



ZONTA BIRTHING KIT PROJECT
www.birthingkitfoundation.org.au
info@birthingkitfoundation.org.au

Dear Zontians, Members and Friends,



The Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) had another successful AGM where we welcomed Ruth Jackson as a new board member. Jenny Weaver continued as our chairperson, Julie Monis-Ivett as Vice-Chairperson, Maggi Gregory as Treasurer and Di Bartel as Company Secretary. A highlight of the relaxed and informative meeting was a film supplied by Dr Luc showing a training program in DR Congo. The annual report is available on our website www.birthingkitfoundation.org.au.

The AGM reminds us that it is time to renew all BKFA memberships. If you have not yet done so could you please renew your membership using the form (attached) or on our website?

Women from the Afar Desert, Ethiopia

Community Call to Action Finalised

Under this programme the BKFA was awarded \$150,000 by AusAID to promote the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). With the money we subsidised kit production in schools and other educational institutions and promoted the MDG's with a raft of new publicity material. We hope you enjoyed and used the resources and will continue to use them. Unfortunately the government is not continuing this programme but, with a review of AusAID and their stated objective of improving the outcomes for MDG 5 'Improve Maternal Health', we are hoping that we can get further support from AusAID to maintain the momentum created last year.



We would like to thank all the Zonta Clubs, schools, university and other community groups which supported the promotion of the MDG's and got involved in kit production.

This is a summary of what we achieved with your help:-

- 95,000 kits were produced and sent to disadvantaged women in Africa and Asia
- Over 33,000 people were actively involved
- An estimated 102,000 people came in contact with information about the MDG's
- \$84,100 worth of volunteer hours was donated by members of the community

Cupcake Queens!

Tina Barrow, a student at Helena College Senior School in Perth, inspired by the MDG's, made a commitment to "Be the Change". The result was over 600 cupcakes that she and her friends made and sold, raising \$550 for the BKFA. Congratulations Tina and a big "Thank you" from us to you and your friends.



Tina (left) and her friends making cupcakes

What's happening in Ethiopia?

Jenny Weaver and Julie Monis-Ivett went to Ethiopia last year, this is what they discovered:-



1. Valerie Browning in Afar (pictured below right) is running really impressive training programmes involving Health Workers and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs). The TBAs are actively stopping Female Genital Circumcision (FGC); a thrilling result. The Afar People's Development Organisation is also working toward sustainability by successfully making their own kits, funded by the BKFA.
2. At the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa Julie and Jenny (pictured left with Catherine Hamlin) worked through the practical realities of local kit production, which will start this year.

3. Ruth Kennedy in Tigray Province is initiating a local kit production.
4. The Ministry of Health (MOH) told the BKFA they intend making their own kits using the BKFA's kit as the model. Production of 100,000 should start within months, with an eventual target of 500,000. Even with the MOH's support there will still be years of demand while we fill the gap to supply TBAs and Health Extension Workers.



Hunter Hall Shareholder Nominated Charitable Donations Scheme

Each year investment manager Hunter Hall International Limited donates part of its profit to charities; the amount allocated to each is based on shareholder votes. Last November, the BKFA, one of 33 charities listed, received a donation of \$16,660. Our sincere thanks go to both Hunter Hall and the shareholders who chose to vote for us.

United Nations Conference in Australia

Board members Jenny Weaver and Joy O'Hazy attended the UN Department of Public Information Non Government Organisations Conference in Melbourne last year on Advance Global Health. It was the first such UN meeting in Australia and only the 3rd outside New York.

Key messages were:-

1. Always include a Human Rights approach
2. Comprehensive primary health care can be easily created with the political will of individual governments
3. High quality education is the basis of a good health care system
4. We should aim to be health advocates not health engineers

The Beautiful Birth Festival – can you help out?

On Sunday 27th February the Beautiful Birth Festival will be held from 10am ~ 6pm at the Fullarton Park Centre. The BKFA will be having a stall at this event which includes a range of workshops and speakers. It is targeted toward young mothers and their partners but is also relevant for health sector professionals and community groups with a focus on pregnancy, birth, children and health. Find out more at www.beautifulbirthfestival.net.au

If you have time to spare on Sunday 27th and would like to help us by being on our stand, please contact info@birthingkitfoundation.com.au

Meeting with Dr Luc Mulimbalimba Masururu

It seemed opportunistic while in Ethiopia to fly Dr Luc (pictured with Jenny and Julie) in from Kenya, to review his training programs and his plans for in-country kit production. He is a charismatic man with many projects to benefit his people. His biggest project is building a 15 room hospital in Uvira District in DR Congo. There will be a room dedicated to the BKFA where kit assembly will take place and Birth Attendants will be trained.



He spent two valuable and informative days at the Fistula Hospital and midwifery training school. On his way through Nairobi, in Kenya, he took the opportunity to source supplies for his in-country kit production. After reviewing the products and with a few suggestions from us, he returned to Nairobi to finalise the purchase of supplies that went back to Congo with him and were subsequently successfully made into birthing kits a few weeks later (pictured). He is a wonderful advocate for our organisation.

Womad March 11-14 at Botanic Park, Adelaide - Volunteers Wanted

If you have not tried it before Womad is a great weekend for everyone, including fun activities for children and music from around the world. It has a strong emphasis on environmental responsibility and sustainability.

If you're already planning to go to Womad, do drop in to see us. Even better, if you could spare some time to support us on our stall by talking to the public about the BKFA and its work, we would love to hear from you. A separate roster and information will be emailed.

Advocates for the Birthing Kit Foundation

Do you have advocacy skills and time to spare? We are always looking for help spreading our message and lobbying on the issues of maternal and infant health. If you would like to help in some way or have ideas on how we could advocate more effectively then please contact us on info@birthingkitfoundation.org.au

Birthing Kit Project and Overseas Growth

At the Zonta International Convention in San Antonio, the BKFA realised that the Birthing Kit Project is growing rapidly outside of Australia, especially in the USA. In some US states it is already a Zonta District Project. Ideally the BKFA would like to work with Zonta International to harness the enthusiasm from overseas clubs in a coordinated way so the project grows under the umbrella of the BKFA. It would be ideal to utilize the skills and processes the BKFA has developed over 11 years to ensure the project grows with minimal problems. This is an exciting possibility.

Employees

Sadly we said farewell to Kristen Frost, our Supplies Officer last year. Amy Mitchell, our Distribution Officer, has also been forced to resign after the arrival of her second child. We were lucky to have had these two amazing young women steer our project for 4 years, and we wish them well with their families and future careers. Fortunately, we found Erica Osborn to replace Kristen and she has now taken on some of Amy's role. Adrian Harris, our warehouse manager, will also adopt extra duties. With Fiona Smith, our Project Administrator's guidance, we are in good hands.



Mission Statement

The Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) works with organisations and communities to provide a clean birthing environment for women in developing countries in order to reduce the incidence of infant and maternal mortality.

We respect peoples' dignity and values and work according to principles of basic human rights. We raise awareness, provide support and resources and act as a catalyst for the creation of birth attendant training programs and community development projects.

Our Vision: A world in which all women have access to safe birthing practices, regardless of race, religion, culture, history or socio-economic status.

To become a member simply complete and return the attached membership application form. If you would like more information on volunteer work, organising an assembly day, corporate sponsorship or leaving a bequest please email us at info@birthingkitfoundation.org.au

Please send the completed form to:

MEMBERSHIPS
BIRTHING KIT FOUNDATION (AUSTRALIA)
PO BOX 330
BELAIR SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5052

Membership Application Form

ACN: 121 658 428

I am over 18 years and agree to be bound by the Foundation Constitution.

- I would like to become a member of the **Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia)** for \$25 per year.
- We would like to become a corporate member of the **Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia)** for \$60 per year.
- I/we would like to renew my/our membership.

Membership runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31 each year.

Member's details:

Title _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____

Organisation Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone: Business _____ Home/ Mobile _____

Email _____

- In addition to my membership, I include a donation of \$ _____
(For Tax deductibility go to our website www.birthingkitfoundation.org.au)

Payment method:

- Enclosed is my cheque or postal order for \$ _____ made payable to the **Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia)**.
- I have paid by direct internet transfer (date) _____ (please include your name in the details of the payment)

Direct Transfer details:

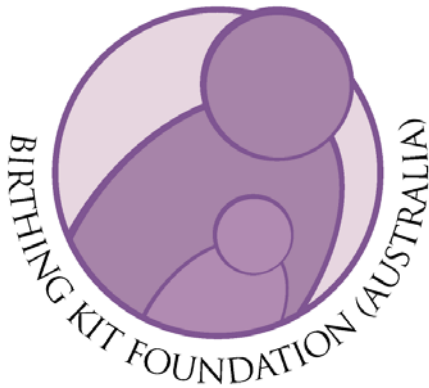
BSB: 015560
Account No: 492737593
Swift Code: ANZBAU3M

Signature _____ Date _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Receipt number: _____

Member number: _____



BIRTHING KIT FOUNDATION (AUSTRALIA)

ABN: 65 121 658 428

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Member's details:

Membership runs to 31 Dec 2011

Title.....Name.....

Company/Club (if applicable).....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone - Business.....Home/ Mobile.....

Email.....

- I would like to receive my 2010 Annual Report by e-mail only.
- In addition to my membership, I include a donation of \$.....
(For Tax-deductibility go to our website)

Enclosed is my cheque or postal order for \$made payable to the **Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia)**.

- I have paid direct transfer (date).....
(please include your name in the details of the payment)

Direct Transfer Details
 BSB : 015560
 Account No : 492737593
 Swift Code: ANZBAU3M

Signature Date

Office use only Receipt number:.....
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