



Generations of Midwifery

Profiles of The History and Archives Committee

Pam Hayes

Pam Hayes is a third generation midwife following her mother and grandmother into the profession.

Pam trained at Royal Prince Alfred in Sydney in 1953 and almost immediately went to the Royal Hobart Hospital to train as a midwife. Pam worked night duty in a small private hospital in Amcliffe before going to New York in 1960. For a year she worked as a general/paediatric nurse at St Luke's Hospital in Manhattan, before traveling for three months across the USA to Canada for three months. She ended up working as a nurse and midwife on a small island off the British Columbian coast, half of which was an Indian Reserve, for 18 months. Pam traveled back across Canada and after some time in England, she ended up working in the labour ward at Wollongong Hospital. Pam describes getting a job 'perchance' at The Women's Hospital (Crown Street) in Sydney in 1963, where she stayed for 20 years until it was closed down. She left the labour ward in 1969 to become the Midwifery Educator, completing her Diploma in Midwifery Education in 1970.

Pam traveled all over NSW and other states and territories taking education programmes, workshops and seminars to midwives. Always ahead of her time in terms of her vision for the profession and her understanding of social issues, Pam lectured about sexuality and health at a time when this was considered quite outrageous:

I was early in trying to challenge the sphere of midwives' knowledge, to develop an understanding of a couple's sexuality as part of the midwifery cur-

riculum. I was also trying to establish an appreciation of varying life-styles, migrant (New Australian), alternative 'hippy' and communes. I even was reported, reported to the Matron, in 1975, for showing a very simplistic sexuality film to a group of midwifery students... I remember introducing some new material, fighting for the extent of midwives knowledge, thinking about the curriculum we were presenting. Thinking midwives were badly done by compared with doctors and/or nurses, just as I thought women were badly done by compared with men.

Pam was a key player in the setting up of the organization that would become the ACMI. This process began in 1975, when she traveled to Lausanne to the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) conference, following which she went to a joint meeting between the ICM and the International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Here, Pam met Margaret Peters, a midwife from Melbourne, and Jenny Cooling from South Australia, an important turning point for Australian midwifery. By 1975, these three had organized for their three states to become ICM members, a process that was facilitated by a visit to Australia from the UK by Margaret Myles (of textbook fame) and Marjorie Bayes. In 1978, three states - NSW, Victoria and South Australia - formed the National Midwives association, an interest group of what was then named the Royal Australian Nurses Federation. Following their initial attendance at the ICM Council in 1975 in Lausanne, the three state organisations met with each

other on home territory for the first time and the beginning of one national organisation was initiated in 1978.

An initial conference was held in Adelaide in 1979 and, with all the exuberance of the fledgling organisation and with virtually no capital, the group decided on a financial structure to include a scholarship fund and to bid for the hosting of the 1984 ICM Congress. The Association was formed, becoming the Australian College of Midwives in 1983.

Pam was Head of the Midwifery School at Crown Street from 1975. When it closed in 1983, she worked at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH) as a Clinical Nurse Educator (Midwifery) until 1991. Pam led the development of NSWMA around this time - 'We ran it from our bedrooms, boots of cars etc before getting our first premises in 1991.' Pam left RPAH to establish the Ultimo offices of the NSWMA. This meant purchasing the premises, furnishing and establishing the office and business routines. She also conducted some of the early programs established for the continuing education of midwives.

Pam is a historian as well as midwife. She tells of an earlier NSWMA being formed in the 1890s when the NSW midwives split away from the 'special interest midwifery group' of the Australian Trained Nurses Association - a body established to examine nurses and set standards - due to conflict between nursing and midwifery. In 1926, NSW Nurses Association was formed to negotiate salaries and after the Second World War, a midwifery subsection was introduced.

As a historian Pam has a superb grasp



of the fraught history of heated arguments and constant debates between doctors, nurses and midwives in Australia, dating back to the 1890s. Some of these are evident in the 'Letters to the Editor' pages of the journals of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation and the NSW Nurses Association.

There were these big fights with nurses at every stage about nomenclature. We just kept calling ourselves 'midwives' when they insisted that we were 'midwifery nurses'. We ignored the chattering nurses and in continuing to call ourselves 'midwives' gradually there was public acceptance of the term. The battle about nomenclature continued over name badges, employment awards and so forth and it is only really in the last year that we are beginning to see midwifery recognised officially.

In 1990, Pam received the Order of Australia for her services to childbearing women and midwifery. This is a fitting tribute to one who truly has 'midwifed' Australian midwifery through to its coming of age. Pam was made a Distinguished Fellow and Life Member of the ACMI in 1995 and is a Life Member of the NSWMA.

Dorothy Rogers

Although born in NSW, Dorothy spent

the first four and a half years of her life in Uganda, Africa, with her missionary parents. Dorothy trained at the Children's Hospital (Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children) from 1944-1948. She did her midwifery training at Royal North Shore and during the 1950s, continued to work there, ending up in the antenatal clinic. In 1963, Dorothy went to Papua New Guinea as a Missionary Nurse, where she worked mostly with mothers and babies. On her return to NSW in 1970, she undertook the Midwifery Nurse Educators course at NSW College of Nursing and subsequently went to work at Hornsby and District Hospital as the midwifery educator. Dorothy set up parent education classes at Hornsby before becoming the first Parent Educator at King George Fifth Memorial Hospital for Mothers and Babies (KGV) in 1981. Dorothy describes some resistance from doctors regarding the idea of parent education classes, which up until then had only been run by physiotherapists at KGV. For nine years, during the 1970s, Dorothy was the Treasurer for the NSWMA. She was a CNC at KGV before retiring in 1991.

Dorothy runs the 'Media Watch' arm of the History and Archives committee. She tirelessly cuts out any relevant arti-

cles from the Sydney Morning Herald, North Shore papers and any others donated by friends: 'Almost every day the scissors are out!' Dorothy reads 'a book a week', attends a healing service regularly and is writing her memoirs of her time in PNG.

Lorraine Doyle

Lorraine trained as a general nurse at Royal North Shore Hospital from 1963 - 1967 and then completed her midwifery training at the Women's Hospital, Crown Street in 1968. She was invited to remain on the staff of the Women's Hospital labour ward until 1971. Lorraine moved up the coast to work on the staff at Manning River District Hospital, Taree in 1972. The following year, she gained her Intensive Therapy Diploma at Royal Newcastle Hospital and returned to work in the Intensive Care Unit at Manning River District Hospital until 1976. When she returned to Sydney, Lorraine decided to take her skills into becoming a librarian. She obtained a job in a Public Library and gained a Bachelor of Arts (Library Science) degree. She specialised in being a Children's Librarian and took law as an elective subject. Medical libraries were a closed shop and Lorraine became a law librarian, initially working for Butterworths and now for legal publisher, Thompson Law Book Global Publishing Company. She is their Library Manager and is also a freelance Indexer, being a member of the Australian Society of Indexers. Lorraine brings all of these skills to the NSWMA History and Archives committee and has catalogued and looked after the library for 20 years.

In her spare time, Lorraine enjoys learning to play the piano, water colour painting, attending librarian and indexing groups and seminars and her church and political activities. Consumer Relations Manager from 1990 - 1996.

Catherine Robinson

Before undertaking her nurse training,



PERSONAL Matters

Generations of Midwifery

Cath worked for seventeen years in a clerical capacity with a department store, an airline company and for a medical benefits fund. She did her nursing training in 1967 at Canberra Community Hospital followed by her midwifery training at the Women's Hospital, Crown Street in 1971. Cath remained on the staff at Crown Street for the next five months from where she moved north and worked in a variety of nursing roles in Manning River District Hospital at Taree. She gained her Intensive Therapy Certificate at Royal Newcastle Hospital in 1973 and for the next two and a half years she was in charge of a major surgical recovery unit, the Intensive Care and Coronary Care Unit at Manning River District Hospital. In 1976, Cath was searching for a career change and took a position at Elizabeth Arden as a credit control clerk, then Accounts Payable Associate after completing a Diploma in Accounting. She was promoted to Consumer Relations Manager from 1990 - 1996. In all, Cath enjoyed 20 years of working for Elizabeth Arden. During this time she maintained her interest in midwifery and has worked tirelessly supporting the work of the History and Archives Committee. Cath has been responsible for helping Lorraine over the past twenty years, mainly with the cataloguing and stock-taking of the books and journals within the NSWMA library. Cath is now retired and in spite of some indifferent health, she provides voluntary assistance in a health clinic, attends classical concerts, and is actively involved in her church's activities and political support groups.

Hazel Woolston

Hazel trained as a nurse at Royal Brisbane General Hospital. She was invited to join the staff there but declined and after a year of private nursing in Sydney, in 1939, she sailed to New Zealand and undertook the six-month 'obstetric' training at Rotorua Hospital. Over the next few years, Hazel worked in a variety of nursing jobs in



Auckland, country hospitals in the North Island, then Sydney and Brisbane. In 1944, she did her Infant Welfare training at Karitane in Sydney and relieved in Karitane Health Centres until 1947 when she went to the Women's Hospital, Crown Street for four months of supplementary training in midwifery to enable her to register as a midwife. She stayed for a period of over 26 years. Most of these were spent in the Labour Ward as the Senior Sister with one year as Supervisor and intervals of being Night Supervisor. When she resigned from Crown Street in 1978, Hazel continued to work in a part-time capacity at Royal South Sydney Hospital and Marrickville District Hospital.

In 1978, Hazel was awarded a Bachelor of Arts by the University of New England. She majored in History and Sociology. In 1981 she achieved a Graduate Diploma in Archives Administration, her fieldwork being performed at the NSW Nurses Association where she was instrumental in establish-

ing their archives and assisting in the writing of the history of the Association. In particular, she researched NSW Parliamentary Debates and located historical photographs. In 1986, the University of Sydney History Department awarded Hazel a Master of Arts degree. Local history composed much of Hazel's studies for this degree, including a history of Manley Hospital, the history of private hospitals in Metropolitan Sydney and the early development of Norton Street, Leichardt (which is where Hazel was born). Hazel is active in local history group. She was the first treasurer of the NSW Society for the History of Medicine when it was formed in 1991 and is a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society. The latter organisation presented her with a Certificate of Achievement in 1993 for the establishment of the Manley Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Local History Journal and for researching nursing history.

In the past 10 years (1995-2004), in a

part-time honorary capacity, Hazel has been involved in arranging the Doherty Collection at the College of Nursing - 66 boxes and also 8 boxes of relevant photographs are now listed within the College's computer.

Hazel was awarded the O.A.M. for community work and nursing history in 1996. She has also completed 14 years of being Secretary for the Anglican Historical Society (Diocese of Sydney) and was recently awarded a Fellowship from this body. Her work now continues as archivist and Research Officer, and two secretaries are now continuing with the large workload of a very strong Society, which now has a membership of 100 and twice a year publishes a 48-page journal.

Patricia Sparrow

Pat commenced her nurse training at St Luke's Hospital in Sydney and then 'did her mid' at the Women's Hospital (Crown Street) in 1946. After several years overseas working in Denmark as well as the UK, she hitchhiked with some friends all over Europe.

Pat rejoined the staff at Crown Street on her return, where she was appointed Night Supervisor in 1960 and Supervisor of Labour Ward in 1968. It was here on the Labour Ward that she had her busiest year when in 1970-1971 more than 8,000 babies were born, with one in ten being surrendered for adoption. She was to spend a total of 42 years at Crown Street, retiring in 1983 when the hospital was closed.

Pat was the hard working Secretary/Treasurer of the NSWMA during the 1970s at a time before computers and pre-prepared mailing labels. Together with Jennifer Gray she was one of the first two midwives to represent the NSWMA at the ICM Council meeting at the Lausanne Congress in 1975. Since then she has given endless hours of voluntary service to NSWMA.

Pat was one of the co-authors of our history, *With Courage and Devotion*, and later the story of the Women's

Hospital, Crown Street - A Family Remembers. She has been attending monthly meetings of the History and Archives Committee from the early 1980s and spent most of the 1990s providing volunteer clerical services in the Ultimo offices.

Pat was made a Life Member of the NSWMA in 1994. Pat's physical health began to deteriorate in 2000 and for the past two and a half years, she has been a resident in Pittwater Aged Care Facility at Avalon. She has maintained a lively interest in cricket, classical music and ballet.

Pam Mulholland

Pam undertook her general nurse training at the Memorial Hospital, North Adelaide, from 1967 - 1971. She then went to Broken Hill in November 1971 and immediately started her midwifery training - 'I always wanted to be a midwife'. Pam worked in Broken Hill until 1984. During that time she went to Sydney and trained as a Mothercraft Nurse and Neonatal Intensive Care Nurse at King George V Hospital. She also studied for an Associate Diploma in

Nurse Education at Armidale College of Advanced Education. In Broken Hill, Pam worked as a midwifery educator and was in charge of the maternity unit for many years.

Pam first became aware of the NSWMA when she met Dorothy McLennan at Royal North Shore whilst completing a practice teaching placement there. Dorothy took her to a couple of NSWMA meetings and she has been a keen contributor ever since.

Pam moved to Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital in 1985 and has worked there ever since - in midwifery education, general nurse education and neonatal nursing education. She is currently NUM (manager) of Antenatal, Postnatal, Special Care Nursery and Domiciliary programs.

Pam gained a Bachelor of Health at the University of Western Sydney. She encourages newly qualified nurses at Bankstown to undertake midwifery education and supports new midwifery graduates to undertake the full role of the midwife. Besides contributing to the History and Archives Committee, Pam is the NSWMA Public Officer. She is a Life Member of NSWMA.

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