



## A New Era for Ethiopia

With support from the Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) one of our long standing partners in Ethiopia has started making its own birthing kits. After years of receiving the kits from Australia, Abrahams Oasis, a non government organisation based in Tigray Province in the far north of the country, is now making kits locally. Ruth Kennedy, an Adviser to Abrahams Oasis, found suitable kit components and engaged a group of disadvantaged women for the task.



A long term goal of the Birthing Kit Foundation is sustainability and this production represents one more step in that process. The provision of kits in-country creates new opportunities, develops new skills in the workforce and supports the local economy. For areas such as Tigray province this is a double godsend. Often cut off by heavy rains for months at a time and with the distances by road and the cost of transport always a challenge, making kits locally is cheaper and solves the problem of regular supply.

Ruth found a group of women for whom alternative employment was not a realistic possibility and trained them to assemble the kits in the same way as we do in Australia. 2000 kits are being produced at this stage with the potential for more as and when we find the funding to support her.

In other news from Ethiopia local kit production should also start soon at the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa. Setting up local production in both areas has been full of challenges but the long term benefits to the communities could be huge. In the meantime the foundation still needs to supply kits to Ethiopia, a country with about 3 million births a year of which 93% are estimated to be in the home.

## How Many Kits Have We Sent from Australia?

Our Birthing Kit Foundation records tell us that over 765,000 kits have been assembled and sent from Australia since the project started. If we add on all the kits that have been made in-country the total number of kits provided to women in disadvantaged circumstances around the world would exceed 800,000. It is a great achievement.



Mother and baby, Afghanistan

**Remember for your  
Assembly Days It  
costs \$2.00 per kit**

## Always Wanted to Trek the Kokoda Trail?

The Birthing Kit Foundation is fortunate indeed to have supporters like Simone Huntingford of Canberra. She has decided to co-ordinate a trek of the Kokoda Trail next year and raise at least \$10,000 for the Foundation. The historic 96km trail was used by Australian soldiers in WWII and links Southern and Northern Papua New Guinea. It requires determination, physical fitness, and mental strength. Trekkers will fund their own trip, and are encouraged to seek individual sponsorship for taking part in the challenge. While her trek is filling up Simone is still looking for people who would like to join her.

The trek will take place from April 5<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> 2012. Prices start from about \$3200 including 8 nights on the trek, 2 nights in Port Moresby, and all flights, food, transfers etc. If you are interested please contact Simone on 0414 569 089 or email her on [s\\_huntingford@hotmail.com](mailto:s_huntingford@hotmail.com) If trekking is not your thing how about sponsoring a trekker?

## The Governor General Praises the Work of the BKFA



When Quentin Bryce was inducted as an honorary member of Zonta International at a ceremony in Sydney in March she made a special mention of the Birthing Kit Foundation. She told the assembled audience "There is no greater gift than the best possible start in life, and this lifesaving initiative is helping reduce infections in mother and baby at childbirth." It was emotional and inspiring for the Zontians who heard her and we are thrilled and proud that she supports our work.

**Quentin Bryce is introduced to Dr Julie Monis-Ivett, BKFA Vice Chairperson**

## Watch Carefully – We are on TV

A recent television programme aired on SBS, documented the experiences of a film maker as he walked the Tropic of Cancer. In one episode he crosses illegally into Burma from Thailand and finds himself in a remote tribal village, one which receives absolutely no government support of any kind. The village is very poor and there are no medical resources at all. The only thing the tribal villagers have to rely on is an illegal team of Burmese doctors who voluntarily visit from time to time. While filming the team of doctors arrives with all the help they can carry in one big bag. Interested in its contents they are asked to open their medical kit and when they do, there, right in the middle, is a birthing kit!

The film *Lighting a Candle* was shown on SBS television late last year. It is a wonderful documentary about the work of the Hamlin Fistula Hospitals in Ethiopia with emphasis on the development of their new midwifery training school. It also details the scale of the task in bringing midwifery skills to such a vast population and how they try to achieve it via their outreach work training local health workers. If you watch carefully in a scene near the end the health workers are being instructed on the use of a birthing kit.

## Would you like to leave a lasting legacy to the Birthing Kit Foundation?

If you are considering leaving part of your estate to the Birthing Kit Foundation we have prepared a special booklet to assist you. It is a complete guide on leaving a bequest, how to word it and what you need to include in your will. To get your copy of the booklet please contact Margaret Parsons on [margaret53@ozemail.com.au](mailto:margaret53@ozemail.com.au) or by calling on (08) 8278-6045.



## 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](mailto: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](http://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:

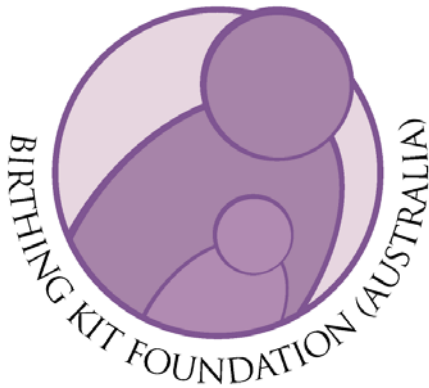
BSB: 015560  
Account No: 492737593  
Swift Code: ANZBAU3M

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 2011 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:.....  
Member number:.....

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Membership  
Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia)  
PO Box 330  
Belair SA 5052