

Responses from Kevin Dudeney

Candidate for President Elect

What benefits do you believe ALIA membership can bring to a new graduate?

Becoming a new member of the library and information profession, can be like participating in any new activity. ALIA can provide new graduates with opportunities for networking with colleagues and senior members of the profession. Through its state groups and nationally, ALIA provides many professional development programs. ALIA members receive a discount on attending ALIA and their partner organisations professional development events. By being involved in an ALIA group members can participate in the planning of professional development activities and the strategic direction of the group. Members are able to participate in the strategic direction of ALIA through the National Advisory Congress.

What role do you see new graduates playing in the function and direction of ALIA?

The new graduates of today will be the leaders within the profession and ALIA of tomorrow. New graduates should be encouraged to contribute to ALIA, as many do now, by being involved in its groups and committees. By being involved new graduates will provide an active, strong voice that can impact on the direction of ALIA. Any organisation that does not listen to its members and future leaders does so at their peril.

How do you propose to engage with new graduates if you are elected to the Board?

I have been engaged with new graduates in various capacities over many years with mentoring and the New Librarians Symposium 4. It is imperative for any member of the governing board of any organisation to talk to, and mainly listen to, its members. This includes the continuation of the consultation process through the new graduate forums that currently exist. It is also important that ALIA through its groups provide relevant professional development activities for new graduates.

What would you do to ensure ALIA's relevance to new graduates?

ALIA can continue to be relevant to new graduates by engaging with them through their groups, committees and New Librarians Symposium. Based upon the input from these groups ALIA can ensure services that are important to new graduates are provided.

Would you commit to supporting the continuation of the New Librarians' Symposium?

Being on the NLS4 committee I am actively involved in this important event. I also attended NLS06 in Sydney, an experience I thoroughly enjoyed.

I am aware of the view that the New Librarians Symposium should be held in conjunction with ALIA's biennial conference. Whether ALIA events are held, changed or discontinued should be in response to representation from ALIA members and the profession at large. Holding of the first NLS came about from just such representation. Therefore, the continuation of the New Librarians' Symposium will depend upon members, new graduate and other, forming a committee and putting a viable bid proposal to the ALIA Board of Directors. Should a proposal be submitted it will have my support.