

NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES WELLINGTON REGION - NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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APOLOGIES

Sandra told me that I had to put this at the top of the newsletter in big bold letters because I made a little error last month. Actually it wasn't that little really, it was two whole pages but we decided it was a good way to finish this years newsletter production. So here goes.....

Huge apologies to Sue Walker and Nicky Costello for not including their research assignment in the last newsletter. This time it is included so turn to the back and enjoy. It is a special Christmas treat.

National Committee and Restructuring of the College of Midwives

Ros Jaquierey and Sandra attended the National Committee meeting in Christchurch where a proposal was put forward that the College undergo a restructuring. Attached is the proposal and if you would like to make comment on this then Sandra would love to hear from you!!!

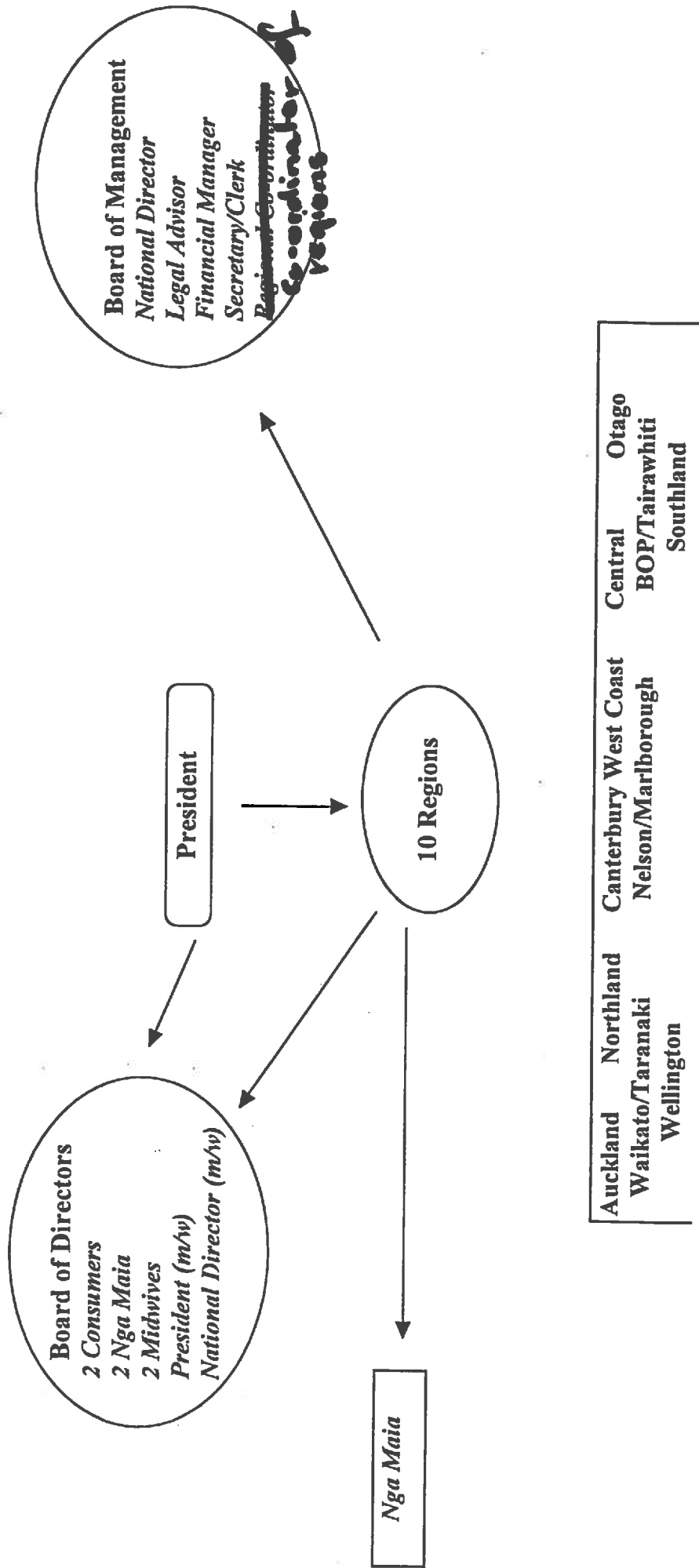
The objective of the proposed new structure is to function more effectively as a professional body and provide an improved service to the midwifery community. It is hoped that by having a Co-ordinator of Regions, which is a new position, that there will be a better link between regions and management. The Co-ordinator of Regions will liaise and network through out NZ, visiting every region at least once each year. It will be her job to trouble-shoot, co-ordinate MSRC and resolution committees nationally and arrange and hold workshops on regional requirements within each region. Should a region want/need more than one visit per annum this will be paid for by that region. The Co-ordinator of Regions who is based at head office is the person who services and supports the Regional co-ordinator (i.e. Sandra).

Proposed funding for the Co-ordinator of Regions position and the proposed restructuring will come from a reduction in the airfares to national committee meetings (regional co-ordinators will only attend the AGM) a transfer of funds from the MSRC, transfer of the National treasurers honorarium (as we now have a financial manager) and transfer of National committee expenses.

It will be discussed at the January College of Midwives meeting and in February too if necessary. As this is only a proposal at this stage it is important that you become involved and voice your criticism or support for this proposal in a constructive manner. Full details will be available at the next meeting including financial information.

After the meeting, Sandra and Ros were then joined by Penny Leadbeater for the Conflict Resolutions workshop which, as discussed in the last newsletter, is aiming to provide a nationally standardised set of guidelines to assist women and midwives achieve a more satisfactory outcome in the completion of their partnership.

New Zealand College of Midwives (Inc)



This is the Proposed new structure.

Calling the College of Midwives

**** PHONE: 801 6180 ****

There is a new number for contacting the Wellington region College of Midwives. Essentially this is to give consumers a phone number so that they can make contact with someone from the complaints resolution committee however as it is voice mailbox, it can also be used for enquiries from the general public regarding things midwifery in the Wellington region.

Voluntary Services Abroad

VSA are looking for midwives and other health workers to work overseas. If you are interested please contact Pam Francombe, Recruitment and Selection Officer, P.O. Box 12-246, Wellington, or Phone 04 472 5759.

Educational Achievements

Congratulations to students who have successfully completed their year of study through polytech and university. Don't forget that there is life outside of an institution.

Medicines in Pregnancy

In August the Ministry of Health sent GP's, O&G specialists and others a copy of Medicines in Pregnancy (3rd Ed.) which is an Australian categorisation of risk of drug use in pregnancy. Because it is an Australian publication it does not contain information on medicines available in NZ but not available in Australia, however it is indicated to be a valuable resource. If you wish to obtain a copy contact the Editor, Prescriber Update, Ph (04) 496 2107, Fax (04) 496 2340, Email: margaret.ewen@mohwn.synet.net.nz.

Prescriber Update is available free of charge to prescribers and pharmacies. A subscription for others costs \$40 per annum.

Christmas Feast

There was a wonderful Christmas breakfast at Sandras' house when Sandra was not there! Special thanks to Jean, Lisa and Stephanie whose culinary expertise was much appreciated by the midwives of the Wellington Region. Great to see midwives from over the hill who provided the luscious strawberries which completed the already expansive menu!

Congratulations

Sue Calvert has had a paper accepted by the Australian COM for their biannual conference in April 1997. Sue is doing a paper which is looking at the decision making process between woman and midwife. Irene Calvert has had a poster accepted at the same conference on her herbal substances trial.

Sharing midwifery stories

Do you have an interesting tale to tell? Should we set aside 1/2 an hour at COM midwives meetings every few months to share tales? If you think this is a great idea then drop me a line at P.O. Box 73, Paekakariki or turn up and speak up at the next meeting.

Section 51

Goes on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on.....

Submission: Nurses Act Review

As discussed in a prior newsletter, moves are being made in the direction of establishing a Midwives Council in recognition of the separate nature of midwifery to nursing as opposed to the current status of midwifery being a branch of nursing.

At a recent one day workshop held by the NZCOM with representatives from both midwifery and nursing stake holders, it was the unanimous opinion of this meeting that there were no disadvantages to the public and many advantages to the midwifery profession to have its own legislation. It was also believed that a midwifery profession regulated by a body specifically required to do so would enhance professional standards and therefore public safety.

The content of this report is too in depth to summarise in this newsletter without losing important components so I have decided to leave things as they are and if you want to obtain a copy then contact either Sandra or myself and we will send one to you. Again, if you are interested in discussing this issue further the next COM meeting would be an appropriate venue and bear in mind that with all change comes a level of discomfort that eases with time.

ACC Classification of Midwives

ACC classification in premium risk groups has been reclassified to reflect the low risk of the midwifery profession. We now come under 86390 Health Services which includes occupational therapists, herbalists, podiatrists, homeopaths etc. This reclassification drops our ACC fee level from \$1.57 to \$1.22 and brings us in line with medicine.

Lost Midwives

The last newsletter had a return address on it. As a result it was discovered that several midwives are lost! Do you know the whereabouts of the following people:

*Vivienne Campbell	*Belinda Rogers	*Kris Bryan
*Maraea Wia Wia	*Faith Stevens	*Rose Blumhardt

If you do or they do or if you are not yet receiving your copy or if you are about to move then don't forget to let Jean O'Neil (ph 568 2759) know so that she can update the database.

Acupuncture Course for Midwives

The New Zealand College of Acupuncture is happy to offer a practical course on acupuncture specifically for midwives. This will be run over ten weekends, one weekend a month for ten months and it will be a fairly intensive course. Units may then be accredited towards a Diploma in Acupuncture.

The cost will be \$3000. Tutor will be Debra Betts who will be available to answer queries at the January COM meeting. A minimum number of applicants are required.

Interested persons should contact Olatunji at the NZ School of Acupuncture, Ph 801 6400 or 00800 628 826.

Merry Christmas

This is the last newsletter for the year and a busy year it has been. Look after yourselves over the stressful Christmas period and keep a kind eye out for fellow midwives in need of a little Christmas cheer. Be careful on the roads, stock up on pregnancy tests and rest and recharge for another busy year ahead of us.

Next COM Meeting

The next core group meeting will be on the 3rd of January.

The next general meeting will be 14 January 1997, Pilmuir House, Hutt Hospital

COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD ON EVERY SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7.30 PM. THE NEWS AND VENUES WILL VARY SO WATCH YOUR FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

*****Situations Vacant*****

Porirua Union and Community Health Service

Midwife

The Porirua Union and Community Health Service provides quality primary health care to people living in Porirua.

We are looking for two midwives to job share our maternity care.

Applicants would need to have the ability to, empathise with our clients who come from a wide range of ethnic groups, work in a team environment and support a mother's group.

Written applications and C.V. should be sent to:

The Manager
Nena Kent-Johnston
221 Bedford Street
(P.O. Box 53013)
Cannons Creek
Porirua

Applications close 15 December 1996

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**NEWTOWN UNION
HEALTH SERVICE INC**

Midwife

The Newtown Union health Service is an innovative primary health care service which provides quality comprehensive health care services for people on low incomes in South Wellington.

We require an experienced midwife, preferably with a current access contract with Capital Coast Health, for a .8 FTE salaried position (possibly becoming fulltime). The position involves working in a multidisciplinary child and maternal health team, to provide midwifery only care as well as some shared care with a GP.

NUHS employs 4 doctors, 5 nurse practitioners and 2 other midwives.

The position commences the beginning of February 1997. For further details contact:

**Petra van den Munckhof
NUHS
PO Box 7267
Wellington South
Ph 04 389, 2070**

EXPERIENCES OF PRIMIGRAVIDA WOMEN AGED OVER FORTY

Research Assignment (Diploma of Midwifery, Wellington Polytechnic) 1996

- Sue Walker
- Nicky Costello

We are the primip's aged over forty;
Yes still in our prime and enjoying a naughty.
The decision we made we're sure was the best;
The conception was easy, now it's into the nest.

Swimming, walking and tennis are our game;
We reckon just as active as a young dame.
We were medically sound before we conceived;
Trimester one ended and we were relieved.

The professionals involved were a mixed bunch;
Some were quite cautious and had a bad hunch.
So off to the obstetrician because we're so rare;
For close observation - what do they fear?

The amniocentesis was a bit of a worry;
Risks for abnormality put us into a flurry.
Results, they were fine - but you still never know;
This baby feels healthy, and is beginning to grow.

We continued to work and we coped well with this;
Though come 5 o'clock, going home was just bliss.
Towards the end, we admit, it got tough;
By 36 weeks, we'd all had enough.

2

The time is near, we think we're prepared;
Soon we will know, was there reason to fear?
Of course we're excited, and can't wait to see;
A boy or a girl - what will it be?

The labour was different for all four of us;
We feel quite pleased, despite the fuss.
Three of us caesared, and one a NVD;
The specialist shocked - "but how can that be?"

The years we have waited, but boy was it worth it;
A family at last, and loving every last bit of it.
One comment made in public we thought was quite fun;
"Oh my, haven't you got a sweet little grandson!"

We take these comments with a grain of salt;
The public not aware, it's not their fault.
A bit of adjusting, though we admit it did take;
But, totally happy - sure we made no mistake.

A wonderful experience for all, we agree;
We took our time, the way it had to be.
It's not too late to have another, said two;
Time's running out - so goodbye, we've got business to do!