

Report for AGM – Bridget Schaumann  
Otago/Southland Rep

What has SLANZA done in Otago and Southland in the last year? The answer is heaps! Membership is growing, primary schools seem to be joining and other stakeholders are joining, this is really good news, the bigger we are the more difference we make! That is what SLANZA is all about, making a difference for a sector in education that can be a voice in the wilderness of the school and a profession that can be isolated. SLANZA offers collegiality, feedback from the recent SWOT analysis shows that this is seen by the members of SLANZA as one of its greatest strengths. In Dunedin it is disappointing that none of the Intermediate schools are members, there is a big opportunity to spread the word of SLANZA and to tell them that we have lots to offer them.

In Dunedin our joint pd opportunities involving the Public Library and the National Library are a runaway success. These are the most well attended meetings we have and they are fun, informative and very useful. We will be continuing this hopefully forever!

ERO having a focus on the information landscape for the first four months of the year was a major achievement. This brought the focus of ERO into the Library nationwide and meant that the school librarian in the schools that were looked at became a focus in the school for the staff and senior management. In many schools this can be difficult to achieve and often we are perceived as a very small cog in the wheel of education, ERO's focus proved that we do, indeed matter, and that libraries and librarians are actually the hub of the school and an important learning, cultural and social hub of the school.

My focus for next year. Some joint pd for both the Southland and Otago areas, some social activities, to continue to encourage the outlying regions of our enormous area to have get togethers themselves and to try and keep the newsletters coming. I want to get SLANZA humming and really working for us.

Many thanks to the two Jenny's (Jenny Millar and Jenny Carroll) without their help and insight I would struggle with this job. They make great sounding boards and their wealth of knowledge is invaluable.

Bridget Schaumann  
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Office Bearers for Otago Southland Area

Bridget Schaumann – rep  
Librarian/Careers Advisor  
King's High School  
Dunedin  
Ph: (03) 4557547

Jenny Carroll – Assistance/Secretarial  
Librarian  
Queens High School  
Dunedin

Jenny Millar - Treasurer  
Librarian  
Logan Park High School  
Dunedin