

# Slanza Aoraki Canterbury Chairperson's Report 2003

Aoraki membership has increased to 132 from a national total of 609. (Cf 95 last year)

Christchurch – city and surrounding areas (includes Rangiora, Kaiapoi, Leeston, Lincoln)	79
South Canterbury	13
Mid Canterbury (Methven, Darfield, Geraldine, Kirwee, Ashburton)	9
Westland / Buller	3
Top of the South (Nelson, Marlborough, Tasman)	28

The job labels applied to these enrolments cover the full range of library staff. Next year it is hoped that the descriptions of positions can be formalized, using the definitions set out on the Slanza web page, so that these descriptors can be more easily interpreted. What is of interest is the wide variety of qualifications held by our members. When I enter the qualifications information it is not unusual for members to have two or three qualifications Including: 25 years experience, Certificate for Library in School (?), MA (Hons), MEd (Hons) MBs (Hons) ... these last three all held by one very bright member!

Since the last AGM Slanza Aoraki has developed into a “toddling two year old”.

We still have the problems of a far-flung region and we need to develop ways to make sure all our members feel included in the region.

Top of the South (Nelson, Marlborough and Tasman) has established its own committee and they have worked to develop Slanza in their area. They have held several successful sessions. Judi Hancock and I were able to be present at the launch of Top of the South in November last year when their guest was the storyteller Stu Duval. Their most recent venture was a Literacies and Libraries seminar last weekend at which Vince Ford was one of the guest speakers.

South Canterbury was asked if they also wanted to develop a similar area group but they felt that their network meetings fitted their needs at the moment.

Aoraki Canterbury has held seminars on a wide variety of topics since the last AGM, though I must say that I have been disappointed at the numbers attending these.

1. We made a second attempt at discussing “Burning Issues” in October 2002

2. Term 1 we held a March meeting with Jennyth Spence of the NZEI to find out what could be done about issues to do with salary and conditions
3. Term 2 was a great session on Library web pages run by Niki Waterhouse at Lincoln
4. Term 3 meeting to follow the AGM on the topic of "Where to buy? How to get discounts etc?"

If you didn't attend these sessions could you please let us know why? Is it the topics? The time of meeting? Notification by email? By posted flier? By personal contact?

Maybe we should just concentrate our efforts on one big day each year instead of trying to organize a session for each term?

Unfortunately neither Saturday morning nor after school sessions seem to be convenient for many people. The incoming committee will be looking at ways to find out what sort of meetings the members do want since the last survey we did of our membership is now two years old.

Slanza nationally has also grown. We have made submissions on several key issues including pay equity, information strategies and NCEA research requirements. These submissions are all posted on the web site [www.slanza.org.nz](http://www.slanza.org.nz).

Slanza entered the Lianza 3M award for library innovation this year with the submission being prepared by Judi Hancock and the members of the National Executive. Though we did not make the finals, the exercise served to focus us on Slanza's role in the wider library scene.

Locally our voice in Lianza has been welcomed. I have been attending Lianza meetings since Alison Pearson left in February and have found a keen interest in the local Lianza committee to include school members in as many activities as possible. Hence the postings of Lianza functions on to the school-lib list serve.

Lianza ran a successful weekend seminar in Nelson which some of our Top of the South members participated in.

It is important that we continue to liaise with the wider community. We have committee members representing all fields of school libraries. They take the Slanza message out to their networks, subject groups and groups such as Lianza and Canterbury Reading Association.

I would like to thank several people as I come to the end of my time as Aoraki Chairperson.

First of all, Delia, Alison and my colleagues at Christchurch Boys High. They have allowed me the privilege of putting time and energy into Slanza business.

Then the rest of the Aoraki Committee. They have worked hard, in their own time, to get us to where we are now. A measure of their involvement is the fact that they are all willing to stand again for the committee.

Then I need to thank Judi Hancock and the National Executive. She (and they) have spent hours and hours advancing Slanza. National Executive meetings are either two hour + teleconferences or two day (8 hour days) face-to-face meetings three times a year. These meetings are backed up by dedicated work on anything to do with school libraries and information skills/literacy.

Raeco has sponsored every Slanza region and its generous support has meant that postage, speaker costs and afternoon tea costs have not had to be borne by individual regions or schools. Thank you.

Lastly I would like to thank the membership of Slanza. The vision of a School Library Association representing all New Zealand school library staff is growing... I look forward to seeing it continue.

**Margaret Forbes**  
**12/8/03**