

# New National Library Technicians committee

## A message from Rebecca Evans, convenor

**L**ibrary Technicians are the fastest growing group of library and information professionals. The National Library Technicians committee will focus on the issues that concern technicians in professional practise, education, employment and research. We will liaise with members, employers, educational institutions and other groups in the ALIA family to deliver a vision of continuous improvement by utilising the skills and efforts of us all. Library Technician members of ALIA are encouraged to contact us with your thoughts and ideas.

Some of the initiatives suggested so far are to develop: a strategic plan for the group; a national mentoring program for library technicians; a new graduate library technician support program; and a professional development scheme targeted to technicians.

Following are brief biographies of the committee members.

### Rebecca Evans

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I have worked as a library technician for twenty-seven years. I started my career in Sydney at Canterbury Municipal Library. Since then I have worked in Adelaide, country Victoria, and Melbourne. I also worked in Wagga Wagga before moving to Hobart, Tasmania.

The libraries that I have worked in have ranged from public to educational institutions and special libraries. They have ranged in size from multi-branched to one-person libraries. Currently, I am employed at the Australian Education Union, Tasmanian Branch.

### Katrina Hughes

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I graduated from Sydney TAFE in 1991. After graduation I worked as a library technician (and later, senior library technician) at the Sydney Information Centre, Standards Australia. I have also worked as the loans co-ordinator for the City of Sydney Library. I am currently working at the Cement and Concrete Association of Australia Library as an information officer. I graduated from Charles Sturt University with the Bachelor of Library and Information Science degree in 2003.

### Tony Brooks

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I started on my quest for lifelong learning at the Newcastle Institute of TAFE in 1996 by enrolling in the Associate Diploma of Library Practice. After graduating in 1997 I worked at the Auchmuty Library of the University of Newcastle for two years as a general library assistant, gaining invaluable insights into coal-face library operations. Since 2000, I have been working as a cataloguer at the

Schools Cataloguing and Information Service (SCIS). I started the Bachelor of Library and Information Science degree at Charles Sturt University in 2000 and am due to complete it at the end of 2003. I have a wide interest in library and information issues and also run the aliaCATLIBS e-list.

### Janette Telford

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I graduated from Sydney Technical College in 1984. Since then I have worked in various government departments and university libraries. I was an Australian volunteer in Tonga between 1989 and 1990. During the Olympics and Paralympics, I was involved in supervisory and library duties. I am currently employed at the Australian Catholic University as the circulation officer.

I have been involved with the Library Technician's NSW group for a number of years holding various positions including treasurer and secretary. At present I am on the 2005 *neXt* conference committee.

### Tania Barry

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I have worked for Wyndham Library Service since 1999 as a circulation/processing officer. Since 2001, I have worked as a cataloguer for a local primary school, helping me gain insight into the specific skills used in the educational sector. I began the Bachelor of Library and Information Science degree at Charles Sturt University in 2000. As well as my role with the National Group, I am the liaison officer for ALIA Specials (Victoria) Group and on the committee for the ALIA Victorian Library Technicians and ALIA Victoria Groups. I also administer the aliaPUBTECH e-list, am second round proofer for Project Gutenberg and maintain several online resources for Victoria's Virtual Libraries.

### Matthew Griffiths

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I am currently team member, Lending Services, Bankstown City Library and Information Services, Bankstown City Council. Since graduating from the Sydney Institute of TAFE, Ultimo campus in 1997, I have worked at the State Library of NSW and with Zenith Management Services and One Umbrella. I am actively involved in ALIA and am the national employment co-ordinator and state treasurer of the ALIA NSW Library Technicians group. I am a member of the American Library Association, and have been an active member of St John Ambulance Australia since 1990. I am currently undertaking the Bachelor of Arts in Library and Information Science with Charles Sturt University via distance education. ■

## Margery C Ramsay and Barrett Reid Scholarships winners announced

On Tuesday 14 October the Margery C Ramsay and Barrett Reid Scholarships were presented by Dr Vicki Williamson, member of the Library Board of Victoria on behalf of the State Library of Victoria. The Margery C Ramsay Scholarship was awarded to Ms Patti Manolis, manager of the Maribyrnong Library Service and the Barrett Reid Scholarship to Ms Helen Zibell, operations manager of the Mildura Rural City Council Library Service. The recipients each received a scholarship to the value of \$15 000.

Ms Manolis said she is honoured receiving the Margery C Ramsay scholarship and excited by how it will provide her the opportunity for professional and personal development. Ms Manolis will use the scholarship to undertake a study tour of public libraries in East Timor. During this time she will study and document services and activities, as well as work towards establishing a relationship between the Victorian Public Library Network and libraries in East Timor.

Ms Zibell will use the Barrett Reid Scholarship to attend the *Corsortia in the next 25 years* conference. She will also undertake a study tour to examine the operations and management of library consortia in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Both of these American states have numerous consortia arrangements in place to support public library service delivery, particularly in relation to library management system.

The scholarships are named in honour of eminent librarians the late Margery C Ramsay and the late Barrett Reid. Margery Ramsay began her career at the Ballarat Municipal Libraries in 1946, before moving to the State Library of Tasmania and then the State Library of Victoria, where she was principal librarian from 1974 to 1981. Barrett Reid worked in various fields. He was executive officer of the Public Libraries Division at the State Library of Victoria from 1967 to 1982 and was instrumental in the development of library services across the State.