

Statement in Support of Candidature ICA President

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The factor that most differentiates the 21st Century from previous periods of human history is information- how we make it, how we keep it, how we find it, and of course, how we use it. In this information age it is our ability to fully capitalise on our information resources that determines our success. Information itself is the new “economic resource” of the 21st century.

Just as for any other valuable resource, information must be properly understood and carefully managed to completely achieve its full economic benefit, and in a hyper-connected world that is flooded with data it is essential to have access to data that can be relied on to be authentic, complete, usable and accessible. In this, the role of Archives is vital.

I was proud to host ICA2012 in Brisbane, and subsequently in Brussels to serve as President FAN. Both of these events showed how our world-wide community can come together and share knowledge and reaffirmed that the ICA is ready to lead our respective nations through the complex “infostrategic” issues of Digitisation, Big Data, and the Globalised Digital Economy; and the “infopolitical” issues of Open Government, National Security, Right to Information, Privacy and Data Protection.

I believe that, unfortunately, too much of the world’s focus on these pivotal issues is devoted to technology. Of course technology is important and I am confident that new and emerging technology will continue to deliver exciting solutions for the Archival community, but our use of technology must be shaped by the more fundamental core values – *Archival* values - that transcend the technology of the day. In order to advance, technology must become obsolete but Archives must endure forever. And let’s not forget that across the international community the uptake of technology is quite uneven. A large part of the world’s records are still being created on paper, film and other analogue material.

Archivists are the stewards of the records of humanity. This responsibility is immense. Decisions we make now will have irreversible consequences for the future.

The ICA is the one truly global organisation that understands the importance of Archival values and is committed to the development of the profession. I believe this development means keeping the very best of our traditional practices while confidently embracing 21st century concepts of “record”, “archive” and “access”.

In recent years the ICA has accomplished a great deal and in the process has transformed itself into a stronger, more focused, more inclusive and better governed organisation. With these strengths it is now poised to grow even further, delivering more benefits to its members and becoming more influential across all spheres of industry, academia and Government.

If elected, my priorities for the next four years would be:

- Strengthen the Branches, because it is through our network of branches that our members gain professional intelligence, build professional networks and contribute to the continued development and growth of the ICA community;
- Strengthen the Sections to empower them as the specialist centres of the ICA, harnessing the rich array of talent that exists across our network to lead our thinking and develop solutions for Archives in the 21st century;
- Energise FAN to develop strategic responses to the most pressing issues confronting Archives and to exploit the combined strengths of National Archivists in the areas of global advocacy and productive partnerships;
- Build the ICA brand as an emblem of excellence and leverage that brand to generate revenue through ethical and properly governed commercial partnerships;
- Uphold the highest standards of good governance that reflects the values and ethics of our profession; ensures the resources of the ICA are effectively applied for the benefit of our members; and over time enhances the value of the ICA brand.

My career path has been diverse, working in senior management positions within the government sector, corporate sector and running my own company. As varied as it may seem, the thread that connects each chapter of my CV is my commitment to records and information management and its potential to improve every aspect of our society. This commitment has led me to recognise the importance of the ICA - and it is this enduring commitment that I would bring to the position of President.