



Home Birth Aotearoa

Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday 29 November 2025 **Time:** 10.00am

Venue: Online via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84474628657?pwd=IIRUci8UURFGYziFelcdwkMrjGubkF.1#success>

Attendees

Interim Trustees: Andrina Palmer, Gynette Gainfort, Bobbie-Jane Cooke, Alesha Hobbs, Nicola Bell

Contractors: Cushla Richardson – Administrator, Nicola Bell – Administrator

Facilitator: Nicola

Apologies: Kerry and Ripley – West Coast Home Birth,

Regional groups represented by Trustees and Contractors present

Positive Birth Dunedin

Active Birth Taranaki

Home Birth Kapiti

Home Birth Tauranga

Empowered Birthing Golden Bay

Waikato Home Birth Association

Andrina Palmer

Cushla Richardson

Nicola Bell

Gynette Gainfort

Alesha Hobbs

Bobbie-Jane Cooke

Agenda

Meeting opened 10.03am

Karakia/Opening

Welcome and apologies

- Welcome – from Nicola
- Record of attendance - please share your name and regional group in the chat, and if you would like to speak in the regional sharing later in the hui
- Apologies received
- Statement from interim trust regarding the recent events and resignations of trustees from Home Birth Aotearoa.

Record of attendance

Regional Group/Organisation	Members
Manawatu Home Birth	Saritta Burney, Cheryl Benn, Kelly Fage, Georgia Graham
Nga Maia	Jax Paki, Jas Kerei
Not currently associated with regional body	Sophie Mosokwitz – from Auckland
Trust Home Birth Tauranga	Kiki Burke
Waikato Home Birth	Lily Drew Dianne De Estena
North Auckland Home Birth	Kat Kirchmann Jade Mackey
Home Birth Canterbury	Bonnie Sampson
Home Birth Hawkes Bay	Rachel Pearson
NZCOM	Violet Clapham

Interim Trust presentation

The interim trust will share a little about how we came to be and our plans for the next 6 months, sharing a PowerPoint. We will send this document out following this hui. Please share it with your communities, bring your feedback and questions, and be ready to work with us at our community hui set for Wednesday 10th December.

Glynette shared an apology to Tangata Whenua on behalf of the interim trust. Nicola confirmed that these slides will be sent out via email, and encouraged everyone to please share with communities, bring feedback and suggestions.

Confirm Community Hui is happening Wednesday 10th December 2025 and would like any input

Jas – Nga Maia – wanted to acknowledge and mihi the apology shared and knows that beautiful things can come from resets, feeling encouraged about where to next, as this kaupapa is really important to all of us, and just wanted to acknowledge.

Meeting structure

The first part of this meeting is for the trust to meet its legal obligations and refers to the year ended 30 June 2025. It involves approval of documents and is voted on by trustees. The second part of the meeting is open for regional groups to share on their last year.

Confirmation of Quorum

As per the Trust Deed, quorum is half of the number of trustees plus 1. Currently with 5 trustees quorum is confirmed to be 3.

Quorum is confirmed, 5 trustees present.

Additions/amendments and approval of the agenda

None

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

Motion: That the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 3 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Andrina Palmer

Seconded: Bobbie-Jane Cooke

CARRIED: Yes

Matters arising from the previous AGM minutes.

Any outstanding actions or follow-up items (not covered elsewhere in agenda)

None

Board report and financial report, and annual financial statement from accountant

The Co-chairperson report and NZCOM report are found in the Annual Meeting documents folder.

Chairpersons report

- Bobbie-Jane's co-chairpersons report and NZCOM rep report

Motion: The annual report for 2025 is approved

Moved: Alesha Hobbs

Seconded: Nicola Bell

CARRIED: Yes

Financial Report

Special purpose financial report and written financial report found in the Annual Meeting documents folder.

Motion: That the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2025 be received and adopted.

Moved: Alesha Hobbs

Seconded: Andrina Palmer

CARRIED: Yes

Motion: That Robert Hewison - Green Grass Accounting be appointed as the Trust's accountant for the forthcoming financial year, and that the Trustees be authorised to fix their remuneration

Moved: Alesha

Seconded: Nicola Bell

CARRIED: Yes

Note - This part of the meeting will be chaired by Cushla Richardson as it needs to be a neutral person that is not a trustee

9. Election of officers - Chair / Treasurer / Secretary

Chair

Motion: To confirm that Andrina Palmer becomes chairperson

Moved: Nicola Bell

Seconded: Alesha Hobbs

CARRIED: Yes

Treasurer

Motion: To approve that Alesha Hobbs becomes treasurer

Moved: Andrina Palmer

Seconded: Bobbie-Jane Cooke

CARRIED: Yes

Secretary

Motion: To approve that Nicola Bell becomes secretary

Moved: Bobbie-Jane Cooke

Seconded: Alesha Hobbs

CARRIED: Yes

12. General business • Matters arising

- Any matters with prior notice - Nothing to add

Annual Meeting closed 10.23am .

Regional Sharing Reports

Now is an opportunity for regional groups to share on their last year - highlights, challenges, celebrations! Depending on the number of groups wishing to share, we may limit sharing to 5 minutes.

A reminder there is a community hui coming up on the 10th of December which will allow more time for discussing trust related issues. If you are unable to attend the community hui, please do email us. We thank those who have already sent in their feedback and desires for the future of HBA, including Bobbie-Jane Cooke (former Tangata Whenua co-chair and NZCOM rep), Waikato Home Birth Association, North Auckland Home Birth Community, Dianna De Estena (former trustee), Alesha Hobbs (former trustee), Lala McCarthy (former Tangata Tiriti co-chair and trustee) Rachel Pearson, and Ngā Maia. All of these will feed into our future planning.

Rachel Pearson – Hawkes Bay Home Birth

- Homebirth Hawke's Bay, in a wane, had hoped to become more active last year. We were excited by BHA Trust's invitation to jump on board the waka of screening a homebirth documentary. However, the dates clashed with local midwives re-screening *Pacific Mother*, and there are strong ties to that film in this area. We tried to work with Sue at Demand Films – we wanted a central environment rather than the cinema, but Sue was non-engaging around that vision.
- The Australian film *Born at Home* brought the same level of non-engagement from Sue, even though the producer was keen to support the vision but was locked into a contract with Demand Films.
- Super excited to be part of nationally driven initiatives – linking with something greater than their region. With the documentary actually landing it into the region kept feeling like it was met with a structure through that umbrella organisation.
- Here, we would like to engage and collaborate – to generate some energy and movement in the area.
- And speed up the Trust initiative to do that in the years to come.

Lily Drew – Waikato Home Birth Association

- It has been a year of surviving rather than thriving WHBA this past year.
- Pool hire getting tired, not as much uptake as usual and noticed a difference in community expectations regarding the pools – influx of people importing more aesthetic pools and more midwives having them on hand.
- Committee – lots of changes, lots of people who express their interest in supporting the movement, but the realities of being committed and the time involvement mean it doesn't last.
- Wanted to speak to the recent conflict – WHBA struggled in particular with their tenured and key member of the group; energy was directed to where they stood on cultural safety within the group, which is important.

- Want to engage with their community and offer support for midwives in the area and in terms of momentum for the Home Birth Aotearoa movement overall – they can use us for more than just birth pool hire.
- Coming year would like to look into how can we support access to homebirth for diversities – rural communities, rainbow whānau, and other cultures.

North Auckland Home Birth

Kat Kirchmann

- Lovely to see everyone and just wanted to acknowledge what a challenging time it's been for HBA – grateful to see awesome faces and future direction, and tangata whenua involvement again. Feels there's been a quick shift in the tide – heartened, grateful, and appreciate the transparency and communications that have come through.
- Great year for NA Home Birth – kaupapa is always grassroots and community engagement, and now starting to build momentum there.
- Recently had a celebration: 12 māmā and 13 children came along – such a beautiful, connected time, yummy food and gifts, beautiful feedback from those that attended.
- Have been trying to achieve beautiful real connections; it's coming to fruition and is a real highlight.
- Across the year the community is continuing to grow – māmā and other service providers who join regularly and share their knowledge and expertise.
- A Home Birth Documentary screening – was a hustle to get people there; ran at a loss but worthwhile in bringing a great resource to the community.
- Pool to hire out – as Lily mentioned, the market is flooded – it brings in some income but not quite what they thought it would. Still a good resource in the community.

Jade Mackey

- Acknowledge what Kat said – beautiful things can come out of conflict, really appreciated all of the transparency and clarity and excited to go forward with us and mihi to us all.
- NA Home Birth - community gathering – covers a big geographical area, so continuing keeping it to two spaces Ōrewa and Warkworth. Started holding more regularly at a community space – a private community space rather than a café, which allows quiet, intimate, and general kōrero, and allows space for tamariki to run around. Funding just received from HBA helps to support this and allows them to plan ahead and book community spaces for next year.
- Received funding from HBA earlier in the year to purchase a flag, which helps with visibility at these meetings. To be more sustainable with funding have introduced a koha box at meetings, gold coin donations, and a QR code where people can transfer and at recent meeting – received \$58 of donations.
- Recently found out the local New World provides initiatives and supports funding to purchase kai and refreshments at a reduced cost to make it more sustainable which is good.
- Going to run an end of year giveaway for their online presence and to give back to the community, with generous support from businesses.
- Future plans – want to bring in more service providers to hold focus groups and also looking into trialling crafting sessions or creating some focus – creating affirmations, etc.

- Seeing genuine connections really starting to form and this can help bring focus to these gatherings.

Bonnie Sampson – Canterbury Home Birth Association

- Has been a year with various different things, have only been involved for a year, currently the coordinator. Have a small but mighty group of committee members.
- Showed the NZ homebirth documentary earlier in the year, met in the community hall – about 70 people came along – love that it was created in NZ for NZ.
- Pool hire and califont hire slowly ticking along, califonts more in demand than the pools.
- Currently have twenty-four midwife members who are registered with us so would like to collaborate with the midwife members and establish relationships with them – doesn't know them, but they work so hard and she would love to nurture that partnership, as they send their women to us.
- This year – had to create a new constitution and re-register as a society.
- Looking at soft-launching a library of books – homebirth-friendly and lovely books about homebirth, physiological birth, natural birth. Will be interesting to see what the uptake is. Fifteen to twenty books have been accumulated.
- Would like to be more involved with Home Birth Aotearoa and connected with what's happening around the country; would like more involvement in the homebirth community in the country.
- Have the highest homebirth rate in the country but never have huge numbers of people attending their community events and gatherings so would like to see this change.

Saritta Burney – Manawatu Home Birth Association

- Screened the home birth documentary in collaboration with the DHB – they provided some funding and provided some ka which was good.
- Started offering postnatal seminars – something the Parent Centre used to do before they shut down in Palmy – first aid seminar, newborn breastfeeding as passionate about people having affordable access to these subjects, attended reasonably well.
- Pool hire has been the same – currently have one pool, and offers a more affordable option – don't seem as affected by the newer pools coming in like some of the other regions.
- Started hiring TENS machines – had to buy extra as they are in hot demand.
- Put together a sibling kit – for children who are going to be at births with their whānau – often in homebirth hangouts one of the key questions is, “How do I prepare my two-year-old?” Includes books, dolls, nappies, and links to child-appropriate videos that can help siblings prepare.
- Each month the DHB puts together birth announcements at different places of birth – finding out how many homebirths happen each month – really nice to see a number that's over 3 or 4.
- Within the area have homebirth networks midwife meetings – once a month all homebirth midwives come together, keeping connected in that way.
- In the year coming – would like to keep homebirth hangouts each month and being consistent.
- Looking at putting together homebirth packs – when you go to hospital or a birth centre you get nappies, pads, etc., but whānau at home don't get anything. Trying to create something

sustainable that midwives can give them when they birth at home. Helps other people to see homebirth as an option. Mission to get homebirth out there more in the community as an option.

Cushla Richardson – Active Birth Taranaki

- Active Birth Taranaki has had a good year. Choices and Childbirth antenatal classes remain at the heart of what we do, running nine times a year and supporting families across New Plymouth, Stratford, and Hāwera.
- We continue to hold monthly coffee groups, which have recently become part of a collective effort with other community providers to offer support and connection through pregnancy, birth, postpartum and early parenthood.
- Our committee is smaller this year, with some of our long-standing members moving on. So we are taking our time to find our rhythm again—nurturing new foundations, shaping our kaupapa, and learning the processes that are needed to support our community.
- Earlier in the year, we hosted a screening of the Home Birth documentary, which was a really nice way to come together with our community. We also held a morning tea to celebrate International Day of the Midwife in May and to acknowledge the care and hearts of our special local midwives.
- We are also grateful to have recently received a grant from Home Birth Aotearoa to purchase a birth pool and other equipment. A little cautious now hearing the other regions experiences with this but being in Taranaki feeling options are limited and look forward to offering this resource to our community in the new year something which hasn't been offered for some time.

Violet Clapham – NZCOM

- Firstly, want to acknowledge the journey Home Birth Aotearoa is on – not easy but worth it. From a college perspective, the relationship with HBA is foundational and crucial. Did reach out when Bobbie-Jane let her know at the board meeting what is happening. Really want to keep that connection strong. Want to acknowledge Bobbie-Jane's voice in the homebirth space as she has been highly engaged and participatory in all the college activities, and NZCOM value her so much, and feel reassured with the reset that she can see happening.
- As a college, very mindful of not clashing events with what HBA are doing – once back into planning mode and gatherings – wanting that info to feed through, especially annual hui or conference – so we don't have any clashes. NZCOM Joan Donnelly Research Forum – Dunedin next September; conference happens every two years in Wellington 2027.
- Has been a member of HBA for many years now – 18 so has seen many stages and phases. What she always loves is the feeling of being grounded as a midwife – reminds her why she does everything else that she does; passionate about homebirth and always has been. Fills up her cup in terms of her own personal kaupapa.
- Would like to encourage some thinking about how to tell the homebirth story in Aotearoa – it's not always easy. A thought bubbling away for a long time, would love to see a national database for homebirth statistics to tell more of the story, could be a powerful idea.

Sophie – Auckland – not currently involved in regional group

- Just wanted to acknowledge all of the mahi everyone has been doing behind the scenes and understand its been a lot, and want to thank you all and acknowledge that.

Final Notes from Interim Trust

- The interim trust slides shared this morning will be sent out to the regions with the minutes from this meeting early next week.
- Confirming community hui on the 10th of December, welcome all feedback via email or spoken verbally on the day. The trust will work on a framework to forward to the regions and those attending prior to the meeting.
- In regards to the interim trust slides being shared – welcome any feedback from the community if they feel there's anything important to add or suggestions around the timeline.
- A reminder that the interim trust love to see the updates of what is happening in the region so please keep us updated with what goes on.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Meeting ended 11.03am