



# ALIA New Graduates Group

## Introducing your committee

The ALIA New Graduates Group (<http://alia.org.au/groups/newgrad/>) provides a forum for new graduates to communicate and socialise with colleagues and build relationships and networks within the profession.

The group aims to facilitate networking for the new generation of library professionals, provide a forum for the discussion of issues relevant to new professionals, organise meetings and training specifically relevant to students and new graduates and facilitate the introduction of new graduates into the wider ALIA community.

These are the members of your New Graduates Group committee. Please contact them if you are interested in participating in New Graduates Group activities in your area.

### Simone Hys: Group Convenor

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After four years spent finding Wally and Wanda, pushing a mobile library van through flood waters to make it to the Friday site, and dodging lightning strikes with the largest radio aerial strapped to the truck, Simone was well prepared to spend the next four years working in academic libraries.



When not burying herself in her veggie garden or boogie-boarding up the coast, Simone can be found behind the reference desk at Griffith University's Logan Campus. Here, high school and primary school assignments have been replaced with queries full of words she still can't spell or pronounce (those nursing students study some weird things).

### Trevor Mackay: Group Secretary

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Although a new graduate, Trevor has been working in libraries for nine years, beginning with a shelving job after school. On graduating from high school, he began a Diploma of Library and Information Science at Swinburne University of Technology, while working as a library officer with Monash Public Library Service. In 2002 he began studying with Charles Sturt University, and in November 2004, completed a Bachelor of Arts (LIM). At this time, Trevor began working in his first professional position, as a reference librarian at Bayside Library. Currently he is Deputy Branch Manager at the Beaumaris Branch of Bayside Library Service in sunny Melbourne. On weekends you will find Trevor soaking up coffee culture and haute couture on Chapel Street.



As well as being secretary of the ALIA New Graduates Group, Trevor is also on the committee of ALIA RAIS (Vic).

### Narelle Bell: Group Treasurer and Newcastle Regional Co-ordinator

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In Narelle's previous life (when she was aimlessly working to live, not fulfilling her life's ambition) she worked in various



accounting functions. She then progressed to household management and finally enrolled at CSU in 1999 when her youngest child started school. Narelle is currently a casual relief librarian for the Hunter Institute of Technology as well as a part-time teacher to library students.

### Jenelle Cleary: Group Website Co-ordinator

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Jenelle is currently the Intranet Librarian and Client Support Librarian for the Victorian Parliamentary Library. She was a member of the ALIA New Generation Policy and Advisory Group and is currently the Convenor for ALIA Victoria. She graduated from RMIT University with a Bachelor of Business (Information Management) and is going back to her alma mater to attempt a Masters.



In her spare time she follows the Collingwood Football Club around the country, and enjoys nothing more than catching up on the latest episodes of Oprah while also indulging her addiction to cable news services, dreaming up more international trips, reading Nancy Drew books and listening to 70s and 80s music. A bit of a geek, she also produces her own Collingwood podcast.

### Kate Davis: ACT Regional Co-ordinator

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Kate Davis currently works as a reference librarian at the National Library of Australia, having completed the Graduate Program at the Library in 2005. Her first library job was as Business Reference Librarian at the Queensland University of Technology in 2004.



Kate has a BA in Art History and Literary Studies from the University of Queensland. She's a recent graduate of the Queensland University of Technology Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies, having studied there full time in 2004. She'd like to undertake a research level degree in the future, and has diverse research interests in LIS including information literacy and the value of user instruction, virtual reference, and the role of the Gen Y librarian in the future of the library profession.

When she's not using her weekends to escape the Canberra cold for sunny Brisbane, Kate likes to spend her days off drinking coffee at one of Kingston's fabulous cafes, catching the latest movies, and reading anything from junk mail to Tolstoy.

### Rob Tucker: NSW Regional Co-ordinator

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Rob has six years experience in information systems, information management and customer service in various industries. He currently manages web presence and information services for the Australian Institute of Project Management.



Prior to AIPM, Rob contracted to Geoscience Australia, Defence and Centrelink as a systems development manager and librarian. He has volunteered and worked for non-profit cultural, arts

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...gives a voice to the new generation of library and information professionals. If you have any suggestions or topics for this column, please contact the column co-ordinator, Kate Watson, [kwatson@usc.edu.au](mailto:kwatson@usc.edu.au).

and youth associations in Australia and North America. He is an Associate of the Australian Library and Information Association and has a Bachelor of Arts (Library & Information) from University of Canberra.

He moved to Sydney from Canberra, to be closer to the beach. When not focused on achieving results through technology, he is a long distance runner.

#### **Sarah Manning: NT Regional Co-ordinator**

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Sarah completed a Bachelor of Arts (Library & Information Science) with Charles Sturt University in 2004, following a four and a half year traineeship with Northern Territory Library & Information Service (now Northern Territory Library). Just prior to graduation at the end of 2004 she moved to Central Australia as Manager of Tennant Creek Public Library. After 16 months in this position Sarah was offered a job with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, so she relocated to Darwin in January this year. Being in Darwin has meant Sarah has been able to take up more opportunities with ALIA, including being Regional Co-ordinator for the Territory's New Graduates Group; she hopes to increase the profile of the group and bring together more development and social opportunities for Territory graduates. In her spare time Sarah likes motor sports, travelling, camping, gardening and getting involved in the community, including being an NT Champion for the 2006 National Literacy and Numeracy Week.

#### **Sally Baker: North Qld Regional Co-ordinator**

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Sally works at James Cook University in Townsville as a library officer. Before gaining employment in libraries in 2001, she volunteered at Moranbah Public Library for a year while finishing high school. Since then, she has finished a BA (in literature and psychology) at JCU and is currently working towards her librarianship qualifications at Charles Sturt University. Her library interests are mainly tech-oriented.

As well as co-ordinating the NQ NewGrads group, Sally is an active virtual committee member for TropicALIA and maintains her own website 'The Apprentice Librarian' (<http://www.geocities.com/apprenticelibrarian>).

In her spare time she enjoys being with her family, including her gorgeous godson and young cousins, watching movies, and enjoying leisurely Sunday drives around town.

#### **Chelsea Harper: Central Qld Regional Co-ordinator**

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Chelsea is currently the Electronic Services Librarian at Central Queensland University, where she previously held liaison librarian positions. In becoming a librarian, she initially completed a Bachelor of Arts at CQU and then completed a Graduate Diploma of Science (Information Services) at Edith Cowan University via distance mode. On the job, Chelsea's interests include online learning, distance education, social software and Library 2.0 discussions. Away from work she enjoys anything crafty and spending time with her dogs.



#### **Rachel Crowe: South East Qld Regional Co-ordinator**

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After completing an interesting but fairly useless undergraduate degree in home economics Rachel rediscovered her love of libraries and completed a Master of Applied Science (Library and Information Management) through CSU. An opportune work experience placement at Queensland Health Central Library later resulted in her first library job in 2003. After a stint as the Librarian-Manager of the Alcohol & Drug Service Library (also a Queensland Health library) she is now trying her hand at a systems librarian role back at Queensland Health Central Library. She loves the work she does and sharing her passion with others. In her spare time she watches British television, makes cards and does scrap-booking.



#### **Nel Svendsen: SA Regional Co-ordinator**

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Nel began work at the State Library of South Australia through their Graduate Program in 2001, and is now the Manager of Customer Services. She completed her MA (Information Studies) at The University of South Australia in 2002, via several inconclusive years as a PhD candidate in English Language and Literature and a minor incarnation as a bookseller.



In her spare time Nel hangs around other libraries with her librarian husband, reads books and watches movie adaptations of contemporary novels.

#### **Susan Robson: Tasmania Regional Co-ordinator**

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Susan completed a Bachelor of Fine Art at Monash, then graduated to travelling the world for a few years before moving to Tassie to do Honours in Painting at the University of Tasmania. After which she decided it was time to get a grown-up job. Susan is currently a liaison librarian at the University of Tasmania, her first professional library job. She is also trying to finish off her Masters of Applied Science (Library and Information Management) through CSU.

#### **Kate Gordon: Tasmania Regional Co-ordinator**

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Kate completed an undergraduate degree in Performing Arts in 2002, and decided, in the end, *not* to become a performing artist as, on the whole, performing artists are wallies (not all of them, though, so if you are a performing artist, don't be offended)! Both her parents are school librarians; the library had always been like a second home, so pursuing a career as a librarian just seemed natural. After completing her Graduate Diploma, Kate worked for a year on a State Library scholarship in State Library of Tasmania Systems Support and Development. Being in a school was where she wanted to be, though, and this year she was lucky enough to get a position at St Virgil's secondary college in Austin's Ferry, Tasmania. It's a big challenge, working in a school of nearly 500 adolescent boys, but Kate is loving every minute of it!

In her spare time, Kate reads a lot. She seems to be reading a load of YA fantasy fiction of late, because it's what the boys read and she's just a sucker for anything with dragons and elves and swords in it anyway (did anyone say geek...?!). She also writes quite a bit (and yes, there are dragons, elves and swords involved...), supports the Greens and the Hawthorn Football Club, and just enjoys being a newlywed – while it lasts!

#### **Michelle Thomason: Victoria Regional Co-ordinator**

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After deciding on a career change – she used to be a kindergarten teacher – Michelle graduated in 2003 from RMIT with a Graduate Diploma in Information Management, since then she has been working for the past two and a half years at the Royal Children's Hospital Library as a medical librarian (there is no children's library at the hospital). As well as being a co-co-ordinator of the Victorian ALIA New Graduates Group Michelle is also the Treasurer of the ALIA Victoria group.



In her leisure time Michelle enjoys going to the gym, reading, catching up with friends and family, cooking and dreaming about her next overseas holiday.

#### **Simon Lewis: WA Regional Co-ordinator**

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Simon is a reference librarian at the Medical and Dental Library at the University of Western Australia. He is the convenor of the ALIA WA Pub Mentoring Group which, among other activities, conducts informal social occasions for mentors and protégés at pubs around Perth.



Outside libraries, Simon enjoys playing and watching AFL and cricket.