



BPW Warkworth Year Book 2014-2015



Looking back over our local newsletters for the past year I see that four delegates from Warkworth attended Conference last year and had much to report back to our club. We submitted two remits, one on Aged Care and one on Suicide and Depression. Both our remits were accepted with some amendments to the latter one and I am delighted to report that in October last year Hellen Swales presented both to a Select Committee in Parliament where they were accepted unanimously. What a great way to start the new BPW year.

We were also very proud at Conference, to be presented with the Lee Hamilton Trophy for the greatest increase in membership over the previous year. It has been the centrepiece at most of our monthly meetings for the remainder of the year.

Conference was swiftly followed by Congress on the island of JeJu in South Korea. I was very lucky to attend this amazing event which broadened my knowledge of BPW Internationally and my skills at presenting as I was invited to second two resolutions, the Nigerian resolution on forced and underage marriages, and the Japanese resolution requesting that United Nations put pressure on the Japanese Government to involve women in the rebuild and rehabilitation following the earthquake and tsunami. My involvement brought Congress closer to home for our members and it has been particularly rewarding being able to relate the follow up work by Hellen Swales and Carolyn Savage at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59) and the Annual Leadership Summit in New York.

In the May 2014 Newsletter our then President, Gillian Bray, announced that three new members would be attending the May meeting which brought our numbers back up to 40. The efforts of the previous year to raise our profile in Warkworth and surrounding areas was continuing to pay dividends.

Our members played an important role in increasing our numbers by bringing friends and acquaintances to our monthly meetings where we did, on occasion, have more guests than members present. Our speaker convenor Bronwyn Lane made a huge contribution by finding great speakers on a wide range of subjects from Animal Osteopathy to Financial Advisors. This upward trend in membership has continued and we have now reached the magic figure of 50!

In June we invited our local MP, Mark Mitchell to come and talk about the issues dear to our hearts, Suicide Prevention, Aged Care and Bullying in Schools. We had a very interactive discussion on all three subjects and felt at the end that maybe Mark had learned more than we did! We certainly gave him some strong messages to take back to his colleagues!

Our July meeting was our 30 years anniversary and Candlelighting. For the week prior to the meeting we used the window in our local Paper Plus to advertise the fact and advertise our Club as a great place to make new friends. We were honoured to have Vicky Mee, Carolyn Savage, Colleen Brooker and Maureen Eardley-Wilmot join us for the evening which concluded with some highlights from Congress.

At our AGM in September a new committee was voted in and with a few changes since then, our committee is now:

Sally Smith	President and Membership
Gillian Bray	Immediate Past President
Bronwyn Lane	Secretary
Charlotte Nevill	Treasurer and Keys to Achievement
Di Paton	Fundraising and Newsletter
Gill Warren	Speakers

In November, Renee Hanley and I attended the Mahurangi College Prize Giving where we presented our annual award to the girl who demonstrated the best Leadership Qualities. We were pleased that we had doubled the amount of the award as the winner, Alana Hathaway, had already received not one, but two significant study awards.

This leads me on to our Christmas Party which was definitely one to remember. It was the brainchild of Di Paton with help from Renee Hanley and Jo Curtis. The only constraint that I put upon them was please, NO SANTA! I was given a script to read to introduce our mystery guest -

"We are very lucky to have with us tonight a woman who is about to take over the reins of one of the largest global conglomerates on the planet. It is actually a non-profit organisation which supplies millions of people around the globe with goods. This is a very low key organisation and we really know very little about how it operates. So this is an amazing opportunity to have some insight into how it all works.

With the retirement of the founder within a few years, the company has been looking at how it can become more relevant and efficient in the 21st century. There are some huge challenges for an organisation like this with online shopping so common these days.

The woman we have with us today will be running the whole organisation when her father retires and she has some wonderful insights into the changes that a company like this will need to make in the future.

*So, please welcome to BPW Warkworth the only daughter of one of our most beloved international figures, Santa Claus. **Welcome Ms Claus.**" Good one Di!*



Alana Hathaway, winner of our leadership award, dressed as a Christmas Tree

The young student from Mahurangi College who played the part of Ms Claus, wrote her speech herself with a little guidance from Di. She demonstrated a head for business that would put all of us to shame! Her strategic plan for pulling the business into the current decade was right on the button. Dinner was followed with fun and games with each table having to prepare and execute a short production related to Christmas, and make a Christmas tree from what was available within easy reach. We had a number of Christmas Carol parodies, several poems, and three human Christmas Trees.

We reconvened in February after the summer break and were honoured to welcome Vicky Mee as our guest speaker. With so many new members, knowledge of the breadth and depth of BPW activities needed reinforcing so we asked Vicky to talk about WEPs. After briefly outlining what

WEPs were, the enlightened audience was asked to spend some time putting together ideas on what initiatives they as head of a Corporate Entity, would implement in to satisfy each of the WEPs principles in turn. The noise level in the room rose immediately as everybody huddled in groups to perform this task. The evening concluded with much discussion and laughter as the ideas were read out and everyone went away with a fund of new knowledge. Thank you Vicky for another illuminating visit to Warkworth.

Our March meeting was held at the Bridgehouse Lodge and was a breakfast meeting celebrating International Women's Day. The theme was **PURPLE**, with a prize offered for the best interpretation of the colour purple. Invitations were posted around Warkworth and Matakana.

Our guest speaker was Jenni Francis, a local author, who shared her experiences of being the daughter of a deaf mother. At the age of 24 her mother was given her first hearing aid with each battery weighing a pound each! Jenni naturally developed an interest in teaching children with hearing difficulties and in this role, helped to break down long standing barriers so that her pupils could participate more fully in school activities.



Jenni has published a series of books for reluctant readers, "Loosing William", "Tide Island", and "Danger Signs", this latter being about a deaf child.

The prize for **PURPLE** was a bouquet of purple vegetables!

Gillian Carlsson, winner in purple

We are now in April and looking at resolutions for this coming conference in Christchurch where we will have five delegates and hope to be seconding five resolutions for other clubs. Following Conference we will be turning our attention to Keys to Achievement. By this time our new member, Charlotte who has been seconded straight onto committee as Treasurer and Project Manager for Keys to Achievement, will have her feet firmly under the table and we can start progressing a new project about which we are targeting to go public in June.

With our membership at 50, we can now devote more energy to skill building, both in our own organisation and later in the wider community in which we live. We also have in mind several subjects for research with a view to developing new resolutions for next year's Conference. I would like to thank all the members of our National Exec for their unfailing help and support over the last year. I would also like to thank my committee members past and current for their dedication and enthusiasm. As President of BPW Warkworth, I am so lucky to have such great support.

Sally Smith