

## Your voice

### Who is an Australian?

Congratulations on taking the prime ALIA value into the fray of the detention centres.

A civil and decent society cannot stand silently by while refugees are deemed political pawns rather than human beings coming from tragic and desperate situations.

*Margaret Gaff, Alice Springs*

### Showcasing services

The ALIA Geraldton Mid-West Regional Group was pleased to host a visit to Geraldton by ALIA president, Dr Alan Bundy.

While his visit was brief, Dr Bundy had a very busy itinerary visiting a variety of libraries and other information services. His visit certainly gained a great deal of valuable publicity in the regional media for the libraries in the region. It was also a timely catalyst for library professionals to meet. A lecture to librarians and other information providers in Geraldton prompted discussion

on the meaning of information literacy and the role of libraries in fostering and encouraging information literacy in our community.

It is rewarding for librarians working in regional areas to have an opportunity to showcase our services to our national professional association. To know that our work is of interest to, and valued by, the national president of ALIA is very encouraging.

Sincere thanks to Dr Bundy for his interest and support.

*Andrea Jones, Geraldton Regional Library*

### How we see ourselves?

When I had the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on various training packages, I noticed that library workers were grouped in the sphere of the arts. Yet, we spend very little time on our lists discussing cultural matters or supporting workers in these fields, especially when there is so much to discuss such as

government intervention in censorship matters.

Which is a lead in for the following:

Last night, I had the opportunity attend an opening of a new Aussie comedy/crime flick starring Guy Pearce and Rachel Griffiths called the *Hard Word*. It features some great performances from the leads and a nice touch of black humour, just save some money after *Star Wars* and *Spiderman* and go see it.

Following in the wake of movies such as *Idiot Box* and the *Boys* is it an example of how we like to view ourselves and why there is another film about Ned Kelly in the works.

Just something else to think about.

*Michael Soo, University of Technology, Sydney*

### Gender imbalance?

When I attended the ALIA conference in Sydney recently it struck me that the vast majority of the audience were female whereas around two

thirds of the speakers delivering papers were male.

The papers were generally of a high standard and the speakers came from a wide range of backgrounds, not only from within our profession. Nevertheless, I think it is high time that our professional association shows a bit more sensitivity to gender balance in the organisation of conferences, rather than continuing to imply, however subtly, through the program that males are generally either more knowledgeable or have the capacity for more insightful analysis than females.

*Tim Bruwer, Diamond Creek Vic*

*Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed.*

*All letters should be addressed to the inCite editor and may be e-mailed to [incite@alia.org.au](mailto:incite@alia.org.au), or faxed to 02 6282 2249, or posted to: Your voice, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604. Please include your name and postal address with your letter or e-mail.*

*Letters will be accepted for publication until the 18th of the month.*

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