

## ALIA Top End Group

Interview with Stephen Barnett, Group Convenor and Marg Purnell, Secretary.

### Tell us a bit about your group...

The ALIA Top End Group is a small but active group of ALIA members who enjoy getting together both for professional events as well as social ones. Some of our members come to a couple of events a year, others attend more regularly.

### What are 3 things you'd like us to know about you?

- ALIA Top End Group is a group of fun people, young and old, from all sectors of the library and information world.
- Members network well and the numbers involved make for an intimate and active group.
- The Group organises a number of professional development activities each year, often using their own expertise, thus keeping the costs low.

### What gives your group a sense of purpose and accomplishment?

The Group holds a monthly after hours event at one of their local libraries - one month being a general meeting, the next a tour, and drinks and nibbles are usually served. The Group committee also meets on a monthly basis for planning purposes.



### What are your group's greatest achievements and successes?

The Group's greatest achievements, the annual Top End Symposium, has been a successful event with more than 70 delegates each year, showcasing local library projects as well as attracting national speakers. It is also now featured in the ALIA conference calendar.

Another successful event the last few years has been the annual Garden Party held in the beautiful Chinese Gardens during our wonderful dry season. This event allows the library community to network and is also a great opportunity to target new members with a special invitation extended to library studies students.

### How can other people get involved in your group?

Other people can get involved in our group by coming along to an event (see "NT events" on the ALIA website or *inCite*) or by contacting one of the committee members. The Group is very welcoming of new faces.

### What are some of your upcoming activities?

Some of our upcoming activities include:

- National Advisory Congress 17 July
- Annual Garden Party 18 July
- Tour of Police and Emergency Services Library 20 August

Interviewed by Jayshree Mamtara  
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