



## National Library Technicians Day round up

Once again National Library Technicians Day, this year held on Tuesday 26 May, was celebrated in a variety of ways across the country.

### Australian Capital Territory – Colleen Gammage

ACT LibTech's celebrated Library Technicians Day with drinks and nibbles at CIT restaurant where they enjoyed an evening of 'social networking' with social media expert Stephen Collins of acidlabs. Stephen's interesting and inspirational presentation about 'Libraries and social media – better together' was followed by an informal but always motivational talk from Roxanne Missingham, current Parliamentary Librarian and past ALIA President in support of lib techs.

### New South Wales – Jennifer Dyer

NSW celebrated National Library Technicians Day with a dinner at Liana's Restaurant & Bar at Parramatta with 16 in attendance. This venue was chosen as a central spot to allow members from ALIA Hunter and Wollongong to attend. Representatives from all library areas of the profession, including the Zenith employer organisation and RAECO, all joined together for a great night of social networking and camaraderie. ALIA sticky notes, membership forms, and a lucky door prize were donated through Niki Kallenberger, our ALIA Local Liaison Officer, who joined our apology list of 17. A great celebration evening was enjoyed by all those in attendance.

### New South Wales, Coffs Harbour – Judy Atkinson

Library & Information Week 2009 saw the 10th anniversary of Library Technician Day celebrations in Coffs Harbour. Librarians, library technicians, and library assistants, along with volunteers from the region, all met for breakfast on Library Technicians Day. The gathering was well attended, with lucky door prizes, and other give-aways including a free library bag for everyone. Managers, as well as library staff from university, TAFE, schools,

and public libraries were all represented, with everyone ensuring they were back at their posts for the start of the day's activities. Library & Information Week is always a hectic time, and many book fairs, information sessions, author visits, and displays were planned for later in the day. The annual Library Technicians Day celebration provides us with a built-in opportunity to network within the library community in our region. With new staff in key positions in our area, we look forward to strengthening ties, and extending a warm welcome to all library staff to participate in ongoing information exchange across the various sectors.

### Queensland – Trish D'Arcy

ALIA Qld Library Technicians Group gathered with our librarian colleagues on Monday 25th May for the Annual Trivia Night at the Irish Club in Brisbane. There were approximately 150 attendees and a great time was had by all. Special thanks to Kathryn Harding (ALIA Quorum) and the other volunteers on the night who made the evening progress well. Unfortunately, this year we did not announce a recipient for the ALIA Qld Library Technician of the Year [Recent Graduate] Award, as we did not receive any nominations. The committee are looking into ways to attract more interest in this award for next year, as the sponsors, Queensland Library Supplies, are very committed to its ongoing sponsorship.

### Tasmania – Jennifer Johnson

A group of keen library technicians braved the cold morning to celebrate National Library Technicians Day with a breakfast get-together at Banjo's Bakehouse. As usual there was plenty of catching up with colleagues from different libraries as well as meeting and chatting with some new faces. After some warming coffees and discussion about different aspects of our jobs, it was time for the brave to face the cold and head off to work.

### Victoria – Bradley O'Brien

Thirteen library folk gathered at the Prahran Hotel in the Melbourne suburb of Windsor on 26 May to celebrate National LT Day. The group consisted of people from academic, state, school, and special libraries, not to forget the Victorian gang from RAECO. A great evening was had by all who attended.

### Western Australia – Sarah Cesare

The WA Library Technicians Group celebrated National Library Technicians' Day with our traditional breakfast. This year we ventured to Reveley's Café in the city. WA library technicians like to have fun and our breakfast was no exception. We welcomed some new faces and took the opportunity to enjoy the fantastic company, great conversation, and wonderful food. An enjoyable morning was had by all.

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National Library Technicians Day around the country



## Pearls of wisdom: 30 years strong

Tuesday 26th May, 2009, The Robin Hood Hotel

On National Library Technicians Day, the South Australian Library Technicians (SALT) group held a dinner celebrating 30 years of gathering library technicians in SA. For the uninitiated, the 30th anniversary present is pearls, so this was our chosen theme, and some of the dinner guests even wore their pearls. Each place-setting had a laminated, double-sided place mat, displaying the menu and some photos from SALT activities over the years.

Twenty-eight people attended, including former lecturers and tutors from the Library Technician courses, some of the people who

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set up SALT in the first place, various past Presidents/Convenors, Secretaries, Treasurers, members of committees, and Conference Committees. It was wonderful to see our honorary member, Matthew Griffiths (from NSW), who has regularly attended SALT workshops and dinners.



*Attendees at the SALT dinner*

In lieu of an after-dinner speaker, all guests were encouraged to share their experiences (especially the funny ones), people who had influenced them, and their own 'pearl of wisdom'. Recurring themes were the Murder Mystery dinners held at some of the weekend workshops, singing and dancing at various conference dinners, and some 'accidents' in lectures and workshops at TAFE. Robyn Matthews and her fellow lecturers and tutors were mentioned many times.

We also recognised 15 years of devoted service by our Treasurer, Amanda Colbert, with a speech and a gift. There were lucky chair prizes and a door prize. It all added up to a very memorable evening.

SALT is now going into 'suspended animation', to be archived until a time when it is needed and can be retrieved and reactivated. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of SALT over the past 30 years.

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## Victoria University celebrates its library technicians

To celebrate, promote, and advertise our National Day, Library and Cultural Studies enlisted the help of Gail Schmidt, Genevieve Pergl, and Helena Lozanovski, from the State Library of Victoria, Margie Anderson, the ALIA Local Liaison Officer – Victoria, and Jenny Barron and Lynette Lewis from One Umbrella, an LIS employment agency.

Margie spoke about ALIA's role in the profession, its core group of staff, the conferences it organises, its advocacy role for workers, online e-lists, and training sessions for keeping members up-to-date in their professional development. Margie encouraged everyone to join ALIA and maintain professional networks in a dynamic industry in times of change and progress.

Margie awarded the ALIA Top Student at VU to Kylie James who is working two part-time jobs – a school library and a public library. Kylie said she felt honoured and thanked ALIA for donating the award, and the staff at VU for selecting her. Kylie said that doing the technician course had been a challenge, and that she was now doing what she had dreamed about and was very happy.

Hellana Lozanovski spoke about her work as a Collection Development Officer and current position, Map Cataloguing, at the State Library. Hellana described for the students how she prepared for a job interview, what background work she had done, and the mock interview questions she developed and answered. Hellana also offered details and props from her current project.

Genevieve Pergl completed the course at VU and has been working at the State Library in different roles since 1994. Genevieve noted that her job started as a six-month contract. She is working on the digitisation project at the State Library and brought in a Video Disk from an early project to give a demonstration of how people could search for and order thousands of images from the State Library now over the internet.

Gail Schmidt gave a bit of a history, speaking about how, when she started the course, there had been no internet, electronic journals had not been invented, and all research was done manually. The VU course has changed many times to keep pace with technology and industry trends and Gail feels it will hold students in good stead for the future. She noted that ALIA, as the professional body, is a good source of information for career advice, ways of addressing professional development needs, lifestyle benefits and services, and the industrial relations arena. Gail encouraged all students to attend the Victorian ALIA Library Technicians Group activities, several of which are held each year.



*Library technicians celebrate at Victoria University*

One Umbrella's Jenny Barron and Lynette Lewis, then spoke to the students. Jenny handed out materials on how to prepare resumes. Annette went on to talk about how things change, including necessary web 2.0 skills. Jenny noted that it had been a very tight market and spoke about salaries and what students could expect in different roles. They recommended that students should go to ALIA and VALA, and engage in social networks and professional groups.

A great celebration was had by all. Thanks to the Library Studies Team: Mary Carroll, Tim Dolby, Ian Rogers, Margie Anderson, Janet Murray, Paula Jones, and Leonie McCormack.

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## Working nationally as a library technician

Have you ever wondered what it was like to work with colleagues and not see them? At the Australian Catholic University this happens every day. The university has campuses in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and ACT. Library technicians are employed on every campus on different levels and in different positions. This is a great opportunity for staff as they can apply to transfer from campus to campus if the opportunity arises.

There are approximately 30 library technicians spread out over the six campuses. They can be employed as senior library technicians