

# National midwives' day

Engraved silver spoons will be given by the New Zealand College of Midwives (Otago) to each baby born in the Otago geographical area on September 1, 1989, which is National Midwives' Day.

This year's celebration will have both a poignant touch because of the proposed closure of Queen Mary maternity hospital, and a jovial touch as midwives celebrate the day under the auspices of their new organisation, the New Zealand College of Midwives.

The college has been running since its official opening in April, 1989. It is a professional body for midwives and anyone else, especially consumers, who share the philosophy of the college.

The philosophy of the college is: — "Midwifery is a profession concerned with the promotion of women's health. It is centred 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).

The role of the midwife is one of continual change —

keeping abreast of new research and changing needs of consumers, while maintaining the legal and safety aspects of the profession.

Consumers and midwives work together, being interdependent upon each other to provide a safe antenatal environment, an optimal childbirthing experience, and competent parenting skills.

Within the Dunedin district midwives are based within Queen Mary maternity hospital, with a small group working independently within the community to provide comprehensive choice for women and their significant others.

The midwives in Dunedin

would like the public to join them on national midwives' day on the top floor of Queen Mary maternity hospital for afternoon tea

from 2-3pm, on Friday, September 1. This will be a get-together of consumers and midwives to share their experiences.

1st September 1989

NZCCM Balloons were given to every baby in Queen Mary Hospital and balloons were sent to all regional hospitals. An open afternoon tea was held at Q.M. Hospital for women and midwives to share experiences.

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## Silver spoon baby



Friday midwives around New Zealand celebrated national midwives' day. In the occasion all babies born at Dunedin's Queen Mary Maternity Hospital on 1st September received a silver spoon. Baby Georgina, pictured here with her mother Mrs. Guthrie and sister Anna, was the first baby born at the hospital on Friday and the first to receive a silver spoon.



6 Babies born in Otago Region on 1st September 1989

Queen Mary Hospital 4  
Balclutha Hospital 1  
Oamaru Hospital 2  
all received Silver Spoons

born with a silver spoon in her mouth? and weighed in at 4.2kg was the first baby born at Queen Mary Maternity Hospital, Dunedin, yesterday. Her mother, Mrs. Jenny Guthrie, said the new arrival was a week late. "She waited for this day to be born. She must have known."