



BPW HUNTLY & DISTRICTS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 5

NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2017

PRESIDENT'S PEN

A big thankyou to you all for your help and involvement with our **Candlelighting** evening held on 13th June. It was lovely to have such a good turnout, catching up with past members, other BPW club members, Huntly locals and welcoming new member Amy Whetu to her first BPW Huntly meeting. Our speaker, Judi Davidson had a very interesting story and kept her audience listening attentively while she talked about all the adversities she faced and how she stood up for herself and her children against many odds. A special thanks to Shirley for doing such a fantastic job as MC for the evening.

You may have also noticed the fresh new name labels on the tables for members and guests which Betty has kindly handcrafted for us. Thanks very much Betty for using your considerable talents to produce these for us.

REPORT ON NORTHERN REGIONAL MEETING 21ST MAY



Again, a huge thankyou to everyone who set up, attended, contributed at the meeting, cooked, cleaned up, did kitchen duty, when we hosted the Northern Regional Meeting – a great team effort and turnout for Huntly Club. Thanks also to Merle, Janet, Wendy and Janine for billeting some of our guests. You are all awesome and I was stoked we had such a large number of our club present to give our Club report and to support Janet in her first presentation as VP Issues (who as usual did us proud). Members from other BPW clubs commented on how much they enjoyed the day and also in seeing another side of Huntly, so a good bit of advertising for our local area. The networking

COMING UP

JULY MEETING

Monday 3rd July
From 5pm at Huntly RSA
5.30pm meeting
6.15pm dinner

GUESTS WELCOME

\$25.00 per head

HOSTESSES

Rosemary, Merle

SPEAKER

Glenda Graham
Solicitor with
Norris Ward McKinnon
Wills and Enduring
Powers of Attorney

GUESTS WELCOME

Apologies or numbers of
guests to Trish please
trish@cscs.co.nz

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Evelyn, Helen, Beth

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday 26th June
5.15 pm at
Cowley Stanich offices

FUTURE DATES

Monday 31st July
Monday 28th August

was also good for our members as many of us have made firm friends with other members.

My report on the meeting was published in the June BPWNZ newsletter so I won't report on it again. Thank you to Carole for taking the minutes of the meeting and sending these back to the NZ Executive for their records.

KEYS TO ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



I know that many of our members have already done many of the tasks that are listed in the Bronze and Silver levels of the KTA program and I would like to see our members acknowledged for their work and efforts by having these tasks signed off and levels completed so that we can present the Keys to you.

A dinner meeting will be set aside to assist with completion of some of the KTA tasks – more on this later. Our BPWNZ President Hellen Swales plans on attending our AGM in October so this would be an excellent opportunity to have KTA achievements recognized. I invite you to have a fresh look at your KTA tasks and bring your KTA (yellow) booklets to the next meeting so we can sign off past activities and make a plan of attack for the completion of other tasks. If you don't have a Keys to Achievement booklet let me know and we will get one to you.

DINNER MEETING 3RD JULY



Our speaker for this up-coming meeting is Glenda Graham from Norris Ward McKinnon Lawyers who will be discussing Wills and Enduring Powers of Attorney.

As this is a topic relevant to everyone, I'd like to make the meeting open to partners and other interested people. As Gayle is away overseas, can you please let me know if you have a partner/guests attending this.

Wendy and I together with our husbands attended the Huntly Rotary Changeover night on 21 June held at Willow Glen in Gordonton. The outgoing

President- Jeanette Crook received a Paul Harris award for services to Rotary and handed over the Presidency reins to Tiffany Whyte. Huntly Rotary have assisted in fundraising for Polio and it was announced that Polio has almost been wiped out with only five cases in the last year in the world, certainly a great achievement for one area of global health. Wendy and I were welcomed as BPW Huntly and we look forward to having a continuing association with Rotary in the coming year.



Yours in BPW

Trish Foy – President

2017 CANDLE-LIGHTING DINNER MEETING



MC for the evening Shirley Boyde, with candlelighters in the background Wendy Horrox, Pauline Dunn and Jan Shand.



Guest Speaker for the evening Judi Davidson



Sally Smith delivering the BPWNZ Presidents message

SPEAKERS REPORT - JUDI DAVIDSON – AUTHOR AND SINGLE MOTHER OF FIVE CHILDREN

What a privilege it was to have Judi Davidson share her amazing life story with us at our Candle lighting dinner. Growing up in Auckland, Judi thought she was having a normal childhood when she was being abused from the age of three years first by a family member, then a teacher who babysat and others. Judi was always told it was her fault and she complied to protect her sisters. At 17, Judi went to Teachers Training College and was unaware she was pregnant until in labour with her daughter who was delivered on the floor by her mother. This baby was adopted out, without Judi being consulted. She was eventually reunited 26 years later when her daughter Delwyn made contact with Judi and they are now very close.



***Judi Davidson with her children, back from left:
Triplets: Melissa, Reece and Kendall,
Front, Blake and Ryan Leitch. Photo Taken 2008***

Judi married, but her husband was not faithful and Judi felt it was her fault he had affairs. She met her second husband and when their first baby was stillborn, again, Judi blamed herself as she was told she had been a “bad person”. Judi continued working in her own business and the following year with extra maternity care, Ryan was born. After seemingly normal development at first, Ryan started falling over and later lost all independent mobility, becoming reliant on a wheelchair. He was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy – 2 and given six months to live by which stage Judi was 7 months pregnant with Blake.

Soon after Blake’s birth, Judi recognised the same symptoms of Spinal Muscular Atrophy with Blake. She

was advised to “take the boys home and love them until they die”. When Judi became unexpectedly pregnant again and a scan showed triplets, termination was recommended, but Judi was determined to continue the pregnancy with her faith supporting this decision. Happily, the triplets did not have SMA - Melissa and Kendall are free of the genes but Reece is a carrier. As a single parent, Judi became a new person fighting for the best medical care and mainstreaming education for her children. During this time working in her own business, Judi met the many health needs of her boys including turning them two- hourly every night to prevent pressure sores and relieve fluid on their lungs.

In 2005 Judi and her boys received an invitation from Stephen Hawking (the world renown Astro Physicist) to meet him at the University of Cambridge, England. After a large fundraising effort, they had a wonderful visit which gave the boys hope for their futures with Ryan topping the international Cambridge Geography exams that year.

The boys are always happy and pleasant to be around, never letting their disabilities stopping them from learning anything. At an early age the triplets learnt to help their mother caring for their brothers and they all share a very close bond.

Now Ryan (27 years) has completed a post-graduate Diploma in Geography and is now studying for an IT degree and Blake (24 years) is also completing his second Degree. Both boys have now left home and are independently flatting with the help of 24 hour carers. They are among the longest living people with SMA.

Judi is now living at home alone, and is coping with her own health issues while still playing a large part in her children’s lives. She stays close to Auckland Hospital so that when Ryan and Blake are admitted from time to time she is on hand to give Ryan and Blake medical help and to assist the nurses (who often have never had any experience with patients with the very rare SMA condition).

Judi’s book *Arms Wide Open – A Mother’s Story* can be ordered on-line through Fish Pond, or Penguin Group NZ Ltd. Unfortunately the book is no longer available from the Huntly Library.



**BOOK US FOR YOUR
NEXT EVENT.**
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64225868970

**MEAN FRITTERS
& GOURMET SEAFOOD**

President:
Trish Foy
828 7590 or 021 840 022

Past President:
Janet Gibb
(07) 824 6737 or 027 4753397

Secretary:
Jan Shand
021 848 043

Treasurer/ Vice President
Wendy Horrox
828 8915 or 027 202 2252

Catering:
Gayle Scott
826 3383 or 021 263 6840

Other Committee:
Karen Putwain, Shelley Lynch

*We welcome your ideas, suggestions to
improve our club.*

THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECT

We ask

That we meet together as women, not allowing beliefs, religion, nationality, ethnicity or language to come between us.

That these meetings enable us to move forward and advance the status of women throughout the world.

That the value of women be recognized in our families, our communities, our workplaces, our country and the world.

That we use our good ideas, our knowledge, and our experience to promote the worth of women.

That we combine our strengths to move forward in peace, in serenity and in love.

That women of all generations will do their part to achieve harmony and equality among all human beings.

AIMS OF BPW

BPW International aims to unite business and professional women in all parts of the world to:

1. Work for women's: • economic independence • equal opportunity and representation in economic, civil and political life.
2. Encourage and support women and girls to: • develop their professional and leadership potential • undertake lifelong education and training • use their abilities for the benefit of others, locally, nationally and internationally.
3. Advocate: • for the elimination of all discrimination against women • for human rights and the use of gender-sensitive perspectives.
4. Undertake: • world-wide networking and co-operation between business and professional women • non-profit projects that help women gain economic independence • to present the views of business and professional women to international organisations and agencies, and to business, governments and civil society.

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

*Please email them to ghancocknz@gmail.com by the 15th of the month.
Contributions to our bulletin are welcome from all club members.*