

## BPWA CELEBRATES & CONGRATULATES FREDA MIRIKLIS, NEW BPWI PRESIDENT 2011-14



*Liz Benham, Immediate Past BPWI President (2008-11) congratulating Freda at the BPWI Helsinki Congress upon her election as BPWI President (2011-14). (Photo courtesy of BPWI)*

Liz Benham writes on the BPWI website: “On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at our 27<sup>th</sup> International Congress, held in Helsinki Finland, Freda Miriklis (Australia) was elected as your new international president.

Having worked with Freda over this last triennium and also in the prior term it gives me great pride to have her take BPW International forward under her leadership. Freda served previously in 2008-2011 as the international Executive Secretary and from 2005-2011 as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and United Nations Chair. In this last term we have worked to modernize our 80 year organization on many levels and as a key contributor to this process Freda will continue forging ahead with our strategic partnerships, maintaining our visibility and providing value to our membership.

We all wish her much success and very much look forward to supporting her in her vision, goals and endeavors.”



Our Patron,  
Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

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# **BPW INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD 2011 - 2014**

## ***Empowered Women Leading Business***

<b>President:</b>	Freda Miriklis (Aus)	<b>Regional Coordinators:</b>	
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Liz Benham		
<b>First Vice President:</b>	Huguette Akplogan Dossa	Africa:	Adenike Adeyanju-Osadol
<b>Second Vice President:</b>	Jill Worobec	Asia Pacific:	Susan Jones (Aus)
<b>Executive Secretary:</b>	Dr Yasmin Darwich	Europe:	Sabine Schmelzer
<b>Finance Director:</b>	Geva Murano (Aus)	Latin America:	Maria Elvira Salles Ferreira
<b>Young BPW Rep:</b>	Anastasia Safarian	North America:	Bessie Hironimus

### **Freda Miriklis – Our New BPWI President:**

BPWA celebrates and congratulates Freda on her election as the 23rd BPWI President. Australia certainly has a rich history on the BPWI Executive with Freda being the fourth Australian member elected as BPWI President. She has been preceded by Patience Thoms (1968-71), Beryl Nasher (1974-77) and Pat Harrison (1992-2002) and other members holding executive roles.

Freda is a member of BPW Mid City in Victoria and from 1996-98 was their Young Achievers Chair and was awarded the Australian Young BPW from 1998-2000. Her achievements, not only in her club and Victoria, but BPWA and internationally are extensive. She served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in the last BPWI Executive from 2008-11 and during this time was the Chair for the BPW United Nations Committee on the Status of Women. Ultimately, pages of this Bulletin would be needed to list her BPW and private achievements!

Freda is employed as a Private Client Adviser at Patersons Securities Ltd and has worked for other companies as a Private Client Adviser and Corporate Adviser for other companies since 1992.

In the *BPW International Congress Bulletin, Empowerment, July 2011*, Freda states: "Never before in history have there been so many forces working together for gender equity. Growing research shows that engaging women in the leadership and decision making roles of enterprise and industry results in greater profits and increased productivity. We always knew it was true but now we have the evidence. In our evolving partnership with the United Nations Global Compact we have been able to leverage our work with the *Women's Empowerment Principle's: Equality Means Business* to legitimately claim our status as recognised gender expert in the domain of working women and enterprise – a space where there is currently no other organised gender voice.

If we believe that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights, then we cannot accept the ongoing marginalization of half the world's population. We cannot accept it morally, politically, socially, or economically. BPW International has a renewed commitment to lead the women's empowerment agenda. We were founded on the vision of achieving workplace equality, right to vote and equal pay. Eighty years on and the issues are still the same but the armoury is different. Today, we are equipped with the vital piece that has been missing for decades – the business case. With this in arm, BPW Affiliates around the world now have a roadmap and vital link that will lead us to equality in the workplace, marketplace and community. We can now work to Susan Anthony's aim of establishing justice for all - Men their rights, and nothing more; women, their rights, and nothing less."



### **Other BPWA Members on the BPWI Executive**

Congratulations also to Susan Jones from BPW Sydney elected to the role of BPW Asia Pacific Regional Co-ordinator and Geva Murano from BPW Melbourne, who is the BPWI Finance Director.

The Bulletin will feature articles on Susan and Geva in coming editions.

Pictured with Gabriella Canonica (in centre red) are 10 members of the 24 who attended the Congress. They are pictured in their Australian Congress Jackets. The pattern is designed by a female Aboriginal artist.

# ACTING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Dear Members,**

As Marilyn and our Australian Delegation arrive back from XXVII International Congress in Helsinki, we in Australia have much to celebrate.

On 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011, BPWI history was made with the election of Freda Miriklis as President of BPW International. Freda is the youngest International President and the fourth Australian to be voted BPWI President. No other country can lay claim to this achievement. Freda has served on the BPWI board as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the past three years and was the Chair of the UN Status of Women Standing Committee. Freda is a previous Young BPW Victoria winner and is a current member of Mid City, Melbourne. Congratulations Freda. This also means that BPW International Office will now come to Melbourne for the next three years.



Congratulations also go to Geva Murano, from BPW Melbourne, elected to the position of BPWI Finance Director, and to Susan Jones from BPW Sydney, who was elected BPW Asia Pacific Coordinator. Susan has vast experience as BPWI Chair of BPW Projects and Project 5-0. Susan has been a member for many years and held numerous positions including Vice President of Membership for BPW Australia.

Thank you to all the delegates and members who represented Australia in Helsinki. I'm sure that we will have many interesting articles for the August Bulletin.

The theme for the next triennium is "Empowered Women Leading Business".

More than at any time in our organisation's recent history the members of BPW International want an organisation that unites them in the common purpose of building a stronger, more meaningful and more prosperous international society - a society built on effort, business innovation and the incentive to achieve, yet a society which cares for the less fortunate and promotes equality. With energy, unity and commitment our goals can become reality. *Let us build together and see what we can make.*

With over 96 Affiliates across five continents, BPW International can further develop a more ambitious international cooperative architecture that can empower women, close gender gaps and unleash the potential of women everywhere. We have the skills, we have the resources and we have the knowledge to lead the women's empowerment agenda and for all of us to work together so that we can strengthen the BPW International influence and profile in all countries. *(Freda Miriklis President, BPW International)*

If, like me, you were not able to attend Congress this year, there is always the XXVIII BPW International Congress which will take place in Jeju, South Korea, 23-27 May 2014. Start planning, as would love to see you in 2014 at Jeju Island - finalist for one of the New 7 Wonders of the World!



The 2017 Congress will be held in Egypt, a country to put into your travel plans wish list. Why not combine attending an International Congress with visiting a new country.

For more information on the XXVII Congress in Helsinki, go to the BPWI or BPW Australia website.

**Debbie Rychvalsky**  
**BPWA Executive Secretary**

*Rinske Geerlings, BPWA WOTY; Susan Jones, BPWI Asia Pacific Regional Co-Ordinator; Caitlin Medley, BPW Sydney; and Marilyn Forsythe BPWA President in the Australia Jackets at Helsinki.*

# **BPW CLUB NEWS**

## **BPW CESSNOCK - Bras Galore!**

The Cessnock community has donated more than 500 bras to women in Pacific and Asian countries through the Project Uplift campaign. Bras of all shapes, sizes and colours were donated after the Cessnock Business and Professional Women (BPW) got behind the cause and spread the word. "People were dropping in bras everywhere, not just women but also men," said Cessnock BPW Career Woman of the Year, Katrina Patch.



*Pictured left to right is Cessnock BPW Career Woman of the Year, Katrina Patch; Project Uplift (Newcastle) Organiser Kathryn Kerr and Curves Cessnock owner Natalie Williams, with some of the bras donated to underprivileged women in Pacific nations. Photo courtesy of Cessnock Advertiser*

"In some of these countries, buying a bra costs more than a week's income, so a lot of women go without." The bras collected at Curves Cessnock weighed in at 33 kilograms, with about 15 bras per one-kilogram bag. Add to this the bras collected at Westpac Cessnock, Branxton Girl Guides and Cessnock Masonic Retirement Village, and the total was well over 500 bras. University of Newcastle medical student Kathryn Kerr, who organised the local campaign, said more than 3000 bras had been donated in the Newcastle and Hunter area.

"It's been amazing, we've had a really good response," Ms Kerr said. An Australian-wide appeal, 2011 was the first year Project Uplift had been held in the Hunter and Ms Kerr said the organisers were hoping to make it an annual event. Since 2005, Project Uplift has sent 330,000 bras to Fiji, PNG, Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands and Cambodia."

This article appeared recently in the *Cessnock Advertiser*. Congratulations to Katrina, who instigated BPW Cessnock's participation in the Project. It can make a big difference in small communities.

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## **BPW HARVEY – Awarding the Community**

Jennifer Maughan reports that: "84 guests, fabulous decorations in the theme of the north west of Western Australia on a cattle station were the theme in honour of our guest speaker, Sheryl McCorry for their recent event. Sheryl has written 2 books, one about her life managing cattle stations in the Kimberleys and the second about her life now in the South West with husband No 4. She gave me a copy of each book which we auctioned with proceeds to Purple Bra Day and we received \$140! We also sold the table centres of wildflowers and received another \$110. Sheryl donated her travel money so our fund received a wonderful boost.

Debbie Headley was the recipient of the *2011 Harvey BPW Community Service Award* for her efforts in raising money for Ronald McDonald House and the Starlight Foundation in honour of her daughter Brittany who died at age 8 of leukaemia. The four Balls held have raised in excess of \$220,000.

We also presented our member Dawn Withnell with a Certificate of Appreciation to recognise her efforts with the decorations for the Dinner and also at the Hotel. We displayed the "Harvey BPW Welcomes You" together with the Harvey BPW proudly supports Breast Cancer Care WA banners with the big purple bra on it.

This was a very special, positive, jolly night promoting BPW."

Please send your stories and pictures to the BPWA Bulletin Editor, Margaret Tipper at [tiptruck@bigpond.com](mailto:tiptruck@bigpond.com) by the end of July. Thank you to all members who contributed to the July Bulletin. *There is no guarantee given that all stories will be published, or in their entirety, as submitted.*

You can also find BPW Australia on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. Just search BPW Australia on Facebook and LinkedIn to join the group and follow us on [www.twitter.com/@bpwaustralia](http://www.twitter.com/@bpwaustralia).

## **BPW BEECHWORTH – A Traveller Settles**

At the June meeting of BPW Beechworth, members and guests heard from new member Janet Gardiner. Janet has retired to Beechworth after 22 years in Foreign Affairs as a Diplomat in Yugoslavia, Vietnam and Germany and as an Ambassador in Syria and Portugal. Her role was to take care of Australia's political and economic relationship to the foreign country and included arranging political visits and looking for opportunities for Australia. Janet spoke about the many challenges for women in foreign countries because of prejudices and attitudes and the exciting contribution she was able to make through her work.



The photo shows guest speaker Janet Gardiner, with three generations of the Edwards family. In the middle is Gina Edwards, on right is Barbara Edwards holding granddaughter – Maryanne Edwards. Barbara has been with BPW Beechworth for 16 years including a term as President, Gina joined last year when she moved to Beechworth and married Barbara's son. It's been a long time since we've had a baby in our group (I think my 15 year old daughter was the last one!, commented club member, Karen Nankervis.)

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## **BPW DARWIN – Taking a Drive for Charity**

(BPW) Darwin's second annual SIDS and Kids NT charity golf day was an absolute success, raising over \$2,200 for local charity, SIDS and Kids NT. The women's only golf day is held each year in June in conjunction with SIDS & Kids Red Nose Campaign, to help raise funds and awareness for sudden infant death syndrome.

BPW Darwin President Lia Finocchiaro (*pictured left with SIDS & Kids NT Manager, Pat King*) said that the golf day is one of the most popular events on the BPW calendar and members are really passionate about supporting a local cause. "BPW Darwin was delighted to present a cheque for \$2,267.20 to SIDS and Kids NT. "The golf day has gone from strength to strength and this year we had 54 players on the course. It's a wonderful afternoon to network with likeminded professional women and have a bit of no-pressure fun on the golf course.



"We receive fantastic support from local business through the donation of wonderful raffle prizes and our members are generous because they know their money is going back into a local charity. SIDS and Kids NT Manager Pat King said that they are enormously grateful for the annual support received from the BPW Darwin golf day and that funds received played a vital part in their ongoing operations.

"We are really grateful to BPW Darwin and its members for supporting us and our Red Nose Campaign each year. "SIDS and Kids Northern Territory receive no recurrent government funding and rely on the generous support of the community and businesses for donations and support" said Pat.



# Keys to Achievement Gold Members

K2A is a personal and professional development program for BPW Members.  
To attain Gold level members will have attained 30 key objectives of the program.

## K2A Honour Roll

### 2008

Jennie Beecroft	BPW Caboolture
Debbie Rychvalsky	BPW Caboolture
Joy Whitfield	BPW Kalamunda

### 2009

Jean Murray	BPW Adelaide
Marilyn Forsythe	BPW Parramatta
Margaret Tipper	BPW Parramatta
Jasmyn Mumme	BPW Joondalup
Arlene Quinn	BPW Kalamunda
Sheila Evans	BPW Adelaide Hills
Alicia Curtis	BPW Kalamunda
Freda Miriklis	BPW Mid City
Gillian Lewis Coles	BPW Adelaide
Doreen Smith	BPW Parramatta
Margaret Scott-Smith	BPW Parramatta
Beverley Roberts	BPW Parramatta
Faye Helou	BPW Parramatta
Sheila Turnbull	BPW Cessnock
Joy Leishman	BPW Caboolture
Maidie Brockman	BPW Busselton
Yvonne Todd	BPW Adelaide
Val Bonython	BPW Adelaide Hills
Viv Hazel	BPW Adelaide Hills
Maureen Wright	BPW Bunbury
Gail Joyce	BPW Collie
Joan Morton	BPW Bunbury
Sandy Cook	BPW Joondalup
Pat Harrison	BPW Central Coast & BPWI Past President
Lyn Williams	BPW Central Coast
Bridgette Engeler-Newberry	BPW Mid City
Judith Van Unen	BPWA Past President

### 2010

Kate Waters	BPW Perth
Debbie Biancucci	BPW Caboolture
Robyn Lachmund	BPW Caboolture
Liz Flatters	BPW Joondalup

### 2011

Amanda Coghlan	BPW Caboolture
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*Congratulations*



*Barbara Clancy  
BPW Melbourne North  
West 2011*



*Joan Heard, AM  
BPW Melbourne North  
West 2011*

**There is room  
for your picture  
here, so come  
join the other  
Gold K2A members.**

# Calendar

## BPW Club Events

BPW Australia clubs hold regular meetings and events around the country and always welcome new faces. If you're travelling on business or holidays consider meeting up with other members and benefiting from new social and networking opportunities. You can contact BPW clubs by visiting BPW's web site at [www.bpw.com.au](http://www.bpw.com.au) and clicking on the map.

BPW Central Coast	Mon 11th July	Meeting
BPW Mid City	Tue 12th July	Dinner Meeting
BPW Joondalup	Tue 12th July	Dinner Meeting - Securing Your Financial Future
BPW Busselton	Thu 14th July	AGM and Dinner Meeting
BPW Fremantle	Thu 14th July	AGM and Dinner Meeting
BPW Sydney	Tue 19th July	Meeting

## President's Diary

5 September 2011	BPW Beechworth 20th Anniversary
26-27 November 2011	BPW Australia Board Meeting – Melbourne

## BPW Australia Contacts

### Executive

President	Marilyn Forsythe 0412 259 656	<a href="mailto:president@bpw.com.au">president@bpw.com.au</a>
Director of Membership	Liz Flatters	<a href="mailto:liz@stayingintouch.com.au">liz@stayingintouch.com.au</a>
Director of Policy	Sandra Cook	<a href="mailto:DirPolicy@bpw.com.au">DirPolicy@bpw.com.au</a>
Acting Director of Finance	Heather Veal	<a href="mailto:DirFinance@bpw.com.au">DirFinance@bpw.com.au</a>
Secretary	Debbie Rychvalsky	<a href="mailto:secretary@bpw.com.au">secretary@bpw.com.au</a>
Young BPW Representative	Vacant	<a href="mailto:ybpw@bpw.com.au">ybpw@bpw.com.au</a>
Director of Marketing	Bridgette Engeler Newbury	<a href="mailto:bridgette@incognitosum.com">bridgette@incognitosum.com</a>

### Other Contacts

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Mentoring Chair	Sharon Hill	<a href="mailto:sharon@pacesec.biz">sharon@pacesec.biz</a>
Editor Newsletter	Margaret Tipper	<a href="mailto:tipptruck@bigpond.com">tipptruck@bigpond.com</a>

## State Presidents and Representatives

New South Wales	Margaret Tipper	<a href="mailto:bpwnsw@bpw.com.au">bpwnsw@bpw.com.au</a>
Northern Territory	Vacant	<a href="mailto:Darwin@bpw.com.au">Darwin@bpw.com.au</a>
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Tasmania	Mary Dean	<a href="mailto:bpwtas@bpw.com.au">bpwtas@bpw.com.au</a>
Western Australia	Jasmyn Mumme	<a href="mailto:bpwwa@bpw.com.au">bpwwa@bpw.com.au</a>