

A commitment to reform and renewal

My presidential term commences on 1 January 1999 and I have a strong commitment to ensuring that the process of reform and renewal proceeds with expedition during my term.

At the ALIA Extraordinary General Meeting held on 27 October in Adelaide, a large number of members provided very clear directions to General Council about the change process. The Charter of Renewal was endorsed with one amendment. Members agreed that incorporation under the *Companies Law* represented an avenue for moving the Association forward. The full text of the amended Charter of Renewal appears below.

We are taking steps to amend the ALIA Constitution to provide for four additional members of General Council. Two of these members will be elected by institutional members and will represent institutional members on General Council. Two other members will be elected by the membership at large. These changes demonstrate our commitment in the immediate short-term to providing a voice for members broadly throughout our constituency. Early next year we will conduct a plebiscite of members on the issue of a new name for the organisation. We will also undertake a program of liaison with our members and related organisations to achieve all of the other goals outlined in the Charter of Renewal.

I believe that effective communication is essential during this period of reform. At the ALIA General Council meeting in Canberra on 19 and 20 November, the Charter of Renewal will be the major item of business and we will be developing a strategy for communication which will keep members informed and provide a mechanism for feedback on the important issues which need to be resolved.

I am very excited about the opportunities for our Association and for the library and information sector more broadly, and I look forward to discussing these issues during my time as president.

Craig Anderson, ALIA 1999 president-elect

Charter of Renewal

as agreed at ALIA Extraordinary General Meeting 27 October 1998

1 That the number of positions on General Council be increased by creating four new positions for councillors: two to be institutional members and two to be personal members and that all four positions be elected by the membership at large.

Rationale: To provide greater breadth of representation on General Council which will facilitate debate on policy issues and assist the process of informed decision-making.

Mechanism: General Council votes to amend *By-Laws* of existing Royal Charter by special resolution; amendments submitted to the governor-general with all necessary supporting documentation.

Timing: By end of 1998. Ballot of membership to elect general councillors at large as soon as practicable thereafter.

2 That a plebiscite of members be conducted to determine whether members support a new name for the organisation.

Rationale: To clearly identify the preference of a majority of members for maintaining the existing name of ALIA or choosing a new name.

Mechanism: Conduct a ballot of all financial members which will include detailed information about all options. Information should include a breakdown of the costs associated with any change.

Timing: By March 1999.

3 That ALIA become incorporated under *Corporations Law*.

Rationale: To provide for a more flexible constitution which will facilitate greater responsiveness to members' needs and

to changing times; to simplify administrative arrangements with business partners and to bring the organisation into line with accepted business practices such as in the conduct of Annual General Meetings and the responsibilities of directors.

Mechanism: Identify the requirements of *Corporations Law* and the organisational reforms that are to be included in any new constitution. Prepare the new documentation relying on legal advice as to the detail of the implementation of the transitional procedures. Support of members is required before any transition can be made. Member support will be sought in the most appropriate way and will include detailed information about the implications of changing from a Royal Charter.

Timing: By January 2000.

4 That greater opportunities for institutional members to participate in the affairs of the association are identified.

Rationale: To ensure that issues of concern to institutions are adequately addressed by the new organisation.

Mechanism: Seek advice from institutions to ensure that issues of concern to institutions are addressed in the new organisation.

Timing: By March 1999.

5 That ALIA continue to liaise with related organisations in the library and information sector to formalise Mechanisms for working relations.

Rationale: To find ways of working with related organisations that are effective, efficient, avoid duplication and formalise the current *ad hoc* arrangements.

Mechanism: Consult with related organisations to identify areas for co-operation and joint effort.

Timing: Commence discussions in November 1998.

6 That the Executive Committee of the ALIA General Council be empowered to hold more-timely meetings to deal with the business of the Association.

Rationale: To deal with procedural and administrative issues, to ensure that business is managed in a timely and efficient manner and to enable General Council to allocate more time to dealing with policy issues.

Mechanism: Activate existing constitutional arrangements for the operation of the Executive Committee.

Timing: For immediate implementation.

7 That there be formal recognition for accredited continuing professional development activities of librarian and library technician members.

Rationale: To recognise and reward continuing professional development efforts of members and to provide guidance to employers to identify members who maintain currency in qualifications.

Mechanism: Establish a system for the recognition of continuing professional development activities.

Timing: To be evaluated by General Council at its meeting in November 1998 and to be implemented in 1999.

8 That a new model of administrative and financial support for ALIA's branches be developed.

Rationale: To provide the foundation for more-effective local activities and representation of the sector in the context of transition to a new organisation.

Mechanism: Negotiate options with branch representatives and discuss more broadly with ALIA divisions.

Timing: New models to be implemented in June 1999.

9 That the structure and operation of ALIA divisions be reviewed.

Rationale: To streamline the current divisional arrangements to more adequately reflect the interests and concerns of members.

Mechanism: Invite submissions from divisions.

Timing: To be completed by the end of 1999.

10 That the ALIA national office policy, promotional and conference activities be reviewed.

Rationale: To enhance the capacity of the organisation to deliver quality, professional advice and services to members and other target markets.

Mechanism: Internal and external reviews to be implemented.

Timing: Recommendations to be made to July 1999 General Council meeting.

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THE METCALFE MEDALLION

Nominations are now being called for the 1999 award

John Metcalfe, and his contribution to librarianship and library education, are commemorated by the Australian Library and Information Association through the Metcalfe Medallion.

The Metcalfe Medallion is awarded for the most outstanding essay or other piece of work on any topic in the area of library and information science or archives administration. To be eligible nominees must be a student undertaking an entry-level course in these fields.

Entries should be sent to ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604
phone 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249
e-mail awards@alia.org.au
URL <http://www.alia.org.au/awards.html>

Entries close 15 December 1998