

President's report 2022-2023

Overview

My time as president has ended, and it has been a busy and productive year, personally and professionally. I have enjoyed working with a dedicated team of law librarians committed to enhancing our profession. During the year I have witnessed the professional support of members of the Board, the Divisional/Chapter Presidents and their committee members, and local members networking, collaborating, and sharing information on being the best law librarian or knowledge manager they can be. Being an ALLA member means you are not alone, you can reach out to others across Australia for support, resource and ideas sharing, and just having a chat.

I have appreciated the online and face to face meetings with the board members, with ongoing, thought provoking and focused discussions on a range of topics during the year. Having been a member for many years, volunteering my time to be on the board has highlighted to me the value of our association and its membership base. I would urge members to think about joining the ALLA Board, as a director, or a member role, and contributing to your organisation.

Connecting with Division/Chapter Presidents

As President I met with the Division/Chapter Presidents from around the country: Anastasia Stepanovic from Victoria, Helen Cluff from New South Wales, Anne Newton from Australian Capital Territory, David McDowell from Western Australian, Lisa Capps from the Northern Territory and Lucy Brown from South Australia. Thank you on behalf of the Board for continuing to volunteer your time in support of our association.

We discussed and shared what the states and territories are doing, CPD events being lined up, and reports from Board governance. There was discussion on why members are not joining the board or state/territory divisions/chapter, with consistent reports from divisions/chapters that indicate a reluctance for members to step up into leadership (either Board or Committee) roles. Laurie Atkinson, vice president, is working on initiatives to improve this situation. The Board has engaged external expertise to assist with creating a supportive and nurturing culture, to encourage and assist new appointments. As mentioned throughout the past year, think about stepping into a role (Board or local committee), it may be challenging at first, but you will be ably supported by experienced members.

ALLA website

The Board is aware of issues related to the ALLA website, this has been shared by members, committee members and the Board. Laurie will be working with our new IT project manager, Bruce Boyes on a priority list of issues and viable solutions. They are working on resolving issues related to the mailing list and ALLA website as a key priority.

Governance and structure going forward

As you know ALLA Ltd and ALLA (NSW Chapter) finalised an MOU last December, with the NSW Division finally becoming a Chapter. Since this event, there have been several Divisions

who have asked for information about becoming a Chapter due to a decline in members stepping up to committee positions, and a state which is no longer a division but may join ALLA Ltd as a Chapter. The Board will share information at the AGM, then implement online forums in late 2023 and 2024, open to all members to discuss the implications of Divisions changing to Chapters. We need to think about the impact on ALLA, seeking the best possible path going forward for members, and for sustainable governance of the association, using volunteer engagement.

The ALLA board has focused on governance and attended workshops online, and in person with a facilitator from Directors Australia. We have worked on streamlining the national model, and to follow best practice for the Board which has included more strategic planning meetings. We discussed good governance, membership growth, funding, direction of ALLA, and reviewing the constitution – this will take us forward as an association.

ALL Journal

Thank you to Damaris Olea (Journal Editor) and Fiona MacDowall (Business Manager) for producing a quality journal with thought provoking and insightful articles focussing on law librarianship. They have worked hard on increasing advertising and sponsorship, delivering a new initiative where advertising is linked to the journal and our website. Please refer to the Journals Report.

Finance

The Treasurer's Report highlights our current financial status, the association is stable financially. New and ongoing membership, and the biannual conference provide revenue for the association. Thank you to Phil Mullen who has had to work through the process of complying with GST/BAS statements, which ALLA now pay as of July 2023. The Financial Statement for 2023: RESULT The net result for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 was a surplus of 2,216. Income for the year total was \$79,642 and expenses totalled (\$77,425). Please refer to the Treasurer's Report.

Membership

Thank you to Aurorah Nelson, who has been the membership coordinator for two years. The Board is currently in the process of recruiting for a new coordinator, an update will be provided once the position is filled. Membership does need to increase, and the Board is working on ideas to highlight the benefits of membership and to stop the decline. Please refer to the Membership Coordinator Report.

ALLA fellowships/awards

ALLA has provided several fellowships to assist members to attend conferences.

Laurie Atkinson announced the 2023 Petal Kinder International Travel Fellowship Program, and with the assistance of a fellowship committee, after reviewing six outstanding applications, awarded the fellowship to ALLA member Melissa Mills for 2023-24. We not only awarded the Petal Kinder fellowship, but also found a way to support a member who wished to attend the NZLL conference. We can look forward to reading their reports in ALL.

ALLA was pleased to promote the ALIA Health and Law Conference with members presenting and attending. Unfortunately we were unable to award a bursary in time for the conference due to technical difficulties, which have since been resolved, but not in time for the conference. Carole Hinchcliffe represented ALLA on the conference committee, creating connections and building on our MOU with ALIA.

Stay tuned for further announcements regarding the annual ALLA Awards.

Copyright

ALLA became an associate member of the Australian Libraries and Archives Copyright Coalition (ALACC). Our ALLA representative Sharon Stewart attends meetings and the AGM on our behalf. Membership will assist our members to stay current with changes in copyright law, be identified as a member of ALACC on the ALACC website and in government submissions to e.g. amend copyright laws and lobbying efforts and to utilise self-paced copyright modules for ALLA members.

Adelaide conference 2024

Shanna Sheldrick from Premier Events has been engaged as our conference co-ordinator for Adelaide. The conference will be held at the Adelaide Convention centre on 7-9th August 2024. I am in the process of setting up the conference committee and am co-convening with ALLA member Georgia Livissianos, former law librarian of the year, from South Australia. We hope to see you all in Adelaide for another fantastic in-person conference.

Continuing Professional Development

A wide range of well attended events were organised by the Divisions and Chapter and ALLA Ltd National, with online webinars or in person events – thank you!

If available, Recordings of webinars can be accessed on the ALLA events site:

<https://www.austlawlib.org/events-and-cpd>

Webinar: Collaborate and Learn – searching Jade Organised by NSW Division	August 2022
ALLA's annual mental health session, with Jackie Bowker Organised by ALLA Ltd & Vic Division	August 2022
NSW Caselaw: Search tips and tricks Organised by NSW Division	September 2022
ALLA(Vic) Conference Bursary Winners Pow-Wow Organised by Vic Division	October 2022

Wolters Kluwer in person briefing transition to new platform. At UNSW CBD Campus, Sydney, NSW. Organised by ALLA Ltd	November 2022
Creating Newsletters and the Law Firm Organised by NSW Division	November 2022
ALLA eVendor Forum – state of eBooks in the vendor space Organised by ALLA Ltd	November 2022
Westlaw Australia for Law Librarians Organised by NSW Chapter	November 2022
ALLA Social Advent Calendar Organised by WA and Vic Divisions	December 2022
Sneak Peek at the new Federal Register of Legislation Organised by Vic Division	December 2022
Federal Register of Legislation redevelopment presentation Organised by ACT Division	March 2023
Career Resilience for Librarians and Information Professionals, facilitated by Mary Ellen Bates Organised by ALLA Ltd	March 2023
Navigating Copyright for Australian Law Libraries Organised by ALLA Ltd	April 2023
Comedy Festival night out, in person, Melbourne Victoria. Organised by Vic Division	April 2023
ALLA (Vic) Trivia Night, in person, Victoria. Organised by Vic Division	April 2023
To AI and Beyond! Organised by Vic Division	May 2023
Interview with Robin Gardner, High Court Librarian, by Amanda Surrey Organised by ALLA Ltd	May 2023
Intellectual Property and Emerging Technologies Organised by NSW Chapter	June 2023
Meet the Librarian Organised by Vic Division	July 2023

Project – Finding the Law Online (FLO)

Thank you to Anastasia Stepanovic and Alice Hewitt for coordination and development of this project, and volunteers who assisted them with specific state/territory content. This

project idea was discussed in 2018/19 and has now come to fruition. FLO will soon be added to the ALLA website, accessible to members only. The Board has had a preview and believe it will be a great training resource for legal research.

Acknowledgments

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2022 - 2023 ALLA Board of directors for their contribution and hard work for the Association:

- Laurie Atkinson – Vice President
- Carole Hinchcliffe – Past President
- Phil Mullen – Treasurer
- Amanda Surrey – Secretary
- Khym Lam-Fidler – Vendor Relations Coordinator
- Emma Joneshart – Web Coordinator
- Lisa Capps – Social media coordinator

And thank you to non- board members who assisted the Board:

- Aurorah Nelson – Membership Coordinator
- Tin Nguyen – ALLA National Web Coordinator and IT Project manager
- Jason Odering - IT Project Manager support person
- Melissa Mills – National CPD Coordinator
- Sharon Stewart – ALACC representative

Thank you to all for your support, I look forward to working with the Board as past president.

Paula Everett