



**Business & Professional Women's Club of Port Moresby**

# Newsletter

September 2008 (No 7, 2008)

**Editor Note:** Please note – there are colour photos in this edition. You may wish to choose the Black and White option for printing.

## President's Corner

The August meeting is always a special day – and this year's was no different. At this meeting the BPW members meet and listen to the various recipients of the BPW educational support. Their stories are always inspiring – and some of them have been included in this month's newsletter as have some photographs.

The meeting was also special because of an inspiring presentation by Ms Leslie Rowe, The US Ambassador to Papua New Guinea. In addition we had EM TV coverage of the event.

Thank you to the members who donated raffle gifts, and who bought raffle tickets for recipients and their families to allow them to participate in the raffle, and who brought food for the event. These all contributed to a wonderful and memorable day.

Ms Rowe has also helped the BPW visit the USS Mercy – the ship that was part of the US Pacific partnership programme – which supported health and development activities including surgical work, medical specialist consultations, dental work, and public health activities. (Again some photos shown in this newsletter).

Judith Bona  
President

## September Meeting

### NOTE SPECIAL LOCATION

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday **13<sup>th</sup> September** at NATIONAL LIBRARY> Join members for lunch before the meeting, at 12 noon. The meeting will start at 1pm with brief business meeting, and then the special guest: and a tour of the library

**TOPIC:** The National Library and its management

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 welcome to bring it along on the day.



## Membership

**Welcome** to new members. And thank you to all who have renewed their membership for 2008. We would like to encourage others who receive this newsletter, past members and your friends who have not yet paid in 2008 to consider rejoining – we can only achieve what our members work to achieve. **YOU CAN COME ALONG TO ANY MEETING AND JOIN.**

## Thank you

Thanks to all the members who donated raffle prizes at the August meeting — more money for scholarships. We invite all members to participate in this fund raising activity by bringing something for the raffle at one of our monthly meetings

## RECIPIENT STORY

### Racheal Rowe



#### WHEN THE FUNDS ARE HIGH AND THE DEBTS ARE LOW: DON'T QUIT

The wall next to Racheal Rowe's bed in her room at the UPNG Medical School is covered with pages of sayings such as: "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything." Asked where they are from Racheal says, "If I find something that I like in a book, I write it down and paste it on the wall."

Racheal wanted to become a medical doctor but, after completing her foundation year, she wasn't selected. Although disappointed, she enrolled in a Medical Laboratory Technician's course as she really wanted to work in a hospital, a goal that she is likely to achieve thanks to her determination and BPW's financial support.

As the third child in a family of nine Racheal is lucky that both of her parents strongly encouraged her to complete her schooling and go to university. She is also assisted financially by a cousin and her older brother, a policeman. Despite this she currently has an outstanding payment for her 2008 fees.

Racheal remembers her first few weeks in Port Moresby three years ago. She had a mixture of feelings. It was like a different world to her home in the Southern Highlands. "I was afraid but also excited. Sometimes I missed home and when things got tough I wanted my parents to be near." It has been a struggle for Racheal to pay for school books, laboratory materials, photocopying, computer access but the

small amount of pocket money her brother provides helps.

As a medical laboratory technician Racheal tests body fluids to identify bacteria. Sometimes the students test patient's specimens and sometimes they test their own blood. She has identified HIV and felt frightened by that at first – thinking: what if that was my blood being tested? She is enjoying the course and is encouraged by her teachers, particularly one who completed her Masters in Australia. Racheal would like to follow in her teacher's footsteps: to complete her Masters overseas and then come back to teach at the Medical School. She would also like to have a family but recognises that it can be tough to do both.

Racheal came to the August BPW meeting where she met members and other scholarship recipients. She felt motivated by the meeting, feeling that she learnt from the others. "I felt that I can be like them, I can be an executive," she said. Racheal hopes to be employed in a medical laboratory, possibly in Mendi, after she graduates. "I want to serve my people and when I am working I will be able to support my younger brothers and sisters so they can also be educated," she comments.

Racheal's future is assured if she keeps following her mottos especially another of the ones on the wall beside her bed: "There is ultimate power in a developed mind. If your heart can believe it and your mind can conceive it, you can achieve it".

#### Other recipient photos





*It was wonderful, the trip went everywhere – the bridge, the ICU, hospital wards. It was really good. The girls are all giving reports to their school about the ship.*

The Mercy was in Port Moresby for two weeks and treated over 20,000 people during that time



## BPW TOURS OF THE MERCY

US Ambassador, Leslie Rowe, who is also a BPW member offered BPW members the opportunity to tour the Mercy, the US hospital ship while it was in Port Moresby recently.

Twenty one people toured the Mercy with BPW on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August. They included four scholarship recipients – from Marianville, Caritas and Lemana and Sr Scholastica from Caritas. Three non members also joined the group and of these two have now decided to join BPW. The other non BPW member was Owen Daka, who will not be joining BPW as he is a male! Owen particularly enjoyed the tour as, coming from the landlocked country of Zambia, he had never before been on a ship.

Michaela Dion, who arranged for the recipients and Sr Scholastica to visit the Mercy commented:

### 2008 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE BPW PoM

13 September	General Meeting, The National Library – Tour and special speaker
11 October	General Meeting: Fitness for Business and Professional Women
8 November	General Meeting
13 December	Christmas Function

### BPW POM GOES VIRTUAL

: <http://pngbpwa.wordpress.com/>

## Calendar marker

### **XXVI BPW International Congress Merida, Mexico, 24-28 October 2008**

#### **BPW International Congress, Mexico 24-28 October 2008**

The theme of the BPW International Congress to be held in Mexico City in October is “Power to Make a Difference”. The theme recognizes women’s contribution through leadership, action and advocacy.

The Congress theme has three tracks:

**Track I - Making a Difference through Leadership:** addresses leadership development at individual and organization level such as creative marketing strategy, win-win negotiation skill, business incubation, conflict resolution strategy, performance evaluation, success from conquering defeat, Talent development for women executives, etc.

**Track II - Making a Difference through Action:** addresses success cases and strategies to enable women to gain economic independence and advance their careers.

Highlights include financing, gender equality projects, skill training, micro-credit, mentoring, using e-Business and other information and communication technology (ICT) to enhance opportunities for women, etc.

**Track III - Making a Difference through Advocacy** addresses emerging issues for women in the 21st Century that still need to be addressed in order for women to overcome obstacles, achieve their full professional and career potential and attain “equal participation of women and men in power and decision making”.

The highlights are the gender pay gap, work-life balance, violence against women, International migration, Ageing population and economic impact on women, Return on investment when women became top executives, etc.

BPW of Port Moresby recently received the following Congress documents:

- Nominees for International Executive Board
- Nominees for Chairpersons of Standing Committees
- Proposed Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws
- Resolutions

The nominations for BPW International Executive Board and for the Chairpersons of Standing Committees include profiles of the nominees. Liz Benham, from BPW New York, is the nominee for BPW International **President**. There are five nominations for Vice President.

Amongst the 24 **Resolutions** to be considered at Congress are:

- Equal Participation of Women And Men in Power and Decision Making
- Capacity Building for Stress and Post Disaster Action
- Human Trafficking
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders
- Eradication of Cervical Cancer
- Osteoporosis in Women
- Taking Initiative in Environment Challenges

The 22 **Constitutional amendments** to be considered include:

- Payment of dues
- Membership
- Duties of Executive Board Members

Further information about the Congress is available on the BPW Congress website at:

<http://www.bpw-international.org/XXVI-congress/about-congress.htm>

## **PROFILE OF A BPW MEMBER: Sharon Pyande**



### **GET OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE!**

Sharon Pyande joined BPW in March this year and soon after accepted the position of Treasurer. She had been encouraged by the previous Treasurer, Val Salama, who knew that Sharon's job as City Mission's Administration and Finance Officer requires her to handle money and keep accurate accounts.

The main challenge for Sharon as BPW's Treasurer with BPW is having the time but, with the assistance of other members who have experience in financial matters, Sharon feels that she is becoming more businesslike and professional.

Sharon has another interest: designing and producing clothing for men, women and children. She has three sewing machines and an overlocker and takes orders for garments. She also conducts sewing classes for women so they can learn some skills and earn some extra money by making meri blouses.

After completing grade 10 in Enga Sharon did a secretarial course and was later employed by PNG Banking Corporation (now BSP) in Porgera then by Steamships. Steamships sponsored her to do a Certificate in Computing and later Save the Children sponsored her to do a Diploma in Accounting, MYOB and currently, a course in Business Management at ITI.

With her study, sewing, City Mission work and BPW activities, Sharon doesn't get much spare time but when she does, she likes to play with her son and do some gardening.

Sharon has made new friends through BPW who share a common interest: concern for young PNG women. She recognises that BPW is meeting an important need through the payment of school fees and by supporting young women when they really need it. This ultimately helps them to sustain themselves. Sharon feels that women in PNG are put down. She values her BPW experience as a way to be motivated to do better and to 'get out of the comfort zone'. With this in mind she encourages other PNG women to join BPW.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER**

Feedback on the newsletter and its content welcomed.

Please note submissions for the newsletter are welcomed.

Send to [mwhittaker@cbssc.org.pg](mailto:mwhittaker@cbssc.org.pg)

# Hunt on for scholars

A SEARCH is on for girls and women who completed their schooling with the help of scholarships from the Business and Professional Women's Club of Port Moresby.

Hundreds have been awarded scholarships to continue at school or university since BPW was formed in 1982. Club members want to invite scholarship recipients to attend the next BPW meeting on August 9. The meeting is an opportunity for scholarship recipients to give BPW members information about what they have achieved since getting the scholarship. BPW members know that some recipients have graduated as lawyers, engineers and doctors while oth-

ers are still continuing their education.

BPW members also will be presenting cheques to women whose applications have been approved recently. They will also be presenting information and personal care kits to scholarship winners who attend.

Last year, BPW awarded around 50 scholarships to girls and women who would not have been able to complete their education without financial help. There are likely to be even more scholarships awarded this year, although that will depend on the funds available.

Applicants for scholarships need to be enrolled at a school, vocational centre or university, they need to have above aver-

age grades and have their application endorsed by a senior officer in the educational organisation they attend and to provide academic records. The fees are paid into the school's bank account.

BPW members have been planning to offer training programs to girls and young women to assist them with the development of their careers. The August 9 meeting to be held at the POMIS hall, is open to scholarship recipients and other interested women. Past scholarship winners are welcome together with other Port Moresby women.

For information, Margaret Aila - 691 643, Vivien Carroll 321-1766 and BPWPortMoresby@gmail.com