

LIANZA - Otago Southland Region 2006 Chairperson's Report

It gives me pleasure to present the annual report of the Otago Southland Region of LIANZA.

I wish to thank your committee, who have met monthly, even on 17 January this year, so as to ensure a varied programme of events occurred regularly for members to avail themselves of. Once again Paula Murdoch has been an excellent secretary, Mike Collett a vigilant treasurer and Louise Sherriff ensured there was regular effective Web advisory / communications with our membership. Louise also edited and published several more issues of "LIBROS". Just to remind you, "LIBROS" is short for Libraries Otago Southland. It is also the Spanish word for books. Thank you to the various librarians who have contributed editorials, articles, and news to Louise for inclusion in our publication.

Thanks to the contribution of the other committee members, Amanda Curnow, Lynda Hodge, Lyn Macleod, Lynne Morrison, Vicki Darling, and Jenny Carroll. Amanda Curnow resigned at the February committee meeting as she was moving north to Wellington in March. The committee presented her with flowers and thanked her for her contribution.

Ian Stewart, as our Regional Councillor, kept the committee well informed of issues Council deals with. Ian resigned near the end of his two year term as Regional Councillor as he had decided to move to Germany with his partner in March. We were very sorry to lose him, however appreciate the exciting opportunities open to him moving to the other side of the world. Lyn Macleod was nominated for the new two year term as Otago / Southland Regional Councillor and was also able to attend the last meeting of the old Council term that Ian had vacated.

The committee is ever aware that it is the Otago / Southland Region committee and was delighted to invite Lynda Hodge to join the committee as a corresponding member. In the 2005 Spring, there was the opportunity for a "Road Trip" to the south. Louise and Mark left Dunedin at lunchtime on Thursday 10 November and visited the libraries at Milton and Balclutha. That evening Ian joined Louise & Mark at Invercargill Public Library for the Southland Professional Registration consultation meeting. On Friday 11 November Louise and Mark visited Kew Hospital Library, Invercargill Public Library, Winton Public Library – for a lunch meeting with the staff, and then visited Gore and Tapanui libraries.

The committee explored various professional development options, considering the possibility of bringing facilitators down from the north. There was some correspondence with Council over the issue of professional development courses and just who has the resources to organise them. Marketing Librarianship as a career option was another issue the committee invested energy in. As a result, a pamphlet was developed and included on the Dunedin Public Library stand at the DCC's Teen Expo in the Town Hall aimed at secondary school students. We took the issue up with Council and am delighted that Lyn in her new role as Regional Councillor ensured the issue was aired, with Council agreeing that it is an issue that LIANZA will address.

The responsibility for the LIANZA 2010 Centennial publication had been assigned to the Otago / Southland Region by Council several years ago with Ian Stewart as facilitator. In April it was agreed that as the contacts and resources, as well as the organisation's archives are (theoretically) all in Wellington, that National Office would take this responsibility over. The committee was quite relieved to be spared of this responsibility. The National Office has since established funding and Council has recently appointed author and researcher Julia Millen to write the LIANZA Centennial history.

Planning for another regional weekend school has been on the agenda, and it looks like the next one will take place in early February 2007 based at Balclutha. The committee also agreed to a request for the Region to contribute \$250 as seeding funding for the next Mobile Librarian's Conference, to be held in Taupo 20-21 January 2007. It is the first time in fourteen years the event has been held in New Zealand and the programme has Australian and US speakers.

Monthly events provided over the last 12 months have been:

Thursday 22 September 2005 – strategic framework for Public Libraries consultation workshop. This event was held in the seminar room at the Hocken for librarians and local body representatives. Some of those who attended the workshop enjoyed a meal together at *Eureka*. That evening the regional Annual General Meeting was held in the seminar room at the Hocken. Following the meeting, those who had attended the recent LIANZA Conference in Christchurch reported back to those present.

Tuesday 18 October 2005 – Task Force on Professional Registration consultation meeting for Otago – led by Keith Webster the Victoria University of Wellington Librarian – held in the Dunningham Suite at Dunedin Public Library.

Wednesday 9 November 2005 – Irene Doskatch from the University of South Australia spoke about information literacy, followed by Sue Pharo, newly appointed University Librarian at the University of Otago. This event was held in the foyer at the Hocken.

Thursday 10 November 2005 – Task Force on Professional Registration consultation meeting for Southland – held at Invercargill Public Library. Some of those who attended the meeting enjoyed a meal together afterwards.

Friday 2 December 2005 - Christmas function – Venue being the University of Otago Central Library. The evening began with the opportunity to view the exhibition *Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass*, followed by the meal in the staff room. Everyone moved to 'Celebrity Squares' where the quiz took place, with Sue Pharo as quiz master. Following the quiz, everyone returned to the staffroom for sweetners and coffee. This evening was very well supported by approximately 36 folk.

Monday 13 February 2006 – John Garraway, the LIANZA President, visited most of the libraries in Dunedin during the day. That evening he joined a

delightful gathering at *The Palms* for a meal at which Rosemary Hudson's support for LIANZA, and especially the Otago / Southland Region, was acknowledged.

Monday – 6 March 2006 – Ian Stewart, our Regional Councillor for two terms, was officially farewelled at another pleasant gathering, this time at *Plato Restaurant*.

Wednesday 3 May 2006 – Library Assistant's Day – venue being the Dunedin Centre with visits to DP, DU & ANZ. Hoping to attract 30 registrations, the region responded with a magnificent 50!

Monday 19 June 2006 – the venue was Mosgiel Public Library at which Sue Weddell gave a very informative presentation on the changes to information service delivery that have taken place not only at Invermay but nationally to AgResearch. Afterwards everyone adjourned to *Weavers Retreat* for dessert and coffee.

Thursday 29 June 2006 - talk and tour of Liz Abbott's exhibition at the Hocken Collections – *Fanny and me*. This was followed by an enjoyable lunch at *The Crib* for those who could spare the time.

Thursday 27 July 2006 – talk and tour by Donald Kerr of the exhibition *The Black Art* on display at the Special Collections gallery at the University of Otago Central Library. Donald also showed some recent acquisitions and the adjoining Bibliography Room.

Attendances at these events were on the whole very pleasing, with on average 20 people attending. The two recent lunchtime events were not so well attended, especially the July event, at which only two of us appreciated Donald Kerr's contribution. It had been assumed that perhaps some of the retired librarians would have enjoyed these lunch opportunities. These visits to current exhibitions are also an opportunity for those who are working, to make the effort to take time to see some of our institution's treasures. Some librarians may well even consider viewing an exhibition and listening to the curator speak, as "continuing education"!

It has been a productive year and most of the committee are keen to stand for another year as we enjoy working together to represent all of our members.

Mark Hughes