



Adoption Option trust was launched a year ago 20th June 2007

Left to right, back: Hilary Smith, Elaena Havell, front: Tracy Matehe, Sue and Simon Kingham celebrating at a distribution meeting.

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Editor's note

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter. It has been almost a year since the launch of the Adoption Option Trust and what a year we have had!

We have developed the resources pack and have worked on our strategy for distribution. As part of this strategy we have employed a youth worker on a part-time basis.

We have been looking at our strategy for beyond Christchurch and with the help of supporters we are confident we will achieve our goals.

Thank you for supporting the Adoption Option Trust

Sue Kingham - Chair AOT



Welcome to Elaena Havell

Elaena Havell began working part-time for the Adoption Option Trust on May 5th 2008. She comes highly recommended by Endometriosis New Zealand, where she is working as an educator delivering their schools programme.

Here is what she has to say for herself:

"Hello my name is Elaena Havell. I have a Masters degree in psychology and have been involved with the not-for-profit sector for a number of years. I am a volunteer youth counsellor for Youthline and I also help train their new recruits. I have had experience of giving presentations in my part-time role with Endometriosis NZ. I am to helping coordinate the distribution of the Adoption Option DVD in Christchurch. The focus at present is on Christchurch east, with the aim of using this initial pilot to identify the best way to distribute resources around the rest of Christchurch. I have had some wonderful feedback about this resource and I know it will be of benefit to anyone who is working with women facing a crisis pregnancy. I am really excited to be involved with the Adoption Option Trust as I believe this DVD fills a much needed information gap."

If you are able to make a donation to help us retain Elaena's services please email treasurer@adoptionoption.org.nz

Distribution Launch

On May 13th 2008 the Trust held a meeting at Waipuna Trust in Christchurch. This was the first of the distribution meetings we are planning to hold. Invitations went out to organisations working in the fields of health and education as well as to politicians. The event took a great deal of volunteer time and thankfully it was well attended. The trustees were especially delighted that Peter McGurk, a senior manager at Child, Youth and Family came along and answered questions on behalf of CYF. There was also a panel consisting of Michelle Good (an adopted person) Mary (a birth mum) Hilary Cleland (a trustee and a GP) and Sue Kingham (a trustee). The invited guests took the opportunity to ask numerous questions of the panel and the feedback we

received said that this session was very helpful. Anni Watkin, the Manager for Youth and Cultural Development, Christchurch, like everyone else at the end of the event, took away her free pack. The following day she bought six other packs because she was so impressed by the resource and was determined all the youth workers she manages should have a copy.

“ Speaking as a person who works with young women in crisis pregnancy situations I found the DVD gave clear and fair information about adoption. I was also impressed that it did cover the difficulties involved with choosing adoption.”

Anni Watkin
Manager
Youth and Cultural
Development, Christchurch

Birth mums' support group



Choosing to place a baby for adoption is the most difficult situation a mother could face. It is essential that support is in place for anyone going through with an adoption plan. With this in mind some Christchurch women are working on a birth mums' support group.

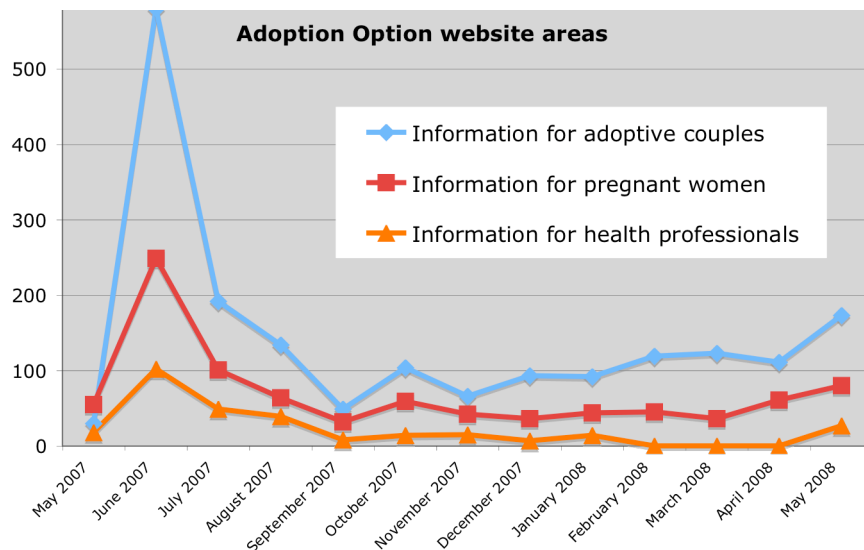
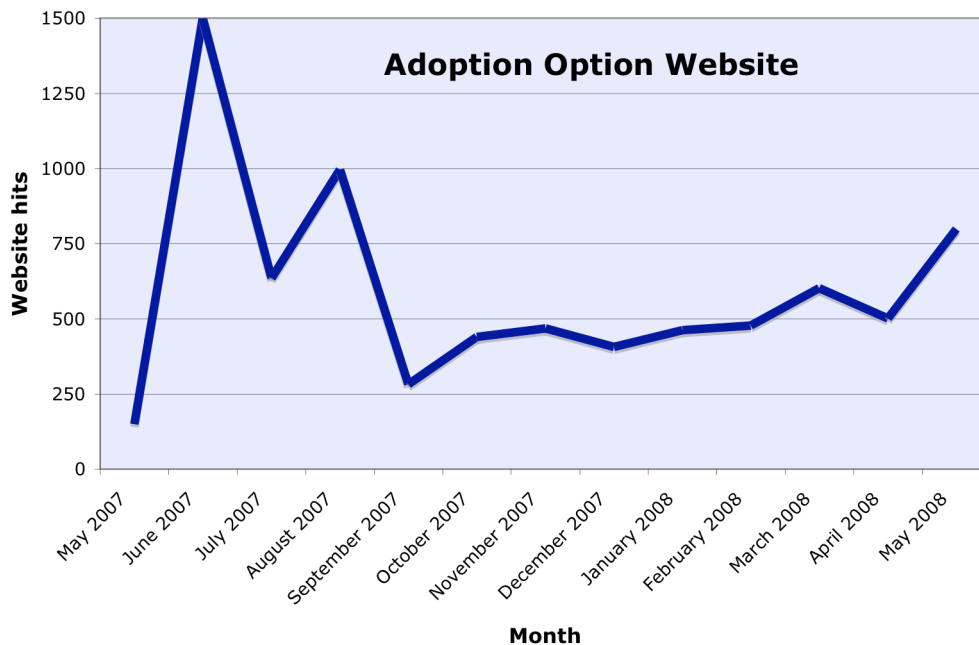
Donna Ellis is co-coordinating the group at the moment and is drawing upon her experience from other support groups. Also involved are Jill Steele and Colleen Glasson, birth mums from the closed system of adoption. They are keen to support women going through the process today. Three young birth mums have expressed an interest in being involved in the project. They are also keen to support others and offer their wisdom and experiences. If you would like to chat to Jill about this group please email her at

steelem@xtra.co.nz

Website

The website is a key resource for the Trust. Simon Kingham manages the site and monitors the traffic. He has produced the following graphs which show the number of hits on the website since its launch in June 2007. It peaked at 1500 that month; the result of a lot of publicity and a high media profile. There was a further peak in August following the piece that TV3 ran on Campbell Live, and a more recent peak in May 2008, which follows some more media publicity following the Christchurch East launch.

In September 2007 it dropped to around 250 hits per month. But then increased steadily to around 500 (before the more recent round of media interest). This is encouraging as this has been a time of little media coverage and therefore we believe the hits are from people with a genuine interest in adoption (and not just a result of media attention).



Volunteer Positions available:

To get the DVD out around the country we need volunteers who can research addresses of youth groups and schools in their area.

We also need people who can help with applying to trusts for funding in their area.

If you have links with the health or education sectors there are positions available for DVD distributors.



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We're on the Web!
www.adoptionoption.org.nz

Educating about adoption in New Zealand today

Do you know someone who maybe interested in receiving this newsletter? We would be delighted if you would consider forwarding the newsletter link to a few friends.

If they want to receive future copies they can email the secretary secretary@adoptionoption.org.nz to get on the emailing address list.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please email the secretary and she will remove you from the mailing list.

News from the AOT Board

At the May board meeting the Trustees continued to discuss the possibility of running a competition to tie in with the release of the film "Juno" on DVD on 4th August 2008.



The Trustees have been busy trying to get sponsorship and prizes for the competition which will be promoted via Tearaway magazine. More prizes would be welcome. Contact info@adoptionoption.org.nz if you can help.

The Trustees are also looking at encouraging research into open adoption. Elaena Havell and Simon Kingham have met with the head of Psychology at Canterbury University and are looking at ways to encourage a student to do a masters thesis on open adoption.

The Board also looked at how the distribution of DVDs can be rolled out around the country. Elaena will feedback her report on the pilot in Christchurch to the committee at the distribution meeting in Christchurch on June 19th.

Treasurer's Report



On 13 June 2008 we changed bank accounts from Westpac to Kiwibank to gain better interest rates. We will still be operating the Westpac account for a couple of months.

Sadly I only received one request for Membership following my plea in the summer newsletter and that was from a supporter who has already made a substantial donation to the Trust. **Please consider whether you could spare \$20.00 for a Supporter's Membership.**

As we currently only have funding for resource distribution in Christchurch and Nelson we are relying on donations to enable distribution in other areas of New Zealand.

To join the annual membership (or make a tax deductible donation) please see the "How to Support Us" section on the website. **We now have credit card payment options available via Paypal, which is a secure payment service.** Once you have paid, email me at treasurer@adoptionoption.org.nz stating you have paid to become a supporter and giving your address. I will log your email address for the supporter's newsletter and send you out a tax-deductible receipt.

As you may have seen the trust has employed a youth worker, Elaena Havell, to help with the distribution. We have not received any funding to cover her salary and donations towards Elaena's costs would be gratefully received.

Many thanks

Tracy Matehe - Treasurer

Corporate Supporters

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