

Wellington Region SLANZA Convenor's Report 2003

Welcome everyone to our AGM and the election of a new Committee to guide the region for 2004.

The last year has been quiet in comparison with 2002 allowing many of us to recover our equilibrium. There have been a few ongoing financial issues that have required Jo Grant and Sue Marshall to clear up regarding the conference finances. I would like to thank both of these colleagues for their tremendous work managing the region's and conference funds.

We have managed to organise an activity each term and participate in a number of national initiatives and activities.

You will be interested to know that ERO and the National Library School Services are working on drafting guidelines against which ERO will evaluate school libraries. Of course, this is a bit of an irony as it is not compulsory for schools to have a library as we discovered through the Cambridge High School library debacle. Hopefully, having such guidelines means that the Ministry of Education will realise the value of school libraries.

Members will be aware of the huge contribution of SLANZA in publicly raising the issue of the transformation of the Cambridge High School library into a CyberCafe. And Wellington region participated in the expose of this retrograde step.

Our membership base has remained relatively stable—we currently have 79 members in our region. The Committee decided that we would focus on promoting SLANZA membership to all the secondary and intermediate schools who have not joined. A letter was sent with information about SLANZA to a number of schools earlier in the year and committee members are currently talking to library staff in schools who still have not joined. Hopefully the new committee will focus in 2004 on primary schools who have not joined. Our ability to improve conditions for library staff and raise the profile of school libraries depends on SLANZA being able to really represent library staff nationally.

The first SLANZA meeting in 2003—***Creating a Simple Intranet Library Site*** and issues relating to electronic publishing—was held at Karori West Normal School library on 13 March. Brian Waddell, TL at Karori West Normal School and ACE Information Studies lecturer was the presenter. Karori West Normal venue and refreshments were superb as those of you who were present can confirm. The school's Intranet was an inspiration to all and certainly challenged us to try and get our own intranets up and running.

Our second meeting was at the new Hutt Valley High School library where Kim Baguley and her staff hosted a meeting on ***Library Staff—Salaries and Conditions***. It was a lively meeting compensating for the atrocious weather. Jane Benefield's informative presentation clarified many issues for us, gave us focus for our fight for improved pay and conditions. Jane reminded us that being members of the NZEI, attending union meetings to raise issues that affect library staff is vital for any changes to be made and that contacting union Field Officers when there is an issue is important.

At this meeting two members were chosen to receive the region's conference sponsorship. Jane Blandford and Liz Pfahlert are the lucky recipients and we hope that they enjoy the conference. In addition to SLANZA paying their conference registration we, the Wellington region, are sponsoring their accommodation at Rangi Ruru boarding hostel.

Today's meeting with Penny presenting on ***Next Generation Learning Environments*** has been timely as it is important that we are aware of the possibilities, challenges, issues confronting the library community, of which SLANZA and school libraries are a part, now and in the next year or so. Without being aware of the bigger picture it is hard to see where we fit in and how we can take advantage of opportunities.

Our final meeting for the year will be held on 21 November we hope at Wellington College's refurbished library. The topic is ***International Highlights*** where several members who have attended international conferences and/or schools will speak briefly on their experiences. This will be followed by Christmas nibbles and drinks to celebrate the end of another year of SLANZA.

In addition to these activities the regional committee meets to plan each meeting and everyone accepts responsibility for some part of the preparation. It is great to see photographs and reports of our meetings from various committee members printed in the Newsletter. Minutes of meetings with tasks to be completed are competently and quickly prepared by Mary—a hidden responsibility to most members but vital to the functioning of the committee. When it was suggested that Sue M be treasurer she nearly fell out of her chair but she has done a superb job. Responsibility for finances involves a lot of behind the scene work and Sue has quietly got on with the tasks.

In addition members are representatives on national committees. Sue E is a SLANZA representative on the National Library PER:NA Committee which involves evaluating electronic resources that would be useful to schools. I am the SLANZA representative on the Te Puna Strategic Advisory Committee and PER:NA Committees. I have to acknowledge the support of my school for releasing me to attend these meetings. As you read in the last Newsletter these two Committees are working towards establishing a national consortium to provide a small selection of electronic databases to tertiary, public and school libraries. My role on these committees is largely to inform them of the special needs of school libraries—primary, intermediate and secondary—and the financial constraints we face.

It is important to acknowledge the financial support from Raeco. Raeco donates \$400.00 per annum to each region. This donation comes free of any strings allowing regions to spend the money to promote activities as they choose. I move that we send a letter to Raeco thanking them for their generous support.

I want to acknowledge the contribution of Catherine Doughty and Sue Ryan who are not seeking re-election to the committee. It is sad when you have worked closely with colleagues, even if it is only a year, and they leave. [Presentation of gift]

We hope that everyone who is attending the **Powerful Partnerships** national conference in Christchurch finds it stimulating and that the rest of you have a

relaxing vacation. We hope you will join us for our end of year meeting and share some Christmas cheer with us.

Adaire Hannah
11 September 2003