

Aoraki SLANZA Newsletter – February 2004

I hope you have all had a really good break over the Christmas holidays – being already halfway through term 1, it seems like a very long time ago. The organizers of the miniconference to be held in Cambridge are working hard to put together a really interesting programme. If you missed the conference in Christchurch last year, then consider the conference in Cambridge this year. The miniconference is being held on Friday 16th July and on Saturday the 17th the Waikato Children's Literature Association are having a seminar featuring Paul Jennings and Tanya Batt at Southwell School in Hamilton.

The return rate for the survey at the end of last year was disappointing - only 16%. There was a distinct trend in preferences for SLANZA functions/PD. Most of the responses indicated they would prefer a library related + social type function followed by a ½ or full-day PD session. The committee will endeavour to plan suitable functions for the year according to this response.

In term 4 of last year we had a visit to the library in the new Christchurch Art Gallery. Tim Jones was very generous with his time as he showed us around and explained what his job entailed. Afterwards we had a meal at the Dux de Lux.

Four members of the Aoraki committee (Judi Hancock, Marilyn Smaill, Kathy Graham and Niki Waterhouse) made a ½ hour presentation to the Canterbury/Westland Principals' Association on Friday 27th Feb. We first described four stages in the evolution of a school library from a storehouse for books to an information hub connected with the world. The purpose of this was to make them think about where on the continuum their own library was and to help crystallize their own thinking for the question to follow.

The question was *“What do you do in your role as principal to ensure that the library continues to meet the changing informational needs of your students?”* The principals brainstormed this question for a few minutes in groups of 4-5, then they reported back. The last few minutes were spent in discussion of some of the issues raised in the reportback.

It is hoped that some of the principals have gone back to their schools with ideas that may have been picked up during the brainstorming and discussion.

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Aoraki SLANZA AGM

The AGM was held at Rangiruru on the 13th August 2003. Your new committee looks like this:

Chairperson	Niki Waterhouse	nwa@lincoln.school.nz
Secretary	Shirley Scott	shirley@saintmarks.school.nz
Treasurer	Adrienne Shapland	adriannes@medbury.school.nz
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	Dayle Campbell	dcampbell@vanasch.school.nz
	Sandra Morris	sandra.morris@westeyreton.school.nz
	Karen Gardner	opawa.school@xtra.co.nz
	Judi Hancock	j.hancock@rangiruru.school.nz
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Delia Arnold	arnoldd@staff.cbhs.school.nz
Merilyn Smail	smail@riccarton.school.nz
Margaret Forbes	forbesma@staff.cbhs.school.nz
Margaret Langdale-Hunt	mhunt@vanasch.school.nz
Kathy Graham	kathy.graham@natlib.govt.nz

In December Kathy Graham was co-opted onto the committee, as it was felt that the National Library should be represented. Delia Arnold is the SLANZA representative on the Purr Committee and Margaret Langdale-Hunt is the representative on the LIANZA Committee. Please contact any of the committee if you want to raise issues or discuss anything.

After the business part of the meeting, we had a discussion on book suppliers, which led onto discounts. There was a lot of dissatisfaction expressed about the Whitcoulls new discounting structure. As a result of this the SLANZA National Executive committee have made an approach to Whitcoulls to reconsider their discount to schools. At the time of writing this, we still have not had a definitive answer from them.

This year's Aoraki AGM will be held in June, as the National SLANZA AGM will be held in July at the miniconference to held in Cambridge. It is a requirement that the regions AGMs are held prior to the National AGM.

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Chairperson's Report for 2003 – Margaret Forbes

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.

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.

SLANZA Conference 2003

Mandy Ditzell from Henley School and Jill Taylor from MacKenzie Community Library were the lucky recipients of the Aoraki SLANZA sponsored places for the conference. Here is what they have to say.

SLANZA Conference 2003 – Mandy Ditzel

It was with great excitement I learnt that I won registration to the SLANZA conference. I started as 'Librarian' at Henley School in January this year, with no experience but a great passion for kids and reading.

I must confess, as the time got closer I wondered how relevant I would find the conference, but I couldn't have been more wrong. What a dynamic group of passionate people! (And those costumes at the dinner – hilarious.)

I can only sum the three days up by saying it was equal parts information and inspiration – what a great mix!

My personal highlights were Jane Edgar and Penny Carmody. I was really encouraged to see that the ideas I have for developing and revitalizing our library were not wacky but the direction that many school libraries are already heading in – warm, inviting places that make reading 'cool'.

I came home convinced that I am truly working in the best possible place for me – a school library. Thanks to SLANZA for not only the wonderful conference, but allowing a fledgling to get there.

SLANZA Conference 2003 – Jill Taylor

As a recent newcomer back to paid employment and to the library scene, I have to admit I was more than a little nervous when my library Mackenzie Community library nominated me as a conference attendee. Right from that absolutely outstanding Maori welcome and the riveting first keynote address by Tim Snyder, I was captivated. So much that all the keynote speakers said made so much sense. Tim's comments with regards to libraries being an integral part in the schools and in the learning ladder rang true to me not only as a library employee but also as a parent. I hope by my attending the workshops I picked, it has been beneficial for my library. I'd like to think after picking up hints and tips at the display workshops, I'm displaying the merchandise better and an extra book unseen before by borrowers is moving off the shelf. I also hope by my attending the workshop held by Rangi Ruru Principal Julie Moor I'm helping the library to form more Powerful partnerships and helping to build onto the existing Powerful partnerships between Staff, Board of Trustees, Students and in my library's case the wider community. Thankyou again for pulling my name from the hat and thus allowing my library to budget my registration fee on other necessities.