

## **Central Region SLANZA AGM**

**11 June, 2005**

### **Chairperson's Report**

This report records the ongoing activities of the Central Region School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (SLANZA) during the year 1 July, 2004 - 11 June, 2005.

The first event attended by some of our members was the Mini-Conference '*Libraries and literacy*' and national AGM on 16 July, 2004 at St Peter's School, Cambridge. This was a very busy and interesting day with keynote addresses by Paul Jennings and Owen Marshall and valuable workshops. A highlight for our region was the presentation of the inaugural SLANZA Awards, with Pat Bellhouse and Louise Robbie receiving Awards of Merit for Promotion for work which raised the profile of their libraries and Andrea Thomson and Louise Robbie receiving a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their work on the Executive Committee of SLANZA. Our congratulations to them all.

On 5 March this year, we held a "SLANZA Day" at Te Manawa, Palmerston North. This provided great opportunities for professional development for school library staff and valuable opportunities for networking with colleagues. The morning session was facilitated by Sally Angus, a career coach, and in the afternoon we looked at our reference interview skills and how we go about measuring our success (or otherwise) in our libraries. We were also brought up to date with the NZEI Support Staff claims process by Mr Ian Rowe, an NZEI Field Officer.

And, here at Woodford House today, we have had another successful "SLANZA Day". Thank you to all those who were involved. I hope that we will be able to have similar days in other parts of our region in the future as a means of promotion of the vision and purpose of SLANZA. As well, a visit by an author and a quiz event are among suggestions for future activities.

Two local newsletters have been produced this year and articles have been supplied for national newsletters and for the SLANZA website. I feel that regular local newsletters are of vital importance in maintaining contact with our regional members.

We currently have approximately 65 members in the Central Region.

Our Committee has met 5 times this year plus we had a Christmas dinner together. I wish to sincerely thank all the members for their help and support and hard work. Without you, what we are doing within our region would not be possible and so I do urge others who are interested in the contribution of school libraries to teaching and learning within schools to put your names forward to continue our efforts. It is with regret that we are fare welling Lynn Heath and Pat McKenzie from the Committee. Pat has moved to Wellington and Lynn has a new focus – a new home and garden! On behalf of SLANZA, a very big thank you to both of you for all you have done.

Earlier this year our members took part in a SWOT analysis of SLANZA. The information gathered from this is being used to create a strategic plan for SLANZA so that we may direct our energies in the best ways that will most benefit our members, and contribute most effectively to the development of school libraries in New Zealand. Thank you to those of you who contributed to this.

I really feel that as SLANZA approaches its 5<sup>th</sup> birthday it can be justifiably proud of its achievements so far and is continuing to have significant influence. 15 SLANZA Study Grants will be given and further SLANZA Awards will be made this year. (Applications and nominations close on 31 October). Also, SLANZA is represented on a number of important national committees including the Remuneration Survey committee, the ERO Advisory Group, EPIC committee, the LIANZA Special Investigatory Committee on Professional Registration and the PPTA ICT Taskforce. We plan to further develop our relationships with the PPTA and NZEI. This all contributes in an enormously positive way to the contribution of New Zealand school libraries to the learning outcomes within our schools.

Thank you  
Joyce Richards