

Noobeau Riche

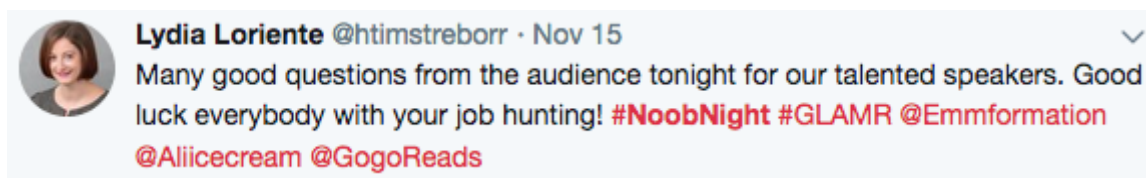
The support for New Professionals is at an all-time high! When RIMPA Noobs was established three years ago, the project came from several places; purposeful energy for action and real change, gratefulness for being gainfully employed within the Information Management industry, a need for community, and a desire to give back in a way that would support others trying to break into — *or across* — the GLAMR sectors. It also came from the wish to experiment with a new sustainable, yet agile, model.

Volunteer for volunteers anyone?

Now in 2018, the Noobs team have continued creating opportunities for students and new professionals to connect both with each other and experienced mentors (either through events or volunteering), and to share their thoughts in voice and/or print.



This past month saw founding members Lydia Loriente (ARIM) and Emma Harding (ARIM), hold [Future-Proof Thyself](#), a fun careers info #NoobNight with special guests, industry professionals, and recruitment specialists on site, covering tips on mastering CV Writing, addressing Key Selection Criteria, improving Interview Skills, and even discussing Psychometric Testing.



Facilitated by Lydia, speakers included Liz Clarke from Charterhouse, who spoke passionately about IM recruitment, and Georgia Agelopoulos (@GoGoReads) who spoke inspiringly of creating her own luck during her move from Libraries to Records Management. Ali Hayes-Brady (@aliececream) chatted enthusiastically about her new role in Digital Preservation, as well as leaving the audience in stitches with her tale of successfully applying for the BBC Archives, before Emma Harding (@emmformation) touched on her experiences with Psychometric Assessments, with a few tips to boot!

November also held the Victorian State Seminar, for which RIMPA Noobs — *with the support of the Victorian Branch Council* — accepted applications for the Student/New Professionals Volunteer Program for the third year running! A huge congratulations and heartfelt thanks to this year's winners: Laura Tanata, Dinh Diep, and Belinda Bradford.



Caption: 2018 Victorian State Seminar — Photo courtesy of 2018 winner, Dinh Diep

Successful applicants, Dinh and Belinda, have shared their experiences of participating in the 2018 Victorian State Seminar, so please sit back and spend a moment living vicariously through their reflections of volunteering for a day!

Dinh:

I started my current position around 16 months ago with zero knowledge of this area, so I am very much a rookie or a noob cardie-wearer compared to some of the veterans in the field. Like I said, I had zero knowledge. Most of my learning and development has been on the job training with guidance from my manager, a fellow portfolio agency, and the National Archives of Australia (NAA), along with heaps of speed-reading.

It continues to be a steep and interesting journey.

Successfully applying as a volunteer for the RIMPA 2018 Victorian State Seminar was as if I had scored a free ticket to see The Beatles (if they were still around!), and like a true groupie, I was excited to be part of the big day with the chance to get behind the scenes and meet some of the rock stars of the RIMPA Victorian Branch Council, not to mention legends such as Barbara Reed and Dragana Mitrovic!

It was an opportunity to meet other volunteers who uncannily were going through very similar career development; Belinda, Laura and I are not formally trained in Records and Information Management. We all dived straight into our roles and have had to learn on the job. Some of us are going to go back to pursue relevant further education on a part time basis or are at least considering it.

We began our morning divvying up assigned tasks, greeting attendees, marking off attendance, and providing general information when required. Once everyone had registered, we joined in on listening to the speakers.

We assisted in taking happy snaps and presenting the mike during question time to the audience, all the while the third volunteer would provide support for the PowerPoint presentation and any other ad hoc activities.

During the tea and lunch breaks, it was a great way to network and generally have a chat to people. It was like attending an exclusive support group without the baggage because most people are happy to be there to share their thoughts and experiences. You are amongst people who speak your language and understand what you say without giving you quizzical blank looks.

Having spoken to a few people during the breaks, I learnt that attending the seminar was one way for people to stay connected and up to date with what is happening in the Records and Information Management field since it is difficult given the busy pace at work. In terms of learning and development, it is a huge tick.

The volunteer experience is very much what you make of it. Although I was there to offer support in any way I could, personally I got more than I had expected to. I had a sneak peek on how the show runs behind the scene. The RIMPA Council were very easy going and supportive to work with. I met or listened to professionals at the start of their Records and Information Management journey, to gurus in training, and of course to the divine oracles themselves. The topics covered by the speakers and vendors were wide and interesting. And of course you're fed well too! I left the seminar recharged and positive from my experience and all this at no cost, just some time out of your working day. If you are a graduate or a noob in the field, or to RIMPA, I would definitely recommend the volunteer experience. It is well worth it.

Dinh Diep is a Records and Information Management Administrator working in a small team at a federal agency, however she would like to be thought of as Gatekeeper and Champion of Records and Information, and also Slayer of HPCM/RM Workspace application issues!



Caption: Inspiration from new professional, Siân Sewell — Photo courtesy of Dinh Diep

Sewell

Belinda:

Thank you RIMPA Noobs for the opportunity to take part in the RIMPA 2018 Victorian State Seminar. The chance to interact with other information professionals and to acquire knowledge through the presentations was much appreciated.

For years I have been working with metadata unknowingly! Barbara Reed's presentation *Recordkeeping Informatics: an approach for the digital era* highlighted the importance of metadata. But what does metadata mean to a *yet-to-commence* Information Sciences student who has been working autonomously as a Document Controller for the past few years?

When I reached home after the seminar, I looked up metadata and discovered I had been registering documents in our EDRMS according to their metadata without realising it! I cannot wait to commence studies to learn more about Information Science next year.

Sian Sewell's presentation *You Already Have What It Takes* was refreshing and reaffirming. The presentation confirmed that I am maintaining records to the appropriate level and with the enthusiasm it deserves. I learnt that although a Records Manager does need to work within the parameters of a company, it does not justify a decrease in attention to detail. I agree, information is an asset. In the context of Construction, information keeps people safe while Works are carried out. Information advises others what Works are being undertaken

where, by whom and how. I will continue to be vigilant and not let any information slip by.
Thanks, Sian!

Lastly, the collection of Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives (ALGA) was most interesting. The ALGA collection is part of the Charles Sturt University practical placement program. I am excited that I will have an opportunity to see the ALGA collection. Not all records can be digitised, but they are an essential part of our history and must be preserved. Thank you ALGA for protecting an important part of our Australian history.

Dinh and Laura, it was a pleasure to meet you both, and I wish you the best of luck with your future careers in Information Management. I hope we can meet again in the future.

***Belinda Bradford** is a Document Controller at Watpac Construction Pty Ltd, a tier 2 Australian construction company, who for the past two years has controlled records of the New Schools PPP Project (12 new schools) and the Casey Hospital Expansion Project. Belinda maintains all records of a project concerning safety, quality, design and construction. In 2019, Belinda will commence part-time study of the Bachelor of Information Sciences through Charles Sturt University.*

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