up with the balance of the fund (\$5,600) being used to support a second Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarship in 2022 and four placements in the ALIA Mentoring Scheme. The Board thanked the ALIA Members who had contributed to the fund.

10. Website and database

A report on the launch of the new ALIA website and member database was considered by the Board. A majority of responses to a Member survey relating to the website and Member Centre were positive or provided constructive criticism with useful suggestions for improvement.

11. Financial sustainability

The financial report for October 2021 was considered and approved by the Board. A year-to-date surplus was reported, largely due to positive results from the Information Online and Library Design conferences and National Simultaneous Storytime merchandise sales. In addition, expenditure is below expectations, in part due to COVID-19 restrictions on travel.

The Board also approved the 2022 operating budget and the 2022 capital expenditure budget. The operating budget estimates provide for a small surplus in 2022 while the capital expenditure budget allows for the replacement of essential ICT facilities.

ALIA reserves, including proceeds from the sale of ALIA House are progressively being invested following an ethical investment approach overseen by the ALIA Investment Advisory Committee. The Board reviewed a report outlining the progress of the investment portfolio and were pleased with the results to date.