

New Zealand College of Midwives



NEWSLETTER

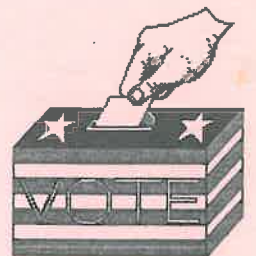


Number 4 : March 1989

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BOOKS & VIDEOS

COCKTAIL PARTY



Midwives
make it a labour
of love

New Zealand College of Midwives

PO Box 2106 CHRISTCHURCH

Sian Burgess
17 Malvern Rd
Mt Albert
AUCKLAND
----> Member until 1 AGM 1989 <----



A FEW WORDS FROM THE
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Dear Everyone

Well, it's been a busy month for the B.O.M. in Christchurch as we're sure it has in the regions with the anticipation of all Midwives Sections "rolling over" to the College by the 31st March 1989.

This is the last newsletter before the 1st and 2nd of April and organisation of the National Committee Meeting, AGM and Cocktail Party are well under way. It will be an important weekend and we hope to see as many members as possible but are also aware of commitments and expense that will prevent people from attending. Therefore it is important that your chairperson or representatives are aware of your views in order to convey them at the meeting.

Again we make a plea for individual or regional input into the newsletter. It is very important that members are aware of what is happening around the country and that information is coming from more than one source. We presently insert a local section into the newsletter for the Canterbury/West Coast Region and are happy to do this for other regions also. The future format and distribution of the newsletters needs to be discussed at the National Committee Meeting, but please send to us any articles that would be of interest to midwives and women throughout New Zealand. We all have a lot to offer.

The next newsletter will be scheduled for the middle of April, therefore please ensure articles and/or your regional insert is here with us by the 10th of April.

Hoping to see you in April.

Board of Management

BOOKS AND VIDEOS

MICHEL ODENT VIDEO

We have just received a letter from the Childbirth Education Network in Tauranga advising that they now have a video of one of Michel Odent's lectures available. It is 1 1/2 hours long and will cost about \$35 - yet to be confirmed. To purchase a copy and for more information, write to:

Childbirth Education Network,
P.O.Box 7042,
Tauranga.

MIDWIVES, RESEARCH AND CHILDBIRTH

This is a series of three volumes bringing together studies of particular relevance to the care provided by midwives for the childbearing women and their families. They encompass a wide range of aspects of midwifery practice in the antenatal through to postnatal period, but also look at midwifery education and careers. The first volume is edited by Sarah Robinson and Ann M. Thomson and is available now.

WOMEN'S HEALTH SERIES

An international series of four investigative, informative and jargon-free books written by women about all aspects of our bodies and our health. The books are commissioned and introduced by Sheila Kitzinger; each takes into account women's lives in different countries and cultures, and challenges conventional assumptions about health issues which affect us.

"The Midwife Challenge"	Sheila Kitzinger (Editor)
"The Politics of Breastfeeding"	Gabrielle Palmer
"Motherhood: What It Does to Your Mind"	Jane Price
"The Tentative Pregnancy"	Barbara Katz Rotham

PROCEDURE

The Chairperson will be elected by the Committee;

A consumer will be asked to record the minutes from which an annual report will be prepared.

Except for the PPHN, terms of office will be for a maximum of two years, but with two health professionals and two consumers being replaced each year.

The Committee will have the power to appoint a consultant as necessary, on an ad hoc basis.

The PPHN will be notified of the composition of the Committee by the local Homebirth Association, and she will arrange the date and venue of these meetings.

Every practising DMW in the region will have the right to attend. If the PPHN wishes to question the management of a home birth, or a complaint, the midwife involved will be notified in advance. In the case of unusual circumstances, an extraordinary meeting can be called by a DMW, the PPHN or a consumer.

In cases of a complaint, the complainant will be present to present her/his case against the midwife. The midwife will have the right to ask for an adjournment and to seek legal representation. In the event that a midwife is reported to the Nursing Council, it would be preferable if the complaint were, in the first instance, referred to the Committee and the decision of the Committee would carry weight in any Nursing Council deliberation.

ACTION

The Auckland Homebirth Association will:

- 1) Nominate four consumers;
- 2) Nominate a currently practising home birth doctor;
- 3) These nominations to be submitted to Ms Carol Petersen by 1 December 1988;
- 4) Prepare, in conjunction with the Auckland DMWs, an evaluation form to be given to every woman having a home birth or an early discharge, on which she can make an anonymous evaluation of the service provided. The Homebirth Association will collate these and summarise them for presentation at the annual review.

The Auckland Branch of the Midwives Section, NZNA will be asked to nominate a practising midwife to sit on the Committee.

Evaluation will be based on the W.H.O. definition of a midwife, i.e. as a responsible and accountable independent practitioner; the National Midwives Section, NZNA, Standards for Practice & Service; the Nursing Council of New Zealand Standards and Criteria for Midwifery Practice, 1983; and W.H.O. documents Appropriate Technology for Birth and Postpartum Care. It will also be based on birth as a social event as well as a normal physiological function, and home births as a safe and viable option which an increasing number of women are demanding as their right.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1) To annually review and evaluate the practice of each DMW who will present a summary of her year's work including the number of births, transfers, difficult cases etc, and a self-evaluation.
- 2) To provide an opportunity to review difficulties arising from legal strictures, departmental (DOH, Treasury) blockages, and bureaucratic problems with area health boards.
- 3) To bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate bodies with recommendations for improvements.
- 4) To provide a forum in which to share knowledge and information.
- 5) To share access to resources - educational, social, material.
- 6) To facilitate consumer input and participation.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

As agreed at the National Homebirth Conference, Wellington, May 1988, each Regional Review Committee will comprise:

- A PPHN of the region (or equivalent);
- A DMW approved by the Domiciliary Midwives Society Inc.;
- A practising hospital midwife, preferably one who works in delivery suite, nominated by the local branch of the midwives section, NZNA;
- A currently practising home birth doctor nominated by the local Homebirth Association; and
- Four consumers, members of the Homebirth Association, and nominated by that association.



FUND RAISING IDEAS FOR YOUR REGION

Yes, **MONEY**. It causes numerous hassles but we can't do much without it.

What about organising a workshop? It's an excellent way of raising money and our profile and utilises our professional skills.

Workshops can range from a couple of hours to a day depending on the topic. Utilise consumer groups and allied professionals in your area.

Getting together at workshops helps us to share our knowledge and recognise the need for the updating of skills and information.

Only a small charge needs to be made and you will be surprised how much profit you can make to buy resources, e.g.: books, videos, posters, etc. A little effort goes a long way.

Some suggestions are:

- Breast Feeding Techniques (LaLeche League)
- Grief (Stillbirth Support Group)
- Post Natal Depression (Post-Natal Depression Support Group)
- Active Birth
- Homeopathy/Herbs/Reflexology
- Baby Massage
- Post Natal Exercises
- Listening/Counselling skills
- Teaching Techniques/Skills
- Immunisation
- Significant Diseases/Syndromes, e.g.: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Aids

If anyone has any other ideas for fund raising or workshops please write and let us know.

CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, SEMINARS, PARTIES?!

* N.Z.C.O.M. National Committee Meeting:
1st April 1989. (Who chose that date?)

The meeting will be held in the Christchurch Womens Hospital Nurses Hostel from 10 a.m. We welcome observers from the regions.

As a consequence, women who are determined to have a home birth, are having their babies at home unattended. As our concern is for safe childbirth with the aim of a happy and healthy mother and child, we would like to make the following recommendation:

That the necessary legislative changes be made to the Nurses Act to remove the legal requirement of responsibility to be undertaken by a medical practitioner; so midwives can practise independently and autonomously.

As improvements have been made to midwifery training to better prepare them for the role of attending normal births, we feel that midwives should have the responsibility of attending suitably screened low risk pregnant women without requiring the supervision of a General Practitioner. This is accepted practice internationally and we don't see any reason for New Zealand midwives to be excluded from such independent practice.

Such a change in the legislation would

- meet the needs of women wanting home births
- relieve the pressure on GP's unable to provide domiciliary obstetrics
- allow appropriate scope of practice to midwives
- reduce the number of unattended home births.



DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES STANDARDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

At a meeting held 19 October 1988 it was decided to establish a Domiciliary Midwives Standards Review Committee. The meeting agreed that Carol Peterson be the Principal Public Health Nurse on the Committee; and that Joan Donley, subject to the approval of the Domiciliary Midwives Society Inc, be the Domiciliary Midwife on the Committee.

The Committee will become effective from 1 January 1989.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES' STANDARDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

PHILOSOPHY

Peer review is seen as an ongoing process of evaluation and education in which the 'relatively independent' domiciliary midwife (DMW) who works outside the hierarchical hospital system can annually review her practice with consumer involvement, (consumers being defined as women who have had home births).

It is very important that midwives as health providers for women present papers at this congress.

Deadline for receipt: 15 January 1990.

For further information: Fourth International Congress on Women's Health Issues, Dept. of Nursing Studies, Massey University, Palmerston North.

INTERESTING READING

CAESARIAN BIRTH GROUP

The NZ COM has recently subscribed to the Caesarean Birth Group's National Newsletter. In their latest newsletter they have asked for a "Midwives Attitude and Opinion towards the Caesarean Birth Issue". They feel this could make interesting reading in a future newsletter.

Would anyone like to take up the challenge to put pen to paper?

The address is: Caesarean Birth Group.
P.O. Box 493,
Invercargill.



SUBMISSION ON THE NEED FOR INDEPENDENT MIDWIFERY PRACTISE.

* WRITTEN BY JUCI STREIB

This submission was sent to David Caygill, the then Minister of Health, in 1988.

Due to the increasing demand for home births in Northland, General Practitioners have come under considerable pressure to provide medical cover for domiciliary midwives prepared to attend births.

Although GP's generally feel they would want to provide the necessary assistance, particularly for their own patients, many feel unable to take on a home birth case load for some of the following reasons

1. Lack of confidence.
2. Lack of experience.
3. No recent obstetric experience.
4. Incompatible with the wide and varying demands of General Practice.
5. Too much time and commitment involved.

* N.Z.C.O.M. Inaugural Annual General Meeting:
2nd April 1989.

The meeting will be held in the Christchurch Womens Hospital Parent Education Room situated in the Nurses Hostel, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Any items for the agenda, remits, and amendments to the draft constitution to be discussed at the AGM must be forwarded to the Board of Management by the 19th March 1989. An agenda for the AGM will be sent to all members.

* N.Z.C.O.M. Official Opening:
2nd April 1989.

A Cocktail Party will be held from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. to celebrate the establishment of the College. Guest of Honour will be Joan Donley, without whom none of this would ever have happened.

We have invited Members of Parliament, Consumer Groups and prominent persons who have a direct interest or influence in midwifery. Very importantly, the media has also been invited, and press releases are presently being compiled for use nationally and regionally.

Invitations to the Cocktail Party are open to members and their partners at a cost of \$10 per head, which includes champagne drinking and exotic nibbling!

Venue: Elizabeth House,
6 Circuit Street,
Merivale,
Christchurch.

RSVP by 24th March with money:
PO Box 21-106,
Christchurch

or phone:
Karen Guilliland 559-579 Julie Hasson 858-143
Jacqui Anderson 39088 Kathy Anderson 554-700
Del Lewis 325-546



Pack your glad rags and we'll make it a weekend to remember!

Itinerary

Auckland March 9, 10, 11.
Co-ordinators: Dr. Mike Watt, Dr. R. Milford.

Bay of Islands March 12, 13.
Co-ordinators: Dr. Roger Tuck, Dr. Graham Perry.

Wellington March 20, 21
Co-ordinators: Dr. Carol Shand, Prof. Jeff Watson.

Christchurch March 22
Co-ordinator: Dr. Terry Caseley.

Dunedin March 23.
Co-ordinators: Dr. Don Wilson, Dr. Sandy Webb,
Dr. Nigel Dickson.

- * Fifth National German Midwives Conference:
22 - 24th May 1989.

Anyone wishing to attend please contact the Board of Management and we will have the programme translated!

German lesson of the week:

Hebammen = Midwife.

- * International Childbirth Education Association
International Convention: 23 - 25 June 1989.

The convention will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The programme offers a wide variety of topics related to education, health care and counselling needs of childbearing families.

Registration Information: Melinda Vaughn,
Convention Registrar, ICEA,
P.O. Box 20048,
Minneapolis,
Minnesota 55420-0048.

- * Fourth International Congress on Women's Health Issues:
8 - 10th November 1990.

The Congress will be held at Massey University, Palmerston North. This is an advance notice and call for abstracts of completed or on-going research, for possible presentation to the Congress.

Theme: Women as Health Providers within a Context of Culture, Society and Health Policy.

- * Sixth Biennial Conference of the Australian College of Midwives Inc: Darwin, 21 - 23rd June 1989.

Programme and registration information was published in last month's newsletter. We have access to a great offer if a number of people are interested in going. If numbers exceed ten we can offer the round trip for \$1610.

Christchurch --> Sydney --> Alice Springs
--> Darwin --> Alice Springs
--> Sydney --> Christchurch.

Departs 19th June. Arrives Darwin 20th June.
Stopovers can be made in Alice Springs and/or Sydney.

Please contact the Board of Management as soon as possible if you are interested.

- * N.Z. O & G. Society "Update '89" Conference:
17 - 19th March 1989.

This will be held at the Hyatt Kingsgate Hotel, Rotorua. Topics covered include: Contraception, the Consumer, Cervical Cancer, Induction Techniques, Instrumental Delivery, Miscarriage and Ectopic Pregnancy, Surrogacy, Infertility, Menopause, Trends Towards Natural Childbirth.

Registration: Dr. Warren Robertson,
P.O. Box 133,
Ngaruawahia.
Ph: (07124) 8893 or 8242.

They need midwives there!

- * Medical Management of Child Sexual Abuse Seminar:
March 9 - 23rd 1989.

Speaker for the tour is Dr. Astrid Heger, Director of Child Sexual Abuse Clinic, California. Objectives include: Understanding and Recognising the Sexually Abused Child, Sensitive history taking, Facilitation of treatment programmes.