

# **NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES WELLINGTON REGION - SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

**Co-ordinator: Sandra Sinclair**  
**Phone: 04 5282092**

**Editor: Bridget Morison**  
**Phone: 04 2928828**

## **Something To Think About, Something To Look Forward To.**

For some time the National Committee amongst others have been considering the establishment of a Midwifery Council which would be the governing body of our profession.

Perhaps the time is right. All occupational acts are presently undergoing regular Government review. The opportunity to look at the status of midwifery as a separate profession to that of nursing seems to be appropriate.

When you consider that other practitioners, e.g. Chiropractors, have separated from allied professionals (physiotherapists) it certainly makes one wonder why we MIDWIVES are still co-joined to nurses! There are 1600 registered midwives in New Zealand, a not insignificant number. One would hope that each of them would support the idea.

As a Direct Entry Midwife, I feel little joy in the fact that I am governed by a Nursing Council when I have never been a nurse and will never be one. It is time to put the relics of the past (including security blankets) on the shelf and move into the present which for an increasing number of midwives is the establishment of a Midwifery Council.

## **Matpro**

With the establishment of Matpro comes the need to consider the setting up of review or evaluation processes by which shareholders or practitioners will be audited. In this situation it is clearly obvious that midwives, GP's and Specialists will be working together and probably will also be collectively involved in members reviews.

This brings with it some important considerations for those midwives working within this company. During this formative time become involved in the setting up of these review processes and stay true to your own professional organisations standards. These standards of practise established by the NZCOM were done with great thoughtfulness and in consultation with midwives and women throughout New Zealand. They encompass integrity and respect for the women that we work with as well as other midwives, allied health professionals and OURSELVES. It is important at this time that we hold this foremost in our minds and act accordingly.

## **A Word From Jean**

Apologies to those who have missed getting newsletters in the past few months because the data base of addresses wasn't updated. However the system is running as smooth as silk now. Please contact Jean O'Neil - 5682759 - if yours is still not correct or if you know someone is missing their copy from this month.

## Workshop

### FLOWER ESSENCES FOR MIDWIVES

A safe and effective way to treat your clients' emotions through pregnancy.

These days midwives are becoming more and more aware of the need to treat their clients wholistically.

This means attending to the various emotional as well as physical symptoms of their clients during pregnancy and immediately following birth.

This one day workshop will teach you how to recognize the different emotions your clients are going through, and give you the knowledge to use the safe, effective world famous Bach Flower Remedies to treat them with.

COST: \$60

STUDENTS: \$45

DATE: SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER 1996

VENUE: Arcadia, 9 - 11 Laings Road, Lower Hutt

TIME: 10am to 4.30pm

For more details call:

LORRAINE LEADER  
Flower Essence and Reiki Practitioner  
04 526 6898

Numbers limited to 15 per session. Lorraine will hold a 2nd session on Sunday 20th October if sufficient interest.

## Next COM Meeting

Kenepuru Hospital, Tuesday 8th October, 7.30pm.

Helen O'Flynn from Bounty is coming to this meeting to discuss the service or products that Bounty have available for distribution.



Report on the NZCOM Conference, Christchurch  
from Sandra Sinclair, regional co-ordinator.

The NZCOM National Conference was held in Christchurch this year, at Lincoln University, with the theme " Midwifery: the balance of intuition and research".

This 1996 Conference was without a doubt one of the best conferences I have ever attended. I have not been so enthralled for a long time. There was not one sessions which I attended that did not provide me with food for thought, and that is after all one of the reasons one makes the effort, one bribes ones colleagues to hold the fort, and one takes the time to go to conference.

The Keynote speaker was Prof. Barbara Katz- Rothman, Sociologist from Baruch College and Graduate Centre of the City of New York University, USA. A lively woman with a wealth of knowledge, experience and research which she shared so willingly. Her opening question, and as she says, the dominant question which frames her work is "how do we know what we know?; what are the sources of that knowledge and what legitimates knowledge?" Katz-Rothman has explored the medicalization of childbirth in the United States, and challenged it. A familiar theme for midwives in NZ too! She has written extensively and in her book "The Tentative Pregnancy: Prenatal Diagnosis and the Future of Motherhood" examines the development of prenatal diagnostic technology, and the role of new knowledge in formulating ethical questions in childbearing.

The speakers at the plenary sessions included such well known people as Joan Donley, midwife extraordinaire. Prof. Jill White from Victoria University, who discussed the balance of INTUITION and RESEARCH. In a wonderful paper in which she so honestly declared, in the introduction, that at one time she thought that her area of practice was midwifery, but has since come to realize that her practice was obstetric nursing and her philosophy of practice was midwifery. Sally Pairman and Karen Guilliland were clearly visible and audible throughout the conference , both presenting papers pertinent to midwives in NZ, Sally on partnership and Karen spoke on the progress of the negotiations among other things. Jackie Pearce, midwife, and the NZCOM legal adviser spoke strongly on the importance of midwives keeping themselves safe and the increase in the number of proceedings against midwives in an increasingly difficult climate. Marian McLoughlin and Carey Virtue gave a sophisticated presentation of the Wellington Domino Midwives statistical data and clearly impressed the audience with their enviable trends as they moved to more midwife only care in their practice.

I have probably missed some folks out, but I do want to give you some of the titles of the concurrent sessions too. I would have liked to go to all of them, it was so difficult to decide. Such a wealth of thought and so provocative.

What would you all do? And how would you decide? The following are just a few of the papers presented.

"What IS the Basis of Clinical Judgement in Midwifery Care?"  
Jacquie Gunn, Auckland.

"On the Edge: Midwifery and the Art of Not Knowing" ,  
Bronwen Pelvin, Christchurch.

"The Second Stage of Labour: Whose Urge to Push?", Tricia  
Thompson, Auckland.

"Beyond the Comfort Zone of Rage: Shared experiences for a  
New World" Jenny Browne and Kate Lohse, Australia.

"Breech Birth Woman - Wise", Maggie Banks ,Hamilton.

"Women's Ways of Knowing" Imelde Musoke , Uganda.

"Knowledge and Knowing in Midwifery" Deborah Davis,  
Australia.

On the last day of the conference students from most of the  
Polytechs and at a variety of learning levels shared with those  
present their experiences so far. How articulate these young  
women are, how committed already to the midwifery model and how  
ambitious and prepared to do well. The profession can only  
benefit enormously.

The conference had its lighter moments too. The Great Debate had  
us all rolling in the isles. That such a serious subject as "Is  
Birth Mind over Matter?" could be funny may be hard to imagine,  
but it was. The Conference dinner was an "eye opener" for some  
of us. I was pretty impressed by the capacity some midwives have  
to make music and fun, and the contingent from the Wellington  
Region were well presented and had a very good time.

Of course one of the reasons I really like to go to these  
gatherings is quite simply the opportunity they provide to meet  
with old friends and make some new ones. How good to see midwives  
who used to work in the Wellington region, and to hear what they  
are doing now. Susan Taylor working with Maori women in  
Whanganui, Suzanne Miller in independent practice in Auckland,  
Julia Miller teaching ante natal classes and busy being a mother  
in Christchurch. Great to talk with midwives from Australia who  
always seem somewhat frustrated with their lot when they compare  
it to ours.

I really like shopping too. Lots of books and bits and pieces to  
buy at conference. Then, having got myself truly in the right  
frame of mind, and driving north on the way home , what do I  
spy, but a wonderful statue made of Oamaru stone, carved by Ian  
Anderson, of a round, fecund woman with a baby sitting in a  
breach position and the woman thoughtful and focused, and I buy  
this too. Well, my family are very accepting and she now resides  
on a rimu stand in my living room and my sons wonder which one  
of them will inherit her.

Yes indeed, midwifery conferences are for midwives to learn at,  
to rub shoulders with other midwives and be renewed and  
strengthened, and to refocus their commitment to women, and to  
the profession of midwifery. I hope many of you can be there next  
time.