



BPW New Zealand

Federation Circular June 2007

Theme for the year "New Dimensions of Leadership-for the Future"

Public and Private Sector Experts Address Women's Health Care, Education and Economic Empowerment at Global Summit

Date: 7 March 2007

On the eve of International Women's Day, a resounding cry rang out at UN Headquarters: "educate girls." That was among the messages conveyed at The Global Summit for a Better Tomorrow, a gathering of leading experts on women's issues from the public and private sector, presented by Virtue Foundation in partnership with Avon, and co-sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA).

The Summit focused on three critical areas of concern: healthcare, education and economic empowerment. Yet Dr. Shashi Tharoor, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, distilled the message down to "a two-word mantra that can change the face of the globe: *educate girls.*" While demonstrating that "no action has been proven to do more for humanity," he noted that "sadly, the world is not rushing to sign-up."

In this tone of conviction tempered with an awareness of ongoing challenges, Ms. Andrea Jung, Chairman and CEO of Avon, described the aim of the Summit as being to "celebrate the progress women have made and recognize the work that remains to be done." She shared the results of the *First Annual Avon Global Women's Empowerment Index*, a poll of 8,000 women in 16 countries. The poll showed that women in developing countries are optimistic about the future; with most believing that the next generation of women will lead a better life. More than half of the women surveyed believed there would be a woman Head of State in their country within the next ten years. Areas needing improvement included education and career opportunities, with only one-quarter of women in developing countries expressing satisfaction with their opportunities for a university career. The main factors women identified as having the potential to improve their lives were adequate resources to live well and pay the bills, coupled with access to affordable health care.

Avon shared its first-hand experience of economically empowering women, as one of the world's largest micro-lenders, extending credit to numerous sales representatives. She cited the work of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mohamed Yunis, who advocated micro-credit loans for disempowered women and found that "when a woman pays back her first loan she feels she can take on the world." Ms. Jung affirmed that the United Nations is the world's "beacon of hope" for international cooperation on this issue, pointing out that the UN Charter was the first instrument of international law to promote gender equality.

Dr. Joan LaRovere, Vice President of the Virtue Foundation, said that investing in women has the highest "HROI: Human Return on Investment." She profiled programmes to provide disadvantaged schools with laptops to "leapfrog children into the twenty-first century," and to heal a Cambodian mother and daughter who were acid-burn victims. Dr. Ebby Elahi, who treated the Cambodian victims, described acid burning as "both a crime and a health care issue, but also a much broader social problem of a lack of economic empowerment and justice, and of valuing women for their beauty." He said, "We need to address the fact that this occurs because there are no consequences for the perpetrators and no recourse for the victims."

UNIFEM Executive Director Noeleen Heyzer added, "women deserve a life free of poverty and free of violence, and we as a human community should be able to design such a future." Pointing out

that violence still threatens 1 in 3 women; she drew attention to the resource deficit for this work saying, "if we are to have a safer world, we must invest in that world." She explained that "poverty has a woman's face - there is no way a country can get out of poverty without taking its women out of poverty," describing the need for a legal environment that protects women's property rights and enables them to accumulate assets.

UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman pointed out that empowering women yields a "double dividend," as it profoundly and positively impacts the lives of children.

On behalf of Avon and the Virtue Foundation, Academy Award-winning actress Jennifer Hudson introduced the new "Hello Tomorrow" award programme, recognizing initiatives to empower girls.

Concluding the summit on a reflective note, Dr. Elahi said the most important step is for people to change their mind and shift their perspective, to realize that "the advancement of women is an issue affecting humanity as a whole, and requires a holistic solution."

Also in this issue President message, Mentoring, Congratulations, Marketing, Winners BPW NZ Awards, UN Trust to End Violence against Women, Fundraising, Success for Katikati student

President's Message – March 2007

Kia ora tatou, greetings to all BPW members and friends.

Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make our Conference in Invercargill the best one yet. The feedback has been enthusiastic and it seems that a good time was had by all who attended. If you were not there and missed out on the motivational speakers, stimulating workshops and general fun, make plans now to come to Hamilton in 2008.

There was no time to relax after Conference before Anita and myself flew off on the following Friday to Seoul, Korea, for the BPW Asia Pacific Regional Conference. This was an excellent event, well organised and generously hosted by BPW Korea. A full report is included in the Mail Out. Our nine day tour of Korea following the conference was a fascinating experience and you will be hearing more about it from Anita and myself as we visit the clubs.

On returning from Korea I saw that the "Anti-smacking" Bill had been passed. It remains to be seen as to how it will be enforced. It was disappointing to find that the financial fairy godmother had not waved his magic wand and provided tax relief in the Budget for child care expenses for working caregivers. We battle on.

The Federation Committee for the next year and the results of the constitutional amendments and resolutions are included in the Mail Out. Please be aware of these new policies and think about how your club can promote them through discussion, lobbying, and speakers. Pursuit of issues that impact on women is our core business, I want to see every club addressing at least one of them over the next year.

Over the weekend of the 16-17th June, your Federation Committee will be meeting to review BPW business and plan for the coming year. Your ideas are welcome, please contact me if you would like something put on the Agenda.

Many of you will be celebrating Candle Lighting in June and July. May each of you reflect on the collective power of many women all over the world all working to improve the status of women. Value your own contribution, no matter how small. Without it, BPW would not exist. I will be with you in spirit if not in person and wish you all a happy and memorable evening.

[Faye Gardiner - President](#)

President's Calendar 2007

June	9	Gisbourne 50 th Anniversary
	11	Huntly Candle Lighting
	13	Tamaki Candle Lighting
	16-17	Federation Committee Strategic Planning Day and Executive Meeting, in Auckland
	19	Kaitaia Candle Lighting
	27	Franklin Club Candle Lighting
July	11	Tamaki Club Meeting - Speaker
August	8	Tamaki Club Meeting

MARKETING MAKING BPW VISIBLE -SPEAK UP & SPEAK OUT – Pat Sivertsen
Marketing Convener.

“Growing and promoting members and BPW”

Here are some great ideas from Ninette Triffiletti, Chair of BPW International Mentoring Taskforce

SPEAK UP & SPEAK OUT ON THE BENEFITS OF BPW MEMBERSHIP

- stimulation in a professional, friendly and caring environment
- development in self esteem and leadership
- networking and mentoring possibilities
- sharing of knowledge and expert guidance from experienced businesswomen

SPEAK UP & SPEAK OUT TO PROMOTE BPW:

- Wear your BPW badge with pride at meetings, seminars and social gatherings
- Share what BPW is about - nurture and speak up for new members
- Promote the Service information clearly, e.g. Networking, Training, Mentoring, Lobbying
- Promote the work of Project Five – O and emphasise the cooperation between the five women’s’ organisations *Find information here about project Five –O*
<http://www.bpwnz.org.nz/projects.htm>
- Speak Up and Speak Out on the achievements of BPW around the world e.g. the Women’s’ Global Peace Village *Hands up who didn’t know about this! I didn’t Information here*
<http://www.bpw-international.org/activities/activities-internettheme-srilanka-global-peace.htm>
- Speak Up and Speak Out on the achievements within your own country

SPEAK UP & SPEAK OUT TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!!!

- Prepare an action plan -Set goals and invite member participation
- CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS

“We all need to sell our Club and BPW more enthusiastically

BPW NZ Club Awards.

The awards were presented on the opening night of conference after dinner. The successful winners this year were:

Club of the Year - BPW Gisborne

Highly Commended - BPW Kaitaia

Daphne Chapman - Andrea Panther, BPW Kaitaia

Anne Todd Issues Bell - BPW Kaitaia

Brooker Marketing Award - BPW Kapiti

Community Achievement Award – BPW Te Puke

Harrison-Lee Candlestick for Membership - BPW Auckland

Alix Hayward Gavel for Newsletters - BPW Kaitaia

Nepal Literacy Award – BPW Warkworth

Congratulations to all those clubs who entered the awards and were successful.

Mentoring in Action - Gwendolyn Needham. - Programmes & Mentoring Convenor.

What a great conference our Southland sisters put on for us! Thanks, Invercargill!

Now, the challenge is to convey and translate our learning's back to the roots of BPWNZ – that of each and every club, and its valued members.

The most pressing function of mentoring as I see it is not to add layers of new ideas, but to actually put into practice the wealth of knowledge and skills which is often lost by changes of personnel without due passing on, or listening to, the core processes and successful strategies already within clubs. We do have an urgent need to address loss of members, and loss of clubs. Mentoring for Club growth and success is a higher priority for me than individual personal mentoring.

No need to re-invent the wheel – just remember a wheel works best when its spokes, hub, and rim are oiled by kindness and united by excellent communication face to face (no, e-mail is not a better option!) We are an organization of great women, of diverse ages and skills. All are needed, at whatever level of presence our current situation allows.

No. 4 of 5 mentoring taskforce Goals for 2007 is to increase Club membership by 10%. You will be working on this, now. I want your success stories.

When club meetings offer monthly events of value while sticking to the knitting of BPW Aims and Goals, effectively welcome and incorporate newcomers with a friendly buddy, and deliver what we promise – our doors will be stormed! The monthly event is our front door – those who venture in are testing us – is this a good use of my precious time, money, and skills? Is BPW for real?

The Chairperson holds a huge key. Please up skill in your powerful role, if you need to! We all need refreshers.....and evaluation. Ask a few members privately to be so kind as to rate on paper your strong points, and suggest improvements. Thank them warmly.

A further point - people talking over each other at meetings is all too common, even with BPW members!

It is a great off-put! Above the babble and cacophony, stand and calmly call Order please! Smile. State- "Mary has the floor."

Repeat if necessary. Calmly, firmly. And you can use your gavel, that's its purpose.

Members will thank you later, I promise you. BPW members deserve the best.

Fundraising - Heather Newell, Funding Convenor.

Fundraising is an ongoing process for any kind of organisation, whether it's a membership organisation or a service club or a plain old charity. In BPW we often celebrate that we are not a service club and that we don't ask our members to bake cakes and brown sausages. However there is a certain kudos that comes with good financial management and it's good for our communities if we can offer scholarships, provide incentives for young business women, or offer professional development opportunities for the women in our community. And if we could eventually reduce our reliance on membership fees, wouldn't that be good for all of us.

So please have another think about fundraising and what the benefits could be for your club. There are a number of opportunities at the grassroots level for clubs to be active in the fundraising sector. I don't think we necessarily want to sell cakes and sausages but I don't see what's wrong with accessing gaming funds, philanthropic trusts and sponsorship from local businesses. We have a great cause to celebrate and there is so much that could be done to further our activities in the local communities - training workshops, the mentoring programme, attending conference, developing the skills and resources of our members, awarding recognition to businesses and individuals who work towards the aims of BPW. There are potential partnerships in funding and service provision, WINZ, MSD for example but also the less obvious like other women's groups, service clubs and schools.

My two strongest pieces of advice are:

1. You have to ask to be considered
2. Our cause is as worthy as anyone else's, at the right time, with the right ask, by the right person, for the right cause.

Congratulations

JP For Kaitaia

Kaitaia BPW club member, Catherine Johnstone has just been sworn in as a JP. Kaitaia are proud of her achievement as their club nominated and supported her application and it has taken 7½ years to finalise. Cathy contributes a lot to the club and was club President only a few years ago. She has been quite ill the past 12 months and has undergone treatment so her perseverance at becoming a JP has paid off. Cathy is also the Manager of NZ Post & Kiwi bank Katie.

Success for Katikati Student

In 2000 Annika Schneider was dux of Katikati College and in 2001 was awarded BPW Katikati study grant. Annika has recently graduated from Waikato University with both a Bachelor of management Studies (Honours) and a Master in Management Studies. She has completed both degrees in five and a half years instead of the usual seven.

This remarkable woman has now been awarded a Waikato University doctoral scholarship to look at how the Waikato District Health Board reports its intellectual capital. The scholarship is worth \$22,000 a year for three years plus course fees and Annika will also receive a \$10,000 study grant from Waikato DHB.

Congratulation to BPW Katikati for supporting Annika back in 2001. With a little bit of support it is amazing how far young women of to-day can travel. BPW NZ congratulates Annika on her academic success and wish her well in her future studies.

UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

New UN Trust Fund Grants to Address Link between HIV/AIDS and Violence against Women

UNIFEM, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and Johnson & Johnson announced on 1 March 2007 that they are providing grants to organizations in five countries to address links between gender-based violence and the spread of HIV/AIDS. The grants will be provided by Johnson & Johnson through the [UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women](#), a multilateral funding mechanism administered by UNIFEM. The new grantees include organizations from Botswana, the Dominican Republic, India, Nigeria and Vietnam. They will pursue innovative strategies to raise awareness, uphold laws, provide medical assistance, train service providers and reduce stigma and discrimination.

UN Commemorates 10th Anniversary of Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

To mark the 10th anniversary of the [UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women](#), UNIFEM hosted a special event on 16 February 2007 in the Economic and Social Council Chamber at UN Headquarters. UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman participated along with leading UN officials, including newly appointed UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiromu. They called for more resources and concerted action to build on the results of a decade of work by the Trust Fund.

Attachments. Flexible Working Hours Survey, Club Contact details, New Executive details, Cover Letter, Conference Resolutions, Asia Pacific Conference Report.

Articles from clubs for the Circular need to be with Elizabeth by 15th of the month. Send to bhorrell@woosh.co.nz

The Mail Out to Clubs will be electronic only unless Clubs specifically ask for a hard copy.

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