



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)

## Libraries using our voice

Libraries across the nation are talking about how we can work together to raise issues of national importance with the new federal government.

ALIA's first object:

*To promote the free flow of information and ideas in the interest of all Australians and a thriving culture, economy and democracy.*

reflects how advocacy is the key area of work for your association.

In the first few months of 2008 we have:

- written to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett, highlighting the need for funding for the National Library of Australia (NLA) to ensure the development of literacy, education, business, community and digital access to information through the NLA, the Australian library network and to build and provide access to our national documentary heritage
- met with the Australian School Library Association, TAFE Libraries Australia, Public Libraries Australia and National and State Libraries Australasia to discuss national issues and the building of a national framework through consultation, including a national forum to be held later this year
- met with representatives for the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, to discuss internet filtering and the development of a national agenda for access to information through public libraries
- developed a submission to the Australia 2020 summit focusing on literacy and the essential role of libraries.

ALIA is committed to raising the issue of literacy, noting that research has demonstrated that reading skills are linked to the capacity for learning throughout life (National Endowment for the Arts 'To read or not to read' <http://www.nea.gov/news/news07/TRNR.html>). For Australia

to be a strong and effective nation, Australians need reading skills and access to information. Libraries are a vital part of the infrastructure contributing to the reading skills of Australians of all ages.

In addition to writing a submission to Australia 2020, a number of librarians have nominated to take part, including myself as President of ALIA. Whether a librarian is at the summit or not we will be working with other associations and groups, such as the Australian Local Government Association, ensuring that the issues of concern to our sector are clearly articulated and presented. Please contact me if you have ideas.

## ALIA Annual General Meeting

You will find information on the May 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in this issue of *inCite*. I do encourage you to attend if possible. While AGM's may seem administrative, the Board would be delighted to discuss issues of national importance with members.

## National Advisory Congress

A considerable amount of time at the March Board meeting was spent on the 2008 ALIA national consultation process, the National Advisory Congress <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/nac> This year we will again focus on topical issues and have as many regional meetings as possible. Our agenda for 2008 includes:

- Education and Workforce Summit: outcomes and key issues
- Your views on ALIA
- Professional development.

Do attend meetings, and have your say and hear more about ALIA's work implementing the input from the 2007 National Advisory Congress. We are hoping to be able to try an online version of meetings as well.

Finally, I hope that you are planning a great activity or experience in Library and Information Week – don't forget to share the results through *inCite*. Libraries make a difference and we should celebrate!

