

Central Region SLANZA AGM

7 June, 2006

Chairperson's Report

This report records the ongoing activities of the Central Region of the School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (SLANZA) during the period 1 July, 2005 – 7 June, 2006.

Soon after our last AGM in Havelock North several of our members attended SLANZA's very successful second national conference '*Digital – age literacies: eyes to the future*' in Auckland 11-13 July. Greatly inspiring informative keynote speakers and workshops gave us renewed energy for our roles in our school libraries and in our schools. Our congratulations went to Susan Healey, formerly of Palmerston North Girls' High School, who received the SLANZA Award of Merit for Promotion for continuously and actively promoting her school library and thereby raising its profile throughout the school.

Subsequently, on 14 September, we held a Conference Feedback Evening in the Library at Nga Tawa, Marton, where those of us who had attended the conference reported back on what had been the highlights of the conference. As well, we were fortunate to have Colleen Hayes give a resume of the workshop on a study she had undertaken of secondary school students' self-selection of books for personal reading which she had presented at the conference and Katherine Chisholm presented her workshop on selection tools which she had been unable to present because of ill-health.

Our Committee met 4 times this year plus we had a Christmas Dinner celebration at the Fisherman's Table restaurant in Palmerston North on 29 November. I wish to sincerely thank all the Committee members for their work this year. It was with regret that Andrea Thomson and Sue Nimmo resigned from the Committee because of other life commitments. Andrea, as a foundation member of SLANZA, has made a huge contribution to the organisation over many years, most latterly with the SLANZA Awards. Sue, with her involvement with NZEI was able to provide valuable liaison. Thank you to you both. We welcomed Beth Mooney onto the Committee earlier this year.

Two local newsletters have been produced and articles have been supplied for national newsletters and for the SLANZA website.

Future planned regional events include a “SLANZA Day” at Tararua College in Pahiatua, a Mini-Conference feedback session, a combined LIANZA/SLANZA event and a Christmas celebration. I also really encourage people to attend the SLANZA Mini-Conference *‘World of words: the art of literacy’* in Nelson 13 and 14 July. It is not too late to send in your registration.

A reminder also about applications for SLANZA Study Grants and SLANZA Awards for next year. The closing date for these is 31 October.

We had an encouraging growth in our regional membership last year – from 65 to 74 members however this has currently dropped back to 60 members. I encourage us all to seriously promote SLANZA to those school library staff know to us who are not current members of our organisation. Only as a strong organisation will SLANZA be able to realize its Vision of ‘strengthening and promoting the role of school libraries to enable all school communities to become information literate’ and to thereby enhance the teaching and learning outcomes of our schools.

Joyce Richards
7 June, 2006