

Wellington Regional Report

EPIC showcased. Guest speaker at our first meeting for 2004, held at Wellington High School, was Fiona Rigby, National Library of New Zealand. Fiona is the Project Manager for the formerly named PERNA Proof of Concept Project (Purchasing Electronic Resources: a National Approach) recently renamed as EPIC (Electronic Purchasing in Collaboration). And EPIC it is!

Fiona gave us a brief history of the development of the project, and was able to confirm that EPIC is beyond the concept stage. Thanks to funding from the Ministry of Education, all New Zealand schools will receive free access to comprehensive electronic data bases via the TKI website.

So what are the EPIC databases?

There are two providers: EBSCO and GALE.

EBSCO maintains two databases. The Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre which combines Australia and New Zealand specific magazines, newspapers and newswires, reference books and company information to create a large collection of full-text content. And MasterFILE Premier which is even bigger – this multi-disciplinary database provides full text for 1900 general reference publications dating back to 1975, and an image collection of photos, maps and flags.

GALE's Infotrac Onefile is another huge multi-disciplinary database.

At our meeting, SLANZA's Wellington committee members demonstrated ways of accessing information from these databases, using specific examples and Boolean search techniques. They strongly advise that you use the HELP section early on, to learn the most efficient and effective ways of searching for and caching the information you or your students require.

GALE hosts other useful and fascinating databases: Opposing Viewpoints (great ammunition for debates or for researching both sides of issues such as genetic engineering, euthanasia...), Biography, History, the Discovering collection and What Do I Read Next? are further examples of user friendly databases that were introduced to the meeting.

Secondary School learning communities will undoubtedly get the most use from EPIC, teachers and senior students in particular. National Library School Services staff assured us that help with EPIC in the form of training workshops is in the pipeline – watch out for their newsletters.

Can I find out more and try the databases myself?

Absolutely. Go to: <http://www.perna.org.nz>

Offering free access to this wealth of information is a huge achievement, and will be of enormous benefit to students. Find out more, so that you can help them, and their teachers, to access this new information highway.

Janice Jones

New SLANZA Website Continued from page 5...

Andrea has worked tirelessly in her mission to create an effective, functioning and informative website for our members. Even for those of us who consider ourselves 'reasonably techno savvy' creating a website from scratch is a considerable and timely undertaking. Andrea's job at National Library has recently become much busier and she found she was no longer able to give the Webmaster job the time it needed. At the last SLANZA Executive meeting in February Andrea signalled her intention to resign from the post and Niki Waterhouse, Lincoln High School, and Aoraki Regional Representative, generously agreed to take on the role.

Thank you Andrea for all the time and expertise you have invested in the creation and maintenance of our website.

Niki has now taken over the responsibility of Webmaster and can be contacted via the website.

President's Report

As I write this the second term of 2004 is about to begin and if you managed to have a break I trust you are feeling rested. Term 2 is always a busy one, often including examinations, reports, school shows, school balls and various trips.

I am hoping to meet up with many SLANZA members at the mini-conference and AGM in Cambridge in July. The organiser, National Executive Waikato Region representative Gerri Judkins has spent much time on this event and we thank her and her team. Gerri recently suffered the loss of her beloved brother, historian Michael King and our thoughts are with her at this sad time.

Many of you will have read about the Ohio Report, detailing the results of the work carried out by Dr Ross Todd and Dr Carol Kuhlthau of Rutgers University from December 2002 through December 2003. More than 13,000 students from Grade 3-12 (USA) participated in the study looking at how students benefit from school libraries and also at the school library's relationship to student learning. This site contains a good summary of the findings.

http://www.cissl.scils.rutgers.edu/news_and_events/Release_Final.doc

It is certainly well worth having a look at, as the news is all good for school libraries and learning. One word of warning though, the position of 'school librarian', a term which is used throughout the report is, according to Ann Pepe, Project Director, "usually someone who is a certified library media specialist." In most cases the term 'school librarian' refers to someone with teaching credentials. "Many of our school librarians are former teachers who go back to school to complete their Masters and become

certified as school librarians. These programs typically include Information Literacy, state and national standards, library program management, collaboration with teachers to teach IL skills etc."

I think the important thing to note here is that school libraries can have a major beneficial effect on learning in schools and that many New Zealand school libraries are doing some very good work. However, think how much more we could achieve with a strong school library team carrying out a well planned school library programme and engaging in evidence based practice so that the team can demonstrate how it makes a difference to learning in the school. This is a very important focus for SLANZA and we welcome and ideas and suggestions from members.

Please note that there is information in the newsletter about the SLANZA Awards. This is a new initiative aimed at recognising the work of members and others in supporting the aims of SLANZA so please read the material carefully and nominate those you feel are worthy of such awards.

I hope you all have an excellent start to the term.

Elizabeth Probert

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Editorial

This is our first newsletter to be professionally published. Until now we have relied on the generosity of Adaire Hanna, Jan Foote and Liz Probert who have donated literally hundreds

hours, writing, editing and publishing to produce previous newsletters for our members. Our sincere thanks and a huge bouquet to you all. Our special thanks also to ACE and RAECO for providing the sponsorship to make printing and distribution possible.

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. More often than not members of the National Executive have been responsible for the articles to the newsletter. SLANZA welcome contributions from any individual or organisation who have an interest or a view point on matters concerning school librarianship.

SLANZA has established a range of awards to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our members. The awards will be presented annually at our AGM, with the inaugural awards being presented this July at the Cambridge Conference. Details about the awards are covered later in this newsletter. However, I do want to take this opportunity to encourage you to make the most of this wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the work and accomplishment of your peers and to help promote excellence in school librarianship.

Please visit our website regularly; see you at the mini conference.

Louise Robbie
Editor

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

Hear
Paul Jennings and Owen Marshall
at the

SLANZA 2004
Mini – Conference & National AGM
Libraries and Literacy

Friday 16 July
St. Peters School Cambridge

For more info. on workshops, registration, accommodation etc.

Please visit the website www.slanza.org.nz

Or e-mail Gerri Judkins gerrijudkins@southwell.school.school.nz

Early Registration (closes 17 May) SLANZA members - \$100 Non members- \$120

Late Registration (closes 17 June) SLANZA members - \$120 Non members - \$140

SLANZA Dinner - \$60.00
Friday night accommodation & breakfast@ Southwell School \$30.00

Stay an extra day and join us at the

Waikato
Children's Literature Association Seminar
Featuring Paul Jennings and Tanya Batt

Saturday 17 July Southwell School, Hamilton
Contact Gerri Judkins

Central Regional Report

The Central Committee met on January 31st to discuss the programme for 2004. It was decided not to host a professional development

day this year. Instead, we are encouraging our members to attend our AGM on June 30th, and the SLANZA mini conference to be held in Cambridge on July 16th.

The AGM will be followed by dinner at a local restaurant for those Central members who would like to say their goodbyes to Louise who is leaving the committee after three years as the Central Chair.

Joyce Richards who is a current member of the Central Committee has offered to act as temporary Chair until elections at the AGM.

The SLANZA Central AGM is planned for Wednesday June 30th. 4.30 - 5.30 pm at the National Library, Tremaine Ave, Palmerston North. Then from 6.00 - 7.30 pm we are hosting an introductory session to EPIC with Fiona Rigby who has been the EPIC Project Manager and Dylan Owen from National Library, Wellington, who will talk about EPIC from a curriculum perspective.

SLANZA Central members received a newsletter at the beginning of May. If you would like a copy, please e-mail Louise on robbiefb@xtra.co.nz

Louise Robbie

Otago, Southland Regional Report

So far this year some Southland members had a wonderful time visiting Gowan Heaney, the Librarian at Fiordland College in Te Anau.

A good time was had by all and I understand that it was rather late by the time some members returned to Invercargill.

Otago members have also had a meeting in Dunedin.

As you will be aware Invercargill schools are being considered for closure and I hope our Invercargill members are taking care of themselves.

Jill Barker

Waikato, Bay of Plenty Regional Report

The year for our region started with a lunch meeting 14 February at Simply Irresistible Café in Tauranga. The food was wonderful and lots of planning was done for the

2004 National AGM / Mini conference – see Min conference update.

The regional AGM, with an Information Literacy focus, will be held Saturday 12 June at the Knighton Normal School Library. Guest speakers will be Carol Jarman from Hamilton Girls' High School and Jane Edgar from Mellons Bay School in Auckland, who both entertained and informed us at the SLANZA 2003 Conference.

We look forward to welcoming the SLANZA members from the far North to Invercargill who have already registered for the 2004 AGM and Mini conference at St Peter's in Cambridge on the 16th July. If you haven't yet done so, check out the website for the registration form.

Gerri Judkins

Newsletter Sponsored by RAECO

Regional Reports

Aoraki Regional Report

On Feb 27th four Aoraki members made a short presentation to the Canterbury/Westland Principal's Association. The four formed a panel where each person described a stage of the evolving school library from the first stage where the library was just a storehouse for books to the fourth stage where the library is an information hub connected with the world. This was an introduction to the question, which was then put to them. *"What do you do in your role as principal to ensure that the library continues to meet the changing information needs of your students?"* The Principals brainstormed this question for a few minutes in small groups and reported back to the panel. The remaining few minutes was spent discussing some of the issues that were raised. The session took half an hour and it is hoped that the principals went away giving more thought to their school libraries, and that in a small way the profile of school librarians has been raised.

We are planning a day on the 25th June, which will repeat some of the sessions from last year's conference and also include the Aoraki AGM. Although planning is still underway, it is hoped that by hosting this on a Friday it will make it easier for many of our members who travel considerable distances to attend.

Auckland (SLANZAK) Regional Report

Last year ended on a high note with a very well attended "Christmas Bit of a Do!" held at National Library, Remuera, Auckland. As indicated in a previous newsletter, our first

time conference participants presented their conference reports.

Fiona Smith-Pilling from Orewa College was not able to attend as her son had arrived. It was a lovely surprise after two daughters and last progress report indicates all is as it should be. Sarah Fordcye from Sherwood Primary School had us rolling in the aisles with her report! Hopefully her own words will be published in the same newsletter as this report as I could not do justice to her "performance" and would like you all to enjoy the genuine article.

Liz Probert, our National President and local Committee member reported on her attendance at the Tasmanian Conference and in particular her impressions of the delightful and irrepressible English author, Lauren Child. Liz was clutching her signed copy of a Lauren Child book and those of us who heard Lauren in Auckland and had books signed were in complete agreement with her.

The Women's Bookshop and Jabberwocky Bookshop did a roaring trade and there were many satisfied customers who went home with arms full of gifts for family, friends and themselves.

A meeting was planned for March 24th 2004 called "Spicing the Mix – Flavouring the Collection", catering for Asian Language speakers in the school library. The meeting was to include the Annual General Meeting and election of a new committee. However, as there were very few registrations, the meeting had to be cancelled. Experience of Auckland meetings would indicate to the committee that the better-attended meetings are held on Saturdays and in geographical locations where people are best able to avoid some of Auckland's traffic. It is also very obvious that the first term of the school year is horrendously busy for most of us. Lots of people who work in school libraries also have numerous family responsibilities and professional commitments that take time and energy. The Auckland Committee have noted these points and hope that future events will fill the needs of local members.

Early this year Fiona Mackie, National Library, Auckland resigned from the SLANZAK committee. Fiona is working on the Conference committee with other members of the Auckland team. Fiona works as New School Adviser at the Auckland Service Centre of National Library and with the growth in Auckland's population she is extremely busy. The Auckland Committee looks forward to maintaining contact with Fiona through the 2005 Conference planning Committee.

Information Literacy at Lincoln High School

Instead of having a Teacher with Library Responsibility, Lincoln High School has an Information Literacy Teacher. Liz McNeill has been responsible for setting up an Information Literacy Programme. Liz teaches English and also has 5 hours per week for the information literacy role. Five hours is not a lot, but she has achieved a huge amount in a short space of time.

When Liz was appointed, she was interested in literacy of all types, but lacked the skills to teach information literacy, so she spent the first six months undertaking an online Infolink course to upskill. When this was finished, an Information Literacy Committee was formed which included Liz, the Librarian, Niki, and teaching staff from core subject areas. This group met regularly to develop a model of information literacy using language that all departments would agree to. It was felt that it was important to be using the same language across all subject areas, so that students would understand that the information literacy skills they were acquiring were transferable across all curriculum areas.

When the model was complete it was put onto the intranet with all the associated resources. Hard copies of templates and support material were placed in the photocopy room so that it was easily accessible for teachers. Liz then presented the model to all staff at a regular staff meeting.

Because Liz only has 5 hours per week for information literacy, it hasn't been possible for her to go into classes to teach the skills to the students. Our approach is to teach the teachers the skills to pass on to the students. To enable this to happen, Liz offers regular professional development opportunities so that teachers can improve their own information literacy skills.

The age-old problem with this of course is that you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. However, Liz has been a member of two groups of

teachers within the school, which have provided ideal forums for her to share and demonstrate her skills and resources with, and who can then successfully integrating it into their own teaching programmes.

While Liz's role has been to set up the programme within the school and to provide ongoing professional development for teachers, Niki's role as librarian is to support Liz where possible as well as providing access to appropriate resources. Liz and Niki meet regularly to talk about the Information Literacy Programme and share the latest in what either has found on the topic. Niki also collaborates with teachers so that there is a good understanding of the topics being taught, ensuring appropriate resources are made available. She also spends some time in classes demonstrating online databases and the search strategy required to use them. Digital resources are either catalogued or packaged in a way that they can be easily accessed from the intranet.

The information literacy process as a whole is sometimes taught as a linear process at years 9 and 10, however, teachers also focus on individual information literacy tasks, such as mindmapping or brainstorming. For activities where finding skills are not included, Niki prepares pathfinders to enable students to find appropriate information easily. It has been found that pathfinders provide some scaffolding for the junior students who are on their way to becoming information literate.

Since the introduction of the Information Literacy Programme, a Thinking Skills Programme has also been launched. It was found that some of the resources are common to both programmes, so information literacy and thinking skills now sit side-by-side on the intranet and are integrated where there are common resources.

Niki Waterhouse

SLANZA Awards Celebrate Success

SLANZA has established a range of awards to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our members. The first awards will be presented at our next AGM being held in Cambridge this July.

There are four SLANZA Merit Awards, which have been established. These will celebrate and encourage excellence; share new ideas or innovative approaches so they can be incorporated or built on by other school library communities; foster high morale in the school library community; and raise the profile of New Zealand school library services to school students. The awards are the: -

SLANZA Award of Merit for Information Literacy

This award will be presented to a SLANZA member who has demonstrated success in implementing an outstanding programme for school students using information literacy skills. The information literacy programme must have been implemented in a New Zealand school library or information centre within the last two years.

SLANZA Award of Merit for Literacy

This award will recognise success in implementing an outstanding literacy programme for students involving reading in a New Zealand school library or information centre.

SLANZA Award of Merit for Promotion

This award will be presented to a SLANZA member to celebrate their success in implementing an initiative in the last two years, which has successfully raised the profile of the school library.

SLANZA Award of Merit for Research

This award was created to recognise a SLANZA member, who has developed, carried out and written up a research programme, which has demonstrated that the school library makes a positive contribution to the teaching and learning programmes in the school.

In addition two further awards have been established

SLANZA Certificate of Recognition.

This award is in recognition of any individual or organisation (not necessarily a member) that has

- Rendered a focussed, significant or special service to SLANZA
 - Demonstrated continuing service over a period of time to SLANZA
- Made an outstanding contribution to school librarianship or school libraries in New Zealand.

SLANZA Certificate of Appreciation

This award was given for the first time at the 2003 AGM. It is presented to retiring members of the National Executive, Regional Chairs and conference committee members to recognise the time and effort they have contributed to SLANZA, their support of local initiatives for the benefit of local members and provision of local and national professional development.

Applications and nominations for these new awards will close on the 9th. June with the SLANZA Secretary, P.O. Box 36-511, Merivale, Christchurch.

Further information about the awards as well as application or nomination forms can be found on the SLANZA website at www.slanza.org.nz

Those of us who went to Rangi Ruru also had choices to make. We could have just enjoyed the time with like-minded folk, then stored our memories away, to be brought out and aired when we met again at courses or meetings. Or we could choose to use our new-found knowledge to improve our own Libraries. In my dictionary the words “Powerful” and “Partnership” have the combined definition of “A relationship between individuals or organisations which has great strength or force”. The organisers had put strength & force into everything – I felt it was up to me to be an active partner, not just a sleeping one!

The speakers’ generosity was astounding: their handouts & willingness to send copies of notes or materials gave us something concrete to work with. The workshops were invaluable – if only there had been time for more! The knowledge I gained from them helped me institute a tremendous number of changes – work is so exciting now!

The biggest change in my attitude came from the Keynote speakers. Dr Tim Snyder told us “If it has to be, it’s up to me” Don’t sit back & complain things aren’t happening quickly enough – I can’t change others so I must change myself. I now ask staff for specific, targeted help, rather than waiting & hoping. It works, and the whole school benefits.

From Dr Penny Moore we learned to be Mavens. Not ravens: a big black bird with an unpleasant voice, but Mavens: those who accumulate knowledge, sharing it with others. We must be inspirational champions of the cause. Our ideas are viral and should spread as such - I aim to be heavily infected for a long time! Also, people pay attention to things which matter to them, rather than things dear to our hearts. I now have a powerful partnership with parent volunteers. They have an interest because their child is at the school; I am in desperate need of help. We all benefit, with the students benefiting the most. This is just a sample of her address: do look it up on the SLANZA website.

Jane Edgar – I summed her up in my conference handbook with one word – WOW. Her use of humour was inspirational, but her light hearted attitude did not detract from her serious underlying message – her main aim in life seems to be to use every means possible to encourage students to learn & to enjoy doing it along the way. Would that we could all be like her! I have a page in my conference work book filled with her witty one-liners: each one is stated for a purpose though, not just as the words of a self-confessed “Drama Queen”, but as a means to encouraging others to see the importance of our job in the lives of the students. I have taken a leaf out of her book & humiliated myself mercilessly over the past months, including wearing a gaudy hat & waistcoat for our November Book Fair. The sales to staff & students were phenomenal, but the real bonus was the rapport built up with students, parents and staff. This year I have concentrated more than ever on selling “reading” to the students. It’s working too! Powerful partnerships can be formed in many ways – and I’m sure a bit of humiliation is good for the soul!

I am indebted to those speakers who put in the time & effort to give such wonderfully inspirational talks and demonstrations. Also to those who so freely gave their notes & ideas so we can adapt them for our own libraries. I am deeply grateful to SLANZAK for paying my conference fees. I can honestly say I valued each and every moment and my school has reaped the benefits. I have already implemented many of the ideas and have plans to use many more. To those of you who didn’t go – don’t miss the 2004 mini-conference! I now feel I am a worthwhile and empowered part of a very powerful partnership, one that will have a long-lasting and positive influence not only on my life, but also on the lives of our students.

Sarah Fordyce

A Witty and Precious Reflection on the 2003 SLANZA Conference

Once upon a time a Dewey-eyed librarian sat all alone – bound to her books, shackled to her shelves, tied to her tomes and dreaming of a better way. How deep was her 152.4 and 155. Then she heard there was to be a gathering of Librarians in far off Christchurch. Three days of activities, workshops and even relaxation. How her heart jumped for joy!

But how could she, a mere 027, possibly go to 919.38? But wait! A ray of hope? If she sent a carefully contrived 383, with luck she may still attend. Then, lo! Her fairy godmother SLANZAK appeared saying, “Yes, Dewey-eyed Librarian, you shall go to the conference!”

She dashed home to set out her best twin-set & pearls and her stoutest pair of low-heeled 391.4s. Although she was a rather 398.2 sort of girl, she didn't want to trust her travel to any old 635s and 636.9s. She chose a 629.1 and, with the aid of her trusty 004, all was settled – and at bargain 332s! She also used her 004 to contact the inestimable Eddy of E Events – Eddy being short for ‘Edification’. She had to choose which workshops to attend. Oh the 153s: “archive”s to “websites” with a positive plethora provided in between.

On Sunday 21st she set off in trepidation for Rangī Ruru, a delightful 373! At registration she was ministered to by the Purple Bumble Bees, otherwise known as the 302.3, who bestowed upon her the Bulging Black Bag Of Bliss – already half-filled, but with ample room for more. Our Dewey-eyed friend had crammed it full of leaflets and notes by the end of the conference. Now our librarian new her 638s and she could see that this hive of industry contained bees of unusual calibre. Apart from their striking purple plumage, there were no drones! Throughout the conference they toiled tirelessly, ministering to all.

Monday arrived, and with SLANZA pen and the brilliantly designed handbook at the ready, she perambulated to the Powhiri. The first keynote speaker gave his address & the high calibre set the tone for the remainder of the conference. Our librarian's pen never stopped as she filled every page of the handbook with notes, and gathered many handouts, besides. Even at mealtimes, the talk was all of libraries as she compared ideas with her fellow 027s. But there was also the serious business of the 302s - visiting all the advertising displays & filling in the competition forms!

But all was not work for our Dewey-eyed friend. She & others shared breakfast on Tuesday with Simon Pollard, a devotee of 595.4s & 595.7s. Then, on the night of the 920s, she and other celebrity look-alikes were treated to a delicious 641, and entertained by Joe Bennett, an exponent of 808.5 with a hearty dose of 808.8s for good measure.

The workshops & keynote speakers were stimulating and thought provoking – if only she had the 179 to put all her new-found 190 into practice. As her time at Rangī Ruru drew to a close she was aware she was now the proud possessor of a wealth of knowledge. But what was she to do with it? That, dear readers, is another story.

If this had been a fairy tale, the ending would have read “And they all lived happily ever after”. But even Cinderella had choices. She could have just enjoyed her time at the ball until the clock struck twelve, or hidden from the Prince when he came looking for the owner of the glass slipper. But no, Cinderella chose to step out and meet the situation. She braved the negative attitudes of those at home. She took a step of faith and dared to form a powerful partnership with her Prince Charming and head off into the future with him, determined to do all she could to ensure that the change would be for the better.

Appointing a Full Time Teacher Librarian

Wellington High has for years has been very well served by well qualified and effective Librarians as it has worked to make the library the resource centre of the school. They have been assisted by a teacher who has five hours a week. Our Library is excellent and on the face of it little needs to change but demands are changing. Learning and teaching technologies have or should have changed, curriculum is changing and students have changed.

It is no longer appropriate to merely deliver content and expect students to regurgitate it at regular intervals. We want our students to be active participants in their learning as they construct their knowledge. For us to achieve this we need to develop students' capabilities. They need to know how to develop questions, what questions to ask, when to ask them, how to find information, how to analyse and synthesize the material and arrive at the answers. They can not achieve this by osmosis.

In our school we are organised into faculties, based on the seven essential learning needs. The curriculum is not integrated and often skills are taught to students in slightly different ways as each learning area concentrates on delivering their own particular curriculum. This can result in students becoming confused and not transferring skills and capabilities across all their learning but compartmentalising their knowledge.

It is really only the Library that has the opportunity and functionality to be the centre of high school student learning and the place where these particular capabilities could be learned so that they can be used in all areas of knowledge acquisition.

It seemed then only logical that we added a fulltime trained teacher librarian to our library staff:

A person:

- able to lead the students in the development of their research capabilities
- with the mana to work with faculties to define their needs and map the skills
- who could teach staff as well as students
- with superb electronic research capability
- who believed this development was critical to equipping our students for their future.

We have had our full-time teacher librarian for a term now and the results are promising. Faculties are reviewing and refining the skills and capabilities they require. Year 9s are all being taught research skills that are transferable across all the learning areas. More Library research periods are purposeful now. We will evaluate the development fully at the end of the year but people are already thinking *How did we manage without the teacher Librarian?*

Prue Kelly, Principal, Wellington High School

New SLANZA Webmaster

A webpage was essential for SLANZA when it was established as an organisation in May 2000. Andrea Thomson has been our Webmaster -mistress and created the site from the very beginning. Andrea first worked with Te Kete Ipurangi (TKI) when it originally hosted our site. Two years ago SLANZA executive agreed that SLANZA should have its own web address rather than the site being hosted by, and accessed through, TKI. Andrea then created a new website which is what you see today and the web address became the independent www.slanza.org.

Continued on page 12...

Louise is Leaving

No doubt it will come as a surprise to most of you that I am no longer working in a school library. I now have a new position as 'Liaison and Information Services Librarian' at UCOL, *Universal College of Learning* in Palmerston North. The position has been newly created and I am very excited at the prospect of meeting some new challenges, honing my skills in Information Literacy and being part of the UCOL Library management team.

As you can imagine it was a very difficult decision after seven years as a school librarian at Manawatu College. Relinquishing my place on the Central Committee and the position of President Elect on the National Executive of SLANZA was incredibly difficult. However, I will remain a member of SLANZA, and knowing that Central is well established with an enthusiastic and committed committee is an assurance that our future is in very capable hands.

I am immensely proud of the progress SLANZA has made over the last four years. We have become a recognised association, instrumental in contributing to the information infrastructure in our schools. SLANZA has made a considerable contribution to the school library community by offering professional development, making appropriate submissions and by developing partnerships with other national and International organisations. The contribution our organisation has made is significant and I am confident that SLANZA will continue to grow, to support its members and be a respected voice as an advocate for school libraries and school library staff.

Johann Williams from Rangī Ruru Girls College Christchurch was elected President Elect after my resignation from the National Executive at the last committee meeting in Auckland. Johann is the current SLANZA Secretary.

Louise Robbie

2004 AGM & MINI CONFERENCE UPDATE

Come to the Waikato on July 16th for the 2004 National AGM and Mini conference. With the theme 'Libraries and Literacy', we are fortunate to have secured keynote speakers Paul Jennings and Owen Marshall. It is with sadness we announce the dinner speaker was to have been my brother, historian and biographer Michael King who, with his wife Maria, died in a tragic car accident 30 March. He was looking forward to being with us for the day and hearing Paul and Owen speak.

Workshops, morning and afternoon will include Wayne Mills - Graphic Novels, Dylan Owen - EPIC Databases, local children's writers Gretchen Brassington and Ali Robertson, Fiona Mackie - Great Reads for Gutsy Girls, Alice Heather - Maori Resources, Lois Huston - Book Weeks, Jeannie Skinner and the Reading Team NLNZ - Reading Promotion, Stephanie Dix and Marilyn Blakeney-Williams - Teaching Teachers and a demonstration of World Book Online.

Remember, early registration (\$100) closes 17 May, and late registration (\$120) on 17 June. You will be asked to make workshop choices in mid May.

Gerri Judkins

Audio Book Club

Friday lunchtime sees a dozen or so migrant students jostling each other as they enter Wellington High School M104 for the weekly Audio Book Club meeting. Students and teachers (Teacher Librarian and at least one ESOL teacher) bring their lunch and the audio book(s) they have listened to and chat about them. Students are brutally frank about the stories they do not like but when they do like a story they are the best promoters.

At each meeting, after the students have discussed the audio books they have listened to, a different selection of audio books from the school library and, sometimes, from the National Library collection are promoted by the Teacher Librarian.

Participation in this Club is voluntary and it is focussed on assisting refugee and new migrant students to improve their listening, reading, and pronunciation skills. Some students borrow the book as well as the audiotapes from the library as they find that makes following the story easier.

Club members are rewarded with a lunch once a term and all members are to receive a certificate acknowledging their attendance. Members who have fully contributed to the club will receive a book token at the International Students' dinner.

When this initiative was proposed by the library the ESOL teachers were fully supportive. The ESOL department purchased a number of walkmans for the students who had no means of listening to audio tapes at home. Each walkman is issued by the library to a student after he/she has signed a contract stating that they will take responsibility for it.

The school library for the last two years has been developing an unabridged audio book collection and has wireless headphones available for students to use in the library during class or free time. Library staff promote the use of these audio books

Our Audio book Club initiative was the result of some research regarding public and school library cooperative activities. An inspiring article entitled *Earphone English* by Francisca Goldsmith explained how Berkeley High and Berkeley Public Library jointly established a very successful Earphone English Club in 2000. Francisca Goldsmith said:

"Thirteen percent of Berkeley High's student body come from homes where English is not the primary language. Luckily, these kids have access to Earphone English, a student club sponsored through a partnership between Berkeley High and the Berkeley Public Library. The club, which meets once a week, offers students a number of opportunities to practice their spoken and aural English skills, including regular visits from the public library's staff, field trips, book discussions, and audio books, the heart of the program. As club members listen to popular audiobook titles, they hear well-spoken English and become better acquainted with English language books. They also get a chance to read the same titles that their friends with stronger English literacy skills are reading."

These reasons were sufficient for us to establish similar club at Wellington High School. The public library, supportive of such a club, was unable to make any additional commitments so Wellington High School decided to do it alone.

Adaiah Hannah