

» From the chair

The 2005 conference is behind us but its influence continues through the workshops and feedback sessions organized by regional committees to share highlights and insights with members who were unable to attend. Planning is well under-way for the mini conference to be held in Nelson, 13-14 July 2006. Conferences are an important part of professional development and, for many of us who work in isolation, perhaps as the only librarian in a school of teachers, the opportunity to meet and network with others is one of their greatest benefits.



Applications and nominations for SLANZA awards are now in the hands of the awards committee, and the 2006 awards will be announced at the mini conference. The citations for the 2005 recipients are on the SLANZA website. These attest to the professional quality of the work being undertaken by our colleagues in schools around the country.

Applications for study grants have also been received, and it is encouraging to see the commitment of members to improving their qualifications. Students and school libraries benefit enormously from the broadening of our knowledge that any ongoing study provides.

The national executive has been working towards producing a SLANZA development plan to enable us to work strategically over the next three years. The first stage of this was the SWOT analysis undertaken by the regions in 2004/5. The results you supplied, together with a review of SLANZA membership information, feedback from the 2005 conference delegate evaluations, and a close look at trends in education, school libraries and other library sectors, have been taken into consideration to produce the draft plan. This is an exciting new step in maturity for SLANZA as an organisation. The plan, together with the results of the original SWOT analysis, can be seen on the website at: <http://www.slanza.org.nz/> Questions have been prepared to en-

able members to comment on the plan before it is adopted by the national executive.

The taskforce on professional registration has produced a discussion document which can be seen at:

<http://opac.lianza.org.nz/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?bib=19>

LIANZA has called for submissions by 25 November.

SLANZA is represented on the professional registration taskforce by Liz Probert, and I will replace her next year. As yet we do not have an official position on professional registration. We are involved to ensure the interests of school librarians are represented as the question is explored, particularly if the wider library community decides to take the professional registration route. I was encouraged at a meeting held in Christchurch to discuss the document when John Garraway, the incoming LIANZA president, spoke for school libraries - he referred to the importance of school libraries as they often provide the first library contact - and how crucial that experience is to attitudes to and the continued use of libraries. There will be a number of issues that members will identify, for those working in school libraries, and I hope that you communicate them directly to LIANZA or to SLANZA.

The PPTA conference adopted the paper 'The secondary and area school library: staffing and funding issues for a crucial school facility'. This is a milestone in the recognition of the importance of school libraries in the education of New Zealand students. Some members were very unhappy about SLANZA's support for this paper and its proposals and there was particular concern for the position of professional librarians. I posted a message on the schoollib listserv outlining what the specific gains could be and went on to say:

"The gains for schools and school libraries could be enormous. Staffing and resourcing would no longer depend just on goodwill, and schools that have struggled to fund library services would receive much needed support."

"Librarians would be recognised as essential professionals responsible for well run, well resourced school libraries. Library staff would also be in a much stronger position to advocate for themselves and their libraries if the funding for their positions and resources no longer comes from the school operational grant."

"In the president's report at the 2005 AGM, Liz Probert said "the time for school libraries is coming". We cannot do it on our own, and I am grateful to the PPTA for supporting school libraries in the fight for recognition as a crucial school facility."

This is only the beginning in what will be a long process, but there will be further opportunities for consultation.

NZEI have approached us to open discussions on conditions for school library staff. Again we are being recognized for the essential role we play in New Zealand schools. There will be opportunities for members to contribute to these discussions once they are underway. Regional chairpersons will keep members informed.

A number of you will have taken part in the remuneration survey with which we were jointly involved with LIANZA. The first results have come through and can be seen at:

<http://opac.lianza.org.nz/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?bib=57>

We hope to be able to use any information from this survey to help establish equitable pay rates for school library staff.

SLANZA is involved in a number of other ongoing projects, all of which serve to raise the profile of school libraries. I am very grateful to the regional chairpersons and the other members of the national executive who take so much time and care on the work they do for SLANZA, while still maintaining busy professional lives. If you have interests or concerns you would like to see addressed, please raise them with me or your regional chair. SLANZA is here to serve its members.

All the very best as we approach the end of the academic year, and may I thank you for all you do to make school libraries such an important part of the learning environment for all of our students and their teachers.

Johann Williams

President

» PPTA Conference

On 29 September 2005 at the PPTA conference, the Wellington region's paper (supported by SLANZA) 'The secondary and area school library: staffing and funding issues for a crucial school facility' was adopted as policy. This is an important milestone for school libraries.

Forty years ago, in 1965, another paper 'The post-primary school

library' was presented at a PPTA conference and made many of the same arguments:

"It is impossible to run a satisfactory library in a large school using an untrained teacher-librarian; even less satisfactory is the attempt to run such a library using an untrained library assistant more or less loosely supervised by a teacher-librarian with no or very little time allowance."

"Thus, the increased size and complexity of schools and their libraries has given rise to a situation in which the amateur control of school libraries is no longer a satisfactory approach."

(The post primary school library, 1965, report to NZPPTA, p5)

Let us hope that in 2045 a PPTA paper on school libraries will not have to deal with the issue of 'amateur control' of school libraries, or the other issues addressed in the current paper.

What this paper argued for was fully integrating school libraries into the learning and teaching programmes of schools. The adopted paper is very timely considering that ERO is publishing a report later this year, 'Evaluation of the information landscape', based on the criteria in 'School library and learning in the information landscape: guidelines for NZ schools'. It is probable that ERO, following its evaluation of the information landscape in schools, will continue to evaluate information literacy development, student access to ICT, and literacy programmes in schools as part of the regular ERO visits. If there is an expectation that schools will be judged on their school-wide information literacy and literacy programmes, then the Ministry of Education has to provide the resources and qualified staff to make this achievable.

My presentation to the conference began with a vision statement about the importance of school libraries in developing literate and information literate students today so that they can become confident lifelong learners. I was able to refer to the 'Threats to New Zealand's public education system' paper presented the previous day, in which the presenter argued for a high quality, fully funded public education system. The presenter noted that schools are divided by decile.

School libraries are an integral part of a high quality education system but low decile school libraries usually have a minimal resource budget and are often run by unqualified library personnel who are doing their best for students and teachers. A significant motivation for the 'Secondary and area school library' paper was

to see equality of staffing and resources for **all** schools and that well resourced libraries are not just the domain of rich schools.

There were seven resolutions dealing with issues such as: making school libraries mandatory; having a library team composed of both trained teacher-librarian and qualified librarian, both having equal status, **and** library assistants; funding of school library resources; school library software; and school archives being managed by someone employed to do the job, with a budget separate from the library.

There was a tiny minority of delegates who wanted the paper delayed for a year. These delegates felt that the paper needed to be better researched and refined by the PPTA national executive but the overwhelming majority of delegates understood what the paper represented and were not in favour of any delay.

It was wonderful to have Sue Callaghan, a trained teacher-librarian at Fielding High School, present as an observer with speaking rights on the day the 'Secondary and area school library' paper was introduced. Sue spoke from the floor in favour of the paper and the following day a conference delegate said it was good to see that there were still some trained teacher-librarians employed in schools.

My right of reply concluded with a call to "vote for a quality library in a fully funded quality public education system."

What happens now? On 7 November there will be a PPTA planning meeting where the policy recommendations will be discussed. It will be important to have a continuing dialogue with the PPTA national officers as to progress with the implementation of recommendations. At the 2006 PPTA conference there will be a report to the membership on progress made.

I wish to thank all the school library professionals—teacher-librarians and librarians in the School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa—who have contributed to this paper. I also wish to thank the PPTA national office staff for their work in sharpening the paper and refining some of the resolutions. Last but not least, I wish to thank Dave Thorp, Wellington PPTA regional chair, who seconded the paper at the conference and spoke eloquently in support of it. It was Dave's first PPTA conference and the first time he had addressed a conference from the podium.

If you have not read the paper you can find it on the PPTA website: <http://www.ppta.org.nz/>

Adaire Hannah

» NZEI

The support staff contract as negotiated in September 2005 has been ratified. There was a good turnout of voters, which is very pleasing. Those areas of the agreement that were not negotiated now go to working parties, and they include: the amalgamation of associate and administration grades; a push for annualisation of all full-time permanent support staff; and a specific central fund for support staff. To be part of these working parties you will need to belong to the union. I strongly encourage you to do this as this is the forum for your voice to be heard.

Johnann Williams, Joyce Richards, Adaire Hannah, and I are meeting with Neil Hammond, executive officer of support staff, NZEI, and Mereana Epi Mana, chief negotiator of our contract, in Wellington in late November. We will be discussing the issues relating to school library team members and how each organisation can support the other in our endeavour for better working conditions, pay and staffing.

Kaaren Hirst,

Auckland SSNCKT representative,
NZEI.

» SLANZA Study Grants

Congratulations to the following recipients of a SLANZA study grant.

Chris Archbold – Riccarton Primary School
Anne Davis - St Peter Chanel Catholic School
Jennifer Puckey - Kaitia Primary
Angela Miller-Priebee - Fernlea School
Marleen Maxwell - Randwick Park School
Sarah Fordyce - Sherwood Primary
Desna Wallace - Fendalton Primary
Julie Stretch - John McGlashan College
Julia Smith - Keri Keri High School
Jill Taylor - MacKenzie College, Fairlie
Robbie Wathne - Rongatai College
Senga Watson - James Hargest College

» SLANZA supports AnyQuestions.co.nz into development phase

Students will continue to be supported with challenging homework questions after sponsorship of the award-winning AnyQuestions.co.nz was confirmed for another year.

Telecom and Sun Microsystems Ltd are jointly sponsoring the award-winning online service which allows school students to ask librarians to help them find information needed for their schoolwork.

Since AnyQuestions was launched in term 1 this year, librarians from the National Library of New Zealand, The Ministry of Education through Te Kete Ipurangi and the Auckland, Manukau, Wellington and Christchurch City Libraries have answered thousands of questions from children around the country.

Although the service has had some major technical challenges to overcome, our librarians have still been run off their feet each afternoon helping students find useful information.

On an average day the three librarians running AnyQuestions.co.nz will handle fifty to sixty queries from students. The demand has been so strong that we'll shortly be adding an extra librarian to the service.

Many of the requests for information are straightforward, but we also deal with some tricky ones.

Some of the more interesting questions have included:

- How much money is lost in Las Vegas in one day?
- Do taniwhas eat?
- What's the biggest rabbit ever caught by a cat?
- How are black holes and worm holes related?
- Why do trees need roots?
- Why does your eye go red when it gets hit?
- How much sugar is in fizzy drinks?

AnyQuestions has also captured the attention of the government, management and library sectors, scooping the GOVIS Buzzie Award for Technology and Society, the SOLGM New Zealand Post Management Excellence Award for Process Management and the 3M Award for Innovation in Libraries.

AnyQuestions.co.nz will close for the summer holidays on 20 December 2005 and re-open on 7 February 2006.

For further information contact help@anyquestions.co.nz.

Michaela O'Donovan

» World of words: the art of literacy

Plans are well underway for the 2006 conference to be held on the 13th and 14th of July, in Nelson.

We have chosen and booked the Trailways Motor Inn as the conference venue. After looking at several venues this one was chosen for the following reasons: it is set against the backdrop of the Maitai River in the centre of the Nelson CBD; we know it has lovely food and there is reasonably priced accommodation available on site; it is also very close to the Nelson Public Library, and within walking distance of our art gallery and new museum. Nelson is famous for its café culture and there are numerous cafes, bars, restaurants and the famous Saturday markets all within several blocks of the venue.

Barbara Braxton has agreed to be our keynote speaker and to run a workshop as well. I have been in touch with Barbara several times and she is such an enthusiastic and talented person, we feel very privileged to have her presenting at our conference. The following is taken from Barbara's website:

"Barbara Braxton is the teacher librarian at Palmerston District Primary School, ACT, and recipient of the 2003 Dromkeen Librarian's Award for her work in connecting kids with literature. Barbara encourages students' engagement with literature through creative, varied-based activities and display, and by exploiting the opportunities offered by online learning..."

We are also close to securing our second keynote speaker who is 90% committed but just needs to finalize a few details. We will be running 16 workshops and approaches are being made to potential workshop presenters. We have confirmation of 9 workshops, some involving our own talented Top of the South people. It has been suggested that we should consider repeating some workshops from the Auckland conference for those South Island members who were unable to attend. The logistics of all of this are being worked out at the moment.

A draft budget has been prepared using figures from the two previous mini-conferences. We are just beginning to look at sponsorship. At this stage we are looking at a cost of \$175.00 per person for SLANZA members. Accommodation is \$120.00 per night twin share, so if attendees are prepared to share, the cost will be \$60.00 per night. This is for a lovely room, some with river views and all with an ensuite bathroom.

Our committee is working hard and we all feel very positive with what has been achieved so far. SLANZA has a wonderful networking system and it is easy to get advice and information from some of our more experienced members.

We feel Nelson will be a great venue for a fantastic 2006 conference and we look forward to seeing you all here in July next year.

Dinah Warren

For SLANZA Top of the South organizing committee

» Remuneration survey

The data collected from the completed surveys is currently being analysed and some early results will be released in December. Please check the SLANZA website for progress. The full results and report will be released early in 2006.

» Registration taskforce

Work has continued steadily with a series of well-attended meetings held in many centres around the country. Recommendations and queries arising from these meetings will be addressed at the taskforce meeting in December and progress reported early in 2006.

» Strategic plan

Work has continued on the strategic plan. Please visit the SLANZA website, read the plan and use the response form to tell us what you think and recommend.

» Tai Tokerau

Even though we are in the far north of New Zealand, we are an active SLANZA region.

After the mid year SLANZA conference, we had a super meeting with many of the conference delegates reporting enthusiastically to fellow teachers and library staff. They shared some of the ideas they had gleaned and explained how they have used them in their libraries. SLANZA conferences are certainly worth attending, we decided!

The committee plans to run a workshop as soon as the ERO report is out. It doesn't look as though it will happen this year

however, so we will probably combine with the South region to do this next year.

An informal Christmas cheer/book buying meeting is planned for December 14th, 4:30 - 6:30pm in the Kerikeri High School library, where Books and More will have a display of great reads to buy for Christmas presents. We are encouraging those who attend to bring a favourite read to share. To entice people not to miss this last get together for 2005, the committee will serve mulled wine and Christmas tarts.

Christmas wishes to you all.

Di Eastwood

» Auckland

Auckland region held their Christmas event on 11th November. Lyn Walker presented a version of her conference session on story telling, using an appropriate story for the season. It was a great opportunity to present this session, considered by conference participants to be one of the most stimulating in its presentation and ideas. Any of you who have previously seen any of her presentations will know that we had to be prepared for flying objects.

It was a pleasure to browse through the bookstalls of Jabberwocky and Women's Bookshop for Christmas presents and the odd personal selection. Raeco also had a stand, providing an opportunity to see new products and get those last minute ideas to slip into budgets.

Mount Eden Normal Primary proved to be an inspirational venue for this event as the teacher working in the library, Carolyn, has done a marvellous job refurbishing. From a room with flat white walls it has been transformed into a bright, vibrant environment with children's artwork hanging from the beams, posters encouraging the acquisition of good information literacy skills, and display stands with real chocolate bars. Raeco have installed new shelf end panels that allow the outward display of books and provide a framed board (A3 size) for posters and newspaper clippings.

As many of you know, it is Margaret Mahy's 70th birthday in March next year. To celebrate her birthday the Auckland committee are producing a set of activities designed to engage students with her work. If you are interested in a set you can contact a

member of the committee, or your local regional convenor, in February. For more information on storytelling technique you can contact Lyn; a member of the Auckland committee whose details are on the website.

Go well and have a good Christmas,

Kaaren Hirst

» James Herring workshop: Waikato/Bay of Plenty SLANZA & LIANZA

On 20th September, SLANZA and LIANZA jointly hosted an evening meeting at the College of Education library at Waikato University. James Herring, from Charles Sturt University (Wagga Wagga, Aus.), not only entertained us with stories, but also challenged us to think about how we deliver information literacy teaching. James talked about his PLUS model of information literacy (Purpose; Location; Use; Self-evaluation), which teachers and librarians had employed very successfully in his 'trial' schools. The model was easy to explain, provided a good vehicle for collaboration between teachers and librarians, and facilitated improved use of resources by students.

He also challenged us to think about the limitations of standard information skills methods, with a salutary example! "Do firemen", he asked, "brainstorm, mind-map, identify their key words and key questions, think about their 'audience', locate their sources, etc., when they are stuck in the middle of a blazing inferno, with the roof crashing down around them?". He made us think how we gain information from many and varied sources - the body language of your fellow fire-fighters, for example - when we are working for an end result with a positive outcome.

At a joint meeting with other library sector groups, it was very timely to hear from him about how we need to get consistency of message (and delivery systems) about information literacy, so that students gain familiarity with library and information concepts and systems which translocate easily across all library sectors - school, public and tertiary. The disparate roles of librarians in all these libraries, he suggested, had left all three sectors uncertain as to which bits of the information skills learning continuum they were required to address. Where does the public library pick up from, for example, when students come in looking for material to support their school research work; where do secondary schools pick up from, when students come to them from a range of differ-

ent primary schools - all of whom have different messages about how to go about research?

It was a very entertaining and thought-provoking evening, generating a determination in those present to work towards better collaboration between the different library groups represented. And the nibbles weren't bad either!

Jan Mathews

» Central

It has been really encouraging to see a growth in SLANZA membership in our region this year. We look forward to this continuing as the value of SLANZA's contribution toward teaching and learning in our schools is increasingly recognised.

The most recent event in our region has been a conference "highlights" evening in the library at Nga Tawa School, Marton. The (wet and windy winter's) evening began with drinks and nibbles, followed by conference attendees from this area reporting back on what, for us, were the highlights (apart from the food and vittles and shopping!).

We were really fortunate to have with us Colleen Hayes, a former librarian at Horowhenua College who has now returned to teaching, who gave a resume of the workshop she presented at conference. Her presentation topic "What am I going to read now? Factors influencing secondary school students' self-selection of books for personal reading", relates to a research project she completed for a Master of Educational Psychology at Massey University in 2004. Colleen found that the variable most affecting selection is the student's current level of interest in the content of the book. This has implications for us in our selection of library resources.

Katherine Chisholm, a reference librarian at National Library in Palmerston North, was unfortunately unable to attend conference to deliver her workshop but gave us an excellent presentation on the topic "The selection tools used by secondary school librarians: what, why, and are they good enough?". This relates to a research project of Katherine's for her Master of Library and Information Studies. She conducted a nation-wide survey using focus groups to ascertain which selection tools librarians use, which features were most valuable to them in a selection tool, and how the selection tools they use measure against these cri-

teria. This was a most interesting piece of research and we were fortunate to be able to hear Katherine's findings.

The next event planned for our region is a committee meeting on the 29th November, 4pm, at Palmerston North Girls' High School, followed by a Christmas celebration at the Fisherman's Table in Palmerston North at 6.30pm, to which everyone in our region is invited.

We wish everyone well with end of year activities, especially stocktaking, and a safe and happy holiday.

Joyce Richards

» Wellington

SLANZA Wellington region held its term 3 meeting at the South Wellington Intermediate School library on 1 September, 2005.

The meeting opened with a presentation entitled "The sophisticated approach to information literacy", by Brian Waddell; an abridged version of a paper he recently gave to the IASL conference in Hong Kong. Brian said that reading is still the key to accessing information from the information landscape, and sophisticated picture books can be used as a key resource to support the development of both information literacy and sophisticated readers. Information literate students are able to take meaning from a range of information sources and turn that meaning into knowledge which they can then use. Learning how to learn, and being able to transfer these skills across all curriculum learning areas, is what makes an information literate student. The traditional weekly timetabled library lesson needs to give way to the knowledge space in which students can develop information skills to help them make sense of the world of information.

Following Brian's presentation, the three recipients of the complimentary SLANZA conference registration gave feedback on their conference experiences.

Rosalie Carman described the many obstacles she had to overcome in order to get to conference, even with a complimentary



Brian Waddell

registration. She eventually secured funding to cover transport and accommodation costs. Among the presentations Rosalie attended was "Getting into their heads" – thinking back and remembering what it was like as a 14 year old, and "Seven habits of highly effective library teams" – being pro-active, thinking win-win and sharpening the saw (undertaking P.D. and having time for oneself). In reading through her notes after the conference, Rosalie continues to pick up many more ideas. A salient point of Rosalie's report was that her profile in her school had increased as a result of attending a national conference.

Sophie Jolliffe found a workshop run by Dianne McConnell featuring a panel of Rangitikei librarians very worthwhile. We believe that we are making a difference, how do we prove that we are? Evidence-based results are needed to show the benefits of the library programme – statistics such as NZCER essentials skills results, and genre-based labelling of fiction leading to increased circulation statistics, are ways of showing the library programme as a worthwhile investment within a school.

Bessie Sutherland described Ian Jukes' 'full-on' presentation "Beyond technology", that talked about the need to meet the needs of future students, particularly with the exponential speed of technological developments (Moore's law). Faced with Info-whelm, students need info-fluency skills.

Jan Foote's presentation on the year 9 information literacy programme at Auckland Girls' Grammar School gave practical approaches to the teaching of information literacy skills. Students need to be shown and taught good searching and evaluating skills, not just allowed to dot & jot.

Attendees were reminded that the SLANZA award nominations and study grant applications for next year are due by 31 October and to check the SLANZA website for details of these.

Wellington region's final meeting for 2005 is on 23 November at Onslow College library. Esme Gibbons of the NZ Book Council will present on WordSpace—videoconferencing. As it is our final meeting for the year there will be a festive theme to our food and beverages.

Preparations for the 2007 national conference in Wellington are underway. Members are asked to forward any ideas for workshop topics they would like to attend, to any of the regional committee members.

Liz Pfahlert

» Aoraki

After going to an inspirational conference in Auckland I came back enthused with new ideas. One of them being the creation of a blog to help keep in touch with everyone in the Aoraki region. This is just another way as well as email, listserv and newsletter to keep everyone informed of current events in the school library world. To see my blog, go to: <http://www.211ayr.blogspot.com>



Mother Xmas dishing out some goodies at the Aoraki Xmas do

At our committee meeting following the conference we decided not to keep all the new and wonderful things we had learnt to ourselves and organized a 'conference highlight session'. Niki Waterhouse, Johann Williams and I visited Ashburton, Geraldine and Christchurch schools. In total, 70 people listened to the talks about the best of the conference and what we had learnt from the different sessions that we each attended.

We are looking forward to the mini conference in Nelson in 2006. The Aoraki sub-committee Top of the South, or TOTS for short, is doing a wonderful job. The conference is being held on 13th – 14th July at the Trailways Motor Inn and the topic is World of words: the art of literacy. Go to the SLANZA website for more information. It looks really exciting with some very interesting speakers booked.

I have just come back from our annual Xmas do. Shirley Scott hosted the gathering in her new library. We were all very impressed with the light, airy and spacious feel of the environment. It was a nice, relaxed evening with lovely food and drinks, and stalls for the purchase of Christmas presents. But the main benefit was catching up with all the library people in the area and finding out how their year has been.

Next year the committee hopes to meet more members in the wider Aoraki region with visits to the smaller centres.

Karen Clarke

» Stop Press

On Wednesday (30 Nov) Joyce Richards, Kaaren Hirst, Aaire Hannah and I met with Neil Hammond, Mereana Epi Mana and Michelle Maguren of the NZEI. Library staff and science technicians are currently the only groups in schools with a professional organisation of their own. The NZEI is working hard for School Support Staff. NZEI field officers have negotiated for library staff in some quite unacceptable situations and are very aware of the situation of many library staff in schools. They are actively campaigning for pay and conditions for library staff both in schools and with the Ministry. The NZEI is about to begin another round of negotiations, using the information NZEI members have supplied, and is hopeful that library staff will be acknowledged as a particular group. We were able to talk about issues SLANZA members have raised including recognition of qualifications and professional experience, the importance of school libraries and appropriate staffing to students and their learning outcomes, security of tenure and conditions, and sources of funding. It was encouraging to hear the NZEI voicing the same issues as SLANZA members and to hear how they are hoping to address them. Every gain can be built on. For the first time Support Staff membership of the NZEI has reached 10,000 and the NZEI is beginning to get some traction in its negotiations. The more library staff that belong to NZEI, the better the negotiating voice.

Johann Williams

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