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**‘AN EXCELLENT PREPARATION
FOR MARRIAGE AND
FAMILIES OF THEIR OWN’**

Karitane Nursing in New Zealand 1959-1979



A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree
of Master of Arts in History at Massey University

Lesley Courtney

2001

‘My greatest asset is my children
and who would I give my greatest asset to for care
- no one but a professional person’

Charmaine Foster
employer of Karitane nurses
1976-89

Karitane nursing has been important to me. It was my first foray into post-primary training and my first 'real' job. While I long ago left it behind, and largely forgot it, it was an important part of my growing up and no doubt says a lot about me as a New Zealand 'girl' of the sixties and seventies. I have learned a lot in writing this thesis and have been encouraged by the interest and enthusiasm that people have shown in my research. I must first thank all the people who contacted me and were willing to be interviewed or wrote me copious notes about their days involved with Karitane nursing. Without their willingness to reminisce this thesis would not be possible. Second, thank you to my supervisor, Dr Margaret Tennant, who has encouraged and inspired me not only during this thesis but throughout all my studies at Massey. Lastly, I must acknowledge all past Karitane nurses who are part of this story also.

Lesley Courtney, Dec 2001

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements
Contents

Introduction	1
Chapter 1 A School for Mothers	18
Chapter 2 1959: The Consultative Committee on Infant and Pre-School Health	40
Chapter 3 Apparently Attractive to Young Girls	53
Chapter 4 Basic Practical Training	65
Chapter 5 Cheerful Competent Girls	97
Chapter 6 No Longer a Primary Function	127
Chapter 7 A Thing of the Past?	143
Conclusion	156
Appendices	161
Bibliography	168



KINDLINESS IS ESSENTIAL.

ALWAYS COMBINE WITH KNOWLEDGE,
TACT AND RESOURCEFULNESS.

REMEMBER THE TRUST PLACED IN
YOU

IS A GREAT ONE, AND YOUR FAITHFUL
DISCHARGE OF IT BRINGS HONOUR TO

THE NURSING PROFESSION OF WHICH
YOU ARE A PART.

AIM TO OBSERVE CAREFULLY THE
ESSENTIALS FOR HEALTHY LIVING—
FOR—

NURSES BY THEIR OWN EXAMPLE DO
MUCH TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS.

EVER FACE DIFFICULTIES AND CRITIC-
ISM WITH PATIENCE AND THE QUIET
DIGNITY DUE TO YOUR PROFESSION.

SERVE FAITHFULLY AND DILIGENTLY,
RESPECTING CONFIDENCES—WITH A
LOVE FOR THE BABIES IN YOUR CARE.