



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 6, May 2002

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President's Report

As I sit writing this final editorial as President of SLANZA, I still feel passionate and optimistic for the future of our new professional association and for the future of school librarianship in New Zealand schools.

Along with several others, I have been heavily involved with SLANZA now for three years, during which the planning, launching and developing of a whole new organisation has taken place. By the time this Newsletter is published SLANZA will be two years old. The steering committee will have almost completed a 'change of guard'; a new president, Judi Hancock, is about to take office; six regional groups are up and running with their own elected committees; a working constitution is operating; SLANZA is developing associations with several like organisations such as LIANZA and National Library; professional issues such as staffing, pay rates and the overall management of school libraries have been aired through submissions and regional and national meetings. SLANZA is now recognised as a 'player' in the teaching and learning profession and avenues for ongoing funding for our organisation are being explored.

Phewwww! It does look a lot when listed like that and we have achieved mightily over those three years. But don't relax. There is still much to do!

Two regional groups—Auckland and Wellington recently held meetings to which a representative from ERO was invited. We wanted to find out what ERO required from School Libraries when The Visit occurred. Hitherto, the School Library was only involved or noticed if the library personnel took it upon themselves to write a report of their achievements or invited the ERO people into the library to observe their library in action. ERO has never been expected to comment on other than how schools are working within the Learning

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Inspiring Excellence in School Libraries

SLANZA National Conference Wellington

20–21 July 2002

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- Best Practice in School Libraries
- Professional development workshops

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SLANZA sponsored by Raeco

Areas of the curriculum. The Essential Skill Areas in which school libraries can help make changes have not, historically, been included. The message from ERO however, even after all their reviewing and restructuring and the advent of NCEA, is that nothing much has changed. Enthusiastic library staff can write reports galore but still the LAs are the evaluation target.

So the question here for SLANZA is how can we ensure that school libraries become an integral part of the ERO School Review process? I believe we need a two-pronged strategy for change:

- We (SLANZA members) need to look back to Ross Todd's paper on Evidence Based Practice which he delivered to the IASL Conference in Auckland last July, and which is published in the February 2002 *Scan* magazine (pp 30–37) Remember his

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Thoughts From the Editor ...

Like everything else about the organisation, the SLANZA newsletter has "just growed like Topsy". We now have a schedule and are attempting to bring members four issues a year, once every term. What with conferences and mini-conferences, AGMs and constitutions there doesn't seem any shortage of material to bring to you.

However, I'm very conscious that it remains a rather "top-down" method of communication, where the Executive Committee is giving out information to the members. How about a **Letters to the Editor** column, where any member can highlight an issue or ask a question? Equally, if there is any issue that you would like to see more about, please let me know so that we could produce a more in-depth article.

All letters and requests to JFoote@otahuhucollege.school.nz by the end of term please.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The months of February and March have seen me beating a path from the Post Office box to my desk, to the bank and back to the Post Office. Thank you to the 302 members who have paid their subscriptions so far. These funds will enable us to plan the finances for the year using income rather than capital.

March 2002 ended with a total of \$40,408 in the SLANZA accounts—\$15,355 in the cheque account, \$14,590 in the savings and \$10,463 on term deposit. Expenses incurred this year amount to \$1135 for postage, stationery, newsletter and teleconference costs. Cheques underwriting the July 2002 conference (\$2000) and the September 2003 conference in Christchurch (\$5000) have also been drawn and banked into new accounts for this specific purpose. Forthcoming costs for term two will consist of the May newsletter, the National Executive face to face meeting in Wellington on 11–12 May and a proposed teleconference in June.

Before any of these things happen however my next task is to send an invoice to Raeco for their sponsorship funds and then, happily, to distribute the money equally to regional co-ordinators to be used for regional meetings this year.

Alison Pearson
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SLANZA Newsletter

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REGIONAL NEWS

Auckland

A talented committee was elected at our AGM: Fiona Mackie (NL), Pauline McCowan (NL), Anne Rolinson, Anne Meredith (Swanson Primary), Vicki Baas (Pakuranga Int) Elizabeth Probert (Pakuranga Coll. and ACE), Karen Hirst (Lynfield), John Fowler (Kings), Lois Jamieson (Sthn Cross) and Mary Bodmin (Avondale). Auckland is fortunate to have such gender, age, level, decile and sector balance.

Di Moffat detailed the work of ERO during school visits—their expectations and the new roles ERO plays in supporting libraries and their staff. Over 60 people were welcomed by Auckland Grammar staff. Valuable PD occurs simply by having functions in different libraries.

Wayne Mills from Auckland College of Education and his literature students have met our challenge to a Literature Quiz. (Wayne is also the national quiz master for Storylines.) Schools and sectors in Auckland/Tai Tokerau are competing in teams of four at Rodney College on 22 June.

Teams from other parts of New Zealand are welcome to join us! Details from aolib@ihug.co.nz or Pauline at National Library Auckland.

As result of our initial team building exercise held at a Chinese restaurant, we are ready to meet the professional development demands of school library personnel in greater Auckland this year.

Anne Rolinson

Central

Our membership is on the rise and we hope to encourage even more participation this year by providing a programme and benefits for all. Members have recently received a local newsletter encouraging use of our listserv and, of course, attendance at the

National Conference. Central's programme for the year includes get togethers for members in our sub-regions. We believe this will support the growth of strong local networks, encourage new membership, promote the discussion of school library issues and make suggestions for topics and speakers for our day of professional development which we will combine with our AGM on Tuesday 3 September 2002.

Louise Robbie

library.man.col@xtra.co.nz or robbiefxb@xtra.co.nz

Otago/Southland

A small but enthusiastic group gathered at Tapui Books in Dunedin to hear Keith and Glenice Millar talk about the lexile reading scheme they have been operating at Southland Boys' High School. Keith stressed that to be successful with any reading scheme you must have the commitment of all staff especially administration staff. The dedication of time for reading is essential. Networking with other library staff is so valuable and we all learned a great deal from the discussion session following the talk.

Jenny Millar

jj.millar@xtra.co.nz

Tai Tokerau

A keen group of SLANZA members (and potential members!) met at Kamo Intermediate School in March last term for the SLANZA Tai Tokerau AGM and the hand-over to the new committee. SLANZA Tai Tokerau is now based in Whangarei for 2002, with a great new committee chaired by Jenny Wilson of Kamo Intermediate School. The new committee is already planning a calendar of events, with a joint meeting with SLANZAK to be held in Term 2 at Rodney College, and a one-day seminar and library trail in Term 3.

Thanks to our financial success last year, SLANZA Tai Tokerau is able to sponsor the 2001 Chair Di Eastwood (TLR at Kerikeri

High School) and 2002 Chair Jenny Wilson (LA at Kamo Intermediate School) to attend the SLANZA Wellington conference in July. Two other Northlanders are also travelling to Wellington—Lyndsay Burrows from Bream Bay College and Jan Hobbs who works in two school libraries, Oruaiti School near Mangonui and Te Kura o Hato Hohepa te Kamura (St Joseph's the Carpenter) near Whangaroa Harbour. They are all looking forward to the wonderful programme of speakers and workshops, as well as meeting fellow SLANZA members from around the country.

Jeannie Skinner

Waikato/Bay of Plenty

Speakers at our first seminar for 2002 on Visual Literacy (Saturday 18 May at Bethlehem College Library) include Andrew Crowe (*Which Native Bird is that?*), and Bryan Pollard, Sheryl Jordan's illustrator, who has also worked for publishers like Wendy Pye and Shortland Publications.

Jennifer Glenn, who tutors 'Image and Narrative' for the Christchurch College of Education's Children's Literature Course, shows how to use picture books to achieve visual literacy, and we also have a display by Jabberwocky Children's Bookshop.

We hope to have a second seminar later in the year with NCEA as its focus.

Linda McCullough

Wellington

Wouldn't you like to button-hole the Education Review Office? Anecdotal evidence would suggest there is much dissatisfaction with ERO in school library circles.

Seemingly, ERO often overlook school libraries or fail to make any meaningful assessment of them. So it says much for Karen Sewell's (CEO of ERO) presentation at the SLANZA (Wellington region) March meeting that at the end there was only one

follow-up question.

Rather than looking back, Ms Sewell's talk concentrated on the future. The new Education Reviews are to be carried out in partnership with school Boards of Trustees. BOTs, as Crown entities, will be required to identify areas of focus for review and factors that make a difference to student



Russell Finimerty

Karen Sewell, ERO CEO

achievement—especially Maori achievement. It was these two areas Karen Sewell saw as providing an opportunity for recognition of the role of the school library. The school's priorities, government priorities and compliance issues then form the three strands of ERO's subsequent evaluation. The emphasis on a school's self-review and the focus on school improvement are new.

Ms Sewell expressed interest in sending staff to the SLANZA conference in July. She came across as an extremely capable professional with a clear-sighted passion for her work who didn't fudge issues or offer false hope. We will certainly be sending her a conference invitation.

Dr Penny Moore (IASL Director) then spoke about the work of the International Association of School Librarianship and particularly about the August conference in Malaysia this year.

Adaire Hannah gave a PowerPoint presentation promoting the forthcoming

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SLANZA—THE CONSTITUTION IN ACTION

The mini-conference on 20 July will see the second AGM for SLANZA. As such, it will be an opportunity to see how our constitution works in practice. Two important changes happen at this AGM

- the President's position changes. Jill Stotter takes the position of Past President for a year, making way for President Elect, Judi Hancock. A new President Elect will be chosen to serve for three years.
- three of the regions elect their representatives to the Executive Committee to serve for two years - Auckland/Northland, Otago/Southland and Central North Island.

What does this mean for members?

Firstly, the election of the President Elect is vital. Such a person should have a very good understanding of the issues facing school libraries and SLANZA. As the eventual president, they will be the public face of the organisation, responsible for speaking on our behalf in public and political forums, chairing all meetings, setting all agendas. If you wish to nominate someone for this position, please fill out the form in this newsletter and post it in. Remember that you need a seconder and the consent of the nominee. If there is more than one nomination for the position of President-Elect, a vote will take place by mail. Only financial members are eligible to vote.

DATES TO NOTE:

15 May 2002:
IASL awards announced

5-9 August 2002:
IASL conference
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

28 October 2002:
International School Library Day

Secondly those regions who are electing their representatives need to do so before July and inform the President. How this is done is left up to the regions in question, although a democratic procedure is expected! The formality or otherwise of this will depend on the state of the regional organisations themselves.

There is nothing in the constitution that prevents someone currently on the Executive Committee standing for election or, in next year's instance, re-election.

PRESIDENT ELECT NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee

.....

Position of Nominee

.....

School of Nominee

.....

Address of Nominee

.....

Telephone No of Nominee

.....

Signature of Nominee

.....

Name of Nominator

.....

Name of Seconder

.....

Return to: Nominations, SLANZA,
PO Box 36-511, Merivale, Christchurch
by 28 June

**School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa Inc
Te Puna Whare Matauranga a Kura**

SLANZA Inc. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Position

Please tick the job title that best suits your main library related responsibilities:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Deputy Principal | <input type="checkbox"/> | Principal | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Librarian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Teacher with Library Responsibility | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Library Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trained Teacher Librarian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Library Manager | <input type="checkbox"/> | Technician | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| National Library Adviser | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Academic Qualifications:

Preferred SLANZA Region:

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.....

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For Office Use Only:

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President's Report

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wonderful saying at last July's conference when he told us all to 'get over it!'? Get over the lack of funding, lack of staffing, lack of kudos within our schools, low morale etc. Well, get over it we must, and quickly! We need to get out there and carry out soundly based research tasks to produce some hard data to show ERO that well-managed school libraries are making a positive difference to student achievement. That, folks, is the bottom line. We have moved on from judging the success of a school library by showing increasing bookings and student use of the library. We have moved on from justifying spending on a great collection geared to the curriculum. We have moved on from the idea of a successful school library being one with a great environment with great displays, helpful informed staff and clever technology. We now need to be able to demonstrate to ERO, BOTs, Principals and teachers that professionally managed school libraries improve student learning. Only then will the school library be regarded as a serious player in education and learning.

- To help with this mammoth task, I believe we need to encourage, push, and promote the concept of a Library Team. There is no way in the world that one person working on her/his own can achieve sound data collection within the school environment. This takes the combined efforts of teachers and library staff working together. Collaboration with classroom teachers, resource managers, TLRs, teacher librarians, librarians, library managers, assistant librarians (plus any other title you can dream up), students and school management, plus a programme of sound learning tasks planned, taught and assessed within an Action Research framework, is what we all need to work on to achieve measurable results. Penny Moore of Wellington is presently working with Australian schools to do just this and she will be speaking at our conference in July, which is wonderful for us.

Unfortunately, unlike Australia, New Zealand school libraries have no standardised model. We have no history of Trained Teacher Librarians or extensive state funding. This is why we need to heed Ross's words. We need to get over it, move on and work within our own framework. Until schools are able to produce this hard data to ERO, the Ministry of Education and tertiary providers, nothing will change for us. The long awaited and much needed **Guidelines for School Libraries** document, which is still in production, is not able to be prescriptive in any way. The valuable messages contained in the Best Practice Scenarios part of the document will need to be unpacked and carefully discussed by SLANZA professionals (see July conference programme), modelled and shared with BOTs and school management groups.

Well there it is. I have said it. These are not new ideas and there is already a body of research available for us to adapt to the New Zealand situation. This is what Kiwis are good at and I believe this is what SLANZA needs to work towards. New Zealand school libraries need to produce sound research data about our learners interacting with the school library and information services—staffing, resourcing, information literacy and information process programmes—to demonstrate clearly that well managed school libraries do indeed make a positive difference to student learning.

Jill Stotter

Wellington Region

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SLANZA national conference here in Wellington.

This was a highly successful meeting attended by nearly 50 people; a considerable achievement considering that in the last six months the Wellington committee have been working incredibly hard putting together arrangements for the national conference in July.

Barbara Walker

SLANZA Mini-Conference: 20–21 July 2002

Organising a national conference is an enormous and, occasionally, overwhelming, challenge.

The first big questions were dispatched quite quickly. Venue? National Library, Wellington. Theme? *Inspiring excellence in school libraries*. But then came the myriad of other details—speakers, topics, programme, brochures, trade stands, registrations and, of course, money. In other words, meetings, negotiations, phone calls, emails, proposals, diagrams, lists, contracts, budgets and work sessions.

A conference registration brochure has been mailed to every school, addressed to: The Library. All SLANZA members have been mailed an individual registration brochure. A separate registration brochure was mailed to all Kura schools with the main information in Maori. We are very appreciative of the work by Jason Tane and David Jones in preparing the Kura schools registration brochure.

The NZ Book Council is sponsoring three NZ writers. Fuji Xerox sponsored the printing of the 3 500 brochures. Whitcoulls have kindly sponsored the **Drinks and Nibbles** at 5.00 PM on Saturday. And a donation for the conference has been received from Jay Books.

Details of the programme and accommodation are available, thanks to Andrea Thomson, on the SLANZA

website—www.tki.org.nz/slanza.

A brief outline of the programme:

Plenary sessions:

- Inspiring Excellence in School Libraries—William Taylor
- Preparing the School Library for the Future: guideline and principles
- Engaging the Reader—Kate De Goldi
- The Information Literate Student—Penny Moore

Workshops:

- SCIS and the NZ Connection
- Writing Heroes get Kids reading: how the NZ Book Council adds value to the school library
- Te Kete Ipurangi
- Library Qualifications
- Focus on Copyright in an electronic environment
- Engaging the reader through Newspapers
- Engaging the Maori reader
- Engaging the Young reader
- Using National Library's electronic resources

In addition the Annual General Meeting of SLANZA will be held at 4.00 PM on Saturday, 20 July.

Which reminds me, have YOU sent in your registration yet?

Barbara Walker

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