



Simone Hys

Convenor, ALIA New Graduates Group

Regionals rise up!

Once upon a time, if you didn't live or work in a major capital city in this great wide land of ours, you could be forgiven for thinking that interest groups were city-centric. These days, that idea is much less true.

Newcastle is the latest Regional Group to join and we welcome Narelle Bell to the New Grad team. To date North Queensland has a New Grad Group, with Sally Baker recently taking over the reins from Claire Swift. Central Queensland has Kate Watson championing the New Grad cause, and now there is Newcastle. This makes me think that lots of people want to get involved and become more active within their library communities, and so they should.

I'm a big believer in regional involvement. Starting off my working career 'out of town' in a library service where no one ever discussed external library activities, ALIA, or even other library services, I felt isolated. There was no information sharing, or new people to meet; surely there was more to life than the service I worked with. It wasn't until I changed jobs and was sent to the first New Librarians Symposium that I realised there were other people out there who felt the same way I did. I started e-mailing people I'd met and from there the South East Queensland New Grads Group started. I was hooked. Surely there were more people out there, not necessarily in my region, who would like to get together and form groups.

Since then the New Grads Group has grown throughout Australia, as has my in-

volvement with regional groups. The need to meet new people, learn as much as I can and just share information and involve myself in the greater library community has pushed me on. This has led to involvement in various conferences, invitations to launches or interest sessions and meetings. I know that I can have a say and it will be heard, I feel I know more about library communities in Australia than before. And I know more about my association, ALIA.

If you are in a regional area, there are no doubt people around who will be keen to get together and get something happening. Social groups are great, and those are definitely not limited to capital centres. I'd like to hear from people in any area, New Grad or not, who might want to get involved. Please e-mail me at s.hys@griffith.edu.au. While my primary interest is to involve more New Grads in networking and information-sharing opportunities, I'm not limited to that. Who knows, maybe there will be another group to add to the New Graduate team by the end of the year, or even some contacts shared. Also, for the next month around the country NAC (National Advisory Congress) meetings are happening. These sessions cover information relating to policy, planning and any ALIA issues that may arise. This is your chance to get along and have that say about your association. It is your association so don't miss the opportunity. Consult the ALIA website <http://www.alia.org.au/governance/nac/> for dates, and get involved. If you don't speak up, no one can hear you. ■

Workshops in NSW: New Graduates Group

Ever thought about working in a different type of library? Swapping law books for picture books? Want to stickybeak around other libraries? Or need to polish up your job applications?

The New South Wales New Graduates Group (NSW NGG) has developed an exciting and innovative workshop series for 2005-06 to be held in the Sydney metropolitan area. The workshops are designed to provide a high quality series of accessible professional development activities with an affordable

price tag (\$15 for members, \$25 non-members). Apart from gaining new skills, the workshops will be an excellent opportunity to meet other new graduates, discuss issues, and visit a range of different libraries. Participants in the ALIA PD scheme will receive points for attending the workshops. In response to demand by new graduates, the following workshops are planned:

- Project management in a library context 21 November, 6:30-8:00pm, University of NSW Library
- Résumé and interview techniques, including

addressing selection criteria

- Changing information sectors
- Library tours

Dates for the later workshops will be publicised through *inCite*, the NGG website at <http://alia.org.au/groups/newgrad/>, and ALIA e-lists.

Stay tuned for more information, and be prepared to book fast as places are limited! Bookings through the ALIA shop, at <http://shop.alia.org.au/StoreFront.aspx>. ■

**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, k.watson@cqu.edu.au.