
The President's Page

This is the first time I have addressed the entire Association as its president. The very first thing I want to do publicly is thank Judith Bright for her work as President over the last two years.

In the very short time that I have been President, it has already struck me just how difficult it is to have meaningful communication with Board members who are on either side of the Tasman and in three states within Australia. In her time as President, Judith steered the Association through the process of incorporation which entailed the not insignificant task of reworking the constitution. To manage the process of incorporation in spite of the communication and logistical problems imposed by geography, is truly a major feat. Thank you, Judith!

In almost the same breath, I would like publicly to thank Stephen Connelly for his wonderful contribution to the Association over six years as Secretary. Along with Judith, Stephen has borne the brunt of the incorporation workload. Following incorporation, the role of Secretary in the Association involves significantly more responsibility and administrative work than it did in the days when Stephen could regularly report to the Annual General Meeting that there had been no correspondence during the previous twelve months. I'm sure the in-coming Secretary, Rhonda Barry, will benefit from the Stephen's experience.

Another couple of "thank you's" are required – this time to Ruth Millard and Catherine Halsall. Ruth has announced that she will not be pursuing her career as ANZTLA statistician beyond the compilation of the statistics for 2002 and so we thank her for producing what are very helpful statistical reports. Catherine has generously offered to take on the role of statistician and we thank her in anticipation of the scintillating reports she will no doubt produce for us into the future.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter, Philip Harvey will be presenting an overview of the recent conference in Perth as only he can. For my part, I would simply like to congratulate and thank the W.A. conference committee for organising what I thought was a particularly enjoyable and rewarding conference on all fronts – content, pace, style and general 'feel'.

Of course, the success of the conference depends largely on the attitude and contribution of those attending. I think this year's conference is a sign that the Association is healthy and successfully meeting its principal purpose "to provide a framework whereby librarians and other people and groups interested in theological and religious libraries and librarianship can interact, learn and work towards the development and improvement of theological and religious libraries and the role and function of such libraries in theological education".¹

The framework is there in the form of the Board, the regional chapters, the annual conference and the relationships that individuals have with one another. I encourage all members to avail themselves of opportunities to continue the work of the Association - to support one another (and seek one another's support) to improve the scope and quality of theological librarianship in our region.

Tony McCumstie

¹ ANZTLA Mission Statement. See <http://www.anztl.org/Pages/about.html>