

GET READY FOR THE MAMMOTH MONTH OF MAY

May is the biggest month of the year for ALIA. We hold our annual celebration for the sector, Library and Information Week, from 23 to 29 May, including National Simultaneous Storytime – an event which regularly attracts 500,000 participants. On 18 May, we have our Annual General Meeting at ALIA House and the changeover of the ALIA Board. It is also Information Awareness Month and the time for Blue Shield Australia's MayDay campaign.

The variety of activities mirrors the many aspects of our Association and the library and information profession. It also highlights the close alignment between library and information services, archives and other cultural institutions as we come together around these themes.

Museums Australia initiated the GLAM peak bodies roundtable last year, with ALIA and National and State Libraries Australasia as lead drivers. The focus of the roundtable has been digital access to collections and, of course, the role of the National Library's Trove as the

platform for discovery has played an important part in the discussion.

The news of funding cuts to the National Library earlier this year, and the subsequent pressure on Trove's future development, led to ALIA working with fellow members of the GLAM peak bodies roundtable to issue a statement in support of Trove, while holding behind-the-scenes discussions with contacts in government and the Opposition.

At the time of going to press, we have no further news about the funding environment for Trove but we will continue to lobby and advocate for its support as a vital piece of national research infrastructure. ✳



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Blue Shield Australia MayDay campaign

Blue Shield is the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross. ALIA is one of the four pillars of Blue Shield Australia, together with the Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities, the International Council of Museums Australia, the Australian International Council on Monuments and Sites.

During May, cultural organisations across Australia are asked to take stock of their risk environment and participate in the Blue Shield Australia annual MayDay campaign for the protection of cultural heritage from disaster.

Here is a list of what you can do:

1. Update your disaster preparedness plans.
2. Reassess your collection to confirm the priority items.
3. Review your digitisation program in the context of disaster preparedness.
4. Ensure your insurance is fully up to date.
5. Check the contents of your disaster bin to make sure everything still works – for example, torch batteries may need replacing.
6. Get in touch with your local emergency services to ensure their records about your institution are up to date.
7. Hold an emergency drill.
8. Put out a reminder about being disaster-ready through your newsletter, intranet or social media channel.
9. Test your colleagues' knowledge with a disaster preparedness quiz.
10. Post an article about disaster planning and response to your website.

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