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L'TON BIRTH CENTRE



For Enquiries Phone

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LAUNCESTON BIRTH CENTRE

NEWSLETTER No. 8
MAY 1990

POSTAL ADDRESS: RSD 815 Rostella Road Dilston 7252

COMMITTEE:	Geoff Crack	44 9614	President
	Jenny Smyth	31 9458	Vice President/Administrator
	Jan Allford	28 1565	Secretary/Treasurer

RELOCATION UPDATE

Finally, after one hectic year of meetings, letters, negotiation and more meetings, the Launceston Birth Centre has moved house.

The new unit is in the old QVH Gynae wing, still at a comfortable distance from the main hospital area.

We now have two bedrooms separated by a lounge/kitchen area and a larger bathroom. Overall, the area is bigger and much brighter than the flat we had in the Nurses Home.

There have been, as expected, some minor "teething problems". Fortunately, most of these have been sorted out already.

We hope to have an official opening of the Centre within the next couple of months. Around the same time we will be holding an "Open Day" where anyone can call in, have a look around and obtain information about options in birthing with particular reference to the Launceston Birth Centre. This event will be widely advertised so keep your eyes and ears open and mark the date!

Within one week of the big move the new Centre was "christened". Our congratulations to Carol and Michael Anderson on the birth of their little daughter, the first baby to be born in the new LBC.

Many people helped with the move on April 18th. Thanks to all who assisted especially Barbara Purcell, Jenny Smyth, Geoff Crack, Jean Vasic, Jan Allford, Pauline Kettle, Mr. McCaulay and his co-workers at the QVH and the very helpful lady at "Switch".

MONTHLY MEETINGS

We desperately need "new blood" with new ideas to help out with publicity and promotion of your Birth Centre. Our major project for this year will be the official opening of the new Centre. We would like to organise an extensive publicity campaign leading up to this event.

There is so much to do and so few people to do it! We would appreciate help of any kind, even just new ideas and moral support. The future of the Birth Centre depends entirely on people who are willing to give a little of their time even if not on a regular basis.

Some members have indicated a desire to attend meetings and help with promotion but are unable to attend during the daytime. Therefore to allow attendance of people who work during the day, we have decided to hold alternate meetings in the evening.

Starting in May, these meetings will be:

- * the 3rd Monday of "odd" months e.g. May, July, Sept. at 7.30 pm
- * the 3rd Friday of "even" months e.g. June, Aug. Oct. at 12.30 pm

Below is a projected list of dates for meetings for this year. Please mark them on your calendar now so that you can plan ahead should you be able to attend. The meetings are friendly and informal everyone is welcome.

Please note ... all meetings will now be held at the Birth Centre.

DATES FOR MEETINGS 1990

Monday	21st May	at 7.30 pm	
			Friday 15th June at 12.30 pm
Monday	16th July	at 7.30 pm	
			Friday 17th August at 12.30 pm
Monday	17th September	at 7.30 pm	
			Friday 19th October at 12.30 pm
Monday	19th November	at 7.30 pm	
			Friday 21st December at 12.30 pm

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OFFICIAL OPENING

The official opening of the new premises will be held on Monday 8th October. Attendance is by invitation only. The Minister for Health will be officiating along with Jessica Woodward, the first baby born in the Launceston Birth Centre 7 years ago. — 24.8.83. Various Members of Parliament and representatives from the Dept. of Health have been invited as well as Senior Administrative staff of the LGH/QVH. This will provide a great opportunity for some active "lobbying" on your part regarding Government funding for your Birth Centre and Medicare rebates for women who use the Centre. There will also be media representation. Your early RSVP would be appreciated so that catering can be organised for supper. We look forward to meeting you there.

FUNDRAISING

As the bank balance of the LBC Inc. is getting rather low we have decided to embark on a fundraising campaign.

Our first line of attack will be the old favourite- A RAFFLE ! We need donations for prizes as well as people to sell some tickets. If you can help with either or both please phone the Secretary as soon as possible.

Our only other option for improving our financial situation is to increase the fees for clients using the Birth Centre.

Any ideas for fundraising would also be greatly welcomed.

OPEN DAY

We have decided to open the doors of the new Birth Centre premises on Wednesday 10th October between 10 am and 8 pm. Members of the health profession and the general public are invited to come in, have a look around and gain some insight into how this unique Centre functions.

We are organising a "roster" for Midwives and Parents to be in attendance to answer questions and show people around. If you would like to help and can spare an hour or so on that day please phone the Secretary.

If you know of anyone who is pregnant, or planning to become pregnant in the near future, please let them know about our Open Day and encourage them to find out about their choices in Childbirth.

PUBLICITY

To coincide with the official opening and Open Day we are running a major publicity campaign.

New posters and pamphlets are soon to be delivered to various Community based organizations and Doctors Surgeries.

A Midwife and Birth Centre Mother will be appearing on "Crossfile" on the Southern Cross Network to promote the Centre.

Another Midwife will be speaking with Jan Brown on 7NT on October 4th. There will also be articles regarding the Birth Centre in local newspapers.

We would also like to combine publicity and fundraising by holding a stall in a major shopping complex later in the year. Does anyone out there have any novel ideas for promoting the Centre? If so, please let us know by phone or, better still, come to one of our meetings !

PHOTO ALBUM

Thanks to all parents who have sent photos of their dear little miracles (!?) for the Birth Centre Album. We've had lots of students from various schools and colleges tour the Centre lately and the photos have proven to be very popular with these young people. The album is almost full now but please send a photo if you haven't already. I'll be starting up a new album very soon !

MONTHLY MEETINGS

A special "Thank You" to all those Mums and Midwives who have been regularly attending meetings and helping with organization of the events in October. Your help is very much appreciated. The next meeting will be held on Monday 17th September at 7.30 pm at the Birth Centre. All members and interested people are welcome, we'd love to see some Dads there too !

HOME BIRTH SUPPORT

Some months ago, members of the LBC Inc. decided to actively support homebirth. We now have a special "kit" for hire at very low cost which the Midwife can collect from the Centre on her way to a homebirth. The kit includes a basic delivery pack, emergency drugs and resuscitation equipment.

The aim of our first fundraising event is to cover the cost of providing an oxygen cylinder and attachments for the homebirth kit. The attachments alone will cost us over \$300.

ACTIVE MIDWIVES

Terri Skerratt	69 5276	Jennifer Smyth	31 9458
Barbara Purcell)	93 6463	Jean Vasic	96 1106
Michele King)	"	Anne Blanch	62 2226
Jan Robertson)	"	Elaine Smallbane	83 1396

MATERNITY UNIT SURVEY

This survey, compiled by the Natural Birth Association Inc. gives some very interesting and sometimes amusing facts about the services provided by various "birthing units" in this state.

The information includes areas such as: pain control; support people; intervention statistics; provision for Leboyer style birth; and birth positions.

By luck (or was it fate?!), in organising the units in alphabetical order, the Launceston Birth Centre features first !

A G M REPORT

The Annual General Meeting of the Launceston Birth Centre Inc. was held on March 28th. Regarding statistics on births during 1989 it was noted that numbers for women using the Centre were slightly down when compared to the previous year.

There is an obvious need to actively promote the Centre, the general public still has many mis-conceptions (!?) about Birth Centres, their safety and the type of people who use them.

We will be redesigning the information pamphlet and small posters ready for distribution to various Community based Centres and Doctors surgeries etc.

If you have any bright ideas please bring them along to a meeting (see page 2!).

As from March this year, Beaconsfield Hospital no longer has an obstetric unit.

A very experienced Midwife who lives in Beaconsfield has decided to attend women from that area who would like to deliver at the Birth Centre. Welcome to Elaine Smallbane!

A very special "Thank You" once again to Susan Eddy for compiling our annual Audit Report. Her continuing support of the Birth Centre is very much appreciated.

The Executive Committee were all returned to their respective positions unopposed!

NEEDED

Towelling nappies and a couple of sets of baby clothes in good condition (for emergencies!). If you can help with a donation of any item please phone a committee member or Midwife.

ACTIVE MIDWIVES

Barbara Purcell	93 6463	Terry Skerratt	69 5276
Michelle King	31 6742	Jennifer Smyth	31 9458
Jean Vasic	96 1106	Julie Roach	62 2989
Rosie Green	96 3367	Anne Blanch	62 2226
Elaine Smallbane	83 1396	Debbie Geard	44 2685
Margaret Todd)	34 0429	Sue Carr	44 2487
Caroline Whiteoak)			

