

## Waikato/Bay of Plenty Regional Update: December 2003

### Compliments of the Season to all!

A last-minute December newsletter to keep you in touch with SLANZA plans for 2004...

Most of the local Committee's work over the coming year will be targeted around the national mini-conference and AGM, which is to be held at St Peter's School, Cambridge, on Friday, 16 July 2004 (last Friday of the July holidays). Our theme is going to be centred around **READING/LITERACY** and we are lining up some great speakers – not least of whom are **Paul Jennings** and **Owen Marshall**! Not to mention some great workshops! We have yet to do final costings for the day, but estimate the day's registration will be around \$100 – hope you've put it in your professional development budget already. We are sharing some of the speakers' costs with Waikato Children's Literature Association, who are holding their seminar at Southwell School, on the following day: Saturday, 17 July. For those of you who would like to attend both days, or just get together for a spot of socialising on the Friday night, Southwell School will also be the venue for a dinner on the Friday night. Look out for our conference flyer in SLANZA's first national newsletter in the New Year.

The July national AGM means our local Waikato/Bay of Plenty AGM will need to be held earlier than our usual July/August date, so local office holders are in place prior to the national meeting. Next year we plan to have our own AGM on Saturday, 12 June and will tie this in with an information literacy focussed day. We hope you will be able to schedule this into your year's calendar too.

We also thought it would be good to have a social get-together at the beginning of 2004, and Gerri has booked us in at Simply Irresistable Café in Tauranga for a lunch-time meeting, 12 noon-ish, Saturday, 14 February. Address: 58 Cross Road, Sulphur Point. All SLANZA members welcome, and if you know of anyone who has been thinking about joining, please bring them along for this informal get-together.

Because we have to confirm numbers with the café on this busy day (Valentine's Day), would you please email your RSVP by the first week in February to Pat Osman, Tauranga Intermediate School: Ph: 07 578 2618, or email: [Pato@tauranga-int.school.nz](mailto:Pato@tauranga-int.school.nz).

**Membership:** Remember SLANZA membership runs from January to January each year. This means your 2004 membership will come due at the beginning of the new school year. Membership renewal reminder notices will be sent out early in the first term and we would appreciate your prompt attention to this.

**SLANZA Conference 2003:** Following on from the Christchurch conference I forwarded by email to you all the compilation of conference reports submitted

by those Waikato/BoP members who were lucky enough to attend. Those of you who have been on our website lately ([www.slanza.org.nz](http://www.slanza.org.nz)) will have noticed that this is now on the website. We have also received reports from Diana Morris, from Southwell School, one of two Waikato/BoP SLANZA members whom SLANZA National Executive sponsored to attend the Conference, and another from Pat Osman, one of our two Tauranga reps. on the local SLANZA Committee and her 'powerful partner' at Tauranga Intermediate, Lynne Semmens. First, Diana:

Dear Linda and the SLANZA Waikato/BoP Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to attend the 2003 SLANZA Conference. I found it very busy but well organised and stimulating. The Keynote Speakers set the tone with their enthusiasm and the Workshops were well worthwhile, offering a variety of options on topics ranging from 'Literature and the Web' to 'Creative Budgeting'.

Particularly inspiring for me were the Keynote Speakers Penny Moore and Jane Edgar. Penny Moore is the Executive Director of the International Association of School Librarians. She spoke about partnerships, about sharing expectations, communicating good and bad, being encouraging and being able to listen - learning to shut up even through the silences. Jane Edgar is the Teacher Librarian at Mellon's Bay Primary School. Her infectious enthusiasm and passion for literature and being part of a wider school partnership was inspiring.

The workshops I chose included the National Library electronic services for schools, using the Statistics NZ website, doing a collection assessment, and the setting up of a website for the youth of Christchurch. The website <http://pulse/christchurch.org.nz> is for young adults, created by the Christchurch City Public Library. Several years ago the Library decided to have no Young Adult Librarian and instead used that money to set up "Pulse". They canvassed the local teen community (not just the ones that use a library already) and developed an interesting site which includes a monitored chat-room, links to websites which have been checked, homework help and local events. The connection with the City Library is deliberately played down but introduced subtly.

The Breakfast session with Stu Duval, storyteller and artist, was very entertaining and gave us some interesting ideas on how to make a library more user friendly, especially to boys who apparently like 'mess'. He suggested doing away with the Dewey System and for librarians to step away from their stereotype and shock them with wild clothes and antics. Great fun, and something to think about if we are serious about having children passionate about books.

It was only after the Conference that I really appreciated what I had gained by attending. My mind is buzzing with ideas, some we will try and some may be modified. However my most valuable lesson has been the importance of sharing ideas and developing partnerships with our colleagues within the

school and amongst fellow library workers through networks like SLANZA.  
Thank you.

Diana Morris.

And Pat and Lynne's report...

### **Theme: Powerful Partnership. We can make a difference!**

#### **Influence we have:**

1. Position; commands respect – gatekeepers of knowledge
2. Competence; the way you do the job, (Rapid Response – do now!)
3. Character; integrity, 'extra-mile' service, passion

#### **Nurturing partnerships:**

- Share expectations and high standards of behaviour
- Be a good teacher (inclusive – for all school staff)
- Keep mind open – seek new possibilities
- Bring skills, ideas and information you have to discussion
- Communicate often – not only in moments of crisis
- Try every day to find the good in every other partner
- Be a good listener – know when to shut up!
- Maintain a sense of humour
- Change yourself – not others
- Keep your perspective
- We have the potential to change outcomes for learners. How we treat students influences their attitudes for life
- Keystone is the Principal – their support is critical
- Keep up to date – reading, courses etc.
- Library personnel must be visible beyond the library

#### **Exposing yourself – Fishnet stockings and trumpet blasts** (Louise Robbie, Manawatu College)

School library staff are too modest! Our value and contribution and the role we play in student learning and achievement often goes unnoticed and unappreciated! Louise's workshop gave us the opportunity to take a long hard look at ourselves.

#### **Other highlights:**

- Pulse – Christchurch City Library's website for young adults. Solution to teenagers not engaging with libraries
- Visited Children's Bookshop, Victoria Street. What a treasure trove!
- Book covering machine. We have one. Great!
- Stu Duval – author and story teller. He would be great to entertain our students. Ideas of getting out of 'left brain' and into 'right brain' thinking – unlocking your brain's potential
- Christchurch in the spring – fabulous!

Thanks very much for the support we have received (Pat and Lynne were supported by BOPSLA Tauranga, who contributed towards the cost of their registrations).

Pat Osman and Lynne Semmens.

That's it, folks! Have a Happy Christmas, and a wonderful break in the holiday season. Best Wishes from your local Waikato/Bay of Plenty SLANZA Committee.