



President's Letter

16 July 2018

The theme for my presidential year is "Indigenous matters" and the ALIA Board has supported five projects, which we will initiate over the coming months. The projects are:

1. Finding ways to ensure more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are qualified for employment in professional library roles;
2. Initiating a review and revision of the ATSLIRN (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information and Resource Network) Protocols allied with work on classification of First Nations' original material;
3. Supporting libraries and library and information professionals to acknowledge and celebrate the International Year of Indigenous Languages in 2019;
4. Creating ALIA's first Reconciliation Action Plan; and
5. Producing guidance for libraries and library and information professionals seeking to improve library services for Indigenous people through the publication of a case study-based report.

These projects will be undertaken by ALIA in partnership with LIS educators, National and State Libraries Australia, AIATSIS, ATSLIRN, the ALIA Australian Public Library Alliance and other stakeholders.

We're not starting with a blank sheet. ALIA has already made progress in supporting service improvements for Indigenous communities through its education, training and PD programs, and support for Indigenous literacy initiatives. We are also in discussions with ATSLIRN about the group becoming part of ALIA and providing us with an authentic Indigenous voice within the Association. However, there is more to be done, and these five projects will intensify our focus over the next year and provide the basis for further advances in the future.

At the same time, during NAIDOC Week, ALIA Directors were pleased to state their support for the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, which aligns with the Association's objects and values, and, if adopted, would provide constitutional recognition for Australia's first peoples.

While Indigenous matters will be a focus of the year, we also have a number of other major initiatives.

At the end of July, I hope you will be one of the hundreds of ALIA Members headed for the Gold Coast and the [ALIA Asia Pacific Library and Information Conference](#). We have mounted the event in partnership with the Library Association of Singapore and LIANZA, and there will be an international flavour to the three-day conference and exhibition.



If you have a new library building or have undertaken a refurbishment in the last two years, please consider entering the [ALIA Library Design Awards 2019](#). These biannual awards celebrate the very best of Australian public architecture and interior design.

The [Australian Reading Hour](#) is taking place on Thursday 20 September this year. It's an annual partnership campaign, which began with libraries, but has now been adopted by booksellers, publishers and authors. Take a look at the website and see how you can be involved.

ALIA remains highly active on the education front. The September/October issue of *INCITE* will focus on the importance of lifelong learning for library and information professionals, and will provide examples and advice about how you can energise your professional development.

And, of course, we are working hard in the advocacy space, especially with a federal election on the horizon.

ALIA continues to engage in the areas our Members care about and I thank you for your support in making it all possible.

Best wishes

Lyndall Ley Osborne