

# The New Zealand Home Birth Association

The New Zealand Home Birth Association,  
P.O. Box 7093, Wellesley St., Auckland, 1.

Affiliated with NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for PARENTS and  
PROFESSIONALS for SAFE ALTERNATIVE CHILDBIRTH, U.S.A.

21st December 1982

Dear Committee,

Your 1983 Annual Conference will be held in Auckland on 7th and 8th May. The keynote of the Conference is to discuss the affairs of the Home Birth Association. We want to hear about your achievements and problems and how you handled them. We feel that this is time to share information and gain strengths from each other and to further develop good communication.

Perhaps, in your area things are running smoothly with little interference from the medical hierarchy - as it used to be in the early days in Auckland. But today, things are different here. The upsurge in home births and the falling birth rate have made the 'obstetric mandarins' and hospital boards feel threatened not only by the number of babies being born at home but also by the demand for natural births. Auckland is the centre of obstetric power and we seem to have the emperor and his viziers breathing down our necks. As the movement grows, so the opposition will extend.

We plan to devote the major part of the first day in hearing and discussing each branch's comprehensive but succinct reports. We would like each branch to prepare a written report which can later be used as a basis for publication of the Conference proceedings. As a guideline we suggest the following issues should be considered;

- 1) membership;
- 2) level of participation of members;
- 3) midwife and home birth doctor recruitment;
- 4) opposition or support from local obstetricians, hospital boards, G.P.'s, M.P.s, M.O.H.s, P.P.H.N.s, news media etc;
- 5) support groups - role, effectiveness, ante natal preparation;
- 6) Home Birth Week activities;
- 7) strategies and

tactics; 8) anything else of relevance.

Please bring newspaper coverage, photographs etc for display.

After a welcome from your host branch, Auckland, we will ask Marilyn Walker to lead off with a report from the National Body to be followed by reports from the National Co-ordinator and Newsletter Editor, Henriette Kemp; treasurer's report and then the branch reports. We will also ask the Domiciliary Midwives Society to make a report.

We are planning a social evening for Saturday.

Sunday morning we have scheduled the A.G.M. to ensure a good representation!

The afternoon will be devoted to summing up, remits, press release, etc. We ask delegates to come prepared to discuss home birth/midwifery standards for the N.Z. scene (suggested guide - NAPSAC's 'The Five Standards for Safe Childbearing', ask your public library to obtain a copy); and the role, function and expectations of the mooted health boards in relation to WHO 'Health for all by the year 2000.' (Suggested reading - Department of Health Bulletin 'Health'. Vol.33 No. 1 Autumn 1981), which can be obtained free from your local Dept.

Billets will be arranged. Please let me know how many you need and for how many days.

We will contact you shortly with details re group air fares and the registration fee.

A creche will be provided and an agenda will shortly follow.

Please let us know your thoughts on the conference plan and anything you would like to see included.

Yours sincerely,

  
Barbara Macfarlane,

Secretary.