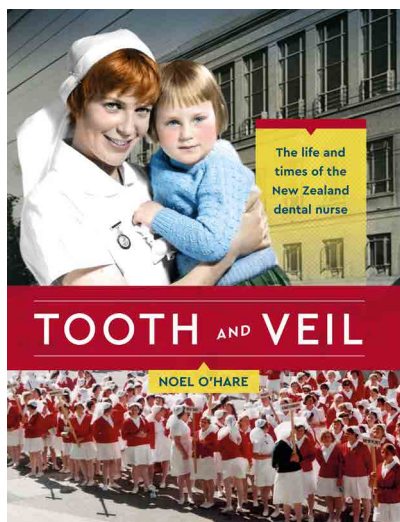


Tooth and Veil

The life and times of the New Zealand dental nurse

NOEL O'HARE



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THE STORY OF THE YOUNG WOMEN CHARGED WITH WAGING WAR ON OUR NATION'S POOR TEETH

In 1921, the School Dental Service was established. A social experiment unique to New Zealand, it was lauded around the world and later modelled in 15 countries. This is the story of those on the front line of that experiment, the dental nurses who endured military-style training, poor resourcing and petty discipline, as well as increasingly anachronistic rules around uniform and behaviour.

Bringing together interviews with dental nurses from across the decades, Noel O'Hare has created an engaging social history of New Zealand in the twentieth century, through the eyes and voices of young women.

The book begins on 29 March 1974, when more than 600 dental nurses from throughout New Zealand marched to Parliament in their uniforms to protest at their low pay. They hadn't had a pay rise in 21 years . . .

'In lively prose and with an eye for telling details from oral history, O'Hare romps through the rise and fall of the once lauded New Zealand dental nurse service.'
— Barbara Brookes, *Corpus*

'That a dental history should rely so heavily on 'oral' history is just one of the delights of Tooth and Veil. The other is that those much-maligned heroines of dental health have at last had a chance to tell their side of the story.'
— Jim Sullivan, *Otago Daily Times*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Noel O'Hare is a freelance journalist, columnist, blogger and author. Northern Ireland-born, Noel has lived and worked in New Zealand since the early 1970s. In the 1980s he became a staff writer for the *New Zealand Listener* magazine, where he wrote many award-winning features on subjects as diverse as reading, tantric sex, diet, mental illness and alternative therapies. He is the author of *Think before you Swallow: The art of staying healthy in a health-obsessed world* (2007) and *How to Save the World by Recycling Your Sex Toys* (2009).

SALES POINTS

- A lively history written by someone who knows how to tell a story
- At turns funny, shocking, fascinating and surprising — and sometimes just plain mad
- Over 150 fantastic illustrations including some classic posters exhorting children to look after their teeth
- Includes the fluoridation debate and the risks for dental nurses of the long-term use of mercury

PRINTABLE A3 POSTER AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

