Beryl Exley has made a substantial contribution to ALEA over an extended period of time. Her service began in 2001 and continued through to 2019. It has included significant work at local, state, national and international levels. Beryl's initial contributions to ALEA were at the local level. From 2001 to 2005, she was a member of the executive of the Meanjin Local Council in Queensland, serving at various times as a committee member, vice-president and president. Beryl took on the role of secretary and executive committee member for the 2005 AATE/ALEA National Conference Committee, held on the Gold Coast in July 2005. From July 2005, Beryl became the ALEA Queensland State Director until 2013. She encouraged and supported all of the local councils in Queensland to build the capacity of local council members and to extend ALEA’s work throughout the state. As part of her state director role, Beryl was a member of ALEA’s National Council.

Beryl was co-convenor of the AATE/ALEA 2013 National Conference, held in Brisbane. She worked collaboratively with Gary Collins who was president of the English Teachers Association of Queensland (ETAQ). Beryl made sure that the selection of abstracts for the conference was a shared task amongst representatives of all local councils in Queensland. She also made sure that the conference catered for the diverse range of ALEA members and covered a broad range of interests in literacy education, including a research strand.

In 2013, she moved into a different role, that of Publications Director. This appointed role indicated the respect that National Council had for her work and for her commitment to the goals and mission of ALEA. Beryl oversaw the teams who published 12 editions each of the *Australian Journal of Language and Literacy*, *Literacy Learning: the middle years*, and *Practical Literacy: the early and primary years*. She guest edited two editions of the *Australian Journal of Language and Literacy*, and oversaw the publication of four ALEA books, including *Teaching writing in today’s classrooms: Looking back to look forward* (2015, edited by Jan Turbill, Georgina Barton and Cynthia Brock) and *Tadpoles in the Torrens: Poems for young readers: Teachers’ edition* (2016, edited by Jude Aquilina with Mary Gallagher and Karen Western). Beryl co-authored two ALEA grammar books: *Playing with grammar in the early years: Learning about grammar in the Australian Curriculum: English* (2013, co-authored with Lisa Kervin) and *Exploring with grammar in the primary years: Learning about grammar in the Australian Curriculum: English* (2015, co-authored with Lisa Kervin and Jessica Mantei). Beryl commissioned the Little People’s Literacy Learning open access online modules, written by Anita Ayre and ALEA Past President, Trevor Cairney.

Beryl took on the role of ALEA National Council President in 2017. Beryl has taken the lead in advocating for ALEA and for literacy education more generally. This has involved media interviews, op-ed pieces and government submissions. She has also overseen a change in the provision of business services to ALEA with skill, attention to detail and a willingness to seek expert advice to secure the best outcome for ALEA and its members.

From 2005 to 2019, she was the ALEA representative on the International Development in Oceania Committee (IDOC). She collaborated with teachers in Pacific nations as well as colleagues from the New Zealand Literacy Association (NZLA). She presented Information Text Awareness Project (ITAP) workshops for teachers in-situ with Wendy Carss (NZLA), Apolonia Tamata (Fiji), and Wendy Morgan (NZLA). Along with Wendy and Apolonia, a grant was secured from the ILA to evaluate these workshops and two published papers were written. From 2015 to 2018 Beryl was the International Chair of IDOC, representing IDOC at three ILA conventions. Her international work extended in 2016 to becoming the International Literacy Association (ILA) Global Taskforce Co-chair with Bill Teale (United States) and Scott Walter (Canada). The specific remit of the taskforce was to progress the *Frankfurt Declaration*, which was part of ILA’s strategy for advancing literacy learning throughout the world.

It is with great pleasure that ALEA Awards Beryl Exley with Life Membership.