



April 2010 Circular

BPW New Zealand

“advancing the interests of working women”

Theme for the Year “Power to Make a Difference Through Leadership”

What is Domestic Violence?

In a violent relationship, everyone is a victim.

At the heart of the Domestic Violence Act 1995 is the Protection Order. It names the person who is abusive (the respondent) and states what behaviour is illegal under the Order. "The police and courts might not take me seriously." Domestic violence is an abuse of human rights. The courts and the Police take domestic violence very seriously.

The Domestic Violence Act helps protect people in many different relationships. These include:

- married couples
- unmarried couples
- gay and lesbian couples
- children
- family/whanau
- anyone in a close personal relationship
- flatmates or other people who share accommodation

What does the law mean by "domestic violence"?

Domestic violence is not only a fist in the face or a kick in the head. The law says that violence can be physical, sexual or psychological. Physical abuse. Nobody - including a husband, wife, partner, or an adult who looks after children - has the right to hit, punch, kick or in any way assault another person. Sexual abuse. Nobody is allowed to have any sexual contact with another person without permission. Psychological abuse. This includes intimidation, threats and mind games. Below are just a few things that the Family Court recognises as psychological abuse:

- damaging property as a way of hurting someone
- making threats, such as "If you leave, I'll kill you", "Do that again and I'll give you a hiding", "Tell the Police and I'll beat up the kids"
- allowing a child to see or hear any domestic violence
- trying to control someone's life by constantly humiliating them
- controlling someone's money, time, car or contact with friends as a way of having power over them

<http://www.police.govt.nz/safety/home.domesticviolence.html>

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President's Message

Tena katou katoa,

Well, conference is not far away and the countdown is on...

Are you coming along for the fun, learning and fellowship? Gisborne club have been doing a great job and it would be a shame if you're not all there to enjoy it!

There have been quite a few things going on in the world of late:

There's been talk of the Ministry of Women's Affairs being amalgamated in another ministry. We've kept a close eye on this, asked for information under the Official Information Act, and written to the Prime Minister, Minister of State Services, Tony Ryall and the Minister of Women's Affairs, Pansy Wong - so we'll keep you posted.

The 54th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women was held in New York - with a review of the Beijing Platform for Action. The weekend before CSW in New York, the NGO's got together in a Global Forum to discuss progress - which unfortunately, was not good news for most regions. The GEAR resolution looks like it might become a reality for the UN - great news!

There's been storms, droughts, cyclones. Real indicators of climate change. And many women around the world becoming refugees due to sea levels rising, crops being destroyed and businesses flattened. We've had babies born and people die. The world turns.

And we still don't have equity!

There are some incredibly hard-working, inspiring women who are fighting for equity, a place in this world and advancing the status of women.

I'm so proud to be part of an organisation that works from the grass roots right through to the United Nations, affecting change, and we can share together at conference. I'll be there, will you?

Kia kaha



Angela McLeod
BPW NZ President
president@bpwnz.org.nz

ISSUES.....2ND Vice President's Report

My first year as Vice President on Issues is just about over and what a year it has been through attending meetings, seminars and conferences with other women's organisations. Attended regional meetings around the country and attended a number of club events and meetings. You all will have been inundated with articles on issues and I acknowledge the unique way each club has approached these, for example:

- promoting BPW in your area, this is ongoing in raising the awareness of your club and the support you do provide in your local community; be it scholarships, participation in community events e.g. Relay for Life, seminars and public forums to name a few.
- promoting of BPW NZ through the presentation of the 70th Anniversary Roadshow. *Right: BPW Gisborne, window display*



- supporting the Christina Burton Self-Awareness tour, thanks to all the clubs who made a donation, had volunteers and attended these events around the country. Special thanks to Robin Davison of Christchurch who undertook this event running to achieve support and attendance by the public in the Christchurch area
- dealing with the education of members and the community in saying "No to Violence" in conjunction with the White Ribbon Appeal (November 2005).

Right: BPW Franklin, White Ribbon



- the Red Bag Day, Equal Pay (18th February). This event had some challenges, with some things not put in place until 16th January, including the design, approval and ordering of bags, preparing news alerts/updates on the importance of Equal Pay and finally the distribution of the bags to clubs and coalition partners before (well on) the 18th February. The main structure is in place and it is something that we can work toward a larger event next year. Thanks to Colleen Brooker who has now taken over the handling and distributing of these bags, please contact her for future orders via colleenmb6@xtra.co.nz. Special acknowledgement by Southland, their article in last month's circular was an inspiration to all.

Current outcomes:

- since the reports of the Pay Equity Coalition and the Red Bag day other groups are now contacting BPW NZ to arrange events in raising the awareness of the pay gap and looking for support in their research. This will be an ongoing issue and look for upcoming events.
- Creating new links for future projects that clubs throughout the country could participate in, for example the Coalition members on Pay Equity and the NZFGW who would like to undertake a new local 5.0 project. More information will be presented in next month's circular.
- Due to the events and issues that BPW participates in, it has now become more apparent for the need of a monthly (and yearly) events calendar, this will include national and international events. A draft copy will be prepared for next month's circular and any information you want added from your club please email through in the next couple of weeks.

Other issues:

CEDAW papers are currently being circulated by the National Council of Women. Members around the country are asked to register their interest in participating in the discussion process.

Remits:

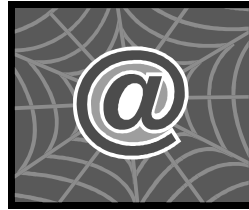
As you are all aware the remits have been produced and are now ready for publication within the conference papers. Each club will by now have had the opportunity to review these and indicate to their delegates how they would like to vote on their behalf. Do note that due to the number of remits this will be tightly managed to prevent an over run of time on the day and to ensure all have been covered/voted by close of conference on Sunday. Your assistance in this process will definitely be required to achieve this.

Carolyn Savage
2nd Vice President

svp@bpwnz.org.nz, or carolyn.bpw@xtra.co.nz

BPW Website April 2010

<http://www.bpwnz.org.nz/>



As ever, the web site is constantly changing. Hopefully you will find it reasonably up to date the next time you visit the site.

The number of visitors to the site in any one month currently varies from around 450 to 800 (with nearly 7000 visitors over the year).

There is no way of telling (without very detailed and sophisticated analysis) how many of these visits are carried out by people returning to the site or are first time visits. The statistics include my regular visits to the site to look at the proposed changes and find the out-of-date or old pieces that need to be removed. Just the other day, I found some really old information that will be removed next time round.

Regardless of the simplicity of the statistics, it does tell us that the web site attracts a large number of visitors – much greater than the current BPW membership. I still do not know if members find the web site useful or what members want to see on the web site as I rarely get feed back.

We have been looking at ways make the web site as relevant to both members and visitors as possible.

The web site is a well used tool which should give visitors (particularly visitors who are potential members) a real taste of who we are and what we do and encourage them to find out more – and ultimately become a member. To achieve this, the information should be as up to date as possible. Visitors want to read what is happening now! Does your club have its own web site? If so, the BPWNZ web site should have a link so that everyone has access to more than just the BPWNZ web site.

The web site exists for members as well as visitors – it should provide you with the information you want with easy access and without you having to search too long to find it. Does it fit the bill? Do you ever look at the web site and find yourself thinking, “I wish thatwas available on the site” or you cannot find that one vital piece of information that you were looking for? If you do have these moments, it is possible that your wish can be granted but I need you to tell me – I can’t do it by guess work!

It would be great if each club sent me just one thing – an article, a video clip, a web site link, a request for other information or critique about the web site.

The 46th Conference in Gisborne is just around the corner – plenty of time to make the extra effort to showcase BPWNZ through the web site.

So – what’s stopping you? Email me on technology@bpwnz.org.nz

Many thanks,

Ann Desmond
Technology Convenor

Conference 2010

CONFERENCE IS ONLY 3 WEEKS AWAY NOW!

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER!

Late Registration \$195

PHOTOCOPIER FOR SALE

Black and White photocopier

Any offer considered
Please advise the National Executive Secretary

BPW Whangarei Says NO to Violence Against Women

White Ribbon Day 6th November 2009

What a sight - bright rays of sunshine bouncing from one glistening machine to another, rows upon rows of bikes, every shape and colour. I could smell the leather and barely contained my excitement as I tucked in my ear plugs. Five bikes but only four BPW pillions. Where were you?

At last we were off, the deep throaty rattle and roar of the Harley Davison's emanating the verbal abuse far too many women are subjected to. As we cruised northwards with our white ribbons flickering in protest I wondered, how many women would love to have the courage to jump on the back of a bike and escape their emotional and physical turmoil? Neville's body shielded me from the wind. He had my complete trust. I could relax in the knowledge that he was in control. I was in safe hands and able to just relax and enjoy the scenery. What a privilege! What a day!

Strangers united in a common cause creating a sense of belonging and synergy. The smiles, the hospitality, the entertainment, from Moerewa to Kaikohe, from Opononi to Dargaville.

But most special of all were the many stories we heard from those who had harnessed the tiny spark of self respect that remained and had ventured into an unknown journey with the hope that they were indeed, worthy of a better life. A life without fear.

Noell de Zoete
BPW Whangarei



Attachments, Cover letter, BPW NZ Submission on Review of Victim Rights, Club Contact Details

Articles from clubs for the Circular need to be with the Executive Secretary by 20th of the month. Send to secretary@bpwnz.org.nz

