



LA LECHE LEAGUE
NEW ZEALAND Inc



ANNUAL REPORT
2009

La Leche League New Zealand Inc
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Auditors:
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LLLNZ Board Members as at 6 November 2009:

Director	Barbara Sturmfels
Administrator of Leaders	Carolyn Driver-Burgess
Administrator of Leader Accreditation	Eleanor Becker
Administrator of Professional Liaison	Debra Graham
Administrator of Publications	Janine Pinkham
Administrator of Communication Skills	Alison Stanton
Area I Board Member	Donna Henderson
Area II Board Member	Kristina Maconaghie
Area III Board Member	Heather Cotter
South Island Board Member	Linda Dockrill
LLLNZ Treasurer	Jill Allan

INTRODUCTION AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am pleased to present my fifth and final report as Director of La Leche League New Zealand. This has been another busy and active year in the life of LLLNZ. As well as Group Leaders maintaining our core and most important work of providing direct mother-to-mother support through group meetings and one-to-one counselling, a large proportion of Leaders work in many ways to train and support this front-line grassroots presence. Many Leaders are also involved in an increasing range of outreach and networking activities, reflecting the continued expansion in the number of people and services, particularly in the formal funded health sector, with an interest in and commitment to improving breastfeeding outcomes in New Zealand. The profile and reach of our main outreach activity, the Breastfeeding Peer Counsellor Programme (PCP) has grown steadily over the year. This was especially evident in the series of videoconferences hosted by the Ministry of Health's HEHA (Healthy Eating Healthy Action) team, with many of the featured presenters and services referring to the links they have with the PCP and LLL.

On the national scene, the National Breastfeeding Committee was formed as a successor to the National Breastfeeding Advisory Committee following publication of the NBAC's *National Strategic Plan of Action for Breastfeeding*. The new Committee, which included myself and Carol Bartle from the LLLNZ Board of Consultants, was appointed for a short (less than one year) term and in that time focussed on developing sector relationships particularly with District Health Boards as they formulated and began implementing their Breastfeeding Action Plans. Following a Ministerial review of the health system undertaken following the change of government a year ago, the National Breastfeeding Committee was discontinued and, according to the report of the review, is being "reconfigured as an Expert Panel to be called together as required for specific issues". LLLNZ hopes that this will be sufficient to keep up momentum on progressing implementation of the *National Strategic Plan of Action for Breastfeeding*.

We thank and acknowledge Rosemary Gordon for her six years of service on the Board of NZBA Baby-Friendly Aotearoa New Zealand, during which time the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative has become firmly established in New Zealand and significant progress has been made with the Baby-Friendly Community Initiative. We are particularly pleased to note that the Masterton LLL Group was part of a collective of health and community organisations in the Wairarapa who jointly achieved accreditation in one of the pilot BFCI programmes. Rosemary's maximum term on the NZBA Board has been completed, and we are pleased to report that our nomination of Janine Pinkham to succeed her was successful.

Following a flurry of media reports in late 2008 about the ongoing debate around co-sleeping, to which we contributed with a media release in support of safe co-sleeping for breastfeeding mothers and babies, we were invited to be represented on the SUDI Working Group of the Child and Youth Mortality Review Committee. Brylin Highton has ably represented LLL perspectives on this Group, ensuring that the evidence in support of safe co-sleeping, its physiological normality, and the realities of real mother-baby sleeping and feeding situations are taking into consideration.

The Ministry of Health's breastfeeding public education (formerly referred to as social marketing) campaign has continued this year, with new advertisements and posters being developed to promote breastfeeding, and the acceptance of breastfeeding as normal and healthy, in public places and in wider society. A documentary-style DVD, to be distributed free to all pregnant women, has also been produced as part of this project. We thank Lorraine Taylor for representing LLLNZ on the Advisory Group convened to provide expert advice to the Ministry and the film production company. We are pleased to note that the DVD includes reference to LLL and footage of an actual LLL meeting. Thanks are due to Central Auckland LLL Group for agreeing to be filmed and for arranging an extra meeting at which the filming took place.

As noted in the Departmental reports below, 2008/9 has been another busy year with submissions on various issues. Brylin Highton has devoted considerable time and expertise, and worked late into the night on numerous occasions, to research and draft these submissions. LLLNZ's efforts in this regard are often

commented on positively by people from other organisations, who mention both our professional standards and the fact that we present important perspectives that are often not included in other submissions.

The environment in which mothers are enabled (or not) to breastfeed their babies and children continues to be compromised by the half-hearted approach in New Zealand law and policy towards implementing the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes and subsequent relevant resolutions of the World Health Assembly. It is notable that greater promotion of breastfeeding through advertising seems to have been met by increased advertising and related activities by the marketers of artificial baby and toddler milks and feeding apparatus. LLLNZ has a firm position in favour of more rigorous implementation of the International Code, and we continue to take the opportunity to express this position in submissions and other communications with government officials and agencies.

Looking internally now, we welcome the formation of an Alumnae Association to provide networking and connections for long-term and retired LLL Leaders and supporters. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship between LLLNZ and the Alumnae, and thank Yvonne Foreman and her team for the energy and passion they have put into forming the Association.

LLLNZ, looking towards the milestone of 50 years presence in New Zealand, is employing an historian to compile a history of our organisation with a view to this being completed for our 50th anniversary celebrations in 2014. This will build on the first stage of the history project, which consisted of oral histories of a selection of significant LLLNZ women.

As an Affiliate of our parent organisation, La Leche League International, LLLNZ is affected by changes taking place in the global organisation. Alison Stanton and/or I have this year represented LLLNZ at two meetings of LLL delegates from around the world – in Paris in February and in Frankfurt in September-October – called to work towards new agreements defining the relationship between LLLI and the LLL entities in ‘the field’ and the basis on which the field entities contribute financially to LLLI. While the basic relationship between LLLI and LLLNZ will remain similar to what it has been for the last 20+ years, there will be some changes in the detail of the relationship and probably significant changes (increases) in our financial support of LLLI.

We are proud of Rosemary Gordon for representing the Asia-Pacific Zone on the Board of LLLI, and for stepping up this year to take on the pivotal role of co-chair.

It is with much sadness that we learned of the death late last year of Betty Wagner, one of the seven Founders of La Leche League International. Along with her co-Founders, Betty established an organisation and a philosophy which have had an impact around the globe and which are cherished by countless mothers and families.

The work of each LLLNZ Department is reported on below:

LEADER DEPARTMENT

La Leche League New Zealand had 151 accredited Leaders (141 last year) and 53 Groups (54 last year) as at 5 October, 2009. This is the second successive yearly rise in Leader numbers.

Thirteen new Group Leaders were accredited (15 last year), and there were seven resignations (the same as last year). There are three new Groups (Christchurch Central, and, in Australia, Peregrian Beach and Brisbane), and four Groups closed.

LEADERS	Area I	Area II	Area III	South Island	Australia	Total
Group	26	30	22	29	4	111
Support	11	8	7	8	6	40
TOTAL	37	38	29	37	10	151

GROUPS	Area I	Area II	Area III	South Island	Australia	Total
Active	11	16	8	15	3	53
Recess	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	12	16	8	15	3	54

The Leader Activity Report for 2008, released in March this year and based on data returned by 104 Leaders (76% of Leaders), revealed higher average numbers of Leader contacts again. The average was 221 contacts per Leader, up from 212 last year. Leaders' volunteer hours were reported as 19,660 hours this year, roughly the same as last year (19,985). This represents an enormous amount of work – almost 10 years of full-time employment or an average of five weeks full-time work for each Leader.

Each Area is ably led by an Area Coordinator of Leaders, and support is provided to Leaders through a variety of mechanisms including Group Support Leaders and Chapter meetings. Three workshops have been held. Area III has begun work on the 2010 Conference, in conjunction with the LLLNZ Executive.

Leader Department work this year has included revamping the job descriptions for Group Leaders and Support Leaders (formerly called Leader Reserves), initiating an annual statement of commitment for all Leaders, preparing a resource for Leaders working with Maori families, and completing the revision of the LLLNZ Conference Handbook.

I would like to thank the Area Coordinators of Leaders: Caroline Hawes, Kiri Pengelly, Janet McClean, and Isobel Fanshawe, as well as the outgoing ACLs Julie Foley and Debbie Graham, for the solid work that they have accomplished in supporting Leaders in their Areas. They are the links between our grassroots Group work and the national management. This is my last report as the Administrator of Leaders. The five years in this role have taught me many things. I am very happy to welcome Janet McLean into the job from March 2010.

Carolyn Driver-Burgess
Administrator of Leaders

LEADER ACCREDITATION DEPARTMENT

There are currently 70 Leader Applicants in New Zealand and this gives us an average of 1.3 per Group. We still have quite a high number of inactive applicants, 16, and the average length of accreditation is two to three years which is much longer than in other parts of the world. We are constantly looking at ways in which to streamline and improve the process. We are striving to increase the communication with supporting Leaders who are the ones who train the Leader Applicants at Group level while we accredit them.

We are very pleased to have introduced the Leader Applicant Member status. This means that Leader Applicants now receive the same resources as Leaders ie *Mosaic*, *Aroha* and any new leaflets. It is now part of the system for Leader Applicants to receive the most important resources at the time of their application. The implementation of this system is becoming increasingly refined.

The LA Resource folder is now widely used and feedback is positive.

We have been focusing on creating a culture of team in the Department. Each Area is building its team of CLAs with the Area Coordinators of Leader Accreditation and the ALA taking on mentoring roles. ACLAs will focus on their Area roles, supporting CLAs and fostering emergent Leadership.

I will have completed four years of my term as ALA in March 2010 and will be stepping aside then. Thank you, to everyone in the LAD and on the Board who has supported me during my term. It has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience. I welcome Linda Dockrill who will be taking over as the new ALA.

To conclude I would like to share with you one of our visions:

“In the LAD we strive to accredit confident, competent Leaders willing to channel their energy into supporting mothers and babies through La Leche League.”

Eleanor Becker
Administrator of Leader Accreditation

PROFESSIONAL LIAISON DEPARTMENT

The number of calls from Leaders seeking specialised information from PL staff was similar to the previous two years. Departmental staff were involved in a number of outside speaking engagements, as were a number of other Leaders throughout New Zealand.

We have had two staffing changes. In Area I Donna Henderson has been replaced by Julie Foley as Area Coordinator and Debra Graham has replaced Brylin Highton as Administrator of Professional Liaison

Outreach activities by PL Department staff and Leaders generally have increased, particularly networking with DHBs and their HEHA staff including promotion of LLLNZ's Breastfeeding Peer Counsellor Programme. Leaders in several centres are also working in the PCP Department to deliver mentoring and professional development for PCP Administrators. PLD staff and Leaders have responded to many requests from outside LLL for staff and community education sessions.

We have led the preparation of the following submissions by LLLNZ:

- Policy Options Consultation Paper on the Regulation of Infant Formula Products, to the Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC) Working Group on Infant Formula Products for the development of an Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) Policy Guideline on the Regulation of Infant Formula Products.
- Submission on the draft Maternity Action Plan (MAP) 2009-2012, to the Ministry of Health
- Submission on Proposed Breastfeeding Guidelines for Early Childhood Education settings, to Carol Bartle and Judith Duncan for the Ministry of Health
- Submission on the Preliminary Final Assessment Report Proposal P274, to Food Standards Australia New Zealand
- Feedback to the Ministry of Health on the draft Code of Practice for Health Workers poster
- Submission on the Code of Employment Practice on Infant Feeding, to the Department of Labour.

Brylin Highton continues in her role as Editor of *Breastfeeding Communiqué*, LLLNZ's annual journal for health professionals and policy makers.

Members of the LLLNZ Board of Consultants continue to be supportive of our work and willing to assist us in providing information to Leaders and mothers, writing for LLLNZ publications, contributing to submissions and presenting Conference sessions. Geoff Cheyne has retired from the BOC but has offered his services as a speaker at the Wellington Conference next year which is greatly appreciated. We will farewell him at this time and the LLLNZ Board has awarded him emeritus status for his many years of work and support for both LLLI and LLLNZ. Bill Heritage has also retired from the BOC. We thank him for his services to both LLLI and LLLNZ. In July we welcomed onto the BOC Dr Janet Weber, a Lecturer in Human Nutrition at Massey University. Janet is also an LLL Leader.

I wish to thank the Department staff for the time they have put in on behalf of LLLNZ and the support they give to Leaders.

Brylin Highton and Debra Graham
Outgoing and incoming Administrators of Professional Liaison

PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

LLLNZ Website (Editor, Fran Crossland)

A new Website format was launched in April 2009. An LLLNZ Board profiles page and links to articles from *Aroha* have been recently added. Fran is working hard to bring us the Leader only pages that are under development. The Leader pages will provide easy access to many up to date LLLNZ resources for Leaders.

Aroha (Editor, Lorraine Taylor)

A new editor is still needed and we are immensely grateful to Lorraine Taylor for continuing to edit *Aroha* through 2009. Continued advertising brings some interest but no actual applications yet. There has been slow progress with layout changes while the editor recruitment continues. *Aroha* remains an important component in providing LLLNZ members with mother to mother breastfeeding support through the written word.

Mosaic (Editor, Liz Lightfoot)

This year has seen significant improvements to the layout of *Mosaic* under the excellent editorship of Liz Lightfoot. There is a continued high standard of material provided for Leaders to benefit from in supporting breastfeeding mothers and in their Groups.

Breastfeeding Communiqué (Editor, Brylin Highton)

Breastfeeding Communiqué 2008 was published March 2009. Material for *Breastfeeding Communiqué* 2009 is currently being collected. Brylin continues the challenging task of sourcing information not already available to breastfeeding supporters via the Internet or other professional publications. *Breastfeeding Communiqué* continues to be an important resource offering the LLLNZ perspective to the health professional community.

Kaleidoscope (Editor, Jill Allan)

LLLNZ sincerely thanks Jill for her five plus years as *Kaleidoscope* Editor which were completed midyear. The newly established LLLNZ Alumnae Association has taken on the responsibility for *Kaleidoscope* and its first very attractive issue under new editors Yvonne Foreman and Rosie Bentley is imminent. LLLNZ looks forward to seeing *Kaleidoscope* flourish under new management.

Book Review Committee (Convenor, Jill Allan)

Jill continues her long tenure in this role, efficiently managing the approval process for new material for Group libraries with the able assistance of a small team of reviewers. In the last year 12 books have been reviewed of which nine have been approved for Group libraries and three not approved.

Writing for non LLL publications – Kiwi Parent (Writer, Donna Henderson)

Donna has continued to write six well prepared and researched articles a year for the Breastfeeding Notes column of the Parents Centre NZ publication *Kiwi Parent*. Donna is nearing the end of her five year term in this role and advertising for a new writer will occur early in 2010.

Photos

A photo shoot was undertaken by professional photographer Robyn Greening, at the annual Coordinators training weekend in May. This provided images of LLLNZ Area and national staff and breastfeeding images which will be used in LLLNZ publications and on the Website. An image of Donna Henderson and her son Joel features on the cover of the revised *Are you pregnant or breastfeeding?* publicity tri-fold.

Goals for 2010

Work will continue to achieve and maintain full staffing in the Publications Department. Ensuring that publications are timely is important but challenging when most staff are volunteers with multiple roles within LLLNZ and other organisations. Innovative planning to improve reliability is required. Publication layout improvements will continue while the usual high quality of the information contained in our publications will be maintained.

Janine Pinkham
Administrator of Publications

COMMUNICATION SKILLS DEPARTMENT

The concerted effort put into the Pre-Conference Workshop and Conference sessions a year ago has been followed by a quiet year in Areas I and II. Planning for training in the first term of 2010 is underway. *Communication Skills 1 & 2*, *Telephone Counselling* and *Alternatives to "No"* have taken place in Area III and two parenting sessions, *Problem Solving Skills* and *Effective Discipline*, were held in June in the South Island. The team has begun its preparation for Conference 2010 sessions and the Pre-Conference Workshop.

All of the Group Work Skills and some of our parenting training outlines are now online to ease review and development, and this process will continue.

Concerns remain that tutors are juggling a range of volunteer and paid responsibilities alongside their family commitments. Forward planning with local Area Staff is vital in order to balance the availability of tutors and having regular training on offer for Leader Applicants and Leaders.

During my term as ACS the team has welcomed four new tutors, this includes one who is in her orientation period. New international Communication Skills outlines have been introduced and a number of our other training outlines have been reviewed and developed. The Pre-Conference CS Workshop initiated last year, particularly to assist those in rural areas to access CS training, was so well received that it is to be repeated next year. I leave this role knowing that the team is committed to helping others develop respectful communication skills and that we have a nomination, Hilary Henderson, for ACS succession.

Alison Stanton
Administrator of Communication Skills

LLLNZ OFFICE

We continue to be well supported by the three part-time staff working at the LLLNZ Office at the Porirua Community Services Centre in Porirua. Lynda Eves has now been Office Administrator for 18 months and has capably taken on the wide range of large, small, simple and complex tasks that the role requires. Lynda's efficiency and friendly style are appreciated by both Leaders and members of the public.

Following the resignation of Janette Sprott, Fiona Pene has been recruited as Database Manager and is ably managing memberships and subscriptions while also undertaking other office tasks including the collating, packaging and despatching of materials for the Breastfeeding Peer Counsellor Programme (PCP) Administrator training courses. We are grateful to Fiona for her willingness to work flexible hours to match our fluctuating needs week by week. The Office is also supported by some volunteer helpers. This year two disabled volunteers have helped with bulk mailings.

Jill Allan continues to work at the Office in her dual roles as LLLNZ Treasurer and in LLLNZ Orders. In the latter role she is responsible for the day-to-day receipt and despatch of orders for books, leaflets and other items from our store. Owing to the increased volume and complexity of financial transactions, partly due to the growth of PCP activity, Jill's hours as Treasurer have been increased from 25 to 40 hours per month.

We are indebted again this year to retired Office Administrator Fran Crossland for being available to fill in at the Office to cover for periods of extended leave by staff. This has enabled the essential work to be attended to and minimised delays in responding to enquiries and customers. IT systems always present challenges, and we are again grateful to Graeme Allan for his expertise, manpower and willingness to support us.

Visitors to the Office will notice some physical changes. The office space in Room 7 has taken on a fresh new look, with new work stations and filing facilities, making a more efficient and pleasant working environment for our staff. We have taken out a lease on the adjacent Room 5, which provides the ability to spread out and carry out tasks such as mailouts in a more orderly fashion. Room 5 will also shortly become the base for the PCP Manager and is being equipped for this purpose.

Membership levels remain steady overall, with a drop (hopefully temporary) in Associate Members being offset by increased numbers of Professional Supporting Members.

BREASTFEEDING PEER COUNSELLOR PROGRAMME

The past year has been extremely busy for LLLNZ's outreach project, the Breastfeeding Peer Counsellor Programme. Week-long PCP Administrator courses have been run almost every month somewhere in the country. This has meant that our PCP staff and systems were operating at close to full capacity. We are especially indebted to the impressive commitment of Anne Devereux for making herself available to be a co-facilitator for all 10 of the PCP Administrator courses run in the last 12 months (and for all of the prior courses as well), and to Heather Cotter for co-facilitating with Anne seven of those courses. The opportunity has been taken this year to train several more Leaders in the PCP so as to increase our capacity to deliver PCPA courses and provide follow-up mentoring. Of these, Alison Stanton, Janine Pinkham and Barbara Fletcher are now qualified to co-facilitate PCPA courses, and other Leaders are in training. Several more Leaders are working as mentors providing follow-up support and professional development to course graduates whose funders have purchased this additional service.

PCPA courses have been delivered in:

2008 November: Wellington – Capital and Coast DHB

2009 January: Invercargill – participants from Southland and South Canterbury

February: Tauranga – participants from Tauranga and Gisborne

March: Rotorua – participants from Rotorua, Taupo and Tokoroa

May: Blenheim – participants from Nelson and Marlborough districts

June: Porirua – Capital and Coast DHB

July: Christchurch – Rural Canterbury PHO – participants from Christchurch, Kaikoura, Ashburton and Nelson

August: North Shore – Waitemata DHB, participants from North Shore, West Auckland, Rodney, Auckland City and Hutt Valley

September: Dunedin

October: Auckland DHB – participants from Auckland City and West Auckland

The majority of course participants, particularly in the North Island, have been from Maori and Pacific health service providers. This is in line with the funding priorities of HEHA (the Ministry of Health's Healthy Eating Healthy Action initiative) and the District Health Board's Breastfeeding Action Plans, which is where the funding for most of the course participants has been sourced. The Auckland region trainings included, for the first time, participants of Chinese, Somali and Indian ethnicity. Feedback from participants and their service managers has been overwhelmingly positive as regards the quality and usefulness of the education and resources and, notably, the cultural appropriateness of the delivery and the adaptability of the Programme to meet the needs of diverse cultures and communities.

We actively encourage clients to purchase packages providing ongoing mentoring and resources for the PCPAs who graduate from the courses. Take-up of this option varies widely, and is particularly good in the

Auckland region with all PCPAs trained in all three courses so far having been funded to receive this service. This has enabled an ongoing programme of group professional development as well as one-on-one contact between PCPAs and Mentors. From our continuing contact with PCPA graduates, we observe that those who have access to this service benefit greatly in terms of their confidence and capacity to implement the Programme in their communities.

We are also able to offer, in locations with qualified and available Leaders, additional services to PCPAs such as co-facilitation of Peer Counsellor Training courses where this enables a new PCPA to gain confidence. Alison Stanton and Barbara Fletcher have worked with the Tongan Health Society in this way. The PCP curricula are adaptable to other breastfeeding education purposes and we are open to working with clients to tailor courses to meet the particular needs of their staff and communities.

Many PCPAs report that their ability to realise the Programme's full potential is hampered by lack of funding and/or dedicated time allocation within their service. While the cost of the PCPA course itself is probably a very good investment even if the graduates only use the knowledge and skills gained in their own practice, the potential of the Programme to spread the knowledge and skills throughout the community is significantly greater than this and can be realised with adequate funding and commitment to achieving the end goal – breastfeeding knowledge and skills residing in the community, being passed on mother-to-mother and generation-to-generation.

In response to an identified gap in the written breastfeeding information resources available in New Zealand, LLLNZ is working with Ethnic Communications Ltd under a contract with the Ministry of Health to produce a set of booklets and information sheets in low-literacy English, Maori, Samoan, Tongan and Niuean languages. These resources will have much greater visual content than is usual in most LLL-produced materials which tend to be text-dense. As with LLL materials, the emphasis is on presenting information about the normality of breastfeeding and the normal course of breastfeeding, with additional material to help in problem situations. It is envisaged that these resources will be particularly useful for mothers who have trained as Breastfeeding Peer Counsellors, both for their own reference and for providing to the mothers and families in their networks. Alison Stanton is capably leading LLLNZ's input into this project, with backup from a review network of Leaders from the Professional Liaison, Publications and PCP Departments.

We thank Lorraine Taylor for her path-setting work in establishing the new PCP Manager role. Regrettably, after a year of dedicated service, Lorraine has resigned from this role. A new manager, recruited from outside the ranks of LLL Leaders, will start work shortly. We are indebted to Lorraine for continuing in the role while a replacement is recruited and for remaining available to work with the new manager to effect a smooth handover.

FUNDING

LLLNZ finished the 2008/9 financial year in a sound position, thanks once again to careful management and resolutely living within our means. The PCP generated a net surplus over the year, due to the number of courses run and PCPAs trained, the background support of the Ministry of Health development grant and – not least – the large contribution of volunteer Leader effort that continues to complement that of paid PCP staff hours. Our other business activity, the LLLNZ Order Department, also contributed a net surplus to funds from the sale of books and information resources.

We are grateful to our many members, subscribers and customers, and to the following outside funders whose support in 2008/9 has paid for ongoing running expenses as well as individual projects:

- \$19,000 from Lotteries Welfare towards wages at the Office;
- \$18,000 from the Ministry of Health which was put towards rent, telecommunications and administrative expenses at the Office;
- \$1,388 from the Lion Foundation for accommodation costs for the Coordinators' and Board Meetings in May;

- \$30,000 from the Ministry of Health to support the maintenance and development of the PCP;
- \$300 of fuel vouchers from BP, which have been passed on to Area Coordinators of Leaders.

We are also grateful for the many thousands of dollars in grants to local LLL Groups, Chapters and Areas by COGS, local authorities and numerous trusts and to payments in kind such as New Zealand Post's community post scheme. This community funding support enables Groups to continue providing services and resources to thousands of mothers and families each year, and to undertake a range of outreach and special projects. Most Groups are able to fund the training and ongoing resourcing of their Group Leaders and Leader Applicants, thus enabling many women to be able to afford to volunteer their time. LLLNZ is also grateful to community funders for funding the purchase by Groups from our Order Department of information sheets and leaflets for community distribution and books for Group Libraries. The funding that many Groups have received in recent years from the Ministry of Education's community adult education fund is under threat because of the huge cutbacks in that fund, a step we regard as regrettable and detrimental.

Many people generously gift their time to LLLNZ, or provide services at discounted rates. Some of these benefactors have been mentioned elsewhere in this report. I would also like to thank law firm Bell Gully, and particularly Wendy Duggan, for generous provision of legal services. We are pleased to have been able to reciprocate by providing a set of breastfeeding books and information for the firm's staff library. Once again, we thank and acknowledge the Women's Health Action Trust for supporting LLL in many ways, both practical and moral, including sharing their stand at Parent and Child Shows at no cost to us.

CONCLUSION

As noted by Carolyn in the Leader Department report, Leaders contributed a combined total of the equivalent of more than 10 years' full-time employment in volunteer time during 2008. This dedicated and skilled volunteer workforce remains our main asset, and we are grateful to all Leaders and their supportive families for their commitment to furthering the mission of La Leche League: "To help mothers to breastfeed through mother-to-mother support, education, information, and encouragement and to promote a better understanding of breastfeeding as an important element in the healthy development of the baby and mother."

I wish to thank everyone with whom I have worked over my five-year term as Director of LLLNZ, in particular my fellow Board Members, LLLNZ staff and the many Leaders who work in numerous ways to support other Leaders and LLL Groups and the organisation generally so that we, all of us together, can be there to provide quality support and information to our fellow mothers who want to breastfeed their babies. I am grateful too for the many opportunities that being Director has given me for networking outside of LLL. It has been a pleasure to work with fellow breastfeeding supporters and advocates in New Zealand and internationally, and a particular pleasure to be involved with many whose commitment to supporting breastfeeding has grown as they have become more knowledgeable and aware.

I extend my very best wishes to Alison Stanton for a happy and successful term as LLLNZ's incoming Director from February 2010. As always through our long history there are many challenges facing La Leche League, in terms of both shortcomings in the social, political and economic environment in which mothers endeavour to breastfeed their babies and the capacity of our volunteer-based principles-driven organisation to remain viable and strong within that environment. I am confident that the passion, commitment and skills of the women who become LLL Leaders will ensure that La Leche League in New Zealand continues to survive, thrive and adapt to changing circumstances so that we can continue to offer new mothers what we ourselves have benefitted from so greatly – mothers learning from mothers the importance and know-how of breastfeeding and responsive mothering.

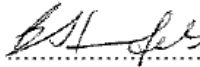
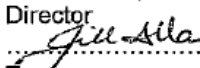
**Barbara Sturmfels
Director, LLLNZ**

6 November 2009

LA LECHE LEAGUE NEW ZEALAND INC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 31 March 2008

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Members Funds at beginning of Year	153,215	138,647
Excess of Income over Expenditure		
LLLNZ Administration	-4,404	2,293
Order Department	8,417	9,714
Subscriptions Department	1,941	2,623
Peer Counsellor Programme	-2,732	-
Less Order Department Stock written off	-739	62
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	<u><u>155,698</u></u>	<u><u>153,215</u></u>
Represented By:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
BNZ Cheque Account	6,060	13,143
Office Petty Cash	44	30
Stock on Hand	13,590	17,015
Tower Managed Funds Ltd	21,762	20,548
BNZ Achiever Account (97a/c)	52,361	47,257
BNZ Achiever Account (66 a/c)	58,879	54,005
Accounts Receivable	2,115	1,510
Loan to 2008 Conference	3,000	3,000
Accrued Income	5,512	1,910
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u><u>163,323</u></u>	<u><u>158,418</u></u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Prepaid Subscriptions (Note 1)	3,109	3,514
Income Received in Advance	1,620	2,825
Sundry Creditors	6,180	2,537
Accounts Payable	446	1,649
GST	-974	-729
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u><u>10,381</u></u>	<u><u>9,796</u></u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u><u>152,942</u></u>	<u><u>148,622</u></u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Fixed Assets (Note 2)	2,756	4,593
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u><u>2,756</u></u>	<u><u>4,593</u></u>
NET ASSETS	<u><u>155,698</u></u>	<u><u>153,215</u></u>

 Date 17/6/2008
 Director
 Date 17/6/2008
 Treasurer