



Business & Professional Women’s Club of Port Moresby

Newsletter

February, 2009 (No 1, 09)



PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Welcome members and friends to 2009. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. The year looks like being a busy one, helping BPWC (PoM) continue the implementation of its strategic plan. Details of events already planned for 2009 appear in the newsletter.

The last meeting for 2009 was a pleasant one. It combined the graduation of the young women who had participated in the BPW sponsored Lifeskills Programme for scholarship recipients, with the annual BPW Christmas party. Thank you to all who attended, helped organise it, catered for it, and made it a lovely occasion. I look forward to seeing you at our first meeting for 2009 – on the 14th February – Valentine’s Day.

Judith Bona
President

MEMBERSHIP

Membership for 2009 is now open. Forms will be available at all the meetings, at the BPW International Women’s Day Breakfast and can be emailed if requested from the secretary of BPW.

2009 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE BPW POM	
14 th Feb.	Women and Development (See below for further details)
5 th March	International Women’s Day Breakfast (See below for details)
14 th March	AGM
11 th April	Women and the Arts
9 th May	Women and the Public Sector
13 th June	Women and the Private Sector
11 th July	Women and Academic Sector
8 th August	Meet the recipients
12 th Sept.	Women and Sports
10 th October	Women and Culture
14 th Nov.	Gender Based Violence
12 th Dec.	Christmas Function



Scholarship recipients joining members at the BPW November 2008 meeting



Executive members Michaela Dion and Ella Tuguinay reviewing list of scholarship recipients, November 2008 meeting.

FEBRUARY MEETING

BPW’s next meeting will be held on Saturday **14th February** at Port Moresby International High School, (corner of Bava Street and Boroko Drive - near Baptist church and St Joseph’s Church and school).

Arrive and join in sharing some light snacks (brought by members) at **12 midday** and the meeting starts at 12.30-1pm.

Our guest speaker will be Dr Maxine Whittaker who will soon take up an appointment as the Professor of International

and Tropical Health at the University of Queensland in Australia.

She will talk about *The status of women's health in PNG, with a special focus on the Millennium Development Goals*.

Please bring a plate of food to share, K2 entry fee and some raffle money. Our monthly raffle raises a small amount towards our general funds. Anyone who would like to donate a prize for the raffle is welcomed to bring it along on the day.

WATCH THIS SPACE

Celebrate International Women's Day at a special Candlelight Breakfast event on the 5th March at the Crowne Plaza.

Ms Christine Kewa, a PNG author and journalist, and Mr Chris Moraitis, Australian High Commissioner to PNG will speak.

This will be a special fundraising event for the BPW. Details of how to buy tickets will be available soon

The Events Committee invites any member or friend who would like to assist in organising the event to contact Jo Roach on jo.roach@pg.pwc.com.

SAY NO TO VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN

Some "Tips to help a friend" from www.stopviolence.com.au website.

Look out for signs your friend has been subject to abuse. Are they:

- Losing interest in activities they used to enjoy?
- Overly worried about what their partner thinks or seem anxious around them?
- Concerned their partner may get angry about something they may so or do?
- Making excuses for their partner all the time?
- Avoiding friends and social activities that don't involve their partner?
- Joking about their partner's violent outbursts?
- Showing unexplained injuries and offering unlikely explanations?

If you think a friend is remaining quiet about experiencing abuse, ask them if they need support. Remember:

- Go somewhere private where others, especially their partner, won't hear.

- Keep your initial approach general, such as "I'm worried about you because you seem unhappy..."
- Don't push them into talking if they aren't comfortable.
- Expect your friends to be somewhat defensive – they might not be ready to talk yet.

Let them know you are there for support.

Listen and believe. Ask and Shhh....

Listen : Hear what they say and try not to interrupt. Let your friend talk at their own pace. Show them you are listening by making eye contact and nodding. Don't worry if they stop talking for a while – silences are okay.

Believe: Try not to overdo the questions. It can make it seem like you're doubting the story - It's important that your friends sees you're on their side and you support them.

Ask: If you feel a bit helpless. Ask your friend what sort of help they would like from you. They're not expecting you to solve the problem, and you have already done heaps just by listening. Asking will help your friends think about what to do next.

Shhh: It is important that your friend keeps trusting you and they feel like they are in control of the story. If you think someone else needs to know, tell your friend first. Together you can think about who can be trusted, but don't tell anyone until your friend is okay with it.

FEMILI SEIF HOTLINE

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

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

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

BPW POM GOES VIRTUAL

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

<http://pngbpwa.wordpress.com>

YES IN PNG: YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS' SCHEME



ABV (Australian Business Volunteers) will be conducting a series of seven YES (Young Entrepreneurs' Scheme) training programs in PNG this year.

The training covers the basics of running a business: customer service, marketing, business planning, financial management, cash flow, etc. Following the one week workshop participants are offered two weeks of one to one mentoring support by experienced Australian business trainers.

Programs will be offered in Madang in early April, Alotau in late April, Goroka in June, Rabaul in August, Mt Hagen in September, Buka in October and Port Moresby in November.

Each training program consists of 15 to 17 participants who are selected from applications. People who are already in business and in leadership positions in organisations are preferred as they can influence change in the business.

YES training is usually offered to equal numbers of men and women as this reflects the business community and provides opportunities for establishing networking. However there is the possibility of a course specifically for women in business.

ABV has been operating in PNG for twenty seven years strengthening business through its volunteer program.

In 1996 ABV started delivering training programs in governance and since 2002 they have focussed on business. In 2008 three YES courses were offered in Goroka, Mt Hagen and Kokopo. Evaluations of the program indicate that they achieve positive outcomes.

BPW will attempt to provide information on the programs to members as it becomes available.

In the meantime contact Rodela Demo at abvpng@pomcci.org.au or 321 3077.

PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

Dr Luisa Kidu is the doctor in charge at the Kila Kila Urban Clinic. As a twenty nine year old she has a big responsibility not only to treat the many patients who attend the clinic daily but to also supervise the thirty three staff.

Dr Kidu was first supported by BPW in 2003 when the Club purchased a stethoscope for her. Her father, the fifth brother to Sir Buri Kidu, had died the previous year when she was in first year at the School of Medical and Health Science at UPNG.

After that in 2004 and 2005 BPW paid two thirds of Dr Kidu's fees until, following her graduation in 2006, she completed her residency at POM General.

Dr Kidu has been the doctor in charge at the Kila Kila Urban Clinic since April 2008 and she plans to stay for a few more years and then do a Masters in Pediatrics. She loves working with children and she sees plenty at the clinic as well as plenty of adults.

The clinic, which is supported by the Four Square Church, is well equipped. It has received medicines from Australia and the United States and recently a portable ultrasound and a biometric analyser were donated by an Australian businessman who visited the clinic and became aware of the need. Dr Kidu uses the biometric analyser to test kidney, liver and sugar levels and to confirm diagnoses.

It is clearly evident that Dr Kidu enjoys her work. She loves doing clinical work. "I love my job" she explains. "I like to be able to help people," she says and then goes on to explain some particular cases where her efforts made a big difference to the lives of her patients.

She also notes there are some difficult situations where, as the hospital administrator, she doesn't have the capacity to solve issues.

Dr Kidu is a good example of how by educating a woman a whole family benefits. She is from a family of eight - five males and three females. She now pays the fees for her sister, who is studying Psychology, one brother who is at Business College and another in Grade 8 as well as a niece and nephew.

Although a large percentage of her pay goes towards the payment of fees for her family

Dr Kidu is keen to become involved with BPW and to help other females who are in a similar situation to what she faced back at medical school.

She says, "Without BPW's help I would not have completed my education". As she picks up her stethoscope from her desk to see her next patient Dr Kidu comments, "this is the same stethoscope BPW gave me in 2003."

BPW's confidence in Luisa Kidu was well founded back in 2003 when the best quality stethoscope available, one that is made to last, was purchased for her.

NEWS FROM RECIPIENTS

GREAT OUTCOMES FOR BPW SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

A recipient of a BPW scholarship has been offered a place at **UPNG** this year after successfully completing year 12 in 2008.

Josephine Esobe has been selected to complete a Bachelor of Arts at UPNG and is likely to major in Political Science. Josephine, who was at Caritas in 2008, attended the Life Skills Training Program offered by BPW in late 2008. She also participated in a pilot mentoring program. US Ambassador Leslie Rowe, became a mentor to Josephine after they met at the August BPW meeting.

Two BPW scholarship recipients have been accepted at the University of Goroka.

Ruth Iseth who attended Marianville from 2005 to 2008 was a BPW scholarship recipient in 2008. Ruth, whose parents are unemployed, has enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Emma Moguna also attended Marianville from 2005 to 2008. She was a BPW scholarship recipient in 2006 and 2007. Emma has been accepted at the University of Goroka to do a Bachelor of Education Pre Service. Emma's mother has been supporting her eight children for the past 16 years.

Other scholarship recipients who have made progress with their education are encouraged to contact BPW with information about their current situation.

CITY MISSION 15th BIRTHDAY

You are invited to celebrate 15 years of service by CITY MISSION to the many disadvantaged youth, Women and children in Papua New Guinea. Established in 1993, the original Port Moresby City Mission, now has an operation in Lae and has expanded to be the largest provider of social services to those in need in PNG.

Join in on Valentines Day the 14th February at the Grand Palace restaurant for Dinner, Dancing, Raffles, Auction & Fun PLUS great entertainment. Be part of the Launch of the "Pass the heart" Corporate Fundraising Initiative and of the 2009 Major raffle – a Honda CRV from Wheels PNG.

If you would like to support the work of City Mission PNG contact

Allan : 320 0606 or

Rosemary 683 6094 (rr@vanguardpng.com or citymissionpom@online.net.pg) to

- Buy a table (10)- K1500.00 , half a table (5) - K750.00 or tickets @ K150 pp
- donate money to assist with the on-going work of the City Mission in PNG

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING, DAVOS 2009

The following papers were presented at the Davos Economic Forum (Saturday 31 January) recently. One news report stated that this workshop was quickly subscribed to by participants. Extracts appear below:

THE GIRL EFFECT ON DEVELOPMENT

- Melinda French Gates
 - Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
 - Mari Pangestu
 - Mark G. Parker
 - Ann M. Veneman
 - Muhammad Yunus
- Chaired by • Helene D. Gayle

Educating girls yields a higher return in improving the local economy than any other type of investment.

For example, an educated girl will use 90% of her future income towards her family, while boys invest only 35%.

As *Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala*, Managing Director, World Bank, Washington DC, told participants: “Investing in women is smart economics. Investing in girls – catching them upstream – is even smarter economics.” Panellists identified four key areas in need of greater attention to maximize this effect.

Health

Creating programmes that improve the health of women and adolescent girls has a multiplier effect on the economies of developing nations. *Melinda French Gates*, Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA, explained that successful health care programmes must be tailored to local needs.

For example, building regional hospitals is important, but it does not help many rural women who need medical attention during childbirth. New programmes in Ethiopia and Tanzania have placed health workers at extension posts to widen the reach of these medical services.

Women are not only core recipients of these services, but potential providers.

Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director, Grameen Bank, Bangladesh, described clinics that focus on the health of women, adolescent girls and children, and also train women to be paramedics and clinicians. Women are the clients, and “we leave it to them to deliver the service,” he said.

Education

Educating girls has a profound effect on the overall communities; yet, 70% of children out of school are female.

Services need to be extended, and consideration must be given to the barriers that keep girls out of school.

For example, UNICEF found that creating bathrooms specifically for girls improves the likelihood of them staying in school.

In addition, incentives such as food credits can be attached to requirements that a family sends both boys and girls to schools.

Protection

“Girls are subjected to sexual violence in so many parts of the world with absolute impunity,” said *Ann M. Veneman*, Executive Director, United Nations Children’s Fund

(UNICEF), New York, and Chair, Global Agenda Council on the Welfare of Children.

This problem is growing with the global economic crisis, and human trafficking has increased dramatically in the past few months, one participant noted. It is not enough to simply outlaw these actions. In many parts of the world, governments must be pressured into enforcement.

Governance

In many parts of the world, outdated laws fail to protect women’s property and rights.

For example, in Indonesia, women must have letters from their husbands to obtain credit or get a passport.

According to *Mari Pangestu*, Minister of Trade of Indonesia, one of the best ways to change these “archaic” rules is to put women in power in governments. When a woman is made into a local leader, “she’s going to pick clean water rather than a satellite dish in your village,” she said.

Key points

- Better metrics are needed to quantify the “girl effect”. “One of the reasons we haven’t been talking about this is we haven’t been documenting it,” said Gates.
- It is important to start with programmes that focus on adolescent girls.
- The financial crisis creates an opportunity to rethink aid services and focus on more efficient ways of helping communities. Helping girls has been proven to be the most efficient.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Feedback on and contributions to the newsletter welcomed.

Please contact:
Vivien Carroll [vivien@pattaf.org.pg]

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY

