

## President's Report 2020-2021

Emma Joneshart



What a year! COVID-19 continues to stick around and provide us with many challenges but it has provided us also with some opportunities. For ALLA it was expanding our CPD events and providing them virtually. For librarians the challenges were not having access to our hardcopy collection. Luckily for us we have many resources online and access to our colleagues in states that are not in lockdown. Ultimately this year has shown us that with the cooperation and support of our colleagues we can continue to meet our clients high expectations.

We should call 2020-21 the year of cooperation, sharing and collaboration.

### **Finance**

Our finances continue to be healthy. It is our membership and our conferences that continue to provide us with the revenue to continue as an organisation. Please refer to the Treasurer's report for more information.

### **Membership**

Our membership continues to slowly decline. We have yet to find a way to stop this decline. We believe we are still offering relevant material and our conferences are well attended. However, there are probably many things that have contributed to this decline, particularly in the last couple of years. Libraries getting smaller and as a result people becoming busier and forgetting to renew their membership. At the time of writing we had 391 members, a drop from 405 last year and 431 in 2019-20. Victoria has the largest membership base.

### **NSW / ALLA Ltd Merger**

This has been an ongoing project for the NSW Division and for ALLA Ltd. Via a special resolution the NSW membership agreed to become a Chapter of ALLA Ltd. The next step was for ALLA Ltd to consult with Prolegis Lawyers to consider if any changes were needed to the national constitution before the merger could progress. Prolegis Lawyers recommended a couple of changes and we will be voting on them at the AGM. When this has been completed the NSW Division will become the NSW Chapter of ALLA Ltd. This will free up the committee's time so that they can concentrate on organising and running more CPD events. The Division (Chapter) will no longer be concerned with many of the administrative and treasurer's duties as this will now be the responsibility of ALLA Ltd. The NSW Chapter will still have allocated to them the money that they would have received as a Division. However, ALLA Ltd will take on paying the invoices for the Chapter.

When these changes are approved at the AGM everything will then be in place should the other Divisions decide to become Chapters. With our membership declining and it becoming increasingly difficult to get volunteers for the Divisional committee's this is the direction that a couple of the divisions have already indicated that they would like to proceed with.

## **ALLA Conference**

We are having our postponed Canberra conference this year, virtually. It has been a long process however, our conference committee and Shanna Sheldrick from Premier Events Concepts have done a wonderful job putting the conference together. I would like to thank Shanna and our committee. They are:

- John Botherway
- Margaret Hutchinson
- Vima Devia
- Joanna Longley
- Michael Gavan
- Kate Freedman
- Carole Hinchliff

We have made a small profit this year. At the time of writing we had 161 people registered to attend the conference and we hope for more to still register. We did have some unexpected losses because of the cancellation of the face to face event. These included the deposits for a couple of the venues that had been planned and also a couple of our sponsors pulled out after we went virtual.

Thank you everyone for registering and we hope you enjoy the conference. You also have the recordings of the sessions to view for another six months.

At the end of our conference we will announce the details for our next conference, which will be held on the 24-26th August 2022.

## **ALL Journal**

The '*Australian Law Librarians Journal*' has had a big year. It continues to provide some fantastic articles. However, our co-editors are stepping down from their roles - Robin Gardner and Fiona MacDowell. Robin Gardner will be handing her role over to Damaris Olea who will take on the role of editor and Fiona MacDowell will become the 'business manager'. Robin and Fiona have done a brilliant job putting together this journal for the past three years and building up its reputation. They will provide a handover to Damaris and continue to provide support to Damaris as required.

Another major development for the journal is that it will soon be available to everyone, members and non-members. Currently the journal is available on HeinOnline for members only. However, the journal will be soon available on the Informit platform for members and non-members.

The journal continues to be profitable. Please refer to the Journals Report.

## **Fellowships and Bursaries.**

Carole Hinchliffe has done a fabulous job of organizing our fellowships and bursaries for 2020/21. We unfortunately didn't have many applications for some of them. Next year when we offer them again consider putting your name forward. They provide some wonderful learning and networking opportunities for you. The ones that we awarded this year are listed below:

- **American Association of Law Libraries**  
Roxana Jarolimek, Knowledge Management Consultant, Sparke Helmore, Sydney  
Amanda Surrey, Knowledge Manager, Victoria
- **ALLA Conference**  
Colin Fong, Teaching Fellow, UNSW  
Alice Hewitt, Training Librarian, Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, WA  
Melissa Spain, Training Librarian, AGS Library, ACT

## **ALLA CPD update**

Caroline Knaggs and the National CPD Committee continue their fantastic work on from last year when everything became virtual.

Below is a list of the events that were available to our members to attend. The events were organized by the divisions and ALLA Ltd but attended by our members nationally. The CPD coordinator and the CPD state representatives meet twice a year to plan for future CPD events.

KM - the latest updates from the world of Knowledge Management <i>Organised by NSW Division</i>	August 2021
Wellbeing workshop <i>Organised by Vic Division</i>	August 2021
Fundamentals of web design <i>Organised by National Division</i>	June 2021
Animal Law Institute - Current Advocacy Efforts <i>Organised by National Division</i>	May 2021
Implementing Library Website Chat in the midst of a health pandemic <i>Organised by National Division</i>	March 2021
The High Court Library - with John Botherway. This was also translated into a journal article for the Australian Law Librarian <i>Organised by National Division</i>	February 2021
Webinar : Tips and tricks for using the new NSW legislation website <i>Organised by NSW Division</i>	Dec 2020
Law Reform in Victoria <i>Organised by Vic Division</i>	October 2020
Introduction to Data Science for Law Librarians <i>Organised by NSW Division</i>	Oct 2020

### Vendor Relations Update

Monika Mzgmuntowicz continued her term this year as vendor relations. Below are the main items that have kept her busy advocating for the ALLA members. One item that all our members had an opportunity to participate in was the e-survey and we had a wonderful response to it.

The past year has been about working together towards common goals

- November 2020 – ALLA Board members (Monika and Emma) met with the members of NZLAA, Theresa Buller, Elizabeth McCullum and Erin Cairney, discussing the Vendor Relations role, our recent initiatives and advocacy, and how we our sister associations can collaborate on future projects
- December 2020 [ongoing] – discussions started with Kevin Stokes at Thomson Reuters about a project seeking to digitise superseded editions of Sweet & Maxwell classics. (Details are available on the [ALLA Vendor news site](#))
- February 2021 – [ongoing] – Work started in earnest on ebooks in the legal landscape. In May we launched the Ebook Survey, gathering feedback from ALLA members and the law library community about what ebook models work (and don't work) in their organisations. It was an extensive survey, canvassing opinions on more than 10 legal publishers and almost 20 different platforms. Results are to be presented at the ALLA Conference (2021), with further discussion forums to follow. The goal is to work with publishers to create ebook access models that are mutually beneficial.

- August 2021 – discussion with Angus Cook, Director, Content Procurement at the Council of Australian University Librarians, about our commitment to work together on key issues (like the continuing problems with accessing Australian Standards: we shared our 2019 submission to Standards Australia).

### **ALLA website**

Tin Pham Nguyen has been busy working on putting together a very much needed updated and improved ALLA website. We will launch it at our AGM. It is looking cleaner and easier to navigate. From the website you will be able to access the journal, details about the board and each of the divisions, your profile page and much more. We have also included Google drive where the board and divisions can archive our documents.

Tin also organised our new elist address: [alla.aus.nz@alla.asn.au](mailto:alla.aus.nz@alla.asn.au). All previous members of the old elist were converted over to the new one. Many law libraries have been using this resource during our many lockdowns.

### **Future Projects**

We still have a couple of projects that we are looking forward to exploring. Three projects that have been discussed are listed below. Look out for more information to follow about these projects.

- a national union catalogue of legal resources
- a national 'Finding the Law Online' training resource
- collaborating with ALIA to develop a training resource for new law librarians.

### **ALIA MOU**

We signed with ALIA a new Memorandum of Understanding in August 2021. This was organised with the assistance of Trish Hepworth at ALIA. The MOU states our objects and activities between the two associations. Our objectives are to promote cooperation, communication and collaboration between the two organisations for the benefit of our respective members.

### **Conclusion and thanks**

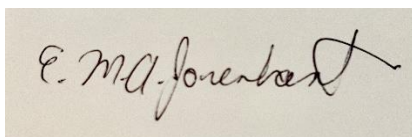
ALLA has seen our community at its best this year. With many of our libraries closed we have all worked together to assist each other.

I would especially like to take this opportunity to thank the 2020-21 board members for their contributions and time dedicated to running our association this past year. They are:

- Carole Hinchcliff – Vice President
- Kate Freedman – Past President
- Phil Mullen – Treasurer
- Karen Rowe-Nurse – Secretary
- Caroline Knaggs – CPD Coordinator
- Monika Zygmuntowicz – Vendor Relations Coordinator
- Krista La Pointe – general director
- Michael Gavan – general director

And non-directors:

- Robin Gardner – Journal co-editor
- Fiona MacDowall – Journal co-editor
- Richard Vankoningsveld – ALLA Membership coordinator and bookkeeper
- Tin Pham Nguyen – Web-co-ordinator



**Emma Joneshart. 20/09/2021**