



SPREADING THE WORD

Please encourage your friends, colleagues and volunteers at your Assembly Days to become a Member and help build a safer base for the Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia's) future.

To obtain/retain our tax deductibility status through the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS), which is just a few months away; we need to maintain over 100 Members.

The Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS) enables donations received be tax deductible so donors can claim their contributions as a tax deduction.

You could print off some Membership Forms (attached to this Newsletter) and:

Take them to your next Zonta meeting,
Hand them out at your next Assembly Day,
Include them in all new Member Packs for Zonta,
Make sure your Club/Group has joined – we offer Corporate Memberships as well,
Leave them in your office and place of work to raise awareness.

If it would help to have a copy of our brochure please contact any of the staff below and they will be happy to forward you out a copy

Kristen Frost—Supplies Officer
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jwathen@bigpond.com

Dear Friends,

Thanks to a healthy flow of Assembly Days we are on target to assemble and distribute more than 130,000 again this financial year and are now taking bookings for July onwards. Well done everyone!

The Board is currently focussed on planning for 2009-10 which relies, to a great extent, on support from AusAID; our future plans dependant on their funding assistance which we have enjoyed in the past. With our strong focus on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of reducing maternal and child mortality we are optimistic we will receive further financial support.

Your Board: Julie Monis-Ivett, Joy O'Hazy, Margaret Parsons, Di Bartel, Jenny Weaver and Maggi Gregory

Our Progress with Rotary

After Rotary International approached us late last year to assist them with their efforts to also address the MDGs of reducing maternal and child mortality we established what we hope will be a productive relationship. The participation of Rotarians raised some questions from Zontians about how it fit with the Project as it currently exists.

Internationally the Rotary Health and Hunger Resource Group suggested Rotary Clubs could donate USD\$3 per kit to cover the cost of supplies, transport and administration of BKFA Birthing Kits. Australian Rotary Clubs however have two options:

1. Provide funds of USD\$3 per Birthing Kits which would continue to have the BKFA and Zonta logos on. AusAID subsidises two thirds of the cost of each kit in our existing Project but doesn't extend to these additional kits, hence the increased cost.

OR

2. Partner with a Zonta Club and fully or partially fund an Assembly Day with a minimum donation of AUD\$800 per 1000 kits, matched 1:2 in AusAID funding, and/or volunteer on the day.

So far we have received a few Rotary Club donations but no new Clubs have arranged their own Assembly Day. We are hopeful though that we can encourage them to start assembling BKFA Birthing Kits or partner with a Zonta Club and make Zonta Birthing Kits.

As dedicated Zontians, with over 90 year of Zonta membership on the BKFA Board, we do want the Zonta connection acknowledged and preserved. The Board is comfortable with the additional publicity this new partnership could provide while promoting the role Zonta has played in the Project. In our negotiations Rotary are happy to leave the branding as it is. So let's hope we can work together and get some good exposure for both Zonta and Rotary. As this relationship develops we will keep you informed.

What Does the Foundation Do?

There are three aspects to the core business of the Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) including:

- Supplying birthing kits to women giving birth at home in remote regions of developing countries with a high maternal mortality rate.
- Community development involving the development of funded training programs of 3 – 5 days duration where village nurses and traditional birth attendants receive midwifery, hygiene and nutrition education to compliment the kits. This also involves the development of relationships within each country.
- Sustainability by researching ways to make the provision of kits and health education totally funded and organised in-country.

Zonta Clubs are associated with the first and most important goal of the Foundation namely holding Assembly Days and funding the making and transport of kits. The most recent contract with AusAID will see 140,000 kits assembled in Australia and supervise another 19,000 kits being made in country.

The second and third aspects of the Foundation have evolved over the last four years under the direction and insistence of our AusAID representatives.

Funded training programs working in consultation with local health authorities develop our health, nutrition and midwifery training to compliment the distribution of Birthing Kits. More babies will die in their first year from gastroenteritis and poor hygiene than at childbirth so the health education of mothers and midwives is vital. We have trained over 4000 Birth Attendants in our programs in Vietnam and Kenya. These training programs were allocated \$50,000 this past year and it is important they are monitored to ascertain that they are being properly administered.

To achieve these goals including the funded training programs, monitoring trips, wages and administration our activities are subsidised by AusAID and the Foundation has fundraised an additional \$80,000 to balance our budget. Fortunately our Grants Committee has been very successful this year with some wonderful philanthropy from other Foundations and individuals alike. This is a huge annual task and if anyone with specific skills and contacts would like to help us, we would love to hear from you.

More Highlights from the 2008 Monitoring Visits

In Vietnam we met with Professor Quynh, our agent, and attended a training program. We saw excited and involved Village Nurses and Traditional Birth Attendants. We met with the Chairman of the Peoples Party in various Provinces and local Provincial Health Authorities. Many lunches were eaten accompanied by several toasts sculling the local spirits, much to the delight of the men.

A meeting with a member of Hanoi International Women's Club resulted in a donation of 15,650 USD towards 19,000 kits for Ha Giang and Hoa Binh provinces. The kits are made locally in Hanoi – our first step towards sustainability within Vietnam.

We also met with an AusCHAM (Australian Chamber of Commerce) representative and they donated 11,500 USD towards a training program in a poor province in the south of Vietnam – another step towards sustainability.

We also re-established our relationship with TUDU Obstetric Hospital where our kits compliment their 6 month midwifery program for 300 young women from remote provinces in the south. Due to poor communication this relationship was faltering and would have ceased without the meeting.



Professor Quynh (VIETNAM)



L-R: ?, ?, ?, Joy O'Hazy (ETHIOPIA)

In Ethiopia we met with representatives of Hamlin Fistula Hospital, UNICEF and UNFPA (United Nations Family Planning Assoc) and as a result we are developing more projects in Ethiopia. We learned that midwifery training programs can educate birth attendants that female circumcision is not necessary and some stop. We learnt they want and need more kits.

These trips allow us to develop relationships with local NGOs and key regional stakeholders. Establishing a relationship with the head of UNFPA in Africa will return many benefits to our future projects.

It will be exciting to share with you what comes from this year's monitoring visits to Vietnam and Ethiopia.

Feedback from Chad

"After our recent experience of 2 weeks spent training midwives in the delivery rooms of the 2 district hospitals in N'Djamena, Chad, I can say that the kits will play a vital role:

The plastic sheet will be used to cover the very old, worn existing delivery beds, this will be a lot cleaner as very often there is hardly time to wash off the rubber sheeting on the bed for the next woman. They can be washed off straight away and given to the mother to take home.

The gauze swabs are also vital for cleaning the mother immediately before delivery, and on 3 occasions were also used for successful mouth-to-mouth resuscitation of babies born with respiratory failure; the cord ties are probably better than the clamps; the gloves are extremely valued as there seems to be a perpetual shortage; the soap will be given to the mother to take home, where it will be valued; the razor blade will be put into the sharps disposal if it's a hospital delivery; for home deliveries, the TBAs (Traditional Birth Attendants) are burying the blade in the deep pit which is dug for the placenta (this is the Chad tradition for disposal of the placenta where there are wild dogs, hyenas etc, the pit is dug right in front of the front door of the woman's room or hut in the compound).

The head midwife of Chagoua Hospital is keen to see the use of the kits spread to the TBAs, and with this new delivery she may be able to start a training programme for this. It is as always a question of time as she is incredibly busy.

They would like the Health Ministry to sanction use of the kits by "Accoucheuses" (TBAs) throughout Chad. By involving these women in basic hygiene training, this could be part of a programme with real impact on the maternal mortality.

Best regards and a big thank you,

Ann Pettitt

Chair, Safer Birth in Chad Foundation"



Feedback from Timor Leste

"I've been here for 4 months now and really enjoying working with CCT. We distribute the kits primarily through our Community Health Facilitators, but also through our clinic midwives when women attend for their late pregnancy antenatal visit, if they have not already received one. We are trying to further integrate our clinic and community services, and so the midwife and health facilitators will be visiting women in late pregnancy at home to further encourage birth planning, skilled birth attendance and use of the clean birth kits. We have also provided local Traditional Birth Attendants with the kits, in case they attend a delivery where the woman does not already have a CBK. I have attached a couple of photos of Mana Vitoria (our MCH Coordinator) training TBAs in the CBK. They were very excited to receive some training!



*Kristen Graham, MCH and Family Planning Advisor
Clinic Cafe Timor*



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: _____