



What's happening in south-east Queensland: a new graduate's diary

The South East Queensland New Graduates Group (SEQNGG) was started in May 2004 by (in her own words) 'a very bored and socially deficient librarian', Simone Hys. It was born out of a desire to create a context for new graduates in the south-east of Queensland to network, meet friends and socialise, and to encourage them to dip their toes into the big pond that is ALIA.

Simone reigned supreme as south-east Queensland's regional co-ordinator until April this year when she passed the baton on to me, as she moved on to the bigger and better role of national convenor of the New Graduates Group. And you couldn't find a much newer graduate than me — fresh from the QUT Grad Dip only last year. But I was also fresh from the New Librarians Symposium, freshly returned from a stint at CQU Library in Rockhampton and freshly employed in my first permanent professional position at the Queensland Parliamentary Library, so I guess she was lucky that my enthusiasm levels were fairly well charged...

Since taking over the role, I have discovered that South East Queensland New Graduates are a 'gnarly' bunch — and not in the old, wizened sense. In the few months I have been in the co-ordinator's role, we have had a social gathering at a great Indian restaurant, put together a finely tuned team for the ALIA Queensland Library Week trivia night (named 'Hang Ten' — see, we are *definitely* a gnarly crew) and, most recently, held a 'Meet the New Grads' evening.

The purpose of the 'Meet the New Grads' evening was for people from all walks of library life to come and join some of the New Grad group to find out just what it was all about, in a relaxed environment.

Despite my first doomed attempts to arrange this evening on State of Origin night, resulting in a cancellation (that's what you get for being regional co-ordinator in Queensland — I bet that wouldn't have happened in other states!), the second go-around was a real success.

It was held (courtesy of Gillian Hallam's booking skills) in the OJ Wordsworth Room at the Gardens Point campus of QUT, an accessible central location in the city. Despite the dreary weather, we had around thirty attendees, including students, new graduates, new professionals and some not-so-new professionals! ALIA local liaison officer Rowan Salt spoke to us about the need for new graduates and professionals to get involved in the many and diverse aspects of ALIA and the library profession, and Simone Hys talked about some of her great new ideas for the group, and the ever-changing roles of the New Graduates committee members.

I hope that the people attending got as much out of the evening as I did — I met so many new faces, and chatted to many different people. I also found it a most valuable learning curve as a new regional co-ordinator (note to self: remember to advertise on the ALIA events pages next time!), and I hope that some of the people attending might feel more enthusiastic about coming along to other ALIA events in the near future.

Coming up for the South East Queensland New Grads is an unmissable end-of-year party in November! Stay tuned for further updates on the SEQNGG. ■

Sarah McCallan

Regional co-ordinator,
ALIA South East
Queensland New
Graduates Group

Expressions of interest for New Grad committee roles

Are you a new graduate and a member of ALIA who would like to get more involved in your profession? Well then, we are looking for you!

Currently vacancies exist for a secretary and treasurer of the National New Graduates Group. In these roles you will be working with the national convenor, regional co-ordinators and other members of the committee to aid in the support and

running of the National Group. You will also be required to support the New Graduates Group ethos of 'providing a forum for new graduates to communicate and socialise with colleagues and build relationships and networks within the profession'.

Sounds daunting? Well, it's not. Basically all on the committee are enthusiastic individuals looking to have like-minded people join our

team in having fun, furthering new graduates in our profession, helping to plan events and provide ideas on ways we can further support and promote our new graduates.

If you would like more information, or are interested in joining the Group, please e-mail the national convenor, Simone Hys, at s.hys@griffith.edu.au. She looks forward to hearing from you. ■

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Enthuse>>
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...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 co-ordinator, Kate Watson, k.watson@cqu.edu.au.