



Te Puna Whare Matauranga a Kura

School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa

*Strengthening and promoting the role of the school library to enable all school communities to become information literate*

Newsletter 11, December 2003

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## President's Report

A warm welcome to all our members at the end of 2003, a year notable for many successful activities and in particular for the very successful SLANZA Conference in Christchurch. It was a great pleasure to meet so many members there and I am looking forward to seeing many of you again at the mini conference in Cambridge next year and then at the 2005 National conference in Auckland.

It is hard to believe that I am SLANZA's third president and I must acknowledge the hard work that went into providing the firm foundations laid down by my predecessors, Jill Stotter and Judi Hancock.

We are now a large national organisation with almost 700 members and we are achieving growing recognition as seen by requests to include our views in developments such as LIANZA's submission to the National Information Strategy and the proposed Virtual Reference Service for Schools.

The SLANZA website is becoming a very valuable resource for those concerned with school libraries. Please visit regularly to check for new additions and remember that the minutes from National Executive meetings are posted there as are full details of all various submissions we have made.

Over the next two years the SLANZA National Executive will continue to carry out our organisation's aims to strengthen and promote the role of school libraries, to enable all school communities to become information literate. We will be looking closely at ways in which school library staff can demonstrate that they



are making a difference to learning in their schools and we encourage members to take up any training and/or professional development opportunities that come along. In this way we will have a well informed, knowledgeable membership which will help to create an even stronger national organisation.

In the meantime, I hope everyone can enjoy a well earned rest over the holiday period and return to work in 2004 refreshed and ready for another successful year.

<http://www.slanza.org.nz>

# New National Executive Members

## Niki Waterhouse



I have worked in South Island secondary school libraries over the last 10 years and really enjoy the varied nature of the work, but in particular, connecting our students with their information needs or a new author.

I'm a team player, so enjoy working with people and look forward to working with the SLANZA National Executive in representing the Aoraki region. To Aoraki members, if you have an email address and haven't heard from me, please get in touch, so that I can update my address list.

Away from work, or anything library related, I enjoy tramping, sailing, skiing, reading and patchwork.

## Gerri Judkins



Gerri Judkins is the Librarian at Southwell School. She has worked in a variety of school libraries over the past twelve years, from small rural to large Intermediate.

She recently completed her Level 5 Library Diploma through the Open Polytech. Reading and collecting children's books is a passion, so being a Primary School Librarian is being paid for having fun!

### **SLANZA Newsletter**

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# REGIONAL NEWS

## Te Tai Tokerau Tops

It has been a very full year for the northern most branch of SLANZA beginning with the AGM where members were addressed by Janet Adams from the Education Review Office on the role of the school library can play in a school review. This information, presented by Dale Bailey of ERO, was very timely for many of the Far North schools.

In term 1 the New Zealand Post Children's Book Festival took place. All schools in Te Tai Tokerau were provided with an activity pack to support classroom work on the book finalists. Visiting author and illustrator, Stu Duval, ran cartoon workshops and visited schools in support of the book awards.

'*Great Reads for Gutsy Girls*' was the focus for term 2. We were very fortunate to be able to host Kate de Goldi and Fiona Mackie as guest speakers at a weekend seminar. Kate also presented an evening in Kerikeri entitled *the A-Z of writing*. Both these events proved popular and were well supported.

Kaikohe was the area to benefit from a session with Garth Rodda in term 3. Garth's presentation on '*Newspapers in Education*' dealt with the effective use of newspapers in our school libraries.

A seminar called '*Capturing time... Preserving Memories*' is planned for the final term of the year.

By the time you are reading this we hope to have concluded the year with yet another successful event dealing with the thorny problem of schools and archives. We are also looking forward to hearing from the two members we were able to send to the SLANZA conference in Christchurch.

Te Tai Tokerau branch of SLANZA covers a very large area geographically and it can be hard to meet the needs of all our members. However, we have found that by



Kate de Goldi and Fiona Mackie

providing seminars with interesting speakers and topics relevant to school libraries we are providing a successful forum for our members. We regularly have 40-50 people travelling up to two hours to attend a seminar. School libraries are truly alive in the Far North.

Lesley Holembly

## Auckland

Term 3, 2003 was time for the Library Trail on Saturday, 30 August. Seventeen primary, intermediate and secondary schools opened their libraries on the Saturday morning for people to make their own tour itinerary. This meant making your way through the Auckland Saturday morning traffic. Enough said about that! The occasion was very enthusiastically received by those who made use of the opportunity to visit other school libraries, gaining ideas and encouragement. The Auckland committee will have another occasion like this in the future with new ideas employed to ensure the success and usefulness of such an event.

September saw approximately fifty-eight people from the Auckland region attending the Christchurch conference. Sarah Fordyce

from Sherwood School, North Shore Auckland and Fiona Smith-Pilling from Orewa College, Orewa, attended a SLANZA Conference for the first time. Congratulations to the Christchurch Conference Committee for organising such a wonderful occasion. South Islanders will be pleased to note that many Aucklanders took time to explore some of the South Island, taking off after the conference to places like Hamner Springs and Akaroa. One intrepid Aucklander travelled to the West Coast on the Trans Alpine Express the day the snow fell. She had an excellent view of snow close up and a very poor view of the scenery.

In Term 4, 2003 we are having a "Christmas Bit of a Do!" planned for 26 November. Sarah and Fiona are going to share their conference experiences with us. Liz Probert, National President of SLANZA, is also going to speak, sharing her Tasmania experiences where she attended the Australian School Library Association Conference in October. There will be Christmas cheer to partake of and books to buy, both for gift giving and for school libraries.

In August 2003, the Auckland Committee sent out to Auckland schools a comprehensive questionnaire asking that all members of the Library Team take time to fill in the questionnaire. This was done in response to the number of concerns the committee hears being expressed about pay, job descriptions, work place conditions, professional development, professional status—the list goes on. Thank you to all those people who returned detailed questionnaires. So far, an analysis of the data shows there are people working in school libraries who are grossly underpaid. There is a great deal of enthusiasm, willingness and commitment to carry out very professional work in school libraries and some schools are making gradual changes that show they are valuing their



**Sarah Fordyce and Fiona Smith-Pilling**

Library Teams. Quick advice to all people in school libraries is to join the union!

Finally as this is the end of the year, thank you to the committee in Auckland for your hard work, commitment and ongoing support peppered with humour. We farewelled Maureen Trebilcock who has taken up a Teacher Librarian position in Beijing, China and we have welcomed Jill Stotter back onto the local committee when Jill's tenure as Past President on the National Executive was completed. It would be very good to see more faces on the committee so please, Auckland members, give this some thought over the Christmas break.

As someone who has been closely involved in the development of SLANZA from before the 2000 launch in Wellington, I am thrilled and quite blown away at times by the amount that has already been achieved and the obvious energy displayed by members

to see this organisation continue to grow and serve the members. Have a happy Christmas everyone and a good break over the holidays.

Pauline McCowan

## Waikato/Bay of Plenty

Our 2003 AGM, was held at Kaitao Middle School, Rotorua on Friday 25 July. Louise Robbie, SLANZA's Central Region Chairperson and now President-Elect, spoke about the advantages of NZEI membership, the importance of improving professional recognition and creating an accurate job description using terms from the NZEI Collective Agreement. She also stressed the benefits of promoting the school library and of completing an annual appraisal, done in the library where achievements can be seen. Her conference presentation was titled "Trumpet Blasts and Fishnet Stockings".

A panel of speakers presented professional development opportunities: Jean Mansfield from ACE talked about their support staff course; Geraldine Parker from Kaitao Middle School explained the Open Polytech library qualifications and Anne Watt from Whakatane Intermediate submitted information about the Christchurch College of Education Children's Literature course.

Afternoon tea sponsored by RAECO was followed by the AGM. Linda McCullough, who stepped down as Chairperson, was thanked for all the work she has done for SLANZA in the region, and nationally, during these formative years. Gerri Judkins from Southwell School was nominated as the new Chairperson. Committee members are: Linda McCullough, National Library; Gail Cochrane, National Library; Geraldine Parker, Kaitao Middle School, Rotorua; Rebecca Smith, Forest View High School, Tokoroa; Grania Trott, Whakatane High School; Mary-Jane Revington, Gisborne Boys High School; Carolyn Harrowfield, Otumoetai College; Jan Stobie, Tokoroa Intermediate School and Pat Osman,

Tauranga Intermediate School.

Our 83 members are geographically wide spread so it was great to catch up with those at the 2003 Conference. Wasn't it fantastic! Members of our region wrote reports on some of the workshops. These can be viewed on the SLANZA website. The reports by our sponsored members will be in the upcoming regional newsletter.

The Hamilton members of the Regional Committee have made further plans for the 2004 AGM Mini Conference "Libraries and Literacy", 16 July at St Peter's in Cambridge. Although the final confirmation is still to come from Paul Jennings, it is on the Penguin Australia Calendar. Owen Marshall has agreed to be our second keynote speaker. To quote his reply "As both a writer and ex-teacher I fully support the role of school libraries in education." A Friday night dinner will be held at Southwell School, the venue for the Waikato Children's Literature Association Seminar on the Saturday.

### 2004

LOVE A LIBRARIAN LUNCH—because it's on Valentine's Day! Put it on your calendar: Noon, 14 February at Simply Irresistible in Tauranga, overlooking the Harbour. Let's start the year with a social gathering to meet old library friends and make new ones.

Gerri Judkins

## Central

The Central Committee and members would like to add their thanks along with other regions, to the organising committee for providing such a diverse and engaging conference programme. Central was well represented with twelve members present who shared an overwhelming conviction that any expense, inconvenience or subterfuge necessary to ensure conference registration was a small price to pay for the privilege of joining in the programme at Rangi Ruru. Once again I urge Central

members to cost into their 2004 Professional Development budgets the expenses for the Cambridge conference. This will be money well spent and recouped a thousand fold by our schools.

The Central AGM was held at the National Library Palmerston North on Tuesday, 16 September. Although the existing office holders will keep their positions till the 2004 AGM, we are very pleased to welcome Joyce Richardson and Frances Gibbons to the committee. Please see the SLANZA website for committee details, AGM minutes, Chair's report and conference feedback from Lynn Heath and Sheryn Smith.

Louise Robbie

## Wellington

Our term three SLANZA meeting was held at Newlands College, where Ruth Baker, Librarian and Mike Brady, Teacher with Library Responsibility, welcomed us.

It was a great opportunity to meet and hear Penny Carnaby, National Librarian since January 2003. Penny comes to this role with an impressive track record, having started her career as a teacher librarian in Australia, becoming Director of the Library Resource Centre at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology and most recently, University Librarian at Sydney's Macquarie University.

Penny inspired us all with future possibilities as she spoke about the *new generation learning environment*, explaining that the concept is still "underdone in terms of people's thinking" and that we continue to explore what it means. Penny believes that we have a great opportunity to move successfully into this new, increasingly digital environment because of our small size and relatively simple political structures.

The e-learning aspect of the new environment - simply described by Penny as



"stuff delivered on computers"—has been around for ten years with tertiary and other institutions offering online courses. It has not yet, however, filtered down to primary and secondary. Penny outlined how the building blocks necessary to make the new digital environment a reality in schools are gradually being put in place. These include:

### Connectivity

*Project Probe*—a joint venture by the Ministry of Education and Economic Development—will rollout high speed Internet access (broadband) to all schools and provincial communities by 2005.

### Content

Penny described how National Library is working "flat out" digitising New Zealand content. She sees this as an "an extraordinary statement of democracy" without which the treasures of the National and Alexander Turnbull libraries are "entirely elitist".

National Library is also currently exploring the feasibility of a consortium approach to purchasing electronic resources for New Zealand libraries through *PER:NA (Purchasing Electronic Resources: a National Approach)*. The aim of this approach is to reduce the costs of databases to individual libraries and to broaden access to e-information.

### **Capability**

Penny spoke about the importance of developing students' literacy and information literacy skills, without which they are disenfranchised in any learning environment.

### **Continuity**

This building block relates to the digital preservation of information for future generations and Penny described how the recently passed National Library Act requires—a world first—legal deposit of “New Zealand born digital information”.

With this legislation comes the problem of making sure digital information can be kept alive in perpetuity, but we were assured National Library is working hard to ensure this happens.

### **Collaboration**

Penny described how National Library's role is to partner with others to bring all these “chunks” or building blocks together. To this end, her focus is working to strengthen links between National Library and the education, library and cultural sectors, including Ministry of Education, Education Review Office, Tertiary Education Commission, Metronet (public libraries), LIANZA and now SLANZA.

Penny also commented how the passing of the National Library Act is an important step on the way to make this “infrastructural knitting” a reality. The Act requires the establishment of a Library and Information Advisory Commission—six commissioners and the National Librarian—whose purpose is to advise and report to the Minister on library and information issues in New Zealand, including mātauranga Maori (Maori knowledge) and access to library and information services.

Another important collaborative milestone has resulted from the Ministry of Education's recent strategic review of ICT in schools—the establishment of a steering committee from across the library and education sectors. This same review has

also reinforced the importance of having standards (which Librarians are very good at) to ensure operability and the ability to share and access information.

To conclude, Penny emphasized how all the possibilities of the e-environment—content, interactivity, the fact that “high tech = high touch”—are only as good as the teacher or the “pedagogical glue” that knits them all together.

After this inspirational dialogue, I for one, felt reassured that the National Library is in very safe hands, that Penny understands the challenges we in school libraries are facing and that we can look forward to an exciting future.

The final Wellington meeting for 2003 was at Wellington College's impressively refurbished library, where speakers gave their impressions of recent SLANZA and ASLA conferences held in Christchurch and Hobart respectively.

### **SLANZA Conference**

Jane Blandford and Liz Pfahlert were lucky recipients of sponsored places at conference and payback for both was to speak at tonight's meeting. Liz was unable to do so, but Jane gave her impressions and Bill Siddells spoke in Liz's place.

“Powerful Partnerships” were fully realised for Jane, who thanks to the sponsorship, was able to get funding for school Librarian Merryn Bakker to attend as well. This gave both the opportunity to share the same information and think “beyond the housekeeping”. Jane spoke of the common vision she and Merryn now share.

Jane also found inspiration from keynote speaker Jane Edgar, teacher-librarian from Mellons Bay, who combines teaching, acting, librarianship and huge amounts of fun to bring purpose to students' learning.

Bill Siddell described the conference costume dinner and more “Powerful Partnerships” that saw Eve (a very tastefully clad Susan Marshall) looking for her Adam

*Continued on page 15*

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## Kelston Boys Bombarded with Books

Kelston Boys' has had a Literacy Committee since 2001 and a Literacy Co-ordinator, John Bates, since February 2003. In an effort to improve attitudes to reading and literacy in general, John had suggested the idea of running a week-long Literacy Festival in the school. A Festival sub-committee was formed and began planning for a list of activities which included lunchtime story-reading, a joke writing/telling competition, a multi-media presentation inspired by a certain T. S. Eliot poem, a second-hand book stall, a spelling competition, a large release of new fiction, a rap lyric-writing competition, a Staff v. Students Literary Quiz and a Readathon. They also went out into the community seeking sponsorship for prizes and were encouraged at the level of support received. Other Literacy Committee members stepped in to run or assist with the planned activities.

The teaching staff were encouraged to give their support to the festival, especially after listening to two great speakers at Professional Development meetings—Scholastic's Rob Southam talking on research findings on boys and reading as well as strategies for helping and Wayne Mills, lecturer at ACE, Children's Book Quiz organizer and enthusiastic specialist in Boys and Reading. Wayne was requested to be the Guest Speaker at a "Dads and Lads Night" held during the Literacy Festival.

In June, two Waitakere City children's librarians, Chris Bates and Debbie McCardle, visited the school to promote the Odyssey programme. This brought them into John's ambit and discussions began on possible contributions from the public library sector for the festival which was timed to be held at the school during National Library Week.

At the beginning of Term 3, Readathon cards were distributed to all students. A

point was allocated to a student for every 100 pages read. These points were held individually, by the student's tutor group and by his 'House' so that prizes could be awarded in all these categories. The Readathon finished on the last day of the festival and was felt by the majority of staff to have had a positive impact on SSR reading habits and behaviour.

On the Tuesday prior to festival week, the interior of the school library was rearranged so that two to three classes could be seated auditorium-style. Senior study classes were re-assigned to a classroom for the day. All Yr 9 & 10 classes (and some Yr 11)—21 classes in all—were timetabled into the library that day for a twenty-minute presentation from Chris and Debbie on the delights available to members of the public library. Chris and Debbie managed the double act very well and kept their voices right through the day. The boys who were not already members took membership forms home for parents to sign and brought them back to me in the school library over the course of the week.

But this was not the end of the effort from our Waitakere Libraries Kidz Team. A box of withdrawn books was donated for the Second-hand Book Stall. Debbie and Chris arrived back the following Tuesday with library cards for those boys who had returned forms and then book-talked to Year 9 English classes in the school's Reading Room. They also brought the incomparable story-teller/reader Barbara Adams whose radio drama skills allowed her to keep the boys enthralled even though she read to them in their normal classroom. (Yes, *The Kuia and the Spider* was read as well.) Lunchtime reading by staff saw the school's principal informally voted as best reader/performer.

Tuesday night saw Chris and Debbie distributing more membership forms at the

Dads and Lads Night in the school staffroom and giving a brief presentation after Wayne Mills had concluded his passionate and spirited advocacy of reading for boys. Wayne did a brilliant job of ‘teasing’ everyone by reading aloud extracts from some recently released novels and also gave a big plug for Paul Jennings’ acclaimed new book *The Reading Bug ...and how you can help your child to catch it*. He then sat down to pizza with staff, parents and boys. Year 9 students and their parents had been targeted for this occasion, with Literacy Committee convenor Lyn Malaugh providing each committee member with a list of homes to phone.



Fiona Goodall, Western Leader

During Festival Week, colour was added to literacy-based activities by some of the school’s ethnic communities—Korean and Indian foodstalls at lunchtime and displays of Taekwondo and Korean drumming. The school buzzed as each day brought a new activity. There was a riotous group in the school hall at lunchtime on Thursday to see the staff narrowly ‘beaten’ by the student team in the Literary Quiz.

The Friday of Festival week saw the Waitakere Mobile Library bus parked in the rain outside the school library with about six of the Kidz Team in attendance. Those students who had brought their library cards were able to borrow resources. More boys took home membership forms.

The week and the Festival was completed with a weary but satisfied group of school and public library staff having a late lunch

together before the Kidz Team left us with a gift of some new books. They were happy with the number of new members signed and we were happy with the interest and response generated in the boys.

Evaluation sheets were distributed to all staff and about two-thirds were returned. There was overwhelming support for repeating the experience with 97% of staff endorsing the Festival and Readathon.

**Footnote:** If we’d had these people at school the previous day, the staff might have won the Literary Quiz. The staff were leading until the last question (and they did have different and tougher questions except for this one). However, the boys ‘snuck through’ at the end with a 7-point answer for this question—name in order the seven books in the John Marsden heptalogy!

## Powerful Partnerships 2003



Fortunately for us all, the tedious and somewhat unenviable task of writing a report to review the academic aspects of the conference hasn't fallen to me. I have the privilege to write about the

atmosphere, the participants, how it felt to be part of a vibrant and inspiring group of people, sharing and learning, a far easier task.

When Judi Hancock and Alison Pearson first sowed the seed of a spring conference in Christchurch, they knew just how enticing three days in the "Garden City" would be. The blossoms and the magnolias would provide a splendid display and the daffodils would be such a delight swaying their cheery heads in Hagley Park. The beautiful surroundings provided by Rangī Ruru also added to the ambience, and the convenience of the Rangī boarding house offered five star accommodation, on a back-packer's budget.

Special thanks to the staff at Rangī Ruru who contributed to make us all feel so welcome. Julie Moor, the Principal, not only gave us full use of all the facilities, but cemented her belief in the vital role of the library by contributing as



Standing left to right: Niki, Margaret, Eddy, Merilyn, Sandra; seated left to right: Adrienne, Judi and Kathy

a presenter, “Negotiating the Information Highway to the Principal’s Office.” Our official photographer Laura Ward, also a Rangi girl, is a seventh form photography student. We are indebted to her for her services and for providing us with a wonderful and nostalgic record of conference memories.

Librarians are an enthusiastic and demonstrative lot. No matter which way I turned, I saw huddles of librarians engaged in animated conversation and embraces, as they greeted each other and caught up with old friends. Anyone involved in school librarianship seems to belong to a special esoteric sect, where a passion for school librarianship is our cause, and hugs are the password.

I was engaged and inspired by our keynote speakers, not only by their addresses, but because they had such a presence during the entirety of the conference. They were not the “hit and runners” often encountered at conferences, but people who were always visible, participating and sharing fully in the programme.

Of course it just isn’t possible to mention every presenter and contributor, but the calibre of these people was exceptionally high. Our interest and determination to do things better, employ new ideas and challenge the old, was aroused and we have all brought home with us some inspirations, practical suggestions and a good deal of food for thought.

The conference programme was diverse and engaging. Topics for interest, dissection and instigation, ranged from the age old tradition of fairy-tales to the very latest in on-line learning,—from copyright issues in education, to coping with school archives— from the implementation of school wide Information Literacy programmes to National Library initiatives, best practice for library staff appraisal, and more, so much more. With such an abundance of material and enthusiasm we are already looking forward to, and planning the next SLANZA conference.

Fortunately for the pogonophobiacs and the androphobiacs amongst us, but sadly for the industry, the usual male—female ratio was maintained. I counted only thirteen gentlemen on the delegate list. Mind you, Jo Bennett ensured that there was more than a three day quota of testosterone when his booming voice, accompanied by great arm gestures, thoroughly entertained us at the conference dinner. His enthusiasm was such, that many of us felt sure he would leap from the podium into the arms of Napoleon, or Marge Simpson or Ed Hillary, or any number of famous characters seated



## 2004 AGM

You and Paul Jennings are invited to  
attended the

### 2004 SLANZA AGM and Mini-Conference

St Peters in Cambridge on 16 July 2004

**Registration \$100**

We are still awaiting final confirmation from Paul but it is on the Penguin Australia calendar for next year, so fingers crossed!

For more information contact  
[gerri.judkins@southwell.school.nz](mailto:gerri.judkins@southwell.school.nz)



Waikato Children’s  
Literature Association Seminar

Saturday 17 July 2004

**Southwell School, Hamilton**

Registration: members \$40, non-members \$50

A Friday night dinner will be organised  
for those staying over



**Stu Duval in storytelling mode**

directly in his line of fire.

The Famous People' conference dinner was a wonderful affair. The great dining hall at the Chateau On the Park lent an authentic ambience to the diversity of costumes, and the famous and the infamous characters who attended. All credit to the conference organising committee.

During a well-earned break from the demands of such a busy programme, I strolled through the streets of Merivale, appreciating the beautiful gardens, crisp air and spring blooms. I knew I'd recognize Stu's Duval's grandmother's house if I were lucky enough to come across it. I knew I'd be able to see right through from front door to back garden. The cherry tree would be in full bloom and the tyre swing would be gently swaying in the afternoon breeze. Such is Stu's craft as a storyteller, cartoonist, and artist that his imagery and characters come to life, even though I knew in my heart of hearts that the adorable grandmother with the jelly-wobble arms has long since passed away and that the old

home with the dahlia lined front path has sadly made way to progress. Thanks Stu for your contribution to our conference.

We all shared sadness and disappointment at Gary's Hartzell's absence. Gary motivated us at the SLANZA's launch in 1999, so much so that he is seen as part of the very foundation of the School Library Association, Aotearoa. Gary's ideas on the role of the school library and its staff underpin the mission and goals of SLANZA. Even though Gary lives in the United States, we have claimed him as our own. Our special thanks to Tim Snyder, who, at short notice filled Gary's shoes and was an interesting and enthusiastic participant in our programme.

When I woke on Thursday morning, the relief to be home in my own bed was soon replaced by the memories and friends I'd left behind in Christchurch. When my husband, bless his heart, bought me a cup of tea in my new SLANZA mug, I languished in bed for a well deserved catch-up, mulled over the last few days, made a promise to be the best school librarian I could be, and a mental note to highlight in my diary, the dates of the 2004 Cambridge mini conference on 16 July.

See you there.

Louise Robbie



**Judi and Louise in role at the Famous People's dinner**

# Tim Snyder

When it became apparent that Gary Hartzell wasn't going to be able to make it to the conference, we were, indeed, very lucky to talk Tim Snyder into coming in his place at such short notice. Tim was a very engaging speaker imparting an important message with some light-heartedness and anecdotes along the way.

To quote his biographical details from the conference handbook "He earned his BA degree from the University of Wyoming, MA from Adams State College and his educational doctorate from Nova Southeastern University. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Colorado Online Learning, a statewide entity delivering online coursework to more than 70 Colorado school districts. Tim is a recipient of Colorado's Communicator of the Year Award, Governor's Award for Excellence in Education, and the American Association of School Administrators President's Technology Award."

So, as an administrator, how did Tim come to be such a strong advocate for school libraries? He told us the story of how, when he was a school principal, his teacher Librarian asked him to present a session at a school library conference. He agreed and then thought nothing more of it until much closer to the time when the TL suggested they get together to talk about what they would present. At this point, Tim tried to wriggle out of his commitment. The TL wouldn't let that happen, so it was with some reluctance that he went along to the conference to do his bit. In attending the conference, he came to realise what an enthusiastic lot library professionals are and the value they add to their schools and learning outcomes of their students. He has since written a book entitled "Getting lead-bottomed administrators excited about school library media centres".



His advice for the library profession includes the following:-

- Understand the research on the effects of school libraries on learning outcomes and ensure that the principal is also aware of the research.
- Our most debilitating enemy is often ourselves due to our own inertia. It is up to us to get things done as we are accountable.
- Decisions determine direction and destiny.
- Our influence depends on our competence, character, integrity, service, passion and willingness to go the extra mile.
- In building partnerships, don't try to change others, but change ourselves instead.

In a broader sense this advice can be applied to life in general as Tim demonstrated with an experience he had in Vietnam as an infantry scout during the Vietnam war. He found himself caught by enemy fire in front of the line and went down injured. Waiting for someone to rescue him, he soon realised it would be too dangerous for anyone to take that responsibility. He had to take responsibility for his own life and managed to get back behind the line unassisted.

What a great decision that was for his future personal and professional life. I guess you could say it was destiny for us to hear his pearls of wisdom.

*Jane Edgar, Mellons Bay School*

## Stars and Bars:

### A Year in the Life of a Teacher Librarian



**J**ane both entertained and informed us, using the metaphor of a bridge, built by library staff, across which learners journey, supported every step of the way. A bridge, with the Principal as the keystone, held up by people, place, practice, product and perception. She emphasized the importance of clear goals, guidelines and a direction based on the research of, for example, Ross Todd, Penny Moore, David Loertscher and Maureen Trebilcock.

Each year she sets a theme for her library, with displays, which grow as the year progresses. This year, 2003, it's a circus. It is a comfort

zone, a safe place, and a house of love where children, especially the new and the shy, want to be. Teachers receive a 'Love my Library' package at the start of the year and fun is featured as in Arty Crafty Wednesday.

ICT in action in the Mellons Bay library uses critical thinking, in all curriculum areas, in new and exciting ways. The library team supports information literacy at every stage of the process and promotes literacy and reading with stock selling, whole school book celebrations like the Pirate Party at the beach and writers in residence for a week each year. Focus is on 'the right book, at the right time, for the right child'.

The three job share library assistants are supportive, user friendly, caring, sharing and flexible. Student librarians have status, undergoing oral and written tests and enjoying job satisfaction and pancake breakfasts as a reward. One was heard to say, "This job is so fun. I can't believe she lets us do it!"

Jane finished with her teacher Librarian Creed:

#### **I believe:**

- The emphasis placed on a school's library, reflects the value a school places on learning.
- Flexibility, empathy, communication skills and a sense of humour are integral to the role
- A team achieves far more than an individual
- If you value students and staff they will value themselves

#### **Drive, influence and advocate change**

- Help learners to control their learning and articulate the process
- Acknowledge achievement and always talk and act positively
- Listen
- Be fair and be realistic
- Earn trust and respect by doing what you've said you will do, what's asked for and what's needed
- Have fun doing it

## **Regional News**

*Continued from page 7*



**Bob Siddells , Lynn and Lily enjoying fine food, wine and conversation**

and Tonto looking for his Lone Ranger (aka Bill).

Bill took home the message that it's up to us as library managers to work hard to make partnerships successful. He particularly noted Penny Carnaby's description of the behaviours we should aspire to: take responsibility; communicate frequently; take care of each other; begin with modest aims and have concrete, demonstrable outcomes. Keynote speaker Lyn Hay and her advice to frame the partnership around the knowledge that "people pay attention to the things they love and value and not the things you value" also impressed Bill.

### **ASLA and CBCA (Children's Book Council of Australia) Conference**

Adaïre Hannah and Janet McFadden attended this conference in Hobart, the theme of which was "Island Journeys: a quest for inspiration".

For Adaïre, this conference hard on the heels of SLANZA, confirmed that we don't need to rely on overseas guests—New Zealand has speakers of high quality.

Adaïre described the workshop with Carol Kulthau and advocates teachers should bear

Kulthau's research in mind when working with students. Kulthau describes our state of mind—the highs and lows—as we negotiate the research journey. Adaïre also stressed how important is it that students are taught to formulate worthwhile questions when undertaking research. "We need to pose problems that are worth solving".

Writers who impressed were Anthony Horowitz and Gary Crew and Jackie French, who advocate the importance of historical fiction. Students learn from this genre that "things change" from this genre and its one we should be encouraging them to explore.

Highlights for Janet were breakfast with 30 authors and keynote speaker Lauren Child and a visit to the Tasmanian Centre of Excellence for Online Learning. However, Keith Curry-Lance's research into "The Impact of School Library Media Centres on Academic Achievement" posed as many questions as it answered.

Adaïre also visited four Melbourne schools—Melbourne Ladies College, Presbyterian Ladies College, Wesley College and Santa Maria College—to see how they are progressing with information literacy and concluded that while we're not that far behind we can't afford to be complacent.

Kim Baguely

## **Aoraki**

Our group has had an active year, with an event organised each term. In term 1 we had a Saturday morning session with Jennyth Spence from NZEI. She listened to our concerns and frustrations over pay and conditions. In response she gave us some advice on how we should go about improving our lot.

Towards the end of term 2 we had another Saturday morning seminar on library web pages— why we should have one, what we should put on it, followed by a practical hands on session where we actually put a

page together. Murphy's law intervened several times during the morning. Firstly the burglar alarm went off which was followed by a visit from the security company, then the internet server went down and finally the data projector died. Despite all that we all managed to construct a web page.

The AGM was held at Rangī Ruru during August and this was combined with a general discussion on book suppliers. Dissatisfaction was expressed about the new Whitcoulls discounting regime, so the Aoraki committee will be investigating ways to improve this situation.

Our final event for the year was of a more social nature. In October we visited the Christchurch Art Gallery library where Tim Jones showed us around. He thought ½ an hour would be enough, but we are a curious lot, and our questions kept him going for more than an hour. This was followed by dinner at the Dux De Lux.

As well as all this activity, several members of the Aoraki committee were involved in organizing the 2003 conference. We had a wonderful team and a great time working together. Eddy the conference organiser did an excellent job and also managed to keep us all on task most of the time. Not to mention Judi, who also did a magnificent job as conference convener.

Niki Waterhouse

## **Aoraki/Top of the South**

Jo Williman has the following to say about a Saturday seminar that the Aoraki/Nelson area held during the year:

Vince Ford was a great drawcard and we had a good turnout from both primary and secondary level. Vince talked about how to write for twelve year old boys without losing your sanity and was his usual entertaining self. He gave us the background to his writing and read from his latest book *A Handful of Blue*.

Michelle Dawson, in charge of literacy at Marlborough Girls' College, is passionate

about books, reading and literacy. She spoke about hooking reluctant/low ability readers using John Marsden's *Tomorrow When the War Began* and inspired us all.

Teresa Francis presented a seamless introduction to visual literacy with her presentation called *Hidden in Plain View*. We were introduced to the hidden codes in quilts and then drawn into the sophisticated picture book *A Walk in the Park* by Anthony Browne.

The format for the day seemed to work well. We started late enough at 10am to make it possible for people from Blenheim and Golden Bay to travel to the venue at Garin College in Richmond, Nelson. There were two sessions before lunch and one after, with the 2.30 pm finish time leaving some of Saturday afternoon free. Evaluation forms from the attendees were very positive.

## **Otago/Southland**

Members this term will be sharing with others who couldn't attend the Conference at BLISS (Book Lovers and Information Specialist Southland).

I will shortly be sending out a newsletter with some information about this meeting and also containing details of the highlights of the Conference from those who attended.

Otago members are having a get together soon and I hope to hear what they get up to!

Comments from a couple of our members who attended conference include:

“As a direct result of the conference we will be trialling a new information literacy scheme next year.”

“The accommodation at Rangī Ruru was spectacular—very classy and what great company.”

“I enjoyed all of the conference the workshops and meeting up with other Librarians.”

Jill Barker

# Electronic Resources

The **Purchasing Electronic Resources: a National Approach** (PER:NA) project was set up to explore the feasibility of a consortium approach to purchasing electronic resources for New Zealand libraries. The focus was on bringing together an optimum package of e-resources for the widest range of libraries.

It would only go ahead if enough New Zealand libraries participated and bought into the consortium.

In November, an announcement was made naming the selected e-resources, and asking for library participation.

## **The e-resources are:**

### **EBSCO**

*ANZ Reference Centre*  
*MasterFile Premier*

### **GALE**

*Infotrac Onefile*—with links to Ingenta  
*Biography Resource Centre*  
*Business and Company Resource Center*  
*Discovering Collection*  
*Health and Wellness Resource Centre*  
*History Resource Centre*—Modern World  
*Literature Resource Center*  
*Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*

*Contemporary Women's Issues*  
*Student Resource Center*—College Edition

## **What do I read next?**

Altogether, the selected resources comprise approximately 16,000 full text titles available, along with tens of thousands of biographies, newswires, photographs and graphics, and much more.

Using these resources, school students would be able to develop their information literacy skills using high quality, authoritative and intuitive electronic resources. They would develop searching skills to ensure a smooth transition from library to library—because they'd be familiar with the electronic resources that are available at their school libraries, students would know how to use the databases at their polytechnic, university or wananga libraries.

By the time you read this article, the PER:NA project team will have announced whether the consortium is to go ahead. We'll update you on progress in the next issue.

## Financial Report

The annual accounts presented at the recent conference showed the association to be in good financial health. Whilst income slows over the latter half of the year we have continued to maintain a sound financial base to support the activities of the association.

As at 31 October 2003 there is \$46,619 in the National fund. This amount excludes the final wash-up from the conference. However we hope to achieve a profit level sufficient to provide an appropriate amount

of seeding money for the 2005 major conference and the 2004 mini conference.

The second half of the Raeco sponsorship is now due and this money will be distributed to the regions early in the new-year. The support of Raeco is very much appreciated.

Our annual balance date is 31 December and the regions and national executive are working to prepare the final accounts and books for audit. The extra effort required to meet the deadlines is much appreciated especially during the busy first term of the year.

John Kenny

## President's Report

*Continued from page 20*



awareness when Cambridge High announced the closure of its library.

Thank you to the National Executive members who worked on these initiatives, and for some, it is an ongoing commitment. Your willingness to share your expertise is invaluable.

### **Professional Development**

There is no doubting the significance of having this “national voice”. However, what impresses me most about the past year or so is the impact that SLANZA has had on the quality of professional development being made available to school library teams. It has been awesome. All seven regions are providing a diverse range of workshops and speakers several times a year, complimenting the opportunities so ably provided by the National Library. The work involved in organising these events is huge and I hope that support for them continues to grow. Developing our skills, refining our systems, furthering our knowledge can only increase our levels of professionalism. My

thanks go to all the regional committees for the time, energy and enthusiasm you have shared with your regional members.

And speaking of “time, energy and enthusiasm”, this Report would not be complete without acknowledging the fact that we are in the midst of our first major conference. The quality and variety of the presentations and workshops at the “Powerful Partnerships” conference are evidence, indeed, of the professional standards which exist in our school library world.

It is also significant that SLANZA provided 14 registrations to this national conference for first time attendees in an effort to encourage people who might not otherwise have been able to come.

The Aoraki members who make up the conference committee are to be congratulated—your efforts over the past months have guaranteed that we are being empowered and entertained during this conference.

My thanks go, also, to the National Library, the Department of Professional Studies at Auckland College of Education and RAECO for their ongoing support of SLANZA. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

### **Information literacy**

SLANZA’s vision is “to strengthen and promote the role of school libraries to enable all school communities to become information literate.” so we were pleased that SLANZA members were able to contribute to the National Library’s *The School Library and Learning in the Information Landscape: Guidelines for New Zealand Schools*, a long awaited document which is now an invaluable resource for all school libraries. Our congratulations go to the National Library—your extensive knowledge of school libraries has ensured that the “Guidelines” provides a practical basis for school library teams to plan future developments.

## Information Technology

SLANZA has created its own website ([www.slanza.org.nz](http://www.slanza.org.nz)) and while it is still under development, it is being used increasingly as a gateway to information relating to school librarianship. It is here that you will find information on regional and national events and significant topics such as job descriptions. Andrea Thompson, our “web mistress” has spent many hours getting the site organised and I am most appreciative of all she has done.

## Concerns

Much has been achieved since SLANZA was launched in May, 2000.

However, there are several key areas of concern for many school library staff. These include:

- 1 Lack of recognition by Principals and Boards of Trustees
- 2 Inadequate remuneration
- 3 Inadequate job descriptions and appraisal processes
- 4 Increased work loads as a result of increased use of technologies in school libraries
- 5 Increased work loads as a result of the introduction of the National Certificate of Educational Achievement
- 6 Lack of appropriate training in information literacy for school library teams
- 7 Lack of understanding of information literacy amongst teachers and teacher-trainees

Addressing these issues is a key focus for SLANZA in the future. We are becoming recognised as a national body of some significance and we must build on this to bring these issues to the attention of the key players who hold the purse strings and wield political power.

On a personal note, I want to say how much I have enjoyed being President of SLANZA. It has been challenging and, at



times, demanding but it has also been heartwarming, stimulating and rewarding, especially the meetings I have attended in the regions. The National Executive is a dedicated group, focused and determined to improve the lot of school library teams in New Zealand. It has been a pleasure working with them. SLANZA will be in very good hands with Liz Probert as President—her knowledge and depth of experience ensures that SLANZA will continue to make its mark.

John Stuart Mill wrote:  
One person with a belief is equal to a force of 99 who have only interests. Let's use our belief in the work we do to move forward positively and creatively to meet the challenges of our school library world.

Judi Hancock

# President's AGM Report

SLANZA was launched on 13 May, 2000. At the time, its arrival was compared to the birth of a child as we learnt what being a national association was all about. Now we appear to be in our teenage years, flexing our muscles, testing boundaries and constantly entering new territory. And just like teenagers, we have some things of which we are very proud and some things which require ongoing attention.

It was always intended that SLANZA would be an advocate for school library teams and we have been able to take advantage of being a national voice to increase the profile of a group of people who make a significant but sometimes unrecognised contribution to the learning environments of our school students.

- 1 Ongoing links with NZEI have been formed to ensure that the Support Staff Collective Agreement adequately supports and rewards school library staff. This liaison highlighted the need for adequate job descriptions, and samples and advice for applying for pay increases are now available on the SLANZA website.
- 2 SLANZA contributed to LIANZA's draft document *Towards a National Information Strategy* and will make its own submission to the newly formed Library and Information Advisory Commission
- 2 A detailed submission, *Steps to Pay Equity* was presented to The Ministry of Women's Affairs
- 3 SLANZA entered the 3M Award for Innovation in Libraries and while not reaching the Finals, a poster of our development will be displayed at the LIANZA conference in October
- 4 School libraries are represented by SLANZA on the Internet Safety Group, the Te Puna Strategic Advisory Group and PER:NA (Purchasing Electronic Resources: a National Approach)
- 5 Links are being developed with the Australian School Library Association in the hope that our professional standards will be enhanced by a closer relationship.
- 6 And SLANZA was able to raise public

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