

WAVES OF CHANGE RIPPLE THROUGH CANBERRA



ALIA National Library &
Information Technicians'
Symposium 2013
waves of change

Canberra was putting its best foot forward for the 2013 National Library and Information Symposium late last year. Waves of Change, the National Library and Information Technicians' Symposium 2013, was a smashing success. ALIA's Communications Manager Erin York was there, joining more than 200 delegates at the National Library of Australia for the event.

Canberra welcomed the delegates with perfect spring weather as the Symposium program began with five different tours, demonstrating the amazing diversity of libraries in the national capital, including visits to the National Film and Sound Archive, the Canberra Hospital, Geoscience Australia, ANU, the Botanic Gardens, the Supreme Court, the War Memorial and many others.

The tours were a big hit with the delegates, who came back to the National Library with many smiles and, perhaps, slightly sore feet. Back at the library they joined their colleagues for a welcome reception in the beautiful National Library foyer, where they were welcomed by Symposium Convenor Colleen Gammage, who also officially opened the conference.

On Halloween morning, Kel Robertson and Roxanne Missingham kicked off proceedings with two very interesting keynotes. Kel admitted he found libraries to be a dangerous place when researching his novels—but only because he could be so easily derailed by interesting facts. He also discussed his views on piracy and copyright, setting the scene for Roxanne's discussion on 'guerilla librarianship'.

Kel and the 'patron saint of libraries' (Roxanne) disagreed on a few points and between them spurred some interesting ongoing conversations throughout the days to follow.

The variety of speakers and presentations was undoubtedly one of the best aspects of the Symposium. Andrew Kelly's presentation on maker spaces was thought-provoking, as was Renate Beilharz's enthusiastic presentation on cataloguing. There was a wonderful presentation on cataloguing zines at the National Library.

Other speakers looked at workplace relationships, unconferences and ebooks while ALIA Executive Director Sue McKerracher and Bob Pymm set the mood on day two with very lively and inspiring keynotes. There were too many great presentations to name them all here, so please have a look at the papers on the website to see

the wide range of presentation topics. You'll find them online at alialibtech2013.wordpress.com/speakers/.

The Halloween Symposium Dinner was also well-received by attendees, who really got into the theme. There were witches, zombies, red queens and mischievous devils dancing, laughing and having a great time throughout and the National Library also starred again on the second day as the setting for an elegant high tea.

The hard work and dedication of the National Library and Information Technicians' Symposium Committee ensured a very impressive event for all participants. Congratulations to all on a job well done.

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