

## BPW TAMAKI



<b>President</b>	Faye Gardiner
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	None
<b>Secretary</b>	Ernestine Colwell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sandra Grubb
<b>Membership</b>	Joan Bielby
<b>Members</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>YBPW</b>	None

Tamaki BPW meets at the Waipuna Hotel, Waipuna Road, Mount Wellington Auckland on the second Wednesday of the month. We meet at 6.00pm for socialising and networking, dinner at 6.30, guest speaker 7.30, followed by discussion of issues related to the speaker's topic or to current events, then a short business meeting, finishing at 9.00pm. At present we have 13 members and celebrated our sapphire anniversary (45 years) in October.

Tamaki BPW demonstrates that even a small club of 13 members can meet the Aims of BPW NZ. We do not have the resources to undertake major projects but address issues through having speakers on topics related to our Aims and by discussing issues at each club meeting. It may be the issue addressed by the speaker, or it may be an issue that is topical in the media at the time.

For our candle lighting ceremony this year we combined with BPW Auckland and were addressed by Dr. Judy McGregor who spoke about her experiences as an "undercover" care giver in a rest home during her research for the EEO Aged Care report.

Our particular focus in 2012 was the campaign to stop violence against women. A public panel addressing "Invisible Violence against Women" was held in November to support the White Ribbon Campaign. Speakers addressed verbal aggression; financial restrictions, psychological threats and pressures, and the way women who complain of this sort of violence are labelled as "mad" because you cannot see it. Speakers were - **Kate Brady Kean**, Psychotherapist, Senior Lecturer Manukau Institute of Technology. **Zita Tuffley**, Acting Service Coordinator, Avondale Victim Support, and advocate at Shine, a charitable organisation working for violence free homes. **Christine Cowan-James**, Programme Facilitator, Eastern Women's Refuge. White Ribbon cards, pamphlets and posters were given out at the event which was attended by members and guests from the local community, including senior girl school students.

### **Feedback from the White Ribbon Domestic Violence Event**

*"As a young woman I get bombarded with messages about bullying, alcohol and substance abuse while discussions about relationships seem to be isolated only to preventing pregnancy and being happy about who you're with; so domestic violence isn't really an overly highlighted issue. At my age I am beginning to engage in relationships and am not really aware of the issues of domestic violence. After attending the seminar and being informed about the cycles of domestic abuse I felt better educated and more aware of the*

*issues at hand. The ads that I see on TV seem to present domestic abuse as something that only occurs in the poorer parts of the country and only involves fists but I learnt that it can also involve psychological, emotional and mental abuse”.*

Kirsty”, Age 17

*“I choose to bring both my daughters to this event to help them better understand an issue I hope they never personally encounter. Initially I thought maybe the message was too frightening for them and maybe I had done the wrong thing. But I quickly realised that what the speakers had to say was relevant to girls of my daughters’ age (and to me). The evening generated a lot of talk between us and a much greater awareness of what is “OK” and “not OK” for them in the relationships they are forming with boys. The girls were very impressed with the domestic violence diagram one of the speakers used that showed how control of economic resources, control of friendships which can limit contact with family and friends is also part of violence against women”.*

Moira

Our project in 2012 was the collection of toiletries, food and cleaning products for the local women’s’ refuge. Members each donated one item at each meeting and three cartons full were presented to the Eastern Women’s Refuge at the White Ribbon Event.

