

# Group in the spotlight

## Library big day out

ALIA Hunter has recently renewed itself with a new committee and new members. The old group was once thriving but had lapsed for about a decade. So, a bunch of interested people decided that we needed to breathe new life into the old group as it was a fantastic way to motivate and share ideas. A small group gathered for coffee in August 2008 to talk about reforming the ALIA Hunter group and we haven't stopped talking since!

That first meeting was so energetic, positive and fun that everyone was inspired to make it happen. We are now a growing group of about 15 regular members who meet every month at a local pub in Newcastle to share industry experiences, knowledge, and plan fun events to assist us in our professional development.

Our first major event was the 'Library Big Day Out', organised with astonishing precision by one of our members, Lynette Fraser. This was a day packed with library tours, excellent

food and entertaining company. We caught the train from Newcastle, enjoyed a late breakfast at a café, toured the new Sydney University SciTech, then the State Library of NSW, had vegan yum cha at Bodhi's, then visited Customs House Library before heading back to Newcastle on the train. The libraries and staff were very inspiring and we all took away practical ideas to implement at our own workplaces.

There is a strong interest in web 2.0 technologies in the Hunter group, and the group uses a variety of methods to communicate, experiment, and collaborate. We have a wiki on Google Groups that all members can edit, we are in the process of setting up a RSS reader so that we can keep up with industry news/blogs/etc, and we have a Flickr group to share our photos. We have also held a very entertaining meeting in a computer lab exploring Second Life – it was particularly hilarious when one of the avatars kept losing their clothes!

We are looking forward to more adventures in 2009 with a trivia night, a web 2.0 treasure hunt, a winery tour, more library 'days out', Indigenous literacy celebrations, and a banned books show. So, if you are in the neighbourhood you're welcome to come along and enjoy being a library and information professional with us.

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Taking some time out at Sydney University SciTech



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