

20073-27-028

October 2nd, 1985

Dear Barbara,

I just received your name from Sheila Kitzinger, in response to a request for contacts I might have in New Zealand.

I am coming to NZ November 14 - December 17 with my fiancé. It's partly a working trip (for him to photograph the land and for me to do research on Immaculate Deception II), and partly a pleasure trip --walking in the countryside, meditating, etc.

I am planning to write a chapter in the new book devoted to New Zealand and Australia, what is going on in birth today in hospital, the trends there, and out of hospital, with home birth, midwives, etc. I am going to highlight the most innovative things I find, to give hope about the direction of the future, as well as show what the problems are.

I have written Judy Larkin as well, also at Sheila's suggestion, and have asked her what I am going to ask you.

Could you kindly meet with me for a bit, and perhaps set up for others to talk with me (physicians who are progressive or caught in the web of the system but don't like it, for example), and perhaps arrange a small group I could meet with, to interview? I would be most grateful.

As I told Judy, I will only be in Auckland for a few days, right at the beginning (on jet lag!), since we will be spending as much time as possible in the countryside.

We arrive at 8:40 am the 14th. We have rented a campervan that will be waiting, and we get night in a motel in Auckland. We would be in Auckland the 14th and 15th. That's the time during which I would like to meet with a few people, see a representative hospital (and an alternative hospital unit if there is one) and even photograph part of a hospital labor if possible and if a woman agrees to allow me the privilege. And perhaps I could photograph a prenatal at home with a midwife too.

John and I will be strangers, needing help to find a good restaurant where a vegetarian (fish-eating/chicken also, but no red meat) can get fresh food simply prepared.

I'm really looking to coming, and I hope that we will be able to meet. I look forward to hearing from you.

Fondly,


Suzanne Arms

