

New Zealand College of Midwives



NEWSLETTER



Number 2 • December 1988

Up to Date Numbers

Consumers

Books and Videos

National Section

AGM



Sian Burgess
17 Malvern Rd
Mt ALbert
AUCKLAND

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

New Zealand College of Midwives
PO Box 2106 CHRISTCHURCH



A FEW WORDS FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Dear Member

Only a few days to go and we can say goodbye to 1988 and reflect on the year's activities. What a year it has been too. Writing of the Education Standards, Standards of practise and Policy Statement for Midwives. A lot of hard work has gone into these three aspects alone and we would like to thank all those people involved in their construction. (The Education standards are still to be finalised). A very successful Midwives conference, the Cartwright report to pave the way for women's advocacy, restructuring of the NZNA and the setting up of the College. We certainly cannot be accused of letting grass grow under our feet!

We hope you are enjoying the seasons festivities and the warm weather. To add to your entertainment we give you the December Issue of the New Zealand College of Midwives newsletter.

We need to apologise for an error in the previous newsletter, the editor left Del Lewis off the end of the Board of Management. Del Lewis works in a outlying hospital where continuity of care is practised. She is a member of Maternity Action Alliance and other organisations. She is a valuable member who should not be overlooked. We haven't heard from many people on issues that are important to you so get those letters rolling. It seems we are going on very well in the course of things and you will read later of when we are to hold the first Annual General Meeting. Anyway do read on and have a very successful New Year in 1989!

Yours sincerely

The Board of Management

Decision Making

In 12 Decision Making of the Draft Constitution it states,

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.'

The rule that associate members can only vote on non-midwifery issues still applies at this level.

We have had a number of letters expressing concern at the Colleges support of lay midwifery. This has surprised and concerned us as we feel our Objectives in the Draft Constitution do not suggest this. We are aiming to enhance and promote the role and existence of the Registered midwife but have work to do to make it easier and more desirable for women to train to become Registered midwives and therefore increase our numbers and our standard of service.

It has been very positive to get feed back concerning these issues as it enables information to be clarified therefore avoiding potential problems. So keep up the correspondence.

Remember, if members have any concerns with the present constitution bring them to the first AGM in 1989, either personally or through your region, where they can be discussed.

This was proposed and carried. This proposal ensured continued communications until all regions were up and running.

MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS

A number of members have written indicating their confusion regarding the different categories of membership and their associated voting rights. We hope this will answer any questions these members and others may have regarding this topic. Some members may have joined using the original membership forms which did not have all membership categories on it.

Full Members

As stated in 7.4 Full Members of the Draft Constitution,

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

These members have full voting rights, that is they may vote on issues concerning the midwifery profession and also issues not concerning the midwifery profession. This category does not include lay midwives as they are not registered to practice midwifery in New Zealand.

Associate Members

Following this in 7.5 Associate Members of the Draft Constitution,

7.5.1: 'Any person not being a registered midwife may apply for associate membership of the College.'

This includes people who may work in the area of midwifery/obstetrics, and/or have an interest in the direction of midwifery. eg: Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses, Consumers etc.

Associate members have no voting rights over matters concerning the midwifery profession (eg: formulating standards for midwifery practice and education), but may vote on any other issues taken up by the College of Midwives regionally or nationally.

7.5.2: 'Associate members shall have no voting rights over matters concerning the midwifery profession.'

Affiliate Members

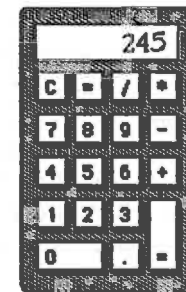
Affiliate membership is also available for organisations/groups with an interest in midwifery eg: Parent Centre, La Leche League etc. These groups have no voting rights as stated in 7.6 Affiliate Members of the Draft Constitution.

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

Breakdown of Numbers in the College
The following numbers are correct at 21/12/88

Northland Region	=	14
Auckland Region	=	41
Eastern/Central Region	=	21
Canty/West Coast region	=	85
Nelson Region	=	6
Otago Region	=	20
Southland Region	=	5
Taranaki/Wanganui Region	=	15
Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region	=	7
Wellington Region	=	31

TOTAL = 245



With every new member we have been sending the first newsletter so that you have a copy of the national constitution. However, we have now run out of the newsletters but we shall still be sending a constitution to each new member. The National constitution has been voted on and adopted, but will need to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting. Part of incorporation involves the publication of a constitution which is adopted and that is why we needed it voting on. If you have any problems with the constitution, bring them to the Annual General Meeting.

Postal Ballot

The results of the postal ballot on the National Constitution are:-



49 accepted and 4 did not accept.

Thank you for your replies.

The National Midwives Section Committee last met in early December in Wellington and the College of Midwives was discussed.

Each regional Chairperson gave a report on meetings and discussions held in their area to determine local views on the College and to gauge support. There still remains confusions in some regions as to the actual process of setting up, this was not unexpected and clarification was elicited. Some regions were further ahead in this process than others. Canterbury/West Coast, having the present Board of Management in its region, were further ahead in their organisation but the meeting was encouraged by the plans the other regions had to instigate the setting up of the College in their area. The overall comments received from each Chairperson clearly indicated there was Nationwide support and enthusiasm for the College. Those regions not already organised were to have all details finalised and regional Colleges set up by 31st March 1989. This date was set as a goal for all the regions to aim for. Very few members throughout the country envisaged the Midwives Section of NZNA continuing in tandem with the College. Most felt that their energies would be better directed into our own professional body.

Common concerns that arose included:-

- Consumer input: see enclosed article.
- Where do we stand with NZNA: Each individual must make their own decision as to whether they wish to subscribe to NZNA. At present they represent midwives industrially. The College of Midwives is for professional representation only. The College is not a union, NZNA is. The College envisages continued close relations with the NZNA through Work Place Committees and mutual concerns ie. the Nurses Act etc. Those College members who remain members of NZNA will be able to have their say in NZNA via Work Place Committees and representation on NZNA Regional Councils. There may well be times when the College and NZNA will be involved in discussions on subjects which involve both organisations. The College as a professional body in its own right has earned the right to be consulted on all midwifery issues and will work to ensure this happens.

Accepting that each region will have 'rolled over' to the College by 31st March 1989, the National Midwives Section Committee proposed that the National Midwives Section NZNA be wound up by 31st March 1989, its assets be transferred to the New Zealand College of Midwives in accordance with the rules of winding up within its constitution.

Logo Competition

We have had some great designs for the New Zealand College of Midwives Logo. To give everyone a chance of entering the competition we have decided to extend the closing date until 31st March 1989. Any art designer students among you or if you would like to offer suggestions about the logo, we would be pleased to hear from you.



Books/ Videos That Have Been Recommended

The Childbirth Education Network has recommended the book *SIMPLY BIRTH* by Pauline Scott and Anna Hedley. They have been working on it for the last two years and will be in publication in April 1989. (To be published by Moana Press) The forward has been written by Michel Odent (did you see any of his workshops?) and there is a preview video. The book takes the approach that childbirth is not an isolated event but involves the family. (physically, socially and emotionally) It shows the birth of Sarah, John and Carol's first baby.



There is another video out called *Active Birth*. It shows the birth of the second child to Caroline and how it progresses from home to hospital and includes giving birth on all fours. This is available from Karen Guillard (write to the Board of Management)

Since Michel Odent had been around the country sharing his experiences in birth it is probably common knowledge to read his book *BIRTH REBORN* or his latest book *PRIMAL HEALTH*. His philosophy in childbirth is a breath of fresh air to most of us and although we cannot undertake many of his practises we can at least aim towards his philosophy.