



Business & Professional Women's Club of Port Moresby

Newsletter

December, 2008 (No 10, 08)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At the October meeting we had a lot of activities. Cheques were provided to Limana Vocational School and Kila Kila Secondary schools as final scholarship payments of students there this year.

Our guest speaker Jenny Newton provided some insights into how to advance in your career and reminded the recipients who attended the meeting that finished school is "preparing for the next stage of your life, not just finishing school". Jenny was the Secretary of BPW from 1998 – 2000. She told the meeting how she has been inspired by Deepak Chopra's words of having Freedom, Courage and Grace in your life. She reminded us that Freedom meant being able to choose the type of life you wish for yourself – and education helps you progress that wish. Courage means being able to think about where you want to go and not be influenced to follow other paths by bad influences. Grace means realising that the decisions you make are supported by those who love and support you

Our last meeting of the year is on the 13th December – and not only will it be a Christmas gathering – but also a graduation for the young women who have been attending the Life Skills workshops supported by BPW and facilitated by Margaret Aila. Please come along and congratulate the young women, and share some Christmas cheer with our members, recipients and friends.

I look forward to seeing you at our last meeting for 2009.

Judith Bona
President

MEMBERSHIP

Some suggestions for New Year's resolutions:

1. Ensure I join BPW in 2009
2. Introduce a new member to BPW.
3. Look at some activities I could be involved in at BPW in 2009.



President, Judith Bona handing over a cheque to Sister Maria Goretti of Limana Vocational School.



Graduating scholarship recipients from Don Bosco Technological Institute at Graduation Mass on 22 November.

DECEMBER MEETING

BPW's next meeting will be held on Saturday **13th December** at Caritas, (corner of Bava Street and Igua Street - behind the Tennis Courts and Bavaroko School, and next to the Don Bosco Boy's school).

This will be a special event with more than 30 young women graduating from the Life Skills Course sponsored by BPW and our Christmas luncheon. Please bring a platter – as we will be sharing with many. The events will start at **12 midday**.

Please also remember your K2 entry fee.

As this is our Christmas meeting – we would like to encourage members to bring a small gift for a scholarship recipient.

**2009 DRAFT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE
BPW POM**

- 14 February Women and Development
- 14th March AGM
- 11th April Women and the Arts
- 9th May Women and the Public Sector
- 13th June Women and the Private Sector
- 11th July Women and Academic
- 8th August Meet the recipients
- 12th September Women and Sports
- 10th October Women and Culture
- 14th November Gender Based Violence
- 12th December Christmas Function

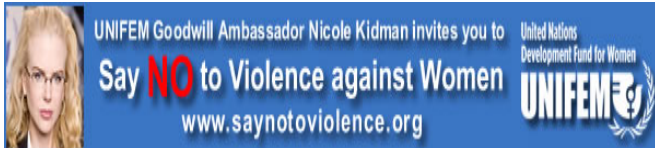
WATCH THIS SPACE

Celebrate International Women’s Day at a special Candlelight Breakfast event in March.

Theme and speakers will be announced in the New Year.

Feel free to provide ideas or offer to assist to any Eexecutive member or contact the newsletter

SAY NO TO VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN



FEMILI SEIF HOTLINE

A new initiative of NCDC and several corporate houses was launched in the city in November.

It's called **Femili Seif** hotline
ph: 72221234. It's a 24-hour number.

This is for domestic violence victims (male/female).

If you are been abused by your partner or you see someone been abused call the number and PROTECT security will be there to the rescue.

BPW welcomes this initiative.

WOMEN IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN PNG

BPW was recently invited to be represented at a discussion on the constraints women face to doing business in the private sector in PNG.

The discussions involved AusAID, in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank, as part of a diagnostic mission to examine issues constraining fuller participation by women in the private sector in Pacific Island Countries. The work is uncovering barriers that disproportionately affect women and restrict their ability to do business. This gives a greater understanding of the issues that need to be addressed and the practical assistance women require to benefit more fully from the private sector.

A number of BPW members are actively involved in the private sector in PNG. During the November BPW meeting members heard from Jenny Newton a woman who is working in the construction industry. She described it a as a tough industry and explained how she likes working on job sites.

Members suggested that there are two major needs:

1. Space to work that is safe and secure and with reliable power – possibly a business ‘incubator’. Apparently there was a technical village with small workspaces in Badili in the past.
2. Transport to markets – also safe and secure

BPW members who have other ideas on what is needed to support women in the private sector are invited to forward their comments for further discussion to: bpwportmoresby@gmail.com.

APPRECIATION FOR BPW

Elizabeth Ikopu, a teacher and counsellor at Marianville Secondary School, regularly attends BPW meetings together with girls from the school. At a recent meeting Elizabeth made the following statement:

On behalf of all the coordinators of BPW scholarship recipients I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to recipients to take the BPW scholarship as a blessing and a gift to them from God. Reflect on the times that you almost quit because you did not know how to get the money to continue school. You are now blessed by these

beautiful women who commit their time and effort to raise funds so they can send those of you who are desperately in need of a proper education to school.

Recipients from Caritas, DBTI, POM NATHS, Jubilee, Marianville, POM Business College and UPNG, to name a few, are brought together by BPW irrespective of your school. It is time that we should put our differences aside and work towards a common goal that is *to do good to those who need our help*. With the love and care shown to us by BPW we should do the same to each other when we meet at the market place, street or store.

The BPW meetings and training programs I have attended have been enriching and empowering for me in my job as a teacher and counsellor. The Club is made up of gifted resource personnel who are willing to assist all recipients. I find these gatherings as a time to meet different women with varying roles and responsibilities and it is a very refreshing time for me. The atmosphere during meetings is awesome because BPW members show humility which encourages recipients to freely express themselves. I encourage all recipients to take this opportunity to meet and talk with as many members as possible who will assist in your development as a person and with your career path.

During the course of my career as a teacher and a counsellor I have met up with many students who had problems in the family and could not afford to pay their own school fees. I used to pray and wish that something would be done about this issue.

I thank God that last year my friend, Sr Mary Mc Carthy, brought me to one of the BPW meetings. Since then I have assisted in getting BPW scholarships for seven Marianville girls.

I encourage all recipients to join BPW and help other unfortunate young women in the near future. Thanks to all and may God bless your efforts.

Mrs Elizabeth A Ikopu

MARIANVILLE SECONDARY SCHOOL YEAR 12 FAREWELL

BPW Vice President Deborah George was the guest speaker at the Marianville Secondary School Year 12



Farewell ceremony on
31 October.

In her speech, Deborah encouraged students to continue with their education commenting that:

- if you are well educated you are more likely to get a good job,
- education of women lowers infant and child mortality rates – educated women are more likely to seek medical care and to be able to afford it
- educated women have a better knowledge of health care and are less likely to become pregnant at a very young age
- educated women are more likely to plan their families
- educated women are more likely to ensure that her own children are educated
- the more educated you are the higher your wage
- there is improved productivity for women in the informal sector.

Deborah also spoke about how happiness is feeling good about yourself. She said that some ways to achieve this are by:

- being praised by teachers and parents
- doing well at school
- spending time with family and friends
- playing sport, singing and dancing
- achieving goals and helping other to achieve their goals
- experiencing new things

Deborah mentioned that education gives people choices and she encouraged the students to succeed in the choices they make, to find something to be passionate about and to follow their dreams. She commented that PNG is a beautiful country and by having choices her life has brought her to PNG. She then asked the girls to think about where their life might take them. Deborah suggested that they should be good to themselves and to others, to be compassionate and kind because you can't feel good about yourself if you are mean. Being happy when other people succeed is important and so is making the most of opportunities.

Deborah concluded by saying, "You are the future women of this country and your country needs you to be the best you can be. Raise your voice and speak up for yourself because if you don't someone else

will but you might not agree with what they have to say. Happiness is feeling good about yourself and education is freedom.”

MENTORING

BPW has had two meetings in the last couple of months about commencing a mentoring program. To assist BPW in making decisions about the programme and members and friends on whether they would like to participate, we will provide over the next few newsletters some information on mentoring. This month's contribution from: www.ndsu.nodak.edu/comes/mentor.ppt

“Mentoring is widely recognized today as an extremely beneficial career development tool”.

Studies have shown that having a mentor is a top factor affecting a mentee's success, career satisfaction, and whether they stay with an organization. Mentoring for students increases [a] the likelihood of success and [b] the level of achievement.

1. What is “Mentoring”?

Mentoring is an unstructured association between an experienced person and one less experienced that assists the junior person in extracting more value from experience.

An experienced, thoughtful, caring person who passes on lessons of experience to someone less experienced.

2. Why mentoring?

- ♦ Full opportunity to access the exciting and fulfilling career spectrum available.
- ♦ More informed decisions
- ♦ More confidence in decisions made
- ♦ Fewer catastrophic mistakes

More next newsletter.

LIFESKILLS WORKSHOP

The 1st training programme for scholarship recipients was held on the 13th September and was attended by 22 girls. The 2nd workshop was held on the 26th September and 18 girls attended. Kits for personal grooming were also provided to the attendees - kindly donated by **City Pharmacy**. In total 37 young women have attended at least one session, with 15 graduating having finished the complete course.

The last workshop will be held before the December meeting of BPW.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

As of the 30th November, 2008, 88 scholarship have been awarded this year. The scholarship are provided across a range of high schools, technical colleges, universities, and other accredited training institutions in Port Moresby and its immediate surrounds – in total 19 different institutions. This year these have been: Mainohana, Iarowan High School, UPNG Open College, PAU, Gerehu High School, Caritas, POM Business College, Limani Vocation College, UPNG, Daru Secondary School, Don Bosco Technical College, Passan National High School, Kila Kila High School, DODL Gerehu, POM Naitonal high Schhol, Balob Teachers College, Mairanville, POM Business College and UNITECH (Lae).

Thank you members and sponsors for contributing to this success and to the Scholarship Committee for the wonderful work they have been doing.

BPW POM GOES VIRTUAL

Newsletters, photos and other information on BPW Port Moresby are stored on our website

<http://pngbpwa.wordpress.com>

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Feedback on and contribution to the newsletter welcomed.

Please contact: mwhittaker@cbpsc.org.pg

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Christmas angels by Naomi, of Nakoko Designs