

## 2022 President Report for AGM

As I come to the end of the first year of my two-year tenure as SLANZA president I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all the people who have helped me over the past twelve months in this role, especially the amazing Anita Lamont (SLANZA Administration Officer) and our superb SLANZA National Executive who as an inspiring and supportive team of passionate school librarians are just the best to work with.

We have had a busy, exciting and fun year during which as a team SLANZA has accomplished a substantial number of initiatives, programmes and projects that support our members and advocate for the school library sector in Aotearoa New Zealand. As a grass-roots driven, professionally run organisation we continue to go from strength to strength.

Our four **NZLPP Strategic Partnership** projects are trucking along nicely and have started producing positive results for our sector:

- The LIANZA-SLANZA Tertiary Grants Programme March grant round saw thirty-six applicants approved. Eight school librarians received funding to undergo qualifications that will develop them in their roles, allowing them to further support their school communities.
- Fifteen school librarians took part in the A Bit Sus (countering misinformation) programme during Term 1, and thanks to further funding from NZLPP twenty-three school librarians are participating in a second co-hort of this professional development course currently being held during Term 3.
- Two school librarians have been employed to work with the AnyQuestions/ManyAnswers team supporting the curation of local resources for the AotearoaNZ Histories Curriculum.
- Two Kahui Ako (Cambridge and Nelson) have been funded to financially support a School Librarian to lead PLD school library centered initiatives within their Communities of Learning, especially with the focus on supporting the implementation of the AotearoaNZ Histories curriculum.

It has also been invaluable to have had the opportunity to be a part of the **NZLPP Sector Reference** group, which has given SLANZA a voice at the wider library and information sector 'table' enabling us to build awareness of school libraries, establishing sector wide support, as well as developing organisational level relationships, affiliations and networks.

Our regional and national **PLD events** continue to strengthen and build our knowledge. Over the last 12 months at a national level SLANZA offered our very first online conference, **Whakaohoho** emerged from the ashes of the canceled 2021 conference, thanks to the drive, passion and hard work of the Wellington Conference committee. This was an extremely successful 3-day event that our sector thoroughly valued, especially during such challenging times with limited relevant professional development available. Our SLANZA PD team ran another **iQualify course** - #17 Gender and sexuality in school libraries - A module that covered many aspects of dealing with gender and sexuality issues within our school libraries, for our collections, our students, our staff and parents and ourselves. The next iQualify module starts on 5th September covering Advocacy based on the SLA publication 'Loud and Clear – Advocacy for Secondary School Librarians'.

We continue to promote and moderate the use of our Facebook Group '**SLANZA Connected Community**' and the **Schoollibs Listserv** as places to share resources and ideas with much success. These are both great ways to network and connect online with school library sector members.

Our **Collected** editor Lauryn Urquhart-Eaton, with support from Anita, has produced two professional editions of our magazine – these are always well worth a read, showcasing and supporting the work of school librarians from across the motu.

SLANZA collaborated with the Ministry of Education to produce **Great School Libraries in Aotearoa: A Qualitative Study**, aiming to highlight the positive impact a well-supported library can have on learners and the wider school community. It is incredibly valuable to have Aotearoa-specific research about school libraries. We hope our members utilise this resource to support and advocate the value of school libraries to their senior leadership teams and their school communities. The report can be found on the government's Education Counts website.

The **SLANZA Reading Lists** underwent a revamp and were re-launched (with over 40 people attending the event via Zoom) thanks to a dedicated group of Aoraki based school librarians who put in quite a few hours to update this amazing resource.

We successfully organised the inaugural **Aotearoa NZ School Library Week**, working closely with the clever and patient illustrator Paul Beavis to create promotional material including posters and an Activities Guide for schools to celebrate their library spaces and services. More thanks go to our Business Members, and various stakeholders who supported this endeavour. We hope to make this an annual event with the support of our members.

SLANZA continues to work closely with the NZEI **Pay Equity** team on the claim for all School Library Staff. Thanks to members and sector wide input, a comprehensive and robust GAR (General Areas of Responsibility) document was produced that will underpin upcoming negotiations with the Ministry of Education.

Our relationship with the **National Library of New Zealand Services to Schools** team continues to grow as we work together to create opportunities that benefit the school library sector. We look forward to finding new ways to further develop this alliance.

In early July SLANZA National Executive underwent an all-day **Governance** Training session with Carol Scholes from OverView Effect. We spent the day learning about adjustments we need to implement to align SLANZA with the new Incorporated Societies Act, such as changes to our constitution, policies and guidelines as well as improvements to how we administer and manage our organisation that will be instrumental to moving SLANZA soundly and securely into the future. One of the initiatives to come from our time with Carol, that we are most excited about, is that we will be looking at developing a new organisational structure over the next six months with the aim to evenly distribute mahi, giving more members the opportunity to be involved in growing a member-driven future-focused organisation that benefits our school library sector. We will be seeking members' feedback and input as we work through these exciting changes – so watch this space! This governance training was generously supported with funding from the NZLPP leadership group.

Our members are our driving force. Thank you for joining us and being an essential part of our journey.

Ngā mihi mahana,

Sasha Eastwood – SLANZA President 2021-2023