

Homebirth New South Wales

Annual General Meeting Minutes

23rd February 2024

TIME: 12pm

Location: CH's house Springwood and online - Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82298085497?pwd=AZvPqPaHXbF9uuCwM92BUxdWubWron.1>

Invited all members plus committee: Katelyn Commerford (KS), Aimee Sing (AS), Santina Sannen (SS), Jaime-Leigh Hawkins (JLH), Claire Heenan (CH), Rachel Fowler (RF), Bonnie Hook (BH), Katie Bullen (KB), Arthur Sannen (ArS), Jenna Williamson (JW), Amy Tyson (ATy), Shani Tarrant (ST), Jess Paino (JP), Sasha Murray (SM), Georgia Slee (GS), Dana Fischer (DF), Julia Meyer (JM)

Attendees: Katelyn Commerford (KS), Aimee Sing (AS), Santina Sannen (SS), Arthur Sannen (ArS), Georgia Slee (GS), Nadia Stone (NS), Jess Paino (JP), Claire Heenan (CH)

Item	Issue	Who	Minutes	Actions
1.	Housekeeping	KC		
2.	Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting Minutes from Meeting on 27th February 2023	AS	AS read and accepting minutes from last AGM	

a	What we have achieved this year	KC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● More private midwives and doulas advertising on web● Continued to liaise with partners and advertisers● Kept financial status steady through challenging year (fewer sign ups)● More local group meets including new Newcastle meet and Northern Rivers meet● Two Birthings editions● Shuffle of committee members, farewelled some and brought in new members● KC's first full year as President● Ran Homebirth Awareness Week picnic and raffle; testing running Silent Auction which was	

			<p>not a success and will probably not run again</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Liaised with other consumer organisations● Attended first Parliamentary Friends of Maternal Health event in Canberra Parliament House● Submitted to the NSW Birth Trauma enquiry and have been invited to present at March 2024 hearing● More Private Midwives in NSW● Attended Homebirth Australia conference● Updated position descriptions● In the process of restructuring the membership process for midwives and	
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			<p>doulas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintained comms: EDMs and socials ● Hold ecommerce steady for the year 	
3.	Vote committee in:	KC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● President - KC to continue, seconded ● Vice President - AS to continue, seconded ● Secretary - ATy happy to continue, seconded ● Treasurer - SS happy to continue, seconded ● Social Media Coordinator - JLH stepping down, role vacant for the moment ● Graphic Designer for Birthings - GS put her hand up, seconded ● Communications - CH to continue, seconded ● Birthings Editor - SM to continue, seconded ● Associate Editors - Katie & Danielle to continue 	<p>KC to follow up social media Coordinator</p> <p>GS to follow up re Adobe subscription for not-for-profits</p> <p>KC to follow up</p> <p>GS to fill in Local Group coordinators with a list from KC</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advertiser - JW TBC to take on ● Memberships Coordinator - JP to continue, seconded ● Midwifery Liaison - ST to continue, seconded ● Advocacy Coordinator - vacant ● Website Coordinator - NS to take on, seconded ● Events & Fundraising Coordinator - GS to continue, seconded ● Blog Coordinator - vacant ● Local Homebirth Group Coordinators - 	
4.	Financials Report -	KC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Income: \$11,313.88 ● Expenses: Profit: \$12,637.11; Loss: \$1,323.23 ● Membership income 27.6% less than 2022 ● Reasonable financial 	

			<p>position overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● KC thinks we need to reassess what we charge for memberships, particularly midwife memberships.● Postage making a big impact to our costs● Advertising sponsorship for bags to offset expense for those● Need big push on membership● Midwives contacting us to 'reset' membership, get new bags, etc.●	
5.	Reviewing midwife and doula membership process			

<p>6.</p>	<p>Future Advocacy plans</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attendance at Birth Trauma Inquiry to present evidence on 11 March 2024; push for midwifery access, medicare rebates for midwives ● More Parliamentary Friends of Maternal Health, another event happening this week but difficult for us to attend at late notice; we will ensure to attend future events ● Community and advocacy groups NSW wide; would be good to get more local groups happening where we know homebirth is happening ● Keep strengthening 	<p>KC to coordinate cross-train committee members across multiple roles</p> <p>KC to investigate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CH to speak to First Nations colleague ● Potential collab with Waminda ● Birth stories from First Nations women - feature in Birthings ● SS to do stocktake of books to update the website and put on sale to try and clear stock ● Look at digitising our past financial records and meeting minutes ● Take Down to Earth Birthing to all events to sell as it is very popular and hard to find anywhere else
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			<p>our committee and reducing workloads; we want our volunteers to not feel overwhelmed and to be able to reach out for support rather than giving up their roles completely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wider coverage for publicly funded homebirth and liaising with hospitals who offer this to ensure better access● Strengthening financial position, particular for memberships and midwife memberships; directory listings; a lot of private midwives going into practice	
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			<p>and not advertising with us - what is the barrier?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Affiliate links to bring in more steady income● Continue to release and distribute 2 Birthings Mags per year● Create more events to add value for our members; e.g. Born at Home screening - KC is on the panel for some of the screenings● CH - disparity between birth outcomes for white women and particular First Nations women, aim to gradually build connection with	
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			<p>those communities slowly to build trust; speak to First Nations womens about the barriers to homebirth; include in our values as something to work towards and build connections to start with;</p>	
9.	Other Business and closing		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● AS - books that aren't selling and hard copy Birthings and financial/meeting records are currently being stored at Arthur & Santina's, can we come up with a better solution; Down to Earth Birthing sells really well● Birthings in an archive	