

More than a man's game

Dr Jennifer Curtin has always had a gender slant to her research exploring state feminism, women political leaders, and gender equality within trade union movements.

Paradoxically the international interest around her current research activity is raising a few finely-plucked eyebrows. Dr Jennifer Curtin, feminist and political scientist, is exploring rugby.

“There’s an ambivalence amongst feminists towards rugby: it’s considered violent, the off-field culture is sometimes oppressive, and when intellectualised it is often read as excluding women. But even as a feminist I can’t give up my ‘fandom’, my love of the game.

“I’m a Hamilton girl,” explains Jennifer. “I grew up with rugby in my life.” As a fellow child of the mighty Waikato I can fully understand her duality. Rugby was more central to provincial community life, to both men and women, than the annual dairy pay-out. Later, working in Australia, Jennifer resigned herself to watching league...until union came to Canberra.

Away from home, rugby remained a strong connector. “As New Zealanders we would talk about the way rugby defined us,” she says.

During sporadic visits home she viewed the arrival of professionalism. “It seemed as if both New Zealand and rugby were growing up. It was at this point I became interested in how the two aspects of my identity ‘feminist’ and ‘lover of rugby’ could be reconciled.

“Although rugby coverage and histories chorus great heroes and long lineages of rugby men with no mention of the women I felt that rugby union was much more than a man’s game. I didn’t believe we could be a great rugby nation without the support of both men and women. So I decided to reinstate women into our national rugby history.”

As one of the speakers for this year’s 2011 Winter Lectures on "New Zealand’s Rugby World", Jennifer will argue that union is “More than a man’s game”. The lecture will be a glimpse into her pending publication of the same name focusing on women as spectators, supporters, fans and players. Unearthing stories from as far back as the 1840s Jennifer shows women’s impact on the game was much more complex than just the phenomenon of “male-gazing”.

“From the earliest time we can see women providing colour and context off the field. Up until World War I most club games were free for women with the assumption that they would accompany men and bring a civilising influence to the game and the crowd.

Towards the end of the century, at some provincial games, 500 out of 600 spectators in the stand were women, sipping tea and taking all the seats. Women, unexpectedly, were attending games in their own right. And, at times unchaperoned, women pushed the boundaries of acceptable behaviour: donning supporters’ garb gave way to the raucous removal of hats; and though prohibited, it was sometimes women giving and taking bets.

“There’s a turning point once the Rugby Union becomes formalised,” says Jennifer.

“The NZR U sets itself up in the 1890s codifying and creating layers of competition.

Administration starts to build and most records start to model that officialdom. You stop getting the context of what’s happening around the game... you might almost think that women weren’t there.

“The 1981 Springbok Tour changed the tone of women’s engagement. It split families along gender lines and politicised rugby in a way that hadn’t been seen before. Women who didn’t necessarily identify with feminism were caught uncomfortably between their

own beliefs and supporting their menfolk. The tour also overlapped with the peak of the women's movement merging these two in the nation's consciousness. From that point women were often regarded as oppositional to rugby, and moreover seen in direct opposition to rugby.

"One interesting finding is that while groups such as Women against Rugby were centre stage in the lead up to the Cavaliers' Tour in 1985, we also see the surge of women as players in a formal sense. It's amazing. It's the flipside of feminism. Women's rugby was growing significantly when men's rugby was still struggling to come to terms with the posttour fallout.

"I'm still unpacking the political dimensions of all of this, but I am also telling a story – for those who are interested in blaming women for the demise of rugby at different times and those adamant that rugby is solely a man's game - it's just not that straightforward."

Megan Fowlie

From Ingenio Winter edition

For more on our upcoming Winter Lectures

see: www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

President's message

At the time of writing this report, BPW NZ Executive had just finished its Strategic Planning and Executive meeting. It was a time for members to discuss openly any issues or concerns they had, the direction they would like to see BPW NZ take and to identify the different perspectives and viewpoints held. It was a time to reflect on what had happened at conference, the comments received, and the different experiences and how we as an Executive consisting of both Officers and Convenors can work together in a positive environment. Our strength is our ability to unite, to take the rough with the smooth and find the diamonds in the dross. So I am pleased to report that all members left with a direction for the future and a purpose as a team.

It provided the opportunity to review the current strategic overview and to create an action plan. Is this document complete, were all the boxes ticked or objectives met? The first steps were made and it provides the opportunity for members to develop new objectives and direction for inclusion into a document for review at conference next year.

There were some specific items that were highlighted:

- The website, how the Executive would like to see it developed but more importantly what members would like to see and what it should contain, therefore an online survey will be sent to all clubs and their members to participate. Your input is what will make this a success.
- Current website will be updated and include an "Executive Overview", prepared by the President after each Executive meeting to give you a glimpse of the work being undertaken.
- The Executive have a vision for the direction of BPW NZ, but needs input from clubs and members to ensure that we have correctly interpreted your wishes. We would appreciate your ideas over the next few months.
- Some exciting new projects have been developed by two of our smaller clubs, these could be taken up by any club in the country, opening the doors to new members and

providing other ways for members to network within their community. Watch this space for their stories.

- We have once again set up your club liaisons (see in newsletter), please get in touch with them as another link to the Executive.

To finish in the words of Beverly Stills, American Opera Singer ***“There are no shortcuts to any place worth going.”***

Warmest regards,

Carolyn Savage, BPW(F)

BPW NZ President

Email: president@bpwnz.org.nz, or carolyn.bpw@xtra.co.nz

President’s Diary:

- 18 May: BPW NZ Congress Skype conference
- 20/21 May: NZIA Architectural Conference
- 20 May: Rural Women Official Opening and Awards 2 – 5pm
- 25 May: BPW Franklin Dinner Meeting
- 9/24 June: BPWI Congress, Helsinki
- 14 July: BPW Doubtless Bay
- 23 July: BPW Northland Regional Meeting
- 24 July: BPW Kerikeri Mid Winter Luncheon
- 30 July: BPW Whangarei 25th Birthday Celebrations
- 5 August: Meetings in Wellington
- 6 August: Executive Committee Meeting
- 21 August: BPW Upper Hutt 25th Birthday Celebrations

BPW INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear BPW

At Congress, there are certain volunteer positions available to involve members (non-voting delegates), namely: Credential Committee, Timekeepers, Tellers , Stewards , Registration, Elections Committee, Publicity and Public Relations and Rapporteurs. Presidents of BPW affiliates can nominate the volunteers (specifying names and e-mail address) by 30 May 2011 to presidents.office@bpw-international.org. The volunteers selected would be informed by 10 June 2010.

This is the last call for Congress dine- arounds, lunch tours, exhibition space and Member Logo advertisements. Please log onto the website and make your choices. We have received many Success Stories but there is still a chance to submit yours by May 20th.

Show and tell your personal BPW Success Story! Members are invited to write a short story on what BPW has done for you in your life.

Friends and Fellows (and Spouses) Dinner - Sign up now. The Friends and Fellows dinner does not have enough members registered at this time for this event to occur. This event is ONLY for members of Friends & Fellows. Transportation to Restaurant Kulosaaren Casino is via boat; return transportation to Helsinki is via bus. Please visit the website and Urgently sign up for this event: There is a risk of this event being Cancelled!

Great news: The newly formed BPW Turkey federation hosted the launch of the Women's Empowerment Principles in Istanbul last week. Many members from Europe, Asia pacific and North America attended the highly professional event along with local ministers and other dignitaries.

BPW International is very proud of the work that BPW Turkey has done on this very important initiative.

Business Survey : Opportunities are available from the Multinational Corporations wishing to do business with women owners. That means our BPW business members! If you are a business owner complete the 7 minute online survey. Don't miss out on this.

Liz Benham
President BPW International 2008-2011

Vice President's message – Membership

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE FOR NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2011

Hi everyone

First of all thank you for your trust in electing me 1st VP of your Federation. I will do my best to fulfil the role of Membership Chair and support the President in her plans for the organisation.

As I write this message I have BPWI, BPWNZ and BPW Club thoughts competing for space in my head with working 40-45 hrs a week, running a household, keeping up with my grandchildren (and their parents), networking with other women's groups and finding time for myself.

I know I am not alone and know there are others who do a whole lot more than I do. To be an active BPW member these days can mean having to find extra time and as one Past President has told me, "learning to go without sleep helps".

I am beginning to understand the level of commitment to BPW that has kept some women members of BPW for 30 years or more and the positive impact that the learning involved must have had on their lives.

The level of commitment required and the time it takes to achieve even small steps towards the fulfilment of our aims can be a real burden to smaller clubs without the membership numbers to call on to share the work load.

Finding the level of membership required to follow the BPW path is without a doubt the greatest challenge we face today.

Some clubs are reportedly increasing membership at a steady rate while others are heading in the opposite direction.

Some clubs have tried every trick in the book to stay active, and others just don't know where to start.

I have had an interesting experience lately. A new senior staff member started at our company and at our introductory interview proceeded to tell me all the things he wanted me to do and manage. He did not once ask what it is I already do. You can imagine how that went down! Like a lead balloon!

As your new Membership Chair I am not about to tell you what I think you should do. What I will do is ask you what you are doing now.

What do you do in your club that you feel good about?
What do others do for you that makes you want to stay?
What happens in your club that is not so popular?
What do you think you could do in your club given the opportunity?
What would you like to stop?
What is it about BPWNZ Executive that gets up your nose?
How do you think BPWNZ can better support you?

Please tell me. Simply because if I don't know what you are doing now I am likely to suggest that you put into place a strategy that you have already proven to be unworkable for you.

Some good honest feedback will be greatly appreciated and although I will get around to calling all of the clubs in the near future, I am happy for you to contact me

**on 04 970 4148 after 5.30pm week nights or 021 435 342 or
jackson9@paradise.net.nz.**

You can do this individually or as a club.

There have also been club liaisons appointed by the executive to keep in touch with you and you can pass your thoughts to me through them (confidentially), if you prefer to do so.

I will enjoy hearing from you and will keep in touch.

Have a great BPW month!

Lyndy Jackson
BPW NZ First Vice President
Email: fvp@bpwnz.org.nz

Vice President's message – Issues

It has been a busy month for most; we have released two press releases on two different subjects.

The first being on the reduction of funds to the Women's refuge and the cutting of funds to the very successful program run within the schools teaching self defence and self confidence to girls so that they can handle themselves in unsafe situations.

The second being the proposed move of the Waitakere Family court to the Auckland Central Court.

Both of these subjects are very topical within BPW and we have lobbied diligently for Women's refuge and against Domestic Violence for many years. It feels like the old two steps forward, three steps back syndrome.

Now that I am settling in to my role, I would like to get feedback from the clubs on what they would like to hear about in regards to issues they are passionate about. Do you feel we are doing enough on your behalf?

I hope to be able to come and visit clubs as time permits, to talk to you and go over your issues in your communities and as long as they are pertinent to BPW policy, advice on how to further promote your ideas on these issues.

There are the obvious ones that many of you are already taking up, such as Domestic Violence, Pay Equity, and Education, but there are often local issues for different areas, such as availability of midwives, access to legal advice, access for people with disabilities (including discrimination when applying for employment), education on recognising drug abuse, to name but a few.

So I would like you take a few minutes at your next meeting and talk about what you feel are the most pertinent issues that affect your community, that fit in with our policy that you could do something about, and then flick me an email with the topics so that I can get a feel for the range of topics clubs may become involved with over the year.

I will be sending to all clubs a form letter and advice on what it should contain so that if you wish to send a lobby letter to your MP, or council we keep a consistent look about any correspondence that is received by outside parties and our name and aims become easily recognised by authorities around the country.

Thankyou

Noeline Reisch
2nd VP BPW NZ
svp@bpwnz.org.nz

International News VP's messages

News from 1st Vice President

Re-Birth of 2 Clubs:

Proudly we announce the re-start of BPW Sofia in Bulgaria, Europe, with 25 new

members. During the first Annual General Meeting on April 15th 2011, it was a great honor for me to be present and to initiate the re-birth of Sofia. Congratulations to the elected President Radka Stamenova her board and all members!

Proudly we announce the re-start of BPW Ramallah in Palestina, Asia Pacific, on may 2nd 2011. The elected President Helda Awwad starts with the support of former President Rasha Bargouthi at her side as a Mentor. Thank you!

New Federation: Proudly we announce that we have a new Federation in Europe! The 4 Clubs in Turkey (Adana, Ankara, Izmir, Istanbul) worked strong together to form the BPW Turkey Federation, which was inaugurated on May 5th through President Liz while attending the conference organized by BPW Istanbul in Turkey. Congratulations to the elected President Arzu Ozyol, to her Board and Members!

Gabriella Canonica, 1st Vice President BPW International
Chair Membership 2008 - 2011

Message From The 2nd Vice President in E-news April 1, 2011

BPW International Submits its Quadrennial Report (2007-2010)

On behalf of our President, it is with great pleasure to announce that BPW International has submitted its Quadrennial report (2007-2010). A full copy of this report is available. A condensed version, meeting ECOSOC requirements was submitted online.

About the Quadrennial Report

Under ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, NGOs in general or special consultative status with the Council, must submit to the Committee on NGOs, every 4 years, a brief report of their activities, specifically on the contributions that they have given to the work of the United Nations. By resolution 2008/4, the Council has taken measures to suspend organizations which fail to submit the reports on time.

The consultative relationship is reciprocal. NGOs are granted the privilege of participating in a wide variety of United Nations-sponsored meetings and activities. In return, they are expected to contribute, each in their own way, to support the development aims of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the United Nations at large. Thus, the quadrennial review presents the opportunity for NGOs to make their activities in support of the United Nations more widely known to Member States, and at the same time to receive feedback on their programmes of work and official acknowledgement of their contribution as partners to global development.

The quadrennial review exercise serves as an important tool in monitoring the relationship between the United Nations and the steadily growing number of NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Should you have any questions in relation the report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Freda Miriklis, 2nd Vice President

Congratulations to Patsy Thornton, who was appointed as a member of the Lottery Northland Community Distribution Committee on 26th April 2011.

PROFILE PATSY THORNTON

I was a member of the Kaitaia BPW club for thirteen years and became President in 2001 when the club was failing and almost in recess. I endeavoured to rebuild the club by introducing interesting projects and encouraging women to develop and grow by belonging to organizations such as this.

At the end of my term as President, membership had increased by seven and we had a total of

21 members with a further seven members pending.

I have attended five conferences and while President attended all the bi-annual Regional meetings. In 2003 I attended the Oceania conference held in Rarotonga as a representative of the Kaitaia BPW club along with one other delegate.

In 2001 I represented the club at the dedication of the 'World Leaders Build Houses' (Habitat for Humanity) in Kaitaia at which the Prime Minister Helen Clarke officiated and in the same capacity attended an afternoon tea hosted by the Mayor.

In 2003 I was selected to represent BPW on the Claude Switzer Memorial Advisory Board and have done so until 2009 and we now have another of our members representing BPW. The Switzer Home is a Retirement Home and involves all sections of the Community.

while I was President, all BPW committee meetings were held at my home and followed by refreshments allowing for enjoying social time together.

In 2004 I undertook my biggest challenge ever involving BPW.

Having moved to Doubtless Bay in 2001 I soon realized the need for a club in the area. I canvassed local businesses and residents and proceeded to 'sell' BPW. This culminated in a Public meeting being held with the support and approval of NZ President Anita Devcich. I printed and delivered flyers, advertised in the local papers, local radio stations and our local Cable T.V. The result was beyond expectations with forty women attending and a new Club was born!

I was elected President and served for two years and another two years on the committee.

Unfortunately this meant transferring from the Kaitaia BPW Club which was by then flourishing and there were members who also lived in the Doubtless Bay area that transferred with me. While we felt our going was a loss to Kaitaia BPW our experience was necessary to ensure the welfare of the new club. I am very pleased and proud of this Club that has continued to be a success.

In 2005 I was presented with the Daphne Chapman Award for promoting BPW. for which I was indeed humbled and proud.

Since then I have attended another four conferences the last being in Gisborne 2010

PROJECTS AND AWARENESS

Kaitaia BPW Years:

In October 1999 the club hosted Business Woman of the Year, Irene Durham, for a public meeting where she spoke on Financial Planning Services.

In November 2000 as part of Project 2000 we hosted a panel on Women's' Legal Rights with four local lawyers at a public meeting.

I hosted a Jo Seager dinner (raising funds for cancer) at my home in 2000 along with another member who also hosted one. The proceeds went to Far North Palliative Care. A seminar for women into Council was held in March 2001 with Robyn Leiffering a councilor from Whangarei presiding where we met the councilors and after which we submitted a report to support the Whangarei Club's award for Ann Todd Bell Issues Award- Conference Dunedin 2001.

I organized cooking demonstrations along the Alison Holst style which were held at the home of a local woman who was renowned for her cooking skills and expertise, in 2002. We have also had a presentation by Alison Mooney held at The Northener Motel and also had Alison Mooney as guest speaker at a seminar at Taipa.

Our main project 'Art 2 Wear', which has become an annual event, has escalated since its conception some years ago and in September 2000 was part of the 25th celebration of the Community Centre.

Throughout this time I have been on the committee, as President, vice President or IPP. In 2003 I attended the Oceana Conference in Rarotonga.

Doubtless Bay BPW:

For the first three years we held an annual Garden Party at a member's beautiful home on the shores of Mill Bay.

We have held three very successful fashion shows and a Chrissy Russell evening on "What to Wear."

Each year we have held wine and cheese evenings on Daffodil Day to raise funds for Cancer.

We have donated two prizes that are awarded annually to the Taipa District High School for Excellence and Initiative and Junior Sports Girl.

We also have created a 2nd Chance Award also presented annually.

In 2008 we hosted a public meeting with Prime Minister Helen Clark

In 2010 we held a fund raising event to support Miss World N.Z. who lives in Northland and who was a guest speaker at our combined Christmas lunch with the other Northland Clubs.

We celebrated Suffrage Day in 2010 with a High Tea where a panel of women candidates who were standing for the local body elections were able to address us.

I have been involved in the organization of all these projects.

CHALLENGES

A big challenge for me was that while I was President of the BPW Club in Kaitaia I was also President of the Kaitaia Rotary Club and at the same time running my business working long hours, but I managed to do justice to both Clubs and am justifiably proud of my achievements at that busy time receiving the District Governor's Citation for commitment to Rotary Service.

In 2008 I received the distinguished "Paul Harris Fellow" Award from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

In 2004 I formed the Doubtless Bay Chapter of the International Red Hat Society a club purely devoted to Oldies just having fun!!

In June 2009 I again became President of the Kaitaia Rotary Club as well as still being actively involved with the Doubtless Bay B.P.W.

November 2009 also saw me take up my second term as President of the Doubtless Bay BPW and continues on in 2011.

In 2009 I was recognized by the Kaitaia and Doubtless Bay BPW with a certificate for my significant contribution through Club and National Representation when BPW N.Z. celebrated their 70th Anniversary.

I am proud to have also attained my Keys to Achievement Certificate.

Personal

I am a fifth generation New Zealander, my great great grandfather being the first white man to come to Mangonui from Ireland in 1831. I was born in Auckland but lived in Ahipara on the Ninety Mile Beach until I married in 1959 when I moved to Kaitaia. My husband and I owned a Dairy for eleven years and then a Stationery shop for twenty eight years, the last eight I ran on my own after my husband passed away in 1991. I have three very successful sons, two living in Auckland and one in Australia. I am the proud grandmother of seven grandchildren, four girls and three boys.

I attribute my success to my organizational skills, capabilities, business experience, initiative and dedication.

Submission on Discussion Document on proposed new Operating Model for District Courts in Auckland

19th May 2011

THE aims of BPW NZ (The New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women) include linking professional and businesswomen throughout the world and to promote the ongoing advancement of women thru support and lobbying for change. We work for equal opportunities and status for all women in economic, civil and political life and the removal of discrimination in all countries. We promote our aims and organise our operating structure without distinction as to race, language or religion.

Our International organisation supports UNWomen, CEDAW and other United Nations committees and conventions.

In 2010 we passed a resolution as follows:

Policy #18.13 Access to Court Facilities

“THAT the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women urges the Minister of Justice to establish satellite courts in all areas where distance or lack of public transport prevents local residents from having affordable, timely access to court services.”

Part of the rationale for this resolution was based around the difficulty many women experience in travelling to court, especially when they are relying on Public transport, the difficulty in obtaining child care whilst travelling to court, the costs incurred when travelling any distance and the time it takes (sometimes over an hour) to arrive on time for their court appearance.

CEDAW Article 15, Clause 2 states – Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and **the same opportunities to exercise that capacity**. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them **equally in all stages of procedure** in courts and tribunals.

The Ministry of Justice is committed to delivering first class justice services which include a fairer, more credible and cost effective justice system **with improved access** to and delivery of court services, particularly services for children, youth and family.

BPW NZ is very concerned that this proposal will infringe both the requirements of CEDAW and the Ministry's own stated policy. By making access harder for Women and their families, the proposed operating model means they will not have the same resources as men, and contravenes both CEDAW Article 15 (refer above) and the Ministry of Justice's own statement (refer above) .

The District courts were established to serve the districts and make court services accessible to families and the Family Court is an integral part of the District Court and local communities.

BPW NZ is also very concerned that travelling, often reliant on public transport (and/or the notorious Auckland traffic gridlocks), will place extra stress on families, who are already under stress because of the situation that has caused them to have to attend court. The extra travel (costs and time, juggling time off work and child care) also creates further potential for Domestic Violence, which is already one of the highest in the OECD.

It seems there is an anomaly in the logic in transferring the long term cases to Auckland Family court when in 2010 Waitakere Family Court processed 5341 applications with one full time judge and a casual judge, while in the same time Auckland courts managed 6650 applications with five full time judges. Surely this indicates that the Waitakere court is very efficient in its processing. Perhaps the Auckland court does need to have its systems looked at but not at the expense of Waitakere.

It seems also that with the “amalgamation” of the courts that a number of jobs will be eliminated, and other employees will have an increased work load. Efficiency is the supposed reason for the proposal. By efficiency do the proposals actually mean cost cutting?

BPW NZ sees a several very real human costs in the proposal,

- The Families that are affected by extra stress in planning, finance and travel.
- .The possible loss of jobs resulting in less income tax for the government and more expenditure for the government because of having to pay out unemployment benefits
 - OR
- If staff are transferred from Waitakere to the Auckland court, will overcrowding become a problem? Do the Auckland premises have the capacity to absorb the

number of staff that will be transferred? Also the transferred staff will incur extra costs in both time and money in travelling into the Central City.

- Stress on the existing infrastructures due to the location of the Auckland Court facilities
- Stress on families whose income has decreased through their loss of employment if redundancies occur
- Stress on staff at the Auckland court because of the increased workload, causing longer hours, loss of productivity and longer processing time.
- The possible loss of lawyers in the Waitakere area because files will now be held at the Auckland court and it will make more sense to many lawyers to have offices closer to where they can access the files. This is dependent on the number of cases being transferred to Auckland.
- An increase of disbursements will be transferred to the client, increasing the services fees
- The increase in overheads for lawyers through the transfer of officers to the city will include an increase in their fees again limiting those who could access professional services.

The wait for the cases being heard and resolved will exponentially increase if the already high workload of Waitakere Family court is moved to the Auckland court. BPW NZ suggest a judge or judges going to Waitakere from Auckland to hear the cases is more timely and cost effective, as this is the movement of one person only not many.

Yours Sincerely

Noeline Reisch
Vice President Issues
BPW NZ

Women on boards: what we can learn from Australia

New Zealand has a thing or two to learn from Australia when it comes to getting women on boards.

In May, the Minister of Women's Affairs, Hon Hekia Parata, met some of Australia's top business leaders to understand how dramatic changes in Australian business culture are driving a rapid increase in the number of women on company boards.

Under Australian securities exchange (ASX) rules introduced last year, companies are required to set, and report on, measurable targets for the advancement of women into senior management and board roles. Business across the Tasman is responding positively, because they see advantages for themselves in having more women in leadership.

According to Ms Cohen, the key to faster change in Australia is that the business leaders themselves see the advantages – including better productivity and improved business performance – and are pushing the change.

‘There’s a champions group of 12 business leaders – including the CEOs of Qantas, Telstra, IBM and New Zealander Sir Ralph Norris, CEO of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia – and there’s a waiting list of senior businessmen wanting to join!

‘There is also an effective mentoring programme, which involves 56 of the top chairs in Australia.’

Ms Cohen said the Ministry was currently investigating ways of seeding greater business involvement in getting women into leadership here in New Zealand.

‘Helping to establish a champions group is certainly one of the options, because what Australia tells us is that change really takes off when it is business leaders themselves that take the lead.’

‘There is also a lot that New Zealand women can do to promote change as individuals and collectively. They can use their positions as shareholders and employees to ask why the companies with which they are associated are not making full use of women’s skills, and they can join and support organisations that are working for change.

‘There is a tipping point which Australia appears to have reached. New Zealand is not quite there yet, but we are close. Our job is to help business see that it is in their interest to change.’

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

HUI TO DISCUSS THE ALTERNATE REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

The hui I attended in South Auckland in March, was attended by people with disabilities, many representing organisations, and care-givers or family. I attended representing mainstream lobbyists NCW Papakura/Franklin and BPW Franklin, as well as family members with disabilities, for whom I advocate. In preparation for the meeting, I had downloaded and read the Convention as well as the Draft NZ Government Report (October 2010), which was the first since the ratification by the NZ Government in September 2008. This report was due 31 March 2011 – it is also the first to be submitted to the UN Committee.

Nicola Owen has been seconded from Auckland Disability Law, to the Human Rights Commission to facilitate the meetings, with the assistance of CCS Disability Action and Women’s Disability Forum. We were informed that 18% (or 332,600) of women 25 years and over, report having a disability. Disabled women are disproportionately represented among those who lack qualifications, those who do not work and those who are living on a low income. Detachment from education and employment means that disabled women experience poor social and economic outcomes across life. Women with disabilities are twice as likely to experience domestic violence as those without disabilities and while all women can experience domestic violence, women’s refuges, which provide a safe place for women, are not always accessible for disabled women. One study undertaken 2007-2009, found 33% of victims of sexual violence, indicated that they had a disability.

The UNCRPD has two articles that particularly relate to women, girls and families – **Article 6 : Women with Disabilities** and **Article 23 : Respect for home and families** which includes parents with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities and children with disabilities. The NZ Government has ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) but not one Article includes women or girls with disabilities.

We were then given our opportunity to be involved. Each discussion group was asked to prioritise Important Rights – not surprisingly, they were similar. We were then asked to discuss and report back on experiences and difficulties that meant that disabled people were being discriminated against, again there were common themes, and when these were compared to Articles in the UNCRPD, questions were asked if policies and practices “delivered?” - in most cases the answers were “No”. We discussed ways forward – reporting to the UN Committee with a “shadow” report, working directly with the UN Committee, (although this is made difficult because the NZ Government has not signed or ratified the Optional Protocol), request that a new Article on Women with Disabilities be inserted into CEDAW, lobby for law reform in legislation that affects people with disabilities such as the Mental Health Act, the Immigration Act (the right to move countries) and improve legal education.

There are many agencies in New Zealand endeavouring to improve the living standards of people with disabilities and their caregivers, to ensure adequate funding and provision of resources are available. Some are actively advocating for their members and clients, but it is so often an uphill battle. Mainstream organisations such as BPW NZ need to utilise their energies and lobbying capacity to make gains for those who are less able to fight for their own rights. Two resolutions were adopted at BPW NZ Conference which provides policy for BPW, to urge the NZ Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to UNCRPD and to urge the NZ Government to request the United Nations to introduce a new Article to CEDAW, to eliminate discrimination against women with disabilities.

prepared by Dianne Glenn, Past President BPW NZ

I need your help to grow Young BPW

Last weekend (14/15th of May) we had our strategic planning meeting and first executive meeting with the new BPW NZ executive members and convenors. It was a full-on weekend, but we did get lots done. It was very nice to meet up with the new faces and I got home with lots of fresh ideas and energy to interest more young women in joining our beautiful clubs and federation.

I am in the process of updating the young BPW database and so far have names on the list from the following clubs:

- Gisborne (7)
- Hawera (8)
- Franklin (2)
- Upper Hutt (2)
- Auckland (2)

If you are a young member (that is 35 years or younger) of another club or your club has more young members than indicated above, please send me your details otherwise you are going to miss out on the young BPW communications.

I am currently working on my plan for the year to make sure that the clubs and federation are meeting our young members' expectations so they stay and will also work towards higher membership of young women and an overall decrease of average age throughout the federation.

The focus will be on how to get young women to join the clubs where there are no young BPW members. Once a club has got two or three, it becomes a lot easier to get more.

Young members: please bring your friends and young colleagues and family members.

Older members: please bring along your (grand) daughters, nieces, young colleagues and friends and try to organise this within the club, so you'll have several younger guests come in at the same time.

I would love to hear what you've tried in the past to attract young women to your club and what worked and what didn't work (and most important; why?). Any ideas are welcome, so young or old please email me your thoughts.

I'll be in touch!

Regards,

Anita Scott
Email me at youngbpw@bpwnz.org.nz

Around the Clubs

BPW Hawera Member earns clubs first key! By Rachel Werder, BPW Hawera

At our June meeting, the club congratulated Anita Scott on earning her Bronze Key under the Keys To Achievement (KTA) Program.

Anita has actually also completed the work to achieve Silver Level status and the club eagerly awaits the delivery of the actual pin to be passed to Anita.

Anita joined BPW in 2009 and began work on the KTA program soon after in 2010. Anita is the Vice President of BPW Hawera and also the Young BPW Convenor for both Hawera and New Zealand. After speaking with her, she advises that because of her active involvement in the club and the organisation as a whole, the tasks were easily achievable and she is really enjoying the program.

Anita is well on her way to achieving her gold KTA status having now completed four of the tasks required.

Each level of Bronze, Silver and Gold has 12 tasks each, 10 of which should be completed and signed off by your Club President to obtain your competency.

The program has a really handy guidebook and our club Co-Ordinator Helen Cook is readily available to assist with questions or ideas about how to come up with an original, creative solution for each task.

BPW Hawera now has 9 active KTA members who meet quarterly to share progress and success and to guide each other through the process.

Once accreditation certificates have been issued for a completed level, members are entitled to use one of the three post nominals after their name.

So.....Anita Scott, BPW (P), we commend you!

Obituaries

Beverley Sturgeon

On Friday 29th April I attended the funeral in Tokoroa of Beverley Sturgeon. Bev was a member of the Tokoroa Club, a president of that club and National President from 1985 - 87 during the time that the International Congress was held in Auckland.. She was a very elegant gracious and friendly lady. I first got to know Bev when I joined Tokoroa in 1972. She was National Predsident when Hawera started and she came over and chaired the initial Public Meeting..

The Funeral Celebrant started the service by saying "It all started with BPW" After Bev had finished her term as NationalPresident she was elected on to the Tokoroa Town Board and two years later when all the big changes in local government took place she was elected to the South Waikato District Council where she served for the next 15 years, 11 of those as Deputy Mayor. As with many other women the confidence Bev gained from her BPW experience helped her to grow her life experiences and achievements.

Alix Haywood, also a past National President spoke on behalf of BPW. She had been a close friend of Bev's since they had sat next to each other at the 1975 conference held in Tauranga.

Many tributes were paid to Bev and I felt proud to have known her.

Diana O'Brien

Elsbeth Blackwell – passed away unexpectedly in April 2011.

Regional Meetings

Northern Region

BPW Kerikeri is hosting the Northern Regional Meeting on Saturday July 23rd 2011.

The venue is St. James Church Hall (on the Stone Store Hill overlooking the Stone Store Basin).

The following day, Sunday July 24th. BPW Kerikeri is hosting a Re-Union Luncheon combined with our annual Northern Clubs Mid-Winter Luncheon at The Pear Tree Restaurant (formerly The Stone Store Tea Rooms, and where BPW Kerikeri was formed in 1986), provisionally 11.30a.m. for 12 noon. We'd love as many of you as possible to join us.

Midlands Regional meeting is hosted by BPW Huntly & Districts on Saturday 3rd September.

This is being organised by Claire Gregson- BPW NZ Programme Convenor, with some help from Diane Dean-BPW NZ Project Convenor
The meeting will be held in Huntly- time, cost, venue, agenda & any other details will be sent out in July.

NOTICES

BPW NZ Yearbook for Sale

To order your Yearbook -

Please email Colleen Brooker,
colleenmb6@xtra.co.nz

for your copy of the BPW NZ 2010 Yearbook.

The cost is \$33.00.

The Yearbook is a must-have for your Club Archives, and would make a great gift for speakers.

Order now!

Call Colleen M Brooker

REGIONAL MEETINGS 2011 NOTICE

It is noted that clubs did not have the time to meet and discuss who will be the hosts for the 2011 Regional Meetings.

Presidents of each Region are requested to communicate with each other and confirm the club in your region that will host this year's event.

Please notify the Executive Secretary your dates and venues, copy to the President's Associate to include into the President's Diary.

The dates will be advertised in next month's newsletter, on the BPW NZ website and in the National Calendar.

Carolyn Savage
BPW NZ President

AIMS OF BPW

- To work for:
 - o Equal opportunities and status for all women in the economic, civil, and political life in all countries,
 - o The removal of discrimination;
- To encourage women and girls to:
 - o Acquire education, occupational training, and continuing education,
 - o Use their occupational capacities and intelligence for the advantage of others as well as themselves;
- To improve the position of women in business, trade, and the professions, and in the economic life of their countries;
- To stimulate and encourage in women a realisation and acceptance of their responsibilities to the community, locally, nationally, and internationally;
- To work for high standards of service in business and the professions;
- To promote world-wide friendship, co-operation, and understanding between business and professional women;
- To collect and present the views of business and professional women to Parliament, national, and world organisations and agencies.

EXECUTIVE CONTACTS

We'd like to make it easy for you to keep in contact with the Federation Executive and have put together the information below to support you with this.

Note: the President's Associate keeps a record of all correspondence so if you're emailing any of the Executive, including convenors, please copy her in.

- BPW NZ President, Carolyn Savage: president@bpwnz.org.nz

If the correspondence with the President is of a general nature, and by email, please copy in the Presidents Associate. You may choose to also copy in the appropriate Executive Officer, Convenor and/or Club Liaison.

- President's Associate: : presass@bpwnz.org.nz

Liaison Officers for Clubs

Vice President – Membership - Lyndy Jackson: fvp@bpwnz.org.nz
Upper Hutt

Vice President - Issues - Noeline Reisch: svp@bpwnz.org.nz
Wairarapa Kapiti
Mana Southland

Executive Secretary - Christina Turner: secretary@bpwnz.org.nz
Cambridge
Te Awamutu
Hawera

Immediate Past President - Angela McLeod: ipp@bpwnz.org.nz
Kaitaia Whangarei
Gisborne Upper Hutt

Treasurer - Elaine White treasurer@bpwnz.org.nz
Central Hawkes Bay
Upper Hutt Te Puke

Programmes Convenor - Claire Gregson: programmes@bpwnz.or.nz
Hibiscus Coast
Franklin
Huntly & Districts

Projects Convenor - Diane Dean: projects@bpwnz.org.nz
Doubtless Bay
Kerikeri
Taupo

Technology - Lorraine Cameron: technology@bpwnz.org.nz
Warkworth
Auckland
Tamaki

YoungBPW Convenor - Anita Scott: youngbpw@bpwnz.org.nz

Funding Convenor - : funding@bpwnz.org.nz

Legislation Convenor - : legislation@bpwnz.org.nz

Marketing Convenor - : marketing@bpwnz.org.nz

Public Relations Convenor: pr@bpwnz.org.nz

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of BPW New Zealand, or you are a friend of BPW New Zealand

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