

## BPW Hawera Year Book 2015



(Members of our club celebrating with Te Aroha Hohaia (and her granddaughter) after being sworn in as a Justice of the Peace with the support of the club – Chris Turner, Christina Bycroft, Te Aroha, Anita Scott-Dekker, Margie Jones and Helen Cook)

Our Executive was elected in October 2014 as follows:

President	Helen Cook
Vice President	Vacant, Committee Member Rachel Werder completes duties
Treasurer	Meredith MacKenzie
Immediate Past President	Anita Scott Dekker
Young BPW	Vivien Yeung fulfils this role outside of committee
Executive Committee	Michele McClure, Rachel Werder, Desiree Phillips, Gwen Cater and Margie Jones

2014 has been a relatively quiet year after an exciting and busy 2013 when we hosted the BPWNZ 74<sup>th</sup> AGM and Conference in Hawera. It was wonderful to receive such positive feedback from attendees who endorsed the achievement of our aim to provide a friendly and positive experience for all. It was therefore pleasurable to attend the 2014 BPWNZ AGM and Conference knowing that we had done a good job the previous year. It was wonderful to be presented with the Pauline Gapper Literacy Award by one of our own founding members Diana O'Brien, who was ecstatic with the funds that we had raised for the cause so close to her heart. Equally rewarding was the preparation of one Constitution Amendment and two Resolutions for the 2014 conference which were all debated well by BPWNZ members, voted on and carried.

The low light of 2014 however was the passing of our member Paula Barton in December. Paula had been unwell for some time; in her unassuming and private way, only her close friends and family knew the full extent of her illness. Despite becoming frail, she maintained her sparkling personality and continued to support BPW as best as she could. A driving force

behind many BPW projects including the 2013 national conference, she will be dearly missed by our club.

We have continued to host a great array of speakers throughout the year including our own Te Aroha Hohaia who updated us of the happenings at our local Summit House Trust Counselling Service and also spoke of Matariki at Candle-Lighting in June; Shannon Cox spoke of her experiences to prepare and complete long distance running/multi-sport events – truly inspiring and we all vowed to put our running shoes on improve our fitness and achieve a goal; Kelly Davy spoke of her family's challenge to obtain best medical advice and care for their mother who is afflicted with Huntingdon's Disease; and John McKenzie, Group Manager Environment Services at South Taranaki District Council updated us on the proposed CBD Redevelopment Project which came about as a result of the new Earthquake regulations. John summarized the progress to date and received good feedback from members, many of whom are business and building owners directly affected.

Another focus of our meetings has been to periodically invite our local business women to showcase their businesses – these have included our own Linda Morrison who operates the very successful Tairoa Lodge (where we hold our monthly meetings) and also a Mini Trade Expo including an HR Consultancy firm specializing in Agri placements, a beauty therapist who owns 3 salons in our town and 2 real estate agents. We secured three new members as a result of the Expo.

Several of our members have taken on community/advocacy roles throughout the year, including Te Aroha Hohaia who was sworn in as a JP and Karen Pratt and Christine Corrigan who have both advocated against an Iron Sand mining operation proposed in the South Taranaki Bight and Jill Manaia who has taken on a role with WorkSafe NZ to promote the Health and Safety Legislation.

To support White Ribbon Day in November, we hosted a community breakfast event with guest speakers from Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the Mayor's Task Force for Youth Engagement. Both speakers were so passionate about their organizations being a resource to make a real difference in the community. As a result of this event, we raised funds from 4 raffles (donated by club members) and were able to return funds back into the community to assist Big Brothers, Big Sisters and also a Positive Parenting Programme.

The awarding of our 2014 Second Chance Education Grant coincided with the visit by BPWNZ President Vicky Mee in July. The 2014 grant was awarded to not one but two recipients – Aileen Kowal who has just recently completed her Bachelor of Teaching Early Childhood and also Janene Coombe who has returned to Nursing after an extended break and was completing the Competence Assessment Programme. Our 2013 winner, Melanie Robert has also recently completed her Bachelor of Education (Teaching) and our 2012 winner, Rochelle Hurst, has gone on to receive the Maui Pomare Scholarship which will assist her to achieve her Bachelor of Nursing degree. We are naturally therefore very proud of the achievements of our Second Chance recipients. All of these women are determined to use their qualifications in South Taranaki and we are confident that our investments will deliver good dividends in the long term future.



**Our 2014 Second Chance Education winners, Janene Coombe and Aileen Kowal with members Linda Morrison and Jan Dunlop**

Members have continued their own professional development this year, including KTA achievements, Helen Cook completed Business Coaching qualifications and has commenced Adult Learning and Training study, Michele McClure continues her Bachelor of Science (Earth Science), Desiree Phillips continues her studies in Gender Specific Roles and Childhood Development (and has become a new mum again), Rachel Werder nears the completion of her Bachelor of Business Studies and Te Aroha Hohaia continues to work on her PhD through Victoria University.

And in the spirit of BPW we have enjoyed the fellowship and friendships of our members and our families. We are diverse in age, backgrounds, professions and nationalities but we all share common values, drive and the desire to contribute to our local and wider communities. And most importantly, we all know how to have fun along the way.

Helen Cook  
President  
BPW Hawera