

SLANZA MAGAZINE

# COLLECTED

20

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Igniting and Inspiring Libraries

CONFERENCE 2017  
THE SAPLING  
CRITICAL LITERACY  
DAVID RILEY

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## ISSUE 20/2017

### EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of *Collected* for 2017.

A great deal has happened since the last issue, especially the changes in the NE. To past presidents, Miriam Tuohy and Sandi Faulconbridge, our heartiest congratulations on attaining their new positions.

We also welcome our new co-presidents. Congratulations to Kirsty Adam and Julia Smith.

I'm sure many members are looking forward to this year's SLANZA Conference "Fiery Futures" Auckland 2017. There is some material in this issue which will highlight some of the guests and special features that the SLANZA Auckland Conference Committee has prepared for us. I'm sure all our members appreciate the hard work, time and thought that has gone into preparing this great event for us.

Conference is one of the best PD experiences that a librarian can have and while it all may seem overwhelming at the time, you will come away with new ideas, a view of the best practice as exhibited by both local and international guests. One of the headline guests is Rachel van Riel a proponent of client centred libraries. I had the great pleasure of hearing her speak in Otago two years ago and her ideas on libraries are transformative. Hearing her speak should be one of the highlights of conference 2017.

This issue's theme is "Conferences", so our writers share their best moments and tips,

and inspiration on how to get the most out of this marvellous professional development experience. There are also articles about authors in schools and ways to access other PD outside of Conference.

The social activities at Conference will be excellent as well and these are great fun, as well as a great chance to meet your peers, and widen your network. And don't forget the quieter moments, where you can unwind, talk to like-minded people, share tips and techniques, or just the sheer joy of reading.

I encourage you to take the chance to meet the National Executive members who will be present. They want to hear from you and are keen to talk to members.

Don't forget to take the chance to meet and discuss your needs with our many exhibitors. Many of these exhibitors have had a regular presence at our conferences and some are business members. Renew your relationships and support these businesses, as they support us. These representatives are all experts in their field, offer great service and often their products will anticipate your needs, whether it be furniture, library systems, book protection products or even books for your shelves. There will be time set aside so you can meet the exhibitors, ask their advice, and get to see their products.

As you can probably see I am extremely enthusiastic about our conference and this is for two reasons. I want to hear the wonderful speakers and their views. The other reason is that conference is the well

to go to revitalise your daily practice. I'm sure the daily frustrations of your job can be irritating, but being around other librarians and people who care about libraries is one of the most refreshing things to counter this. I always come back more motivated and keen to implement the things I've learned.

There is a focus on the new New Zealand website for children and young adult literature, *The Sapling*. It has quickly become a go-to site for many librarians. There have also been a number of profiles of library professionals that are worth looking at.

It also seems like this issue is a special David Riley issue. David has obviously been working hard talking to SLANZA members all over New Zealand. David is an author, publisher and speaker and he does a great deal to promote reading, especially with boys. As a publisher he presents both high impact sports books and also books from a Polynesian perspective. It's great to see his high profile with our members.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Collected* and it helps you get you enthused about our up-coming conference. Thanks to everyone who contributed their talents to this issue, your work is appreciated.

Even if you don't get the chance to attend Conference, I hope this gives you a little taste of what SLANZA conferences can be like.

*Greig Daniels*  
Editor, *Collected Magazine*

## CO-PRESIDENTS' COLUMN

### COLLECTED 20

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Kia ora from the top of the North Island and the bottom of the South! We are very proud and excited to be trusted with leading our wonderful organisation for the next couple of years.

The last twelve months has been a period of huge change within the SLANZA National Executive. For various reasons we have had three presidents leave, and understandably, we are somewhat peeved with National Library for stealing some of our best people! Therefore, we consider one of the most important goals of our term is to stabilise the SLANZA leadership.

#### CO-PRESIDENCY

We envisage our co-presidency will bring a new dimension to the role. Shared leadership has worked successfully in other organisations and businesses by maximising the skills of each individual, and as the saying goes, two heads are better than one. We have different skill sets but are confident that working together will complement our strengths and provide a well-rounded administration. It will be also be significantly less intimidating knowing we share the responsibilities, decisions and workload.

We are confident we can continue building on the solid foundation and

momentum achieved under previous SLANZA leaderships. Both of us have been on National Executive for two and a half years and have an understanding of the role so it will be a smooth transition. We would like to thank the National Executive for embracing this arrangement as well as all SLANZA members for their ongoing support.

#### CONFERENCE

Conferences take a massive amount of work to come together for the benefit of all the attending members, and we wish to sincerely thank Elizabeth Atkinson and the Auckland Conference Committee. We appreciate the months and months of preparation and know this will be an inspirational professional development event for us all. We look forward to seeing you there - please take the opportunity to introduce yourself and chat with us about anything you feel SLANZA could be doing to support you.

*Kirsty Adam and Julia Smith  
Interim SLANZA Co-Presidents*



## SLANZA 2017 CONFERENCE INNOVATIVE (AND FUN) NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

**TRISH WEBSTER - RANGITOTO COLLEGE**  
**SHARON JACKSON - ALBANY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

The SLANZA 2017 Conference will take place at King's College in Otahuhu from Sunday 16th to Wednesday 19th July. The conference committee have planned something a little different for our delegates.

First, we are planning an Unconference. What's that? On the Sunday night before the conference starts there will be the opportunity to participate in a different style of conference session. An Unconference is a style of meeting that is participant driven. We hope to inspire school librarians to share and collaborate on topics that are relevant and meaningful for them. Of course, we need our colleagues to attend for this to be a success so please consider arriving on Sunday so you can join us at King's College from 7.30pm. If you are staying on site it's easy, join us after dinner and start your networking early. We will have short presentations, a "Smackdown" where you can share a great tool you've found, or tell us about a fantastic idea that you are using in your library. We'll ask you to take a stand on some contentious issues, and there will be lots of time to talk, connect, and reconnect with colleagues about things that matter to you. This session will be driven by the group that comes along, and we will be looking for your input well before we kick it off.

### THE QUIZ

On Monday night of Conference we have a literary quiz planned. In teams of 8 (or so) we will compete for the honour to be crowned the top team at the conference, and hold bragging rights for the rest of the week. There's no need to form a team beforehand - come along with friends, or individually, and join a team on the night. This will be a great opportunity to challenge you and to engage in some healthy competition, not to mention a time to relax and unwind at the end of the day, make new friends and have some fun!

*Trish Webster, Library Manager, Rangitoto College*  
*Sharon Jackson, Librarian, Albany Senior High School*





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## SLANZA CONFERENCE 2017 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### CHRIS TAYLOR – CARMEL COLLEGE

I can't wait to meet our keynote speakers at conference in Auckland, Rachel van Riel from the United Kingdom and Hamish Curry and Adele Walsh from Australia.

#### RACHEL VAN RIEL

[Rachel van Riel](#) believes that school libraries have the power to engage readers. She will share some of her simple, practical, common sense ideas on how to 'sell the sizzle not the sausage', revamp your displays and target your market so you can make a difference for your students.

The [Opening the Book](#) web-site gives us insight into Rachel's background and skills .

Those of you who have followed the discussion, on the SLANZA Goggle+ community, may be familiar with Rachel and her work in creating amazing library spaces, attracting people in the door and encouraging reading and use of our spaces. Just thinking differently about attracting our students through the door, has encouraged me to review my current practice. I look forward to viewing my environment through different eyes when armed with more ideas.

#### HAMISH CURRY

[Hamish Curry](#) works with schools to help foster collaboration, build networks, and harness innovative technologies to help us have impact on our students' learning.

*"Hamish explores how often we have to go on the edge if we want to make a difference – sometimes that requires rewriting the system. On the topic of education and innovation he talks about the necessity of risk, play, wonder, and an open mind."*  
(from [The Do lectures website](#))



#### ADELE WALSH

[Adele Walsh](#) is a passionate advocate for writing and reading for young people.

*"Adele is a member of the Melbourne Writers' Festival Schools Advisory Committee and the Express Media Board. In 2015 she was announced as a Melbourne City of Literature travel grant recipient enabling her to observe a range of youth literature programming in the US. Adele has chaired and appeared in sessions at Melbourne Writers' Festival, Sydney Writers' Festival, the Emerging Writers' Festival, NSW Writers' Centre, Teen Author Carnival (US), Australian Romance Readers' Conference, and Express Media."*

*She has a professional background as a teacher and now works as the Program Coordinator for the Centre for Youth Literature, providing online content as well as programming events to promote literature for, and to, young adults.*

*Once upon a time, she was a well-known youth literature blogger, [Persnickety Snark](#). However, these days she is never persnickety and always snarky."* (from [unladylikepodcast.com](#))

It will be well worth coming to conference to hear these inspiring and incredible speakers.

*Chris Taylor, Librarian  
Carmel College*





## THE WORKSHOPS AT SLANZA CONFERENCE 2017

PAMELA LILLEY – SIR EDMUND HILLARY COLLEGIATE

### IGNITING AND INSPIRING LIBRARIES

There is such a wealth of knowledge and expertise out in the world of school librarians. At this year's conference we are privileged again to have our colleagues share with us everything from the bedrock solid foundation ideas, to the ideas that will inspire and lead us into the future.

If you have already registered for the Conference, you will already have agonised over the wealth of choices. If you are thinking about attending the Conference, you will know that there is such a wealth of professional learning wrapped up in those three days. We are often isolated in school libraries and this is a great chance to see how others solve problems, use resources, wrestle with the move into the digital world, or engage with their students effectively.

If you are looking to register or reregister, the Conference committee has added the Bodies of Knowledge areas to the various workshops.

I would like to make special mention of an opportunity that we, as school librarians don't always get. Most are aware that Te Rōpū Whakahau and LIANZA run a Mātauranga Māori within NZ Libraries workshop. It has always been a full day, but during the Conference there is the opportunity to have a condensed version over two sessions. This would be an invaluable resource for your library and school.

The workshops always provide new ideas, new insights and a sense that you are not alone, but are part of a professional group of librarians working for the best outcomes for our students.

*Pamela Lilley, Librarian  
Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate*



## HEY! COMING TO THE SLANZA CONFERENCE IN JULY? , COME AND STAY ON SITE AT KINGS COLLEGE

LORI PUSHON – MARIST COLLEGE



Here's your chance to reminisce about all those boarding school books you've enjoyed so much. Whether it's Malory Towers, St Clare's, Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches, Trebizon, Atherton-Pryce, Hogwarts or St Vladimir's Academy, you can be part of the boarding school scene – book a room now!

We have rooms available in two of the school's houses. Rooms are all individual but unfortunately all ensuite rooms are sold out. The communal bathrooms are of a very high standard and have individual shower cubicles.

Best value for money! Accommodation price includes ALL breakfasts and dinners, as well as complimentary snacks, tea and coffee.

#### ADVANTAGES:

1. Not having to drive in peak hour traffic, across Auckland
2. No driving late at night – after the Unconference, or Quiz Night, or Conference Dinner
3. Someone else will get up early and make your breakfast for you and do the dishes!
4. Not having to go home after a “full” conference day to make dinner for yourself or family
5. A chance to really get to know other conference attendees, to enlarge your network
6. A chance to live and immerse yourself in the conference

*Lori Pushon, Marist College, Auckland*





## CONFERENCE DINNER

KAREN LEAHY – KELSTON BOYS HIGH SCHOOL



A pleasant surprise awaits those who register for the whole conference – the cost of the conference dinner is included in the registration! (Yes! No guilt trip about asking my school for the extra money or squeezing my personal budget.) The conference committee is looking at menus and we can assure you that the catering at King's is of an excellent quality. We are also planning some exciting entertainment and great music to round off a wonderful evening with new friends and old colleagues.

*Karen Leahy, Library Manager  
Kelston Boys High School*



## VALUE FOR MONEY AND A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

KAREN LEAHY – KELSTON BOYS HIGH SCHOOL



### LET ME DO THE SUMS.

Conference Early Bird member registration = \$495  
 Divided by 12 (the number of keynotes and sessions) = \$41.25

So even without attending the Unconference, the author breakfast and the library tour, each piece of professional development will only cost me around \$40.00. Multiply that by the number of discussions I'll end up having with other attendees that adds to my knowledge then add the number of handouts and uploaded presentations I get from sessions I can't directly attend. These all add up to an exponential increase in knowledge that will transfer to my library to better serve my clients.

Of course, there may be costs to my budget – I'm bound to find items in the exhibitor stands that I want to buy because I haven't seen them before and I think they're just what our library needs - whether it's books, materials, furnishings or even software.

Furthermore, there's the risk that I might chum up with other library people and be infected with their ideas or solutions to common problems that we face. I might even make new friends!

I'll be staying onsite, so I won't be travelling back and forth each day. I won't need to cook for three nights! It will be like a holiday where I get to see and learn more about the job I love and meet like-minded people. Heaven!

*Karen Leahy, Library Manager  
 Kelston Boys High School*



## LIBRARY TOURS

### LISA ALLCOTT – NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NEW ZEALAND

This year we are taking you to some of our most inspiring South Auckland school libraries. The primary school tour will go to two beautifully remodelled libraries ([Papatoetoe East Primary School](#) and [Redoubt North School](#)), where reading and learning are integral to each school's philosophy while the secondary school tour will visit two challenging and exciting modern learning spaces ([Ormiston Senior College](#) and [Westmount School](#)), with services and outlooks that are forward thinking and innovative, and which encourage collaboration and support personalised, differentiated learning.

At the end of each tour the bus will drop off anybody who needs to go to the airport before returning to King's College.

*Lisa Allcott, Facilitator, National Capability  
Services to Schools - Auckland*



## CONFERENCE TREASURES

**BRIDGET SCHAUMANN – KING’S HIGH SCHOOL**

I have been to every SLANZA conference and one mini conference. I go because they make me a better librarian. I started out in school libraries as someone who just loved to read and who couldn't help sharing my love of reading with other people. I'm pretty sure that is what got me the job - that and a bit of enthusiasm for working with young people and connecting with their lives via books. Then I went to conference (for the first time in 2000), I learnt how to help my teachers find better resources, to help my students do better information searches, to talk about things such as Boolean and Thinking Hats, Guided Inquiry and e-textbooks. Like many school librarians, I would have lived my school library life in a vacuum and I wouldn't have known about any of this stuff unless I was a regular conference goer.

The beginning of my school library life was spent at a rural school. I knew nobody else who was doing the job I was doing. It was isolated. Then gradually through SLANZA and especially through SLANZA conferences, I was able to gather together a community. A community of helpful and friendly people who I could email or phone and ask questions when I needed to. The people in my personal school library networks are my most useful resources, but you don't know who they are unless you meet them and chat with them over a cup of tea or an author breakfast at a SLANZA conference. I've made some of my friends for life at conference; people I have come to love and trust, the people I meet every time and who call in to visit when they are in my area. People who are regularly in touch, people who are true and dear friends and whom I have met via SLANZA conferences.

The people I encounter at conference make me think about the things I do and why I do them. They make me examine my practice and enrich the services I offer to our students. They inspire me to talk to my teachers and staff about what I do in the library and what I can do for them. They encourage me to connect with other school librarians

who do much cooler things than I do and they encourage other people to talk to me. I get to meet the most amazing people at conference, other professionals who started out just like I did.

At conference I have met many of the people of international renown that are my school library heroes and heroines. People like David Loertscher, Judy O'Connell, Joyce Valenza, Barbara Braxton and a bunch of fabulous local school librarians whom have been helpful friendly and collegial for years. Every conference I meet new people who make me ponder my school library life. Every time I go home inspired to try a bunch of new things. Conference is my jam!

- Go to conference!
- If you are new to school libraries, go to conference to gain confidence and skills!
- If you are an old hand, go to conference to learn new tricks.
- If you need better networks, go to conference, you'll meet some of the best people in school libraries.
- If you want to be inspired to help your school more, go to conference.
- If you feel undervalued and feel your job is under threat, you should go to conference.
- If you feel isolated and all alone in school library land, go to conference.

See you there.

*Bridget Schaumann, Librarian, King's High School Dunedin*



## SLANZA CONFERENCES: IF YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, GRAB IT!

LIZ CHRISTENSEN – OHAEAUWAI SCHOOL

Over the years I've attended a few SLANZA conferences – in Auckland, Wellington and most recently in Christchurch. I've even presented at one which was a step out of my comfort zone but very rewarding! Each conference has left me buzzing and inspired by the experience.

The speakers and workshops are relevant and interesting, and the library tours are wonderful for gathering ideas – I always come away with plenty of photos and plans of things to do back at my library.

If I were to emphasise one particular aspect of attending conferences though, it would have to be the opportunity they provide to network with librarians from a wide range of schools.

At the Christchurch conference a real highlight was spending time with the vibrant librarian, Cathy Kennedy, at St Andrew's College Junior Library. Although her school is at the opposite end of the spectrum to mine in practically every sense – size, decile, staffing etc, what was really clear was that we are all working towards the same goals of engaging readers and supporting learners, and I came away with a model of what to aspire to.

Even though we might not meet all that often, over the years I feel like I have got to know people I've met at SLANZA conferences and events, and it is always so good to meet face-to-face people I've "met" online, through blogs I follow, the listserv or other avenues.

I think it is especially important for people who work outside the main cities or in small country schools to attend conferences. It can be such an eye-opener and really give you a sense of being part of a bigger picture. I find they affirm what I am doing in my library and also give me confidence and impetus to bring new ideas back to school.

I really appreciated the sponsorship I received from Te Tai Tokerau SLANZA region to help me attend, and my advice to any school librarian would be, if you can, create the opportunity and find the support to attend a SLANZA conference yourself – you won't regret it!

*Liz Christensen, Librarian, Ohaeawai School, Northland*



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR LIVING ROOM

DESNA WALLACE – FENDALTON OPEN AIR SCHOOL

Professional development for school librarians is one of those things that varies to extremes, sadly, with some schools providing no funds or very little funding. So the reality is that not everyone is able to attend SLANZA conferences especially when air fares and accommodation are taken into account, but there are alternatives. There are courses, conferences and SLANZA PD days at a much cheaper rate and there are also many options which are free. Some you can even do from the comfort of your own living room and while you may not have the company of fellow librarians in the room with you, there are ways to reach out, connect and do your own professional development.

SLANZA offers online courses, of which I have completed a number. They are free and well worth every minute. I have been introduced to the likes of **CANVA**, **Feedly**, **Diigo** and much more. In doing these courses I have connected with fellow librarians from up and down the country. We have chatted about our learning online in a friendly group setting. Creating a Feedly account was definitely a good move. I check this perhaps once a week for feeds from librarian bloggers, publishers and reviewers and have made purchases for the school library based on reviews and conversations. It is about a balance however, and not having too many feeds and allowing yourself to delete or drop feeds when it all seems to be a bit much.

Over the years I have attended online courses via **Edweb** on such matters as Makerspace libraries and summer reading slumps. The beauty of Edweb is that as long as you register for your course, you can watch the playback at your leisure. I have done a few online in the library thinking I would be free from student interruption but the reality is that this just doesn't happen so I end up watching again later at home uninterrupted. A recent webinar was on fake news and I was able to pass some feedback to the staff on the borrowing of non-fiction books and how there is a world wide decline in the borrowing of these books. In order for students to discern fake news from real, they need to be reading more non-fiction and learning the skills first from books and newspapers. I was so pleased to see that one class made changes the very next day.

**School Library Journal** is great for providing ways to up-skill and I often find myself challenged by what others do. I know this has been mentioned before but the School Library Journal feature on Makerspaces from 2015 provides so many suggestions that I will never manage to get through even half of them.

**Core Education** offer courses and I will be going to one this week with my principal and teacher in charge of literacy. Again, there are costs but for those of us with limited PD budgets, these courses are more affordable and worth investigating.

Reading is paramount for professional development and there are so many ways to find the best information to read. Reading librarian blogs or articles online is a great way to up-skill, find out what others are doing and learn new ideas. And of course you can now borrow ebooks via the SLANZA website.

Joining the **SLANZA Google Plus Community** is another great way to learn from each other. The monthly PD discussions are always useful and there is no pressure which means you can participate as much, or as little as you want, or are able. I tend to find that once a discussion opens up, I begin thinking about my own situation and how I can change things or what I can learn.

I follow some wonderful NZ librarians on twitter. Michelle Sims, Zac Harding, Alison Hewett to name a few. The knowledge, websites, articles and general information they pass on can become part of my reading and therefore part of my professional development.

And yes! Even **Pinterest** can become a way to do some professional development.

It is very easy to lose track of time but if you balance it well there are many things to be discovered that can help us. Library skills and lessons or library displays are just for starters.

The school library listserv at times offers ideas to follow up. And this again becomes part of my PD.

Jane Boniface in particular has a wonderful weebly and via the listserv will often offer sage advice. Her recent post on **PearlTrees** was informative with a friendly and helpful suggestion on overcoming issues with Livebinders. Jane often passes on instructions as well, which is great. Learning from each other is fantastic as we are often very isolated in our roles, particularly in primary schools.

National Library Network meetings are an invaluable source of information and ideas as well as connecting with other librarians.

I love the new Children's Literature website **The sapling** which has heaps of interviews and all things books for children and young adults. Great links for further reading.

Reading articles in the SCIS free Connections journal is another chance to do some professional reading.

Your library management system and their PD days are well worth attending even if there is a cost. It helps to keep up with changes but also to know which librarians in your area use the same system and who might be able to help if you come unstuck or perhaps you can help them.

**National Library** offer **online** courses and while there is a charge they are always worth it. Many of the courses encourage you to work with other schools and librarians or even with staff within your own school. It can be daunting trying to influence change or reflecting on your own role within your school but PD can take on many forms and National Library staff offer support throughout your course which is essential.

**SLANZA Facebook** page is another community where ideas are shared with many good links to follow up and read at your leisure.

**LIANZA** offer courses although again, there is a cost but if conference is way out of your PD budget these are good alternatives.

**Twitter** is another place where I can get in some professional development. By following some of the best librarians, you can be alerted to opportunities to learn. Twitter may not be everyone's cup of tea but it is worth giving it a shot. Learning to tweet, send messages and links is another small skill to develop and add to your PD.

As much as these are great for learning, up-skilling and your professional development, many of these offer the chance to network with fellow librarians and that is always a bonus. We do learn from each other, whether at conference or doing an online course from the comfort of your home, and making those connections is the best tool we have in our own PD.

Conferences are fantastic and I am sad that I won't be going to Auckland but that doesn't mean I can't still do my own PD here in Christchurch, and find help and knowledge from all over the world. If you are going to conference – have fun and share your experiences

with us either through the Collected journal or network meetings or even via the library listserv.

One word of advice I would give, is no matter what you do, what you read, or whatever courses and meetings you go to, make sure you record it somewhere. Great for your RLIANZA revalidation but also great to show your Principal at your next appraisal.

#### Who to follow on Twitter

Kay Oddone - [@KayOddone](#)

Joyce Valenza - [@joycevalenza](#)

Zac McCallum Librarian, blogger, reviewer - great for alerting you to new books - [@zackids](#)

Alison Hewett - [@alidevnx](#)

Michelle Simms - watch out for her if you are at conference and her discussion on reading for pleasure. Wish I was there for this one - [@MSimmsNZ](#)

School Library Journal - [@sljournal](#)

#### Sites for PD

<http://home.edweb.net/>

<https://www.canva.com/>

<https://www.pearltrees.com/>

[http://www2.curriculum.edu.au/scis/connections/conn\\_page.html](http://www2.curriculum.edu.au/scis/connections/conn_page.html)

<https://feedly.com>

<https://goodkeenlibrarian.blogspot.co.nz/>

- Michelle Simms' library blog

<http://www.tk421.net/librarylink/> - Library link of the day

<http://heatonlrc.weebly.com/> - Jane Boniface

<https://natlib.govt.nz/schools> - National Library

<http://www.thesapling.co.nz/>

<http://www.slj.com/features/the-maker-issue-slj-2015/#>

<http://www.core-ed.org/>

*Desna Wallace, Librarian, Fendalton Open Air School*

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ESSENTIAL FOR LIBRARIANS

DEE BROOKER – WHANGAREI BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

I consider that Professional Development is an essential part of my job while working in a school. We are part of the education sector and need to be life-long learners and take as many opportunities for PD as possible; reading articles and completing on-line courses as well as attending physical PD sessions.

Top of my list would be to attend the SLANZA conference every two years and I have been very fortunate to have been supported by Whangarei Boys' High School management who see that the conference is not only an opportunity to listen, learn and participate but also to maintain my networks with other Librarians.

In between conferences both SLANZA and the National Library provide local PD. Last term Whangarei Girls' High School Librarian, Bernadette Murray and I had an enjoyable road trip to Kerikeri to hear teacher/author David Riley. David's message is relevant to everyone but especially in relation to boys who are not readers but are sports mad. David emphasised that everyone needs to be able to read. Sports people need to read and understand their contracts, they need to be able to give presentations to their team mates and to write up game plans.

David's books feature New Zealand sports stars like Joseph Parker, Sonny Bill Williams and Steven Adams. His books are excellent for primary, intermediate and secondary schools.

I am looking forward to one day having David Riley to visit WBHS to inspire our students.

*Dee Brooker, Library Manager, Whangarei Boys' High School*



## FROM SMALL SEEDS GROW BIG IDEAS

### SARAH FORSTER – THE SAPLING

The Sapling is a unique offering in New Zealand's literary world: a free online magazine about books for kids and teens. Founders Sarah Forster and Jane Arthur believe that books grow humans, and that good children's literature is as valuable as good food, and just as worthwhile a deep discussion as adult's literature.

Since we went live on 6 March, we have had the most incredible feedback from all over the place: authors, parents, teachers, bookshops and, of course, school librarians. Crissi Blair, reviewer and librarian at Rangeview Intermediate noted, "This is probably THE most exciting thing to happen for children's books, and their creators, in New Zealand in a very long time. Thanks Sarah and Jane for the inspiration and so much hard work to put this together."

If you are wondering where all this is coming from: Sarah Forster ran the Education Programmes for the Book Council for seven years, while Jane Arthur worked at (then managed) Time Out Bookstore, then worked for seven years at Gecko Press. We both know our authors, our audience, and kids' lit.

We began working on the concept behind The Sapling in July last year: Jane tweeted about the idea of a conference dedicated to just children's & YA writing; Sarah tweeted back to say she'd help. Then Sarah said or... what about a proper, dedicated website? And Jane said, Yes, with a range of top quality contributors: let's apply for an Arts Grant! We nussed it out over an hour at Clark's Cafe (where many a literary venture has begun) and The Sapling was born.

We talked to our friends Kate De Goldi, Gavin Bishop and Catriona Ferguson (CEO of the NZ Book Council at the time), and they provided us with letters of support for our application. We also got about 15 authors and illustrators to agree - in writing - that it was a great idea and they could provide us with content. Creative NZ couldn't help but agree with our supporters, and, the day after Trump was elected, The Sapling was born. It was an emotional couple of days.

After crunching the numbers and working out what we'd like to pay people to write for us - we are paying our contributors, though not ourselves - we realised our next step needed to be crowd-funding if we were going to be able to pay people what we wanted to. We decided on Boosted.org.nz because it is well-suited for funding intangible arts projects: we didn't have a printed book to give our supporters, we just had our everlasting thanks. We had 144 wonderful donors donate over \$12,000, giving us another six months of contributor payments: and an engaged audience ready to fly on 6 March!

The work behind the crowd-funding campaign was considerable. Though Jane and Sarah had both had prior experience with fundraising, we did need a little help, and gratefully grabbed some email hints and templates from both the Boosted team, and Kat Jenkins at Multitude.org. Our contacts lists were impeccable by the time we pushed 'go' on the Boosted campaign, with the result that we earned our target within ten days, ultimately surpassing it by \$2,000 (buying ourselves the ability to get outside advice from an accountant and lawyer).

One of the first regular pieces of content we agreed on is our wonderful School Librarians of Aotearoa series. We've featured Desna Wallace and Kimberley Atkinson so far, and we have SLANZA's own co-president Julia Smith lined up for next month. We are on the lookout for a rural South Island school librarian at an Area School or Full Primary, or a male librarian, for our next feature - let us know if you have an awesome recommendation!

Please, help The Sapling to keep growing our audience. Click over to [www.thesapling.co.nz](http://www.thesapling.co.nz), and follow our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/thesaplingnz/> to make sure you don't miss out on any of the goodness.

*Sarah Forster, The Sapling*

# DOING SO MUCH MORE: INTRODUCING A NEW INFORMATION LITERACY RESEARCH PROJECT

LISA EMERSON – MASSEY UNIVERSITY

A year ago, when we were preparing our research proposal on information literacy in schools, one of the librarians in our team made a comment that has stayed with me: “We could do so much more – but no-one ever asks.” For me, this comment encapsulated a problem that so many librarians face: they have so much capacity to contribute to student learning, but they are too often relegated to the tasks of teaching students to find information and issuing books.

In our new research *Transforming information Literacy space(s) to support student learning*, funded for three years by the Teaching Learning Research Initiative (TLRI) (see <http://www.tlri.org.nz/tlri-research/research-progress/cross-sector/transforming-information-literacy-spaces-support>) we are interested in supporting librarians to do “so much more”. We have assembled a group of researchers, librarians and teachers to work together, in collaborative partnerships, to extend schools’ understanding of information literacy and its role in both student learning and preparing students for advanced study, employment, and citizenship.

Of course, we are very aware that we are not alone in this space. We know that, in recent years, school librarians have advocated strongly for a change in the way students and teachers engage with the physical/virtual library space– but we also know that in many places this has been an uphill battle. One of the things we’re most interested in finding out, therefore, is exactly what is happening in New Zealand schools in terms of information literacy and the work of the library. There has been no survey of information literacy in schools since a 2006 ERO report<sup>1</sup>, and a lot has changed in schools and in how we access and use information for learning since then. Therefore, in June-July this year we will be sending out of survey to teachers, librarians and senior managers of New Zealand schools, to ask about their practice, policy and perceptions in relation to information literacy and the role of the library.

We’re excited by the possibilities of this new research and how it may impact student learning. We’ve been given three years to develop a set of information literacy progressions. These progressions will identify the information literacy skills needed by students in Years 11-13 in schools and Years 1-2 in tertiary institutions. We will be developing resources for librarians and teachers in a range of subject areas on how to integrate information literacy more effectively into

each of these levels. And we will develop new models of effective teacher-librarian partnerships that will see librarians fully engaged with curriculum and assessment design.

Along the way we will communicate our research findings so they are accessible to teachers and librarians. As our results come in and our thinking progresses, we are writing weekly blog posts on our community blog, *Information literacy spaces*, and continually updating our facebook page, and twitter feed. In this way, we hope to develop a learning community dedicated to information literacy in New Zealand schools and tertiary institutions. We would be delighted if you could become part of this community and partner with us as we start this research journey.

If you want to hear more about what we’re doing, follow us here:

Blog: <https://informationliteracyspaces.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ILspaces/>

Twitter: [@il\\_spaces](#)

If you would like to complete our survey, contact us here:

[informationliteracyspaces@gmail.com](mailto:informationliteracyspaces@gmail.com)

If you’d like to be involved more fully in our project, contact the

project leaders: Lisa Emerson [L.Emerson@massey.ac.nz](mailto:L.Emerson@massey.ac.nz) or

Ken Kilpin [K.G.Kilpin@massey.ac.nz](mailto:K.G.Kilpin@massey.ac.nz)

If you’re attending SLANZA Conference in July, why not talk to Senga White who is on our project team or attend her workshop on Creating an Information Literate Community to discuss our research progress.

*Lisa Emerson, Director of Teaching and Learning,  
College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Massey University*

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Education Review Office. (2006). *Student Learning in the Information Landscape*. Wellington, NZ: New Zealand Government.



# INSPIRED BY A READING WARRIOR

PENNY WALCH – SOUTHWELL SCHOOL

The planets were in alignment on Friday, March 3 when my colleague, Julie Huggins, and I were able to attend the SLANZA-run Professional Development Day, entitled *Celebrating Diversity*, held at Melville High School.

Normally on a Friday, there are classes to be taught at our school, but it was Camp Week and this meant that we were footloose and fancy-free - and able to attend the course.

Thank goodness we did, as it has been the catalyst for some major changes in our thinking as far as our library is concerned.

The guest speakers were author and teacher, David Riley, and Susan Wright from the Hamilton Settlement Centre. Both speakers left us with ideas a-buzzing through our heads, but it was David, whose teaching background really resonated with these two teacher librarians, who left us feeling like our brains were going to explode.

Everything he said was simple, no-nonsense, common sense stuff, but sometimes you just need to take the time to sit back and reflect on the nuts and bolts of what we do and consider **why** we do things and **why** we do it the way we do. So often, the answer is, because it is the way we have always done it and it works.

David talked about how we should look deep into our students as they are the most amazing resource we have, and it is they who should guide our work. He quoted bell hooks (*lack of capital letters deliberate!*) who said: "The classroom is a community and everyone in it is a resource."

He talked about how we can use popular culture to help inspire children as it is using things that **they** are interested in. The example that blew me away was the imagery and visual cues which can be found in sports (and in particular Warriors) jerseys. They hold so much scope for investigation and inquiry.

He encouraged us to keep thinking outside the square and challenging ourselves to keep our students at the forefront of everything that we do. I loved his 'can do' attitude, which is epitomised in the fact that when he couldn't source the sorts of books his students were looking for, he simply wrote them himself!

What all this did for Julie and I was to set off a bit of a chain reaction. Our school is quite possibly the polar opposite of the school where David teaches, but that is actually beside the point.

By listening to him speak, we were able to step back from what we do in **our** library and look in with a more impartial view. We discovered that what we do is good and worthwhile, but we could be doing so much more. And we could do it so much better.

A major thing for us is to try and give our students (and adults for that matter) more of a voice in our library. Sometimes we tend to get so excited about what **we** are passionate about that we forget that not everyone is quite so keen!

Why not let our learners lead the way a bit more? It will take time to let go but we do feel that we are on the right route. We have been to various syndicate meetings in our school to let them know of our shift in approach, and so far it has been met with positivity.

At the time of attending the course we were in the process of deciding whether or not to genrify our fiction collection (after surveying our staff and our students.) The course gave us the impetus, and confidence, necessary to make the decision to take the dive and go ahead with the process which is all booked in for Term 4.

So, I think the dual moral to our story is that:

1. Student voice is vital in this day and age
2. It is worthwhile to slow down and reflect whenever you can.

If you are debating whether or not to attend some PD – Just Do It, as you will never know quite what you will get out of it! I am quite sure that David was not really expecting to inspire quite the reaction he did... but his passion and depth of thought about **his** area of expertise has definitely rubbed off on these two librarians!

*Penny Walch, Teacher-Librarian, Southwell School*

## BEHIND THE SCENES: DEVELOPING THE MOST STUDENT-CENTRIC OLIVER V5 EXPERIENCE EVER

KRISTEN LEE

It's been almost 35 years since Softlink released its first library management system, ALARM. Over the years we've experienced massive changes in education and technology, but one thing that has remained constant is the collaboration with teacher librarians in our development process.

So, when recent conversations with teacher librarians kept turning to a paradigm shift in the way students consume information, the sparks of a new project emerged.

We saw the popularity of apps and websites among students, such as online streaming platforms, that push content out to them based on what they've watched or liked and what is trending.

Working with our customers, we decided to transform Oliver v5 to reflect these trends and place a greater emphasis on reading lists, where students can explore curated content specific to a subject or interest.

To achieve this, we knew we had to incorporate the feedback from both teacher librarians and students.

In conjunction with schools of differing types and sizes, Softlink's development team refined the core framework for the updated Oliver v5 public search interface. Onsite visits were conducted to watch how students used the new system, with the Softlink development team adopting a "think aloud" usability testing method to get to the heart of what was important to, and popular with, students.

"Think aloud" is a testing method that has been applied in education as well as software development. As students explored a test system that included a number of new developments, they were asked to "think aloud" and talk about what they were doing and share their initial reactions.

The process allowed the Softlink developers to understand what worked well, and where further development was needed.

And the result?

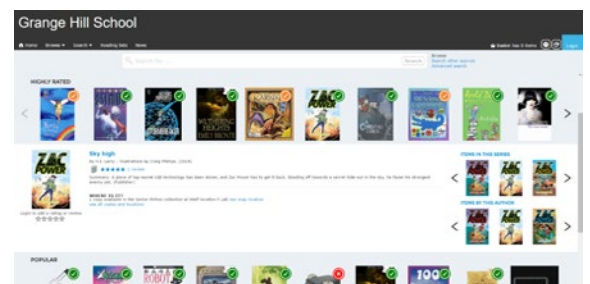
In March, we launched the new look Oliver v5 - designed WITH students, for students.

One of the most prominent aspects of the new look Oliver v5 is the Browse Lists page. The page is automatically populated with titles based on what the logged in student has borrowed, what their peers are doing, what is new in the library and other event-based triggers. Because the lists are dynamic, students are more likely to discover something new and interesting to them.

The Browse Lists page also makes it easier for students to uncover additional details about a title and find related resources. Suggestions include additional books in the series by order, books by the same author, and even other books that are close to it on the shelf.

Importantly, this level of personalisation has been achieved without placing any additional workload on teacher librarians.

Student evaluation has already confirmed a fantastic user experience. Year 7 students at Brisbane State High School provided their reviews,



## BEHIND THE SCENES: DEVELOPING THE MOST STUDENT-CENTRIC OLIVER V5 EXPERIENCE EVER ... CONTINUED

KRISTEN LEE

with feedback including, 'It's easier to find stuff!', 'I think it's really good!' and 'It was super easy!'

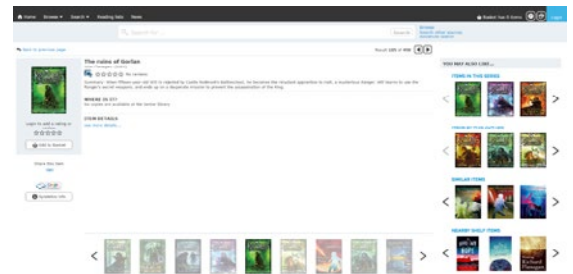
Brisbane State High School Teacher Librarian, Rob Forsyth added, 'the new OPAC makes the search process more natural and intuitive, looks very engaging for students.'

In additional news, we have also entered into a formal agreement with the Schools Catalogue Information Service (SCIS), to expand the service to New Zealand and Pacific Island schools.

Softlink and SCIS have collaborated for a number of years to streamline access to SCIS' enhanced catalogue records through Oliver v5, and with the increased focus on "browsing", SCIS records further engage students with attractive cover art and additional title information.

The integration between Oliver v5 and SCIS makes school library cataloguing quicker, easier and more affordable than self-cataloguing.

If you would like to see the new-look Oliver v5, visit the Softlink stand at the upcoming SLANZA 2017 conference for a demonstration, email us at [sales@softlinkint.com](mailto:sales@softlinkint.com) or call us 0800 47 63 85 to organise an online demonstration at a time that suits you.



### The average school library



Self-catalogues  
1000 resources  
per annum



Which takes  
38 work days



And costs  
\$10,000

# 20/20 TRUST

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## WE HAVE MOVED!

### LAURENCE ZWIMPFER MNZM – 2020 COMMUNICATIONS TRUST

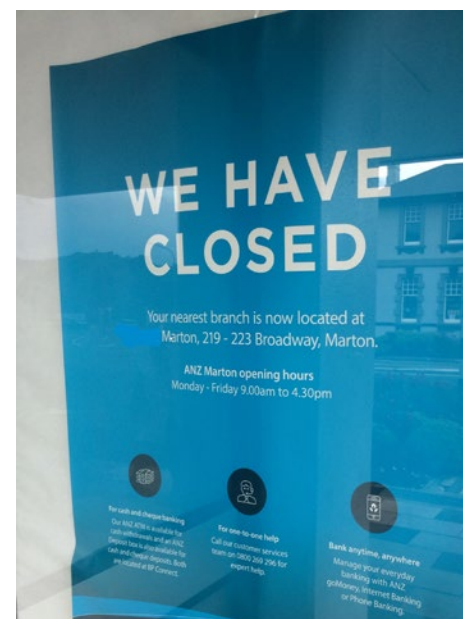
This is becoming a familiar sign around New Zealand these days – whether you are a bank, a government agency, a post office or even just a humble post box. It is getting harder and more expensive to do many of the things we used to take for granted, things like paying a bill at the post office or depositing money with a bank. Some businesses are even starting to refuse cash payments – first it was cheques, but now you increasingly have to have a debit or credit card. Research in the United Kingdom has revealed that people who do not have access to the internet end up paying £744 (or NZ\$1400) more each year than they would if they shopped online<sup>1</sup>.

If you think this doesn't apply to you, take a visit to Taihape and you will see the sign below in the window of what was once a local bank. Take a closer look and you will see that the nearest branch of this bank is now in Marton, some 72.4 km away. So what would a visit to this bank cost for someone living in Taihape? The government mileage rate is 72c / kilometre to cover fuel and other costs incurred in using your own vehicle, so that's over \$100 in transport costs alone. But then add in your time – two hours for the round trip. A conservative estimate would be another \$100. So are you really willing to pay \$200 to visit your bank??

This is just one example of why it is so important for every New Zealander to have the opportunity to go online and according to a recent Innovation Partnership report<sup>2</sup>, this means every New Zealander having the motivation, the access, the skills and the trust to go online. The banks are making the motivation part pretty easy – like saving money. Thanks largely to the Government's huge investment in digital infrastructure, such as ultrafast fibre and rural broadband, most New Zealanders now have the choice of connecting to the internet, although affordability remains an issue for many low income communities. Having the necessary digital skills can be more of a challenge; while we can rely on our children and grandchildren to help us there are some basic life skills that every adult really needs. The UK has some very good tools for measuring the digital skills of their citizens; 21% of the UK adult population do not have what is considered the minimum basic digital skills to engage in society. The situation is likely to be similar in New Zealand.

But the elephant in the digital inclusion room could be the fourth component – trust. A timely reminder of this issue appeared in the 14 May Sunday Star Times – what is being reported as possibly the world's largest cyber-attack, a virus named "WannaCry" is infecting thousands of computers around the globe<sup>3</sup>. A ransom is demanded to neutralise the virus.

We look to our young people as the new generation of digital citizens to protect us on our emerging digital highways. We hope they can do much better than we have today in creating safe roads and highways. This starts in the homes of our students and our schools. This requires leadership and who better to provide this than school librarians. Have you discussed WannaCry with your students?



*Sign in window of closed bank in Taihape, 72.4km away from the nearest branch in Marton*

<sup>1</sup> Lloyds Bank UK Consumer Digital Index 2017: Benchmarking the digital and financial capability of consumers in the UK, March 2017

<sup>2</sup> Soper, C. Digital Inclusion in New Zealand: Assessing Government policy approaches and initiatives, The Innovation Partnership, April 2017

<sup>3</sup> Lawton, N and J Edens, Malware attack reaches NZ sites, Sunday Star Times, 14 May 2017, p1

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 'MORE THAN JUST A NICE THING TO HAVE

ANNA NEYLAND – ACCESSIT LIBRARY

These days the need to up-skill and get the most out of your ever-expanding library is no longer a “nice-to-do”, it is a requirement in a modern, flourishing learning environment.

Even so, the process of finding appropriate professional development, applying for that ever elusive funding from the PD committee at your school, or finding the time to attend sessions, can be quite difficult and at times daunting and disheartening.

### At Accessit up-skilling and support are built-in

The need to find affordable, relevant professional development is something we understand well at Accessit. We also know that a fast, easy-access learning environment, requires customer support to match. Because of this, we have an ongoing focus on listening to our customers and offering support as you need it, over multiple platforms. Whether you prefer to speak directly with our friendly support staff on the phone, submit tickets online, watch our video tutorials or read support articles, you can access information, training and support instantly on all aspects of the system.



*Pictured from left our support team  
– Jure, Christine, Anna and Chris*

### Version 9 is here

This year we are excited to unveil Accessit Library version 9. We’ve listened to your feedback and we’re eager to show you what version 9 has to offer. Much of the existing bones and framework that you’ve come to love and trust have remained, but we’ve given Accessit a modern facelift, improved work-flow and added extra features that you’ve been asking us for.

Of course, support and guidance during the transition to the latest version of Accessit is essential. As well as ongoing remote support, each year we also travel around New Zealand with our Accessit Training Roadshow, visiting over twenty venues. Nothing beats face to face support and interaction and this year’s roadshow is an absolute must for your PD calendar. The tone of these sessions is fun and informal, but packed with useful information to enhance your user experience. Our customers rave about these sessions, and leave bursting with new ideas. Nicki Powell, from Raurimu Avenue School commented that, “As a result of the Roadshow our library has undergone a complete facelift and we’ve gained new skills and confidence in using Accessit.”

### On the road again this August

This year the Accessit team are hitting the road in August and we hope to include some extra venues due to popular demand. At our Roadshows we offer training pitched at all levels, from our Beginners group – catered towards our newer or less confident users, to our popular Intermediate/Advanced group. Delia Achten from Ashburton College suggested that, “Attending the Roadshow is an absolute must for Accessit users; you learn more in a morning session than you can possibly teach yourself when you’re under pressure to do the day to day stuff.” Our Roadshows are not only an opportunity to become acquainted with Accessit’s latest features – we also encourage collegiality amongst our users, giving them the chance to ask questions and share ideas with fellow colleagues.

We’re really excited to be Silver Sponsors for the upcoming SLANZA Conference and look forward to catching up with our current and future customers. This year we will be presenting two workshops. The first will be in conjunction with John Cummins from King’s College in Auckland and Glenys Bichan from Cambridge High. They’ll share some of their student success stories around using the Accessit One Search functionality - the ability to search across multiple databases (including EPIC databases), websites and other online subscription material, all in a single search.

The second session, presented by Bonnie Barr (Accessit Library software consultant and ex-high school librarian), will focus on library



# Accessit

BUSINESS MEMBERS

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 'MORE THAN JUST A NICE THING TO HAVE ... CONTINUED

ANNA NEYLAND – ACCESSIT LIBRARY

advocacy and how to up-sell what you do as a library professional. Bonnie will discuss how to get better buy-in from your teachers, students and senior leadership team. She will also discuss practical ideas of how to be seen and heard, and how this can have a positive outcome for your students learning objectives and the professional relationships within your school. This will be an interactive session with opportunity to share successes and ideas.

**Come and visit us at Stand #15:** This year we will be giving away a MASSIVE prize – one lucky school will be gifted the Accessit Library system, including the first year's annual licence FREE. (Terms and conditions apply)

**Already using Accessit?** You can register for our annual Accessit Training Roadshow on our brand new website: [accessitlibrary.com/roadshow/](http://accessitlibrary.com/roadshow/)

**Want to learn more about us?** At [accessitlibrary.com](http://accessitlibrary.com) you'll find specific information for librarians, principals, teachers and IT staff, as well as many wonderful case studies from our customers. If you're keen to see our latest Accessit version 9 we'd love to show you.

Email [sales@accessitlibrary.com](mailto:sales@accessitlibrary.com) or book on an online presentation at [accessitlibrary.com/book-a-demo/](http://accessitlibrary.com/book-a-demo/)

You might also like to register for the **FREE Accessit Presentation series** which will run in conjunction with the Training Roadshow. Register at: [accessitlibrary.com/roadshow/](http://accessitlibrary.com/roadshow/)

For further information on any of the above, please call us on **0800 542 727** or email us at [info@accessitlibrary.com](mailto:info@accessitlibrary.com)



## CONTAINS GRAPHIC CONTENT

### GUARDIANS OF THE LOUVRE // ISBN-13: 978-1681120348 – BY JIRO TANIGUCHI

In the last decade the Louvre has commissioned a series of graphic novels that tell of the museum's artistic influence, historical story as well as the depth and breadth of its collections. These graphic novels are created to talk about art and the Louvre's collections of works. Jiro Taniguchi is a famed Japanese manga artist who has worked on a variety of series since the 1980s as well as creating work of his own.

*Guardians of the Louvre* is my first introduction to Taniguchi's work and it was the last major work he created before his death in 2017. The work was met with a mixed response. Some claimed that it was a breakthrough piece of manga, while others condemned it as middle class vision of art.

It is a striking work in many ways due to its themes, ideas and representation of art and the artistic process. I tend to agree with the former assessment.

A young Japanese man visits Paris and is struck down by illness. The next day, feeling better, he visits the Louvre and is frustrated by the crowds and the inability to see the works he wants to. In a strange dreamlike moment the crowds disappear and he is greeted by The Winged Victory of Samothrace who introduces herself as a guardian of the Louvre, and tells him that he is in "the space time of his reveries". He visits the museum four times. On his second visit he meets a Japanese artist Asai Chū, who introduced westernised art to Japan. On his next visit he sees that the scholar's

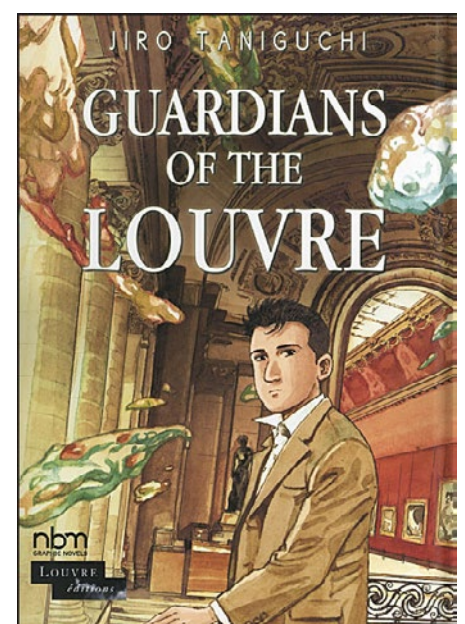
inspiration is Corot and we enter various places and times to see Corot working on his paintings. After a day's break he visits the museum and is transported to Auvers-sur-Oise, and meets and converses with Vincent van Gogh. After another short break he visits again, and is transported to 1939 and sees how the artworks were saved from the German advance in World War Two. He learns of the difficulties encountered by Jacques Jaujard in storing, transporting and hiding these treasures of civilisation. His last visit is bittersweet, and he then leaves the Louvre.

The story and art have a strange dreamlike quality and the ventures into the past have an unusual muted tone that matches the dreamy material. During the dream visits to Corot and van Gogh, there is an attempt to emulate their styles and colour palette and this is very pleasing and suits the narrative.

The plot is very thin and it is more a slip of story than a full narrative. The pages are beautifully designed which help tell the story in a pleasing but non obtrusive way. It is like looking into someone's dream, and it is very impressionistic in style. The colour palette is well chosen, and his attempts to convey the styles of various artists, is extremely successful. His choice of The Winged Victory of Samothrace to be his sometimes guide is interesting as he realises her in her full (imagined) form rather than as the damaged statue we know.

This is a lovely graphic novel which I recommend for senior students and those interested in art. It should be noted that the English version, published by NBM, conforms to standard manga practice and reads from back to front. Individual pages read from right to left to conform to Taniguchi's design.

*Reviewed by  
Greig Daniels, Tokomairiro High School*



## BATMAN ADVENTURES VOL 1 // ISBN-13: 978-1401252298 – BY KELLEY PUCKETT, MIKE PAROBECK AND TY TEMPLETON

This comic series is based on the animated television series of the same name that premiered in 1991. The series was groundbreaking in many ways, not the least for its quality stories, stylish design and animation, and different approach to the Batman currently appearing in the comic books at that time.

The design was a stylised tribute to “modern” design, especially that of the 1930s and 40s. The animation style is reminiscent of the animation of that period (specifically the 1940s’ Fleischer Superman cartoons). The episodes, many written by comic veterans and supplemented by the extremely talented writers and animators Bruce Timm and Paul Dini, were all well produced and dynamically animated.

As in all corporate synergy, a spin off comic was published and these four trade paperbacks reprint the 36 issues of the first series.

The design style has been kept in these comics and that is a real plus. There are distinctively designed characters, and the artist’s rendition of the Batman characters and supporting cast is well done and true to the animation style.

Artists and writers Kelly Puckett, Rick Burchett, Mike Parobeck, and Ty Templeton are all clever storytellers and all have great page design skills. They manage to capture both the humorous moments as well as the action adventure elements inherent in the stories.

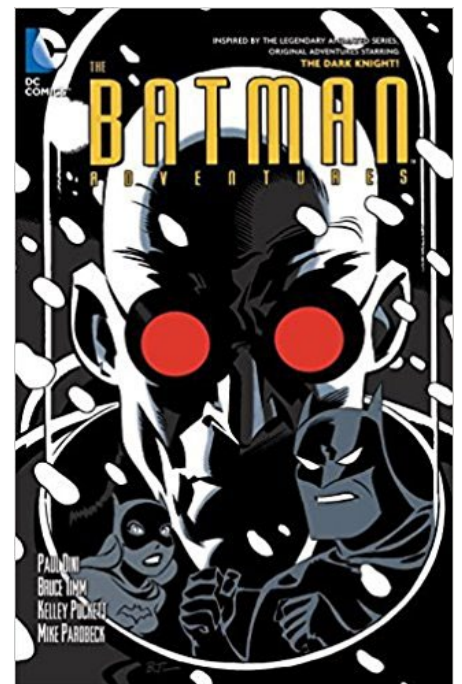
The stories are generally 20 pages long with a strong emphasis on action and mystery. While the characters continue or reoccur, there is no real continuity of stories. The characters, especially Batman and the other superheroes, are simplistically treated, but the plots are perhaps more complex. The Batman comics of the time (and even now) had a tendency to explore deeper motives with a degree of sophistication and a darker attitude that that seems to entail. The Batman portrayed here harks back to a simpler time.

The animated series introduced two new characters that this comic series used to good effect. The first was Batgirl but the highest profile was probably Harley Quinn. Here, she is not portrayed as psychotic, as she is in modern comics and the Suicide Squad movie, but as a goofy comic valentine to the Joker. The Joker is much less malevolent here and the stories do project a lighter tone.

The series has moved on to reprinting the Batman and Robin Adventures series of which one volume has been published so far.

These are a fun read and I think this and the Superman Adventures series would be well suited to readers from 10 to 14, who like fun action comics.

*Reviewed by  
Greig Daniels, Tokomairiro High School*



## BOOK REVIEWS

### FISH IN A TREE – BY LYNDA MULLALY HUNT

*Reviewed by Angela Soutar, Sunnynook School, Auckland*

“Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid.” This is the first thing you read on the front flyleaf!

At first I was not convinced about the main premise of this story, that a child could be in her seventh year in her seventh school and be undiagnosed with dyslexia. However, the character of Ally is very bright and has learnt to distract and has become rebellious or mute. She has also been sent out of the classroom a lot when in trouble and has internalised that she is dumb, despite being excellent at maths and art, a very creative

thinker and good at finding solutions. Life is made more difficult by bullies and teasers in her class but she never gives up.

Still, I became swept up in the unfolding story of convincing and diverse characters, new friendships, persistence and a caring and observant new teacher who gradually works with Ally to develop more skills and get a diagnosis for her. Along the way there is great humour and Ally is elected Class President.

Other characters who represent diversity and difference - with skills to be proud of are Albert with a great memory and a

huge interest in science and facts (autistic/Aspergers), Oliver, impulsively outspoken and active (ADHD) Keisha, African American and a baker, Suki, a Japanese American, who carves wood. Also we meet Travis, Ally’s older brother who is great at fixing mechanical things and who earns enough money for a car and can drive but also has dyslexia.

This is obviously a book for building empathy and suitable for intermediate age mainly. However if anyone has read Wonder and appreciated it they will enjoy Fish in a tree.

### GEEKERELLA – BY ASHLEY POSTON

*Reviewed by Jan Clothier, Karamu High School, Hastings*

When I was a girl, watching Doctor Who was cool because it meant you actually had a television. Later, watching Star Trek was cool because it meant that your parents let you stay up late enough to see it. Going to Star Wars was cool because it was THE movie of ‘77. However, as the years have progressed, loving those things makes you a geek. If you’ve ever had a moment of geekdom, or if you’re a lover of fairy tales, then this book is for you - no matter how old you are.

Elle lives uneasily with her stepmother and step-sisters. Elle’s great love is the cult show Starfield, a love she shared with her deceased father. She is excited by the news that a remake of the series is underway, even if the lead role of Federation Prince Carmindor is to be played by teen soap star Darien Freeman. That he happens to be the idol of her two air-head step-sisters reduces his appeal even further. Despite this, Elle is

determined to win tickets to the Excelsi-Con Cosplay Ball, even if she has to do it behind her stepmother’s back.

This lovely novel manages to give us both a really plausible modern day Cinderella story and a loving look at geeky fandom. Observing the way the elements of the fairy tale were cleverly incorporated into the story was a pleasure. It’s pretty hard not to laugh at the incarnation of the glass coach as a vegan food truck called The Magic Pumpkin.

The story is enhanced by the split narrative which gives us the inside story of the not-so-secure, troubled Prince Charming. The seemingly perfect life of Darien Freeman is not so perfect and by the end of the novel, I found myself cheering as the two star-crossed protagonists finally work things out and the step-sisters get their come-uppance.

This book is a light-hearted, entertaining romance that celebrates being different and shows us that things are not always what they seem. It’s a great book to have in the library.





## LIFE IN A FISHBOWL – BY LEN VLAHOS

*Reviewed by Jan Clothier, Karamu High School, Hastings*

I chose to read this book because I'd enjoyed *Scar Boys* by the same author. This one is also a good one.

Jared Stone has a brain tumour. In order to ensure the financial security of his wife and daughters he agrees to have his last months turned into a reality television show; something he organised without consulting the rest of the family.

Despite the bleak subject matter, the story has plenty of humour. This comes not only from the satirical tone but often from the strange behaviours of the various characters who take an obsessive interest in Jared's imminent death. These range from a mad billionaire to a righteous nun – with many eccentrics in-between. There are multiple perspectives offered but one of the more unusual is Jared's tumour, Glio. From time to time Glio gives the reader an update on his growth and what he's busy doing inside

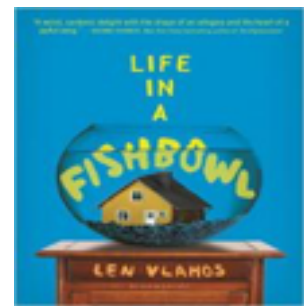
Jared's brain.

While many of the characters are drawn in broad brushstrokes, Jared's daughter Jackie is well-developed and endearing. She struggles with both her father's impending death and his strange decision to bring in the cameras. After seeing the first episode and realising the way the show has misrepresented her family, she begins a campaign to free her family from the contract. It is this, and Jared's decline, that form the structure of the novel.

It's also an interesting insight into the modern connected world we live in and the various uses and abuses of social media. While the show subverts the truth about the Stone family, Jackie finds solace and comfort with her Facebook friend in Russia. While all the world has something to say about Jared's attempt to sell himself on E-bay, it is the power of social media

that in the end is used to bring about the salvation of the Stone family - and it's pretty interesting how that is done!

This book would read well alongside AS King's *Reality Boy* and Ben Elton's *Dead Famous*. It's not a book to everyone's taste, either because of the subject matter or the satirical style, but experienced readers of any age will enjoy it.



## LILY AND DUNKIN – BY DONNA GEPHART

*Reviewed by Clare Forrest, Librarian, Raroa Normal Intermediate, Wellington*

Another moving, if challenging, example of the realistic fiction genre perfect for the upper primary/lower secondary reader. Lily and Dunkin introduces us to two troubled eighth graders (13 year olds) with very different secrets and problems to deal with.

Lily was born Tim, with boy parts and everything, but she knows that she is meant to be a girl and is desperate to be starting the hormone blocking drugs that will prevent her body becoming even more masculine. She has the support of her best friend Dare (there are many interesting names in this book), her mum and her big sister, but her dad is struggling with her desire to wear dresses and makeup and show the world who she really is as a transgender girl.

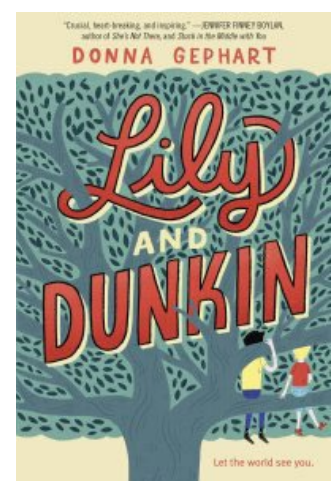
Dunkin, real name Norbert Dorfman, is living with bipolar disorder and trying to

deal with the consequences of his dad's own mental illness. Having just moved to a new town and a new school for reasons that reveal themselves gradually during this story, Norbert meets Tim and their problems and lives become intertwined. And intertwined with those of the school hero/jock and Neanderthal John Vasquez.

Both narratives ring true; it was interesting to read that Gephart's own son has bipolar disorder which helped dispel any doubts I had about someone so young being diagnosed and medicated for a mental health illness, and even if the end seems a little too happy and sweet, I really hope there are indeed as many accepting and tolerant people in the world.

It's so nice to find a well written story that gives our trans students or those living with

mental health challenges a voice, and rare to find one appropriate for Intermediate level.





## MING'S ADVENTURE WITH THE TERRACOTTA ARMY – BY LI JIA

*Reviewed by Angela Soutar, Sunnynook School, Auckland*

This book attempts to present some facts about the famous terracotta soldiers, their historical background and what they represent - for 5-8 year olds - alongside an imaginative story about Ming. The story is clunky, doesn't flow well, and is poorly translated at times, and the proof reading is lacking. The design is on the whole

attractive and of good quality but the factual sections change sides from left page to right page which causes confusion, and sometimes the illustration is amateurish.

Some might consider it still worth buying to highlight Chinese culture and history. My copy was only \$15 before discount.



## MY DOG DOESN'T LIKE ME – BY ELIZABETH FENSHAM

*Reviewed by Angela Soutar, Sunnynook School, Auckland*

In fact you could say that nearly nine year old Eric's dog hates him, as he behaves well and responds for every other member of the family except him. Could it be because he names him Ugly?

He returns home and sneaks back into his room, hoping no-one else noticed, and at least glad that someone cared. We also feel for him as his older sister teases and persecutes him.

There's a mix of sadness, poignancy and humour in this engaging book; - for example when Eric is so upset about his lack of bonding with Ugly that he runs away - with a wheelbarrow full of supplies - to the local park. He becomes alarmed when he sees an older man lurking nearby, then realises it is his grandad keeping an eye on him.

Gradually, Eric learns he must spend constructive time with his pet and learn how to train him well. All works out well in the end.

I don't often laugh out loud when reading children's books but this is delightful. Good for 8-11 year olds.



## NORSE MYTHOLOGY – BY NEIL GAIMAN

*Reviewed by Bridget Schaumann, King's High School, Dunedin*

When you are an author of the standing of Neil Gaiman, publishers are going to put a gorgeous cover on your book. This has certainly happened with this one. In shining glory on the cover is Thor's Hammer. Forged by dwarves in competition with each other to make the most outrageously good weapon, the story of the hammer is one of the stories told in this rather magnificent book. The stories in this book will give you a good grounding in Norse mythology; you will discover Thor, Odin and Loki and all their various wives, siblings and offspring. You will discover their various skills and

along the way you will find a lot to make you smile. The stories are written with a light touch and with a good dose of Neil Gaiman's sense of humour. These gods are not well behaved, they are often drunk and involved in various kinds of trickery and mayhem. They play tricks on each other and challenge one another to ridiculous feats. There were many highlights amongst the stories but one which I have found has stayed with me is the story of what will happen at the end of the world, the ultimate fates of the gods, a cautionary tale.

This is a book which has equal appeal to adults and kids. When the book was awaiting processing on my bench I had a queue of boys clamouring to get hold of it. They were both juniors and seniors and I've had to go and get a second copy to attempt to satisfy demand. I've also got the Neil Gaiman fans on the staff waiting anxiously for a go at the book. Many of those waiting to get their hands on it are students who have grown up with Percy Jackson; the myths and legends are incredibly popular with these guys. I expect this one to do brisk business.

## PROMISED LAND – BY ADAM REYNOLDS & CHAS HARRIS

*Reviewed by Bridget Schaumann, King's High School, Dunedin*

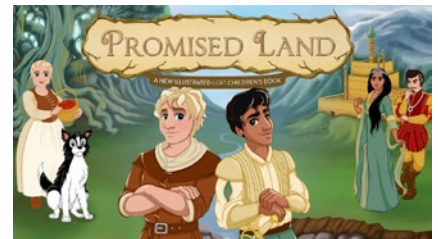
This book was sent to Collected in exchange for an honest review.

Finally! A picture book for children showing two boys in love! If you have been looking for a New Zealand picture book which will sing to all those children in your school who come from families where their parents are in a same-sex relationship, it is finally available. This story is a traditional fairy tale but with the heroes being young men who love and care about each other and who have a loving, long lasting relationship. Ahhhhhh! A balm to my jaded heart! On a personal level, I am delighted to see this book published, my children would have embraced it. When the relationships that you see in your daily life are never represented in the stories you hear, it must seem strange. Same sex relationships are the norm for so many kids in New Zealand, why don't we see that represented in story? Well now we do!

The book is beautifully produced, there is a wide cast of characters and they are endearing. There is a lovely map at the beginning, so that you can get your bearings with the places mentioned in the story and apart from the gender of the protagonists it follows a very traditional path. Lovely queen marries evil grasping man, her son is worried and sad, he meets another young boy who helps him escape, they tackle the bad guy with the help of some magical forest spirits in order to rescue the forest and the land they live on. They rescue the queen, who takes all the power away from the evil grasping man with a large sword - I liked that a lot.

There is lots of action, a good environmental message and everyone eventually lives happily ever after. I loved that there were people of different skin colours represented, indeed, there are a lot of things to love in

this book. The story is a little clunky in places, but I found that forgivable, this is a modern day fairy tale and lots of the traditional fairy tales are a bit clunky too. I think a firm hand with the editing process would have made the story more manageable as a read aloud. Although it has its faults it is a story that is romantic and sweet and the good guys win which makes my jaded old heart go all goey!



## SCYTHE – BY NEAL SHUSTERMAN

*Reviewed by Bridget Schaumann, King's High School, Dunedin*

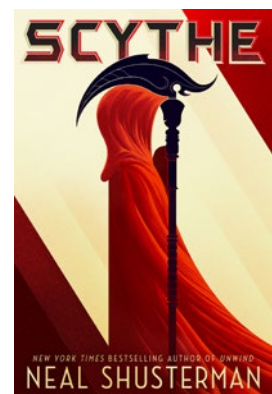
In my library Neal Shusterman's *Unwind* and *Everlost* series have been popular over the years. This author always manages to write a story that is sinister and creepy and which teenagers relate to really well. Several of my readerly friends and I have been very keen on him for quite a while. His latest book is possibly one of his best. This is a book which is fully formed, satisfying and provoking. It has already been awarded one of the highest accolades having been chosen as a Honor title in The Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature for 2017.

In the future, sickness and injury are no longer problems, even cancer has been cured. This means that the world has reached the stage where people don't die from natural causes anymore, as technology has broken all the boundaries of mortality.

If everyone can live forever you need some method of population control, the answer to that is the Scythes. They select those who will be culled to keep the population at a manageable level. This is the story of two teenagers who are chosen for the role of Scythe by one of the most respected of the Scythes. They have no choice, if you are chosen you must conform, but in this case they must compete against each other for one position, the winner of the role of Scythe must kill the other. This is a problem as the two gradually go from being very intolerant of each other to becoming friends and having respect for each other.

Neal Shusterman has written a great novel. It is really grim, as I expect that from this author, but it is full of interesting moral dilemmas along with loads of action. This would be a wonderful companion novel to

*The Handmaid's Tale* and other dystopian or speculative fiction. It is nicely complicated and filled with excellent dialogue. It was a fabulous read and I'm going to recommend it far and wide.



## RELEASE – BY PATRICK NESS

*Reviewed by Bridget Schaumann, King's High School, Dunedin*

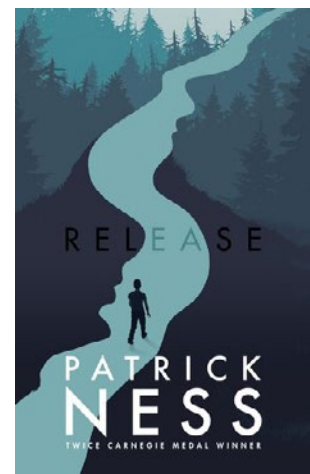
I had high expectations of this book having read a plot synopsis and had been waiting with bated breath for my copies to arrive. I'd heard that it had references to Mrs Dalloway, one of my favourite characters, and I had high hopes. Ness's books are some of my most popular, I'm frequently replacing worn copies and buying extra ones. My staff read his books and he is one of the writers I can thrust at young men and almost guarantee that they will find much to love in his books. I've been a loyal follower of Patrick Ness - his support of school libraries and his encouragement of reading in young people is legendary. I'm a fan. This book though is difficult.

Our hero is Adam, a young man living in a small town in rural America. He is well aware that he is gay and has always known this. He has explored his sexuality thoroughly and we are treated to some heart rending scenes as he experiences first love and first tentative, and then full on, experiences of sex. Adam's best friend is the feisty Ange, she calls things as she sees them, they have been friends since they were little children, they discuss everything; their friendship provides wonderful comedic relief for Adam. Dominant in the background are Adam's

family, his overbearing hard core Christian father, his anxiously devout mum, and his up till now, perfect in every way brother. Adam has been unable to talk to them about his sexuality; he knows they won't accept him and he knows that his lifestyle goes against everything they believe in. Add to this the fact that his job sucks, his boss is trying to hit on him and is bullying him in a very inappropriate way. There is a lot going on for Adam but he is generous, good natured and despite being obsessed with his totally self-absorbed ex-boyfriend, a nice guy. This is all beautifully written - a gem of a novel.

Here is the problem though, running alongside this story is a parallel story, a young woman has been brutally murdered. She rises up from the lake and her activities are observed by a faun who tries to keep her from being permanently stuck in this world. This story runs alongside Adam's story, with references in each to the other story. I felt that this detracted from the main story. Yes they are linked and it is a clever concept, but it didn't work to make the book stronger. I felt they belonged in separate books, each with value, but together they were distracting.

There are a lot of graphic descriptions of sex in this book. It is going to make some readers uncomfortable. Schools of special character may want to read Adam's story before adding it to their collection. I personally had no problems in adding this book to my stock, and I know it will have an audience - the Patrick Ness fans won't be able to help themselves. In short, I loved Adam's story, but I had reservations about the rest.



## REGION NEWS

### TE TAI TOKERAU

We have held two events this year. In Term One we brought David Riley up North and held an after school session that sixteen people attended. Please see the article on this event elsewhere in this issue.

Working with Storylines Festival organisers we secured three New Zealand children's authors for a panel discussion at Kerikeri High School, after school, in early May. SLANZA Te Tai Tokerau wishes to acknowledge Storylines sponsorship which helped us to hold this free event, which twenty-six people from the community attended.



Melinda Szymanik

Tim Tipene

Diana Menefy

Each author shared a different take on their writing journey. Diana Menefy spoke of the research process she undertook to maintain factual integrity in her historic war novel *1915: Wounds of War*. Melinda Szymanik talked of how a lack of authors writing for teenagers as she was growing up, inhibited her ambition to be a writer, so she didn't start writing until much later. She read from her latest book *Fuzzy Doodle*, a scrumptious picture book. Tim Tipene shared how he climbed beyond his abusive upbringing to become the award winning author he is today, leaving us with the message that if he can do it, anyone can. Perseverance was a common theme used by all three authors - that rejection hurts but keep reading, keep writing, and keep trying other publishers.

With questions from the floor, the session went way over time, yet the authors gave willingly of their time and knowledge which gave an equally valuable opportunity to all promising writers as well as those who admire and appreciate New Zealand authors and books.

At the end of June we have primary school librarian Marama Keyte presenting her SLANZA conference session *A dozen practical strategies to take the "shhh!" out of your school library and get the kids in*. This will be trial run through in Whangarei before her fellow Northlanders. Marama is enthusiastic, passionate and creative, with an array of fresh ideas to make the library a fun place where students



want to hang out, and to develop lifelong readers. This promises to be a fantastic event not to be missed.

Julia Smith

Te Tai Tokerau Representative to the SLANZA National Executive

### AUCKLAND

The Auckland Region held a book launch at the National Library for their first event of the year. Here's what Corinne Hinton from King's College said about it.

"On the 15th March Auckland SLANZA met to celebrate the launch of David Riley's latest book in his sporting series: *Powering up with Joseph Parker*. We were very lucky that David could spend the time to be with us, as he is in high demand for his talks all over the country.

David is passionate about helping young people to engage with books and connect with their cultures. As a teacher and writer, he carefully chooses to write about sporting heroes with human qualities, in order to connect with his readers and encourage them to see the relevance of literacy in real life. He won't write a book unless he gets the go-ahead from his subject. We heard that *Powering up with Joseph Parker* took five years of research and a year to write. As someone who self-publishes (and relies on the income from one book to finance the next) David told us that he can lose as much as 40% if his books are sold via book suppliers rather than directly from his website [readingwarrior.com](http://readingwarrior.com). He encouraged everyone to buy from him directly and promised a speedy delivery.



David's talk prompted a plea for more books on the people and culture of Tuvalu who have a special problem as global warming refugees. Finally, Karen Leahy thanked David very much for his time wishing him every success with his new book and calling him "a treasure for the valuable work that he does in schools."

Our Term Two event is our AGM will be held at Freeman's Bay School on the 14th June. Our guest speaker is Susan Elias - illustrator, designer and teacher. As this article was written before the event but published afterwards I will provide more details in the next edition of *Collected*.

Our biggest focus this year, of course, has been the organizing of the 2017 SLANZA Conference to be held at King's College in Otahuhu, Auckland. A dedicated team of hard working committee members is putting together what we hope will be an amazing three and a half days. We hope you can come and join us in celebrating school libraries while being challenged by, and learning from, our amazing keynote speakers and library colleagues.

*Trish Webster*  
Auckland Representative To the SLANZA National Executive

## CENTRAL

Tena koutou katoa!

Central has had some substantial change over the previous six months. We farewelled Miriam Tuohy late last year, and then Sandi Faulconbridge in April this year. Miriam and Sandi brought their passion and professionalism to our region and to the SLANZA National Executive and both were outstanding Presidents. We miss their sense of humour and their compassion. So within a few months we're onto our third chairperson - what a testimony to the calibre of people within our region!

It does feel a little funny to introduce myself, but as it is my privilege to write this contribution, I'm probably the best qualified. I'm Stephanie Gibbons, otherwise known as Steph G - we have two Steph's in Central, myself and the wonderful Steph Ellis or, Steph E. We're twins actually, we live opposite each other on the island and both work at boys schools.

I've been a member of SLANZA since starting in school libraries in 2010 and joined the Central committee in 2015. I've previously worked in public libraries (Christchurch City Libraries - 15 years), Storytime Bookshop in Whangarei, then Whangarei Girls' High, before moving to New Plymouth Boys' High in 2012.

Our PD in Term One was presented by Alison Hewett from Kristin School, Auckland, who wowed and inspired us in the way she has embedded e-resources as part of not just the library but the wider school curriculum, supporting learning in a very visible and valued way. As most Central members travel to participate in PD (often held near Palmerston North due its central position), we often stress the value of the journey as part of the PD day, as a result, friendships and collegiality is nurtured and our laugh muscles get a great workout! Our PD days are now a highlight as we view it as a road trip with lots of unintentional learning happening. Central members, come and join us for our next one in June!

Nga mihi nui,

*Stephanie Gibbons*  
Central Representative to the SLANZA National Executive

## WELLINGTON

Welcome to all our new SLANZA members this year in the Wellington region - we're glad to have you on board and we hope to see you at our SLANZA events so we can get to know you better.

Our SLANZA year started with a book buying night in Term One at Paper Plus Lower Hutt, hosted by John Valleley. There was a great turnout for such a wet and stormy night (a very rare thing in Wellington) and the night was filled with much catching up with old friends and new members. We also got to take away free books, bookmarks and book bags and stock up on brand new books for our collections. Afterwards many relocated to a nearby restaurant for an enjoyable meal and more library talk.

Our next organised event is our AGM to be held at Wellington Girls' College on Wednesday 14 June. Our guest speaker will be Fulbright Scholar Merry Willis, who is currently in New Zealand visiting schools in her capacity as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) specialist teacher. She will talk about the insight she has gained into how technology is being used to impact student learning throughout New Zealand, as she has visited many schools all over the country.

Thanks to the generosity of Book Protection Products and the SLANZA National Executive we have been able to assist two school librarians to get to this year's SLANZA Conference in Auckland in July. Kristy Wilson from Porirua College and Estelle Henrys from Cardinal McKeefry School are the lucky sponsorship recipients.

*Clare Forrest*  
Wellington Region Chairperson



## OTAGO

As always, the Otago Region is in great spirit, with steady membership numbers and several exciting events in the planning stages.

We have said farewell and 'happy retirement' to several of our secondary school library members recently: Robyn Tod (St Hilda's Collegiate), Helen Thew (Columba College), Lynn Paterson (Dunstan High School), Hilary Bishop (Waitaki Boys' High School) and Jenny Millar (Logan Park) have all retired from their posts in recent months. We would like to thank them all for their contributions and friendship over the years. And while it is sad to say goodbye, we are delighted to be able to welcome their replacements into the SLANZA Otago group, along with new librarians in Oamaru, Alexandra and Balclutha.

Our first event for 2017 was a Professional Development session entitled 'The Starting Point: A toolkit to help new (and not so new) NZ school librarians find inspiration and answers to their questions', combined with a farewell to SLANZA life member Jenny Millar on her retirement from Logan Park High School.

Following afternoon tea, Chairperson Jan Simpson welcomed everyone along and as there were some new faces, we did a quick round of introductions. It was great to see some of our new members. Jan then summarised Jenny Millar's long career in libraries and highlighted her significant contributions to SLANZA over many years. Jenny introduced Michelle Summerfield (currently at the University Book Shop) as her new replacement at Logan Park. Jenny is heading to Nelson to enjoy her retirement with family close by and we wish her all the very best for her retirement.

Carole Gardiner then presented a slide show of resources/links/names/groups that would be helpful as a starting point for new librarians when looking for inspiration or answers to library questions. This was well received. A list of local 'mentors' was also shared so that members had people to contact if they needed help with specific things.

The meeting concluded around 6pm with a glass of wine.

The Otago Committee is currently planning two events for term Two - our AGM to be held in June, and a book buying event at Dunedin Paper Plus.

*Greig Daniels/Carole Gardiner*  
SLANZA Otago Committee

## SOUTHLAND

Southland SLANZA had a very successful visit from David Riley at the end of 2016. David is a captivating speaker with a motivational message for all reluctant readers but in particular for Maori and Pacific Island students. I first heard David speak at the 2015 Christchurch Conference and I knew that I wanted to bring him down to Southland so the rest of our members could meet him and experience his enthusiasm and passion for reading. We certainly worked him very hard during his visit south, with four student workshops and four teacher/librarian presentations. David was able to provide all participants with practical ideas for encouraging reading and inspired us all to believe in ourselves. The feedback from all of his presentations has been very positive and the big effort it takes to get someone to the bottom of the country was well worth it. It was also fantastic to tap into our Maori/Pacific Island communities with a special event one evening. If you haven't already heard David speak, I highly recommend taking the opportunity next time he is in your region.

We would like to thank Book Protection Products for their continued support of our regional PD and the ILT for some funding towards David's flights and accommodation.

Our next event will be (was by the time of publication) a presentation by Paul du Temple from Wheelers regarding the ePlatform One and the new Audiobook ePlatform with a sneaky wee AGM to follow.

We have had 3 retirements from the region in the last 6 months. We have farewelled Jenny, Glenys and Annie and we wish them a long and happy retirement. Jenny Taylor was a long standing Treasurer for Southland SLANZA and we will miss her experience on the committee. We would like to welcome Heidi, Karen and Rowan to the wonderful community that is SLANZA.

Looking forward to seeing you at Conference!

*Kirsty Adam*  
Southland Representative to The SLANZA National Executive



SLANZA is committed to providing quality professional development opportunities to its members, and we are very grateful for the ongoing sponsorship of professional development provided by Book Protection Products. This sponsorship is invaluable and greatly appreciated by the National Executive as it significantly broadens options for regional committees. The funding provided by Warick Ashton and his team goes to the regional committees so they can organise professional development sessions that will fulfill your personal learning needs. Please continue to support Book Protection Products as they are SLANZA's major sponsor, and if you have an idea or topic for professional development in your area, let your committee know!

## BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

*Business members support the work of SLANZA.*

*Current members are:*

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Top Shelf Members – Hydestor Manufacturing Ltd,  
Kowhai Media (NZ Geographic and Mana),  
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Softlink Pacific, Syba Signs, Accessit

Circulator Members – Library Plus  
Echelon Productions

Reserved Member – Cengage

Periodical Members – Antac Open Source Solutions  
E-Learning for Business and Education

## WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN SLANZA

*The benefits of membership include:*

- Connection and networking with other school library staff locally
- Discounted conference and professional development registrations
- Support for school libraries at a national level
- Opportunities to gain skills and professional development from people who do what you do
- Opportunity to apply for the SLANZA awards
- Opportunity to apply for study grant assistance with library-related studies
- Permission to use the cover images of publications of major publishing houses
- Access to the LIANZA professional registration scheme
- Access to our collection of Professional Development eBooks
- Fee-free study opportunities with the Open Polytechnic

## NEWS + CONTACT

If you're not sure who does what or who can help you, check out our [Contact page](#) on our website. It links to all region representatives.

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