



# EDITOR'S NOTE

## YOU CAN GET THERE FROM HERE

just completed their studies. And we're celebrating some significant milestones for the LIS sector, with the WA Library Technicians' Group (WALT) turning 35, and LIS education celebrates 40 years at Charles Sturt University.

Wherever you are in your career at this moment, and whether you know what you want from the future or you plan to go with the flow, the message from all our contributors this month is that it's up to you. I want to add my vote to the oddball opportunities that come along in life. If it makes sense to you, if it excites you and speaks to your values, or teaches you something you want to learn, go for it.

For many years now, a colleague and I have referred to our working lives as 'crazy paving' rather than 'career planning'. I have explained this to people at times as suffering from congenital 'why not?' disease, meaning when an opportunity comes my way, I tend to respond by asking myself that question, rather than thinking immediately about how the new experience on offer would benefit my career overall.

I was reminded of this when we began to put together this issue of *INCITE* and our feature on good career moves. What's a good move for one professional may not be for another, or it could be right at one point in life but not in another. And that's absolutely fine.

It seems there are lots of good moves that don't take a huge amount of money, they just require a personal commitment. Con Wiebrands (on our cover), Catherine Clark and Jill Benn all have different experiences to share in our cover story on page 14, but they agree it's up to every individual to make the most of the opportunities on offer, including being active in your professional networks and always being ready and willing to try something new.

Free professional development opportunities available through ALIA are also featured in this issue, and we have some great advice for new graduates from those who have

That 'crazy paving' has led me through every library sector and the library trade, meandering along the way into the aid sector and the arts, with a hefty side serve of food sector, communications and marketing. All those experiences have been useful, even (or maybe especially) the really weird ones, such as creating a records management system out of used manilla folders and shoe glue in the wilds of Ethiopia, or being asked to write about the meaning of vegetables in embroidery!

Given this career history, you will not be at all surprised to find my recommended career advancement reading includes Dr Seuss' *Oh! The Places You'll Go!* I quote:

'CONGRATULATIONS, TODAY'S YOUR DAY!  
YOU'RE OFF TO GREAT PLACES, YOU'RE OFF AND AWAY!  
YOU HAVE BRAINS IN YOUR HEAD. YOU HAVE FEET IN YOUR SHOES.  
YOU CAN STEER YOURSELF IN ANY DIRECTION YOU CHOOSE.  
AND YOU KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW. AND YOU ARE THE ONE  
WHO'LL DECIDE WHERE TO GO...'

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LEE WELCH  
Editor

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