

Honouring
Veronika Muller

– Midwife –



It is with great sadness that we advise that on the 17th July at 1530, Veronika Muller died at home with her family.

Veronika was an extraordinary midwife who worked with unshakeable, quiet and enduring confidence in the Home Birth space in NZ long before this was deemed acceptable in the NZ maternity system of the 1980s.

Veronika's motivation to become a midwife was born out of her staunch belief in women's rights to self-determination in all areas of life and especially in women's innate ability to give birth and to choose their place of birth.

In 1979 Veronika travelled to Derbyshire, UK to begin her Direct Entry Midwifery training. On her return to NZ in 1983 she began working in Titirangi and the greater Auckland area alongside Joan Donley and a very small handful of Domiciliary Midwives and an even smaller handful of GPs, notably the late John Hilton.

Along with Joan and the women of the Auckland Homebirth Association, Vee worked to educate and promote the model of Direct Entry midwifery training which became established in 1990 along with the formation of the NZ College of Midwives. Veronika was a founding member of NZCOM.

Veronika was qualified as a Naturopath, a Medical Herbalist and Acupuncturist. Her book Nutrition in Childbirth leaves an invaluable resource for women and midwives seeking sound information to keep well and to take healthy agency of their pregnancy and birth and breastfeeding.

In 1992 Veronika and her husband Jake, her brother Ian and sister-in-law Sue Bogaard bought a beautiful piece of land around the Wainui river and moved to the Bay of Plenty to raise their families together. Veronika and Sue became much loved, respected and appreciated by the community they served as they worked in partnership for the last 33 years.

Veronika was highly sought after by student midwives and new graduate midwives for her remarkable wealth of knowledge and for her immensely valuable and respected way of teaching and mentoring.

Her contribution to midwifery in NZ has been huge. Her way of midwifery has been exemplary in every aspect. She was completely without conceit as she practiced the finest, most professional, most creative and most fiercely independent model of truly safeguarding women and their babies and families to achieve the highest level of normal birth outcomes.

We can only attempt to give our deepest respect and love to an outstandingly fine woman who has left us with such memorable and incomparable gifts for how to truly be a midwife and how to live so marvellously in this time that we have had together. Thank you, dearest friend and colleague. You will be missed.

Sue Bogaard & Anne Sharplin