

contribute to your member magazine

Contributions on issues relating to library and information science are welcome. Tell us about your work; share the issues discussed in your ALIA group; report on an activity or event. Or, consider a feature article under 1000 words — themes and deadlines for the remainder of 2007 are:

- **November** —
library buildings, copy due 4 October
- **December** —
copyright; Web 2.0
copy due 1 November

Please note: These are **editorial** themes; **advertising** themes are on page 22.

Send contributions to <incite@alia.org.au>, high resolution images are welcome too! For more details, see <<http://alia.org.au/publishing/incite/>>.

Serving on Boards in Retirement continued

A checklist of considerations when joining a board

Volunteering Australia's website at <<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org>> provides a checklist of things you should consider before joining the board of a not-for-profit organisation. From the home page, click on 'Best practice', then 'Tips and advice'.

- Is the organisation a registered not-for-profit organisation i.e. an Incorporated Association or a Company Limited by Guarantee?
- Is the organisation able to provide you with the most recent copy of the annual report, audited accounts, mission statement and other relevant documentation?
- Does the organisation have professional indemnity and insurance which covers board members when discharging their duty?
- Is there a written position description for you as a board member and does it explain your role as a board member?
- Have you been fully briefed on the governance role of the board and the legal liabilities and requirements of a board member?
- Is the philosophy of the organisation compatible with your own values and beliefs?
- Is the time commitment required of you achievable?

ABS National Survey of Volunteering in Australia

Australians are generous when it comes to volunteering — 34% of the adult population (5.4 million people) volunteer, a total 713 million annual hours! These are some of the survey results reported in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report on volunteering titled *Voluntary Work, Australia*, 2006 (ABS Cat no. 4441.0) This publication contains results from the national Voluntary Work Survey conducted throughout Australia from March to July 2006 as part of the ABS General Social Survey — the census.

The major aim of the survey was to collect data on rates of participation in voluntary work, hours contributed, characteristics of people who volunteer, the types of organisations they work for and the activities they undertake. Information on whether people made monetary donations to organisations and the types of organisations donated to were also collected.

The entire report (88 pages) is available to download free of charge from <<http://www.abs.gov.au/>>. On this home page, type '4441.0' into the search box. A summary report has been prepared by Volunteering Australia, and is available at <<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org>>, click on 'Volunteering facts', then 'Statistics'. Unfortunately, libraries are not clearly identified in the statistics; libraries are included in the broad category, *Arts/Heritage*.

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