



Australian  
Library and  
Information  
Association

# ALIA NAC Regional Reports 2007

Red Centre ALIA, 4 September 2007  
CDU Alice Springs campus Library

## 1. Attendance:

Ian McLean, Amy O'Donoghue, Melissa Raymond, Nathalie Smith, Sonia Sumner, Chris Ferguson (non-member).

Philip Keane (ALIA Director) & Jayshree Mamtora (ALIA Local Liaison Officer)

Apologies: Fiona Blackburn, Ruth Jones, Carmel Leonard, Rob McDonald, Bid Rose, Graeme Shaughnessy, Jo Sherrin

## 2. Selected representative to attend the national meeting of the NAC (they must be a member)

Nathalie Smith

ALIA membership no. 055625

Major Issues – Providing leadership in professional education and workforce planning

- The role of employers should become more flexible to retain staff: need to offer short term work, consultancies, better pay. There ought to be less emphasis on qualifications and more on experience and knowledge base. Different skill sets will need to be required such as life skills and there will need to be more emphasis on IT skills, as well as broader skills that can be applied to the library industry, not just those on paper.
- Employers need to recognise the cost of education and provide more support for staff than is currently the case. Currently employers can't afford to provide time for studying let alone financial support. They need to be more flexible to support study. Also need to provide traineeships.
- Role of educational institutions:  
To retain basic skills in the curriculum such as cataloguing, IL, mediation, customer service, but add others that are not currently offered such as: budgetary skills, applying for grants.
- There needs to be more of a crossover between employers and educational institutions:
  - employers need to be better aware of ALIA recommendations for pay
  - employers and educational institutions need to identify skills that are required of staff at all levels

- In addition to the ones already mentioned, skill sets required in the future will need to include useful generic skills such as cataloguing, information literacy, HR, management for the net generation, and those skills that are second nature to them will be needed by us.
- Promotion of library profession as a career by
  - emphasising IT skills but yet retain attraction of books
  - better marketing the profession starting at primary school level. A TV series would help educate the public. Need to be able to retain the best people.
- ALIA could help by
  - producing a DVD on the different aspects of the library profession
  - scholarships for disadvantaged groups - ALIA puts a lot of money into the top of the profession e.g. ALIA awards but also needs to help the bottom.
  - supporting those (often techs) running small libraries in remote areas who are expected to be able to do everything
  - working with employers in reaching out more and working with employers in recognising our profession

### **3. ALIA Initiatives for 2008**

- Boardroom Bound
  - Ian McLean would make a good board member
- Review of advisory committees and representatives
- Technology: what members want from ALIA
  - videoconferencing facilities for training activities to overcome tyranny of distance, e.g. Power searching seminar where a minimum of 15 participants was required had to be cancelled. Other training activities around the country hard for them to get to. Alternatively financial support for hire of video link facility.
  - podcasts
  - computing facilities
  - RSS feeds
  - possibility for Group funds to be used to fund facilities
  - make DVDs of PD activities around the country and "sell" to Group.

### **4. Celebrating Success – ALIA stories of Achievement**

- Acceptance of proposal to host Dreaming08 has been a huge success considering they are a small regional group. Produced a promotional DVD independently for it.

### **5. Local issues**

- As discussed in the sections above

### **6. Evaluation**

- All 6 attendees completed evaluation forms
- Of the 6, all considered the opportunity to participate in, and contribute to, discussions, as being excellent
- Of the 6, three considered both the program and content and organisational aspects as being excellent; the remaining three rated them "4", however they did not provide any information on how they could have been improved

- The most valuable aspect of the meeting was: relaxed atmosphere to contribute; insight into the overall picture; getting an opportunity to talk about concerns; having a clearly presented meeting; meeting other local librarians.
- The regional meeting could be improved by: having more say in the date; keeping Philip Keane
- Other comments: change the name to something more interesting; open it up to non-members; "make approaches to other library associations to consider working closer together or amalgamation" (non-member).

**7. Any other comments from the meeting?**

N/A