

## Little Feet Taking Big Steps Ball

The Stillbirth Foundation's second *Little Feet Taking Big Steps Ball* was a fantastic success raising over \$100,000 for stillbirth research. Held on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at the Hilton Sydney, the 367 guests in attendance enjoyed sensational McGuigan wines, a great new beer from Byron Bay Brewery and fine food in celebration of the stillbirth cause.

Deborah Thomas, Editorial Director of the Australian Women's Weekly and Patron of the Stillbirth Foundation, lead us through a fun evening's entertainment as our MC, and actor Jay Laga'aia entertained our guests with songs and great stories! The night began with a generous donation by Johnson and Johnson Pacific of \$15,000, continued with the great band Swerve keeping our toes tapping, and our guests were encouraged to continue spending to ultimately over-exceed our target of **\$100,000!**

Associate Professor Frederik Froen, a

world-recognised stillbirth research and perinatal expert from Norway, introduced stillbirth and the importance of raising funds. We were honoured to have him as a guest at the Ball.

All our prizes were raffled and auctioned (as silent and live lots) and we are most grateful for all of our donor's invaluable support. Our wonderful volunteers, the Stillbirth Stars, were essential in helping us achieve our fundraising target, and we appreciate their efforts. A few games were held to keep our guests entertained, and the live auctions were brilliantly sold by renowned celebrity auctioneer, Ian Gollan.

The Stillbirth Foundation Committee is very thankful to those many and admirable companies and individuals, all listed on our website, who came together to produce this fabulous night to highlight the importance of the stillbirth cause.



### Patrons

**Deborah Thomas**

**Melinda Schneider**

### Medical Advisors

**Peter Barr**

OAM, MBBS, PhD, FRACP

**Jonathan Morris**

MB ChB, MM, FRANZCOG,  
DDU, CMFU, PhD

**Deborah de Wilde**

OAM, BSW, RGN, CM

## International Stillbirth Alliance Conference

The International Stillbirth Alliance's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference is to be held at Birmingham, UK from the 29<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007. If you are interested in attending, please go to the website [www.isa2007.org](http://www.isa2007.org). This will be a very special meeting to focus on perinatal loss – the human impact, the causes, and the possibilities for prevention. The Conference will bring together researchers, clinicians, health care professionals, bereaved families, and support organisations from many different countries.



*Deborah Thomas, Patron of the Stillbirth Foundation, and Jay Laga'aia at the 2007 Little Feet Ball*



## Frederik Froen's Australian Visit

Associate Professor Frederik Froen was recently in Australia and attended a mini symposium on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney, titled : *Fetal movement monitoring and adverse pregnancy outcome - What's the Evidence?*

The mini symposium focused on antenatal detection of the foetus at risk and the role of fetal movement monitoring. Frederik Froen MD, PhD, Researcher, at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo, Norway, was the Keynote Speaker. Frederik Froen (pictured below at the Little Feet Ball) is an epidemiologist at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health where his work focuses on research utilising the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort of 100,000 pregnancies. His research interests include many fields of stillbirth research, but the main focus is currently unexplained stillbirths, classifications and causes of stillbirth, and pregnancies with reduced fetal movements. Froen is one of the founders and the current co-chair of the International Stillbirth Alliance (ISA).

A recent article in The Australian Newspaper (*'Researchers tune in for kicks'* by Adam Cresswell on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2007), described how research - being undertaken in Australia, Norway and the US - seeks to find out if "kick charts", on which women record their baby's individual daily movement patterns, lead to improved outcomes,



including fewer deaths.

Frederik Froen, principal investigator of the international study, says there is "no rule of thumb that has ever been proven to be better than a mother's own sense of when fetal movements have fallen off".

"If we tell people that if you do kick-counting, you will save your baby's life, that's very bad - the rules attached to kick counting are no good," Associate Professor Froen said. "What makes a difference is maternal awareness and vigilance." Froen arrived in Australia to hear what data has been gathered so far, and to help steer the direction of future research.

The research would aim to find out if a standardised measure of fetal movement would reduce stillbirths, without increasing women's anxiety levels or causing babies to be needlessly delivered early - which can itself cause health problems for the baby.



Associate Professor Frederik Froen at the 2007 Little Feet Ball

### Volunteers Required

The Stillbirth Foundation is run on an entirely voluntary basis and we are always searching for volunteers to help us run our rapidly growing organisation. We are currently seeking to recruit volunteers to help us with administration (hopefully one day or 2 half days a week). Please contact [leanne@stillbirthfoundation.org.au](mailto:leanne@stillbirthfoundation.org.au) if you are interested.

A special thank you is extended to Chippendale Printing of Concord West for their generous and kind support of the Stillbirth Foundation through printing all our material, including this newsletter

—we are incredibly grateful!



CHIPPENDALE





## Memory Bracelets

When you enter the beautiful home of Lynn & Nathan Jenkins the most noticeable thing is the silence. It is a silence that should be filled with the dull hum of a baby monitor, or the general business of a home with a newborn. Such is the boundless grief that follows the birth of a stillborn baby. Cooper Nathan Jenkins was stillborn on 28 November 2006 at 37 weeks. "3 weeks out, you think that you are going to have a baby so how does this happen?" says Cooper's mother Lynn. Both Lynn and Nathan comment that throughout their antenatal care, not ever was the possibility of a stillborn baby mentioned. The Jenkins family believes that they should have been told during their antenatal classes and obstetric visits that stillbirth is a real possibility, with figures of 1 in 100 babies stillborn. As Lynn states "there are risks the whole way along a pregnancy, not just in the first twelve weeks".

Lynn and Nathan also wear a beautiful blue and white beaded bracelet. Cooper too has his very own blue and white bracelet to match his mummy and daddy's. Together, the three of them are forever linked with this absolutely unique family bracelet.

Lynn first started making jewellery after a visit to Prague in 2004. Upon seeing the simple yet stun-

ning bracelets, Lynn did a course to gain the skills to turn her fabulous designs into a reality. The bracelets (pictured above) sell for \$20 (including postage and handling) with 50% of the profits going to The Stillbirth Foundation. This is an extremely generous offer from Lynn; one she hopes will "help stop a stillbirth from happening to anyone else". Bracelets are made to order and can be made with pink or blue beads, or other colours upon request. Newborn bracelets are also available for \$15 (including postage and handling). The Stillbirth Foundation website has the order form online or contact [angelcooperdesign@primusonline.com.au](mailto:angelcooperdesign@primusonline.com.au).

Not only does the bracelet bring enormous comfort and support to Lynn, knowing that in some small way Cooper is still with her, it also stands for making a difference, by raising awareness of stillbirth and contributing funds to research.

After Cooper's birth, Lynn felt very alone and needed to talk to someone. A search on the internet put her in touch with The Stillbirth Foundation website. Lynn now attends a support group with other parents who too have had a stillborn baby.

Like most families who have had

a stillborn, their baby's passing has to mean something. Cooper's extended family and family friends both here and overseas wanted to know what they could do, how they could help Lynn and Nathan through the difficult time following the death of Cooper. 30 Stella Bears were donated in remembrance of Cooper. "We received a teddy bear in the hospital and it did help in a small way to have something to carry out of the hospital, to fill our empty aching arms".

The 30 Stella Bears have been donated to the Teddy Love Club to assist other bereaved parents following their own stillbirth tragedy. People wishing to support the Stillbirth Foundation can now contribute by purchasing teddy bears, bracelets or simply making a cash donation. Please contact the Stillbirth Foundation for further information.

**Lindsey Galton**



## 2007/08 Entertainment Books

The Stillbirth Foundation receives money from each Entertainment™ Book sold and they are packed with hundreds of valuable offers from the best restaurants, cafés, takeaway chains, activities and accommodation.

Each Book also comes with the Entertainment™ Gold Card, for more special 25 to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from many of the best businesses in your area.

To order your Entertainment™

Book, contact Kirsten Macaulay: [kmacaulay@hotmail.com](mailto:kmacaulay@hotmail.com) or 9948 5829





stillbirth

FOUNDATION INC.

little feet taking big steps...to reduce stillbirth

**Are you on the Stillbirth Foundation mailing list?**

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically or are keen to be involved in any of our fundraising ventures or to be notified of any news that we may have please send your contact details to: [info@stillbirthfoundation.org.au](mailto:info@stillbirthfoundation.org.au) or 0419 995 464

[www.stillbirthfoundation.org.au](http://www.stillbirthfoundation.org.au)

Website kindly maintained on a pro-bono basis by [www.shawware.com.au](http://www.shawware.com.au)

## Stillbirth Foundation Committee

The photo at right is of six glorious women who, along with myself, are the Stillbirth Foundation Committee. The Stillbirth Foundation would be nothing without each of them... their energy, passion and commitment to the stillbirth cause is inspiring. These women juggle young families to run the Stillbirth Foundation and it's events on an entirely voluntary basis at an emotional and monetary cost to themselves and their families. I cannot thank them enough for their belief that we can save others from the pain of stillbirth and for making the Stillbirth Foundation the successful organisation that it is. I feel honoured to have met and to know such amazing people.

Thank you to a sensational team!

Emma Kirkwood



*The Stillbirth Foundation Committee at the 2007 Little Feet Taking Big Steps Ball (from left, Aimee Mason, Stacey Vairo, Kirsten Macaulay, Leanne Ambrogio, Justine Cunningham, Sally Eagan, Emma Kirkwood)*

**The Stillbirth Foundation operates to ultimately reduce the incidence of stillbirth in Australia.**

- To achieve this goal, the Stillbirth Foundation works with three main aims, to:
  - increase public awareness of stillbirth, and the effects it has on women and their families;
  - support hospital bereavement services;
  - and most importantly, to fund and encourage research into stillbirth.

## Shop Till You Drop— Warehouse Shopping Tour!

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST**

**NOW!** The date will be sometime in September, ready for shopping savings for Christmas—come and join the fun of a full day of bargain hunting! Save on retail prices by buying direct from leading manufacturing brands including Levi jeans; Midford; Bonds; Loveable; Portmans, Sea-folly, Triumph; Wombat; Christmas

Cave; Mikasa; Cab 55; Dolci D'oro Chocolatier and Sandler to name a few. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea are provided to keep you sustained throughout the day.

**Plus you'll contribute to a good cause** - With every ticket purchased a contribution is made to the **Stillbirth Foundation** to sup-

port vital research into stillbirth.

**How to register your interest**  
We need to know numbers for booking a bus or coach and catering purposes, so if you would like to come please contact Kirsten Macaulay by email at [kmacaulay@hotmail.com](mailto:kmacaulay@hotmail.com) or phone on 02 9948 5829.

