

Everything changes

*'There is only one law in the universe that never changes
— that all things change, and that all things are impermanent.'*



**Jennefer
Nicholson**

Acting executive
director

*ALIA members
have the
professional
expertise and skills
to contribute to our
society in a way
that not only
benefits our sector
but enhances the
debate on wider
policy issues...*

I came upon the quotation above, attributed to the teachings of The Lord Buddha, while browsing through *The Tibetan book of living and dying*. The last 2500 years of history has proven the law.

ALIA has a short history, by comparison, of just over 100 years — and it, too, is a history of change. Some change has been brought about through external pressures. Most has been through the initiative of Association members. To indulge the Buddhist allegory a little, in this year of renewal ALIA will experience its fifth organisational reincarnation.

One of the most instructive aspects of my work with the Association has been acquiring an awareness of the heritage of our sector. In considering the challenges of change, there is a certain comfort to be gained from the achievements of the Association so far, the legislative battles won or partly won, the access and equity issues, employment rights and education standards, which continue to be developed and defended. As the process of reform and renewal progresses, it is important not to lose sight of how far we have come and how big a contribution our sector has made to Australian society.

ALIA members have the professional expertise and skills to contribute to our society in a way that not only benefits our sector but enhances the debate on wider policy issues. As we have in the past, in creating a dynamic and responsive organisation we must strike the right balance between the purposes of our organisation and its structures. If we can be clear about our aims and objectives, the right structures to assist their fulfilment and to best serve our members will be more easily identifiable.

By the time you read this a number of the renewal initiatives will be well underway. The renewal working group, led by our president, Craig Anderson, will have met and reported to the Executive of General Council. Principle 1 of the Charter of Renewal requiring changes to the By-Laws of the Royal Charter to create up to four new positions for councillors, was approved by the Governor-General on 5 February 1999, and may be acted on once gazetted.

The ALIA By-Laws and Regulations Committee will report to the April General Council meeting on the necessary changes to the Regulations to provide for this increase in the number of councillors and to set out the means by which four new councillors are to be elected by the membership at large, two of these to be institutional members, and two to be personal members. The elections will be conducted at the earliest opportunity.

This issue includes the first in a series of copyright updates which will become a regular feature. Also, there are two important inserts with this issue:

- the ballot papers for the plebiscite of members to determine whether you support a new name for the organisation — take this opportunity to exercise your right to vote before 15 April; and
- the merchandising brochure for Australian Library Week, with the theme *Libraries: explore and discover*.

This year ALIA National Office has introduced the facility to supply Australian Library Week promotional materials on an official purchase order, in advance of payment. This will speed up the ordering process and supply of materials for many institutions, particularly public libraries. Order now to avoid the rush. ■