



**Alyson Dalby and Tony Brooks**

ALIA New Graduates Group

## Engage with your colleagues

Last year a NSW section of the ALIA New Graduates Group was formed. The aim of the NSW group was to have regular get-togethers where people could talk about experiences, get to know one another and share information in an informal atmosphere. Since then the scope of the group has grown with a number of people putting forward ideas for activities. Initiatives currently 'on the drawing board' for the NSW group include three workshops designed to provide success with career paths, a tour of Bennetts Library Suppliers and a philosophy and basics of cataloguing workshop. Other social activities are planned with an information management focus.

To keep up-to-date with what is happening with the New Graduates Group, subscribe to the e-list at <http://lists.alia.org.au/mailman/listinfo/alianewgrad/>. You can also check the NGG homepage at <http://alia.org.au/members-only/groups/newgrad/> where you will find links to join the group, reports of activities, an introduction to the committee and many other ways to engage with your colleagues.

The first activity for the NSW group was a fascinating tour of the History of Medicine Library at the Royal College of Physicians in Macquarie Street, Sydney. This took place in late December last year, and was attended by six NGG members. It was possible thanks to the librarian, Alyson Dalby, who volunteered her time and energy and the chief executive officer of the College, Craig Patterson, in allowing access and generously providing refreshments on the roof with magnificent views of the Botanic Gardens and Sydney Harbour. It was a great way to meet other members, to view a special library and discuss issues affecting new graduates. Alyson has written some information about her role and the library in general below, which I am sure you will find informative.

'I joined the library in 2002 and completed my graduate diploma in 2003. As a new graduate, it is a fantastic opportunity to put into practice so many of the big picture skills learnt during studies. The isolation of a special library means that al-

most every skill needs to be self-taught, and I have found that the best support and encouragement has come from the ALIA New Graduates Group.

'The library was established along with the birth of the College itself. The collection now comprises 40 000 items, including monographs, historical journals, limited audio-visual material, and much that is rare or even unique. There is a large amount of biographical material and a small collection of stunning anatomical illustrations. The oldest book is from 1475! There is also a small collection of antique medical artefacts, ranging from homeopathic chests to antique stethoscopes. The artefacts have been used in various museum exhibitions, including *Death: the last taboo* at the Australian Museum in 2003 and *A social history of drugs* currently at the Justice and Police Museum.

'The library is undergoing a redevelopment and the service goals are being redefined. The hope is that the historical collection will be put to more use, and that the library will be more heavily involved in displays and exhibitions. There are indeed some treasures in the library, and I am hoping that, as one of the few surviving medical college libraries in Australia, we will continue to preserve and promote the history of the profession.

'The library's holdings are on Kinetica, and we participate in interlibrary loans. The library is wholly funded by the College, and its main users are College Fellows (physicians), historians, genealogists and post-graduate students. We are open to the public by appointment.'

Thanks again to Alyson, the tour was truly amazing and a great start to the NSW chapter of the NGG. In the words of Molly Meldrum, 'do yourself a favour' and get active with the New Graduates Group and help others and yourself by sharing expertise and enthusiasm.

To find out more please check the website and join the e-list or contact the president: Alison O'Connor, [Alison.oconnor@bdw.com](mailto:Alison.oconnor@bdw.com), ph 03 9679 3465, or for NSW activities, contact Tony Brooks, NSW regional co-ordinator, [tonyb8228@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonyb8228@yahoo.co.uk), ph 02 9886 7517. ■

### Energise >> Enthuse >> Inspire!

is the new *inCite* column giving 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](mailto:watsonk@rcc.qld.gov.au).

### Call for papers: Xpress yourself at the next NLS!

The committee of the second ALIA New Librarians' Symposium are calling for papers! The deadline for paper abstracts is 21 June 2004.

We are looking for bright 'n funky papers addressing our theme, *Beyond the stereotype* and our three program streams:

- Libraries and the future — current trends, issues and innovations
- Libraries and the world — stories from overseas, activism and socially responsible librarianship
- Career and life planning — mentoring, networking and professional development

We especially want to hear from current students, new or recent graduates and 'new generation' information professionals. Do you have something to say about any of these issues? Just write it down, send it in, and you may be on the way to presenting your first conference paper!

To submit your abstracts, or to find out more information, go to <http://conferences.alia.org.au/newlibrarian2004/> for details on paper length, content and format for submissions.

Go ahead — take the first step! We look forward to your submissions. ■