

## THE LATEST FROM YOUR STATE AND TERRITORY MANAGERS



## ACT and NT

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Isn't the year flying? I hope you've managed to come to an ALIA event this year. We have some terrific groups here in the ACT and we'd love to see you attend one of our functions. The ALIA Students and New Graduates Group and ACTive ALIA joined forces for a wonderful evening of drinks and library chat in April, and the ALIA Universities and Research Libraries' Group one day seminar 'Fires, Floods and Failures: Future Proofing against Disaster' will be held from 9.00am – 4.00pm on 1 May at the National Library of Australia. Coming up this month I am very pleased to invite you all the ACT Leadership & Innovation Forum, a wonderful informative Member only event, held in conjunction with the ALIA Annual General Meeting. We will also be acknowledging our long-term members of the Association with their membership pin presentations, recognising Members reaching milestones ranging from 25 years up to 60 years of membership. This shows the wealth of knowledge and experience we have here in the ACT.

In the Northern Territory, we're gearing up for the 2019 ALIA Northern Territory Recognition Award, sponsored by [Raeco](#), which recognises a team or individual working in any sector of the library and information profession in the Northern Territory. If you've been involved with, or responsible for, a project that has been highly innovative, demonstrated excellence or best practice, or raised the profile of the profession, please nominate. The closing date is 10 May and the winner will be announced at the annual Library and Information Week dinner where they will receive the perpetual trophy and \$300 cash. Meanwhile, we are following up on suggestions from Members about issues and activities following CEO Sue McKerracher's visit to Darwin at the beginning of April. Sue met with public library managers, some of the Northern Territory Library and Charles Darwin University library teams and with individual Members. Topics discussed included professional development initiatives, attracting library and information professionals from interstate, mentoring, career opportunities, digital access to collections and funding for federal government programs. Director of Learning Kate Bunker will be in the Territory in Q3, with a specific interest in education and professional development. If you would like to meet up, you can contact Kate direct ([kate.bunker@alia.org.au](mailto:kate.bunker@alia.org.au)).



## NSW

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G'day, I'm Rob Thomson, your new ALIA NSW State Manager.

I am standing on the shoulders of every NSW State Manager that has been before me and am looking forward to my time in the role. I am passionate about libraries – they have been a part of my life since I first went to Kurri Kurri Library as a kid. I have been a Library Technician for my entire library career and then delivered the Diploma course teaching the next crop of Library Technicians. I have been attending ALIA events, conferences and symposiums since at least 1995 when I went to Darwin for the Library Technician conference. I hope to see ALIA NSW Members at events soon. I am keen to work with them to arrange professional development opportunities out to the regional and rural parts of NSW. With [Library and Information Week](#), [National Simultaneous Storytime](#) and National Library Technicians Day coming up there are lots of exciting times ahead.



## SA

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Now that the year is in full swing I have to remind myself to take a moment every now and then to sit back and take stock – before I am caught up in writing, meetings, paperwork, laundry, nappies, or just a few more emails. Life is hectic, but it is important we all make the most of all our hard work and look at what we have done and think about where we are going. Recording my professional development (PD) activities in ALIA's [MyPD Tracking Tool](#) is a nice way to record and reflect. It's not just nice and satisfying though, it also counts towards some valuable Certified Professional (CP) points to keep me AALIA (CP) accredited. I know you value PD and reading *INCITE* counts, so grab a cuppa or vino, put your feet up, pull out your laptop/phone/tablet, and clock up those ALIA PD Scheme points.



## TAS

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One of the underpinnings of the Library and Information profession in Tasmania has been the [State Library and Archives Trust](#) (SLAT) and the Sir John Morris Memorial Trust (disclaimer – I acknowledge my own debt to this funding which supported me when studying for my degree at the University of Tasmania and my postgraduate library course at the University of NSW). The trust was established for the advancement of library and/or archives knowledge in Tasmania. Trust funding has facilitated many individuals to gain professional library and information and archives qualifications, attend conferences, enrol in local, interstate and overseas courses, undertake research and present papers at conferences. Currently grants are available to attend conferences and seminars, fund interstate or international speakers to present in Tasmania, support staff exchanges and undertake research work. The SLAT offers the opportunity to apply for funding twice a year by submitting a form available on the website. I would like to acknowledge the work of SLAT and the remarkable support the trust has provided.



## QLD

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In this edition I want to highlight the great work our volunteer groups do in Queensland. They provide fantastic events and professional development opportunities all through the year in multiple locations. I always recommend getting on touch with a group whenever I speak to new Members. It is along these lines that I am happy to see the [ALIA Queensland Darling Downs](#) group being reborn with Samanthi Suraweera and Sarah Cahill at the helm. Sticking with groups we also have a major event in the ALIA Queensland annual trivia night happening on 22 May. Make sure you get in early as this is always a very popular event and loads of school night fun. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all our Members in Queensland to think of those going through very tough times. Over the last few months we have had devastating floods throughout the state, not least in Townsville. We also continue to have extreme drought only to be broken with flash flooding which compounds the already difficult conditions. I want all the members to know we are thinking of you and if there is anything, I can do to help in any way then please get in touch.



## WA

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It was great to see many of you at the Students and New Graduate's Group (SNGG), Western Australian Library Technicians (WALT) Group, and ALIAWest icebreaker events in March. Furthermore, March and April saw the local SNGG's facilitated networking initiative, [GLAMRmatch](#), go national. What a great opportunity to learn how to take charge of your professional life and have a coffee and chat with passionate people from across the broader sector. I'd love to hear from anyone who's participated in GLAMRmatch about your experiences. Don't miss the State Library of Western Australia's Awards Night on Thursday 23 May, where I'll be presenting ALIA awards and pins to those who have contributed greatly to the Western Australian library and information community.



## VIC

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I have enjoyed a growing relationship with many of our industry partners through my role as State Manager. They've both sponsored ALIA Victorian events and attended many, and I'm so pleased that I've gotten to know them over the years. It'll be exciting to read in *INCITE* of all the wonderful ways our industry has innovated. Excitement is building for the fantastic [NLS9](#) in Adelaide – and if you can't make it this time, I encourage you to come along to the ALIA Victoria Group's wrap up in Melbourne later in July where you can hear from committee members, speakers and volunteers. And finally, remember that the exciting [ALIA National Library and Information Technicians' Symposium](#) is on in Melbourne from 13–15 November. Keep an eye out for registrations and volunteer opportunities!