

20073-27-049

17 Waldegrave St
Palmerston North
14 August 1985

Dear Friends

We are in the process of finalizing our venue arrangements for the 1986 New Zealand Home Birth Association Conference. At the moment we are considering running the conference at Massey University. The facilities provided at this venue are superb. They include allocation of a lecture block to us for the weekend, which has facilities for morning and afternoon teas, lectures, workshop rooms, cresse facilities with staff included, access to audiovisual equipment and some quest speakers. Also included are single room accomodation facilities within one hostel block, breakfast, lunch and dinner provided and the venue for an evening meal/social function. Massey University is about five minutes drive from the centre of Palmerston North, and there is a good bus service which runs to and from the city. The grounds of the campus are lovely, open green spaces, and gardens which provide an 'escape' for those who want a few minutes solitude. We are also likely to be the only confrence group on the campus at this time, so basically it all ours. (students will be on holiday) It would appear at this stage that the cost per person for a conference at Massey is likely to be very close to the cost of the Nelson conference.

The reason for this letter is to try and find out what your general feelings and opinions are about our ideas. We feel very excited about the conference and feel that this venue will totally suit all our needs. There is however one SMALL problem. Massey runs extramural vaction courses through the May and August holidays. The May holidays commence at the same time as the primary school holidays but are three weeks rather than two weeks long. Massey will NOT be available to us on the first weekend of the May vacation because of their courses. However, they are prepared to confirm a booking for the last weekend of the Massey vacation. This is the weekend of the 30 and 31 May and the 1 June 1986. (This is the first weekend after the schools return.)

We would like some feedback regarding the change of date of the conference. I am aware that the Home-Birth conference is traditionally run on the first weekend of the school holidays. However, we would probably not be able to host the conference if these new dates are not suitable because Palmerston North really has no other high standard but CHEAP facilities available.

Please can you discuss this with your own groups, and let us know what your feelings about this situation are. Confirmation with the University is required within a month, so we would like your opinions on this matter by the 25th September 1985.

Yours faithfully


Fiona Barnett

Manawatu Home-birth Association

(over)

dates ok.

less workshop time - possibly none

need more space for communication

letter sent Aug. 25/85
W.

11/25/85

(over)