

# Direct Line



**Sue Kosse**  
ALIA Executive Director

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libraries into national  
agendas.**

**A**S 1992 COMES to a close, and my mind is still focussed upon finalising the 1993 budget, it is hard to recall the achievements for the year.

But a year of achievement it has been. The Strategic Plan, first identified in the Corporate Plan and Review, is now complete. It will be our guide for the next five years; we will match our resources to it. So for 1993, it will lead into our first ever Program Budget at the national level.

1143 members and more than 100 Exhibitors will attest to the success of the 1992 Biennial Conference in Albury-Wodonga, our first ever regional conference. But judging by the overwhelming success of this one—not our last!

1992 also saw the Board of Education complete its first ever review of the Association's role in education and training and of its own operations and structure. A review which was undertaken in consultation with members, Schools of Library and Information Science, and in association with the development of the Association's Strategic Plan. 1993 will see the Board implement a focussed, but exciting National Education and Training Strategy for the Association.

On your behalf, I have made many representations to the Federal Government and its agencies on issues related to education and training, privacy, book production, competency standards, libraries and the arts industry, cultural development, mail, courier and postal services, the Australian Geological Survey Organisation, the role of Parliament in an age of Executive Government—and so the list goes on. Increasingly our presence in Canberra is helping to put libraries into national agendas.

A year cannot end without some mention of finances. The economic downturn and high levels of unemployment have impacted on the Association's finances in 1992. By mid-1992 it was clear that some tough decisions were needed: some programs could not be implemented as we had hoped at the outset of 1992. General Council exercised its responsibility for financial management of the Association and made the tough decisions as recommended. This action, together with the resolving in our favour of the question of potential retrospective income tax liability the Association looks as though it will finish 1992 with a zero balance—no surplus, but definitely no deficit, and all expenses met, including depreciation; and our reserves in a very healthy state. In these troubled economic times, we have achieved a very good financial result for 1992.

In this year of achievements, congratulations must go to our friends and colleagues across the Tasman—the New Zealand Library and Information Association who achieved their name change in October after 2 years of hard work. We all wish them every success with their new name and new address—on the hill near the New Zealand Parliament and the National Library of New Zealand. Congratulations NZLIA.

As you read this Direct Line, I know that you will be thinking more of Christmas than the Association. But rest assured we will be more than thinking of you as we run the first renewals on the newly installed membership computer system. We hope that it will enable us to serve you even better in 1993.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to each of you from your National Office staff. ■

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