

LEADERSHIP
& INNOVATION
FORUMS 2018MEANINGFUL AND RESPECTFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER KNOWLEDGE,
CULTURE AND HERITAGE

WHAT MORE DO WE NEED TO DO?

#libraryleaders



ALIA Leadership & Innovation Forums in 2018

Lyndall Ley announced 'Indigenous matters' as her theme for 2018-2019 when she became ALIA President in May. ALIA's Leadership & Innovation Forums are one example of how the theme has been brought to life.

ALIA Leadership & Innovation Forums are biennial events, taking place in every state and territory, and bringing together Members and the wider GLAM sector to discuss issues of interest and concern. This year the theme has been 'Meaningful and respectful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, culture and heritage'.

The South Australian Leadership & Innovation Forum was the first of 2018 and was hosted by ALIA Board Director Jonathon Guppy on Friday 20 July. The panellists included Jenina Haines, a doctoral researcher looking at the ethical recording of the stories of traditional Indigenous knowledge and their archiving and preservation; and Geoff Stempel, then acting (now confirmed) Director of the State Library of South Australia. Discussion between panellists concerned building relationships with Indigenous communities based on mutual commitment and collective trust, and reasoned that libraries have a role in serving marginalised communities and as proactive catalysts of social change.

The New South Wales Leadership & Innovation Forum was chaired by ALIA President-elect Robert Knight on Thursday 13 September. The theme was discussed by the



(L-R) Panellists Anne Reddacliff, Douglas Watkin, Debra Cooper and Anita Heiss

panellists – Kirsten Thorpe from the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research; Shannon Foster, a PhD candidate at the Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges at the University of Technology Sydney; and Michael Gonzalez, University Librarian at the University of Technology Sydney.

The Queensland Leadership & Innovation Forum was also held on Thursday 13 September at the University of Queensland Art Museum. There were a diverse and exciting set of panellists – author Anita Heiss; filmmaker Douglas Watkin; and librarian Debra Cooper among them. There was also a presentation by academic and psychologist Clinton Schultz and a presentation on an artwork of St James' College Indigenous student Claire Magro. Attendees had exclusive access to the two different Indigenous exhibitions at the museum before the panel discussion around the topic of Indigenous engagement commenced.

The Victorian Leadership & Innovation Forum was held on 30 October at the Library at the Dock in Melbourne. Included were panellists Nick Thieberger from the University of Melbourne; and Maxine Briggs from the State Library of Victoria; as well as a special guest session from Patricia Genat of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Leadership & Innovation Forums will also be held in the Australian Capital Territory (December); Northern Territory (6 December); Tasmania (13 November); and Western Australia (28 November) in the remaining weeks of 2018. See ALIA's [Event Listing webpage](#) for more information. 🌐



(L-R) Presenters Geoff Stempel, Jenina Haines and Jonathon Guppy with SA ALIA State Manager, Emily Wilson. Photo by Lachlan Young