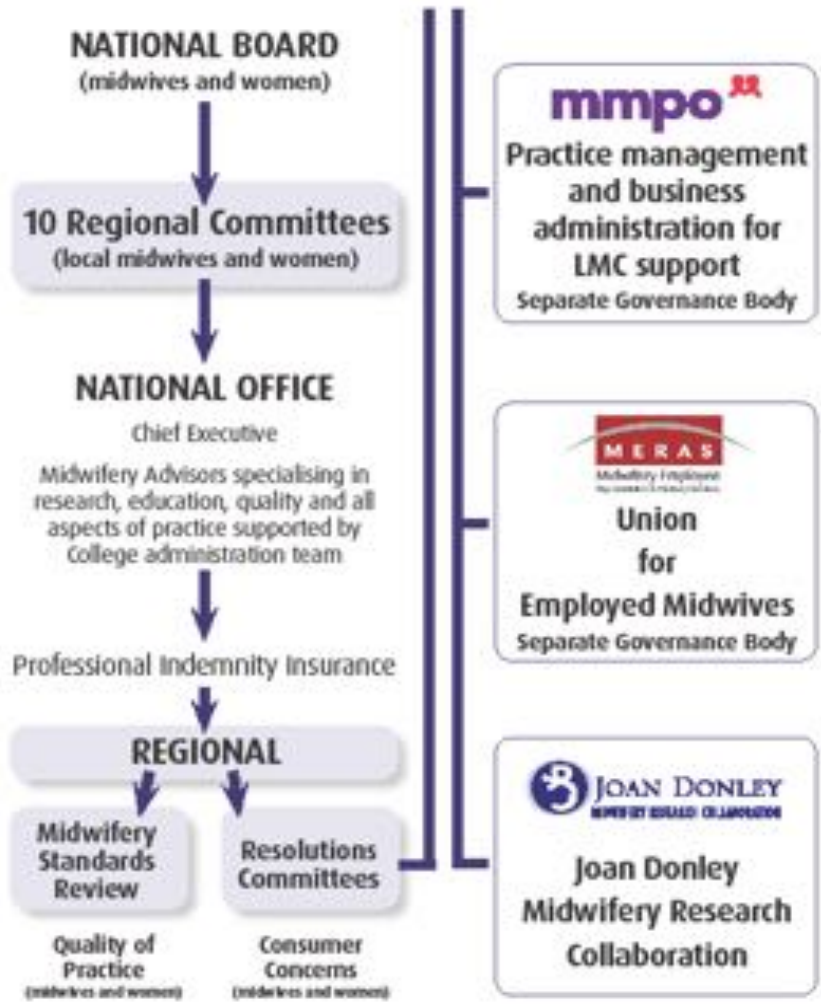




The Launch of the College of Midwives 1989





Mentors/Influencers; Joan Donley, Mina Timutimu, Helen Clark



Jackie Pearce



# Purpose of the College

- Create and maintain an autonomous identity for all midwives and midwifery
- Lead its professional processes for all midwives...consistent standards
- Promote professionalism as the expression of individual midwives social contract with women/whanau



## **Key elements in our achievement of professional autonomy were**

- The voices of women and the Patient's Right's movement... 'voice, choice and safe prospect.'
- Midwives and women sharing a goal
- Harnessing the political and social structures to bring about change...midwife unity; one collective voice
- Belief in ourselves to make a positive difference to women/newborns/whanau lives & evidence to support this

# Establishment of MERAS

- 1990 most midwives in NZNO...College negotiated MOU with them (Steph Breen) in 1994 for joint policies. Steph left in 1995 & support fell away. Further MOUs and difficult times with NZNO. Midwives needed midwifery industrial support.
- 2002 Karen drafted constitution, consulted Bernard McIlhone (Engineers Union) PSA and CTU. College's National Committee ratified constitution in 2002. Registered MERAS in 2002. College underwrote funds. Hired Ken Johnson (Aviation & Marine Union) for individual cases and Dawn Holland 1<sup>st</sup> unpaid "organiser"

# Structures set and recruitment begins

- Oct 2003 College appointed Bernard McIlhone and we started recruiting...slow as NZNO competitive. Norma Campbell, Advisors and College regional Chairs had an essential role. Drafted a collaborative negotiating model and 89 members approached DHBNZ for contract.
- 2004 ballot of DHBs and a national DHB midwifery agreement was a reality
- March 2005 1<sup>st</sup> National Rep Council meeting. Now 570 members, almost 50% of employed midwives



## College Advisors and Presidents who worked to establish MERAS



Karen, Sally, Sandy & Sue



Elaine, Alison, Lesley & Norma





**First negotiation Committee**

2004; Robin, Kelly, Jenny, Bernard and Bronwen



**College Conferences**



Caroline, Bernard, Kelly

The College is Midwifery's collective professional practice voice.

