



## Chairman's Address 2014 Annual General Meeting - Barbara May Foundation

The Barbara May Foundation was established in 2009 to honour Barbara May Browning and the values she stood for by supporting the work of her daughter, Valerie, and her grandson, Andrew, in providing a simple network of maternal healthcare in Africa. Our Foundation aims to decrease the high incidence of women and babies who die or who are injured during childbirth. More and more women are being attracted to the facilities Valerie and Andrew are connected with in Africa, and as a result, good progress is being made.

### Donations

Donations received in the year ended 30 June 2014 can be summarised as follows:

	A\$
Direct	679,110
Indirect	388,830
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	\$1,067,940
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This \$1,067,940 compares to \$662,505 for the year ended 30 June, 2013.

The reason some donors contribute to us indirectly relates to income tax laws and the donors' Private Ancillary Funds. The important thing is that all these monies are available to the causes we support.

In addition to this \$1,067,940, donations of services and equipment were received. For example, Sonic Healthcare gave valuable pathology equipment to Mille and provided training to staff to enable them to use the equipment.

But it is not just large organisations who have stepped up to help the Foundation. I would like to thank all our donors large and small – every dollar received is a great blessing. Special thanks should also go to the great team of young women who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds earlier this year.

As you will see from the reports on our three main projects set out below, the hospitals we support need funds not only to operate, but also to improve and increase their facilities and capacity as activity at each hospital increases.

**The Barbara May Maternity Hospital – Mille, Ethiopia** This hospital is run by a local board under the guiding hand of Valerie and the Afar Pastoral Development Association. We have financed the operating costs mainly through donations from the Workplace Giving Program of the Sydney & South Western Local Health Districts. Through the generosity of those employees our Foundation can also fund the addition of an outpatient clinic, administrative buildings and another ambulance. We also acknowledge the assistance of Sonic Healthcare who have established the new Pathology unit and assisted in the training of the required healthcare staff. This hospital, and the high standard of care it provides, is a blessing for the Afar women of Ethiopia. At end-June 2014, deliveries were occurring at the rate of 700 per annum with an operating cost of about \$200,000.

**Vision Maternity Care Hospital – Barhirdar, Ethiopia** In another part of Ethiopia, the Amhara District, the local Health Bureau has asked Dr Andrew to build another charity maternity hospital. The Government has provided a run-down health centre for this purpose. The Vision Maternity Care Hospital (VMC), as it is now known, is already providing free obstetric services for women who cannot afford such help. By 30 June, 2014, VMC was handling deliveries at the rate of 2000 per annum. However, demand continues to grow and facilities must be improved.

The cost of the new hospital to be built to replace the interim facility is approximately A\$500,000. We have not yet raised the full sum but work is underway towards that goal. There are many people to thank who are working hard to bring this new project to life, and who continue to fund the operating costs of the temporary facility. They include the many individual donors who have made generous contributions, Rotary International, The DAK Foundation, AJ+C Architects, Brad & Kareena Baker and Russell Looker.

**Selian Lutheran Mission Hospital – Arusha, Tanzania** Our Foundation aims to help Dr Andrew as he develops the Midwife Training Centre at the Selian Hospital. Andrew is implementing systems to train local maternal health providers in sound clinical skills and competency, in addition to providing free obstetric services and treating women suffering with obstetric fistula. Andrew is working with Sister Katie Christie who visited Australia in October /November 2014.

Each month more and more women are seeking help. By 30 June, 2014 the annual birth rate for the hospital was approximately 2000. We thank the Planet Wheeler Foundation for partnering us on this important project.

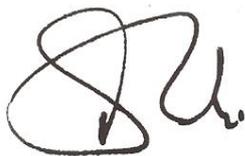
**Medical staff** One of our donors, the DAK Foundation, generously supports the medical professionals who volunteer to work in Africa with Andrew and Valerie. These doctors and midwives not only work in the hospitals but they also train local staff. They reduce the cost of our operations, improve the quality of service delivery to the patients, build critical capacity and provide education, jobs, and ultimately careers, for the local population.

**Special thanks** In a few years our donors have enabled us to build and operate hospitals dedicated to serving some of the poorest and most disadvantaged women in the world with basic maternity care.

Valerie and Andrew have served in Africa for many years but the provision of finance by our donors enables them to provide more blessings for women in need of help.

Finally, we are assisted by Rotary International and Anglican Overseas Aid in the transferring and supervision of funds sent overseas and we thank them for their help.

Please continue to support us. The organisations we support in Africa cannot operate without our funding. Please help Valerie and Andrew in the good work they and their teams do.



Michael Sharpe AO  
*Chairman*

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