

# Energise >> Enthuse >> Inspire!

Welcome to Energise >> Enthuse >> Inspire! This new *inCite* column will be a voice for the new generation of library professionals. In each issue of *inCite*, a rotating 'New Gen' author will talk about activities, issues or ALIA initiatives relevant to new professionals and graduates. Topics may range from 'big picture' issues to personal experiences, or reports on professional development events. To start with, we would like to present an update from the New Generation Policy and Advisory Group (NGPAG).

To recap, the purpose of the New Generation Policy and Advisory Group is to advise the ALIA Board of Directors of ways in which they can achieve Initiative K of the *ALIA: making the difference 2003-2004 plan* — 'Develop and market new services for students/new professional members, and strengthen the participation of a new generation of library and information professionals in the Association' (<http://alia.org.au/governance/planning/2003-2004/>). Members of NGPAG are Natalie Blanford (convenor), Sue Hutley, Alison O'Connor, Mylee Joseph, Kate Watson, Tony Wauchope, Jenelle Cleary and Kate Sinclair. The average age of our group is 29!

With much discussion and through the results of a survey taken at the successful New Librarian's Symposium in December 2002, the members of NGPAG prioritised the goals to ensure that Initiative K is achieved.

What has been most pleasing is that the priorities originally set by the members of NGPAG match the results of the survey taken at the New Librarians Symposium [see <http://alia.org.au/governance/committees/newgeneration/> for the survey results]. The group has prepared plans for targeted continuing professional development activities, developing a New Graduates Group, mentoring, building a dedicated website for new and recent graduates, and ensuring library and information industry presence at career days, expos and information sessions.

Many ALIA members would have noticed the flurry of activity on the New Graduates Group e-list. This has been a huge success with

152 members joining in the first few months. There have been some wonderful discussions about industry issues and sharing of information — even offers of work placements!

One of the key priorities for NGPAG in the coming months is to generate more activities for state-based New Graduate Groups and information about these activities will be forwarded soon. To join the New Graduates Group e-list, please go to: <http://lists.alia.org.au/mailman/listinfo/aliaNEWGRAD/>. The New Graduates Group website can be found at <http://alia.org.au/groups.html>.

New members are always welcome!

NGPAG will be creating and developing a dedicated website for ALIA members to promote new and recent graduate activities and information. This website will contain relevant information about what is happening in the industry, activities in each state, information about CPD options and reports on the work of NGPAG.

Continuing professional development is a very important part of our working lives and significant work has been carried out in this area. If you attended the New Librarian's Symposium in December 2002, you will be pleased to know that there is a reunion in December 2003 in Brisbane (<http://conferences.alia.org.au/newlibrarian2003/>) and the second New Librarian's Symposium is currently being planned for Adelaide in December 2004. In addition to these Symposiums, negotiations are under way with various professional training providers to give ALIA members access to quality training courses at discounted rates.

Mentoring programs are in place in some, but not all states. NGPAG are looking at what is happening in the successful state programs and will be working to replicate these programs so that new and recent graduates can participate in a mentoring program where ever they live. NGPAG will work with the ALIA local liaison officers to achieve this goal.

The members of NGPAG are excited about the prospect of working to achieve the goals they have set to encourage new and recent graduates to participate and become involved in our wonderful industry! ■



**Natalie Blanchard**

New Generation Policy  
and Advisory Group

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