



Virginia Walsh
Executive director

Australian Library Week

The second week of May is sure to be an exciting one for many libraries throughout the country. The orders for ALW posters, bookmarks, postcards and balloons have poured in to the National Office in recent weeks as have stories about planned activities. Please let us know how ALW went in your library this year and send us some short stories and pictures to share with other *inCite* readers. Promoting your library is an important part of projecting the critical role libraries play in our society, especially in this era of rapid change in information technologies. We hope you have a very successful Australian Library Week.

ALIANet

Our move to a full-colour cover enveloped the April issue of *inCite* and featured the Governor General Bill Hayden officiating at the launch, on 16 March, of our Internet service — ALIANet. ALIA President, Jan Gaebler, welcomed the Governor General and our guests and Joye Volker, ACT Branch President, gave the vote of thanks and presented Mr Hayden with

an ALIANet mouse mat which we understand he thought was most 'original'. ALIANet has attracted a great deal of interest from our members and from other associations. We are still in the early stages of testing the system and you can keep up to date with developments by reading the regular Inter-

net column in this magazine.

In his address, Mr Hayden recalled that he had last visited the site of ALIA House to lay its foundation stone and that was the first time he had performed that particular act as Governor General. The launch of ALIANet was another 'first' for Mr Hayden. 'It is the first time I have been invited to 'boot' a computer in public' he said. The Governor General also made some informed observations about changes in information technology and associated issues such as privacy, security, equity of access, copyright and censorship. He reflected on the critical role being played by librarians in providing access to their collections through networks. If you are connected to the Internet, you can read the full text of the Governor General's address once you have found the ALIANet Home Page.

British Library expands its collection!

Dr Brian Lang, Chief Executive of the British Library, spent a couple of hectic weeks travelling through Australia during late March and early April. While in Canberra Brian was able to spend some time at ALIA House and we proudly showed off our recently-created ALIANet Web Pages. The British Library has recently mounted the Magna Carta on its Web Server along with a contemporary translation into English of the original Latin. You can zoom in for a close-up too. Late last year the British Library attracted a great deal of publicity for the *Electronic Beowulf* project. This Anglo Saxon literary masterpiece is now available on the Internet and features enhanced photographic images which are impressing researchers around the world. It is not surprising that Brian Lang describes his library as the greatest in the world given some of the treasures under his charge. In spite of the British Library's extensive collections developed through many centuries, Brian admitted that the Library did not have



Virginia Walsh presents Dr Brian Lang of the British Library with a copy of the 1993/94 Handbook

a copy of the *ALIA Handbook 1993/94*. It was therefore a great delight for us to make a presentation of the Handbook and an ALIANet mouse mat (as featured in the hands of our Governor General on the cover of April *inCite*; limited edition available for \$12 to members).

Thai librarians visit

A group of seven librarians from universities in Thailand visited Australia for two weeks during April to study the implementation of library management systems and networks. During their visit to ALIA House they were keen to find out about the role of our Association and its activities particularly in relation to professional development and lobbying. They departed with lots of information about ALIA and left us with the very clear impression of their commitment to, and enthusiasm for, the development of library and information services in Thailand.

General Council

The ALIA General Council held its first meeting for 1995 during March. One of the special features of this meeting was the attendance of all of the ALIA Branch Presidents. Not only was it an opportunity for the Presidents to observe a meeting of General Council, but it was also a chance to meet each other and exchange views and ideas about Branch activities. From the National Office perspective, this opportunity permitted us to explore ways in which we could enhance the exchange of information with States and Territories and provide support for Branch activities in those areas where it is most required. Two areas of special significance that emerged were our *Federal Electoral Action Strategy* and support for Branch publications. In response to the first issue we agreed that,



Jan Gaebler speaking at the ALIANet launch. More pictures on p24-26



Virginia Walsh, centre, and Carolyn Cherrett, left with the group of Thai librarians who visited ALIA House in April

during this year, we will organise seminars, to be held around the country, to provide more information about successful lobbying. These seminars will be coordinated by the Branches and will include local media experts as well as members of the sector and representatives of the Association who are experienced in government advocacy.

Publishing Policy Committee

One of the features of the March meeting was the wholesale review of ALIA's publishing activities. The aim of this review is to ensure that our publications are timely, relevant and cost efficient. We propose to expand the range of our publishing activities and also to provide support for our divisions where

it is required. The ALIA Publishing Policy Committee has been established by General Council to oversee this activity and it is to hold its first meeting in mid May. It is proposed to provide a full report in *inCite* on the work of the new Committee and the publishing activities of the National Office in the July issue.

General Council portfolios

The success of the adoption of portfolios by General Councillors during 1994 has seen their continuation during 1995. Due to some changes in personnel on General Council and a re-evaluation of the operation of portfolios, some changes have been made to last year's categories. The aim remains the same; to ensure that all the sectoral and professional interests of our members are considered by the Council.

A summary of all of the issues discussed at General Council is found on page 22, a more complete summary is available to ALIA members from the National Office.



General Councillors at the March meeting

General council portfolios

Councillor	Policy portfolios	Communication portfolios
Jan Gaebler	Inter-association relations	
Helen Tait	Image of the profession and public relations	
	Strategic planning	
Bill Linklater	International relations	
Kay Poustie	Education and training	
Jane King	Finance	Public libraries section, Children and youth services section
Kerry Smith	Constitutional matters, Publications	
John Brudenall	Membership	Acquisitions section Cataloguers section
Julie Young	Information technology	School libraries section
Ross Barrett	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Industrial relations and workplace issues	Reference and Information Services Section
Jenny McCarthy	Information literacy. Competency standards	TAFE Libraries section, Library technicians section
Andy Smithies	Copyright	Special libraries Section, Health Libraries Section

**Quote
unquote**

Each month Quote Unquote brings you everything you want to know about New Zealand writers and writing, with reviews, author profiles, fiction, poetry, and entertaining and informative articles.

New Zealand's best literary journalism – **and it's official.** Quote Unquote won the 1994 Commonwealth Media Award for literature, arts and media. New Zealand's best book reviews – **and it's official.** Quote Unquote won the 1994 NZ Books Page Of The Year. And each month there's a **full listing of new books** with publisher, price and ISBN.

All this makes Quote Unquote **the most useful database** a library could have on New Zealand writers and writing.

Quote Unquote is New Zealand's most successful books and arts magazine, with a paid circulation of 3500 and subscribers around the world from England to Japan. Isn't it time **your library** subscribed?

Simply complete this form and mail to Quote Unquote, 53 Princes St. Auckland 1309, NZ. Fax: (0649) 480 2637

Send to: (contact name)

Library:

Address:

City:

Phone:

Fax:

I enclose a cheque for \$A70 for 12 issues