



29th Annual General Meeting

6.04pm Wednesday 17 May 2017

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

MINUTES

1. Notice of convening meeting

The meeting opened at 6.04pm on Wednesday 17 May 2017. In accordance with the Association's constitution, the President, Patricia Genat, gave notice of convening the meeting. She welcomed everyone, including long standing Members, past Presidents and Board members. Patricia introduced the Vice President/President-elect Vicki McDonald, Chief Executive Officer, Sue McKerracher and Ian McCallum, Parliamentarian for the Annual General Meeting.

35 Members were present, including one Member 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 18 Members. The voting procedures were outlined by the Parliamentarian.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Brad Hinton, Maxine Rochester, Wendy Crawford, Freda Evans, Courtney Moran, Anthony Stevens, Margaret Allen, Leanne Barrett, Nicole White, Alison Sloper, William Miller, Sherrey Quinn, John Shipp, Anne MacCallum, Matthew Griffiths, Margaret Galbraith, Roxanne Missingham and Elizabeth Baillie.

3. Minutes of the 2016 AGM

The draft minutes of the 2016 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 2016 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.



Moved: Patricia Genat
Second: Marian Morgan-Bindon
Motion Carried.

4. Reports

a. President's Report

The President presented the following report:

Eighty years ago, Australia's population was 6.8 million and life expectancy was an average of 67 years. Today 25 million Australians can expect to live to around 80.

In 1937, a regular airmail service between USA and Australia had just begun, Don Bradman captained a successful Australian cricket team for a test win and the Australian censorship board temporarily lifted their ban on Ulysses. Colleen McCullough, Ron Clarke, Lindsay Fox, Dawn Fraser and Lorraine Bayley were born.

Telecommunication and electricity were basic – no wi-fi, internet, instant streaming, netflix or messaging. Life has changed for the better for many of our Member groups, but there is still plenty of work to be done.

This year at ALIA we celebrate an association which is 80 years strong and counting. Celebrating 80 years of membership services naturally assumes that we have had our share of struggles and challenges and as a Board we've worked hard to provide an effective path forward for all our current and potential members and staff.

During this past year, our discussions and decisions at Board level have ranged across many topics including the transition of our journals, conferences past and future, international and GLAM involvement and ensuring ALIA membership remains cost effective and current for our 5,000plus members throughout the industry.

In addition to lively discussions around the Board table, the other great joy of my year as President has been getting out and about to meet Members. I have travelled to every state and territory, representing ALIA at conferences, PD days, Group meetings and informal chats in the pub. I have met people who are just starting out in their careers, those who are well into their stride, and others nearing retirement. Every encounter has reinforced my view of library and information professionals as highly intelligent people, who have a strong sense of social justice running through their centre. It has made me even prouder of my profession – though more than a few years have passed since I worked as a teacher librarian in school libraries.

As ALIA President, this past year, it has been my privilege and delight to learn from and lead this Board, its CEO, Sue McKerracher, and the executive team. My personal thanks to all of them.



b. Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Chief Executive Officer presented the following report:

2016 was a year for spreading the word about the value of libraries and the skills of library and information professionals to the broader reach of government and other stakeholders.

Our flagship event was the dinner in the Mural Hall at Parliament House in November. While this was couched as the launch of the *Australian Public Libraries Standards, Guidelines and Outcome Measures*, it was, in reality, an event to raise the profile of all kinds of libraries with politicians, government officers and peak bodies from other industries.

While this was the very public end of our government relations, we were involved in other high level engagement which necessarily took place behind the scenes. We had a number of meetings with politicians to lobby for funding for the National Library of Australia's Trove platform – an essential and much loved piece of the nation's research infrastructure. We were also involved in discussions around copyright law reform and the Productivity Commission's review of Intellectual Property Arrangements; in the consultation for the National Research Infrastructure Roadmap; in planning for a new digital literacy for older Australians initiative and we participated in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's roundtable on high-value datasets.

It felt as though 2016 was the year for making advances at the political level, and it was also a good year for international relations. At the start of 2016, we had already agreed with LIANZA that we would host an Australia New Zealand conference on the Gold Coast in 2018 – the first joint conference since 1994. After a very successful visit by a National Library Board of Singapore delegation to the ALIA National 2016 Conference in Adelaide, in September, we signed a three-way memorandum of understanding, including the Library Association of Singapore, which turned the conference into the Asia Pacific Library and Information Conference 2018.

Closer to home, there appeared to be more opportunities for connection than ever before for our Members. Thanks to the energy and commitment of ALIA Groups, our ALIA State and Territory Managers, and our ALIA Communications team, social media was buzzing with news and ideas. There was an exceptional calendar of events to enable face to face networking and professional development, often free to attend. We were particularly conscious of our Members who are not in the main metro areas, and rely on online means to connect with their peers.

As we move forward, change is inevitable. It was with much heart searching, and after consultation with past Editors, contributors and Members, that the ALIA Board endorsed the decision to replace *Australian Library Journal (ALJ)* and *Australian Academic and Research Libraries (AARL)* with one title, the *Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association*, commencing in 2017. The Editorial Boards and Editors of both titles helped us through the process, which, for some Members, was painful. However, the rich content of *ALJ* and *AARL* remains available in print and online for future generations of library and information science researchers, and new opportunities await for contributors to *JALIA*.



Some changes have been less visible, but very valuable to the profession. Our Learning team headed up by Judy Brooker continued to introduce innovative new approaches to course accreditation and professional development during 2016, and we were proud to see these highlighted as best practice by international colleagues through the IFLA conference, satellite and webinar structure.

The Canberra property market remained flat during 2016, and several areas of ALIA House became vacant, as tenants reliant on government grants had their funding withdrawn. This reduction in rental income had a significant impact on the Association's bottom line, but the revenue generated by our highly successful ALIA National 2016 Conference helped offset some of this.

ALIA membership showed a slight decline, but this was less pronounced than the falls reported by other professional associations, in line with the age of our workforce and the number of people retiring from the library and information profession. We were pleased to note that student membership was flourishing, and students and new graduates accounted for the highest proportion of new Members.

The achievements contained in the report could not have been accomplished without the hard work, support and commitment of the ALIA Board, Advisory Committees, Groups and volunteer Members, who make all things possible. We continue to live by the motto 'Together we are stronger' and this theme of resilience and sustainability will be continued into 2017 when we celebrate ALIA's anniversary in August as '80 years strong.'

5. Presentation of the 2016 annual report and financial statements

The 2016 Annual Report and the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 together with the Directors' report and auditor's report in respect of those financial statements were tabled.

The President noted that ALIA is in a strong financial position with stable income and membership, a good Board and a strong advocacy voice. There is some concern about identifying tenants for ALIA House, but with two successful conferences in 2016 the Association is in a better financial position than had been anticipated.



6. Election of Directors

The meeting considered the confirmation of the election of Directors to the ALIA Board.

Motion: The meeting notes that Lyndall Osborne was declared elected as Vice President (President-elect) , and Jonathon Guppy and Anne Reddcliff were declared elected as Directors of the Association for the term commencing from the conclusion of the 2016 Annual General meeting.

Moved: Patricia Genat

Second: Fiona Emberton

Motion Carried.

7. Appointment of auditors

The meeting considered the confirmation of the appointment of the current auditor Kim David Hanna (Registered Company Auditor No.341) as auditor for 2017.

Motion: That Kim David Hanna be confirmed as auditor for 2017.

Moved: Patricia Genat

Second: Aileen Weir

Motion Carried.

8. Fixing of auditors' fees

The meeting considered the fixing of the auditor remuneration.

Motion: That the remuneration of Kim David Hanna, the Association's auditor, be fixed by the ALIA Board of Directors for the ensuing 12 months.

Moved: Patricia Genat

Second: Ghylene Palmer

Motion Carried.



9. Notices of motion

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

10. Special Resolutions

The meeting considered the special resolutions relating to proposed changes to the Australian Library and Information Association Limited Constitution. The proposed amendments had been unanimously endorsed by the Board of Directors and the Board recommended that ALIA members accept the amendments. Details of the proposed amendments were provided to members attending the meeting and had been made available on the ALIA website.

The Chair noted that the special resolutions relating to proposed changes to the ALIA Constitution must be passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by members entitled to vote on the resolution and who voted at the meeting in person or by proxy. In order to ensure the special resolutions were passed by the required percentage, voting for the special resolutions relating to Constitutional amendments was conducted by a show of hands.

Special Resolution 1

Motion: That the Constitution of Australian Library and Information Association be amended by making the following change:

Add the word 'environment' to Section 3.2 part (a):

- (a) To promote the free flow of information and ideas in the interest of all Australians and a thriving culture, economy, **environment** and democracy.

Moved: Patricia Genat

Second: Monika Szunejko

Speakers for:

- Aileen Weir; The speaker voiced her support for the amendment indicating that it was a terrific addition to the Objects of the Association.
- Karna O'Dea; The amendment acknowledges the environmental approach that has been part of library operations since their inception.

Speakers against:

- Nil

Comment:

- Eric Wainwright: Noted that constitutions should not be changed lightly, and particularly in response to current issues of concern to the general population. Consideration should be given to what the Association would do differently if the change is approved, or if the change is necessary to reflect the current practices and attitudes of the Association.

Motion Carried



Special Resolution 2

Motion: That the Constitution of Australian Library and Information Association be amended by making the following change:

Adding a new Object to section 3.2:

(f) To endorse the principles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights- Article 19 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in response to the many challenges faced by the world today and into the future.

Moved: Patricia Genat

Second: Jane Cowell

Question:

- Libby Cass; Queried what ALIA plans to do to put into practice the tenets included in the proposed amendments?

In response a number of current and future activities were noted by the President, President-elect and the CEO including:

- *The incoming President has adopted international affairs as a primary focus of her presidency.*
- *A recent ALIA International Think Tank identified the need for a new ALIA Advisory Committee to focus on international affairs including working across the Asia Pacific region and developing a strategy to identify and bring the work currently undertaken in this arena together.*
- *The work of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and Jennefer Nicholson was acknowledged as a significant influence.*
- *Ongoing discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to promote the work of libraries as they lead the way to fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals.*

Speakers against:

- *Jennefer Nicholson; The speaker noted that she had significant experience during her tenure at IFLA with the incorporation of similar principles into the IFLA statutes, and that she supports the principles and commitment proposed in the special resolutions. Despite this, her view is that the amendment is not drafted appropriately and requires rewording. She is of the view that the proposed Object (f) incorporates two different concepts that should not be linked in one object. In addition, the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights Article 19 is already encompassed in Section 3.2 Object (a) of the constitution. She also noted that the constitution will need to be amended further at the conclusion of 2030 when the Sustainable Development Goals timeline concludes.*
- *Eric Wainwright; The speaker saw merit in the argument presented by Jennefer Nicholson but also acknowledged the underlying good intentions of the proposed amendment.*

Motion Carried.



11. General business

a. Presentation of pins to newly elected Board members

The incoming President, Vicki McDonald, acknowledged and congratulated the new Directors, and presented them with their ALIA gold pins.

b. Thanks to outgoing Board members

Vicki McDonald also thanked the outgoing Directors, Patricia Genat, Fiona Emberton and Ghylene Palmer for their contribution to the work of the Board and presented them each with a small token of appreciation on behalf of ALIA members.

c. Future of the profession update reports launch

Patricia Genat launched the *Future of the Profession* update reports that provide a review of progress made on issues identified in the 2014 *Future of the Profession* reports. The President noted that the seven reports are available for review on the ALIA website.

No further items were raised.

12. Meeting closed

There being no further business, the President thanked members for their attendance and declared the 2017 Annual General Meeting of ALIA closed at 6.45pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicki McDonald".

President

09/06/2017

Date