

ENGAGE, CREATE, LEAD

ALIA NATIONAL 2016 CONFERENCE



Adelaide welcomed 660 delegates to the ALIA National 2016 Conference at the end of August. As HEATHER WELLARD reports, ALIA Members participated in workshops, listened to the latest in library and information science thinking, networked with colleagues and shared learning experiences.



(Left to right) Wai Yin Pryke and Elaine Ng from the National Library of Singapore and ALIA NT Manager Jayshree Mamtora at the conference dinner.

Workshops on LIS research were underway on Day 1, while the ALIA Board were introduced to members of the Singaporean delegation. ALIA had invited colleagues from the National Library of Singapore, with the aim of building closer ties with LIS colleagues in the Asia-Pacific region. After the conference, the delegation travelled to Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney to meet senior staff and visit other libraries, museums and archives before returning to Singapore.



Pixie Stardust, at the microphone, watches as Hiba Kanj (left) and Holger Aman (right) share their conference know-how.

For those who haven't experienced an immersive ALIA conference, it's a great idea to join the first-timers' breakfast, where old hands can provide useful tips on how to get the most out of the experience.

Delegates heard about the inaugural ALIA Australian Library Design Awards which were launched at the conference. ALIA is partnering with the Australian Public Library Alliance and the Council of Australian University Librarians to establish these awards to showcase the best in contemporary library interiors and exteriors in Australia. They also celebrate the investment in libraries made by institutions, corporations, and local, state and territory governments.

ALIA President Tricia Genat wowed the crowd as she noted that the challenge for the future of our sector is not about technology, the data, the format of the content or the increasing pressure on costs and service delivery. It is only – and always – about the people who continue





ALIA President Tricia Genat

to deliver world-class LIS services. Tricia also announced that next year ALIA is celebrating its 80th birthday as the member organisation of choice for the library and information sector.

'The increased accessibility of information would have been welcomed by our founders and we owe it to them to continue to innovate and transform the way we deliver our services in this information-rich world,' she said.

In 84 booths, 174 exhibitors displayed the products and services they offer the LIS sector. ALIA Members loved chatting with the vendors, many of whom supply their libraries.

ALIA had its own space in the hall, which featured the wishing tree. ALIA Members were asked to make a wish for



The exhibition hall



The conference dinner's theme was Harvest and it was wonderful sparkling evening. Delegates were entertained by the band, The Cast, and it was a chance to wind down after days of busy networking.

the future and hang it on the tree. Below are some of the wishes:

'100% literacy rates all around the world.'

'Librarians and libraries will still be changing lives everywhere.'

'Libraries are the most important community and national asset.'

'ALIA keeps advocating for all of us. Libraries rule.'

ALIA Members took home some seeds from the tree, and we hope they plant the lemon-scented bottlebrush in their garden as a reminder of ALIA's 80th birthday celebrations in 2017.

The next conference on the calendar is ALIA Information Online 2017 in February. We hope to see you there. 🌿