



September 2008 Circular

BPW New Zealand

“advancing the interests of working women”

Theme for the Year “New Dimensions of Leadership – for the Future”

Gender Equality - Smart Economics

In recent decades, we have seen increasing investment in closing the gender gap in development, principally in the social sectors. Gender progress has been substantial in both health and education. For example, in the countries that receive interest-free credits and grants from the International Development Association (IDA), the part of the World Bank that helps the world's poorest countries, life expectancy for women has increased by 15 to 20 years since 1960. Additionally, thirty years ago, girls represented 38 percent of primary school enrollments in low-income countries. Today, the gender gap has narrowed with girls representing nearly half, 48 percent, of primary enrollments.

But worldwide, similar attention has not been given to women's economic empowerment, and this is inefficient. Economies around the world stall their own growth and bypass the chance to reduce poverty by not creating the right environment for women to enter the labor force, gain access to credit and create entrepreneurial ventures, own land, or take advantage of the infrastructure for productive purposes.

The Bank and its development partners believe that gender equality in the productive sectors is smart economics, a powerful means of poverty reduction and a path to faster development. That is why we launched Gender Equality as Smart Economics, the World Bank Group's Gender Action Plan. In the first edition of this newsletter, you may read more about this multi-pronged program whose goal is to trigger an increase in women's economic contributions by opening women's access to finance and other productive resources. You will find information about some of the research activities we are launching under the GAP, such as on Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs). We also profile the study of a program of land certification, which shows that it takes a well designed program, not necessarily a complex one, to be successful.

I would like to thank all our partners for their participation in this endeavor: the governments of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. We are grateful for German Chancellor Angela Merkel's leadership on this initiative with the G8 and EU and to German Minister Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul for championing this initiative in Europe. We thank the Nike Foundation for partnering with us in new territories of development, and we are very pleased to be working closely with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Bank's private sector arm, as well as with UNIFEM and ICRW. We also look forward to welcoming new partners along the way.

Danny Leipziger, Gender Action Plan Newsletter, March 2008

Danny Leipziger is a World Bank VP and Head of the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network (PREM).

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTGENDER/0,,contentMDK:21685760~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:336868,00.html>

This excerpt is from the first edition of Gender Equality as Smart Economics, the World Bank Group's Gender Action Plan (GAP) newsletter

Also in this circular, President's Message, BPW NZ' Golden Moment, Call For Resolutions, Issues Update, Domestic Violence Project, Lunch with the PM, Protecting Our Environment, Dunedin's project

President's Message

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

I have exciting news for you this month – BPW NZ has won the BPW International Award for the Power to Make a Difference Through Advocacy!

This trophy is awarded to the BPW Affiliate that has most successfully lobbied for legislation and national policy or promoted endeavors that improved the status of women, eliminated discrimination against women (especially working women) and/or lobbied to improve conditions to enable women to achieve their full potential (such as in women's health, women's employment opportunities or combating violence against women). Advocacy for special groups of women such as indigenous women or migrant women also counted. All the advocacy work had to have been done in the name of BPW during 1997-2007. Over those years BPW NZ members have tirelessly addressed many issues such as matrimonial property, student loans, employment relations, disability strategies, prostitution reform, pay equity, health & safety in employment, paid parental leave, the Action Plan for Women, CEDAW NGO reports, flexible working hours, civil unions, safe drinking water, resettlement of refugee and migrant women – the list goes on and on.

My heartiest congratulations to each and every one of you as you have all participated in advocacy in some way, and particular congratulations to Angela McLeod, Noeline Reisch and all past BPW NZ Issues and Legislation officers for their commitment on working parties, writing letters to MPs, making Submissions, speaking to Select Committees, attending meetings etc.

This Award is a well deserved acknowledgement of all the work the members of BPW NZ have done to improve the status of women over the last 10 years, and I am just so proud of you all - very, very, very well done !

Sadly, the enduring thread throughout our advocacy work has been the issue of stopping violence against women. Later in this Circular, and in the Mail Out, you will receive information about the BPW NZ project to raise every one's awareness of what each one of us can do to stop domestic violence. I urge all clubs to participate in this project and take a firm stand against any sort of violence in our homes and families.

More congratulations are due to Vanessa Simpson and her team from Kapiti Club who hosted the Midlands Regional Forum in Paraparaumu this month. The 51 women who attended, representing all the Central Clubs, were treated to interesting and entertaining speakers, lively discussions, delicious catering and much networking and friendly chat. There were 10 BPW NZ Executive and Conveners present including myself, which must be a record for a Regional Forum, and shows the great contribution made to the leadership of BPW NZ by the Central Clubs. Thank you Kapiti for an excellent program and a great day all round.

I will close with another reminder about our 70th Anniversary celebrations next year – we are waiting for your ideas so we can plan the program. Please let us know how you would like BPW NZ to celebrate this great milestone.

Faye Gardiner
President BPW NZ

President's Calendar 2008

Sept.	10	Tamaki BPW meeting
	14	Northern Regional Forum, Warkworth
	20	Midlands Regional Forum, Taupo
Oct.	2-5	NCW Conference, Masterton
	5	Conference 2009 Planning Committee Meeting, Masterton
	8	Tamaki BPW meeting
	24-28	BPWI Congress, Mexico City
	18 Oct. – 16 Nov.	President overseas.
Dec.	10	Tamaki BPW meeting

BPW NZ'S GOLDEN MOMENT

BPW NZ has won BPW International's "Power to Make a Difference Through Advocacy" Award for the Triennium 1997 - 2007!

The Award is made to the Affiliate that successfully lobbied for legislation, national policy or promoted endeavours that improve the status of women, eliminate discrimination against women (especially working women) and/or lobbied to improve conditions to enable women to achieve their full potential (such as in women's health, women's employment opportunities or combating violence against women). Advocacy for special groups of women such as indigenous women or migrant women also counted. All advocacy work must have been done in the name of BPW during 1997-2007.

We have addressed many issues such as Matrimonial Property, Student Loans, Employment Relations, Disability Strategies, Prostitution Reform, Pay Equity, Health & Safety in Employment, Paid Parental Leave and the Ministry of Women's Affairs Action Plan for Women. The winning form is part of the mail out. I recommend you read it to see the variety and the accomplishments of both clubs and national executive.

Congratulations and well done to all the clubs, executive officers and convenors past and present for all the work.

Barbara Weight
Executive Secretary
secretary@bpwnz.org.nz

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS FOR CONFERENCE 2009

Clubs are reminded that the deadline for resolutions for Conference 2009 is December 1st 2008. Resolutions will not be accepted that have a post mark after that date.

Resolutions can be:

- sent to: The Resolutions Chair, BPW NZ, PO Box 28 326, Remuera, Auckland; or
- e-mailed to ipp@bpwnz.org.nz; or
- faxed to 07 533 1286.

Anyone needing assistance with preparation of a resolution, please contact me. Any member who would like to learn more about the resolution process is welcome to join the Resolutions Committee.

For further information or assistance contact

Anita Devcich
Immediate Past President
ipp@bpwnz.org.nz
Phone: 0274 828 064

Issues Update

It's time you heard from me: I have sent letters, on behalf of BPWNZ, to all the appropriate MP's and let them know about our new policy from this year's conference and there has been some interesting feedback - mostly standard letters - and some have taken the time to send interesting replies. Which is good.

Country of Origin Food Labelling

As you recall, we were involved at the presentation to Parliament of Sue Kedgley's petition about mandatory Country of Origin Food Labelling. We were a speaker at the Media Conference in support due to our policy. The petition ended up at Select Committee and in discussion with Sue Kedgley over something else, she happened to mention that the system had swallowed it up. I wrote letters to the Select Committee members and the best advice we were given was to write to the Clerk of the Committee, which Noeline did - and asked that our letter be tabled as correspondence. We expressed concern that we were not given the opportunity to make a submission. We wait.

In the mean time, Hon Lianne Dalziel sent a reply to my letter about this issue and asked to meet with us so that she could explain the cost difference between voluntary and mandatory labelling. I met with her this morning and the upshot of this is that she will supply me with a briefing paper noting the reasons why it should be voluntary. Her feeling is that we should use consumer power rather than government power. When I have the paper, I will do some research on the mandatory side and come up with some suggestions on how we can make a difference on this issue, which, incidentally, we have very clear policy on.

Watch this space!

Flexible Work Legislation

Just a quick reminder - you know have the right to request flexible work - this became law on 1 July this year. You can check out the information on the Department of Labour site www.dol.govt.nz. Please remember to exercise your right, if you need to request flexible work AND tell your friends and family. We need to show that this will work for us and our families and also the economy. We have so successful in lobbying for change - let's action the change!

Together we can make a difference...

Angela McLeod
First Vice President
fvp@bpwnz.org.nz

KEYS TO ACHIEVEMENT ROLL OF HONOUR

In keeping with acknowledging our achievements, I would like to publish those members that reach bronze, silver or gold level in the circular. When your members attain one of these levels, please let me know so that I can publish it in the circular.

Barbara Weight
Executive Secretary
secretary@bpwnz.org.nz

Domestic Violence - BPW NZ 70th Birthday Project

BPW NZ has been active in New Zealand now for close on seventy years and some of the issues that were prevalent then are still around to-day. Domestic violence is one of these issues. Seventy years ago it was hidden under the carpet. Women accepted that it was just their lot in life and they did not have the support, knowledge or strength to know how to get out of that particular situation.

Today women are far more empowered. We have rights and laws that will protect us. There are agencies that specialise in supporting and helping victims of domestic violence. There are advertising campaigns run on television, we have white ribbon day but still there seems to be no decrease in the number of domestic violence cases being reported. It may be that more cases are being reported because of all the extra publicity. That however does not detract from the fact that domestic violence is alive and well in New Zealand.

Did you know that in one quarter of 2007, Refuge took more than 14,000 crisis calls – that is just 6,000 short of the number it is contracted to take for the entire 12 month period. The problem is not going away even with all the support services that we have in our society to-day.

Domestic Violence is all about power and control. It can take many forms including

- Using Intimidation – making her afraid by using looks, action or gestures
- Using Emotional Abuse – putting her down, making her feel bad about herself, playing mind games
- Using Isolation – controlling what she does, who she see and talks too
- Minimizing, Denying and Blaming – making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns seriously, shifting responsibility for abusive behaviour
- Using Children – making her feel guilty about the children, using children to relay messages
- Using Male Privilege – treating her like a servant, making all the big decisions,
- Using Economic Abuse – preventing her from getting or keeping a job, making her ask for money, not letting her know about or have access to family money
- Using Coercion and Threats – making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her, threatening to leave her, to commit suicide, making her drop charges.

One of the ways that we can help combat domestic violence is to learn more about it ourselves so we know what to look out for. Not just for some one else but also to protect ourselves.

Knowledge is power - the power to make a difference!

At our BPW NZ conference earlier this year there were several resolutions put to conference about this issue and we also ran a very successful workshop on domestic violence. The Federation acknowledges there is a real concern out there in the clubs that we need to do something about this issue. With your help and support we can.

A project aimed at raising our knowledge and empowering us with practical responses against domestic violence has been put together and sent out in this month's Mail Out for clubs to action. The Federation hopes that all clubs will participate in this project and from the results a resource will become available which can be used to help address this problem.

Elizabeth Horrell
Project Convener
projects@bpwnz.org.nz

LUNCH WITH THE PM

On July 17th, BPW Doubtless Bay hosted a lunch for the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Helen Clark, MP, who was accompanied by Shane Jones, MP and Kelvin Davis, Labour party candidate for Taitokerau. BPW members and their guests and members of the general public attended this prestigious occasion and were able to meet the Prime Minister during the course of a 'Meet and Greet' buffet lunch.



Robyn Corrigan & Helen Clark

The lunch was followed by a speech in which Helen Clark spoke of the achievements of her government and their aims for the future. She placed particular emphasis on improving education, particularly at pre-school level and said how frequently she was made aware of the huge benefit of the 20 hours free early-childhood education for children aged 3 to 5. She also mentioned an initiative of testing all children at 5 years to check for hearing, sight and other possible impediments to their learning progress. At the other end of the scale, the Prime Minister felt it important that the needs of non-academically minded youngsters be recognised and that they should be channelled into useful work, with vocational training given as young as age 13.

The parental leave scheme has also proved popular and she was gratified to see so many fathers taking advantage of it to be able to spend time with their children; she made the point that true equality will only be achieved once this becomes a universal practice.

In addition, she demonstrated her awareness of the aims and ideals of BPW and particularly the importance of such networks for women in remote, rural areas. She spoke of her own childhood and her mother's isolation when bringing up five children on a remote farm, riding on horseback to Country Women's Institute meetings and a church group, these being her only social contacts.

Following her speech, Helen took questions from the floor. These ranged from a plea for help for the Blomfield Special School, based in Kaitaia, the question of financial help for grandparents raising grandchildren, the possibility of some assistance for young people who had completed their university education during the '90s when it ceased to be free but before the advent of interest-free loans, thus incurring huge debts which they were still repaying. There was also some discussion about safe, sustainable, local food production and the desirability or necessity of importing food from overseas. She took the opportunity afforded by this question to point out that New Zealand's bio-fuel programme relied solely on the use of by-products from other industries and did not impact on food production.

Patsy Thornton thanked the Prime Minister on behalf of BPW and those present and presented her with a basket of Doubtless Bay produce which had been compiled by Lynette Wilson.



Patsy Thornton, Helen Clark & Lynette Wilson

Sarah Wale
BPW Doubtless Bay

Protecting Our Environment - A BPW NZ Project

What Is Our Carbon Footprint?

Protecting our environment - As Linda Shaw said at conference “where do we start.” The obvious answer of course is with ourselves. Any change that we make ourselves however small is going to have an impact on our environment.

It could be as simple as walking out to get the mail for rural people, or taking the bus to work for city people.

The important thing is that we make a change however small it is. One small change each week over the course of a year would add up to 52 changes for the year. How good would that be if we could all make 52 changes to the way we live. Think what that could do for the environment.

How we measure how change that change has been can be difficult. We need to measure what our carbon footprint is to start with and then again after we have made some changes. There are some very complicated formulas out there for finding out your carbon footprint. However there is a site which has a very simple way of measuring your carbon footprint and although perhaps not precise enough for the real academic, for someone who wants to get an idea of what their carbon footprint is it works very well. It is www.carbonfootprint.com. In a very simple form you can calculate your carbon footprint, work out how to reduce it and then how to offset it.

You will have all received your club copy of the BPW NZ project “Protecting our Environment” in your July Mail Out. I encourage you all to take part in this project and to send your ideas into the Federation’s secretary to be included each month in the circular. If you need further copies of the project or yours was lost in cyberspace then email me at projects@bpwnz.org.nz and I will send you another copy.

Elizabeth Horrell
Project Convener
projects@bpwnz.org.nz

The Issue: To Address the Isolation and lack of Employment Of Migrant Women in our Community

This is a very low-key project as is fitting with the women and their needs. A push for publicity and public meetings would not be appropriate.

We have had activities within club meetings to allow opportunities for non-threatening communication and opportunities.

Externally we have developed links with other organisations working with the Dunedin Multi Ethnic Community and with Red Cross to further assist women, to create relevant projects and appropriate support. Through this we have provided assistance to organise and present a seminar for migrant women seeking employment and we are continuing to meet with some of these women providing continuing support and encouragement and knowledge of our community and working strategies. Language assistance was then provided following this, as participants were interviewed for the local media.

Other matters linked together to strengthen the project:

- Encouragement of women to attend our BPW meetings providing conversation, networking, involvement in the community activities, and encouragement to attend an upcoming business seminar on financial matters.
- Mentoring
- Nominations for scholarships and assistance for funding

We have been able to provide business contacts for these women, and provided suitable links for other members seeking particular skills and services.

- Informal assistance with writing curriculum vitae, job interview skills and assisting them to gain employment. A successful seminar on meeting procedure developed skills and confidence in participating in the community.
- Going with women for interviews with immigration and potential employers
- Social gatherings to interact with the women working and benefiting both ways.
- Lobbying to make access to assistance from Immigration and Internal Affairs more user friendly and appropriate.
- Meeting with appropriate local government people to improve services and assistance to new migrant particularly women
- Use of a new restaurant for our club meetings but also to support a new business set up by migrant women. Started with the international night held at Ali's place – to enable conversation, set in a place of safety and reassurance, and encouragement. The evening resulted in mutual respect with the sharing of food and ideas.

In order to understand more fully the problems facing migrants to the city and in particular women, Fi McKay, the Dunedin City Council Settlement Support Coordinator spoke to us, providing us with ideas and enabling us to offer reciprocal assistance. Some of the difficulties faced by the women are language, employment and isolation. One of the significant reasons that families leave is that the women are unhappy. A typical scenario is that women arrive with their families; they support their husbands as they go to work, and their children at school, but the nature of this support increases their isolation and their lack of contact with the English language. The rest of the family becomes fluent in English, settled and independent, they become less dependent on the woman and her isolation and dissatisfaction increases.

Although this may not seem a high profile nor spectacular project it has made a significant difference in our community for these women and provided us as a club with opportunities to link with the migrant community and to benefit from their expertise and experience.

Our community and our BPW club are stronger for these links and we are proud of the quiet and gentle way this project has proceeded. This has been a very positive and quiet project that has made significant changes in the lives of some of these women. All club members have been involved not in a contrived way but quietly and effectively welcoming and supporting these women often following up by invitations to share meals their own homes. This has been a great experience for our members as well as our newcomers. Publicity has been word of mouth. We have six new members joined this year and more visitors and intending members as each meeting. These people tend to be those who need links into the community either because they have just moved here, or that they were lacking the networking, social contact and links with the local women's community.

This has been an extraordinarily successful on-going, cost-effective and productive project addressing the issue of migrant women settling into our community.

BPW Dunedin

Attachments, Cover letter, Policy 2008, Resolution guidelines, Submission on Sale of Liquor, Domestic Violence Project, New Horizons for Women Trust Appeal, Club Contact Details, Executive Details

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

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