

# NATIONAL CONVENOR'S NOTES

## *Outgoing Convenor and National Treasurer*

Over the past two years, **Cathryn Crowe** has succeeded in enhancing the already professional status of the ALLG, and in providing a more standardised structure for the activities of the Group. Cathryn's superior communication and organisational skills came to the fore, and we now have in place procedures for the selection of candidates for bursaries and conference scholarships, a working strategic directions plan, travel guidelines for committee members, among many other initiatives.

**Sue Green** has, in her term as National Treasurer, consolidated the finances of both the National ALLG and the Australian Law Librarian. The responsibility for the journal will, at the beginning of 2000, pass on to the Western Australian Division in a financially viable state, thanks to Sue's efforts, so that we can look forward to the continuation of an excellent journal.

## *Strategic Directions*

Our strategic directions document, located on the Internet<sup>1</sup>, is a working document. It is important that everyone has the opportunity to look it over and make suggestions to me as to any changes you think would enhance document. It can be updated and revised at any time. I welcome everyone's input into it.

## *Copyright Reform*

The Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Bill 1999 was introduced in Parliament on 2 September 1999. In it the definition of 'library' "does not include a library owned by any other person or body carrying on business for profit if the person maintains the library mainly or solely for the purposes of that business". This means that corporate libraries will no longer be able to rely on the free library copying provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth) (ss 49 and 50). This new definition has wide ranging implications for us. There is still time to have the bill amended,

<sup>1</sup> [www.allg.asn.au](http://www.allg.asn.au)

and I further urge ALLG divisions to get involved right away in the lobbying process. Please contact me or any of the state convenors with your input, so we can pass it on as a group.

## *Incorporation*

At the Biennial General Executive Meeting in Hobart, the issue of incorporation was discussed at length. Given the size of our membership, and the responsibilities we are taking for this large group, it is time for us to have a good look at the incorporation issue. We will be obtaining two legal opinions on the issue in regard to the national body. Subsequently, each state will also have to investigate the issue (except WA, of course, who are already incorporated). **Christine Johnston**, of the Queensland ALLG is coordinating the effort and can be contacted at [cjohnston@gadens.com.au](mailto:cjohnston@gadens.com.au), for comment or other input.

## *Constitution*

One of the issues with which the ALLG has been dealing during the last two years is the issue of a new national constitution. A great deal of work has been done on this, however we were unfortunately unable to circulate the document to the membership early enough to be able to vote on it at the BGM in Hobart. This will, therefore, carry over to next year, and we hope that we can circulate it and vote on it at the Law Librarians' Symposium in Sydney in 2000.

## *Publishers' Liaison*

**Greig Williams** continues as ALLG National Publishers' Liaison Co-ordinator in 1999-2000. I encourage you to contact Greig<sup>2</sup> with issues regarding the publishers, and also to make use of the Publishers' Liaison page of the ALLG website, which we are planning to develop shortly. The publishers' liaison committee members and their contact information are listed on the page, should you need a local contact.

<sup>2</sup> [greig.williams@arh.com.au](mailto:greig.williams@arh.com.au)

The meetings in Hobart, where I met so many interested and committed people have encouraged me a great deal. I am greatly looking forward to working for the ALLG with the committee and the general membership, and I hope that the next two years will continue to see the Group move from strength to strength, as has been the case over the last four years, under the leadership first of **Anne Gardner**, and lately **Cathryn Crowe**.

**Mary Greenfield**

**National Convenor ALLG**

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