



# COMMUNITY HISTORY CAPTURED

**T**he People and Place |Coal and Community project is a collaborative effort between the University of Newcastle and many different community groups, libraries, museums, galleries and individuals. Funded by a grant from Coal & Allied, the team worked for over a year to create a travelling exhibition, book and website capturing the local history of Hunter Valley communities and their connections to the local coal industry, depicted through images and stories from the University of Newcastle Library's Cultural Collections.

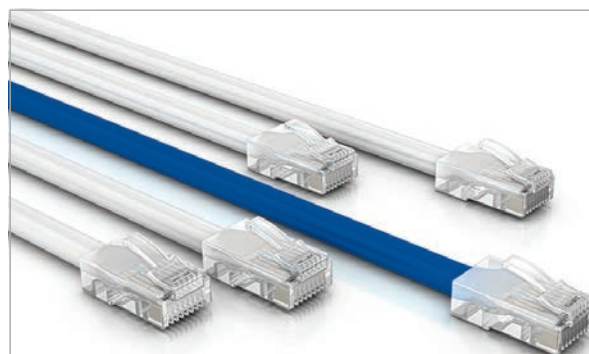
This was an immense undertaking and the partnership with the gallery allowed for the combination of many skill sets. While the library team was collecting, researching, digitising and creating content, the gallery team designed, revised, edited, marketed and curated.

The travelling exhibition was launched at the University Gallery at the end of July and had a remarkable turnout. It will continue to rotate through regional galleries and community spaces for the next two years. The exhibition is supported by a full-colour book, which has proven to be very popular, and a website designed for continual growth and evolution, which also doubles as a community history and classroom resource, offering alternative online resources and a special education section with worksheets, field trip ideas and PowerPoint presentations.

We encourage ALIA readers to visit our site at [www.coalandcommunity.com](http://www.coalandcommunity.com) and we welcome feedback.

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*Mining the local history: this photograph of the Kurri Kurri Mandolin Orchestra was taken in the 1930s and is from the Newcastle and Hunter District Historical Society Archives, University of Newcastle, Cultural Collections.*



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# DOING IT FOR THE KIDS

The ALIA Children's and Youth Services Group (CYS) is one of the longest standing groups in ALIA, a group that has always taken the important business of connecting children with books and the pleasure of reading very seriously.

Way back in 1966 a visiting scholar from the USA tabled a report titled School And Children's Libraries in Australia: A Report To The Children's Libraries Section of the Library Association of Australia. Known more familiarly as the Fenwick report, it set the scene for a continuing commitment to, and passion for, all aspects of children's and youth services.

ALIA CYS has now been active for more than 40 years, connecting children's and youth services library staff around the country.

## THE ALIA CYS GROUP HAS EMBRACED MANY CHANGING TRENDS AND TECHNOLOGIES AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK, NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME, SUMMER READING CLUB AND LIBRARY CONFERENCES OVER THE YEARS.

The group has embraced many changing trends and technologies and actively participated in Children's Book Week, National Simultaneous Storytime, Summer Reading Club and library conferences over the years.

Mylee Joseph from the State Library of NSW has been a driving force behind the group for more than 15 years, and she sees the potential for CYS to do even more to help libraries and library staff to ensure services to children and young people continue to evolve and adapt to the needs of their communities.

Mylee and ALIA Groups Coordinator Emily Peters are now seeking new ALIA members to join CYS, as the group expands and takes on a vibrant new online focus while continuing a proud tradition of representing children's and youth services on the national stage.

On the agenda for CYS are activities including:

- developing more shared online resources and events, seminars and unconferences
- providing members with professional development activities, including certified professional status in the new ALIA CPD specialisations scheme
- monitoring and reporting on relevant legislation, for example child protection, and liaising with government agencies
- smoothing the path around copyright for books featured in reading campaigns
- taking a lead on literacy and digital literacy

- researching competencies for working with children from culturally diverse backgrounds, those with special needs, and the knowledge and understanding needed to be effective working with indigenous communities
- collaborating with organisations such as the International Board on Books for Young people (IBBY), the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the Children's Book Council of Australia, IFLA's Sister Libraries for children's and young adults' reading ([sisterlibraries.wordpress.com](http://sisterlibraries.wordpress.com)), and the Premier's Reading Challenge agencies in different states and territories

If children's and youth services are your passion, CYS is the ALIA group for you. You can make new professional connections and play a key role in developing a bright future for young people through Australia's libraries. Along the way, you can also gain recognition for your own professional development, add to your skill set towards your next promotion - and have a lot of fun.

To be part of all this, all you need to do is contact Emily Peters at [emily.peters@alia.org.au](mailto:emily.peters@alia.org.au)



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