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Club President
Karen Groves

9383 1137
starr@ca.com.au

Area 3 Director
Dianne Bryant

9245 5551
diannebryant@hotmail.com

District 23 PR Chair
Nan Martella

9721 7067
martella@bigpond.net.au

Club Meetings

Second Thursday of the month.

Apologies by 8pm

Previous Monday

To: Lori Grech
0407 424 302
loriql@iinet.net.au

INZERT

Please send any articles or photos for InZert to:

Carole Theobald
theobald@powerdsl.com.au
8 Cormorant Cross
WILLETTON WA 6155

Zonta Club of Perth gets to grips with birthing kits

The District 23 Zonta Birthing Kit Project has taken the country by storm. The Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills has been instrumental on getting this worthwhile project off the ground. The Zonta Club of Perth held its first Birthing Kit Workshop at St Alban's Hall in Highgate on April 2nd. Over 1,000 kits were collated by over 30 members and friends. So what's the project all about?

The United Nations (WHO) estimated in 1996 that 585,000 women died annually in childbirth. Developing countries accounted for 99% of these deaths. For every woman who dies in childbirth, probably 30 incur injuries and infections - many of which are often painful, disabling, embarrassing and lifelong.

Ways recommended to help reduce these statistics are:

1. preventing unwanted pregnancies
2. improving antenatal care
3. improving capacity for dealing with obstetric complications
4. providing clean birthing conditions

Zonta birthing kits provide for a clean birth



Lori Grech, Kaye Martin and Marilyn Piper (foreground) find the best ways to fold the very slippery plastic sheets.



Zonta members and friends help collate 1,000 birthing kits at the first workshop: L-R standing Simone Schoe, Sandra Pressman, Marlene O'Meara, Helen Margaria and Sharee Sim (sitting)

that may decrease the risk of death from infection and bleeding.

60 million women give birth each year with the assistance of a Traditional Birth Attendant or no assistance at all. These women need a birthing kit.

How do Birthing Kits work?

A Birthing Kit works by providing the 7 cleans for a clean birth:

Seven Cleans

1. *Clean birth site* - preventing delivery onto the floor
2. *Clean hands* - to prevent the birth attendant transmitting germs to mother and baby
3. *Clean ties* - to prevent bleeding from the umbilical cord for mother and baby.
4. *Clean razor* - to reduce infection caused by other implements
5. *Clean gauze* - to wipe away birth canal secretions from the eyes, which decreases future eye infections
6. *Clean umbilical cord* - washing and drying the stumps prevents infection
7. *Clean perineum*



Sharee Simm keeps smiling as she shows how easy it is to assemble and pack up the birthing kits

Many members were not at the District 23 conference in Bunbury so do not know about the history and evolution of the Birthing Kit Project—Ed.

History of the Zonta Birthing Kit Project

Dr Joy O'Hazy, a member of The Zonta Club of the Adelaide Hills Area, Inc, attended the 4th World Conference for Women in Beijing in 1995. There she heard Sally Field, the actor, talk about the success of simple birthing kits used in Nepal. A few years later Joy researched the basic resource requirements for a birthing kit, in consultation with Professor Anthony Radford, an international health consultant.

In 1999 under the supervision of Maxine Chaseling, an experienced Community Development worker, 100 birthing kits were sent to Ferguson Island, Papua New Guinea to be trialled by the Village Birth Attendants in rural villages. In rural PNG, according to the PNG Health Department, there was a 1 in 7 mortality rate in childbirth from infection, hence a clean birth made an enormous difference. After receiving positive feedback from Maxine Chaseling, the birthing kits became an integral part of the train-

ing of Village Birth Attendants (VBA's), under the AusAID sponsored Women's and Children's Health Programme. In 2000 the project became nationally accepted and supported 12 provinces within PNG, and to date over 13,000 kits have been provided to PNG

At the District 23 Conference in Bunbury, WA September 2003 all 39 clubs voted unanimously to support the Zonta Birthing Kit Project as a District 23 project

Project evolution by Adelaide Hills

- 13,000 Zonta Birthing Kits were distributed to Papua New Guinea from 1999 to 2002 by the Zonta Club of the Adelaide Hills Area Inc.
- A Strategic Plan was developed in 2001 and is updated annually.
- Over 11,000 Zonta Birthing Kits



A birthing kit contains:

- 1mx1m plastic sheet
- 1pair surgical gloves
- 3 cords ties (30cm long)
- 1 bar soap
- 1 sterile razor blade
- 5 gauze squares

Each kit costs 70 cents to produce and another 70 cents to transport



were distributed in 2003 to 12 countries. With time contacts have been established with other NGOs and organizations in 22 developing countries. No consignments have been lost in 5 years. All aspects of transport are researched thoroughly for the most reliable and cheapest way to move the kits around the world.

- September 2003 - the project was voted unanimously as a District 23 Project by 39 clubs.
- May 2004 the Zonta Birthing Kit Project went national with support from District 24.
- **Over 550,000 Zonta Birthing Kits will have been requested from 22 developing countries by the end of 2006.**
- Tax deductibility has been achieved through the National Foundation for Australian Women (NFAW) for donations to the Zonta Birthing Kit Project.
- Federal Funding for the Zonta Birthing Kit Project: AusAID, administered by The Minister for Foreign Affairs in Australia, the Hon. Alexander Downer M.P., has formally sponsored our Zonta Birthing Kit Project by providing a grant. As of July 2004 that grant is for \$113,000 on a dollar for dollar basis. As of July 2005 the project will receive another \$200,000 grant.



Left: Kaye Martin and Lori Grech skilfully fold up the big plastic sheets to fit into the small Zonta bags.

Above: Deb Hegarty gets out more supplies to keep the packers busy! Deb commented on how well the Adelaide Hills Club had organised the project—from providing cut plastic sheets to instructions - and address labels—everything was easy to follow so there was no stress on the day!



Many hands make light work—Zonta members and friends work together to help the club reach the 1,000 kit target.



With statistics of 1 in 7 rural women in PNG dying in childbirth, and similarly poor statistics in countries like Afghanistan, the Zonta Birthing Kit Project can save many lives.

Adelaide Hills are doing a magnificent job co-ordinating this project. Visit www.zontaadelaidehills.org.au to find out more about the Birthing Kit project—Ed.

How does funding work for the Birthing Kit Project

The Zonta Club of the Adelaide Hills Area Inc has negotiated a grant from AusAID for

- \$113,000 for 2004 - 2005 and
- up to \$200,000 for 2005 - 2006.

However, the grants came with conditions:

- Distribution of the birthing kits was to countries that AusAID supported.
- To access the AusAID grant, Zonta clubs also had to make a financial commitment

How this financial commitment by Zonta clubs works:

This is a dollar for dollar grant. \$1 from AusAID for \$1 from Zonta.

As an additional concession, AusAID let the Project include the notional value of assembly day labour (and the Committee's administration hours) to a maximum of \$0.50 cents in the Project's \$1 contribution. That's why volunteers

hours are recorded on Assembly Days.

To access \$1 of the AusAID grant we need to show AusAID that 50 cents has been deposited in the 'Zonta Birthing Kit Fund' bank account.

Each \$500 club contribution to the project releases \$1000 from AusAID. Totalling \$1500. (see diagram).

Every kit costs approx \$1.50 to make and transport therefore 1000 kits cost \$1500

All 113 clubs in Australia have agreed to participate in the project and the grant from AusAID was calculated on all clubs either donating \$500 or purchasing \$500 of materials to make 1,000 kits.

Potentially Zonta Clubs Australia wide can assemble:

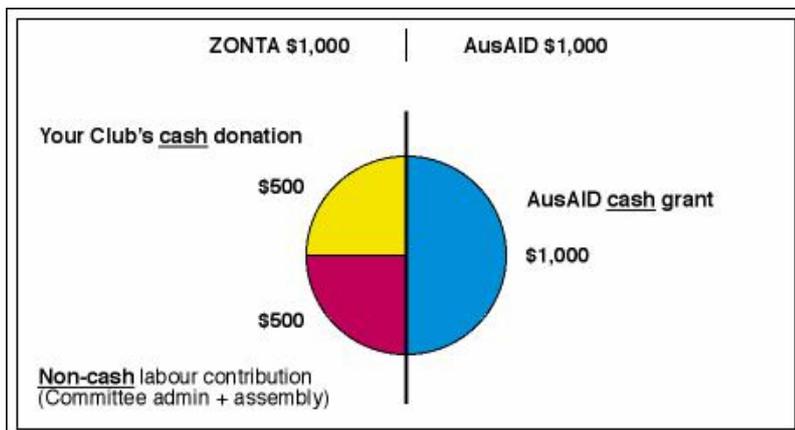
- 100,000 kits in 2004 - 2005 and
- 180,000 kits in 2005 - 2006



Marilyn Piper (above) brings croissants for the early starters!.. and later Sharee Simm makes sure Sebastian van den Berg (below) has the kitchen under control! Many thanks to everyone who brought refreshments!



Congratulations to Sharee Simm and Sebastian van den Berg on your ENGAGEMENT. Would you believe that on 2nd March Sebastian climbed 30m up the Centennial Tree in Pemberton and let down a 20m banner with the words "Sharee will you marry me?" on it. Luckily Sharee noticed the banner and said yes!!!! Isn't that romantic??





Artist Donny Woolagoodja and anthropologist Valda Blundell with a Wanjina image on canvas at recent book launch of "Keeping the Wanjinjas Fresh", an account not only of the Wanjinjas and their spiritual significance but the history of the indigenous communities of the Kimberley. An exhibition of artworks is on show at the Alexander Library until the end of April. (Source: West Australian, Arts p2, March 22 2005.)



Position report— Sciona Browne

Sciona's sailing adventures have now taken her from the beautiful diving reefs of the Maldives to the poverty stricken dust of Djibouti. She sailed up the Red Sea via Port Sudan to Egypt. From Luxor, she visited the Valley of the Kings and

intends to be in Crete around the 7th April. We'll keep you posted of her progress.

Please let Marg Giles know if you can help out with prizes for the Bridge Day!

WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLUB?
VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.zontaperth.org.au
Email: zontaperth@yahoo.com

Diary Dates

9th April 2005—Area Workshop hosted by Zonta Club of Swan Hills

This event will be held at the Lily of the Valley, 78 John Street, Henley Brook.

14th April 2005—Special AGM 2005 Changeover Dinner

The University Club at the University of Western Australia is the venue for this landmark occasion featuring induction of Anne Marie Farley and presentation to the Club of the nominee for the Young Woman in Public Affairs Award, Claudia Rosario. Special guests include Area 3 Director Dianne Bryant and Zonta International Chair Dawn Newman.

16th April 2005—Astrofest at Trinity College East Perth, 3pm to 10pm.

Bring the family down to this great day out with sun spot watching during the day and star gazing after dark. There will be a Zonta Club of Perth stand that will feature a display on women astronomers and the Amelia Earhart Fellowships. Learn what an astrolabe is and how to make one! If you can help 'man' the stand contact Carole Theobald 0438 088 060.

14th May 2005—Champagne and Oyster Night, 48 Hutchinson Ave (East), Mosman Park 5 to 7.30pm

Jerry Fraser, Perth's favourite oyster shucker will be strutting his stuff at this special fundraiser being held at B-D's new luxurious riverside home. Sip champagne and enjoy the million dollar views and feast on the freshest oysters! Tickets \$50 from 'Tricia Summerfield, trisum@iinet.net.au

24th May 2005—Bridge Day, Melville Bridge Club, Cnr Canning Hwy & Simpson St, Applecross, 10am.

Proceeds to the Zonta House Refuge Association. PRIZES NEEDED e.g. pot plants, wine, vouchers, beauty treatments—anything appreciated! Concurrent session of duplicate or social bridge. Book tables before 13th May. Contact Marg Giles on 9383 1083. Tickets \$20.

1st-3rd October 2005—District Conference, Glenelg South Australia.

The conference theme is Zonta Action through Partnership (ZAP). Conference will be held at the Stamford Grand Glenelg Hotel.