New Zealand
College of Midwives
WELLINGTON REGION

PO Box 9600
Wellington

WELLINGTON REGIONAL REPORT TO NATIONAL COMMITTEE
~~MARCH 1997~~

1996 ended with a great Christmas breakfast for midwives at my place with 40 or so midwives enjoying good food and Christmas cheer and this midwife attending a birth. Next Christmas I will have to put the babies on hold.

1997 has started with a positive note. Despite cries of "we don't have a meeting in January" I did call one to put forward the restructuring of the College to as many midwives as possible. Subsequent meetings have been reasonably attended, and some good discussions have taken place. Regional meetings will continue to be held at various venues in the area to ensure maximum involvement, although I do feel some frustration and concern that whilst the hard core continues to be there many midwives are either too busy or have lost interest in their professional body. Midwives also appear to be allying themselves with NZNO if they work in CHE's, quite simply because that body is their fiscal negotiator, and they still believe that they can't afford to be in both!!!

Greytown hosted the first Workshop/Study Day for the year and it was good. A fair turn out of midwives from both sides of the Rimutakas learned from, and enjoyed, a good variety of speakers, a panel and a practical sesssion on suturing.
More workshops and study days are comung up. The Wellington School of Acupuncture has offered a course for midwives which will include both theory and practice.

The monthly meetings have been enhanced by speakers both local and overseas, and we would hope to continue with this trend.

Wellington Polytech midwifery students are once again out in the community with midwives gaining essential practical experience.

MSRC co-ordinator has been busy too, setting up panels and arranging time slots for midwives preparing to be reviewed. There is concern that many midwives (but not all) who have joined Matpro are opting to be reviewed by an interdisciplinary panel rather than by their peers. A delegation visited Matpro to suggest taht the College Standards of Practice and review system would be the most appropriate one for them to use in their quality assurance but nothing has come of this.

Despite my own frustrations with the lack of commitment from so many college members it is good to be involved and I am hoping that I can continue to play an active part after the next AGM in April.

Sandra Sinclair
Regional Co-ordinator