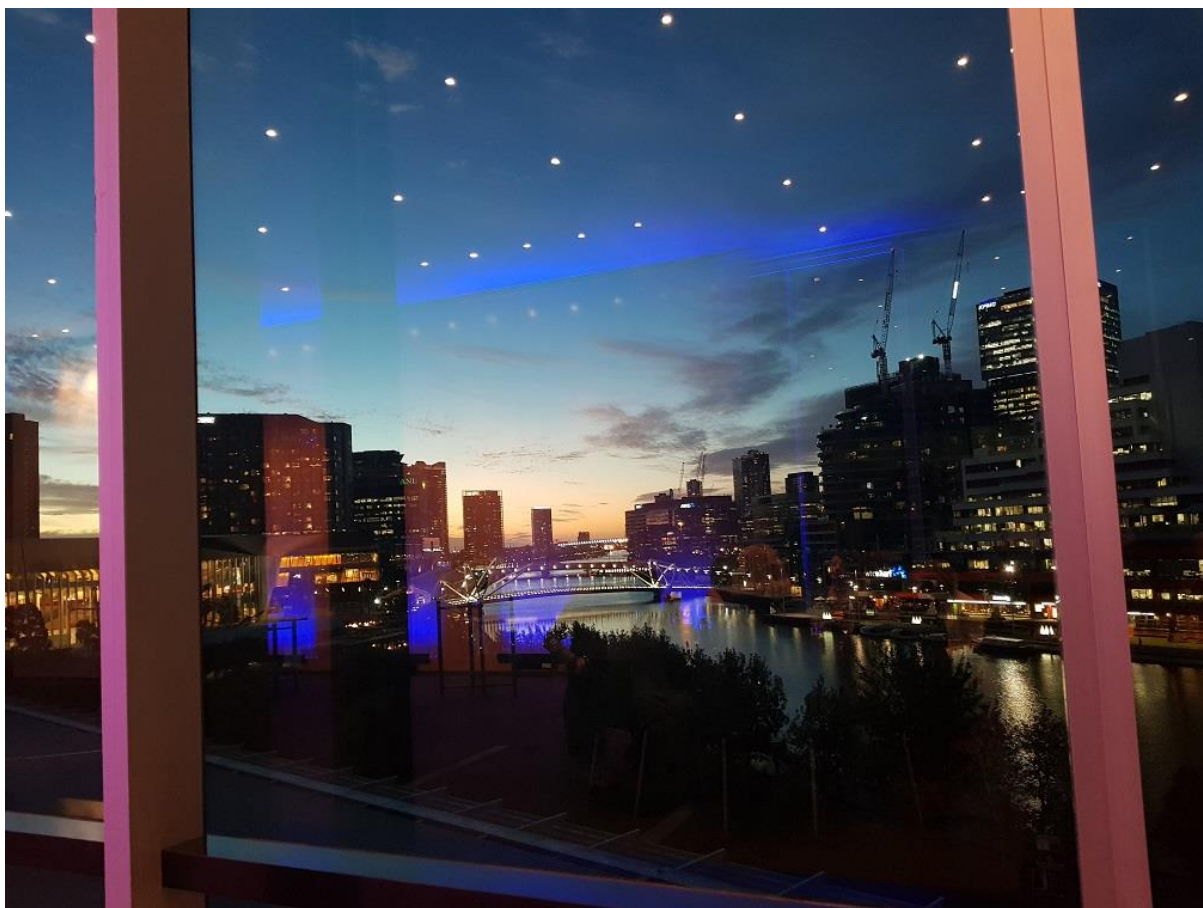


Report to the Committee – VALA2018

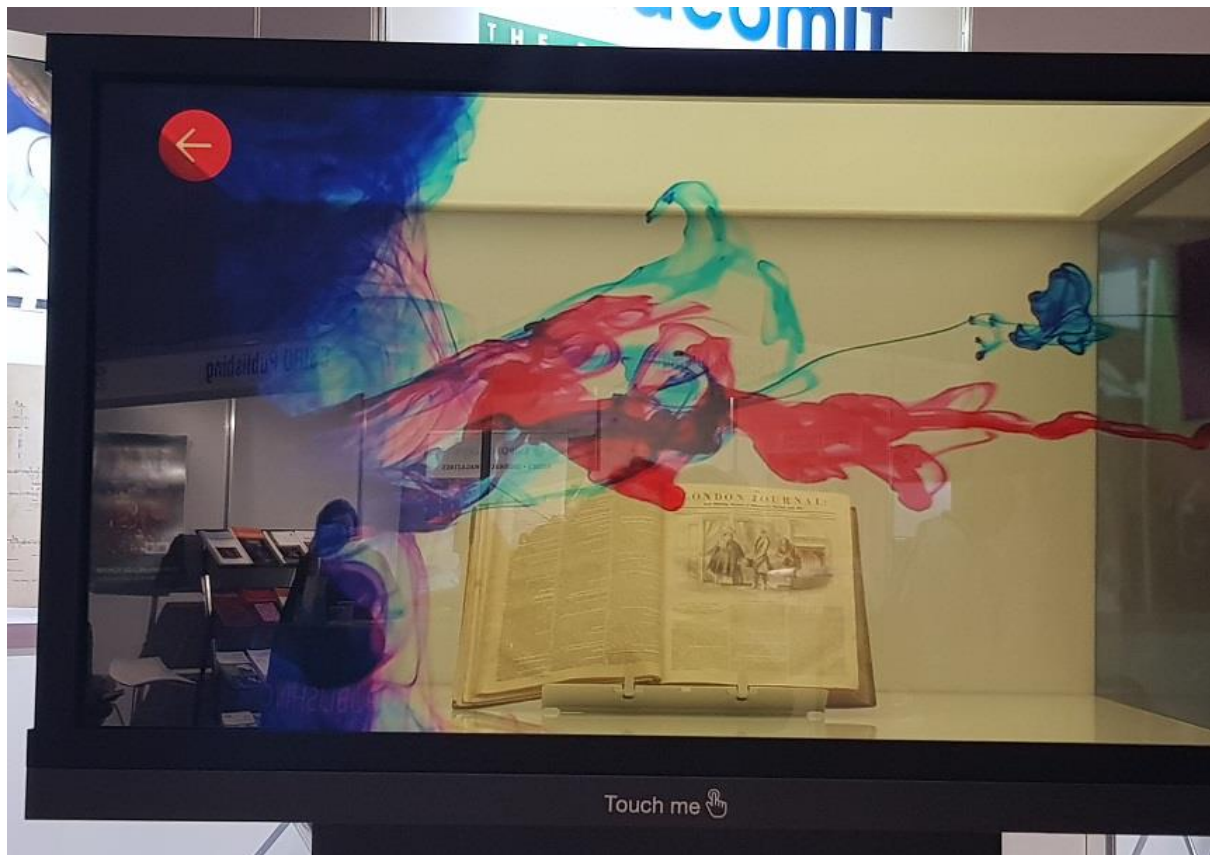
Donna Kellion - Diversity Scholarship recipient
Digital Literacy Librarian
Mackay Regional Council Libraries
www.mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries

I feel exceptionally fortunate that the VALA2018 committee afforded me the opportunity to attend their auspicious conference. Since beginning my library career in 2002, I have often heard tell of the high standard of presentations, practical relevance to our industry, and abundant networking opportunities available. I was certainly not disappointed on any of these fronts.



Gorgeous view of the Yarra while we shared a lovely meal with Key Note speakers and the VALA committee on the Monday evening before the conference.

The only challenge I encountered was to how best direct my time. There appeared to be some presentations of a similar nature within the same concurrent sessions. Hence, I was occasionally torn, or, there were none particularly suited to me and my position. I understand however that scheduling within an event such as VALA would be a logistical quagmire to say the least. I tried to make the most of time not spent in sessions by talking with vendors, presenters and other delegates.



Aim high!! (That's my motto)

I was pleasantly surprised by the vast array of information and products on display in the exhibition hall. The vendors were all extremely helpful without being overtly sales oriented. I also found the E-Posters very informative, and one or two quite inspiring. I will be looking to initiate a local history media wiki project later this year, and hope to visit the Creative Technology Hub at Hobsons Bay when it is complete in 2019.



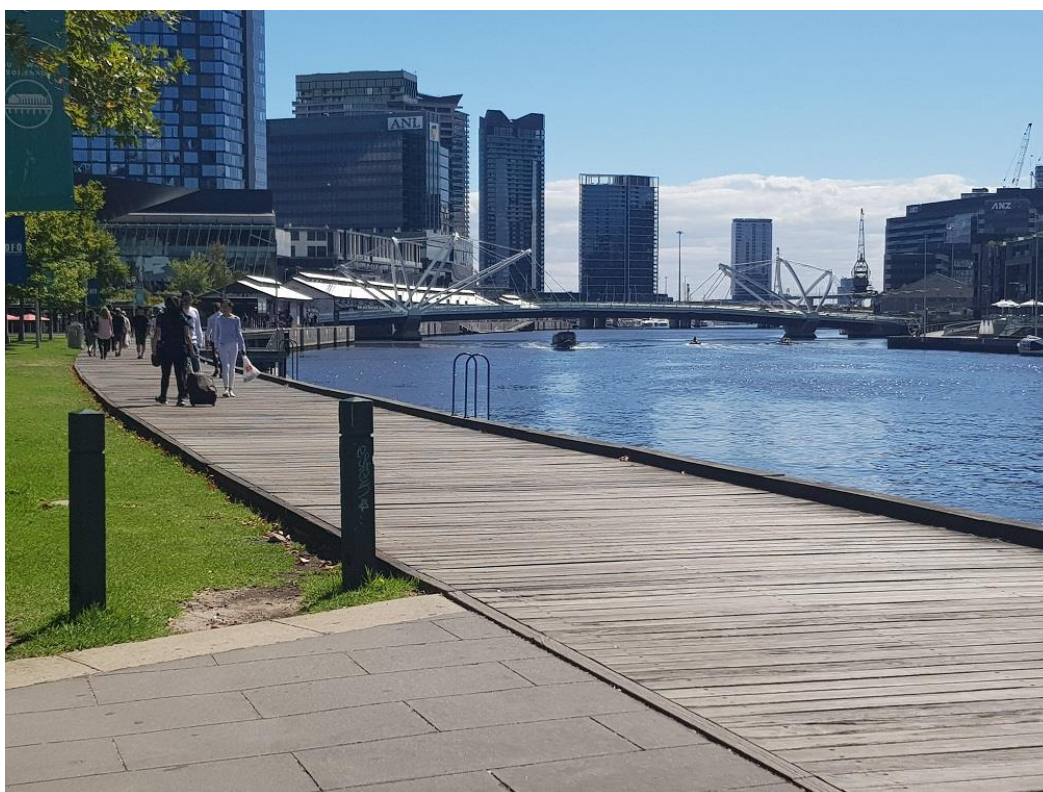
While all the Key Note and Session presenters brought something to my thinking that I didn't previously have, three stand out as the most impactful; David Lee King, Alison Galvan and Prof Deb Verhoeven. As a result of their presentations, and some brief chats afterwards, I feel a renewed strength in that sense of '*I actually do know what I'm doing – and why.*' It never ceases to surprise me that an occupation that is considered so staid, is probably one of the most anarchic.



Fellow scholarship recipients Joyce (front) and Lisa (back) share a laugh with Sara from Hume Libraries and myself (behind the camera). A wonderful night spent exploring the Victoria Markets.



I have spent very little time in Melbourne prior to VALA2018, and (being a country girl) am always a little hesitant when visiting the 'big smoke'. However all Melbournians I encountered were pleasant and helpful, and the area surrounding the exhibition centre was very easy to navigate.



I sincerely hope the VALA2020 committee will offer the diversity scholarships again. (And that any future singing video applications are not so ear splitting as mine...). This is a rare opportunity for

GLAM professionals to get a real sense of the industry from the inside, from where core innovations initiate.

I also believe GLAM professionals from rural and regional areas can value add to events such as this in terms of their 'on the ground' experience. Where practical, we could be used as testing grounds for innovations more often, providing evidence based data with broader geographical reach.

Thank you again for an amazing week!!

