

NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES
WELLINGTON REGION
MAY NEWSLETTER

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Sandra's Snippets

Thanks to the Kenepuru midwives who hosted our recent well attended meeting. The following are some brief highlights from that meeting.

International Midwives Day, 5.5.96. Again it appears that practising Midwives in the Hutt Valley were the only group to organise any function (I am happy to be proven wrong). Approximately 25 midwives gathered in delivery suite for PM tea. All babies born on the 5th were given certificates and booties. 10 babies were born on that day and the first normal delivery was a midwife only client. Yee ha!

A good study day was organised by Rae Clarke on midwifery standards review. Sandra stated that people should consider the College option when contemplating review. Reflection on ones practice is a good thing. Midwives interested are encouraged to talk to other reviewed practitioners about the process.

Section 51

The proposed fees were presented. Concern has risen about the new system and people are urged to write submissions. Marion reported that as midwives we do not have to accept s51. IPA's will negotiate different contracts which implies different payment schedules. WRAM is open to everyone to join. See MPO below.

Midwifery Consultants.

At the June meeting we will be ratifying our consultants whose names will go forward to the Nursing Council. Please be supportive, come along and have your say.

It has recently been reported that a reasonable new student was sent out into the community to do a postnatal visit and report back to the midwife. Taking into account that they have just started their practice and acknowledging individual circumstances: What do practitioners think?

Wellington Hospital Clinical Management Group.

A letter was written to WWH management about this group. Rosie reported that Odette has accepted our criticism of the group. It has been suspended until some issues are addressed. Hopefully some guidelines will be produced for practitioners.

Access Contracts.

Apparently some practitioners are still experiencing problems gaining access to WWH. It was suggested that practitioners approach Odette Wilkin. Unfortunately no one at WWH seems to be responsible to midwives contracts. Perseverance may be the key. Jacqui Pearce at National office may be able to help. People having difficulties with HVH should approach Janet Rockell (Chairperson OSRC).

Cultural Safety: Irene may have been the only midwifery representative at a Nursing Council function releasing the new cultural safety document. What seems apparent now is that educators are not just focusing on ethnic groups but also acknowledging all cultures for example the culture of midwifery. Jenny Shipley was in attendance and advised midwives to get active, she has to make a decision about the future of maternity services and feels that as a group we are silent. **SO Write a submission to her about your practice.** and why what you do makes a difference. Get your women to write as well. We were at one point the world leaders in midwifery care, if we don't move again we may be forced out of the competitive maternity care market place. If midwives do not act then it will be women and midwives that suffer. She will make a decision, so we must act NOW.

Legislation affecting midwives is currently under review. Included are prescribing rights, a review of the Nurses Act and as we all have received too copies (One for the midwife and one for the Nurse (that one was written using the medical model)), the modified code of rights. Jenny S highlighted that we should be sharing our resources with women. As part of informed choice women should be advised of the costs of all treatments.

Treasurers Report

Jean O' Neil is our new treasurer. Our financial accounts are being audited at present. \$500 was given to those midwives attending the ICM conference in Oslo. (7 days to go.)!! A grant was made available for students wishing to attend NZCOM conference.

A second **paediatric workshop** is being organised to be held in about six weeks. Anyone interested contact Christine Griffiths or Charlotte Smith (5697535).

Anyone interested in attending a **pereneal suturing workshop** in July contact Julie Smith 5697535.

MPO

Enclosed are brochures for College MPO. Christina has continued to go to meetings as COM rep. 15.5.96 A note from Christina. The MPO is up and running. We have no funds from RHA yet. Meetings are going on with Gillain Bishop. She says that she will provide funds for the rest of the Central Region excluding Wellington at this stage. At the moment she sees Wellington as being serviced by WRAM. There are 48 member midwives from the rest of the region.

Airbags and Small Children. Something to be aware of: In the May 1996 Directions magazine there is an article on car airbags and small children. It appears that children up front "in rearward facing child seats are in peril from the inflating bag". NZ standard 1754 was amended in December 1995 so that restraints are labelled with a warning not to be used in a seating position where an airbag is fitted. If anyone has the July 1995 edition of this magazine, I at least, would like to know the background on this issue.

I have enclosed a timetable of COM meetings for the next few months, with the correct date on. Please ignore the original dates. Unfortunately in our haste we chose the wrong days. C'est la vie.

Congratulations to Julie Smith on her marriage to Greg and

to Ruve' Kent Johnson on the birth of her baby Jacob.

Finally, I want this to be your newsletter. If you want to submit articles or have any news please contact me. Written material can be forwarded to me C/- Maternity Enquiries, Hutt Hospital. The **deadline** is the 20th of each month. However my arm can be twisted. Thanks once again for the flowers and plate that I received for my work as co-ordinator. Good luck Sandra.

Sue Calvert.



Midwives celebrate

Lower Hutt's midwives joined forces to celebrate International Midwives Day on 5 May.

Independent and CHE midwives marked the day with an afternoon tea in the Hutt Valley Health delivery suite. Babies born on 5 May were given a commemorative gift and certificate.

In 1990 an Amendment to the Nurses Act granted autonomy to midwives, enabling them to care for women experiencing normal pregnancy, labour and delivery without medical supervision.

Women have a choice of both caregivers and place of birth. Caregivers can be a combination of midwife, consultant obstetrician and/or GP. At present between one and two per cent of women choose to deliver their baby at home.

With the support and encouragement from a midwife they know, the majority of women are able to deliver normally without the need for medical intervention, midwives say.

For information on childbirth choices ring HVH Delivery Suite on 569-7535.

Hutt News
14/5/96

NZCOM MEETINGS

DATE : 11 June 1996

VENUE : Level C Conference Room WWH

GUEST SPEAKER: A pharmacist and Kim Wheeler from CRHA on section 51.

DATE : 9th July 1996

VENUE: Hutt Hospital

GUEST SPEAKER: Midwives returning from ICM conference and Parents Centre on Empathy Belly!

DATE: 13 th August 1996

VENUE: Paraparaumu

TOPIC: Tour of unit and update on midwifery in Paraparaumu.

DATE: 10 th September 1996

VENUE: Masterton

TOPIC: Pot luck meal and good old goss.

DATE: 8th October 1996

VENUE: Kenepuru

TOPIC: TBA

DATE: 12 th November 1996

VENUE: WWH

TOPIC: Arranging Xmas Meal: All suggestions welcome.

DATE: 10 th December 1996

VENUE: XMAS FUNCTION

All articles for newsletter to editor by 20th of the month.

WRAM MEETING

**Date 1200HRS-1400 HRS
WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE 1996**

Venue LEVEL C WELLINGTON WOMENS HOSPITAL

UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IPA AND GENERAL INFORMATION ON FUNDING PROPOSALS