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### Editor's note

2009 has been a period of review at the Adoption Option Trust. This has been a very useful exercise and this newsletter explains where we are heading.

We had a hectic time when we were chosen as a charity of the month for Sovereign Sunshine in September. See page 3 for how this turned out.

Thanks again to everyone who has given time or money to the Adoption Option Trust this year.

Sue Kingham - Chair AOT



BMSN Founder members Summer Olliver, Donna Ellis, Jill Steele and Rebecca Davies at the launch

### Birth Mums Support Launched

***Christchurch MPs Ruth Dyson and Nicky Wagner joined members of the Birth Mum Support Network (BMSN) on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September to launch the group's website [www.birthmumsupport.org.nz](http://www.birthmumsupport.org.nz).***

The BMSN came about after several birthmothers responded to the creation of the Adoption Option Trust two years ago, by emailing to ask what support was available for women in their situation. Coordinator Donna Ellis says a small group of birthmothers decided a separate network would help those considering adoption feel supported. Older birthmothers are also welcome to share their stories.

While adoption itself has changed radically, some birthmothers still feel isolated and on the margins when they choose adoption.

***"We are all individuals and we all need different things. You have to be ready to be a mother. It's all about having that choice. Our experience as a birth mums support group is that many women will want to keep a child from an unplanned pregnancy, but it's not for everyone."***

The network came together a year ago meeting bi-monthly. While the eight mothers who comprise the network are mainly Christchurch-based, the intention is to set up a national network. Cont...

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

## The Birth Mums Support Launch cont...

The BMSN also has a Bebo site, which caters for younger birthmothers. Run by a 21-year-old birthmother, Rebecca, the site allows people to ask questions and feel safe in doing so. Rebecca thinks this is a good way to communicate with young girls. ***"People like to use Bebo, it's a safe place to chat. You don't have to give out identifying details,"*** she said.

Postcards detailing the network's contacts will be distributed to GPs and for use at CYF offices. The network also has a qualified counsellor who can talk to potential birthmothers, and provides buddies for birthmothers needing one-on-one support during the adoption process.

**Contact: Donna Ellis,  
Coordinator Birthmothers  
Support Network via email  
bmsn2009@hotmail.com**

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## Little Treasure for Treasurer

In the last edition of the newsletter (No. 5) we featured Tracy Matehe and her husband, Renata, talking about their two adopted sons. We were thrilled to hear that they now have a precious daughter Manaia Te Aroha, born 28 July 2009, 9lb 8 oz. She went home 12 August 2009 and is a much loved sister for brothers' Taiki and Kya.

This is Tracy and Renata's third successful adoption. Tracy is happy to offer guidance and advice to people wanting to adopt in New Zealand on how to make your adoption profile stand out.

If you are Maori and are thinking about adopting you may be surprised to hear at present there are no Maori adoptive couples in the adoption pool in the South Island! Maybe now is the time for you to contact CYF.



**Tracy Matehe with Kya, Manaia,  
Taiki and husband Renata**

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

**We were thrilled at the end of August when we heard we had been selected by Sovereign Sunshine to be one of their charities of the month.**

For the first ten days or so we were leading the vote, which was very exciting. Then Sovereign sent out an email to their usual voters and overnight Cystic Fibrosis and Canteen, who were our main competitors, raced ahead.

We were unsuccessful but ended up with well over a thousand votes, which was fantastic, and **we want to say a big thank you to everyone who voted for us** and to those who encouraged their friends to vote as well. We have had some new donations and enquiries coming via our website thanks to this exposure and it was great to see our profile out there on the Sovereign site.

We were also delighted that Natalie Fronczyk, a Manager at Sovereign, contacted us after seeing our information on their site and offered to promote the trust within the company office in Auckland. We asked Trish Bartlett, a mum who had recently adopted a baby girl, to go in to Sovereign and she and Natalie gave a lunchtime presentation. Natalie is continuing to support the Adoption Option Trust by delivering DVDs to her local health centres. Thank you Trish and Natalie for your support.



**Natalie Fronczyk (left) with Trish Bartlett and her daughter Abigail in Sovereign atrium**

## Adoption Option Annual General Meeting

### **AGENDA**

The Second Adoption Option AGM will be held on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30pm at 19 Sunvale Terrace, Cashmere, Christchurch**

This event has been advertised in "The Press" and members of the public are most welcome to join us.

There is parking and light refreshments will be provided.

1. Welcome
2. Minutes from the last Meeting
3. Re-election of officers
4. Chairperson's review of the past year
5. Treasurer's annual accounts report
6. Plans for the remainder of 2009 and for 2010
7. Question time
8. Any other business



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We're on the Web!  
[www.adoptionoption.org.nz](http://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](mailto: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.**

## **Adoption Option Resources**

The Adoption Option launched on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2007. Sue Kingham, Larena Brown and Hilary Smith worked on the DVD and website using their knowledge and contacts. They knew at the time it would be good to have more input from birth parents but finding ones available to help proved difficult. Fortunately in the two years since then the AOT has been contacted by birth mums keen to help spread the message that adoption can be a positive choice for a woman facing a crisis pregnancy. With the distribution in Christchurch and Nelson completed now seemed the time to review what we had done to date and look at making any required changes.

We have now completed the review and filming has begun for the updating of the website and DVD. Watch this space for the launch of the new resources in 2010.

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Annual Supporters Members only costs \$20.00 per annum.**

For this members receive an email alert of the quarterly newsletter and occasional supporters' emails. To reduce administration membership will run January to January. See 'How to Support Us' section on our website for details. A tax-deductible receipt will be sent. We would love to have more members.

Thank you to the following paid up **Annual Supporters Members** for year end 31.12.09: [John and Gloria Casey](#), [Di Conway](#), [Donna Ellis](#), [Helen Ferguson](#), [Jenny Haliburton](#), [Susan and Tavale Maiava](#) (Mission Support Trust), [Rosemary Moore](#) and [Tony and Beatrice Sullivan](#).

Thank you to the following people who have **donated money**, year end 31.12.09: [Richard Bell](#), [Graham and Joan Braddock](#), [Graeme and Diana Burgess](#), [Catholic Diocese Of Christchurch \(Tindall Foundation Grant 2009\)](#), [Kim Fluhler](#), [Sue and Simon Kingham](#), [Ken McAllister](#), [Brendan and Kathyne McNeill](#), [Jacqueline Maskell](#), [Tracy & Renata Matehe](#), [Rosemary Moore](#), [Richmond Mission Support Trust](#), [Strategic Financial Planning](#), [The Warehouse stores at Barrington, Belfast, Eastgate, and Northlands](#) and [Graeme and Sylvia Vickers](#)

**We really appreciate everyone who has supported us with a financial gift in 2009. Thank you very much.** We would like to say a special thank you to [Susan and Tavale Maiava \(Mission Support Trust\)](#) who donate on a monthly basis. Also to the [McNeills](#) for their substantial donation and the [Catholic Diocese of Christchurch \(Tindall Foundation\)](#) for their donation of \$6,000.

If anyone has contacts regarding funding/grants or any other fundraising ideas please email me on [treasurer@adoptionoption.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@adoptionoption.org.nz)

**Tracy Matehe (Treasurer)**