

## **SLANZA Central AGM, Chair's Report**

**Presented at the 2003 AGM 16<sup>th</sup>. September**

### **National Library Palmerston North**

Good evening and welcome to the Fourth Annual General Meeting of SLANZA Central, Since its inception only four years ago, SLANZA has grown from strength to strength. Awareness in Library and Education Sectors of the role and mission of SLANZA is growing. SLANZA has gained visibility and is acknowledged as an effective and influential organisation.

SLANZA has begun exploring ways to open consultation with the Principals' Association, ERO, and teacher training providers, to increase the profile, professionalism and services of the school library. It has established links with other Library Organisations and Government Departments. Representation has been established with the National Library, Ministry of Education, NZEI, LIANZA, ISLA, and ASLA. SLANZA is working to establish an award system to acknowledge the high standard of work and innovative programmes being implemented in school libraries around New Zealand.

If the interest, response and support are there, SLANZA can be responsive to member's needs. A national body can be far more effective, where perhaps individuals cannot. You may not need to participate at a national level but you do need to be active and contribute by communicating your feelings, needs and suggestions to elected officers so that SLANZA can respond as a national voice.

Thank you to the participants, presenters and organisers of our day of professional development, held at Te Manawa, on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The turnout was excellent. Feedback from participants gave a very positive "thumbs-up" to the day's programme and signalled the need to continue with professional development in our region.

A proposed get together with Taranaki school library staff scheduled for Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> was, sadly, postponed. The idea behind the meeting was to establish a local interest group of members in surrounding Taranaki schools, and to promote the role and vision of SLANZA. The regional committee hopes to re-schedule this meeting for term one of 2004.

**The Christchurch Conference, "Powerful Partnerships", 22 – 24. Sept. promises an excellent programme. We look forward to hearing accounts from Lynn Heath and Sheryn Smith who were the lucky winners of free conference registration.**

Central Region has sixty-nine current financial members. Although this number represents some new members, it is disappointing that thirty-three existing members did not re-register this year. While this is a concern, I believe the reason is not dissatisfaction, but rather an indication of some very busy library staff that have overlooked sending their cheques away. I intend to

send a reminder letter with a brief summary of SLANZA's achievements to date, later in the year.

My thanks once again to RAECO who continued to support SLANZA Central with their annual \$400.00 grant, and for sponsoring the morning tea at our day of professional development.

I have really enjoyed working with the National Executive and have grown immensely through the experience, responsibility and camaraderie of the other National Executive members. After a good deal of thought and consideration, I have accepted nomination for the position of the 2003 President Elect.

Finally my sincere thanks to the committee, Pat Bellhouse, Gill Burns, Joy Hamilton, Lynn Heath and Pat McKenzie who have once again worked incredibly hard and have made a significant contribution to support members in the Central Region

**Louise Robbie, 16th September 2003**