

YEARBOOK 2016

Club:	Warkworth
President:	Sally Smith
Vice President:	Bronwyn Lane
Secretary:	Bronwyn Lane
Treasurer:	Charlotte Nevill
Young BPW:	none
Newsletter Editor:	Sally Smith
Committee:	Gaye Miller Eleanor Trueman Kathy Andersen Mirjana Arlov

Membership Number: 54

In Warkworth we have had an enormously busy year and our committee has been pushed to the limits. We have ended the year with some new members who have come straight onto committee and will help us to continue our work, for which we are very grateful.

Following Up on Resolutions

We started the 2015-2016 year on a serious note with a meeting focusing on Aged Care Workers. Member Anne Smith, who presented the resolution on aged care workers in 2014, coordinated the speakers. Up first was Dr Katherine Ravenswood, one of the authors of the recently released "New Zealand Aged Care Workforce Survey 2014". The report can be found on-line at https://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/542155/NZ-Aged-Care-Workforce-Survey-report.pdf.

Dr Ravenswood was followed by Janet Keesing, one of the activity co-ordinators at our local Amberlea Rest Home. Janet shared her experiences of working with another woman to stimulate 70 residents to be active participants in the life at the home. It is important for the residents to be respected, challenged, spiritually nurtured and culturally acknowledged and volunteers are always welcome.

Anne then summed up the evening's talk and introduced us to the book "Illness, Medicine and What Matters in the End" by Atul Gawande. Anne's commitment to improving the working conditions for the carers and the efforts that she has put into enriching the lives of the residents who live at Amberlea, one of our local rest homes, is highly commendable.

Another of our members, Jacqueline Ironsides spoke at our June meeting about the Destiny Rescue Trust, of which she is a member. Destiny Rescue works in Asia, rescuing children from the sex trafficking industry, another topic on which our National Vice President for Issues, Hellen Swales has been working on at International level.

In this world, every 17 seconds, another child, male or female is taken from its home and sold into the sex trade. These are the ones we know about.

It is going to take concerted effort internationally to stop this happening. Unfortunately, in most of the countries where this is big business, the police are in on the game and turn a blind eye. Until governments ban the practice and enforce the ban the trade will flourish and NGOs like Destiny Rescue will be playing a critical role in rescuing women and children from this barbaric business. By child, think of 12 years old and younger. I commend Jacqueline for the work she is doing for this organisation. For more information here is the link: <https://www.destinyrescue.org/nz/>

Buying a Franchise

In July we invited Janet Mikkelson and Liz Herms, the owners of the franchise 'State of Grace Family Directed Funerals' for the Eastern area of Auckland, to talk to us. As these two women have both had previous experience in physically caring and emotionally supporting people in the community who have experienced illness and loss, they felt that they could offer people informal but caring guidance during the process of a funeral.

In the past two years they have helped 170 families with the death of a loved one. Their approach is very different and very client centered. For example, if the client wants to have the deceased at home for a period of time running up to the funeral, they rarely embalm, choosing instead to chill the deceased and pack them in the coffin with coolpacks which they check on daily and replace as necessary.

There were a lot of questions, including the ones that most people are reserved about asking and a frank and sometimes hilarious discussion followed.

Regional Meeting

Four of us attended the Northern Regional Meeting in July, myself, Selene Buttle, Mona Townson and Jo Haswell. At the meeting I presented the outline of the enhanced Keys to Achievement project as Charlotte was unable to attend. There was much discussion and some very relevant points were made. Robyn Davison, Vice President, Membership, took the presentation to the other Regional Meetings and provided feedback which we have incorporated into our plan. It was good to have doubled the numbers attending from our club and I hope this trend will continue.

Overwhelmed

A huge amount of material has been forwarded from National Executive over the last year. My newsletter in July was an attempt to summarise and sort just a few month's worth and provide a list of documents which members could email me for.

In addition, August is our Annual General Meeting which was short, sharp and to the point with grateful thanks to Hilary Lewis who schooled me in the art of running an AGM. Thank you Hilary.

Starting a Rural Business from Scratch

Our after dinner speaker in August was Sharley Haddon talking about how she grew her horse riding business from two ponies to a thriving business featuring horse riding, trekking, holiday accommodation and a kid's camp, all without borrowing any money. This is a great example of just getting out there and doing it and learning along the way. Sharley was frank about her successes and failures and always used the failures as a learning experience for the future. Her motto is:

“Behold the turtle – she only moves forward when she sticks her head out.”

For those of you who don't know the area, Pakiri Beach is a stunning and unspoilt stretch of dunes, sea, surf, native forest and peace and tranquillity. If you are looking for a different holiday, here is the link to the website: www.horseride-nz.co.nz/.

Leadership

In September, Monica Briggs from the YWCA talked to us about an amazing programme which supports young women with potential. It is called Future Leaders, developed and implemented by the YWCA and it runs in schools throughout Auckland. We were particularly interested in this topic as we were in the process of developing the brief for an upgraded and extended Keys to Achievement programme and Leadership was high on our agenda.

Charlotte Nevill, Project Manager for the Keys to Achievement future development took the opportunity to meet with Monica after the dinner to look for synergies with the work we were doing.

Charlotte and I both attended the Leadership Conference in October.

Pulling the Plug

In October we had to pull the plug on our planned fundraiser, which was going to be an auction with an All Blacks theme. The reason, poor ticket sales. What did we do wrong? Well it was a combination of things:

- Insufficient advertising
- Priced too high
- New venue with escalating costs
- Too ambitious

It was a difficult decision, but in the end the right one. It meant that we didn't have a club meeting in October. As one of the committee members said, **‘We've eaten the dead rat, it's time to move on’**.

Success on a smaller scale

All was not lost however, and in November we held the event at our usual venue at our usual dinner price and still with an All Blacks theme. We had 50 attendees and raised in excess of three thousand dollars. We had a silent auction, a live auction and a balloon raffle. Our auctioneer was Stephen Stuart, sports reporter for One News and he did an outstanding job, thank you Stephen. We can now afford to send more of our members to the National Conference and the Asia Pacific Regional Conference. We also donated a portion of the money raised to a local charity.

Christmas Party

As usual Di came up with something weird and wacky for our Christmas party, that didn't involve Santa Claus. This time it was My Kitchen Rules. The members and guests had to

make their own dessert from a box of ingredients placed on their table. Each box was different. There was a pantry for additional ingredients, a microwave and several kitchen appliances. The best part of it was eating the creations. A great way for women to get to know each other better and have fun!

Members for Members

We kicked off the New Year with our February Meeting and everyone came out wired! What did we do? We had two of our members speaking and they really hit note. Before dinner, Bronwyn Lane, who is now a fully trained BrainFit facilitator, talked about the courses she is planning to run in our community this year. There will be two courses a term, a morning one and an evening one. Bronwyn is generously allowing BPW Warkworth to “Sponsor” these courses. As a result we have had two articles in our local newspapers, helping to get us recognised in our community. Bronwyn is also contributing a portion of the proceeds to BPW. Thank you Bronwyn for your continued commitment to our club.

You will be able to talk to Bronwyn and Virginia Warren about Brainfit at Conference.

Note: *The first term of classes is nearly booked out, as are the next term’s courses and there is a waiting list.*

Our after dinner speaker was Charlotte Neville talking about her proposals for the enhanced Keys to Achievement. This was an interactive session where everyone got to write down the subjects they would like help with and stick them on a chart. There was so much talk, laughter and interaction we all came away wired. It was a real WOW of a meeting, and demonstrated again the enormous bank of talent we have in our membership all over the country.



International Women’s Day – Hear me Roar!

Our final meeting for the 2015-2016 year was a Saturday morning breakfast, celebrating International Women’s Day. Our speaker was National Past President Angela McCleod, Councillor, Upper Hutt City Council, Past President, BPW New Zealand. Members for Members again. Angela gave an outstanding talk about her journey to where she is now, and her dream to go to Africa to work with the women there on sustainable development.

She carried her audience from the start, and by the end of her talk, everyone was chanting with her *“I am woman, I am strong, hear me roar”*.

National Conference and Asia Pacific Regional Conference - A Dream Come True

A dream come true for me this year. We have 9 members attending the two Conferences. One of my aims for the year was to engage our members in the work of BPW, to show them that BPW is not just about dinner meetings and a chance to catch up with friends each month. Whilst that is important, there is serious work to be done as well.