

## **LIANZA - Otago Southland Region 2007 Chairperson's Report**

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

The significant development to occur over the last twelve months has been the lively debate and then widely supported acceptance of professional registration by the profession at our Annual General Meeting in Wellington. With the concept approved, LIANZA has been working on the mechanisms to implement professional registration. This development poses exciting opportunities for our region as we plan and promote professional development events in our region.

It was a delight to welcome several new faces to the regional committee following our AGM last year. As the year rolled round we wished several committee members well as they moved north to new career opportunities. We had appreciated Philip van Zijl who had just come back onto the committee after a break from committee involvement. We were sorry to lose Jenny Carroll, our link with the SLANZA network. Thankfully Jenny encouraged Jenny Millar to take on the role as our key link librarian with SLANZA in this region.

The committee continued to meet regularly and established a subcommittee to organise the biennial weekend school. This was once again a successful regional event. We took some risks and they bore fruit, so all the hard work and stressful moments made it all very worthwhile for everyone concerned.

### **Monthly events provided over the last 12 months have been:**

30 August – Professional Registration meeting at Invercargill Public Library with Moira Fraser, LIANZA President. Moira also gave a presentation on the launch of the new Parliamentary website.

31 August – late afternoon at the Hocken, Moira Fraser gave a presentation on the launch of the new Parliamentary website. Early evening - AGM at Dunedin Public Library followed by a session facilitated by Moira on Professional Registration.

25 October – “Art from the Heart : a tour of Dunedin Public Libraries’ artworks” hosted by Linda Geddes. The evening began at 5.30pm with drinks and nibbles, followed by the tour, beginning at 6.15pm.

12 December – “With Enchanted Eyes” – Delyth Sunley, the joint curator of the exhibition, talked about the background research that went into developing the exhibition. The evening began at 5.30pm at Dunedin Public Libraries Central Library with drinks and nibbles, followed by Delyth’s delightful talk – enjoyed by twenty five people. Fourteen of those who attended adjourned to “The Hungry Frenchman” restaurant for our end of year dinner. It was unfortunate there had been a significant number of last minute apologies from members who had earlier indicated they would be attending the dinner.

22 February – a mid evening event at the Dunedin Public Libraries Dunningham Suite at which the local co-ordinator of the Citizens' Advice Bureau talked about the work of the Bureau, some of the history of the Bureau, the types of questions asked of them, their links with the public libraries, and the number of people who volunteer their time and expertise to support the ongoing work of the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

10-11 March – our region's Weekend School, held at Balclutha, based at the South Otago High School. This was once again well supported, with not only librarians from across our region attending, but two coming all the way from the Waikato! Thanks too for organising the Weekend School must especially be extended to Helen Brownlie, Vicki Darling and Louise Booth. There were also fine presentations from a number of librarians from around our region. We were also very happy the technology worked reasonably well and we were able to appreciate an inspirational hour with Rachel van Riel – all the way from the UK – Saturday morning for us, Friday evening for Rachel.

19 April – a mid evening event held at the Hocken, beginning with drinks and nibbles. The theme was librarian authors and their books. We had planned to celebrate and hear from Jock McEldowney some of the background to his recently published book on G. T. Alley, our first National Librarian. Unfortunately Jock fell quite ill the week before and ended up staying in hospital for a time. Ali Clarke and Stuart Strachan, both of the Hocken, spoke about their respective experiences having their recent books published. Both experiences were quite different, with Ali working with a professional publishing house, while Stuart and his co-authors and book committee had the unenviable task of taking on the financial risk, and many of the decisions a professional publishing firm are experts in. The evening proved a success, as invitations were also extended to the Friends of the Hocken Collections, and many of them took up the invitation and attended.

19 June – an after work gathering at the Dunedin Public Libraries Dunningham Suite, beginning with drinks and nibbles. Lyn McLeod gave a power point presentation, with assistance from Barbara Frame, on the implementation of Professional Registration. This meeting was very well attended, with 33 librarians present, displaying a high level of interest.

All these events were publicised well through posters, emails, and LIBROS. I wish to thank Louise Booth who always gets the publicity out in a timely manner, and to the committee members too who ensure their respective constituencies are made aware of these opportunities. Louise, as editor of LIBROS, continues to publish an issue every few months. Thanks to her energy and drive, various ones of us are encouraged to contribute articles to our regional periodical.

I wish to thank Paula Murdoch who has been an excellent secretary to the committee – and region, and Mike Collett in his role as treasurer. This was a particularly busy year for him with the financial running of the weekend school. We have appreciated Lyn McLeod's keeping us informed of the LIANZA Council's deliberations, and ensuring we can contribute in advance to items on their meeting agenda. Several of us have held the same positions on the regional committee for at least three years – and are indicating it is an opportune time for others to take their turn. Therefore, with

nominations being called for, please think seriously about what you would like to put in and get out of involvement in your regional professional committee.

2010 is not too far off, and the LIANZA centennial conference will be held in Dunedin, as the first ever conference was also hosted by Dunedin. We have a couple of exciting years ahead of us, as we gear up to hosting this significant conference. We are looking at an early November conference, utilising the University facilities as soon as the exams are over.

Thank you all to your involvement and support, and we look forward to the new era of professional registration and the opportunities and challenges it presents us with.

Mark Hughes  
Regional Chair  
Otago Southland Region  
LIANZA