

KAITAIA BPW – CLUB REPORT 2012

Kaitaia BPW is alive and kicking! Although our numbers are smaller than in previous years, we are enjoying a close knit relationship with our members.

A new initiative at our AGM in November 2011 saw Ciaran Torrington and Raewyn Pennell share the President's role due to commitments elsewhere, and this has worked very well. Ciaran took the first 6 months, with Raewyn stepping up in May 2012. No Vice President was elected.

Our Secretary Marie Berghan, and Treasurer Pam Dawson swapped their roles, giving each other an insight into the very different positions, also sharing production of our monthly Bulletin.

Committee members Jan Spinley, Justine Rae and Immediate Past President Sandy White complete the team.

A gathering together of members and guests in June for our candlelighting ceremony, was a warm and ambient scene in mid Winter.

We also organised for Sue Moroney – Labour MP for Cambridge, to present her private members' bill for an extension to existing Paid Parental Leave, to a combined BPW Kaitaia/Doubtless Bay meeting, open to the public, in July. Unfortunately, Sue was not able to attend due to a medical emergency at home, but was very ably represented by Clare Curran, Labour MP for Dunedin South, who stood in at the last minute. We subsequently made a submission in support of the Bill – our thanks to member Donna Harrison for penning it.

Later that month, at our dinner meeting, we met with one of the trustees of the Northland Community Foundation, who have a goal of raising \$3 million by March 2013 for an oncology facility at Whangarei Hospital. We pledged \$500 (and challenged Doubtless Bay BPW to match our donation) for a 'brick' in the fundraising wall. We subsequently made the combined donation to the BNZ in November 2012.

We discussed the proposed membership modules, and collated our thoughts for the National Executive, as well as voted on the National Council of Women remits, and we look forward to further participating in the processes.

September saw Ciaran introducing us to her mum, Professor Lesley Hall, Senior Lecturer at Victoria University on Women and Gender studies. Lesley gave a thought provoking talk on femal scientists through the ages – most of them relegated to near obscurity behind their husbands’ “more important discoveries”!

Our annual scholarship/s to Kaitaia College were in need of a financial boost, so we have been running raffles at our local PaknSave on a monthly basis, sitting in front of the big yellow BPW banner (although it does somewhat blend in with the PaknSave advertising!) Our presence also raises our profile in the community.

We also run a Trade Me account, where we are making a small contribution to our expenses by selling books and magazines. Every little helps!

We look forward to celebrating our 25th Anniversary in 2013, and meeting up with past members of Kaitaia BPW and the wider BPW family.

Raewyn Pennell

President 2013.