

## ENERGISE, ENTHUSE, INSPIRE

EEL 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 co-ordinator Lesa Maclean at [maclean.lesa@gmail.com](mailto:maclean.lesa@gmail.com)

# DARE TO BE DIFFERENT – NGAC NLS6 BURSARY WINNERS



With the help of travel bursaries from ALIA's New Generation Advisory Committee (NGAC), Wendy Davis, Emily Beimers, and Rachel Klesch were all able to attend the New Librarians' Symposium this February in Brisbane. To win their bursaries, Wendy, Emily, and Rachel had to each submit a creative response to the conference theme, 'Be Different'. Wendy created a Pinterest board, Emily created a cocktail, and Rachel created a SlideShare presentation. They were all very grateful for the ALIA NGAC bursaries that enabled them to attend a conference that turned out to be a fantastic learning experience. They would recommend that other library students and new graduates attend future conferences as they are a great way to meet people, be exposed to new ideas, and to learn about all the different possibilities within the profession. Below are the highlights from each delegate.

### Wendy:

Attending NLS6 certainly energised, enthused, and inspired me. As a first-time NLS attendee I was struck by the enthusiasm of all the keynotes, speakers, and delegates for the information profession. There was a wealth of ideas about the future of the sector, together with some reflections on where it has been and the challenges it is facing at the moment. Whether it was research, copyright, cultural heritage, networking, or just the future of libraries in general, there was an astonishing amount of information to take away and consider. NLS6 certainly reinforced my desire to grow as an information professional. I walked away from NLS6 filled with enthusiasm to get my hands dirty in spaces like Wikipedia and Trove. I was inspired to take as many opportunities as I can to gain practical skills. And I was

also energised to take responsibility for the future of the information profession as part of my long-term career goals.

### Emily:

Not long after returning from NLS6 in Brisbane I was browsing past editions of INCITE, focusing particularly on the Energise, Enthuse, Inspire articles. I was surprised and pleased to realise that a good portion of the previous authors were people I met at NLS6 (some of them I even went to karaoke with!). To me, this reinforced something that had come up at the conference: networking is so important. Networking provides you with the opportunity to get to know a supportive, like-minded group of people. More importantly, it opens you up to a wealth of information and diverse knowledge. The thing I value most from my NLS6 experience is the people I met, some of whom have been in the industry a long time, and some of whom are just starting out. Each and every one of them has their own unique perspective; they have knowledge to impart and advice to offer. Their excitement and enthusiasm has inspired me to continue to move forward along my newly chosen career path and to begin the search for my first job in the industry. Before I attended NLS6 I was still headed down this same path; the difference is that now I know that there are people out there who will happily answer my many questions, who will support me within the industry, and who I can continually learn from. I'm so thankful for the NGAC travel bursary, as it really was the push I needed to get out there and do some valuable networking.

### Rachel:

One of the things that I took away from NLS6 was sense of optimism towards the future of the information

profession. At times it can be daunting to enter a field when stories of library closures, library relevance, and staff cuts dominate the news. However, at NLS6 the presentations and workshops concentrated on positive future possibilities of working with information that were varied and exciting. Libraries have and will continue to go beyond book museums into wonderful community spaces that have books as one aspect, but also include a host of other services and technology. There are many different and expanding areas that information professionals can work in, whether it be a telescope librarian or somewhere in the GLAM sector. NLS6 also encouraged me to continue learning and upgrading my skills to work with future change.

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