



Roxanne Missingham

ALIA President

## Feedback to your Board of Directors

Board members welcome your comments and feedback. Please feel free to contact a Board member at any time.

E-mail [feedback@alia.org.au](mailto:feedback@alia.org.au) with your comments

Roxanne Missingham, President  
ph 02 6277 7102  
[roxanne.missingham@alia.org.au](mailto:roxanne.missingham@alia.org.au)

Derek Whitehead,  
Vice-president  
ph 03 9214 8333  
[derek.whitehead@alia.org.au](mailto:derek.whitehead@alia.org.au)

Michelle Brennand, Director  
ph 08 9405 5490  
[michelle.brennand@alia.org.au](mailto:michelle.brennand@alia.org.au)

Philip Keane, Director  
ph 08 8222 3224  
[philip.keane@alia.org.au](mailto:philip.keane@alia.org.au)

Damian Lodge, Director  
ph 02 6933 2172  
[damian.lodge@alia.org.au](mailto:damian.lodge@alia.org.au)

Helen Partridge, Director  
ph 07 3864 9047  
[helen.partridge@alia.org.au](mailto:helen.partridge@alia.org.au)

Kate Watson, Director  
ph 07 5459 4417  
[kate.watson@alia.org.au](mailto:kate.watson@alia.org.au)

I was very fortunate to attend the ACT National Library Technicians Day celebration as my first official duty as ALIA President. Congratulations to Karen Mills and her team for organising a fabulous event (despite Karen's broken leg) and to the Canberra Institute of Technology teaching staff for bringing their students in droves. Library technicians are enormously important to all our clients through the services they deliver and to us as a library and information profession.

Australian library technician training began at Box Hill Technical School in 1970, quickly followed by courses in other states. There have been many changes in education programs as technology and libraries themselves have changed, and in 2005 there were 2000 students enrolled in library technician courses (<http://www.alia.org.au/education/statistics.html>). ALIA is currently reviewing technician course recognition, see page 8 of this issue.

Library technician became a membership category in ALIA in October 1978, with the Library Technicians Section formed in 1979, with 42 members. The first Library Technicians conference was held in 1980, an early sign that they would be one of the most active and dynamic groups in ALIA.

### So why are library technicians important?

We see the techs at work in libraries in all sectors. They are often the face of the library running children's programs in public libraries, acquiring material for the collections, resource sharing through interlibrary lending, delivering services to external students and developing intranets and electronic delivery of services. All the services provided by libraries depend, to varying extents, on the work of technicians. I admire the enthusiasm and 'can do' attitude of technicians. They are a vibrant part of the profession and I encourage everyone to consider supporting their technician staff to attend the ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference 2007, or indeed attending the conference themselves. The conference web site is at <http://www.alia07.com/>

### Thai visitors

Library associations from around the world are discussing important issues. We recently had visitors from the Thai Library Association and Sukhotai Thammathirat Open University. Their visit, which was organised by Professor Ross Harvey from Charles Sturt University, was focussed on library education, professional associations and library service developments.

### Internet filtering

In June ALIA released its third Internet Filtering in Public Libraries Survey. This is an extremely important issue for the association and by providing factual information for policy makers this ALIA survey is able to contribute significantly to ensure Australians have appropriate access to the Internet through their libraries. At the ALIA Board meeting in May a number of policy statements were reviewed and the Board supported the continued goal 'To promote the free flow of information and ideas in the interest of all Australians and a thriving culture, economy and democracy.'

I encourage you to read our Statement on online content regulation, which states:

*Libraries and information services facilitate and promote public access to the widest variety of information, reflecting the plurality and diversity of society. The selection and availability of library materials and services, including online content and services, is governed by professional considerations and not by political, moral and religious views.*

*Libraries and information services support the right of all users to unhindered access to information of their choice regardless of format. Access to electronic information resources should not be restricted except as required by law and this basic right should not be eroded in the development of regulatory measures for online information.*

The association's advocacy on internet access is very important, not only for libraries but for the Australian public. The study and links to our policies can be found at <http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/internet.access/>



Professor Ross Harvey, Associate Professor Dr Tassana Hanpol, School of Liberal Arts, Sukhotai Thammathirat Open University, Roxanne Missingham, Associate Professor Dr Chutima Sacchanand, School of Liberal Arts, Sukhotai Thammathirat Open University and President, Thai Library Association

### Libs for Africa

Congratulations to the Libs for Africa team at La Trobe University who organised the fund-raising for African library staff who have never attended a library conference

# National Simultaneous Storytime 2007

Thursday 6 September 2007 at 11:00am

to attend IFLA in Durban in 2007. Many libraries across Australia, large and small, contributed funds raised through donations, morning teas, raffles, pizza lunches and sale of second-hand books to assist in raising AU\$10,609. The funds have been used to pay registration fees for sixteen librarians to attend the World Library and Information Congress in Durban. The IFLA Governing Board is also providing some funding to assist the grantees with travelling and accommodation expenses. IFLA and LIASA have completed the selection process, and the successful recipients are from Botswana (2), Kenya (2), Malawi (2), Mauritius (1), Namibia (2), Tanzania (2), Uganda (2), Zambia (2), and Zimbabwe (1). The types of libraries represented are Public (2), Special (6), Academic (6), National (1), and School (1). The Special Libraries include Medical (2), Agriculture (1), Government (1), NGO (1) and Education (1).

Thanks from ALIA to Sharon Karasmanis and the team at La Trobe, and all the libraries, library staff and members of the community who contributed to this magnificent effort. It will make IFLA 2007 even more successful in engaging and supporting library staff from developing countries.

One fine day, from out of town and without any warning at all a magic hat appears in the sky...

We are thrilled to announce that this year's National Simultaneous Storytime book is *The Magic Hat* by Mem Fox! The book is delightfully illustrated by Tricia Tusa and published by Scholastic, the major sponsor for National Simultaneous Storytime for 2007.

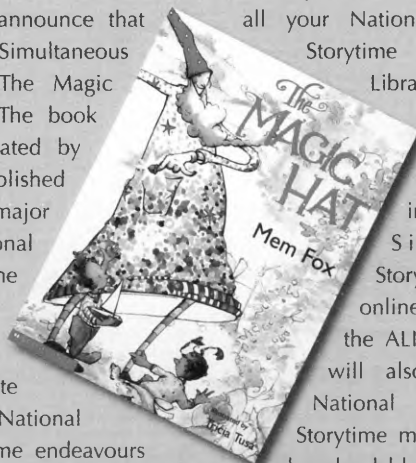
This is a wonderful opportunity to promote your library! National Simultaneous Storytime endeavours to promote the value of reading and literacy and the value of books; and to encourage storytime activities around the country.

National Simultaneous Storytime provides a great opportunity to involve parents, grandparent, the media and others to enjoy the occasion. Invite your local celebrity or politician to read aloud at your library, you can dress-up,

or organise a themed party! The options are only limited to your imagination!

ALIA will provide a one-stop shop for all your National Simultaneous Storytime participation. Libraries, schools and centres who would like to take part in the National Simultaneous Storytime can register online from mid July on the ALIA website. ALIA will also be providing National Simultaneous Storytime merchandise via a downloadable order form and via our online shop to give you the opportunity to decorate your library in a Magic Hat theme.

For more information on National Simultaneous Storytime, visit <http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/storytime/2007/>. Registrations and merchandise will be available from mid July onwards.



## libraries australia



### Open up access to Australia's national catalogue

Use Libraries Australia Search to find and get items from the combined collections of Australian libraries.

#### Why not offer your users access to Libraries Australia?

Link from your web site to the free service at [librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au](http://librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au), or offer your users the enhanced service available at no extra cost through your annual subscription.

The enhanced version offers additional features including:

- Advanced searching
- Additional databases and ways to limit your search e.g. by material type
- Personalised access
- Enhanced requesting
- Creating reports on what's new in your areas of interest through 'Alerts'

For more information: ph 1800 026 155 or email [librariesaustralia@nla.gov.au](mailto:librariesaustralia@nla.gov.au)

Want more information? <http://www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia>

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA