

## SLANZAK Annual General Meeting Chair report 2003 – 2004

SLANZAK started the year 2003 with a well-attended Saturday seminar at Kings' College on March 1st. The topic for the seminar was "Girls and Reading" and in keeping with the themes of the previous year, the occasion was held in a boys' college. Paula Boock and Carol Beu were inspiring and entertaining keynote speakers accompanied by four workshops run by Fiona Mackie from National Library Auckland, Jane Edgar Teacher Librarian Mellon's Bay School, Kaaren Hirst Library Manager Lynfield College and a panel comprising a variety of library people and the Kid Lit Quiz winners for 2002, St Cuthbert's College Auckland. Many a satisfied customer left The Women's Bookshop and Jabberwocky stands going home with an armful of new books to enjoy!

A committee of eleven people was elected for the next year and by April there were 170 members of SLANZA in the Auckland region.

In April members of the Auckland Committee wrote to the New Zealand Herald and The Waikato Times with regard to the closing of the School Library at Cambridge High School and SLANZA National Executive worked with National Library Management in discussion with Alison Annan the Principal of Cambridge High School. The school library was closed. At the time of writing this report there is an extensive article in the May issue of the North and South Magazine about Cambridge High School and the lack of the library and library issues are still being discussed.

From April to May, members who had not attended a SLANZA Conference before were canvassed by letter as to having a conference registration of \$300 paid for them. Members had to write to the local committee and there were certain criteria to fill. The letters were put into a hat at the next SLANZAK event to find a winner for the two available registrations.

Term 2, June 7<sup>th</sup> "Maori and Pasifika, Alive in Libraries" was held on the Marae at Avondale College and in the College Library. This was another very well attended event on a Saturday. We were privileged to be the last public speaking occasion to hear Robert Sullivan before he took up a teaching position in Hawaii. Robert read to us from his latest publication, 'Weaving Earth and Sky, Myths and Legends of Aotearoa'. This took place in the whareniui after the morning's Powhiri. We then moved to the Library for morning tea and book sales and to hear Alice Heather, Maori Adviser, National Library Auckland and Rosetta Reti-Semanu, Manager of Tupu Youth Library, Auckland.

Term 3 was the time for the Library Trail on Saturday 30th August. Seventeen primary, intermediate and secondary schools opened their libraries on the Saturday morning for people to make their own tour itinerary. Those who made use of the opportunity to visit other school libraries, gained ideas, affirmation and encouragement and very enthusiastically received the occasion. This is an event that will be repeated in the future perhaps taking the form of a bus ride.

September saw approximately fifty-eight people from the Auckland region attending the Christchurch "Powerful Partnerships" Conference at Rangi Ruru Girls' School. Christchurch in springtime was a treat. The conference programme was diverse and engaging. Topics for interest, dissection and instigation, ranged from the age old tradition of fairy-tales, to the very latest in on-line learning, from copyright issues in education, to coping with school archives, from the implementation of school wide Information Literacy programmes to National Library initiatives, best practice for library staff appraisal, and much more. Sarah Fordyce from Sherwood School, North Shore Auckland and Fiona Smith-Pilling from Orewa College,

Orewa, attended a SLANZA Conference for the first time having had their letters pulled out of the hat in June.

In Term 4 a “Christmas Bit of Do” was held at National Library. Jabberwocky and The Women’s’ Bookshop did a roaring trade in Christmas presents. Liz Probert, SLANZA National President reported on the Australian School Library Conference held in Tasmania October 2003. Sarah Fordyce had us rolling in the aisles with her poetic and “Dewey-fied” account of the Christchurch conference. Fiona was not able to attend the meeting having just given birth to a son. There was a particular feeling of fellowship at the meeting with members expressing their confidence in SLANZA. Members are now able to see and experience what the organisation can do and be for them.

In August 2003, the Auckland Committee sent out to Auckland schools a comprehensive questionnaire asking that all members of the Library Team take time to fill in the questionnaire. There were 303 responses. This was done in response to the number of concerns being expressed by members about pay, job descriptions, work place conditions, professional status etc. After seeing the survey results, the quick advice to all people in school libraries is join your union! Kaaren Hirst, the committee member who put the survey together and worked on compiling the results will be presenting a report at the Annual General Meeting 2004.

During this year the committee has seen two members resign and one previous committee member rejoin. Maureen Trebilcock took up a Teacher Librarian position in an International School in Beijing, China. Fiona Mackie, National Library, Auckland has joined the 2005 Conference Planning Committee. Thank you to both these people for the work they have done towards the continuing good health of SLANZAK. We wish them well. When Jill Stotter completed her time as National President, SLANZAK asked her to join the local committee again.

An event called “Spicing the Mix – Flavouring the Collection” was planned for March 2004. This was to be held after school at Auckland City Library. Unfortunately the committee had to cancel this event because of lack of registrations. On reflection, the Auckland committee decided that given the success of past events, Saturday events work well and perhaps the committee’s energy is best deployed in organising seminar type occasions at schools away from city traffic.

As writer of this report and therefore Auckland Chair, I once again find myself blown away by the amount that is achieved by hard working professionals who good heartedly give of their time and energy. I intend to stand down as Auckland Chair as I strongly believe that strength for an organisation comes from making sure committees have new ideas and energies coming through all the time. You will have noticed from your recent local newsletter that a ‘quieter ‘ programme is planned for this year as most of the Auckland committee are working towards the 2005 conference.

The Auckland SLANZA Committee would like to acknowledge the ongoing support received from RAECO.

Thank you to the members of SLANZAK for supporting this committee and thank you to all the committee for your ongoing hard work and goodwill.