

# SLANZA Waikato Bay of Plenty Chairperson's Report 2003-2004

Presented at the AGM 12 June 2004

SLANZA is now four years old. Our vision is to strengthen and promote the role of school libraries, to enable all school communities to become information literate.

The September 2003 Christchurch SLANZA Conference, with the theme of *Powerful Partnerships*, gave us strategies to further these aims. Waikato Bay of Plenty members there reported on the workshop sessions they attended and these reports were posted, and remain, on the SLANZA website. With the geographical spread of our region it was good to meet up with our far-flung members.

Concerns over Cambridge High School's library closure made us all ask ourselves why are school libraries important and how do we ensure they are valued by students, teaching staff, administrators and the community? No amount of information available on the Internet can benefit our students if they do not have information literacy skills ideally learnt in a professionally staffed, well-resourced school library.

SLANZA in our region and throughout the country continues to support: professional development, pay equity for women, a Support Staff Collective Agreement that adequately rewards our members, appropriate job descriptions, members applying for pay increases, Internet safety, the Te Puna Advisory Group, EPIC databases and links with LIANZA.

Our region's hosting the 2004 Miniconference and AGM 16 July at St Peter's School, Cambridge, has been a major focus of the Waikato Bay of Plenty Committee this year. Our February meeting in Tauranga was an opportunity to socialize and finalize the registration brochure. Four months after being invited as a keynote speaker, Paul Jennings confirmed and Owen Marshall, a firm believer in the benefit of school libraries, agreed to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> keynote. On the strength of these speakers and reading being one of the Six Principles in the guidelines, *The School Library and Learning in the Information Landscape*, a theme of *Libraries and Literacy* was decided upon. In addition to reading related workshops, demonstrations of EPIC (Electronic Purchasing in Collaboration) databases and World Book Online will be offered. We are grateful to the sponsors Raeco, World Book and Penguin. With 135 already registered, I am confident it will be an enjoyable, informative and memorable day.

I would like to thank all the Committee for their work this year, in particular Linda for her support as secretary and past chairperson. I could not have done this without her help, especially in the last two months. It is a privilege to represent our region on the National Executive a vibrant body of motivated librarians passionate about school libraries.

Thanks too, to Jane Edgar and Carol Jarman for their Information Literacy and Plagiarism presentations at today's AGM, to Jill Shanley and Knighton Normal School for hosting us, and to Raeco for the morning tea.

Let us encourage our colleagues to become and remain members of SLANZA, as we look "Eyes to the Future" towards the 2005 SLANZA Conference in Auckland.

Gerri Judkins