

# VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT OF THE YEAR



Catherine Baran, VU student of the year with Margie Anderson

Victoria University (VU) Student of the Year this year is Catherine Baran, who received her award from ALIA's State Manager, Victoria, Margie Anderson, along with Genevieve Pergl and Paul Clerici of the State Library of Victoria, and Darren Ryan from library employment specialists The One Umbrella at a celebration on National Library Technician Day in May.

Catherine said she was honoured and thrilled to receive the award and thanked ALIA and all the staff at VU for their support. Following on from completing her course industry placement requirement, Catherine has now gained a position as Customer Service Officer at the Mill Park Branch of Yarra Plenty Regional Library. She is working with a team in outreach services to promote and extend the services of the library to various existing and potential stakeholders.

As National Library Technician Day is a feature of Australian Library and Information Week, the library studies team took the opportunity to present a panel of speakers with some great advice for students just starting out on their library and information services careers.

Margie spoke about ALIA's role in promoting and supporting students with lifelong learning throughout their careers, from accrediting programs which meet ALIA's guidelines to helping members access other tools and professional development and networking through meetings and online forums. She said Library Week was about sharing information with other groups and industries, and with

parents, counsellors, about the benefits of qualified staff in libraries.

Margie encouraged our students to get connected, to go to the new look ALIA website and Facebook page, and use the elists and groups in Victoria and come along to meetings.

Genevieve Pergl is a former VU student who now works at the State Library and has done so since 1993. She told us that in all that time she has not touched a book! Genevieve works on digitising projects and had examples for us of her work cataloguing, indexing and digitising of images such as the Rennie Ellis collection of materials. Genevieve spoke

about graphic cataloguing, Photoshop training, the digitisation of art originals, glass plate negatives, lantern slides, the translation of the Jerilderie letter, the Burke and Wills website for school teachers and the National Library Project for Music, through which thousands of documents had been digitised and the music made available on the State Library's website.

Paul Clerici finished his training at Swinburne in 2004 and spoke to the group about the value of volunteer work in giving him confidence and – finally – paid work with Vision Australia. Paul has since moved to the State Library in serials acquisitions and is now dealing with the public and electronic acquisitions, making them available in different ways, on site and dealing with issues such as perpetual access, internet provider addresses, licence agreements, monitoring the integrity of the electronic data, and liaising with National Library and Pandora archiving websites.

The One Umbrella's Darren Ryan then shared his thoughts, encouraging students to start thinking about seeking work now. This agency specialises in

assisting people to find work in libraries, records and knowledge management. Darren recommended preparing early to be job ready, pointing out a qualification is one thing, but it's what you do with it that matters, and encouraged our students to check online resources such as ALIA's job pages ([www.alia.org.au/employment-and-careers/lis-employment-vacancies](http://www.alia.org.au/employment-and-careers/lis-employment-vacancies)), The One Umbrella's website, large employment sites such as Seek.com and CareerOne, and social media sites too, as these are all now potential places to find jobs.

Darren also emphasised the importance of networking, using social media such as LinkedIn and Twitter, and to remember personal Facebook pages are now often checked by potential employers – and it's wise to remember this when posting images and content.

Thanks go to our Library Studies team for organising a successful, information-packed day.

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