

BPW Hawera Year Book 2014



(Our Executive Margie Jones, Christine Corrigan, Rachel Werder, Vivien Yeung, Meredith MacKenzie, Anita Scott-Dekker and Helen Cook. Absent: Christina Bycroft)

Our Club Executive was elected in October 2013 as follows:

President	Helen Cook
Vice President	Christine Corrigan (however since election Christine has resigned from this position for personal reasons. Committee Member Rachel Werder stepped into this role in March 2014).
Treasurer	Meredith MacKenzie
Immediate Past President	Anita Scott Dekker
Young BPW	Vivien Yeung
Executive Committee	Christina Bycroft, Margie Jones, Rachel Werder

The highlight for BPW Hawera during the past year was the hosting of the BPWNZ 74th AGM and Conference on 19-21 April 2013 in Hawera. Attendee feedback was very positive and confirmed our intention to provide a well-run and friendly event. We successfully obtained community support to hold this event (by raffle fundraising, excellent member support, sponsorship of gifts, flowers and services, informative local speakers and entertainers plus underwriting sponsorship from our local TSB Community Trust) which enabled us to run to budget and break even. To further add to our achievements, our club received the Harrison-Lee Membership Award and several of our Keys to Achievement participants were awarded their keys.

We had several members travelling overseas during the year and it was wonderful to hear Adora Joy Torres' story coinciding with International Women's' Day. Joy spoke of her travels to India over the preceding 6 months as she helped to establish a production facility for the company she worked for. During that time, she experienced first-hand what it was like to be a woman in India.

Chris Turner spoke of her travels to Cambodia and Vietnam at our Candle-Lighting ceremony, an event which is always well supported by our members. Hearing both Joy's and Chris's stories highlighted the importance of the work done by organisations such as BPW, UN Women and NCW internationally.

With our continued commitment to the national initiative to raise awareness of family violence, we assisted the Taranaki Safe Families Trust with their annual Family Challenge Day and continued to provide financial support and parcels of necessities to our local Hawera Rape Crisis Counselling Service.

Following on from the 2013 conference where the clubs were challenged to initiate working relationships with their local Māori Women's Welfare League, we held discussions with the Hawera branch of the League. Whilst the process has been slower than expected, the foundations have been set so as to use our skills to assist each other collaboratively in welfare and family violence prevention.

We have had a wonderful array of speakers throughout the year including Janice Forsyth, Associate of a local solicitor firm speaking on "Daring to Dream" and her professional leadership progress; Joe Menzies and Simon Collins of Rotokare Scenic Reserve speaking about the sustainability of our ecosystems and Lynne Walker of our District Libraries speaking about the need for continuous adjustment to technology and reading programs for an increasing range of age groups.

On two occasions during the year we joined forces with the Normanby Districts Lions Club. In September we organized a Sileni Wine Order fundraiser for the BPW NZ Nepal Literacy Fund and raised 630 NZD. To learn more about Nepal and initiatives by our fellow community members, Lions member Roger Malthus spoke of their Kari-khola Clean Water Project. This initiative highlighted what a few people with a lot of drive can achieve if they really put their mind to it.

A month later we jointly ran a Local Body Elections Meet the Candidates event. 140 South Taranaki residents attended to listen to and question the candidates who included the three mayoral contenders, a number of candidates for the Taranaki District Health Board and Taranaki Regional Council and our local council hopefuls. Excellent feedback was received from the candidates and the public as to professional delivery of this free event.

Members have been busy with their own professional development this year, including KTA achievements (including our first gold key awarded to Anita Scott-Dekker); Meredith MacKenzie's presentation on the topic of gender differences in the veterinary profession, which she has researched as part of her MBA project; Helen Cook has started her Business Coaching qualifications and Desiree Phillips is completing her Post Graduate study into gender differences and influences.

Our club (ably led by Anita Scott Dekker) was a driving force behind the organization of the Regional Meeting in Palmerston North in September and we have prepared three resolutions for the 2014 conference.

Our 2013 Second Chance Education Grant was awarded to Melanie Robert who is working towards her Bachelor of Education (Teaching). As part of her grant Melanie also received complimentary dinners and membership for 12 months. Our 2012 recipient, Rochelle Hurst, reported on her successful completion of the Certificate in University Preparation with outstanding results and that she has been accepted into the 2014 Bachelor of Nursing degree. Rochelle remains a member, kindly sponsored by another member.

We had the pleasure to have Ariana Brooks, Fonterra's participant in the Fast Track programme, deliver her Dragon's Den presentation "A culture of safety doesn't happen by accident". After feedback from our members, Ariana fine-tuned her presentation which resulted in a job secondment within Fonterra. We also received information about Business Mentoring from representatives of Business Mentors New Zealand and encouraged others to join members Linda Morrison, Helen Cook and Meredith MacKenzie who are voluntary mentors to local business people.

And last but not least, we had time for fun as well, hosting Donna Hurley (a local scarf and hat retailer) who showed us how to lighten the autumn and winter days, a Melbourne Cup themed meeting with a race caller for our own Cup race, Christmas dinner with our partners and meetings in member's gardens over the summer. All in all, another busy and successful year for BPW Hawera.