



**Simone Friend
with Richard
Vankoningsveld**

ALIA Queensland
New Graduates Group

Energise>> Enthuse>> Inspire!

...gives a voice to the new generation of library and information professionals. If you have any suggestions or topics for this column, please contact the column coordinator, Kate Watson, watsonk@rcc.qld.gov.au.

QLD New Graduates group starts amid a storm

Friday night. Storms ripped through Brisbane bringing wide-spread flooding and damage to property and possessions. Somewhere, a small group of people, clutching their favourite books, braved the storms to congregate in a noisy tavern in the city. It seemed auspicious for the first gathering of the QLD New Graduates Group.

From that small gathering in a noisy tavern, to a slightly larger gathering in a noisy restaurant, the Brisbane group of the New Graduates Group has enjoyed some interesting nights. The first venue turned out to be so crowded that we decided to move to quieter premises at the local noodle bar. Holding our books high, we elbowed through the crowd hoping to attract any other like-minded individuals on our way to the noodle bar. Discussions ranged from the state of the profession, who knew who or who had worked with someone's boss at some point (lesson to be learned, six degrees of separation also exists in libraries. It is amazing!) and where we wanted the group to go. It was decided that we would continue to meet on a social basis and try to attract as many people as possible to the group.

For our second gathering, one of our new graduates Richard Vankoningsveld was kind enough to conduct a tour of his library at MinterEllison Lawyers. It was necessary to meet in the foyer of MinterEllison's building to avoid accidental inclusion in the firm's St Patrick's Day celebrations going on next door to the library. From there the group ascended the lift and revelled at the amount of chrome used in furnishing the building.

Minter's Brisbane office library supports around 150 legal staff locally, and since nationalisation last year, plays a role in supporting the needs of the firm's other Australian offices.

The library's collection includes some 13 000 items divided into four main sections: law report series, legislation, journals and the main collection which includes monographs and loose-leaf services. The collection has been handed down from firm to firm as Minter's has gone through the various transitions to its current state, and along the way has picked up items dating from the mid-1800s onwards. We had a quick tour of the library which, as one might expect, is small by public or university library standards, although the look and feel of the rows of leather-bound law reports seemed to satisfy.

The library uses the Moys classification system for its main collection. The system, named after its creator Betty Moys, is common in law libraries and is designed to sit inside the Library of Congress system. Aside from the physical collection, the firm's Know-How

group (of which the library is one part) acts as custodian for the firm's electronic resources. The firm's recent adoption of a knowledge management strategy has seen much development in the electronic access offered to its staff, including the development of group intranets to deliver tailored access to the electronic resources which are a fundamental part of contemporary legal research.

One interesting comparison between a special library such as Minter's and other types of library which became apparent during the tour was the multi-tasking aspect. A library technician at Minter's will be involved in most of the library's functions, and duties would include loans processing, cataloguing, maintaining current awareness services, reference work and involvement in library development projects, making it a varied and engaging role.

Thank you to Richard for the tour of MinterEllison, the chance to look at a different type of library for most of us, and the surprise wines on arrival.

So what is next for the Brisbane New Graduates group? More social events are currently being planned, as well as tours of some of the other libraries in the region. For those in the rest of the state, fear not. There are plans underway to get more regional groups started so that everyone can have as much fun as we have been having.

If you wish to join or have any suggestions for the group, please subscribe to the e-list at <http://lists.alia.org.au/mailman/listinfo/alianewgrad/> or e-mail me at s.friend@griffith.edu.au. We post regular updates of events, topics of interest, job vacancies and support with all manner of queries. It has been a great way to meet new people in the profession, discuss assignment questions or even debate current opinions. So sign up, log in and start enjoying the group. Get out there and meet some of the New Grads, we are interesting people. ■



*Richard Vankoningsveld and Simone Friend
at the first Qld New Graduates gathering*