
Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 03.11.2024

Ngā Hau Birthing Centre, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland

Zoom

Attendees

Trustees: Lala McCarthy, Bobbie-Jane Cooke, Andrina Palmer, Rachel Webb, Dianne De Estena (Zoom) **Trustee Apprentices:** Jessica Craik, Renee Regal,

Trust Representatives:

Brenda Hinton - Elders, Jacquelyn Paki - Ngā Maia

Contractors: Alesha Hobbs - Golden Bay Rep and Administrator, Cushla Richardson – New administrator replacing Alesha

Apologies: Kristin White - Trustee, Glynette Gainfort – Trust Elder

Other attendees:

In person

Rose Fisher

Auckland Home Birth Association

Via Zoom

Choice Baby Nelson

Marta Willis

Manawatu Home Birth Association

Saritta Burney, Teresa Watson, Kelly Fage, Georgia Graham, Cheryl Benn

North Auckland Homebirth Community

Kat Kirchmann, Jade Mackey

West Coast Home Birth

Ripley Fidler, Kerry Beets, Sheryl Joy Christian

Wellington Home Birth Association

Vivienne Oliver



Waikato Home Birth Association

Jessica Hinkley (Previous member of Wellington Home Birth Association but not currently active)
Lily Drewer

Canterbury Home Birth

Amanda Camp (didn't attend for AGM only regional group reports)

Other Regional groups represented by Trustees and Contractors present

Positive Birth Dunedin

Birth Wisdom – Empowered and Home Birth in Golden Bay

Active Birth Taranaki

Trust Home Birth Tauranga

Adrina Palmer

Alesha Hobbs

Cushla Richardson

Lala McCarthy

12 Regions represented at Hui 2024

Agenda

Meeting Opened 10.44am

1. Welcome from chairperson followed by karakia timatanga

Karakia and welcome from Bobbi-Jane.

Brief update on the trusts strategic planning day yesterday in Auckland.

2. Brief introduction of trust and trustees.

Introduce Cushla, joining the team as the new administrator.

Introduce Renee and Jessica who have been apprentice trustees for the last few months.

Quick round of introductions of everyone else that is attending in person at the hui.

3. Confirmation of Attendees, Apologies and Quorum.

All attendees listed their name and regional home birthing group to be added to the minutes.

Quorum - 5 trustees: Bobbie Jane, Lala, Rachel, Andrina, Dianne (zoom)

4. Additions/amendments and approval of the agenda.

None

6. Amendments and approval to the minutes of the previous AGM. (See attached)

Motion: To approve the minutes of the previous AGM.

Moved: Alesha

Seconded: Andrina

CARRIED: Yes

7. Matters arising from the previous AGM minutes.

None

8. Board report and financial report, including annual financial statement from accountant.

Bobbie-Jane shared the board report and trust activities over the past year. Lala then provided a social media report. All attendees are reminded that this report is in the AGM meeting folder, and everyone has access to it.

Alesha gave a report of the regional grants that were paid this year, this information is available in the AGM meeting folder under the name 2024 Performance Monitoring Return – Te Whatu Ora Report. In summary a total of \$4759 was paid to the Regional Home Birth groups over two rounds.

Motion: To approve the annual board report.

Moved: Jacquelyn Paki

Seconded: Brenda Hinton

CARRIED: Yes

Financial Report

Alesha screenshared the report with the zoom attendees and hardcopies handed out to the in-person attendees. This report is available in the meeting folder under the name 2024 Special Purpose Financial Report – HBAT.

Manawatu Home Birth Association enquired why a different report was used this year, Alesha confirmed we have two different reports, the one used previously was for the Charities return. They both have the same information but are just structured differently for compliance, the one we have used is easier to follow.

If anyone would like to see the other report, they may request this from Alesha otherwise it will be available on the website, alongside all historical reports, they are also available directly from the Charities Commission website.

Motion: To approve the annual financial report.

Moved: Andrina

Seconded: Lala

CARRIED: Yes

9. Election of officers - chair / treasurer / secretary.

(This part of the meeting was chaired by Cushla Richardson as it needs to be a neutral person that is not a trustee)

Note the below motion was initially noted down as Renee Regal and Jessica Craik moving into Trustee positions, however it was clarified that there were not enough positions available for this to take place. This has been amended and updated to the below.

Motion: That Renee Regal and Jessica Craik join the trust as apprentice trustees.

Moved: Lala

Seconded: Brenda

CARRIED: Yes

Motion: That Alesha Hobbs move into trustee position.

Moved: Rachel

Seconded: Andrina

CARRIED: Yes

Co-Chair

Motion: To confirm that Bobbie-Jane Cooke and Lala McCarthy remain as co-chair.

Moved: Alesha

Seconded: Brenda

CARRIED: Yes

Alesha proposed the motion that the Nga Maia seat it is ratified on the trust and for this term will be shared by Jasmine Gray and Jacquelyn Paki.

Nga Maia Seat

Motion: To approve that the Nga Maia seat is ratified on the trust, as a shared role between Jasmin Gray and Jacquelyn Paki.

Moved: Alesha

Seconded: Bobbie-Jane

CARRIED: Yes

Treasurer

Motion: To approve that Alesha Hobbs becomes treasurer.

Moved: Lala

Seconded: Bobbie Jane

CARRIED: Yes

Alesha provided some clarity on this decision – in support of Cushla moving into role of general and financial administrator, Alesha can be available for advice and support relating to finances.

Secretary

Motion: To approve that Cushla Richardson becomes secretary.

Moved: Bobbie-Jane

Seconded: Lala



CARRIED: Yes

Jax asked what the terms are regarding succession and timing of roles – Vivienne noted that seats are held for 3 or 4 years then that seat becomes available, and a trustee has the option to nominate themselves again and do another term. Generally, if a trustee is happy and willing to stay in their seat, this is allowed.

10. General Business • Matters arising

Any matters arising for the trust – not for regional group reports as there will be space for sharing following lunch.

No further items.

11. Meeting closed. Karakia whakamutunga.

AGM closed with a karakia 11.45am

Meeting was running ahead of schedule, break times confirmed with all in attendance, and then to return following a break.

Home Birth Regional Group Reports

Commenced 12.20pm for Regional Report Group Sharing.

Alesha Hobbs

Birth Wisdom and Empowered Home Birth in Golden Bay

Currently meet monthly at Alesha's home – easy to manage, has been running group for 7 years, have a beautiful presence in the community, mums and dads coming along, an opportunity to heart share. Currently offer birth pool hire from grants received from HBA, as well as a hot water heater, servicing a very small region. Not a registered charity it's not about money for this small group, money is kept in bank account that will be transferred onto the next people who step into managing this, when the time comes.

Marti Wills

Choice Baby Nelson

Meeting once a month run by Marti, had a couple of people come onboard to help with the meetings, guest speakers with different topics and student midwives attending as well, lovely community – no birth pool hires but Bekki Young manages a pool for Home Birth Motueka which is nearby. Currently there is no one to fill that role in Nelson. Going well with on average 12-20 people. Stable and slowly growing community.

Saritta Burney

Manawatu Home Birth Association

Currently offer two main services – hiring birth pools, and monthly meetings. The community has been consistent, new people are always coming along. Previously Priscilla would come as resident midwife, Cheryl taken over that role, and helps to answer any queries that the community has. Its special when mums return following their births and can share and create an environment that people can come share their stories whether they birthed at home or not. AGM in June moved from 3 active member to 6, can be hard to get people on board.

Pool hire – regular as it has been, received grant from HBA over a year ago which is in use by the community, may possibly get another one. In new year, hoping to roll out in-person homebirth information afternoon – specific to homebirth following an antenatal class if you

wanted more info. Have occasional weekend hang outs to include dads as well and be inclusive of whānau, however finding a venue that's available on weekends is difficult.

Ripley Fidler

West Coast Homebirth

Ripley, alongside Kerry, have taken over the group a few months ago – having meetings monthly, using the Whare Manaaki community space. It is well attended with 5-7 people coming regularly, local midwives come along as well. Have recently purchased a birth pool with the HBA grant from last year and just need to get other supplies for this, are interested in information on the other groups process around hiring out the birth pools and seeking guidance. Looking at getting a califont with a grant this year as well.

Alesha reminded everyone to join the HBA Regional Group Coordination facebook group for any queries on how to run groups, questions about pool hire and anything else related.

Kat Kirchmann

North Auckland Home Birth Community Group

This group was started just over a year ago – currently having regular meetups taking place at cafes and garden centres however, this was not reliable over winter. Lots of babies have been born into the community. Birth pool hire has been happening this year. Really organic and grassroots, hired out 90% of the year, has been easeful and generated a little bit of income. Considering how to use that towards something of value such as meets going forwards, running a workshop - just looking into where the need is in the community. Held a birth story sharing circle which was beautiful but needs to be the appropriate space and need to consider ability to cater for everyone and their needs. Distributed flyers and baking to homebirth clinics in region and sent out some emails, with not much engagement but will persist.

Jade also cohosts with meetings, and aim to cover a core central space geographically across the north shore – to make it accessible for everyone to be able to attend from those

surrounding areas. Jade acknowledged and wanted to mihi Kat for organising all the administration and her work.

Vivienne Oliver

Wellington Home Birth Association

Another quiet year, currently there is no one with the capacity to run meetings. Continuing with pool hire and have brought a second TENS machine which is going well. Applied for the HBA grant which was received and got two more TENS machines which are still in very high demand. Birth pool hire has been steady – 4 pools down to 3 (one being damaged), not being hired out as much as they have been in past due to hospitals and midwives offering for free. Didn't go ahead with the movie screening – had limited choice in arranging this wasn't going to be viable in terms of size etc.

Bobbie Jane brought up communications with Suzi Hume, LMC – re issues with the pools, coordination – suggestion that maybe they could manage the birth pool hire from the hospital. Vivienne has sent emails to Suzi – but didn't go very far. Bobbie Jane will start an email thread with both Vivienne and Suzi to organise this and get this conversation happening – as it would provide consistent income to the group and benefit the hospital if someone is able to coordinate the pool hire.

A local midwife has created a homebirth documentary so looking forward to that and seeing how we can get involved/raise awareness.

Alesha took a moment to acknowledge all of Vivienne's hard work in creating and managing the Home Birth Aotearoa website – gratitude from Alesha and the HBA trustees for taonga.

Lily Drewer

Waikato Home Birth Association

There have been some changes within the group with Bobbie Jane stepping back from both chair and administrator roles. Lily has recently come on board as the new administrator with Amy Pink taking on the chair position. Birth pool and TENS machine hire continuing along nicely, we are wanting to bring back coffee groups and in person meetings.

At AGM recently two homebirth midwives attended which was awesome to link in, they did indicate that they don't have capacity for a role within the group but want to be involved.

Rose Fisher


Auckland Homebirth

Things are going about the same as a year ago – birth pools still going well, bought 8 more pools. The group should have 3 coordinators but currently only have 1, still needing two coordinators to step up into this role. Rose took on the other 8 pools herself but finding that challenging now – there are 13 pools in total she is coordinating herself and it is too much for one person. Pool hire is the main source of income, and have TENS machine for hire that is quite old, so will put this onto website for a sliding scale koha. Will eventually get another 1 or 2 TENS machines to hire out, and a califont as well. The group gets regular enquiries. Monthly meetings are going fine. When this group first started out it was vibrant and big, but the numbers have dwindled over time and just managing this as we go along. Usually have special guests' lactation consultant, pelvic health, gentle parenting. An upcoming talk will have Claire Eccleston coming to talk about getting it on after birth – interested in the numbers following that and will promote well. There are some current projects but severely lack volunteers and contributors and all the work is on mainly one person and there are health challenges and issues. Wanting to do packs for those considering homebirth with free information or celebratory packs for those following having their baby – like Waikato Home Birth, so may request in the next grant round. Recently held a market stall which had some pros and cons but overall good for awareness. Most people were very interested and asking questions. Didn't sell much but good as an awareness. Put a lot of effort into making items but unfortunately no sales but would like to try again sometime and investigate that opportunity further. A popular item was the birth combs with an engraved phrase. Homebirth matters magazines were popular as well as the leaflets and stickers. Would love more volunteers.

Alesha offered gratitude to Rose and acknowledgement of all the work she is doing and continuing to do, and that it's ok to stop or pause at any time as needed.

Vivienne – suggested taking time off doing hires for a set period to take time and space for self and refresh – such as putting up a notice that “No bookings available for February” etc on website. Reminder that she could also take time off from the email – and having an autoreply.

Rose shared that they are wanting a paid admin role where someone can attend to all the emails and sort the social media as currently struggling and don't know how to apply for grants or where to go for this, and no experience with this.



Alesha shared that this was part of the discussion at strategic planning –HBA getting grants to build capacity for our own staff members and to provide support to the regional groups. With groups getting more established and set up with their equipment, an idea could be that going forward the two grants' rounds could be requested to put money towards administration costs for regional groups and being able to pay an administrator. Another option HBA is going to investigate is doing a grants request for HBA to start a seed fund, which would then funnel out into the regional groups.

While this has been discussed at hui and AGM every year – it appears we are on the cusp of this hopefully soon becoming more feasible after getting some stability within the trust.

Andrina Palmer

Positive Birth Dunedin

Currently we are not holding monthly meetings due to members having other commitments, and no capacity at this stage. The facebook group is active, we also run positive birthing antenatal classes which are run by members, and another member midwife. These have been popular with great attendance. Most recently have been funded by Te Whatu Ora to run Hapu Wananga which was beautiful and great opportunity to plant seeds around homebirth. Hoping to run more of those in the future.

Amanda Camp

Canterbury Home Birth Association

Have had some great things and some tough things happening like Auckland Home Births challenges. Our monthly gatherings have started doing some themed evenings with guest speakers and a variety of topics and have had good success with that. Good numbers going to gatherings however not many active volunteers which is current struggle. The Treasurer stood down, so we are still looking for a replacement for that role. Pool hires process has been changed and is currently too much for volunteers, so the 2 pools are going from women to women which was initially a concern but has been good feedback and working relatively well – there's only been one incident with one pool not up to standard. This means that the workload for the pool coordinator has become manageable which is good. Not much happening outside of the monthly gatherings as it can be too much organisation for volunteers. Trying to organise something for summer this year. Ticking along. Thanks to HBA for all their support and to have their backing.

Lala McCarthy

Trust Home Birth Tauranga Group

Lala shared that there are two different clusters within this group – there is the political side, which has a group of long-standing members and some midwives who are on a committee and offer pool hire, it is a bit slow, but pool hire ticks along and they also hire out a califont. The other group is a grassroots coffee group which has been created due to so many mamas needing space to be with other mama and is currently run by a birth worker who is a previous midwife. It can have up to 25 women some months, 5 women other months. This is a relaxed space as opposed to the committee environment – no money involved just come and hang out, sometimes have a speaker most times share birth stories. Sometimes someone from another group will come and have a chat which has been enjoyable. Really lovely low key as it is a massive region try to meet other women's needs.

Discussions following regional group sharing reports

Alesha shared that she feels heartened by everyone sharing – and has a sense that there is so much aliveness and so much happening within these communities alongside a desire for more volunteers and alongside the challenge of doing this as working māmā. Wonderful that so many groups are represented currently. Lovely to see everybody and desire to have more in person connection – wasn't available this year for an in-person hui due to no region hosting but appreciate everyone giving their time to come along.

Also discussed, the relationship between the trust and regional groups – how can we further enhance the reciprocity of support and information flowing both ways, as the trust exists because of the regional groups and also to provide a central and steady foundation for the groups. Really want to have this conversation – that's what in person hui is for, sitting around, with babies', cups of tea and chats. How to enhance the communication and connection so it feels like we are together more. Let's get together soon – put the invitation out – if there's a regional group that wants to host hui next year? NZCOM have their conference next year in Hamilton – so the HBA hui will be a lowkey community catch up event, rather than a conference.

Nga Maia Update

Jax (Jacquelyn) shared that she is active in the Auckland region there is a gap currently to work in communication with the Auckland HBA community to see if they can work together and pull some contacts and networks. Lots of convos with new grads and LMCS offering homebirth and being homebirth midwives as two different things. There are new generations of midwives coming through who not getting those experiences and looking at wanting to do that – really want to grow homebirth LMC promotion rather than just an option and making that the number one focus. Other regions Nga Maia groups are working well and wanting to create a space to get Māori midwives to start linking in with homebirth regions and work together. Shared that there's a rep for each region like homebirth groups. An option could be for those contact person for each ropu, to connect in with the HBA regional group coordinator. Jessica – Apprentice Trustee and Student Midwife shared that students can be scared when it comes to homebirth so it will be so valuable for students to get some motivation and support. Maybe through Nga Maia or through Jas at AUT perhaps they might have time to go to meetings with regional groups. Bobbie-Jane shared that Waikato Home Birth had 5 student midwives on their committee at one point which was good.

Students hearing stories, having access to the community, sharing stories and experiences, conferences, getting education. E.g. Professional development offers those hours. Can use the community group towards hours- students can come and learn what they do in Canterbury and report back on it to their class. HBA can set up the contacts – contact the regions and start linking it up and for it to be a constant practise and making the connecting. Noted that Ara, Otago and Wintec- all going to have the same midwifery program next year so contacting them would be the same for all.

Rose mentioned years ago HBA did a lunch with AUT students which worked well – HB families came to AUT, HBA paid for food and it was an invitation for students to come and talk to HB families and hear about what homebirth is from the family's perspective, would be great to have this regularly with structure.

- Noted that the discussion is ending but being ahead of time – there is opportunity for further conversation if anyone has something to bring up.

Kat

North Auckland Homebirth

- Last week NZ homebirth documentary has been created – Midwife Sarah Dow – does anyone have any insights about that – is it an opportunity to do a screening to


share with our communities. Can we connect in with her to promote it and do screenings – as it was a Te Whatu Ora project, they funded it. Could be on the agenda for the NZCOM conference. Good to see it was funded by Te Whatu Ora. Check in what is the intention with screening, and can we be involved- Marti has advised that she will reach out to Sarah, and she will report back to us.

- With Home Birth Awareness week just finishing up – it felt like it was a grey area in terms of when it was – would be awesome to have a collaborative approach on this each year. Maybe spend some time beforehand talking about what we are going to do in our regions
- Wanting more connection, direction and support – attending the regional zoom groups – but if HBA can help organise this and encourage.
- In Nelson at hui last year the regional groups requested that it be led by regional groups not by HBA – perhaps HBA can provide the structure but not necessarily leading the zoom and meeting itself – sharing the Zoom the link etc, providing reminders a few weeks ahead of time and doing it regularly – not suggesting that HBA facilitate the actual meetings but would lead to more regions be able to attend the meeting itself and do what it is intended to do.
- Alesha discussed with Cushla with a calendar built in – will check the dates and will be in touch about that – in 3- or 4-weeks’ time following hui follow up.
- Alesha has clarified that she will be finishing up in the paid role at the end of the year –at which point Cushla will become person to communicate on email, though Alesha will still be around as treasurer and still active in her group role.

Last comments made

- Homebirther T-shirts currently on sale were shared that are available on the website with Lala also doing a giveaway with a chance to win one to mark the end of homebirth awareness week.
- Options for hosting hui next year – Rose expressed interest though others expressed concern at her taking on more tasks. Tauranga has been having conversations, could be a potential option as HBA Trustees Rachel and Lala will be in that region.
- Kat – North Auckland Home Birth likes idea of a more lowkey hui catch up - Jade and Kat will discuss this more among themselves.

Bobbie Jane thanked everyone for attending – and engaging – loves seeing all the groups that are coming up on the screens via zoom, cool to see everyone gathering and offered



heartfelt thanks. Confirmed that Kei a Wai was done yesterday and Waiata so will not be doing this now.

Action List from Meeting

Who	What
Bobbie Jane	Start an email thread with both Vivienne and Suzi to organise this and get this conversation happening – as it would provide consistent income and also benefit the hospital if someone is able to coordinate the pool hire.
Nga Maia rep, Jax and HBA administrator?	HBA can set up the contacts – contact the regions and start linking it up and for it to be a constant practise and making the connecting. – between HBA regional groups and Nga Maia, and student midwives and HBA.
Marti	Will reach out to Sarah – regarding homebirth documentary in Wellington and report back to the trust . Done.
Alesha/Cushla	Regional group zoom meetings - Alesha discussed with Cushla to update the calendar – will check the dates and will be in touch about that – in 3- or 4-weeks' time following hui follow up. Done.