

# New Zealand College of Midwives



## NEWSLETTER



Number 1 : NOVEMBER 1988

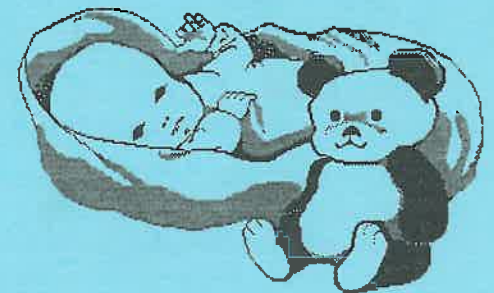
### Welcome

### postal ballot

### Bits and Pieces

### Constitution

### Michel Odent



Sian Burgess  
17 Malvern Rd  
Mt ALbert  
AUCKLAND

----> Member until AGM 1989 <----

NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES  
PO BOX 21-106 CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Member,

Welcome to the very first official newsletter from the New Zealand College of Midwives. We hope you like the contents and if you wish to contribute to the newsletter we would be more than happy to publish any interesting articles about what you are doing in your area, what you would like the College to do for you or how you see the College functioning or problems you have in accepting the College. We hope to have a monthly newsletter to keep you all up to date.

Enclosed is a postal vote that needs to be returned by Friday 16th December. The vote is for the National Constitution that some of you already have and others have received with this newsletter. You need to read the National Constitution and fill out the postal vote. Please return it to: PO Box 21-106, Christchurch. Without ratification of this constitution we are unable to function. If you have reservations about any part of the constitution you have the opportunity to change it at the next AGM.

The membership forms have been rolling in from all around the country, from Kaitia in the north to Matura in the South. Keep up the good work and why not enrol a friend. We haven't had any response to the Logo competition yet, so get thinking as your design could be the winner. All designs to be in by the end of January please, so they can be judged by the National Committee.

How far have we come now? As we write, sections are holding winding up meetings of the NZNA and starting College of Midwives regions. Canterbury had a very successful first meeting and the Regional Committee has been formed. Its all very new and exciting but we are also feeling our way. Obviously some things will go wrong but the **people** involved are wanting it to work, so together it will succeed with a little help from our friends. The first step has been taken and that was the most difficult. Everything will fall into place eventually so pat yourselves on the back that you are part of the future. Will the regions that have formed their committees please send a list of committee members to: PO Box 21-106, Christchurch. We have had some great letters of encouragement from people all over the country, and it's so reassuring that you think we are the right track. Thank you, it makes it all worthwhile.

We hope the packages that we sent out to all the chairpeople of the Midwives Sections have been dispersed to you. The package included -Guidelines on how to wind up your section and open the College of Midwives Region, Posters, how to recruit people in your local area, information on the logo competition, Regional Rules from the Canterbury and West Coast Region to help you formulate your own, information on the Structure of the College and the membership forms. If you haven't seen this package please contact your chairperson or committee members.

## New Zealand College of Midwives Postal Ballot

I \_\_\_\_\_ do/do not accept the

National constitution of the New Zealand College of Midwives.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Workshops

AUCKLAND - Saturday 10th December 1988.

Day Workshop 9.30 am - 4.30 pm. Contact: Debbie MacGregor  
24 Bellavista Road,  
Herne Bay,  
Auckland 2.  
Ph: 762 327

TAURANGA - Sunday 11th December 1988.

Afternoon Workshop 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm. Contact: Pauline Scott,  
Childbirth Education  
Network,  
PO Box 7042,  
Tauranga.  
Ph: 440 272

WELLINGTON - Monday 12th December 1988.

Afternoon Workshop 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm.  
Evening Lecture 7.00 pm - 9.30 pm. Contact: Janet Nixon,  
Wellington Home Birth Ass.  
PO Box 9130,  
Wellington.  
Ph: 896 274

CHRISTCHURCH - Thursday 15th December 1988.

Morning Workshop 8.45 pm - 12.30 pm.  
Afternoon Workshop 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm. Contact: Kathy Anderson  
34 Rutland St.,  
Christchurch 1.  
Ph: 554 700

DUNEDIN - Tuesday 13th - Wednesday 14th December 1988.

Tuesday - Evening Lecture 7.00 pm - 9.30 pm.  
Wednesday - Morning Workshop 10.00 am - 12.00 am.  
- Afternoon Workshop 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm.

Contact: Jenny Drew,  
102 Cannington Rd.,  
Dunedin.  
Ph: 771 300

By the time the first AGM comes around, in April or May we will be able to confidently say who we are and speak out for our profession. We have grown up and should be proud of what we have !!!! We look forward to hearing from you all so write in and let's talk to each other. Don't wait for someone else write, make Wednesday your letter writing day, to us!

Karen Guilliland has been invited to put forward the midwifery perspective at the National Cervical Screening workshop, and so is off to Wellington on the 6-8th December. We all hope it will be a productive session. There is so much we can do towards implementing the Cartwright report, midwives doing smears perhaps or questioning the procedures for cervical screening in your area and ensuring patient advocacy. We would like to hear from you. There is some interesting reading in the Nursing Journal about the cervical screening (Page 5) With regard to the industrial side of things, there are redundancies and closing of our maternity hospitals. We hope you are fighting these closures and not being intimidated by the Hospital Boards.

Yours Sincerely

The Board of Management

PS One of our members, Marion Lovell from Wellington, presented a wonderful paper under "Priorities for Practice" at the Norman Peyer workshop in Christchurch, well done Marion.

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Karen Guilliland - National Chairperson  
Jacqui Anderson - National Secretary  
Kathy Anderson - National Treasurer  
Anthea Franks - Former Canterbury / West Coast Chairperson  
Julie Hasson - Former Canterbury / West Coast Secretary  
Del Lewis - Former Canterbury / West Coast Treasurer

We have been meeting nearly every week to get things set up. We want your ideas too to help formulate the newsletter and shape the College. Karen works at the Christchurch Polytechnic and is well known in Christchurch for her energy and drive for women's health and wellbeing. Jacqui works in labour ward at Christchurch Womens Hospital and is a strong advocate for women in labour. Kathy Anderson used to work in labour ward too but has decided to have personal experience and is the mother of a wonderful little big boy. Anthea is an English Midwife whose patient husband has a computer. She works in the Out Patients Department. Julie Hasson is a newly qualified midwife of a year and has enthusiasm and ideas to help the women in labour ward as well as the BOM. Del

## BREAKDOWN OF NUMBERS IN THE COLLEGE

The following numbers are correct at 24th November 1988

Northland Region	= 12
Auckland Region	= 41
Central / Eastern Region	= 8
Waikato / Bay of Plenty Region	= 4
Taranaki / Wanganui Region	= 12
Wellington Region	= 18
Nelson Region	= 2
Marlborough Region	= 0
Canterbury/ West Coast Region	= 74
Otago Region	= 14
Southland Region	= 4
TOTAL	-----
	189
	=====

There are consumers and affiliated groups in these numbers and we would like to welcome you. We need your input. In Canterbury / West Coast region, we have 4 consumers on the Regional Committee of 14 and we look forward to working with them.

There are some areas that need some assistance in sorting out problems, so please do contact your chairperson and she will bring your thoughts to the National Section Meeting on December 5th 1988 in Wellington. We are sure we can iron out the problems and help you feel comfortable with the College.

### Bicultural Update

Karen has met with Lynda Erihe (Secretary of the National Maori Nurses Council) to ask for her advice on ways in which Maori Women could feel included in the College. She advised that networking between Maori women and midwives on an individual and regional level. She suggested the calling of a hui would be a way of helping this process.

We intend to follow up this advice.

## 12 DECISION MAKING

- 12.1 Decisions at national committee shall be made by consensus. Voting shall take place when consensus is not possible on the basis of one vote per region, one vote per consumer and one vote per board. (See 7.4 + 7.5)
- 12.2 Decisions at AGMs and SGMs is by consensus. Voting shall take place when consensus is not possible and shall be by postal ballot to all members.

## 13 CONTROL OF NATIONAL FUNDS

- 13.1 The national committee makes decisions regarding use and investment of national funds.
- 13.2 The College through its finance coordinator shall keep records of its accounts.
- 13.3 All funds received by or on behalf of the College shall be paid into the College's bank account.
- 13.4 The College's bank account shall be operated by the finance coordinator and one other signatory from the board of management. These signatories are authorised by national committee to sign all cheques and withdrawal slips drawn on the College's account.
- 13.5 Capitation
  - 13.5.1 Finance will be obtained on a per capita basis as determined at the AGM or SGM. This amount to be sent from the regions at a date set by the national committee.
- 13.6 Members from the College shall be excluded from personal liability in respect of the financial commitment of the College which shall be guaranteed solely by the College's assets.
- 13.7 The national committee of the College shall not be responsible for debts incurred by any region.

## 14 SEAL

- 14.1 The common seal of the College shall be kept in the custody of the board of management's finance coordinator.
- 14.2 The common seal shall be affixed to such documents as the national committee decides

## CONFERENCE

The College will hold a conference every two years.

## 16 ALTERATION OF RULES

- 16.1 The rules of the College may be altered, added to or rescinded only by a resolution at an AGM or SGM of the College.
- 16.2 Any proposed change shall be included in the notification calling the meeting.

## 17 WINDING UP

- 17.1 On the winding up or dissolution of the College, the surplus of assets of the College after payment of all liabilities and expenses, shall be distributed in such a manner as the College or national committee shall decide, provided that no portion of such assets or surplus funds shall be distributed to any member of the College.

**9 BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

The board of management is made up of 6 members from the region elected to hold national office.

**9.1 The functions of the board of management**

- 9.1.1 Keep a register of members.
  - 9.1.2 keep records and to handle the College's finances.
  - 9.1.3 Give an annual statement of income, expenditure and a balance sheet to the register of the Incorporated Societies.
  - 9.1.4 Inform members of meetings.
  - 9.1.5 Notify the register of any change of the address of the society.
  - 9.1.6 Give notice to the registrar of any changes in the rules of the society.
  - 9.1.7 Have control of the common seal as stated in the rules.
  - 9.1.8 Carry out the policies and directions of the National Committee.
  - 9.1.9 Provide a newsletter to all members.
  - 9.1.10 Co-opt members as necessary.
  - 9.1.11 May employ a person to carry out secretarial duties.
  - 9.1.12 Nominate from amongst its own membership a spokesperson and co-ordinator of finances
- 9.2 The region elected to hold national office and its board of management are elected for two years with a two year right of renewal.**

**10 MEETINGS**

- 10.1 The Annual General Meeting of the College shall be held each year, and not more than 15 months after the previous AGM.
- 10.2 Any regional member may request the national committee to hold a special general meeting, specifying the issues to be discussed.
- 10.3 National committee meetings will be throughout the year as required, in the region in which the board of management is situated.
- 10.4 Board of management meetings will be throughout the year as required.
- 10.5 Notice of meetings
  - 10.5.1 A minimum of 14 days notice of all AGMs and SGMs shall be given in the College newsletter.
  - 10.5.2 The notice shall specify time, date and location of the meeting and specify the reason for calling the meeting.

**11 QUORUM**

- 11.1 The quorum for any meeting of the national committee shall be fifty percent of the members. Teleconference maybe used to hold these meetings.
- 11.2 The quorum for any meeting of the board of management is four.
- 11.3 The quorum for an AGM of SGM shall be all national committee, regional representatives or their designated proxy.

**1. Name**

The name of the society shall be  
THE NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES (INCORPORATED)  
(Maori Translation to be added)

**2. Interpretation**

Unless the context otherwise requires:

- "College" shall mean The New Zealand College of Midwives (Maori name to be inserted)
- "conference" shall mean the Biannual Conference of the College.
- "National Office" shall mean the registered office of the college situated at such a place as the National Committee may from time to time determine.
- In this constitution any term implying the feminine gender shall be deemed to include the masculine.
- "National Committee" shall be the regional representatives, the Board of Management and three consumer representatives.
- "The Board of Management" shall be comprised of six regionally elected members of the region elected to hold national office.

**3. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives for which the College is established are:

- 3.1 To encourage and enhance the profession of midwifery in New Zealand.
- 3.2 To uphold the ICM definition of the midwife's role and scope of practice.
- 3.3 To set and promote the New Zealand "Standards of Midwifery Practice, Service and Education."
- 3.4 To adopt and promote the New Zealand Nurses Association "Midwifery Policy Statement"
- 3.5 To speak nationally and regionally in the interests of midwives.
- 3.6 To speak nationally and regionally in the interests of women, babies and families in New Zealand.
- 3.7 To nominate midwife advisors to the Minister of Health and Education and Womens' Affairs.
- 3.8 To promote midwifery education and research.
- 3.9 To protect the midwifery register.
- 3.10 To produce newsletters, publish books and material concerning midwifery.
- 3.10 To promote bi-culturism in midwifery and to incorporate the principle of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- 3.11 To liaise with other organisations within New Zealand and internationally to promote the objectives of the College.
- 3.12 To be a member of ICM.

#### 4 PHILOSOPHY

In the implementation of these objectives, the College relies on the following philosophy:

Midwifery is a profession concerned with the promotion of women's health. It is centered upon sexuality and reproduction and an understanding of women as healthy individuals progressing through the life cycle.

Midwifery is: Dynamic in its approach based upon an integration of knowledge that is derived from the arts and the sciences; tempered by experience and research; collaborative with other health professionals.

Midwifery care is delivered in a manner that is flexible, creative, empowering and supportive.

Midwifery care takes place in the context of mutual support. Clients play a role in shaping midwifery.

(Midwifery Policy statement NZNA 1988)

#### 5 POWERS

The College shall be empowered to:

- 5.1 Make any decisions at its meetings which could further the objectives of the College.
- 5.2 Employ such persons as may be deemed necessary by the National Committee.
- 5.3 Take in gift any property whether or not subject to any special trust for one or more of the objectives of the society.
- 5.4 Erect, buy or rent property or do all lawful things as maybe deemed incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives. Any borrowing maybe unsecured or secured against any or all assets of the College. Authority for the borrowing is given by a resolution passed at a special or annual general meeting, with 14 days notice given to members of such a resolution.

#### 6 NONPROFIT STATUS

- 6.1 The College shall not engage in any activities involving private pecuniary profit for its members.

#### 7 MEMBERSHIP

- 7.1 People who support the objectives and philosophy of the College shall become members upon paying any membership fee fixed under these rules.
- 7.2 There is individual membership to regions.
- 7.3 Honorary Members
  - 7.3.1 Those members who by virtue of their contribution to midwifery can be granted honorary membership by the national committee.
  - 7.3.2 Honorary membership shall be proposed by a region of the College and shall be subject to such criteria as the national committee shall determine.
  - 7.3.3 An honorary member shall pay no subscription, but have all rights and responsibilities of a member.

#### 7.4 Full Members

- 7.4.1 Any person who is a registered midwife or student midwife may apply for full membership of the College.

#### 7.5 Associate Members

- 7.5.1 Any person not being a registered midwife may apply for associate membership of the College.
- 7.5.2 Associate members shall have no voting rights over matters concerning the midwifery profession.

#### 7.6 Affiliate Members

- 7.6.1 Any organisation may apply for affiliate membership but will have no voting rights.

#### 7.7 Rights and responsibilities of members

Subject to other provisions in this constitution, all members shall:

- 7.7.1 Have the right to nominate and elect to positions of responsibility, to propose motions and vote at any meeting of the College.
- 7.7.2 Be eligible to accept nominations for positions of responsibility.
- 7.7.3 Shall receive on joining a copy of the constitution of the College.

#### 7.8 Termination of membership

A person shall cease to be a member if:

- 7.8.1 The member gives notice in writing to the region.
- 7.8.2 The member has paid no subscription for one year.
- 7.8.3 The National Committee decides their actions are prejudicial to the objects and philosophy of the College.

#### 7.9 Membership Fees

- 7.9.1 May be determined from time to time at the College's Annual General Meeting or any Special Meeting, by a consensus decision or failing a consensus by a simple majority.

#### 8 NATIONAL COMMITTEE

National Committee shall be made up of one full member from each region, three consumer representatives and the Board of Management.

- 8.1 Functions of National Committee
  - 8.1.1 Provide direction to the Board of Management.
  - 8.1.2 Do such things as will enable the College to achieve its objectives.
  - 8.1.3 Facilitate communication between regions.
  - 8.1.4 Call for nominations for consumer membership of the National Committee three months prior to the AGM and organises voting on the same.
  - 8.1.5 Call for regional nominations for national Board of Management every two years, 15 months prior to intended change.
  - 8.1.6 Approve regional constitutions.
- 8.2 National Committee members are re-elected for a period of two years, with a two year right of renewal.