

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE AUCKLAND BRANCH OF THE NZHBA - 8 April 1984

1. Chairperson's Welcome - Sue Paterson opened the meeting and welcomed the 30 or so people present.
2. Secretary's Report on the activities and events of 1983 - Brenda Hinton reported on the things the Auckland Branch had worked toward and achieved in 1983. Notably the MSC Report and the Nurses Amendment Bill. A major cause for concern is still the chronic shortage of domiciliary midwives in the Auckland area.  
Passed - Barbara Mcfarlane  
Seconded - Jenni Churton
3. Remit for National Conference - Deryn Cooper presented and backgrounded the remit the Auckland Committee proposed to put forward at National Conference:-  
Whereas Branches already function as autonomous units and develop tactics according to local crises and conditions; and  
Whereas we are a small organisation with limited funds; and  
Whereas communication and support can be coordinated within the structure of a national network and without the structure of a national body;  
We, the Auckland Branch of the NZHBA submit that the New Zealand Home Birth Association be disincorporated.

Deryn stated that although the NZHBA was an incorporated organisation with a constitution we had never in fact worked within our constitution. That we of the Auckland Branch Committee felt that we could function more efficiently if we were free of the restrictions of the constitution and the financial drain of a National Body. We feel that direct communication between the Branches is more efficient and effective than filtering our communication through the National Body, similarly that individual Branches need to be able to make statements to the media in their districts as the need arises rather than referring these through the National Body. In short having a National Body is both unwieldy and expensive.

The Auckland Branch is not proposing that the individual branches no longer communicate and give each other support nor are we proposing that we all adopt different aims and ideals, rather that we simply do away with the National Body in favour of direct communication networks amongst Branches and that we throw out a constitution we have never worked to anyway. That we become a Federation of independent and affiliated Home Birth Associations, and in so doing give ourselves more time to work on the local and national issues and interests that concern our membership.

Questions from the floor

Will we lose kudos with Govt etc if we were to disincorporate and not have a National Spokesperson?

Deryn explained that we are such a small organisation that we have no kudos in any case, then outlined two cases where through functioning as independent Associations we had been more effective - These related to the Nurses Amendment Bill submissions. Each Branch was able to send written and oral submissions to the Select Committee. This meant that Select Committee members were able to get a greater appreciation of the wide-ranging concern of the effect of the amendments and also when it came to hearing oral submissions we were able to have several people present our case rather than just one as did other National Associations e.g. NZNA, NZNC. Deryn also described an incident where when working within the bounds of a National Body the Auckland Branch and The National Spokesperson had publicly contradicted each other - Pauline Ray's "NZ Listener" article "Midwives Tales" over a statement about policy or lack thereof on the subject of waterbirths.

The system of capitation - levies to the National Body was then explained.

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4. The Meeting then divided into discussion groups to discuss this remit and the question:- "What the Auckland Branch should be doing in 1984/5?"
5. Reporting back from the discussion groups.

### Remit.

Concern was expressed that the smaller branches, especially, may feel that the larger Auckland Branch was withdrawing its support from the Association leaving each Branch to fend for itself. When speaking to the remit at Nat AGM we should make it clear that we believed through disincorporating, the Branches would be able to of more direct assistance to each other than we are at present because there would be no need to filter our ideas and assistance through a National Body, we would be able to communicate directly and through our newsletters. That our aim is to retain the advantages of a being a National Organisation but lose the disadvantages of working through and supporting a National Body.

We need to have some course of action worked out should the other branches vote to retain a National Body. The meeting agreed that the Auckland Branch would disaffiliate but would offer to continue publishing the National Homebirth Newsletter and would be willing, if invited, to attend conferences etc and give whatever assistance and support we could.

### Directions for 1984/5

- Try to attract more Domiciliary Midwives.
- Encouraging and organising so that we get more members especially in the pre-birth and post birth population and that the the resources of all members are tapped to help in the work of the Assoc.
- Setting up a Telephone Tree.
- That members whose subs lapse should be reminded 1. By stamp on Newsletter. 2. By phone call or if no phone by letter.
- As members enrol they should be personally contacted to welcome them, explain our activities and enlist their help.
- Call for Area Coordinators in each of the suburbs- people who are willing to organise other members in their locality to undertake specific tasks.
- That the registration fee for Home Birth be raised from \$15-25 to improve our financial position so that we can aim to get a projector for use in the support groups and eventually make a film/video on Home Birth.
- That we should have more seminars and get togethers of members each year.
- e.g. newsheets be monthly aswell s quarterly newsletters to Auckland members ; Ante and postnatal "get togethers" in each area; regular seminars introducing relevant films, speakers books etc. baby clothes and equipment bring and buy on these occasions
- Raise sub to \$10 so that we can publish more brachure and advertise our existence and activities through community newspapers, community service on TV, and Community Noticeboard on the radio etc.
- Send a letter to all Auckland GPs outlining our aims and activities and asking for their support.
- Education - Offer speakers to groups e.g. National Womens antenatal class, Technical Institues nursing and physiotherapy students, Auckland Med School and any other nursing group.
- Suggest that the Dept of Community Medicine at the Med School have a panel discussion on Birth and offer DMW and parents to be on panel.
- Apply for funds to various organisations and businesses for newlsetter, films etc.

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- That we should undertake to do more fundraising  
That the membership sub should remain at \$5
- Organise for and encourage more support for parents in the immediate postnatal period - function of the Area coordinator perhaps? Matching people and needs keeping lists of people willing to help and needing help. Maybe we need a Support Pool Coordinator - those who have been helped must make themselves available to help at a later date.
- Mini AGM perhaps three monthly?
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Because there seemed to be a general feeling that the membership get together more regularly for business and social and educational reasons the meeting agreed to organise three monthly "Large Meetings" - The first will be held on Sunday 8 July at 2pm - venue to be finalised and details published in June newsletter.

6. Voting on Remits

Remit regarding Disincorporation for National Conference  
Proposed - Deryn Cooper  
Seconded - Daphne Mitten  
Passed - By overwhelming majority

Additional Remits regarding Fees and Subs Proposed by groups at Meeting.

Remit 1 - That the Registration Fee for the Auckland Branch be raised to \$25.  
Seconded Heather Waugh  
Passed

Remit 2 - That the annual sub to the Auckland Branch be raised to \$10  
Seconded -  
Not Passed

7. Treasurers' Report

Carolynn Mitchell read out the annual Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 1 April 1984.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Subscriptions	\$2520.00	Phone/Postage/Stat.	\$ 739.17
Donations/ Fundraising	1251.45	Travel/Hall Hire	352.10
Bank interest	47.16	Printing/Typing/Ink	987.65
	<u>3818.16</u>	Sundry-Sonicaid/Typewriter/ Support Group funds/ Books etc.	943.67
			<u>3185.29</u>
Excess of receipts over payments			632.87
	<u>\$3818.16</u>		<u>\$3818.16</u>
			<u>          </u>
AUCKLAND SAVINGS BANK			
Cash Book Balance as at 1 April 1984			\$2243.55
Plus unpresented Cheque 990			<u>55.30</u>
BALANCE AS PER BANK STATEMENT No. 69			<u>\$2298.85</u>
			<u>          </u>

\* Auckland Branch owes capitation to National Body \$398.00

8. Treasurer's Report Cont. - Moved - Caroline Mitchell  
Seconded - Barbara Macfarlane  
Passed.

8. Domiciliary Midwives Association Report

Joan Donley reported that Lynne Maclean of Wgtn had resigned as Sec. of this Assoc. Gillian McNicol had taken over as acting Sec. since that time but the Assoc had yet to elect/appoint a Secretary.

Activities over the past year had included a submission to the Nurses Amendment Bill from the Auckland Domiciliary Midwives.

Joan is currently working in conjunction with an Australian midwife and our Stats man, Stan Gillanders, to produce an Australiasian Statistics Form to be used in all Home Births.

Moved - Sue Paterson  
Seconded - Caroline Mitchell

Question: Is the Domiciliary Midwives Association going to Approach the Minister of Health for a wage-rise now that the Wage Freeze Regulations have been changed?

Joan replied that she intended to organise something during the Dom. Midwives Meeting at the AGM in May at Conference.

9. Save the Midwves Association Report

Judy Larkin outlined that history of the formation of this Association in response to the Nurses Amendmnet Bill in September 1983. An increasing number of midwives were joining the Assoc. both from the main centres and provincial areas. The Association is currently looking at Midwifery Training in this country and pressing for a return to Basic Midwifery Training Course.

Joan Donley reported that at a recent NZNA meeting the Midwives Division had succeeded in having Sect. 17 of a Nurses Advisory Education Report, which related to midwifery training and supported retaining the current postbasic training, deleted.

Moved - Joan Donley  
Seconded - Ann Ireland  
Passed

10. Support Groups Reports

North Shore - Felicity and Ngaire

First Session of antenatal meetings just completed. The next will commence in May.

Coffee mornings etc. proceeding

There are many women booked for Home Births but no Domiciliary Midwife working in his Health District.

Central - Daphne and Rachel

First Session of antenatal meetings underway.

Next session commences in May and will be held at Marie Macky's in Parnell.

Central Group's Library is disappearing - People not returning books.

Daphne asked that some other people take over the organisation of the Central Group.

West Auckland - Carolyn

Need more people to help with organisation of this group.

Antenatal Session being held at Carolyn's as usual.

The group is thinking of holding the next session of antenatal meetings over 4 consecutive weeks rather than monthly for four months