

Dear colleagues,

Before we head into the busy Christmas period, I wanted to update you about what has been happening since I became President in May.

In this time, we have seen three highly successful and very different events take place in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.

The inaugural [ALIA Library Design Awards](#) not only provided the focus for a one day conference in June, kindly hosted by the City of Melbourne, they also generated media coverage in architecture, travel and design magazines, newspapers and online, reaching a much wider audience.

**NLS8** gave our new generation of library and information professionals a wonderful opportunity to learn and connect, when they met up in July at the National Library of Australia, and I left the **National Library Technicians' Symposium**, at Australian Catholic University in North Sydney, in September, feeling energised and enthused about the qualities and commitment shown by our LT professionals.

During 2017, **ALIA 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary** celebrations have taken place across Australia. The ACT event coincided with our ALIA Board meeting and the Directors were pleased to launch the [ALIA Tributes and Treasures](#) publication, present an HCL Anderson Award to Dr David J Jones, present pins to our loyal Members, and sign off the contents for our time capsule, which has been buried in front of ALIA House, to be opened in August 2037.

As an ALIA Member, I hope you have been able to attend a conference, symposium, or one of our many local events over the last six months, taking advantage of the discounted rate. I also hope you have followed the fascinating discussions which take place simultaneously with the live events on social media.

In other news, our advocacy for libraries has continued to pick up the pace and we were delighted to celebrate the passing of the Copyright Amendment Bill in June, by revisiting [Cooking for Copyright Day](#) on 31 July. In September, we published the fourth edition of the [ALIA Education, Skills and Employment Trend Report](#), providing valuable information for our library and information science educators and employers.



We are continually looking for ways to improve Member benefits and earlier this month, we were pleased to be able to announce a special offer for ALIA Members of four issues of the **Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association** next year, for a modest cost of \$39.60 (less than \$10 per issue). If you would like to know more, please contact [subscriptions@alia.org.au](mailto:subscriptions@alia.org.au).

Looking ahead, we will be reviewing the **ALIA Member Survey** results in detail at our December Board meeting and then publishing the results for you to read. We are keen to find even more ways of ensuring that the Association is providing the kind of activities and benefits that our Members value.

Our special focus in 2017-2018 is on international affairs, leading up to the first [Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference](#) on the Gold Coast in July next year. With this in mind, the ALIA Board has established an [ALIA International Affairs Advisory Committee](#), and there will be more news from this group in the New Year.

At any one time, 250 ALIA Members actively volunteer on Groups, Committees and in other formal roles, and right now we are looking for Members who would like to stand for election to the [ALIA Board](#). Speaking from personal experience, as a Director, Vice-President and President, it is an interesting and highly rewarding way of giving back to the sector. The closing date is not until 12 January 2018, so there are a few weeks for you to give this some consideration.

If you have any feedback about ALIA, the Board and staff, please do not hesitate to get in touch through [aliaboard@alia.org.au](mailto:aliaboard@alia.org.au).

Warm regards

Vicki McDonald

ALIA President