

Disaster preparedness hits the headlines

The 2010 MayDay campaign was hailed as a great success by Blue Shield Australia, the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross, which organises the event each year.

The campaign runs throughout May, with the aim of alerting the nation's libraries, archives, museums, galleries, heritage sites, and local history groups to the importance of disaster preparedness.

This year's focal point was the Blue Shield Australia and DISACT symposium on 6 May at the National Library of Australia in Canberra, entitled Disaster Proofing Heritage Collections. More than 100 delegates from the cultural heritage sector attended the event, which was opened by Senator Kate Lundy and National Library Director-General Jan Fullerton.

A highlight of the one-day event was the launch of *ALIA's Guide to Disaster Planning, Response and Recovery for Libraries*, which is now available to download from the website www.alia.org.au/disasterrecovery.

Successful outcomes from ALIA's disaster recovery project

The official completion date of ALIA's disaster recovery project was 31 May and you will find a full report about the activities, including Rebuilding with Books, on the website – www.alia.org.au/disasterrecovery – but here are the highlights:

ALIA brought together partners to help finance, promote, and action the project. They included the Australian Booksellers Association (ABA) and Australian Publishers' Association (APA), the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRRA), Arts Victoria, the State Library of Victoria, School Library Association of Victoria, Public Libraries Victoria Network, Friends of Libraries Australia, and Blue Shield Australia.

More than \$18 000, raised by some 44 libraries and associated organisations, went back into bushfire affected communities in Victoria by way of nearly 400 \$30 book vouchers for individuals and families, and three \$2000 donations, one to each of the schools destroyed in the fires.

27 400 brand new and pristine second-hand books, worth some \$110 000, were extracted from the many thousands donated and then distributed to people who had lost their homes and possessions. Seven public libraries, three relief centres, and 72 volunteers – mainly library people and booksellers – helped make it happen.

ALIA made a submission to the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, with three recommendations:

- That public library managers should be invited and encouraged to play an active part in local government emergency planning
- That the library's potential as a safe haven in a disaster zone should be recognised and factored into local government emergency planning
- That libraries and other neighbouring cultural institutions should plan their disaster response both individually and in partnership

Disaster planning guides and resources are now available to download from the ALIA website. Our first disaster preparedness one-hour, free-to-ALIA-members teleconference workshop took place on 5 May, with a second one planned for Tuesday 21 September. Check the website for more details, <http://www.alia.org.au/education/pd/pd.services/training-calendar.html>.



Les Firth from Yarra Plenty Regional Library presents a cheque from the ALIA Rebuilding with Books campaign to Jane Hayward, principal of Strathewen Primary School



ALIA Awards

ALIA's awards:

- promote the objects of the Association
- honour outstanding contribution to the profession
- recognise pioneering work in library and information services
- recognise excellence in practice
- celebrate achievements of individuals and organisations, and
- encourage the professional development of members new to the profession, as well as more experienced members and groups of the profession.

The following awards are offered in 2010

Research awards

- Study Grant Award
 - YBP/Lindsay & Croft Research Award for Collection Services
 - Twila Ann Janssen Herr Research Award for Disability Services
- Research awards deadline: 30 June 2010*

Premier awards

- HCL Anderson Award
 - Redmond Barry Award
 - Elinor Archer Award
- Premier awards deadline: 1 August 2010*

Excellence awards

- Excellence Award
 - Metcalfe Award
- Excellence awards deadline: 1 August 2010*

ALIA Fellowship

May be submitted at any time

Merit awards

ALIA Letter of Recognition
May be submitted at any time

ALIA Silver Pin
May be submitted at any time

ALIA Group-based awards
Check the website for deadlines

Nomination forms and further information

Email david.mcinnnes@alia.org.au

Ph 02 6215 8222

<http://www.alia.org.au/awards>