

Re: Concern about Library Board of WA — an observation from the east

I read with interest the letter of concern raised by colleague Kerry Smith et al. in the September issue of *inCite*. Of more interest was the response by Rebecca Moore in a counter reply (I noted that the two letters appeared together).

From my reading of both letters, Rebecca Moore does little to reassure us of the benefits of ALIA as the '... peak professional body ...' for the information sector. The issue raised was the loss of ALIA's representation on the Library Board of WA. However, Ms Moore talks about the need to update the 1950s Act (not the issue) and then stated that

a librarian's position on the Board '... should be based on their skills and contribution rather than their association affiliation ...'.

I therefore ask Ms Moore — and the ALIA Board that rolled over to allow the demise of ALIA representation — just what they think ALIA and its members are? Are we not the 'peak professional body' that has a membership base to nominate and recommend for these types of positions? Is this another opportunity for enhancing the Association's purpose lost?

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Joyce Fardell: Not Only But Also ...

No tribute to Joyce Fardell [*inCite* September 2007] would be complete without acknowledgement and appreciation of her contribution to the Children's Libraries Section of the LAA, particularly the NSW Division/Group, which was established in 1953 with Joyce as a foundation member.

She was also a dedicated and valued member of the Committee from the mid-1950s until the late '60s during which time she was involved in many sub-committees, conferences, seminars and working parties, including the *Children's Book Review Bulletins*, commenced in the mid-1950s and produced quarterly by the various state Children's Libraries Sections.

This was a time when professionally qualified children's librarians were rare; the only course available to librarians being the LAA's Registration Certificate. Teacher-librarians were a relatively new breed and tertiary library schools were still well into the future.

Joyce was a long-time supporter of *Children's Libraries Newsletter/Orana*, first published in 1965. Her contributions included: 'References to Historical Fiction'(1966); 'Summary of Those Parts

of the Fenwick Report Which Relate to School Libraries (1966); 'W.C.O.T.P. Assembly Report' (1971); 'Humour in Children's Fiction' (1980); 'Elizabeth Hill and the NSW School Library Service' (1988). These give a good indication of both her personal and professional interests.

The 1950s and '60s were pioneering times when those with a passionate interest in books, children and libraries worked together for the benefit of all, developing networks and laying solid foundations for future achievements.

Joyce was one of the fortunate few whose position enabled her to fulfil her ever-expanding vision and influence. She was always generous with her time, advice and friendship, not only throughout her professional career but also in retirement.

On behalf of those who remember Joyce from the early days with respect and affection.

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Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed. Opinions expressed in the magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily the official policy of the Australian Library and Information Association. All letters should be addressed to the *inCite* editor and may be emailed to <incite@alia.org.au>, or faxed to 02 6282 2249, or posted to: Your voice, ALIA, PO Box 6335, Kingston 2604. Letters will be accepted for publication until the 10th of the month. Please include your name and postal address.

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