

This is the editorial from the Waikato Home Birth Association Inc. (WHBA) Newsmagazine April May 2007 Issue. Back copies of the issue are available from the association for WHBA members for the cost of the postage (\$1.00 within New Zealand or it can be sent out with your next newsmagazine for no extra charge). Non-members are welcome to purchase a back copy for the cost of printing and postage (\$2.00 plus postage). Please contact the editor at waikato@homebirth.org.nz if you would like to request a back copy.

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Editorial ... Mother's Day Issue ... April - May 2007

From the Editor...

Hi everyone. It's with mixed emotions that I send this edition of the magazine off to the printers. On one hand, I'm really excited about what we have managed to pack into this edition — not only were we able to get permission to reprint some work by renowned anthropologist Jean Leidloff and two really interesting articles about kiwi families going 'nappy free', but we also have another home-grown birth story and photos from WHBA members in celebration of two special days this May — Mothers Day and International Midwives Day. We also have lots of birth notices, book reviews and local news, including a group of Waikato Mums taking on the government over the right of parents and premature or ill newborn babies to stay together while baby is being treated in hospital. Parent power!

On the other hand, the major business meeting for the year, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) is looming up, and with it the unavoidable truth that the WHBA is suffering from too few 'active' members — so much so, that after nearly 28 years the coregroup is seriously considering the possibility of putting the association into "recess." Basically this means that the financial affairs of the association would be wound up and the group would cease all activities, including birth preparation classes and the newsmagazine. So, this might well be the last magazine.

Please read the enclosed notice about the AGM and consider the options up for discussion. Your attendance at the meeting to vote on these important issues would be appreciated, as would your ideas and opinions. In accordance with the rules governing incorporated societies, the fate of the WHBA will be decided by a majority vote of financial members. So every vote counts.

On a brighter note, I have lots of people to thank for their assistance in getting this edition to print, having had more input, ideas and suggestions than ever before. Firstly, thanks to Ruth Hungerford for her work in negotiating use of the Jean Liedloff article, writing the reviews, sourcing articles and lots of fantastic ideas. Thanks also to Briar McMahon and *Healthy Options* editor Karin de la Rey for allowing us to use Briar's nappy free stories, and to Irma Jager (a home birthing Mum of Motueka) for sharing her experiences and family photographs to educate and inspire other families. I'm also grateful to Jane Coleman for suggesting these stories and putting me in touch with Briar.

A special thank-you to members Natalie Muller and Shelley Walker for the fantastic photos in this issue, and to Cathy and Bernard Coleman for their wonderful birth story — it is the home grown contributions of members that make the magazine "our magazine." I would also like to thank everyone who has sent story ideas and given the magazine subcommittee so much encouragement. I hope we get to bring you some more of these stories in the future.

Arohanui,
Telisa Pearson-Collett