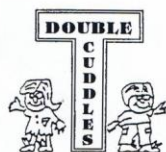


## Diamond Valley Multiple Birth Association – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002

Copy courtesy of Linda Court

### *The Diamond Valley Multiple Birth Association. Inc*

*30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2002*



*The Abbey of Diamond Creek  
49-55 Main St, Diamond Creek*

### *DV'MBA 30 YEARS ON*

In 1972, Elvie Young, a mother of twins, believed that the problems and joys of twin children were unique to multiple birth families. She advertised in the local paper, to gauge the interest of other mothers in similar circumstances. Consequently in September that year the "DIAMOND VALLEY MOTHER OF TWINS CLUB" was born.

An enthusiastic group of eight mothers met at the home of Mrs. Elvie Young in Watsonia, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 1972. The elected Office Bearers were as follows:

President:	Elvie Young
Secretary:	Val. Atkinson
Treasurer:	Bev Anderson
Publicity Officer:	Heather Tribe

Other foundation members were:

Kathy Pell (birthday book and thrift stall)  
Joy Morcher (newsletter)  
Lesley Wright  
Norma Cummings

Val Atkinson and Norma Cummings were to become the first life-members of the Club. The members met once a month, with each member taking a turn at opening her home for the meeting. Sharing information and experiences, and drawing support from one another, they organized social family outings and made friendships.



The eight mothers had a total of 29 children between them, with twins as follows:

Identical boys	1 set
Identical girls	1 set
Unlike girls	1 set
Boy / Girl	5 sets

Through word of mouth, publicity articles in the local newspaper and the growing network between Victorian Multiple Birth Clubs saw an increase in membership to approximately 40 by the late 1970's. A dedicated committee had seen the establishment of a pram pool, monthly newsletter, netball team, aptly named, "The Twosomes", coffee mornings, new mum's contact visits, in hospital or at home, and a library.

Some of the headlines in those early days in the "Diamond Valley News", included, "Big day for twin mothers", "- and the twins duly arrive", "Twins club expanding".

The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Convention of Mothers of Twins Clubs, now called the Australian Multiple Birth Association, was held in Melbourne on July 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 1975. Val Atkinson and Norma Cummings were on the organising Committee.

Due to an increased awareness of 'Twin Clubs' amongst the general public and a higher profile of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Multiple Birth Association with which the Club is affiliated, the Club was receiving more calls for information than ever. It was time to evaluate the effectiveness of its services and to introduce fresh ways of support. At this time multiple pregnancies were being diagnosed months earlier than in the past and the Club adapted by establishing antenatal discussion/information nights to satisfy the need.

Other milestones include:

- 1972 - First triplet family, Belinda & Richard Barber of Eltham North
- 1976 - Meetings now held in Rosanna Primary school library often with guest speakers
- 1977 - Dr David Hay from the La Trobe University Department of Genetics addressed a club meeting and told of his hopes to research twins after many enquiries from DVMOTC members
  - Club member Andrea Alexander, is elected President of the newly formed Victorian Council of the Multiple Birth Association
  - Fundraising for a duplicating machine to print the monthly newsletter, "Double Cuddles"
- 1978 - Playgroup commenced for children aged 3 to 4 year olds
- 1979 - Name change to: "The Diamond Valley Parents of Twins Plus Club"
- 2001 - Name change to: "Diamond Valley Multiple Birth Association Inc"

"Multiple Choices", a booklet written and published by the club for Australian parents of multiples ran its' first print and is the process of running an updated edition.

Fundraising has always been a top priority in assisting members to attend bi-annual Seminars in Melbourne and rural Victoria and the annual AMBA Convention which is held in Capital and main Australian cities. The Children's Christmas picnic is always well attended, originally held in a park in Greensborough or Eltham, but in more recent years at Bundoora Park, Eltham Miniature Railway and Nioka Park, South Morang.



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The netball team was active until 1992. A social tennis morning was established in October 1995, and received two local government grants for "Women's Health & Recreation". Tennis balls were purchased and professional coaching held at Kalparrin tennis courts on Fridays until 1999.

In addition to the services initially offered by the club, there is also:

- Antenatal Co-ordinator
- Premature babies contact
- Coffee morning/Playgroup
- Extensive book and video library
- Hospital visitors to DVCH, North Park and Northern Hospitals
- Babysitting exchange
- Social Co-ordinator and Committee
- New Families Co-ordinator (inc. Bereavement Officer)
- New Family area contacts
- New Families contact - triplets
- Monthly newsletter (exc. Jan), "Double Cuddles"
- Special Needs Register
- School children's holiday activities
- POSAM (Parents of school age multiples) lunches

Coffee morning/Playgroup for pre-school singletons and multiples has had a number of venues, and for over ten years now, has only been afforded Monday mornings. Numbers vary and at one stage 30-40 children was a usual attendance figure.

Monthly meetings, in more recent years referred to as "General Get-togethers" were held on the first Wednesday of each month Feb – Dec until dwindling numbers in 2001, saw their demise. However, this has seen an increased numbers attending bi-monthly Mum's Nights Out.

The club continues to raise public awareness through the annual Multiple Birth Awareness Week, and by articles in the Diamond Valley News, The Heidelberger and Whittlesea Post. A 3-fold leaflet has been produced and circulated to public noticeboards, Maternal and Child Health Centres, doctor's surgeries etc.

The club has 14 Life members – Andrea Alexander, Sharyne Andrews, Val Atkinson, Norma Cummings, Rae Cummings, Lynda Johnston, Marie Long, Theresa McVeigh, Helen Steele, Linda Vildovas, Maree Walsh, Mavis Neumann, Anne Rayner and Mary Smith.

The club has three sisters with twins, and two brothers with twins. In the past ten years there have been a set of undiagnosed twins (despite an ultrasound) and a set of undiagnosed quads (three ultrasounds diagnosing triplets).

In 2002, the Club has a membership of 154 families. It has a proud record of hard working, welcoming and caring people committed to the support of multiple birth families. There has been up to five members of our club on the AMBA Vic State Committee. The club has hosted a number of State Seminars, most recently in 1998. The 31<sup>st</sup> AMBA Convention will be held by Geelong and Metropolitan Area club in August 2003.

Reprinted in part from an unsigned letter & from summary of the club's scrap books - September 2002



## MENU

### Entrée

Country Style cream of pumpkin soup  
with flaked almonds

or

Vegetarian mini spring rolls on a bed of lettuce with  
sweet chilli dipping sauce.

### Mains

Marinated Spring Lamb in Yoghurt virgin olive oil  
accompanied by apple chutney

or

Chargrilled breast of chicken with mustard white wine  
and semi sundried tomato sauce

### Dessert

Fresh fruit Platter, Cheese and greens and Birthday  
cake with Coffee.

*A fine selection of De Bortoli wines, beer and softdrink*

## PROGRAM

7:30pm Arrive.

8:00pm **Welcome** *Entrée served*  
Carmel Brick  
(President DVMBA,)

8:10pm **Introduction**  
Andrea Alexander  
(DVMBA Life Member & Guest Speaker)

8:45pm *Main Meal served*

9:15pm Raffle / Door Prize  
Photo with cake  
(please would everyone join in)

9:30 pm Dancing/Socialising  
onwards

Coffee  
Cake  
Cheese & Greens



### THE TEA BAG RAG

We are Tea bags,  
Twin club tea bags,  
Diamond Valley crew,  
From Melbourne town to you,  
A really strong old brew.

We're proud to say we're mums of twins,  
We're happy with our lot,  
Little did we know back then,  
What we had in our pot.

We are tea bags,  
Twin club tea bags,  
Quality number one,  
We do it twice for fun,  
Two for the price of one.

Our husbands dangled,  
And we jiggled,  
Then to our surprise,  
Out popped two instead of one,  
Twins before our eyes.

### FLAT BELLY

I would love a flat belly,  
And boobs that don't hang to my knees,  
With thighs that don't wobble  
And tired ovaries,  
When I have time  
I would love to do wees.  
I would love a flat belly,  
No more twin babies for me.

### VEGEBRAINS

We're happy hue vegebrains.  
We're dumb as dumb can be,  
We all enjoy our serepax  
For breakfast, lunch and tea,  
Our husbands think we're  
Going crazy every single day.  
Because we love our serepax.  
We all enjoy our serepax..  
It helps to keep the blues away.

### I'M A COW (Wiggles Tune)

*The twins they, suck all day that there ain't time left  
to play*

*Feel like a cow.....Moo, Feel like a cow.....Moo,*

*Me nipples are so cracked, they feel that they,ve  
been whacked*

*Feel like a cow.....Moo, Feel like a cow.....Moo,*

*Me jugs they really sag so low they almost drag;*  
*Feel like a cow.....Moo, Feel like a cow.....Moo,*

## *Sponsors and Raffle Prizes*

- |   |   |                           |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | 2 Hour chauffeured Harley Davidson Ride | Steve Williams            |
| 2 | Original Water Painting                 | Eric Cummings             |
| 3 | \$60 Meal Voucher valued                | Ying's Restaurant, Eltham |

2 Children's bike helmets                      *Super Cycle, MillPark*

10 x \$80 Grace Facial's                      *Grace Cosmetics, Carmel Brick*

\$40 Meal Voucher                      *La Stalla Restaurant, MillPark*

2 x \$30 Meal Vouchers                      *Diamond Creek Hotel*

\$25 Meal Voucher                      *La Porchetta, MillPark*

\$20 Gift Voucher                      *Rain Florist, Diamond Creek*

2 x \$20 Gift Vouchers                      *Amcal Chemist, Diamond Creek*

Spice Gift Pack                      *DVMBA Member*

Bicycle Gift Pack                      *Diavolo Cycles, Diamond Creek*

Gift Pack                      *Diamond Creek Pet Supplies*

Golf Balls, Wine, Cooler Bags                      *National General Insurance*

Thank you to all of the above supporters who provided us with some excellent door prizes.