

## UPPER HUTT

### **BPW Upper Hutt Executive**

President:	Christine Edney
Secretary:	Sally Kean
Treasurer:	Alison Prince
Committee:	Hellen Swales, Kimberley Black, Pauline Whiston, Trish Gray and Trish Leahy

### **Vital Statistics**

Meets:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month except January at 6.30 pm
Venue:	The Porterhouse Blues, King Street, Upper Hutt
Number of Members:	16
Young BPW's:	Nil
Club Email:	<a href="mailto:kean@paradise.net.nz">kean@paradise.net.nz</a>

2014 saw BPW Upper Hutt host the 2014 Conference in Wellington at the James Cook Hotel. Many months and hundreds of hours worked by the Planning Committee finally saw a highly successful conference which provided Clubs throughout the country with fabulous speakers including Parliamentarians and BPW's International President Frida Miraklis, wonderful opportunities to mix and mingle and concluded with one of our members, Hellen Swales, being elected to the position of Vice President Issues. BPW Upper Hutt extends special thanks to our President, Christine Edney for all the extra hours she personally spent in ensuring the success of this event.

Our Club numbers have stayed the same this year although we lost two members to the newly formed BPW Wellington Club. We are still working on building our Club numbers and having settled on a new meeting venue, can now proceed with some of the marketing ideas members have come up with over the year.

In October, President Christine Edney and Secretary Sally Kean attended the Leadership Forum, once again held in Pukekohe. This was found to be a most rewarding and educational weekend. Late in August several Club members attended the Regional Conference hosted by BPW Mana held in Otaki. This proved to be a very educational and well-run day.

In February the Club celebrated Red Bag Day at the Silverspoon Restaurant in Silverstream, Upper Hutt with Suzanne Snively, 2013 Wellingtonian of the Year, speaking to us. Once again our friends from the Soroptomist Club joined us along with other guests for this special event. Suzanne spoke to us on transparency in organisations.

The Club has put much effort into attracting good guest speakers to our monthly meetings whilst promoting businesses in Upper Hutt as well. In December we started off with a fun Christmas night where President Christine Edney had us tearing all round Upper Hutt in search of Christmas-themed items she had hidden, armed with clues to find them. We joined BPW Mana for International Night this year. Some of the speakers we have enjoyed have included Rebekah Mawson from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Kate Clancy from The Surveying Company based in Upper Hutt; Jo Donnelley from Bees Blessings another company based in Upper Hutt who are expanding both nationally and internationally; Cecilee Donovan from the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren organisation; Suzanne Ruthven on Human Rights (Suzanne has now joined our Club); and Kristin Knight from Kristin's Flower Shop in Upper Hutt who showed us how to make a wonderful Christmas table decoration.

The Club decided to raise funds for a "second chance" scholarship for a female from Upper Hutt who wanted to further her education. To start raising the funds required, we held a fashion parade in September showcasing several fashion houses based in Upper Hutt and Petone, including several internet-based companies. It was an eye-opener to most of us that these businesses even existed. We intend to hold another fashion parade in 2015 to build up a fund so we can provide a substantial scholarship.

The Hands-Up Cup recipient for 2014 was Pauline Edwards who has been a member of BPW for over 25 years. Pauline was awarded the Cup for her commitment to women's issues in bringing the plight of the women in Gaza to BPW National and then BPW International attention.