



## Doula Issue Flyover

Fellow CRAFT'ers here we have a short issue on what some would call 'grandma's method' or what we call here 'the Doula' that is the way many of us grandparents work as background enablers (well at least we try to be)<sup>1</sup>. Are Doula's just meddlers in the maternity suite or are they Mothers best friend?

In this issue of CRAFT we look to broaden our understanding of the role of 'doula'. Indeed we seek to pay a humble homage to this great, oft overlooked, role. One that is often forgotten in a childbirth situation and is often the mum's mother. This is a crucial role and its methodology can be applied broadly in our society and in order to help our initiatives be born and start out healthy. So the baby can mean an idea one has say for a social enterprise or community action while the background 'holding of the space' can be ensuring the pre-requisites for a safe and healthy birth are in place and that background day to day issues are taken care of for the duration of the birth.

In this issue you will find a rationale for all the key players in the baby/idea birthing process from the baby/idea to the mother to the midwife to the Doula to the father. ALL these roles once properly understood are vital in the successful launch of a Social Enterprise or conducting of a successful Community Facilitation process. Yet of these the Doula that is the holding of the space for the birthing act to take place is hardly ever recognised in Western culture yet it is strongly part of many Indigenous cultures, and yet it is absolutely vital to the success of the overall birthing project. Possibly the Doula is not part of modernity i.e. not part of centralised health and even more so represents and empowered health consumer even 'prosumer' even DIY of childbirth services.

In my experience there are very substantial, and largely unexplored, parallels between successful social enterprise and Doula'ing.<sup>2</sup> So much of the literature today on Social Enterprise and Community Facilitation completely misses this 'background yin facilitation method' being more concerned with direct 'yang' assistance re business and market planning,

---

<sup>1</sup> I am not a Doula however I have worked with them when I had my children and spoken to several in the run up to this issue, however I do NOT claim any special knowledge in these arenas and I respect that my gender will further distance me from any such position. Nevertheless I have sought out, experienced and deeply respectful of this role and have studied and practiced it carefully in order to broaden it in the manner of this Issue. All mistakes herein are my responsibility.

<sup>2</sup> Husband'ing has some similarities to Doula'ing however it relates more to prudential midwifery as in prudential and frugal management – nevertheless there is a link well worthy of mention.

finance, pricing, distribution, site establishment and business registration. While all this is going on s-o-m-e-o-n-e has to hold the fort!!!! But who???????

Enter stage left the largely unsung yet everywhere present 'doula' the subject of this short Issue. She is in a sense the 'dark matter' of idea manifestation a little like the cat's tail which is always disappearing around the corner once one has espied her movements..... A little like *Mother Nature* even a background yet intimately practical energy that enlivens all and yet today is so threatened by our rapacious species. For me this is background facilitation at its most crucial and best.

So for these reasons in this issue we look at the links to other CRAFT issues and also after an explanation of the Doula and what she or he is to look at such a role as a process for change facilitation. Next we look at actual Doula'ing in Australia and New Zealand. The final Exhibit explores how a Doula Agreement can be configured and how it can be a precursor to a Strategic Plan – a sort of Yin and Yang balance. Finally various adaptations of the traditional 'Doula' role can be found in our last Exhibit on 'Featured Links' from Gaian, Mythopoetic, Indigenous, Dolphin, Doggy, and Spiritual Doulas to Re-birthing, and Death Doulas, and Philosophical Doulas (Maieutic process) as I submit in this Issue – Community Development Doulas.

Then we then look to the Doula process placed in the big picture of Community Facilitation. And touching on the esoteric we have an exhibit on Craft'er Goddesses (inc. our Doula) and Gods.

I have included a separate section on the Maieutic process as part of an Archaic Renaissance (CRAFT **Issue 8** which represents becoming Fully Human rather than pre-emptively becoming Trans-Human CRAFT **Issue 4**)\* illustrative of how the midwife (strictly speaking Maieutic refers to Midwife rather than Doula and in a sense this Issue is about both while focusing on the latter) from both the exoteric and esoteric senses. The two of course overlap.

Finally we look to link the Doula (**this Issue (9)**) and Archaic Renaissance (**Issue 8**) as a counterpoint to our Massive Momentum towards Transhumanism (**Issue 4**). To do this I use two exhibits linking the Doula to Education through Vygotsky and applying Grounded Theory to identify the key categories in Boy's talk (shed yarns).

Enjoy the issue and let me know any ideas for improvements and future issues.

Paul Wildman [paul@kalgrove.com](mailto:paul@kalgrove.com) 03-10-2016

\*see Right Hand Side margin for these and other previous issues