



**Women's business: Midwives on the Mid North Coast of NSW to 1950, a study of the Hastings, Macleay and Armidale regions**

By Dr Noeline Kyle

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This book details the training, careers, family life, business enterprises, travel to and between towns/villages, friendships and partnerships with other midwives or nurses, community participation and their contribution to the profession and their communities of more than 200 midwives and the 70 hospitals they established or managed. Mothers and daughters working together, two or three sisters, and friends, so many women friends establishing hospitals, practising their midwifery together, operating a business together or simply working in the same place. This is an extraordinary history of women developing professional maternity care for women in country towns. Many decades since they are still remembered in these communities. This publication ensures that their stories are recorded for future generations.

Noeline Kyle began researching mid north coast midwives in 1979 when writing a biography of her great grandmother Nurse Mary Kirkpatrick. Recently returned to live on the mid north coast she is an enthusiastic volunteer at the Kempsey Museum and also facilitates a writing family history group for the Port Macquarie Family History Society. She continues to research and write women's history as an Honorary Professor at the University of Sydney. Noeline continues her support of local and family history through workshops, publications and her web page:

[www.writingfamilyhistory.com.au](http://www.writingfamilyhistory.com.au)

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