

Chairman's Report Aoraki/Canterbury AGM 26 August 2002

It is my pleasure to report on the activities of the Canterbury Region of Aoraki Slanza. Aoraki as a whole has 95 members:

- 58 in Canterbury (Christchurch, Rangiora, Kaiapoi etc)
- 20 in Nelson Marlborough
- 15 in South Canterbury
- 2 on the West Coast

Those members bear many job labels but broadly break down into these groups:

- 8 Library Manager
- 49 Librarians
- 5 Library Assistants
- 16 Teachers with Library responsibility
- 4 national Library Advisors
- 1 teacher's aide (who is probably a Library assistant)
- 1 technician

6 Trained teacher librarians.

Before you read too much significance into this breakdown remember that everyone had to think of the job title they use, and different labels mean different things in each school. The important thing to remember is that we all work to help the pupils/clients/staff make best use of the facilities in our schools and that Slanza works to represent all Library staff.

Slanza Aoraki / Canterbury has operated as a region since a tea meeting in May 2001. This followed a series of meetings introducing Slanza to library staff in Christchurch. At the tea meeting a committee representing all the types of library staff was chosen/cajoled into forming the Aoraki Canterbury Committee.

These people have worked hard since then to develop our group. I would like to thank them now for all their efforts. They circulated and collated a survey to find out what our regional members wanted. This led to two seminars last year. The first was an opportunity for Slanza members to hear the presentations made at the IASL Conference in Auckland. Phillipa Ashby, Judi Hancock, Bob Doherty all delivered their seminars to a receptive audience at Christchurch Boys' High. The second seminar, was also well received when Viv Grant took us through a workshop on Information Skills and Research at Lincoln High School.

This year we have offered a range of seminars which were indicated as desirable by the responses to the survey. These included:

- Beginner' guide to the Internet
- Science Alive display cases

- What do primary Library staff want

Each of these planned courses received only 5 or 6 responses which means either that everyone is too busy to think about attending seminars or we are not offering what you want. Feedback from the session with primary staff indicated that they were interested in professional development and raising their status within their schools... a sentiment echoed recently on the list serve. (This may be partially answered by the keynote speaker at the 2003 Conference).

Another problem is actually getting the messages out to each member and to potential members in school libraries. How many of you have seen the flier for the 2003 Conference, Powerful Partnerships, sent to your school in the latest National Library newsletter? How many of you got information fliers sent to every primary school in the Christchurch area in letters I addressed to The Library Staff? As a result of these problems in communication we sent the notice for this AGM to each member's email address. That left us with about 15 to post.... Much cheaper on the funds than posting out 650 or so to get to every school in the Aoraki region !

Very shortly library staff in the Nelson/Marlborough area plan to set up their own committee which will run their end of the regions. It is hoped that Timaru people may also set up a South Canterbury Chapter. That will mean each area will be able to answer the needs of the people in the area and still feed items through to the National Executive.

Positives from the year have been the increase in numbers of members, the attendance of some members at the 2002 Mini Conference held recently in Wellington, the working together of the committee, the planning for 2003 Conference Icommittee listed below know what you want us to help with.

Jane McBride, Aranui High School

Merilynne Smaill, Riccarton High School

Adrienne Shapland Medbury School

Karen Gardiner Opawa School

Shirley Scott St Marks School

Niki Waterhouse, Lincoln High School

Margaret Forbes, Christchurch Boys High School