

CELEBRATE OUR SUCCESSSES



To celebrate, promote and advertise National Library Technicians' Day on 26 May this year, Library and Cultural Studies enlisted the help of Genevieve Pergl, Sandra Axford, and Camille Heckley from the State Library of Victoria, and Brad King from employment agency Kinetic Recruitment. ALIA's Victorian Manager, Margie Anderson, presented the ALIA award for Victoria University's best student, and VU's Jane Garner photographed the event. IAN ROGERS, VU's Library Studies teacher, gives us a round-up from the event.

As I welcomed the guests and staff, I emphasised the importance of promoting our profession to our stakeholders and improving our services to them. I also focused on the importance of persistence, of networking, and celebrating achievements.

Margie Anderson then introduced Susannah Carr, the VU's ALIA Student of the Year, and congratulated her on her achievement. Susannah said she was honoured to receive the award and thanked ALIA and all the staff at VU for their support, noting that she had gained employment at Stonnington Library a few weeks after finishing the course, after Janet Murray of Library Studies encouraged her to apply for the position. Margie also acted as a referee – a good team effort. Susannah said she loved working with children and the children's services role was great for her; she was looking forward to National Simultaneous Story Time to be held the next day.

Margie noted ALIA's role in promoting lifelong learning and supporting students throughout their careers, from accrediting programs that meet ALIA's guidelines to helping members access other tools and professional development programs. She emphasised that students needed to take advantage of the opportunities to network that ALIA provided. She said that Library Week is a chance to tell the community about the benefits of having qualified staff in libraries.

Camille Henkley works in Acquisitions at the State Library. After getting a Masters degree in Public History, she undertook a diploma in library and information services on the encouragement of her mother. Camille said that her mum was right and that she really enjoyed the course. Camille's original placement at the State Library was for a six-week contract that kept on being renewed, and in 2014 the Acquisition and Cataloguing teams were merged. There are now four teams in Collection Resources: Collection Development and Purchased Publications; Victorian Resources; Continuing Resources; and Collection Description and Quality Control. Camille says her job now involves acquisitions, cataloguing, ordering, processing order requests and prepayments. She said she had to increase her skills in cataloguing with Resource Description and Access (RDA) and that they get copy cataloguing from the National Library and use the Voyager program. Of the 300 State Library staff, 33 are technicians and 69 are librarians. Camille advised students to be open to change as the job was always evolving, and to be creative in their thinking.

