

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE AUCKLAND BRANCH OF N.Z. HOME BIRTH ASSOCIATION
HELD 24th APRIL 1982.

Introduction Alison Jones took the chair and welcomed everyone to the AGM. She warned that there was a busy year to come as evidenced by developments overseas and the trend of events here. It was important that we act quickly and fight for the home birth option in N.Z. There was a need to feel strong and resolute for the next year.

Support Group Reports Members of the West Auckland, Auckland Central, South Auckland and North Shore Support Groups spoke on their activities, problems, ideas and successes. It is quite clear that these support groups have a valuable function in preparing couples for birth at home and equally clear that the effective running of the group requires a major commitment of time from the women organising each group.

Secretary's Report Barbara presented a report which outlined the work done by the committee in the last year. We seem to have been very successful in the areas of publicity with good t.v., radio, journal and daily paper coverage.

Publicity Report Dorothy reported on the publicity arranged for Home Birth Week. The object had been to make more people aware of home birth. We did reach a large group of new people and learned a lot about public relations. Dorothy and Therese Williamson want to start preparations for H.B.Week now.

Midwives Association Joan Donley reported on the formation of the 'vociferous minority', the Domiciliary Midwives Association, formed to provide better representation than has come from the Nurses Association. There have been two meetings to date. The first in Wellington dealt with the deplorable pay rates and set standards for midwives and women planning home births. The Association has incorporated. The second meeting was held in Palmerston North and it was apparent that while the first delegation to Mr Malcolm had received a good response, Mr Malcolm is obviously awaiting the report from the Maternity Services Committee. The Association decided to try and join the Federation of Labour.

The Association adopted the five standards for safe childbearing set out by NAPSAC. They also adopted the objectives of the Association of Radical Midwives: reestablish confidence in the midwife of her skills; standardise skills; encourage the active participation of women; continuity of care; explanation of alternative patterns of care; and to follow and make their views known on developments in midwifery.

Treasurer's Report Graeme Page presented a balance as at the date of the meeting. He is preparing a statement of account to be audited to the end of our financial year. The balance as at 24.4.82 was \$1,640.12.

Dunedin Conference Auckland is sending three delegates: Lynn Nicol,

Joan Donley and Therese Williamson. The meeting discussed the remits prepared by other branches and those drafted by Auckland and the delegates noted the attitude of the meeting. The Ombudsman's Report, prepared in answer to an enquiry from Mary Nacey, was discussed and all material is to be included in the next newsletter.

Threats to Home Birth Joan dealt with the situation in NSW. There risk factors have been established by law. The birthing centre, part of one of the city's hospitals, has been closed. The U.K. Short Report is for 100% foetal monitoring and opposes all home birth. Recently, hospitals in the U.K. have come out banning natural birth within the hospital. The National Child birth Trust has arranged ralleys etc.

Joan emphasized the importance of four international links and keeping up to date with what is happening here.

<u>Election of Officers</u>	President/spokesperson	Alison Jones
	Treasurer	Carolynn Mitchell
	Secretary	Barbara Macfarlan
	Auditor	Shem Dowd

Election of Committee All those present who put forward their names were elected to the committee. The committee totals 31 members when those not present at the AGM but who had indicated they would like to stand and those elected are included. (List of committee, phone numbers and addresses is attached).

General Business More material for the Newsletter is always required. Discussion on the collation of statistics. Jill White from the Wellington Polytechnic School of Nursing, and herself a one time domiciliary midwife, spoke on the training of midwives. She advocated the training take place in an educational environment rather than in the hospital and defended the present training scheme though she would like midwifery students to have some contact with births at home.

Mary Barton offered to attend to the accountancy and tax form preparation of all the domiciliary midwives as something that she could easily do for them.

The meeting then concluded with a pot luck dinner, everyone enjoying themselves eating and talking and expressing thanks to Gillian and Sian for the use of their ball room, garden and toys!

New Zealand Home Births Association
Statement of Receipts & Payments from 1.5.81 to 31.4.82

Receipts
 Subscriptions 1,410.00
 Support Groups. 1,087.00
 Donations 830.00
 1980-81 reimbursement. 200.00
 Capitalization 304.00
 Seminar Registrations 234.00
 Home Co-ordinated 517.20
 Sale of Goods. 347.19

\$ 4930.40

Payments.
 Capitalization 1980-81 year. 121.00
 " 1981-82 Registrations 270.00
 Postage Stationery. 409.13
 Travel Expenses 627.00
 Support Group Activity 501.00
 Badges Tee Shirts Etcetera. 1335.95
 Donation K Donovan. 150.00
 Sundries 3,740.42
 Excess of income over expend. June 1189.98

\$ 4930.40

Balance as at 30 April 1981 390.14
 Plus excess of income over expend. June 1189.98
 Plus cancelled cheques 60.00
 Balance as at 30th April 1982. 1640.12.

Secretary's Report to AGM of Auckland Branch of NZHBA 1982

The last year seems to have been one of unprecedented activity. The committee has worked extremely well with a meeting on the second Tuesday of each month and a number of special meetings called to deal with matters raised by the new Minister of Health!

We have officially joined the American organisation NAPSAC and ~~have been~~ ^{are} pleased with the material they circulate. We also joined the Freedom for Health Organisation.

Seminars on home birth have been held successfully and media time and a lecture arranged for a visiting American, Mr Wallerstein. We also arranged a meeting with all doctors involved in home birth. There was a very poor response but those present have agreed to meet again and to try and set out their criteria for woman planning home births. Most were surprised to find that there are about 48 G.P.'s currently involved in, to varying extents, home birth in Auckland.

I think that the Committee and individual members of the Association have done very well in gaining so much media time on home birth. There ~~has~~ ^{has} been television programmes ~~such as the~~ ^{on} Eye Witness News; radio documentary on Spectrum; letters to the editors of local and national papers and magazines; ~~and~~ radio talk back time, ~~and~~ ^{an} ~~article~~ ^{article} in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~journal~~ ^{journal} etc.

The Government has been bombarded with material and we are pleased that all the women members ^{in the House} support home birth. The Labour Caucus Committee on Women's issues has had a press statement published on the ~~very~~ issue of home birth as a desirable option, criticising Mr Malcolm's stance.

~~The committee is in contact with~~ ^{There are} three midwives in England who are planning to return in the next year or so and practice. ~~Others~~ ^{others} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~planning~~ ^{planning} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~do~~ ^{do} ~~midwifery~~ ^{midwifery} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~Canada~~ ^{Canada} ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~elsewhere~~ ^{elsewhere}.

So many medical and nursing students are doing research papers on home versus hospital that we have decided to prepare a booklet of interesting papers, research, figures etc which we can use as educative material and also to raise some money.

we have ~~got~~ ^{only} tee shirt, buttons & stickers but

We really need a keen fund raiser to set up a sub committee and get into money raising. We use more than we get from subscriptions because of the increase in postal rates, air fares, petrol etc. No one working for home birth is paid but we try to cover expenses, ^{secretary} for support group workers, books etc. Anyone want to organise a flea market, garage sale, cake stall....?

The Newsletters have been excellent. The sub-committee has worked very hard and produces a high quality readable publication.

At the Dunedin National Conference to be held this May we will have three delegates. We intend to offer to undertake the national executive responsibilities again.

I would like this meeting to consider the following remit proposed by different branches ~~and~~ so that our delegates will know the opinion of this meeting.

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One enterprising member took the question of choice of doctor on transfer to hospital to the Ombudsman who found that a woman can select her own doctor and does not have to come under the team. The Hospital Board now agree that this is correct. Up to this time doctors taking women to hospital have been frequently treated in a disgusting fashion. Relationships with the hospitals varies but ^{is} generally unhelpful if not outright obstructionist.

We have not succeeded in having midwives payments increased. Our file of correspondence to government, Health Dept and hospital Boards continues to grow. The draft report of the Maternity Services Committee suggests that ~~they~~ ^{it} won't improve matters.

L.I. The following quote from last time on ~~the~~ ^{the} annual distat ^{meeting} will motivate us all:

We need to give more attention to raising money. It is expensive to send members to conferences