



Alan Ovens

President's report – July 2009

The past year has been one of significant challenge and change as we have sought to steer the organisation through key staff changes while maintaining a focus on our core services. It is never easy to lose people who are central to the organisation and integral to its success as well as being people you respect and enjoy working with. However, we are confident we have managed the change process effectively and continue to be in a strong position as an organisation.

Perhaps the two most significant changes are the appointment of Gordon Patterson as our new Chief Executive and the decision to shift the national office to Tauranga. Gordon comes with a wealth of experience and success in education settings and sees this move as an opportunity to return to his true love of physical education. Gordon takes up the position vacated by Simon Jackson who moved to a new position after nine years with PENZ. Under Simon's savvy business sense, PENZ was able to grow into a financially successful, well organised and respected organisation. Gordon will take advantage of this strong base and continue to move the organisation ahead. He will work out of our new national office based on the Windermere campus of the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic.

Losing Simon at a key stage of the year meant we had to review our annual plan in light of our reduced capacity. Perhaps most obvious to members was the decision to cancel the leadership conferences at the end of the year. In addition to the loss of professional development opportunities, the cancelling of the two conferences also represented a loss of two important income streams. However, this decision allowed us to support other important activities.

Key amongst these is the work PENZ is doing to align the Achievement Standards with the NZ Curriculum. I would like to acknowledge the work of the PENZ team of Lorna Gillispie, Darryl Boyd, Anne McKay and Kylie Thompson. While this work is ongoing, their work to date has been exemplary. We are fortunate we are to have their expertise and experience to draw upon. A key aim for PENZ is to be an advocate for quality physical education and through the work of the alignment team, we are able to ensure there is a strong and passionate physical education voice.

In addition, we have been active in other areas. There was a successful conference held in Whangarei to support Northland teachers. Although hard work for those involved, it was effectively organised and well attended by teachers. PENZ also provided courses in scholarship physical education in different centres around the country. These courses continue to provide valuable support for our top senior students aiming to sit the scholarship exam. We also published a research monograph late in the year. Under the editorship of Lisette Burrows and supported by the Southland Trust, the monograph continues PENZ's commitment to supporting research and scholarship into physical education.

Communication remains an important emphasis. Core to this is the Physical Educator magazine and the PENZ website. As we did last year, we committed to provide the first

edition of the Physical Educator to all NZ schools. We continue to see this as an important way of raising the PENZ profile as well as supporting all teachers to provide quality physical education. The website is undergoing an overhaul to ensure it provides a key resource for teachers and members. The most significant change has been unseen as we moved the website to be hosted by a new server. Members will notice that the site itself has changed as we begin to develop a new look and feel for the site. This development will be ongoing and we appreciate any feedback members want to provide.

I would now like to acknowledge the contribution and support of people working to make PENZ such a successful organisation. Firstly, the term of office for Siobhan Harrod and Lisette Burrows will be ending this year. Both have been committed Board members and have willingly committed their time and energy to meet the demands placed on them this year. Their contribution is immense and I value their experience and viewpoint. I believe both are willing to stand again for another term and members would be well served if they were re-elected. Secondly, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Katie Fitzpatrick and Mike Leach who were our two co-opted members. Although they both resigned during the year for personal reasons, both were able to broaden and balance the range of expertise we had at Board meetings. I thank them for their time, experience and support throughout the past year.

I would like to acknowledge both Lorna Gillispie and David Ruddle who have been our dedicated PENZ staff. Lorna is a highly respected and capable physical educator who is well known for the quality of her work. As our senior advisor, Lorna provided us with a level of expertise and attention to detail that ensured PENZ was sought after in curriculum advising, resource development and professional education. Although she has resigned from her position with PENZ, she is not lost to the organisation and we will continue to draw on her expertise as projects demand. Although not as high profile to members as Lorna, Dave Ruddle's contribution to PENZ is no less significant. Few members would appreciate the time he committed to managing our membership and financial systems. His resignation leaves a gap that is not easy to fill and an appreciation of how critical his role was to the organisation.

It is also important to acknowledge the organisations that sponsor and support the work we do. The Southland trust provided funding that enabled to monograph published. Botany Down College, Kings College and WaterSafe Auckland have all provided venues for Board meetings. The Bay of Plenty Polytechnic has provided office space and support to relocate the national office. Sports Distributors Limited have continued to be loyal sponsors and we appreciate our continuing connection with them. I also need to acknowledge the funding provided by SPARC and their willingness to support the work of PENZ in ensuring quality physical for all young people.

In conclusion, the past year has been challenging as the organisation has gone through some significant changes. The key amongst these is rebuilding management capacity and systems. Shifting the national office to Tauranga has provided the opportunity to review how we operate and develop better ways of working. I am confident that we will benefit as a result. I thank the Board for their continued support and their willingness to commit their time and energy to leading this organisation. Despite the challenges, PENZ remains in a strong position.



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President