

SLANZA Waikato Bay of Plenty Chairperson's Report 2005-2006

Presented at the AGM 6th May 2006

Welcome everyone to our AGM. It is great to see you all here.

As Gerri was unable to attend her last AGM as chairperson in 2005 I would now like to thank Gerri and Linda for the fantastic job they did as Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer you have been hard acts to follow.

In 2005 we had 99 financial members in our region up on 2004 which was gratifying and to date we have 84 paid up members but membership subscriptions are still coming in.

We must all continue to promote SLANZA and SLANZA's mission, which is to strengthen and promote the role of school libraries. SLANZA has come a long way in the last five years. School libraries and librarians have never previously had the national exposure we are getting now. This has been achieved through lobbying by some of our National Executive members to be included in decision-making areas which influence school libraries.

It is also interesting to note that in our region we are almost evenly split between primary and secondary school members. We have slightly more primary school members than secondary, which goes against the trend in other regions. Secondary schools tend to dominate in other regions.

Events over the last year.

We had a good turn-out for our last AGM at Tauranga Intermediate and our thanks go to Pat Osman for hosting it. We had members from Hamilton, Cambridge, Gisborne, Whakatane, Tokoroa and Tauranga attending.

Prior to the AGM we were privileged to have as our guest speaker Margaret Kedian, who shared her extensive knowledge and passion for picture books. She shared many of her favourites with us. Following the AGM we had a panel discussion on *'Teaching them how to fish: delivering library and information skills to primary, intermediate and secondary school students'*. This was a very practical session with the panel sharing the strategies they use in their own libraries. Jan Mathews spoke on Melville High School's intranet; Rebecca Smith from Forest View High shared how her school initiated a compulsory Year 9 skills programme, and Geraldine Parker from Kaitao Middle School shared one type of 'hook' she uses that can adapt to teach any number of skills.

In July we had the SLANZA conference: *Digital-Age Literacies – Eyes to the Future*. I must congratulate the Auckland committee on a very successful and well-organised conference. For those who attended it was thought provoking, inspiring and a bit scary as to how our kids are learning.

Gerri Judkins from Southwell School gave an inspiring workshop on *The book- complementing electronic information and entertainment in the Digital Age*.

Our term three event was held at the end of September at the College of Education in Hamilton. SLANZA and LIANZA invited James Herring, lecturer in Teacher-Librarianship at Charles Sturt University in Queensland, to give a workshop on *Information Literacy in Public and School Libraries*. This was well attended and was a great opportunity to chat to public and tertiary librarians.

Our end of year Xmas party was held at the "Loose Goose" in Tirau. We had a lovely lunch and shared Xmas stories, recipes, and decorations. A good time was had by all who attended - and the shopping was great!

SLANZA's development plan is now on the website for you all to read. The work plan contained in the document shows some of the exciting areas SLANZA is getting involved in.

The Remuneration Document looking at library salaries (researched and prepared by LIANZA) was released in March. This can be accessed through the URL, which was posted in our March newsletter.

SLANZA regionally and throughout the country continues to support professional development. 13 study grants were awarded nationally this year: 5 to secondary and 8 to primary. Ali Fargher from Tokoroa Intermediate is the recipient of one of these grants. Ali is studying through the Open Polytechnic.

If you are intending to study for a library qualification and are a member of SLANZA you are eligible to apply for one of these awards. All the information is on the SLANZA website, but do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the committee and we will help you apply.

Congratulations to Cambridge High School on the opening of its new library. I visited the library recently and it is well worth a visit if you are in the area. Lyn Tairi is in charge of the library and is a trained Teacher Librarian.

On March 22, National Library and SLANZA combined at the Rotorua School Library Network meeting to discuss some strategies for better connecting your library with literacy developments. Pauline Cleaver, Literacy Development Officer for the Ministry of Education was the guest speaker. The venue for this was Rotorua Public Library. Over 20 people attended and the meeting was deemed a great success, with many people gaining new ideas and strategies for connecting their libraries with literacy developments in their schools.

On March 29, National Library and SLANZA again combined with the Tokoroa BOP School Library Associations School Library Network meeting. This meeting was hosted by Tokoroa Public Library, who provided a wonderful afternoon tea for us all. We jointly looked at ways we can liaise and be of mutual assistance in helping students. All

those who attended enjoyed the meeting and gained a better insight into their respective libraries.

Thanks to Bev Hodges for her inspiring and enlightening talk on Information Literacy and we look forward now to Gerri - showing us how to put it into practice!

Thank you also to Geraldine and Kaitao Middle School for hosting our meeting.

I would like to thank Geraldine our Secretary/Treasurer and our hard working committee. It has been a huge learning curve for me this year. I thank you for your continued support and expertise; it has been a pleasure working with you and I look forward to the coming year.

Jan Mathews