

25 May – national what day?

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National Library Technicians Day at the Victoria University of Technology

'25 May is national what day?' This was one of the twenty questions devised by staff in library studies for a quiz which was part of the celebrations for National Library Technician's Day at the Victoria University of Technology.

To celebrate, promote and advertise our national day as part of Library and Information Week, Library and Cultural Studies enlisted the help of Kerrie Kelly, convenor of the Victorian Library Technician's Group of ALIA, and Margaret Roberts and Tania Barry who are also members of this group.

Kerrie spoke about ALIA, what the Association does for technicians, and the value of networking possibilities for students. Kerrie highlighted committee meetings, where all are welcome, the Techs on Tour event where participants can look behind the scenes at a choice of three special libraries, and the Job Seekers forum which will cover resume writing and interview skills and which is scheduled for October, as events that students would be interested in attending.

Tania Barry talked to the students about the importance of continuing professional development (CPD). She described how ALIA has formally recognised CPD with the new Certified Practitioner (CP) category of membership. She emphasised the importance of networking and described it as a great benefit to active ALIA members. Tania felt that one of the easiest ways to do this is to subscribe to the many e-lists that were available through ALIA.

One of Tania's jobs at the moment is to find positions suited to the Diploma that might not be library related. Tania asked students to think outside the square — jobs such as human resources officer, training work and project work, and events management — she also suggested that students should look at ALIANet where Meredith Martinelli explores

the range of skills that can be used by library technicians [<http://alia.org.au/awards/dunn.wilson/1999/>].

Margaret Roberts also suggested that students think outside the square and look at work in knowledge management, records and customer service areas as well as traditional library work. Margaret said it was important to go to conferences and that library technicians should not rely on their employer to fund this attendance. She suggested students put \$10.00 away a week to cover the costs of conference registration and accommodation.

Margaret has just taken up a position with EBSCO as a library services manager, a position she describes as her dream job. However, she cautioned students that they should not expect to fall into their dream job straight away: they may be lucky, but that for most it was a long road.

After the talk by the Library Technician Group, there was a presentation of the Victoria University Library Technician Graduate of the year. Barbara Montenegro was presented with a certificate from ALIA and a package of prizes including a year's free membership, and a year's free subscription to an ALIA journal of her choice.

Library and cultural studies teacher, Sue Reynolds, then ran a quiz with the students to test their knowledge of many things library. The department presented Kerrie and the rest of the group from ALIA with Victoria University bookmarks and then to lunch at the Terrace Restaurant to thank the ALIA committee for their time and contributions for students at Victoria University of Technology.

A great celebration was had by all! The day was organised by Sue Reynolds and Mary Carroll. Great work!

**Ian Rogers, Library and Cultural Studies,
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