

# SLANZA Waikato Bay of Plenty Chairperson's Report 2004-2005

Presented at the AGM 11 June 2005

SLANZA is about to celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We have come such a long way and with this year's conference theme **Digital-age literacies - Eyes to the future**, and our informative website we continue to look ahead.

It has been a busy year for us with much of our focus on the very successful Miniconference **Libraries and Literacy** held in Cambridge last July. The 180 attending thoroughly enjoyed keynote speakers Paul Jennings and Owen Marshall. In addition to reading related workshops, demonstrations of EPIC databases and World Book Online were offered. The day finished well with Vince Ford speaking at the delicious conference dinner at Southwell School, and Paul Jennings saying goodnight to those leaving, as if from his own home. We appreciated the sponsorship from Raeco and World Book.

The committee met subsequently in August to debrief and a comprehensive report was submitted to the SLANZA National Executive and to Nelson who are going to host the 2006 National Miniconference and AGM. We made a profit of around \$4,800.

Concerns over Cambridge High School's library closure continued. Letters I sent in August on behalf of SLANZA to the Waikato Times and to Jim Bennett, the acting principal, stated "A well-resourced school library, where qualified library staff work in collaboration with teachers is the vital heart of a school's community" and urged the library be re-established. Fortunately this has since happened.

SLANZA regionally and throughout the country continues to support professional development. Nationally ten study grants were awarded for 2005 and in our region these were received by Diana Morris from Hamilton and Kim Spencer from Putaruru. Both are studying for the Open Polytechnic's Diploma of Library and Information Studies.

The Term 4 Library Trails, organized by Linda, to Auckland, Hamilton and the Tauranga area were sensational with members visiting seventeen libraries and in Auckland, spending what was left of their budgets at Jabberwocky Books.

Our first meeting for 2005 on 12 March was attended by twenty-five members from throughout our fondly called 'far flung' region with travelers from Gisborne, Whakatane, Rotorua and Taupo joining Waikato members, at Hamilton Boys High School. Pauline McCowan, National Library advisor from Auckland and founding member of SLANZA, presented a workshop showing us ways school libraries can increase their profile and influence and advocate for their students' library needs. After morning tea Robin Dixon showcased some of Raeco's latest products.

I would like to thank the committee for all their work this year, especially Linda in her role as secretary, as co-convenor of the conference and for her help in organizing our professional development events. Representing our region on the National Executive the past two years has been a wonderful experience.

Thanks too, to Margaret Kedian for her Sophisticated Picture Book presentation at today's AGM, to Jan and Geraldine for sharing their Information Literacy teaching strategies, to Pat Osman and Tauranga Intermediate School for hosting us, and to Raeco for the morning tea.

Gerri Judkins