



Hi Maggie and Tony,

I think it is the first time I have read a journal from cover-to-cover the moment I received a copy, and an on-line copy as well, which normally one would assume was more challenging.

I LOVE your ability to inject beauty into the concept and the effect for me is that this journal is aligned to the spirit of birth more than any other journal I have ever laid my eyes on.

Well done guys.

**Sue Lennox, Eastbourne,
Wellington, New Zealand**



To Maggie and Tony and all those involved in the production of the *Birthspirit Midwifery Journal*.

The first issue of the Journal has filled me with joy, hope, inspiration and relief. I LOVE it! I can't bear to part with it. And I do have to part with it - in order to show it to others and convince them to subscribe. I have read some of the articles and stories over and over again. I love the papers which are so wonderfully referenced, but even more I love the knowledge contained in them that comes from experience and the wit and wisdom of midwifery. I love the stories, the photos and artwork, the look and the feel of it, the smell of it.

Thank you.

Lynda Williams
**An aging hippie, grandmother
of four and women's health
activist.**
Auckland, New Zealand



Dear Editor,

How glorious to read Sara Wickham's article on "the 'somewhat mysterious, marvellously erratic and essentially unpredictable "behaviour of the cervix", in the 1st issue of this journal.¹ I would love to add my very personal 'stepping stone' of cervical knowledge gained during my third labour.

My waters broke in the early evening of a cold and stormy winter's night. As with my previous two labours there were no contractions or further hints of labour.

Time passed, the wind dropped and the rain momentarily disappeared. I knew it was time to start my "labour walk". Leaving mum in charge at home, Rod, I and our two poodles set out into the night. We live quite close to Corio Bay, where a seaside path sweeps around the bay and down to the beach, and this was the path we walked that night. The sky was aubergine and the atmosphere electric – it felt like a wonderful night to be having a baby.

We walked about two kilometres and then I knew it was time to turn back....the walk had done wonders and my body was doing it's thing. It became apparent that my labour walk had perhaps worked "too well"... my contractions were very close together, I was having to stop, lean and breathe through them, I could feel my baby right down in my pelvis and as a result was walking bow-legged like I'd been on a horse all day! I was actually beginning to have doubts.....not doubts about my body and labour, but doubts about my ability to make it home!

My cool, calm and collected husband was by this stage getting a bit nervy – here he was out on a deserted seaside path, in the middle of the night, with an intensely labouring woman, two poodles, and still over a kilometre to walk home!

And then, the universe intervened. The two poodles suddenly came upon a possum and chased it across the road - right in front of the one car that was out and about that evening! Somehow poodles, possum and Peugeot were fine, but the huge endogenous dose of adrenalin I gave to myself courtesy of the massive fright, had amazing consequences for my labour. Suddenly, as if someone had pulled tight the two ends of a drawstring bag, I felt my cervix slam shut and my baby felt like she shot up and out of my pelvis! I was then able to stand up straight and walk normally and pain-freely to the safety of home, where we could all calm down and 'await events'.

My beautiful baby girl was born through water five hours later, and her labour and birth have certainly contributed to my understanding of the complexity of cervixes, and of our intense connection to the universe.

Sincerely

Heather Wallace, Geelong, Australia

1. Wickham S, Stepping stones and cervical wisdom. *Birthspirit Midwifery Journal* 2009;1:39-42.



Dear Maggie,

Congratulations on the first edition of *Birthspirit*. I really loved reading it. Thank you. It was great to be able to read it at leisure in NZ. I think it is unique as a midwifery journal, with a very special blend of heart and head and challenge to both.

It has great potential as an international journal, because of that special blend. Is this what you want or do you see it as a NZ journal? I would be very happy to publicise it in the UK.

Some of the articles will be much quoted, especially Sarah Buckley's which brings the research on 3rd stage together well whilst still being very readable and Sara's article on the cervix similarly brings a lot of midwifery knowledge together.

I loved your "Mamatoto Calling", which raised very important issues about midwifery "interventions" which haven't been discussed enough. I hope it will provoke discussion and thought amongst midwives.

Sue Lennox's article was very good, indeed. I plan to quote it at a conference in Sydney next weekend. The standard of all the articles was excellent and the balance of contributors just right.

The journal is very well produced. I loved the pictures and the stitches - very professional but personal at the same time. Well done.

I certainly want to contribute and will be in touch when I am settled back at home.

Mavis Kirkham, Sheffield, United Kingdom



Dear Editor

Congratulations on the birth of your journal. It looks fantastic, so real and down to earth.

Yeah!!!! Keep up the great work you do.

Many blessings

Lisca Hoy, Brisbane, Australia



Editor's comment

Birthspirit Midwifery Journal has both an international readership and contributing authors list, and is definitely intended to be an international journal.

Thank you to all of you beyond this Issue's correspondents who phoned and emailed your encouragement and support to bring *Birthspirit Midwifery Journal* to life.



Health and Disability Commissioner
Te Toihou Hauora, Hauāteanga

27 March 2009

Sue Lennox
Email: suelennox@xtra.co.nz

Dear Sue

Re: Article in Birthspirit

I very much enjoyed reading your article "Meeting Places: Differences and Conflict in the Real World" in the first issue of Birthspirit.

It deserves to be widely read, not just within midwifery. Thankyou for your thoughtful contribution on such an important issue.

Yours sincerely



Ron Paterson
Health and Disability Commission

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