



Australian
Library and
Information
Association

ALIA NAC Regional Reports 2007

**ALIA Top End, 6 October 2007
Darwin Sailing Club**

Chair: Roxanne Missingham, LLO: Jayshree

Mamtora

1. Attendance:

Julie Adams, Stephen Barnett, Sue Chilman, Helen Edney, Frieda Evans, Andrew Finegan, Ana Govan, Marilyn Hawthorne, Robin Hempel, Sarah Manning, Marg Purnell, Bernadette Royal, Ruth Quinn, Di Sinclair, Julian Sortland, Robyn Tranthem, Peter Walton, Sarah White

Apologies: Ann Ritchie

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

Andrew Finegan

ALIA membership no. 56805

3. Major Issues – Providing leadership in professional education and workforce planning

- need for training for young library staff
- need for short courses to update and supplement knowledge
- need for ALIA to recognise qualifications completed say 20 years ago if supplemented with PD activities
- ALIA needs to work with employers for recognition of ALIA PD Scheme
- ALIA needs to work with employers to include mandatory membership of ALIA as a selection criteria, not just say "eligible for ALIA membership". Preference should be given to candidates who are ALIA members over those who are not. ALIA should set standards and say so many PD points are required for this position, etc.
- package ALIA membership and PD activities
- library studies programs need to include IT component at all levels, professional and paraprofessional, e.g. blogging, social bookmarking, etc. rather than use of antiquated equipment as currently is the case
- ALIA course accreditation committee should comprise practising librarians as well as an ALIA National Office member
- recognise role of course coordinators as conduit between employers and students
- need for more support and flexibility for older people in the workplace
- focus on current shortage of IT skills (not an age issue)
- proper review of PD Scheme
- set up e-learning portfolios on ALIA website

- reduce membership fees for those that complete the requirements of the PD Scheme (compared to fees for those who aren't doing the PD scheme)
- invite IT students to library conferences to familiarise themselves with trends and issues in libraries
- need for ALIA to work with associated professions such as the Information Industry and Records Management at group level
- promote the library profession in the NT at dreaming08

3. ALIA Initiatives for 2008

- Boardroom Bound
 - board succession planning program
 - Gill Hallam's paper at the Symposium indicated leadership was low on the radar
 - short training modules recommended
- Review of advisory committees and representatives

All groups reviews, some ceased, some areas identified for further discussion by the Board
New technology - blog up and running, keen to produce a wiki
- Technology: what members want from ALIA
 - need for groups to have electronic shared document space as well as wiki

4. Celebrating Success – ALIA stories of Achievement

Success story to be the engagement achieved at the Top End through ALIA:

- ALIA Top End Symposium - annual, affordable, local, range of speakers
- Garden Party - networking and recruitment opportunity - promoting ALIA within the profession
- Quiz Night - highlighting Library and Information Week and promoting libraries to those outside the profession
- Involvement of 2 ALIA members – Jayshree Mamtora and Peter Walton – in the shortlisting of NTL for ATLA Award
- Workshops: Selection Criteria, Blogging. Blogging workshop to be repeated early November due to demand

An article to be written for inCite focusing on range of success stories.

5. Local issues

- formalise annual visit of ALIA President and/or Chief Executive Officer to NT
- ALIA to bring more PD activities up to NT and consider subsidising costly training activities such as CAVAL workshops for members. ALIA needs to create more partnerships with organisations to run workshops. Could range from online courses to support to attend PSM or AURORA training courses.
- Need for ALIA banner for groups
- Library exchange program for short periods of time - it can be national as well as within state/territory. ALIA to facilitate but members to drive it.

6. Evaluation

- 18 members attended the NAC of whom 14 completed evaluations
- 8 out of 14 considered the opportunity to participate in, and contribute to discussions, as being excellent. The remaining gave it a 4 but with no feedback as to how it could have been improved.
- one member gave program and content a 5, and the rest gave it a 4 but with no comments on how they could have been improved
- 3 members gave the organisational aspects a 5; 10 gave it a 4 and one member gave it a 3 but with no feedback as to how they could have been improved
- Feedback on the most valuable aspect of the regional meeting included: free discussion; being able to voice opinions and concerns directly to rep from NO; discussions on employer/student expectations; opportunity to discuss professional education/workforce issues; having the opportunity to really say what you think; hearing other points of view; good chance to share ideas; that it brought together so many librarians from our local group
- Suggestions on how meeting could have been improved included: add it on to symposium every year - good turnout of numbers; continue to have it after the ATES; it was fine - easy to attend after Symposium; nothing - we had good roll up, food and discussion; it was a great meeting this year with Roxanne - very well attended; hand out the material in advance so we can read it first; venue difficulties due to fans and hearing participants - also nice to have a less formal round table too though?
- other comments or suggestions included: good to have it immediately after another event; it was good to be involved; fantastic to have input and be heard especially having Roxanne here

7. Any other comments from the meeting?

N/A