

THE ALIA HONOURS BOARD

In January we added a new feature to our website, the ALIA Honours Board, to celebrate the contribution of nearly 200 outstanding individuals over the course of the Association's 77 year history.

Past Presidents, Fellows and Excellence Award winners combine to make an impressive list of movers and shakers from the early greats, such as our first President William Ifould (1937) and first female President Ellinor Archer (1948), through to the recipients of the Metcalfe Award, emerging leaders Tania Barry (2006), Kate Davis (2008), Clare Glanville (2006), Chelsea Harper (2008) and Kate Sinclair (2005).

Assembling the Honours list highlighted the contribution of outstanding professionals, including Dietrich Borchardt, Harrison Bryan, Derek Fielding and Warren Horton, whose passing prompted full retrospectives in the ALIA journal *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, and John Metcalfe, who served three terms as President, from 1946–1948, 1949–1950 and 1957–1960. David Jones's *Australian Library Journal* article (Vol 56, Issues 3–4, 2007 at bit.ly/1yyF16h) sheds an interesting light on John Metcalfe's role in Australian library history.

Dr Carl Sagan is credited with the statement, 'you have to know the past to understand the present', and exploring the ALIA archives to discover the stories that lie behind these honours has been a fascinating and enlightening study.

We hope that this initiative will prompt Members to think about nominating colleagues for Excellence Awards and Fellowships now and in the future, to consider standing for the ALIA Board and, ultimately, the ALIA Presidency. It should also provide a useful resource for the profession's historians and for library and information students.

This is a good opportunity to mention that the ALIA Excellence Awards – the HCL Anderson for Associates, the Metcalfe for recent entrants, and the Redmond Barry, for those from outside the library and information profession – are open for nominations until 30 June 2015, while Fellowship nominations can be submitted at any time. There is more information on the website at www.alia.org.au/awards.

The Honours Board is very much a work in progress, and we have asked our ALIA Retirees Group to help flesh out the profiles of these leaders of the library and information profession. If you have information that could help, please contact us via awards@alia.org.au.

SUE MCKERRACHER
ALIA CEO

