

Aoraki Newsletter 1 2003

Welcome back to the hurly burly of another year.

I hope you all had restful holidays, which now seem a long way in the past! Somehow after two or three days at school it just clicks back into place and we're off again! I know our library has been even busier at the start of this year as we now issue text books for several departments and have managed to, almost, persuade the staff that four classes of 25+ to issue text books in one period is as much as we can handle.

I offer this as an explanation of why this newsletter is about four weeks later than I had planned!

Aoraki Slanza continues to grow and we have exciting new developments with regional committees set up in Top of the South and, perhaps, South Canterbury later this term.

Judi Hancock (Slanza President) and I were invited to Nelson late last year to the launch of their Top of the South area group. It was great to have the opportunity to meet some of the names I've seen as membership secretary on the database.

As well as the official launch of Top of the South Aoraki a magnificent storyteller, Stu Duval, entertained us. His talent at involving us all, weaving the place, Garin College, and one cardigan into the story was enthralling. (We nabbed him immediately afterwards to become a breakfast author for the 2003 "Powerful Partnerships" Conference).

Early in March Judi Hancock and I have been asked to visit Timaru with a view to persuading them to set up a similar area committee. This will enable all library staff in the South Canterbury area to become more closely invoked in Slanza. It will also provide a means of channelling their ideas and opinions back to the national Executive. It is hoped that an area group will be able to introduce professional development meetings and seminars that will let the people in that area take part much easier than now, without the long travel need to get to a central location. (Having said that library staff from any area are of course welcomed to any Slanza meeting or seminar).

Slanza Aoraki Canterbury has planned four get togethers for this year.

Term 1 A meeting with NZEI rep to follow on from two of our sessions last year offered to primary library people. The meeting hopes to answer questions from all library staff, especially on salaries and conditions on Saturday 29 March, 10.00 am Riccarton High School. The flier will be sent out in a separate email.

Judi Hancock, National President, and Marilyn Smaill, Riccarton High School and an Aoraki committee member, have scheduled a meeting with NZEI in Wellington to raise with them some of the issues raised on the list serves and

in meetings with library staff last year about the question of salary, progress through qualifications grades etc. This will be publicised nationally but Aoraki members will have a chance to share their news at the 29th March meeting at Riccarton High School.

Term 2 Why and how to make a Library web page or Intranet

Term 3 AGM. Sharing ideas about where to buy books, discounts and how to get them etc. New committee members may be needed at this point so think about volunteering yourself, or someone else, now.

Term 4 A Social event hopefully at the new Beckenham Public Library or the new city Art Gallery

National Executive will be having a teleconference meeting on March 6th so if you have any issues you would like raised please contact me before then.

The next face-to-face meeting for National Executive will May 24th.

As part of SLANZA's concern for Information Literacy we have become involved in submissions to the NZQA and Ministry about the research component in NCEA subjects.

We have offered opinions to be added to the National Information Strategy to emphasis the role of all school libraries and library staff in providing information literacy at all levels. We emphasised the need for all schools to be adequately staffed and funded. ("Guidelines" will be a great "weapon" here. Make sure you are familiar with your copy and try to sell it to your principal or Board of Trustees).

We also have a National executive member who was asked to submit a report on Equity of Women's roles in the education system. She used this as an opportunity to provide data on library staff and some of the long-standing equity issues there.

Judi Hancock, National President, and Marilyn Smaill, Riccarton High School and Aoraki committee member, have scheduled a meeting with NZEI to seek answers to some of the issues raised on the list serves and in meetings with library staff last year about the question of salary, progress through qualifications etc. This will be followed up nationally but Aoraki members will have a chance to share their news at the 29th March meeting at Riccarton High School.

A lot of energy this year is being spent in planning for the 2003 Slanza National Conference. "Powerful Partnerships" has been taken as the theme and the list of speakers so far aims to develop that theme. Checkout the Slanza web site at www.slanza.org.nz and go to the Conference page where you can register your interest as well as see the first outlines of the speakers and programmes.

May I recommend that you join the schoollib listserve if you are not already a member. This list serve was set up for all library staff. The postings to it reflect our concerns and help to bring us together.

If you have not yet renewed your Slanza membership please do so as soon as possible so that you continue to receive national and Aoraki news. (It is a great help if you also complete all the sections in the membership form so that email contacts can be checked, qualifications updated and addresses corrected).

I attend the LIANZA committee meetings to represent SLANZA. (You can be a personal member or a school membership for \$50 for this wider library group). LIANZA Aoraki is running several things, which might be of interest to school library staff.

1. Feb 28th they have a tour of libraries in the Christchurch area. Like the tours arranged by National Library this offers staff a chance to see inside other libraries and to learn a little bit about how they work. I have asked if it is possible for a similar LIANZA tour to be organised in the school holidays so that school library staff could attend more easily.
2. 16th March they have a fundraiser based at the Court Theatre. Scared Scriptless has scheduled a family time session from 6-8pm. Tickets cost \$13. Contact me if you would like to know more.
3. 5/6 April they plan their Nelson Marlborough Weekend Seminar. People in that area have been asked to offer suggestions for the programme. If you would like to attend please contact Dawn McMillan dawn.mcmillan@canterbury.ac.nz
4. Another initiative from LIANZA is the PURR programme. PURR = Professionals Unleashed for Refreshment and Reflection. It is an association of staff from different libraries who undertake planned visits to see how other specific libraries operate. Niki Waterhouse nwa@lincoln.school.nz and Marilyn Smaill smaill@riccarton.school.nz can both give you more information. In the next newsletter we hope to have a report from people who have been involved in PURR exchanges recently.

I look forward to meeting you at one of the planned occasions for this year. Make sure you get your enrolment for conference in early.

Margaret Forbes,
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Teacher Librarian
Christchurch Boys High School