

MEET HAYLEY MORTON

HAYLEY MORTON is the Library Services Coordinator at SA Water Corporation. She tells us about her role and its challenges.

WHAT DOES YOUR ROLE AS THE SOLE LIBRARIAN WITH SA WATER ENTAIL, AND HOW DID YOUR CAREER LEAD YOU TO THAT ROLE?

At university, I decided I wanted to work in libraries rather than teach, so I did work experience in a public library. After completing my BA, I secured a 12-month library assistant traineeship with the Drug and Alcohol Services Council (DASC), a small special library of three staff. I volunteered with the Adelaide City Council's Homebound Service to gain experience in public libraries, but I ended up staying at DASC for almost seven years. During that time I completed a TAFE Library Technician Diploma and started a postgraduate in Information Studies.

When I was halfway through the graduate diploma, I was fortunate to obtain the role at SA Water. The role initially was full-time in the library but I was required to also provide support to the Records Management team. In my first four years on the job I reviewed the service, developed policies and procedures, assisted with a state-wide clean-up of corporate records, moved the stored collection from our in-house location to an external storage provider, digitised 60,000 historical photographs, upgraded the LMS, and amalgamated the head office and lab collections when we moved to our new headquarters.

In 2008, SA Water decided to develop a school education program. I was part of the team responsible for developing the program, which is known as Brainwave. The teacher resources collection was born as a result, and I developed a few school programs:

- Living Loans – SA Water staff lend themselves to a school for a one-hour interactive session on the water cycle, water conservation, water treatment, wastewater treatment, desalination or River Murray salinity. This program has been running since 2009.
- Toilets Thru Time – a school and community program run during History Week 2010, showcasing both South Australian and worldwide sewer and toilet development.
- The Wacky Sticky Soaky Flowy Thing – a competition which encouraged students to research an aspect of water and produce a creative piece for inclusion in an anthology. This program was run in partnership with the State Library and the Art Gallery. See bit.ly/1UwcXzR and bit.ly/1VWEVUA.

I also assist with the delivery of workshops and tours focused on water and wastewater treatment, desalination and sustainable town planning.

My manager asked me to write a picture book to complement our programs. The 'Captain Plop' series was



the result, with books about conservation, desalination and sewage treatment and reuse. <http://bit.ly/1Y2Wn8I>

I also look after the heritage objects collection, which currently comprises almost 1,000 items across the state, ranging from 19th-century surveying and measurement tools to 1970s lab analysis equipment.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU FACE IN YOUR JOB, AND HOW ARE YOU MEETING IT?

It would have to be juggling the diversity of my various roles and getting the library tasks completed within a reduced timeframe (now officially three days per week instead of five). The school and community programs are more demanding of my time between March and October.

I also need to periodically convince the organisation of the continuing value of the library service, which was under threat of closure in 2007 and reviewed again in 2014–15.

WHAT PROJECTS HAVE YOU DONE IN YOUR LIBRARY THAT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

- A very simple idea is the fiction swap stand. Staff can donate unwanted fiction and swap it for something donated by other staff. This is an unmanned, uncatalogued collection which encourages into the library space those staff who might not otherwise think to use the library.
- Working with our Communications team to make part of the large pictorial collection visible on Flickr has made it much easier to share this popular collection, not only with South Australians, but worldwide. See bit.ly/1T0oWCd.
- Working with regional public libraries to host displays of our historical photos and objects, and use library meeting rooms to run school education sessions 'living loans' style, in which you borrow an SA Water staff member to talk at your school for an hour. 🌐

HAYLEY MORTON, AALIA (CP)
Library Services Coordinator
SA Water Corporation
Hayley.Morton@sawater.com.au