

BPW NZ Report to BPW Oceania Sub-Regional Meeting October 2012

Kia ora tatou.

Madam President, members and our Oceania sisters

On behalf of BPW NZ President Carolyn Savage a warm welcome is extended to all delegates and a special thank you to the women of BPW NZ who are joining you at this year's Oceania Sub-Regional meeting and special recognition is extended to Elaine White, BPW NZ Treasurer who is presenting this report on behalf of NZ.

Over the past two years BPW NZ has been active in many areas:

INTERNALLY:

The last two years has been focused on membership, to provide the opportunity for members around the country to be active participants in the direction of our Federation and the type of membership to see BPW NZ grow through the next few years.

- Membership taskforce was set up in late 2011, led by Past Presidents Faye Gardiner and Anita Devcich who prepared a detailed document for all members to respond to.
- Feedback was collated by the new VP-Membership Chair Janette Hudson and these results were presented at the Regional Meetings.
- Two successful conferences have been held in 2011 (one day event) and 2012, both having over 90 delegates/observers and International Guests attend.
- Leadership weekend successfully hosted in 2011/2012, it has evolved from President's/Officers weekend. Members now asking to have such events held in the regions or later in the year.

MEMBERSHIP:

- At the time of preparing this report NZ has 15 clubs, approximately 370 members, and 8 individual members.
- Review of the closures have included ageing membership, problems in getting members to hold club executive roles, increases in levies and wanting to be a social group, to name a few.
- BPW NZ was to see the passing of one of its Life Members and Past President's, Pauline Gapper who at 91 left a legacy for others to follow and her memory was celebrated by a special event hosted by BPW Hibiscus Coast.
- BPW NZ launched its new website on the 19th September (NZ Suffrage Day) to provide a more dynamic and relevant website. Special acknowledgement is extended to Technology Convenor Lorraine Cameron and Chris Turner for their work.
- Executive members again each have a club that they assist, mentor and contact regularly, via emails, telephone, or attending dinner and regional meetings.

CLUBS:

- As well as the usual fundraisers and seminars, many clubs have instigated major local projects, for example:
- BPW Hawera have been successful over the last two years, both taking the Club of the Year award in 2011 and Brooker Marketing and Membership Awards in 2012 which reflected an increase of over 100% in their membership and with the highest number of YoungBPW members.
- BPW Huntly & District have hosted their annual Wearable Arts Awards, in partnership with Waikato Council, with an operating budget now at \$40,000.
- BPW Tamaki hosted a successful community evening "Meet Your Candidates Evening" prior to the NZ Elections (2011).
- Various clubs have continued their scholarship/second chance awards.

REGIONAL MEETINGS:

These were successfully held during 2011 and 2012, providing an opportunity for guest speakers to talk on key issues relevant to BPW Aims and provide educational workshops.

NATIONAL PROJECTS:

- **Equal Pay (Red Bag Day):** IPP Angela McLeod, as Chairperson of the Equal Pay Coalition Challenge coordinated the signing of a full length of ribbon outside of Parliament (2011). BPW Upper Hutt Red Bag Breakfast meeting (2012).
- **Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs).** This is a major project that arose out of attending Congress 2011. A meeting with President Rae Julian UN Women (NZ) in August 2011 saw a partnership formed with UN Women and Human Rights Commissioner Dr Judy McGregor and the launch of the WEPs at Government House, February 2012. There are now 23 corporations signed to date, plus the Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch Chamber of Commerce and a new partner the Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) Trust.
- **CEDAW:** Council for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, BPW NZ members attended workshops around the country to provide contribution towards the Shadow Report.
- **Public Profile:** preparing various press releases, been invited to attend Radio and TV interviews have been undertaken over the last two years. Internal media training was offered to BPW NZ Executive (April 2012) and led by Sue Kedgley.

LOBBYING:

Some examples of issues lobbied:

- 25th May 2011 – To the Ministry of Justice on the proposed closure of the Waitakere Family Court and the effect it would have on disadvantaged women.
- 17th February 2012 – To the Justice and Law select committee on the Victims of Crime Reform Bill
- 29th February 2012 – To the Ministry of Justice on the discussion document concerning the Family Court Review.
- Early 2012, Alcohol Bill, submission, prepared by IPP Angela McLeod

LINKS:

We have strengthened our links with other women's organisations such as, NCW, NZ Fed. of Graduate Women, Rural Women, Zonta, Soroptimists, YWCA, UN Women NZ and Pacific Women's Watch, NHWT and have ongoing dialogue with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Human Rights Commission, and EEO Trust.

NEW INITIATIVES:

- Prepared and presented long service certificates in recognition of members who have been a part of BPW for 25 years and 50 years plus. In addition certificates were presented to clubs who celebrated significant birthdays e.g. Cambridge 2012 (30th birthday).
- Due to the development of the WEPs programme and attendance at Governance training courses, the request to develop training projects and partnerships are being requested.
- Members from Zonta, FGW, and Global Women have all registered an interest in developing working projects and seminars, still being reviewed.
- In general most clubs are working well, obtaining new members and each developing projects specific to their areas.

BPW INTERNATIONAL:

- BPW NZ was well represented at Congress, Helsinki 2011, two members actively participated in the BPW International Constitution Life Members and Past Presidents Anne Todd-Lambie, and Joan Bielby, and two NZ members hold positions on various

committees Past President Faye Gardiner and IPP Angela McLeod. Congratulations to them all for their work on behalf of BPW members.

- Due to the increase of the BPW International levies, which the NZ Federation has been able to accommodate adjustments through its levie increases slightly each year at conference, we have still seen its impact with the direct coalition of the closure of some of the clubs over the last two years.

Finally, thank you again for welcoming BPW NZ and I wish you a successful event.

Kia kaha tuahine – Sisters be strong.

Carolyn Savage,

BPW NZ President

October 2012