

# The library contribution to the ALTC awarded 'First Year Biology Learning and Teaching Group project'

**Ainslie Dewe**

**University Librarian**

**La Trobe University**

# Members of the FYBLTG

- Fiona Bird (BIO1AD)
- Tania Blanksby (BIO1GEN & now First Year Coordinator)
- Tony Gendall (BIO1OF)
- Adele Harvey (BIO1OF & BIO1PS)
- Brian Malone (BIO1AD)
- Kim Plummer (BIO1OF & BIO1PS)
- Kris Valenta (Library)
- Robyn Yucel (FSTE LAS)

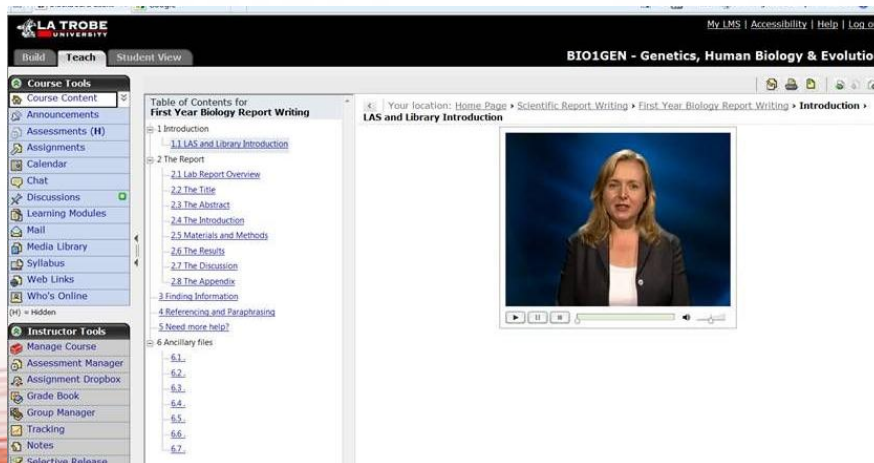


# First Year Biology Learning and Teaching Group

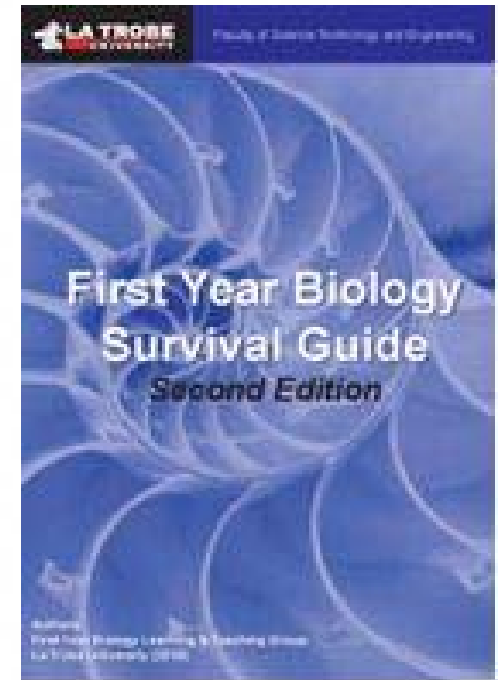
- Established in 2007
- **Objectives:**
  - streamline teaching of generic and practical skills in First Year Biology at La Trobe.
- **The four First Year Biology subjects:**
- BIO1AD Animal Diversity, Ecology & Behaviour
- BIO1OF Organisation & Function of Cells & Organisms
- BIO1GEN Genetics, Human Biology & Evolution
- BIO1PS Plant Science

# Scientific Report Writing Workshop

- Teaches paraphrasing, report writing & referencing delivered early in semester one.
- Available online throughout the year in LMS as a narrated power point.
  - First Year Biology Survival Guide.
  - A guide to expected styles, formats & referencing



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a course page. At the top, the La Trobe University logo is visible. The page title is 'BIO1GEN - Genetics, Human Biology & Evolution'. A navigation menu on the left includes 'Course Tools' and 'Instructor Tools'. The main content area shows a 'Table of Contents for First Year Biology Report Writing' with sections like '1 Introduction', '2 The Report', '3 Finding Information', '4 Referencing and Paraphrasing', and '5 Need more help?'. A video player is embedded in the content area, showing a woman speaking.



# An integrated program

- ...to develop writing skills in biology students
- **Simplify the process:**
- adopting consistent style and formatting requirements across subjects
- single set of instructions and expectations
- streamlined delivery of training and assessment tasks staggered throughout the year
- gradually build complexity to develop writing skills
- develop a portfolio of writing tasks

# Continuing Liaison between Library and Science Technology and Engineering Faculty.

- The First year Biology Learning and Teaching Group has been successful in getting the funding for a Design For Learning project at La Trobe to produce a Student Survival Guide containing much of the content of the original First Year Biology Communication Skills Manual.
- The outcome of project will allow other faculties at La Trobe to utilize the concept of the manual and allowing for other faculties to include their own faculty specific input such as referencing style.