

# NLS5 DELEGATES SPREAD THEIR WINGS



*Metamorphosis: What will you become today? That was the question posed at ALIA New Librarians Symposium 5. Convenor Steve McQuade reports.*

NLS5 ran back-to-back with the ALIA National Library and Information Technicians' Conference which took place

way along), OCLC for our lanyards, EnvisionWare for our notepads and pens, Britannica for our volunteer t-shirts and State Library of WA for our USB satchels and for generally supporting the symposium and its committee.

Delegates and committee members alike learnt much from the NLS5 experience including the importance of continuous learning and conscious evolution. This is true for individuals, organisations and even conferences - can't wait to see the next metamorphosis of the New Librarians' Symposium!

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Mal Booth shows the way forward at NLS5

earlier that week. This made possible a collaboration which revealed a shared enthusiasm and passion for our profession and raised some interesting challenges around how we perceive each other within the industry.

A satellite program preceded NLS5 and coincided with some unseasonably wet and stormy spring weather but this did not deter our delegates from enjoying a variety of library tours and workshops.

Delegates then converged on the Pan Pacific Hotel for the first official conference session (a joint event with the Library Technicians Conference) the *Back to the Future Forum*. Barbara Combes chaired this lively discussion, with Grant Stone, Elaina Norlin, Julia Lawrinson, Matthew Allen, Garry Conroy-Cooper and David Lee King adding their perspectives and responses to provocative questions. This event not only showcased excellent speakers but provided delegates from both conferences the chance to network with each other and with influential figures from the West Australian library community at the Remixer social event which followed.

The technical program for the 5th New Librarians Symposium continued on Saturday and 166 NLS5 delegates from around the country had a great time listening, presenting, discussing and workshoping. Keynote speakers Mal Booth, Kathryn Greenhill, Kate Davis and David Lee King gave inspiring, sage, thought-provoking and visionary presentations. The symposium provided the opportunity for number of delegates to present their first papers or lead workshops with great ideas and case studies. (Papers will be available on the website shortly, as will pod-casts of all the keynote speakers.)

Both 'digital native' and digital immigrant delegates alike made good use of the venue's wifi facilities with over 100 people logging in to the network on Saturday morning. This meant that the so-called 'back-channel' was a very engaging place to be, with lots of commentary and discussion as well as photos and videos from the sessions being shared in real time.

Of course, none of this would be possible, if not for the contributions of our fantastic sponsors including our Silver Sponsor Eclipse Office Industries, our Social Media Sponsor Perth Convention Bureau (who have been great supporters of ours and of the Library Technicians Conference all the



Information everywhere: the NLS5 trade exhibition. Photo courtesy Kathryn Lindsay



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