

## SLANZA Presidents Report 2020

Dear members of SLANZA

What a year of my first presidency it has been. Who would of thought at the Rivers of Knowledge conference this thing called COVID would have impacted us all so much?

I wish to thank you all for your hard mahi over the lockdown, we ensured our students had access to all the library could offer under the circumstances and I am so proud of all the initiatives that were employed to keep our kids, staff and books together.

This year we have farewelled Sharon Jackson from our National Executive as the Auckland Rep and we thank her so much for her expertise and service on NE. We also farewelled Melanie McVeigh who was our Administration Officer for SLANZA. Mel worked very hard on our behalf and she worked to get our administration systems and online presence into shape. We are so thankful for her efforts into making SLANZA an organisation with sound management tools and effective online practices. We also farewelled Sally Stanley-Boden who was our representative from Aoraki and our treasurer. Sally was a great mentor to many on NE and we are thankful for her experience and wisdom that she gave us. Jay Shaw from Southland also retired from the NE to enjoy her grandchildren more, we enjoyed her gentle and kind guidance on the NE. We also farewelled Lynn Vare from Otago. Lynn's guidance and encouragement in ensuring we pursued tikanga in NE was a gift we are truly thankful for. We learned much from her, enjoyed her hospitality and her vast experience in librarianship. We wish her well in her new library journey.

We welcomed Keri Cochrane from Southland, Michelle Summerfield from Otago, Maree Silver-Hessey from Aoraki, and Elizabeth Atkinson from Auckland onto our National Executive.

We employed Anita Lamont as our Admin Officer, Anita is a school librarian who has been involved in Storylines and has run a successful business. She has many skills to bring to our organisation and we are so looking forward to her ongoing impact.

After a year together we are gelling into a fine team, who trust each other and enjoy working together to serve our members. It is enjoyable to catch up and work hard together as we do all we can to help you serve as school librarians. I want to thank my NE members for making my first year so easy, you are a pleasure to work beside and I especially want to thank Kirsty for being a great mentor and a sounding board and Sasha for stepping up to President Elect and allowing me to have a co-worker who is so competent and keeps me accountable.

This year of course is the year SLANZA launched its national campaign "School Libraries Transform". We did this because we were so weary of the sad stories we were hearing from so many of you about the journeys you faced with the loss of your space, the reduction of your budgets and the cutting back of your hours. We had to do something to support you

and something to protect the continual eroding of school libraries in Aotearoa. The campaign is scaffolded by the following:

### **Our Vision Statement**

SLANZA believes that all school students in New Zealand, at every level of their education, should have access to effective school library services that will support their reading and learning.

### **Our Mission Statement**

We plan to promote the value and necessity of every student having access to a school library, supported by a specialist librarian with a budget and hours to provide a high-functioning learning environment within all school communities in Aotearoa New Zealand.

### **The Goal**

The Ministry of Education will mandate that every student has access to a school library staffed by specialist school librarians and is Ministry of Education funded.

We need you all to stand with us, work with us, and make as much noise as you can about this campaign. It belongs to us all and if together we yell loud enough, make enough noise, and insist Aotearoa knows what is happening in our libraries, we can and will achieve our stated goals. But we need you all, as members to help us do this!

Thanks for being involved in SLANZA, for being loyal members, for believing in libraries. At the end of our day at work, we all know that we have played a part in making a difference for our tamariki in Aotearoa, we have done new trainings, we have learnt new skills, we have listened well, we have encouraged a staff member, we have bought the very best fiction we can find, we have made LiveBinders, we have fixed the photocopier again, we have found the perfect book for Connections, we have sat with a student that needs our aroha, we have read picture books that makes others laugh, we have kept a student company when he was in tears.....

I firmly believe we make a difference, but for us to have maximum impact we need each other, and we need to grow together and that is what SLANZA is all about, thanks for being on this journey with us.

School Libraries Transform

Glenys Bichan

SLANZA President 2020/21