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Feedback to your Board of Directors

Do you have an idea, compliment or concern about your Association? Contact any director and ideas will be reviewed at each Board meeting.

E-mail to feedback@alia.org.au will be automatically forwarded to all Board members.

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Click06, NAC, LIANZA and LIAC

A heartfelt thank-you to Imogen Garner and her Click06 conference committee for a splendid biennial conference in the new Perth Convention Centre. I have had some very positive feedback from participants about the depth and range of papers and particularly the presentations from keynote speakers. For the participants everything went smoothly, from registration to the Spanish themed gala dinner with a great band. Dr Click (aka Kerry Smith) kept us all in order and well informed and I suspect that there is another career waiting there for Kerry.

The National Advisory Congress, NAC was held in conjunction with the conference this year. The agenda focused on the key issues identified in the discussion papers issued by ALIA. The meeting began with reports of success stories from representatives of the states and this was followed by members workshoping issues. In addition members of the Board provided a brief overview of the work of the newly created Standing Committees, which have been established to focus on the Association's key priorities. The proposed governance changes were also on the agenda and the convener of the Governance Standing Committee, Vice-president Roxanne Missingham, led this discussion. The Board held a meeting while we were all in Perth which allowed us to discuss the feedback received to the planning document for 2007 from the national and regional NACs as well as the proposed governance changes. Details of next steps are outlined elsewhere in this issue.

I attended the LIANZA annual conference in Wellington, NZ. It was a well-attended and very lively conference and I certainly feel that the profession there is setting an exciting new direction for its members and clients. The LIANZA AGM was one of the hottest items on the program. The item that was the hot topic was

the proposal to introduce individual certification for professional membership, based on the UK model. It was approved with a two-thirds majority at the AGM. The implementation of individual certification is a development that ALIA and, I am sure, ALIA members will be watching with interest. The discussion paper is available on the LIANZA website (http://www.lianza.org.nz/about/profile/committees/Prof_Registration/index.html). This new approach will certainly ensure a focus on professional education, and LIANZA is keen to work more closely with ALIA in that area. As it is one of our key priorities, we look forward to sharing our knowledge and expertise with our colleagues in New Zealand. A closer collaboration with our New Zealand colleagues will be on the Board's agenda in the new year. There were a few Australian colleagues at the conference in Wellington, which was good to see, and I was particularly encouraged to note the ongoing connections and networking between Aurora alumni both at the Australian and New Zealand conferences.

One of the other interesting recent initiatives in New Zealand is the Library and Information Advisory Commission (LIAC), which was set up three years ago under the National Library of New Zealand Act 2003. The Commission provides advice to the Minister on library matters and was instrumental in supporting the establishment of New Zealand's digital strategy. I attended a conference lunchtime session where the commissioners discussed issues with members of the profession.

I thought that the inclusion of the AGM and the LIAC in the program of the conference provided a balance between specific professional content and issues management. It gave an important focus on leadership and strategy that we should consider for future ALIA conferences. *

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Farewell, Phil

I always turn to Phil Teece's column in *inCite* first, so I am very sad to see that this month's column was his last. As a New South Wales government librarian, and a member of the PSA, I would like to extend my thanks to him for all the work he contributed to the NSW pay case – it has made our lives immeasurably better, and the final decision was, as he said in his last column, a ground-breaking piece of law.

No-one looks after library staff in special libraries in departments dominated by other

professions, so I can assure you that being able to get onto the Award made a great difference for us.

Thank you to Phil for his well-informed and insightful advice on industrial relations for library staff – his expertise will be sorely missed. I do hope he will have a long and happy retirement – he deserves it.

Gayle Davies, Manager, Library Services (and staff), Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)