

YEARBOOK 2016

Club: Warkworth

President: Sally Smith

Vice President: Bronwyn Lane

Secretary: Bronwyn Lane

Treasurer: Mirjana Arlov

Young BPW: Eleanor Trueman

Newsletter Editor: Sally Smith

Committee: Sally Smith, Bronwyn Lane, Eleanor Trueman, Mirjana Arlov, Gaye Miller, Kathy Andersen

Membership Number: Ranging between 57 – 42, currently 43

Fill in here your years activities.

Highlights covering 1.04.16 – 31.03.17

- **Monthly dinner/speaker meetings.** There has been an emphasis on in-house speakers drawing on the skills/interests/businesses of a number of our members. This has been very significant in building understanding of the immense resource that we have within our club (both fun and professional!) and in turn able to offer some of this to our community through programmes that we are planning to develop. External speakers have been exceptional local figures who have brought extraordinary insight to the fields of domestic violence and policing in our region.
- **Asia Pacific Regional Conference and BPW National Conference April 2016.** 9 members of our club attended these conferences with several having significant roles in the organisation and management of the events.
- **Club President Sally Smith attended UNCSW60** and brought back many ideas and vision for both local and National BPW. This experience highlighted the immense 'reach' of BPW and opportunity to influence issues affecting women right through to an international level.
- **The 'Grow Me' project has been developed to a pilot stage.** Initiated by Charlotte Nevill together with Sally Smith and a project team, Grow Me has been embraced by

National Executive as a model for developing and enhancing abilities in whatever fields a woman may identify and then pursuing mentored pathways to reach identified goals/capabilities. At this point, funding for major system development is needed to take it further. 'Grow Me' could be a pathway for clubs to generate revenue and engage more widely with the community; full information is available on BPW National website.

- **Fuller relationship with local Muhurangi College.** Our club has withdrawn financial support of college students sailing on Spirit of Adventure and a Leadership Award. A more meaningful partnership is evolving with a number of members working with a year 13 teacher leading a class on Business Studies and sharing their professional expertise. BPW is brought to the attention of both staff and students as having a valuable resource to share. This may be pulled into the Grow Me programme.
- **Development of BPW Warkworth website and Facebook page.** Club member Gaye Miller brings her skills to this initiative and has also spoken at a meeting and offered mentoring to club members to upskill in the effective use of social media.
- **'Brain Fit For Life' classes are offered regularly to the local community and now further afield.** Club member Bronwyn Lane presents day time and evening classes each school term, always under the auspice of BPW Warkworth. Presentation equipment is shared between Bronwyn and the club and there has been mutual financial benefit. This exercise has been an important one in presenting the BPW profile to the community.
- **AGM meeting with a focus on inviting/engaging young BPW members.** This was done by having a brief talk on how our club was initially established, then the current shape and global reach of BPW followed by a panel of younger members addressing some pre-set questions. It was an inspiring evening – but we are still working on bearing 'younger fruit'!
- **Christmas celebration.** A unique vineyard 'barn' venue, an exquisite catered Christmas meal, carols from members also involved with local Kowhai Singers all contributed to a memorable and refreshingly relaxed occasion. Grocery items contributed by members enabled the filling of 4 generous Christmas boxes supplied to needy families as part of a wider community effort.
- **Days for Girls.** This is an international project responding to the need of girls around the world missing up to a week of their education each month because they can't go to school as they don't have feminine hygiene products. Kits are made up that provide quality sustainable feminine hygiene and awareness. A need has been identified in our own community and we now have a team meeting monthly, open to all women in the community, to sew these kits.
- **Care Parcels for Women's Refuge.** Club member Rae Ward, has invited members to donate personal care, hygiene and soft toy items that she collects in her shop and makes into 'Care Parcels' that are donated to Women's Refuge.
- **Summary**

Over this past year, President Sally Smith and the committee have sought to have our club embrace the wider vision and values of BPW and to raise community awareness of the contribution that BPW can make to a number of the issues affecting women. While there has been an initial drop in our membership it is envisaged that people will want to join BPW because of what we are seen to be doing and contributing to our community.

