

Auckland Regional Convenor's Report for the AGM held on 1 June 2005.

Welcome SLANZA, Auckland Region members.

The 2004 AGM saw a number of new faces voted onto the Committee, Jane Mackie, Jackie McCormick, Karen Monk and Jill Dawson. It is always good to get new people involved in organisations as they bring new ideas and new vitality. It was with sadness that we accepted Fiona Mackie, Anne Meredith, and Jan Foote's resignations from the committee. Fiona Mackie was involved with ASLA and subsequently SLANZA; she had wonderful secretarial skills that kept the committee up to date. She remains a member of the SLANZA Conference Committee. Anne Meredith contributed her vast knowledge of the Primary Sector; unfortunately her attendance became a victim of the Auckland traffic chaos. Jan Foote had been a valued member since the inception of SLANZA serving on the National Executive, and more recently on the SLANZA Conference Committee for 2005.

I would like to thank the Committee for their commitment during a particularly busy period as many of us are on the SLANZA Conference Committee. In particular Pauline McCowan, who has been an invaluable help to myself with reminders and prompts where necessary. Thanks also go out to National Library for providing a venue for our committee meetings and functions when needed.

November 2004 saw us gather for our annual Christmas 'do' at Corran School; thanks to Karen Monk for co-ordinating this event. It was well attended with Pauline McCowan, Lyn Walker and Mary Bodmin giving a PowerPoint presentation of their trip to the IASL Conference in Dublin earlier in the year. It is always enriching to receive feedback from conference attendees. Anthea Hamlet also gave us an update on the 'AnyQuestions' initiative showing us the inquiry process. Carol from Women's Bookshop and Julie from Jabberwocky provided us with a wonderful opportunity to purchase from their stock. We have had a quiet 2005 with time and technology becoming a critical factor in trying to organise an occasion for the membership to meet. With new members on the Committee and Conference over we will be able to focus on the professional development needs of the membership, and as has been mooted a look at the critical factors inhibiting attendance within the Auckland Region.

A new initiative this year to increase information getting to the membership was compiling an e-mail list for sending information about up and coming events and issues to do with school libraries and literacy on a more regular basis. This will be used in the future to send out newsletters and flyers, we are definitely moving into the electronic age.

The membership in the Auckland Region is growing every week. Nationally we are just about to break the 700 barrier for the first time. I think this is very encouraging as the National Executive have worked very hard at becoming involved with initiatives such as the Digital Strategy, Remuneration research, PPTA Reference groups, among others. These all have implications for school libraries so it is good to see our voices being heard. I look forward to meeting and working with the existing members and new committee for 2005/2006.

Along with membership we could not function as effectively without the continuing supportive sponsorship from RAECO. This has enabled each region to sponsor three members to the July SLANZA Conference.

Kaaren Hirst,  
Chairperson,  
SLANZA, Auckland Region,  
1 June 2005.