

THE MIGHTY MONTH OF MAY



May is the big month in our ALIA year. It's the month when we celebrate Library and Information Week, share a story with nearly half a million children for National Simultaneous Storytime, welcome our new ALIA Board members, farewell our outgoing Directors and hold our Annual General Meeting.

We promote all these activities and events through our website, *INCITE*, newsletters and social media, and there are also two other major campaigns to which we would like to draw your attention.

INFORMATION AWARENESS MONTH

May is Information Awareness Month (IAM) and we are pleased to partner with other organisations to help focus attention on the important role fulfilled by information professionals in many different environments.

The aim of IAM is 'to increase public awareness of information and its place in all aspects of daily life. By focusing attention at a number of events during the month of May on the role that information plays in day to day activities, the value of good information practices and policies are highlighted and promoted.'

IAM is a collaborative event between various bodies within the records, archives, library, knowledge, information and data management communities. It is coordinated by the Institute for Information Management and themes for this year are Information-As-A-Service and Managing Your Information in The Cloud. There will be activities and events in most states – you can find your local event at informationawarenessmonth.org.

MAYDAY

It's also in May that we remind ALIA Members to revisit their disaster plans during Blue Shield Australia's MayDay campaign. Internationally, Blue Shield Australia is the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross, helping to protect nations'

heritage collections, buildings, monuments and sites. The annual MayDay campaign promotes disaster planning and awareness amongst archives, libraries, museums, galleries, local history groups and other organisations.

Suggested activities for MayDay include developing or refreshing your disaster plan, undertaking training and using the opportunity to make contact with local emergency service providers – it helps if firefighters and others understand the value and importance of your collection. Find information and resources on the ALIA website at bit.ly/1cAsDhS.

GOVERNMENT BUDGETS

Finally in May, and in common with every other organisation or stakeholder group involved with the public sector, we keep our fingers crossed for state, territory and federal Budget outcomes. Following the leaking of documents in March about potential funding cuts for the State Library of Western Australia, we will be paying especially close attention to the WA Government Budget on 14 May. You can see more about this story on the FAIR website fair.alia.org.au.

So, May has something for every library and every LIS worker, from fun with our users to serious work with our stakeholders. A mighty month in the Australian LIS calendar indeed.



SUE MCKERRACHER
ALIA CEO