

## **Aoraki Chair Report 2006**

Welcome everyone to the SLANZA Aoraki AGM for 2006. For all of you who attended sessions today, I hope you have enjoyed them and I look forward to the rest of the afternoon.

The highlight for the last 12 months would have to be the SLANZA conference held in Auckland in July last year. The Auckland organizing committee is to be congratulated. I personally found the sessions to be informative and stimulating. I thank the committee for the opportunity to attend the event. Judging from the feedback that we have had it was a positive experience for all. Anne McCormick of Middleton Grange College and Dayle Campbell of van Asch Deaf Education Centre were the lucky recipients of SLANZA registrations to attend the conference.

During term 3 we went out into the region and talked to members about the highlights of the conference. We met about 70 members in Ashburton, Geraldine and finally here in Christchurch. We have kept in touch with the members in the Marlborough region, or as we know them The Top of The South committee. As they have been very busy organizing this year's mini-conference that is being held in July this year in Nelson. Entitled "World of Words – The Art of Literacy" it looks to be a very interesting and informative conference with keynote speakers Bridget Lowry and Barbara Braxton. I look forward to meeting many of your there.

In term 4 we had a very enjoyable evening in St. Mark's School new library. The Xmas Bit of a Do was an enjoyable event with stalls for browsing over, food & wine to consume, as well as the fantastic Mrs. Xmas who always brings a smile and present to everyone who attended.

In the first term, Johann, Judi and I were invited to attend an informal discussion with the National Librarian, Penny Carnaby. It was an interesting evening which made us realize how much we do appreciate the role and help of the National Library.

In our first meeting of this year we discussed where we wanted to head this year. High on our list is still keeping in touch with Aoraki members in the large region. We have 135 members in our region with 50 primary members and 66 secondary members, which is a good spread between the two sectors. We also want to start a mentoring programme for new members to the library professions and keep people in touch with User Groups in our area. The SLANZA website which is wonderfully updated by Niki is very informative and keeps all the members in touch with what is happening in SLANZA. The Blog which I started after attending the conference is still up and running and being visited regularly. The listserv is being well used and topics over the year have been the thought provoking PPTA Paper, the NZEI discussion on work conditions for school library staff, as well as the remuneration survey which SLANZA was jointly involved with LIANZA. Collaboration does seem to be a theme running through this year's discussion. We are not school librarians in isolation, going out and promoting SLANZA and School Librarianship is why we are involved in this committee.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to represent our branch at National Executive Level. It is very impressive the range of skills of the people involved in the National Executive Level.

We have people resigning at this AGM, I would like to thank Shirley Scott, Kathy Graham and Sandra Morris. I wish to thank them for all their hard work they have put into the SLANZA committee. I thank all the people who have decided to remain on the committee and I look forward to another productive year ahead.

Karen Clarke