



The (Library) SPIRIT OF TASMANIA

ALIA Tasmania, now with Jill Denholm at its helm, is going from strength to strength, as JAMES MCGORAN reports.

Tasmania is currently travelling through rough seas. GLAMR services are undervalued by employers, sometimes even to the point of deskilling and deprofessionalisation. There are currently no library technician or librarian courses available face-to-face in Tasmania due to the closure of TAFE and University of Tasmania courses, and there are few options for continued professional development.

There is a beacon of light, however: the newly re-formed ALIA Tasmania group is working to provide access to professional development, discussion and networking opportunities for library and information science professionals across the state.

The current iteration of ALIA Tasmania emerged with the appointment of Jill Denholm as the ALIA State Manager to captain the ship. The rest of the crew was then formed from people with a variety of backgrounds and experiences and put to work in May 2016.

By the end of 2016, we had already held three large events across the state. In June, we facilitated a presentation of the VALA2016 Conference proceedings that was streamed to locations in Launceston and Devonport. In September, we held a similar event where attendees of the ALIA National 2016 Conference presented their highlights. In November, ALIA Tasmania invited Vicki McDonald, the State Librarian of Queensland and ALIA Vice-President, to present a talk titled 'The Power of Libraries', a transformative topic using wonderful innovations and showcasing the value of GLAMR services.

With 2016 behind us, we are now looking ahead to sail into 2017 and beyond. We are planning to hold informal café drop-in meetings in the north and the south to foster the sense of community within the LIS sector,

'The Neck – Bruny Island, Tasmania' by Steven Penton 2016, Creative Commons licence.

allowing both Members and non-members to network and discuss industry news and events.

We hope to continue our conference round-ups in 2017, starting with ALIA Information Online 2017 Conference. Jill is keen to talk to the ALIA PD Scheme agenda and hold a Q&A panel on jobs in Tasmania.

With ALIA's 80th anniversary ahead, we are excited to explore the history of libraries in Tasmania and the people who worked in them. Stay tuned!

Our most ambitious project for 2017 is to provide a Leadership and Innovation Forum in Tasmania for Tasmanian professionals.

Our aim is to facilitate and promote the development of GLAMR sector professionals in Tasmania, to increase access to professional learning and development – especially for those in rural areas – and to advocate for the profession through discussion across all levels of the sector and through high-quality, high-value and stimulating events in the future. We are keen to receive feedback and suggestions from ALIA members in Tasmania.

Here's hoping for smooth sailing. 🚢

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James McGoran graduated from UTAS with a Graduate Diploma in Information Management in 2012. He currently works at St Patrick's College in a 7–12 school library in Launceston and is the ALIA Tasmania Secretary and Vice-Chair of the ALIA New Generation Advisory Committee. Co-founder of #auslibchat (9pm on the first Tuesday of the month), he is passionate about LIS advocacy, school libraries and digital literacy, New Gen professionals, family, single malt whisky, gaming and food.



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