

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20 October 2020

MINUTES

Meeting held at 6.30 pm on Tuesday, 20 October 2020,
at Fullarton Park Community Centre, 411 Fullarton Road, Fullarton SA 5063.

BKFA acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which it meets today and pays respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

1. ATTENDANCE

The Chair of BKFA, Jenny Weaver, opened the meeting at 6.30pm and noted there was a quorum present in compliance with the BKFA Constitution, with nine BKFA Members in attendance supported by 11 Proxy Voting forms.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There was one declaration of interest, and accordingly Adrian Harris abstained from voting to participate in the election of those nominated as 2020/21 Directors of the BKFA.

3. APOLOGIES AND PROXIES

The Chair acknowledged members present, apologies, proxy voting forms received and BKFA staff present as follows.

3.1 Attendance

Members Attending:

Jenny Weaver	Joy O'Hazy	Ted A'Bear
Julie Monis-Ivett	Madhumita Mazumdar	Frances Mpala
Lynda A'Bear	Margaret Parsons	Adrian Harris

Guests Attending:

Dr Luc Mulimbalimba
Delice Mulimbalimba

BKFA Staff (Non-Members attending):

Matt Anderson – Chief Executive Officer
Kate Fathartlaigh – Impact and Design Manager
Mercy Oloo – Global Partnerships Coordinator
Tiffany Burton – Company Secretary

3.2 Apologies

Apologies Received - Members:

Members that provided proxy voting forms expressed their apologies to the AGM, as did

Lyn Lillecrapp
Aileen Aldridge
Elaine Dietsch
Sally Richardson
Ann Selle
Judy Gorton

Apologies Received – BKFA Staff (Non-Members):

Hemesh Lakhani
Rebecca Davey
Hilary Carruthers
Tessa Langhans

3.3 Proxy Voting Forms Received (11 in total):

All proxy votes were in favour of the resolutions to be put, with:

- One abstaining on the voting to elect nominated members as Directors of the BKFA

8 x Proxy Voting Forms received in favour and given to the Chair, Jenny Weaver

Dawn Newman	Ann Horrocks	Elaine Newman
Deborah Floyd	Carole Theobald	Yvonne Stapleton
Julie Irwin	Zonta Club of Sydney West	

2 x Proxy Voting Forms received in favour and given to BKFA Director, Julie Monis-Ivett

Maggi Gregory John Gregory

1 x Proxy Voting Form received in favour and given to BKFA Director, Joy O’Hazy

Caroline Weber

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting have been approved by the Board of Directors and placed on the BKFA website.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairperson’s Report

The Chairperson, Jenny Weaver, addressed the meeting acknowledging the not insignificant challenges of the 2019/20 year in review, including the impact on BKFA due to:

- Bushfires that saw Zonta Clubs turning their focus to help local communities in need, yet even so, Zonta still held one-third of all BKFA Assembly Days, producing approximately half of all kits.
- BKFA had also increased the kit price and were trying to expand as an organization which has had an impact on number of kits made.

- Then as COVID significantly affected kit production the CEO came up with a Kits-at-Home concept, albeit increasing costs of freight, however Zonta and Rotary Clubs were forthcoming by assembling larger batches of 200 kits.

Therefore, despite challenges BKF have, like the rest of Australia, tried to keep up cash flow to meet commitments, just like the rest of Australia. Government funds have kept BKFA going and kept kits going out to women who need support.

Without our donors including The Neilson Foundation which donated \$100,000 in the 2019/20 year, we would not have been able to do as many new initiatives including Earth Kits.

Jenny also noted that this year also saw BKF finishing long-term partner projects in Uganda and Ethiopia, and proceeded to thank BKF supporter including: Ian Shanks and the Fullife Foundation for Ethiopia project support, Mun for the donation of gloves, Mama Maya and Dr Grant Schafer who donates \$20 for every baby he delivers.

Jenny also thanked the CEO, Matt Anderson and the staff for having to work so hard to pivot and keep us going, as well as the BKFA Board for their ongoing support.

Overall, it was a challenging year with a great deal of stress, and Jenny hoped to continue working with the Board of Directors for the coming year.

4.2 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Frances Mpala, spoke to the Annual Reporting for the 2019/2020 Financial Year, thanking all who had donated to the BKFA for helping us raise \$764,358.

Frances acknowledged the healthy financial position of the BKFA and expressed her appreciation for the \$117,352 provided by the government's stimulus package during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

This year saw a surplus of \$64,751 compared to a deficit last year of \$209,156 and at the close of the 2019/20 Financial year the net asset position was \$418,000. Overall, the BKFA are in a good position with assets in the bank.

Frances thanked CEO, Matt Anderson, the BKFA team and invited members to seek further information on financial statements by contacting the BKFA on info@kit.org.au.

4.3 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Chief Executive Officer, Matt Anderson, spoke to the Annual Report acknowledging the hard work of the team across all layers of the organisation as well as the passion of the Board.

Matt introduced Kate Fathartlaigh, Impact and Design Manager as the newest member of the team, and the one-year anniversary of Mercy Oloo, Global Partnerships Coordinator.

Matt acknowledged our members, stakeholders, groups that support the BKFA and government organisations from around the world who support the work of the BKFA, in this year which has seen the best of times and the worst of times.

The launch of the Earth Kit has been a major achievement in response to a desire for a clean birth kit that was environmentally responsible. Launched during the bushfires just before the impacts of Covid-19, BKFA are now getting interest from schools and corporations.

Matt also noted that as the previous model of kit pricing was unsustainable there had been a need to address kit price, and there is still some work in achieving a sustainable model.

This last 12 months has also seen a lot of work on our brand and finding new and creative ways to partner in a responsive way.

5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Motion: That the Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) appoint Nicholas Matsis CPA at Not For Profit Accounting Services, 38 Surrey Rd, Keswick, South Australia 5035, as registered company auditor of the Foundation for the 2020-2021 financial year.

Moved Jenny Weaver Seconded Ted A’Bear CARRIED.

6. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Nominations were received from Jenny Weaver, Joy O’Hazy, Frances Mpala and Madhumita Mazumdar.

Motion: That Jenny Weaver, Joy O’Hazy, Frances Mpala and Madhumita Mazumdar be appointed as Director’s for a two-year term.

Moved Julie Monis-Ivett Seconded Ted A’Bear CARRIED.

7. QUESTIONS

There were no questions put forward by Members.

8. PRESENTATION

Dr Luc Mulimbalimba, Founder of Mission in Health Care and Development (MHCD) in the Democratic Republic of Congo presented on “Issues and Positives of Birthing Kits”

Dr Luc provided an overview of the maternal conditions in DR Congo, highlighting in particular the issues faced by expectant mothers in rural and regional areas where:

There is no access to any equipment to assist mothers in labour; traditional birthing attendants received no formal training in midwifery, and preventable newborns and maternal deaths from giving birth were commonplace.

Dr Luc then outlined MHCD projects that have seen the distribution of over 200,000 birthing kits, the establishment of a midwifery school as well as a labour ward.

He then went on to explain that even though the birthing kit contains plastic material such as plastic sheets, this is often washed and repurposed as a clean surface for baby or in the home.

7. Close of Meeting

The Chairperson, Jenny Weaver thanked Dr Luc for his presentation, and made concluding remarks including regarding the future for BKFA and especially for the coming year.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.30pm.