

Your vote counts...

Elections are being held for three positions on the ALIA Board of Directors. Chris Seaman, Naida Tattersall and Dr Alan Bundy will be retiring from the Board at the Annual General Meeting in May. Following is some information on each of the candidates. Your ballot papers are included as an insert with this issue of *inCite*, if yours has gone astray, please contact ALIA National Office on phone 02 6285 1877, fax 02 6282 2249, or e-mail enquiry@alia.org.au. Remember voting closes 5pm on 22 April 2002.

Dr Angela Bridgland

BA, GDipLib, M.Ed, PhD FALIA

Dr Bridgland is the director of the Department of Teaching, Learning and Research Support, Information Division, at the University of Melbourne. Prior to obtaining this position she was director of library services at the university. Angela has a distinguished career in library education. Earlier in her career, Angela held a variety of positions at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education, the University of Tasmania, the Melbourne College of Advanced Education and the University of Melbourne.

Angela is seeking re-election to the ALIA Board of Directors. She has a long association with the ALIA Board of Education. Other professional activities include membership of the Australian Human Resources Institute and the International Society for Performance Improvement, Australia.

Following is Angela's statement of professional concerns:

Since the re-birth of the Association as an incorporated body, members have launched the Association's new structure and the Board has been systematically addressing the objects of the Association in its strategic planning. In this process, it has tackled some major issues including education and training, research, partnerships with allied bodies, information literacy, conferences, membership, and fees.

I seek re-election to the Board to see some of the key initiatives through to maturity. Re-election would enable me to provide a degree of continuity to the issues named above and an opportunity to focus on three key projects, namely, establishing a research agenda for the Association (thereby enriching professional practice), improving the Association's communication strategies, and helping to plan a sustainable future for the Association.

Vicki McDonald

AssocDipA (LP), AALIA

Vicki is currently executive manager — policy and development at the State Library of Queensland. Previous positions have included a senior policy position with Brisbane City Council, library manager at Toowoomba City Council and deputy library manager at Logan City Council. She has also held a number of positions in academic libraries: Brisbane College of Advanced Education, Bond University and Queensland University of Technology. Vicki is currently the convenor of QUORUM. Prior to the ALIA re-structure she was president of the Queensland Branch and



also the continuing professional development officer for the Queensland Branch in 1998 and 1999.

Vicki's statement of professional concerns:

Personally I believe that a professional organisation is only strong when it has the commitment and involvement of its members. Therefore, one of the most important issues facing ALIA today is 'relevance'.

Firstly, relevance to its members — are their needs being met? Secondly to the political arena (at all levels) — is ALIA effectively contributing to the debates and are we being heard?

To meet these challenges, ALIA needs a co-ordinated communication and engagement strategy. The Board of Directors needs to ensure that members are well informed and given the opportunity to be engaged.

If elected, I would be committed to ensuring that as a director I am accessible to members and focus on achieving outcomes to progress the profession.

Deanne Barrett, BAppSc (LibSt), GDipBus (MgtSt), AALIA

Deanne Barrett is currently library manager at the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission. Previously Deanne was librarian at the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations and at the Parliamentary Library in Perth.

Deanne was Western Australian General Councillor from January to June 2000. She was also a member of the ALIA divisional subcommittee that prepared alternative ALIA structure options for the General Council to consider. She has occupied numerous positions on ALIA sections, including the Western Australian continuing professional development convenor in 1996–1997, the national president of the Special Libraries Section from 1997 to 1998, and national secretary of that group in 1996. She was secretary of the Special Libraries Section (Western Australian group) in 1991–1992, and a committee member in 1990. She has been a mentor in the Western Australian mentoring program since 1993. Deanne was also a member of the advisory board of the School of Media and Information at the Curtin University of Technology in 2000.

Following is Deanne's statement of professional concerns:

As all my working life has been in special libraries, and now in a law library, I am passionate about special libraries and the unique contributions they make to their parent organisation and the library profession. As an active ALIA member continuing professional development (CPD) has been a constant and burning issue of concern for me. I believe that a



strong commitment to CPD as an individual and by ALIA is essential for the future progress of our profession and the Association. We must commit ourselves to providing library professionals and library services of the highest standard which is recognised both within and outside the library profession.

**Elizabeth Anne McLaren
BA, DipLib, AALIA**

Elizabeth McLaren is the manager, Library and Information Service of the Hornsby Shire Library and a part-time lecturer in the Department of Information Studies at the University of Technology, Sydney. Before moving to Hornsby Shire, Elizabeth was the manager of the Sydney Institute of Technology library. She has held a number of positions in the NSW Department of Education, including senior curriculum advisor, library and information literacy (1992–1995); chief librarian, Department of School Education Library (1989–1991); Leader of the OASIS library development team (1988–1989); education officer, library services (1983) and a teacher librarian from 1970 to 1988.



Elizabeth is a founding member of the ALIA Board of Directors. She was also an ALIA General Councillor, as well as holding positions on the NSW Branch Council (president 1993–1994), the TAFE (president of the NSW group 1996–1997) and School Library sections (president of the NSW

group in 1985). In 1999 she was president of the Metropolitan Public Libraries Association.

Elizabeth's statement of professional concerns follows:

Access to information is fundamental to a strong democracy and the development of society. Information professionals have a vital role in the provision of such access. ALIA should support the work of information professionals through leadership in professional education and development, facilitating debate and discussion on professional issues, and lobbying.

The growth in electronic information is an opportunity for the profession both in terms of improved services to customers and in expanding the membership of the Association through links to other groups of information workers. The challenges associated with electronic information include the need for more effective information management skills for staff and customers, the need to address equity issues associated with cost of both infrastructure and access to information sources, ethical issues associated with censorship and copyright.

A strong professional association needs to involve its members in the debate, support their work by providing an ethical and philosophical framework accepted by the membership and to be recognised by the community as speaking on behalf of its members.

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