

Volunteer in the Spotlight



Hayley Gamble
Committee member
ALIA SA

Why do you enjoy volunteering for the library profession?

It's a way for me, working in a one-person library, to get to know others in the profession. Being involved in committees and event planning helps me extend my professional development, over and above what I would get just by attending ALIA events and training sessions.

What are three things you'd like us to know about you?

I grew up in Port Augusta, and am the eldest of eight children! My youngest sister was born the year after I left home to go to university. I love native plants / flowers and my husband's love of Australian parrots has slowly rubbed off on me!

How do you ensure balance between your work, volunteering and home commitments?

Does such a thing exist? The current balance is work first, followed by volunteering, then home commitments a sorry third! I recently decided I had to do something to help me relax so I am joining a beginners yoga class. When I told my husband, his response was 'oh just another thing you're taking on' so I think he is feeling a little neglected!

What gives you a sense of purpose and accomplishment?

Seeing a project through to completion. Getting good feedback (and chocolate!) from customers. I imagine if I am ever lucky enough to have children, they will give me a great sense of purpose.

If you could have your ideal role in the world, what would it be?

I enjoy what I do now and I don't harbour any real desires to do anything else but if I had the choice I'd like to be able to afford to work part time in libraries so I could get that work/life balance thing happening. Sometimes I think I'd like to write a 'serious' novel.

Which kinds of libraries have you worked in?

Two special libraries so far—Drug and Alcohol Services, and SA Water. I also volunteered for five years in the City of Adelaide Libraries' Homebound service — loved every minute of it, met some great people, and was sad when they cancelled the weekend shift because I could no longer be involved.

What are you currently reading?

Teacher Man by Frank McCourt

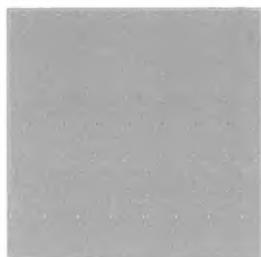
What do you feel are your greatest achievements and successes?

Completing my three courses of study (B Arts; Diploma Information Services; Graduate Diploma Information Studies), the last two being undertaken whilst working full time, and being awarded two ALIA awards on completion of my TAFE diploma

What do you currently do for a crust

Library Services Coordinator for SA Water, and I get a weekly x-lotto ticket in the vain hope...!

Interview by Fiona Butcher



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