

Productive Partnerships **IN SA**

When the Leadership and Innovation Forums made their way to Adelaide in February, EMILY WILSON was there to report on how libraries are forging connections with historical and geographical organisations – and even a poet and a sculptor.

The South Australian instalment of the 2016/17 Leadership and Innovation Forums was a high-energy, creative and insightful event. Continuing with the theme of 'Innovation through Collaboration and Partnerships. Now that's Clever!', the forum offered a diverse and high-quality line-up of panellists.

Held in February at the Hetzel Lecture Theatre of the State Library of South Australia's Institute Building, the event featured speakers from a wide range of libraries and GLAMR organisations. To quote panellist Chris Durrant from the Royal Geographical Society of SA (RGSSA): 'Some organisations have projects that focus on preserving the past, while others are looking to the future.'

Bev Scott from the State Library of South Australia welcomed us, and the event was hosted by Tricia Genat, ALIA President and Director of ALS Library Services.

The first partnership we heard about, titled Innovator-in-Residence, was presented by Jessica Curtis, Technical Director at Adelaide City Library, and Daish Malani, co-founder of the Australian Virtual Reality Network as well as co-founder of Add Life Technologies. Adelaide City Library has offered a range of residencies, including a Poet-in-Residence, a Sculptor-in-Residence and the Virtual Reality program with Innovator-in-Residence. The Innovator-in-Residence signalled the start of a new era in the Innovation Lab and a step into the future without ever leaving the comforts of the room.

The second partnership, Resource Sharing for Collection Digitisation, was led by Dr John Weste, Director at South Australian Parliament Research Library, and Chris Durrant from the Royal Geographical Society of SA (RGSSA). They have been collaborating to digitise the map collection of the RGSSA and are now over halfway through digitising the 1200 maps in the collection. This project will not only see a very special collection held in SA digitised for posterity, but the Parliament Library will also retain digital copies for safekeeping and to enhance their own future displays.

The last partnership we heard about was the Centre of Democracy project. Andrew Piper, Manager



(From Left) Mandy Paul, Andrew Piper, Tricia Genat, John Weste, Daish Malani, Jessica Curtis, Emily Wilson and Chris Durrant



(Above Left) Catherine Marais and Rani Thompson from the University of Adelaide Library.

(Above Right) Mojgan Khadem and Luis Arellano, Information Management students from the University of South Australia

of Online Services and Group Manager of Collections at the State Library of South Australia (SLSA), and Mandy Paul, Director of the Migration Museum (History Trust of South Australia) spoke about the collaboration between SLSA and History SA to produce a gallery showcasing South Australia's democracy. The intent of the project is to create a space dedicated to telling the stories of South Australia's national and global leadership in the evolution of democracy and democratic participation.

The speakers discussed their projects for innovation and change in their organisations and the ways they have supported innovative practice through collaboration and partnerships with other organisations or individuals.

The guests networked and enjoyed lively conversation, and the speakers stayed on after proceedings to mingle, answer questions and share their wisdom.

The biggest lesson of the night was that, although innovation requires time and energy and might take you out of your comfort zone, collaborative projects don't have to be on an intimidatingly large scale. Start small and build up to the big stuff. Seize the initiative, form partnerships, collaborate and be determined. 🌟

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COLLABORATING CREATIVELY IN DOCKLANDS

No longer restricting their networks to just others in their field, librarians are learning to expand their connections to groups as disparate as engineers and musicians. These alliances were strengthened in Victoria in March when ALIA Members attended the ALIA Leadership and Innovation Forum at the Library at the Dock in Docklands, Melbourne. *EILEEN LOUDEN reports.*

The theme for the 2016/2017 Leadership and Innovation Forums is 'Innovation through Collaboration and Partnerships. Now that's Clever!' It was intended that the panellists would represent collaborations that might not, at first glance, be considered typical in the GLAMR industry.

After arriving and being invited to partake of a glass of bubbly and getting the opportunity to connect with other members, the attendees and panellists were welcomed by Graham Porteous, Manager, Libraries and Recreation for the City of Melbourne. Our host for the evening, Tricia Genat, ALIA President and Director of ALS Library Services, introduced us to the panellists for the evening.

First up was Graeme Oke, Coordinator of Research Advantage at Melbourne's La Trobe University. Graeme talked about the massive project of building the Research Commons at La Trobe. This state-of-the-art facility boasts the spaces and technology for researchers from across disciplines to connect and collaborate. Graeme encouraged us to visit the facility and, as he said, 'Be impressed!'

The next speakers were Wendy Bronqueur, Youth Services Librarian at Monash Public Library Service, and Kai Kurashige, from the Monash University chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), who told us about their collaboration to bring engineering workshops to the children of the council area of Monash. The sessions are part of the growing School Outreach program run by EWB, and the current list of workshops includes everything from water filtration and coding to building prosthetic limbs. The sessions are held several times a year and have



(Top from left) Elise Peyronnet, Indra Kurzeme, Tricia Genat, Wendy Bronqueur, Kai Kurashige, Eileen Louden and Graeme Oke. (Above) President Tricia Genat opening the forum and introducing the panellists.



(Above Right) Attendees enjoying canapés and drinks before the forum begins.

proven to be extremely popular with the children.

The final panellists were Indra Kurzeme, Manager of Community Programs at State Library Victoria, and Elise Peyronnet, Premier Event Manager at Melbourne Music Week. After several years working towards their goal, State Library Victoria finally become the hub for the very successful Melbourne Music Week in 2016. A close working relationship, encompassing everything from the fabulous Triple R exhibition to working out how much toilet paper an event would require, resulted in a slick and professional hub for Melbourne Music Week in 2016.

A warm thank you is extended again to our host and panellists for the evening. If you are interested in the live tweets from the evening, take a look at ALIA Vic's Facebook or Twitter pages for a link to the Storify story. 🌟

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