



PO Box 1450 KARRATHA WA 6714

### Issue 3 - DECEMBER 2000

#### CONTACTS: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

##### PRESIDENT

Jessica Worrall – 9158 8401 [jessnrob@kisser.net.au](mailto:jessnrob@kisser.net.au)

##### VICE PRESIDENTS

Sue Hathaway [Internal Policy] 9144 2408

Nerida Kickett [External Policy] 9185 2655 [nkickett@westpac.com.au](mailto:nkickett@westpac.com.au)

Annette Davis [Communications] 9185 6578

[adavis@telstra.easymail.com.au](mailto:adavis@telstra.easymail.com.au)

##### SECRETARIES

*Minutes/Agenda's* - Bev Moxham-9144 1225

[moxham.home@kisser.net.au](mailto:moxham.home@kisser.net.au)

*Correspondence* - Valeri Pain 9185 6662 - [pain@kisser.net.au](mailto:pain@kisser.net.au)

**TREASURER**-Lisa Beaumont-9159 6772-

[lbeaumont@karratha.training.wa.gov.au](mailto:lbeaumont@karratha.training.wa.gov.au)

##### EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Fatima Rebola-Gibson, 9144 2888 [karrathaflorist@kisser.net.au](mailto:karrathaflorist@kisser.net.au)

Kay Synnott, 9143 1682

Robbie Howson, 9185 3719

Donna-Lee Wynne, 0418 903 954

#### 31<sup>st</sup> Australian BPW Conference, Glenelg SA, 20-23 October 2000

Jessica Worrall

As it was the first BPW conference that I had attended and the first one our newly formed club attended, there was quite a bit of work to do! Figuring out the conference protocol, putting names to faces, noting what was happening so I could report back, collecting great ideas for our club, joining in on discussions, not to mention wining and dining. And yes it was fun and invigorating!

I don't wish to rehash my Thoughts from the BPW Australia 31<sup>st</sup> National Conference (published in the BPW WA November Newsletter) or the speech I made last month which contains the important resolutions and action items coming out of the conference (refer [http://www.karratha.com/~bpwpilbara/national\\_conf.htm](http://www.karratha.com/~bpwpilbara/national_conf.htm)). Instead I will take the opportunity to refresh some aspects plus highlight some other reasons as to why I found the conference so invigorating.

- The club reports put BPW firmly in the local context, highlighting members and their clubs concerns and how they work to develop themselves and their community. It was a great source of good ideas to bring home to the Pilbara. Just one aspect of this is the mentoring of young women and girls. Various clubs have education sponsorships, school awards, help with career choices for women and participate in mock interviews for school leavers – a smorgasbord of ways to achieve the same goal.
- The launch of a number of BPW publications, the announcement of BPW Canberra house, the reports back from the various committees and details of lobbying, gave a sense of the operation of BPW within the Australian context. The resolutions of the conference also brought this home and I recommend that members read the resolutions and reports, available on our website.
- The international delegates along with feedback from various members of the international committees provided the sense of

where BPW fits in the international scene. The United Nations breakfast report was inspiring, with intriguing explanations as the workings of the UN committees along with what Category 1 consultative status with the UN means and how BPW as 'official observers' can suggest wording. The challenge is to contribute, as Nok (Dr Chonchanok Viranvan of BPW Thailand) stated, "once having consultative status provided the right to access information, this information is now readily available on the web, so now the power is in deciding what to do about issues!"

- Working with our near neighbours, the Oceania group provides a good opportunity to focus on common issues. For the next 2-3 years the Oceania group is focusing on women's legal rights and the workshop provided fertile ground for BPW Pilbara with questions such as – how many of our local JP's are females; what laws affect women; what laws need changing; how do wills and trust affect women; how does the equal employment legislation and sexual harassment legislation get turned into reality and how does it affect small business?
- The Conference speakers, all dynamic women, also provided challenges. I would like to refer to a question posed by Sue Vardon (Centrelink) having just returned from South Africa of "What are our devils?" and how are we going to slay them? Sue suggested that stereotyping was one, why does she keep hearing men saying "it is a pity there are not enough women for boards" – it appears however that they aren't looking! Another devil is that the workplace is still not user friendly to women, as evidenced by the recently published figures that approximately 75% of women executives do not have children. Susan Chase (Cowl Electric) also inspired us with her story, I found two of the quotes that she used particularly powerful; one attributed to Pablo Picasso is "I will do that I can not do, such that I can learn how to do it". The other from Henry Ford is "whether you believe you can or believe you can't you are both right".
- Finally it was great to meet so many enthusiastic BPW women and there was a real sense of welcome and encouragement to 'BPW Pilbara' especially from the WA contingent.

There is much food for thought from the conference, both on a personal and club level. I strongly recommend it to BPW Pilbara members who may consider going in the future. The next Australia conference is in Melbourne 2002, coinciding with International BPW Conference, a golden opportunity!

#### TOPICAL ISSUE-MEMBER'S ARTICLES

If any Member would like to publish an article of interest to fellow Members, please email it to Jenni Griffiths to include in the next March/April Newsletter at [jaws@kisser.net.au](mailto:jaws@kisser.net.au) or post it to BPW Pilbara, PO Box 1450, KARRATHA WA 6714.

#### WOMEN'S POLICY OFFICE VISIT KARRATHA

On Tuesday 31 October 2000 the Women's Policy Office visited Karratha to consult with public sector agencies, community and private sector organisations and other interested persons about the new *Government Plan for Women 2001 – 2006*. Consultations were also held in Roebourne and Hedland.

This is the third *Government Plan for Women* – the first plan involved commitments from 32 agencies and ran from 1996 – 1998 and the second plan was produced with 86 agencies and targeted the period from 1999 – 2001. The purpose of these plans is to enable the Government to meet the challenge of promoting choice and opportunities for women in their varied economic, social, political and community roles.

I attended the workshop in Karratha in line with my role as Manager: Human Resources at West Pilbara College of TAFE and secondly as a BPW Pilbara member. The group was quite small (approximately 10 participants) and included women from the education, health and community service/development fields.

The session began with a “brainstorming” exercise, asking participants to focus on how things are different now as opposed to their mother’s time. A number of varied opinions and suggestions were forthcoming. In the second half of the session, the group were asked to make specific suggestions about what is going well and what can be improved in our community in relation to the key areas of the plan – a) economic independence, b) decision making, c) health, d) safety and e) customer focus.

It was pleasing to have the opportunity to have input into the next plan, as, in the past, regional areas have not been fully involved in these types of consultations. However – and this is my personal opinion – I left the session feeling somewhat disillusioned. My expectations may have been wrong to begin with, but I thought we would be looking specifically at the Government Plan and the strategies/commitments in place to further the status of women. I found the session to be somewhat “wishy-washy” and not very practical. As I said, this is my personal opinion only. I am sure that other participants had different reactions and, as I stated earlier, it was a positive step to at least be involved.

From here, the feedback obtained will contribute to the new Government Plan for Women. You can visit their website at [www.wa.gov.au/wpdo](http://www.wa.gov.au/wpdo) and submit your feedback online.

Regards, Jodie Crane, Ph: (08) 9159 6707,  
E-mail: [jcrane@karratha.training.wa.gov.au](mailto:jcrane@karratha.training.wa.gov.au)

### BPW PILBARA ‘PERKS’

If any Member would like to offer discount or special services to fellow BPW Members please let us know and it will be listed in the Newsletter. If you have a ‘perk’, let Jenni know at [jaws@kisser.net.au](mailto:jaws@kisser.net.au):-

### GUEST SPEAKER REGISTER

Do you have someone in mind to be a Guest Speaker at our next meeting? There are plenty of local people in our area, with a lot of expertise and knowledge from which we are sure many **BPW** members will get value. If you have anyone in mind, please advise Nerida Kickett, Sue Hathaway or Annette Davis [their contact details are at the top of the Newsletter].



### QUOTE:

**‘Manners easily and rapidly mature into morals’**

Horace Mann [1796-1859 American Educator]



## WHAT’S THE GOSS?



### CONGRATULATIONS

- **Fatima Rebola-Gibson**, winner of the GWN Business Person of the Year Award at the Year 2000 Chamber of Commerce Small Business Awards. Well done Fatima.
- **Helen Collis** who has recently been selected as one of two WA delegates to the National Rural Medical Family Network. Helen has been the West Pilbara representative on the WA Rural Medical Family Network for several years. The State and National networks focus on improving conditions and opportunities for the families of medical professionals in rural areas.
- **Lisa Beaumont** was recently awarded the Defense Long Service Medal, in recognition of her sixteen years of military service. Lisa served in the full time army for ten years, and for the last six has been active in the Army Reserve.
- **Kay Gerard** has been recently elected to the Executive Committee of the Karratha and Districts Chamber of Commerce and Industry, chaired by Leanne Rowlands.
- **Valeri Pain** who features in the new publication “Pilbara Journey Through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” compiled by Loreen Brehaut and Anna Vitenbergs. Definitely a great Christmas present, especially for any ex-Pilbaraites. \$30 available from the Shire Office, Karratha.

### JOAN KIRNER WEEKEND

#### Saturday Evening Session

Community activism was the theme of the Saturday evening session. Almost fifty people (including four men) enjoyed dinner and listened and learnt from four speakers:

Elizabeth Conti, Chair, Women’s Advisory Council;  
Pat Longland, Councillor, Shire of Roebourne;  
Gina Hipworth, Co-ordinator, Karratha Arts and Learning Centre; and  
Joan Kirner.

Each of the first three speakers spoke about their background and their involvement in community issues. Although each was involved in different areas, they shared a passion for what they were doing and a belief that they were making a difference.

As well as chairing the Women’s Advisory Council, Elizabeth Conti manages visitor centres at several metropolitan prisons. She spoke about the importance of linking a prisoner with the community in which he or she is going to live. One of her initiatives has been to invite the community services into the prison to inform the prisoner of the services that are available. This empowers both the prisoner and the service organisation.

The Women’s Advisory Council’s role is to inform the Minister on issues for women and to recommend initiatives to address these issues. It reports to June van de Klashorst, Minister for Women’s Interests. Although there is regional representation on the Council, the current Pilbara representative, Pam Howe, is an Affiliate Member and is not paid sitting fees.

Pat Longland was elected to the Shire of Roebourne in May this year. Pat manages the Roebourne Tourist Bureau at the Old Roebourne Goal and has lived in the area for more than twenty years. Encouraged by many people to stand for local government election, Pat took on the challenge because she believed she could make a difference to the Shire. Pat is currently one of three female Councillors from a total of 12 Councillors. Pat spoke of the huge time commitment required of a Councillor, and acknowledged that she has had to sacrifice her creative pursuits of leadlighting and pottery. However, this sacrifice is worth it, as Pat believes that, through her input and voting at Council meetings, she has ensured that the interests of families and the wider community are taken into account.

Gina Hipworth gave an energetic talk about her passion for pottery and for the Karratha Arts and Learning Centre. This Centre, on Richardson Way, offers a range of craft courses, and aims to encourage women to come out of their homes, meet new people and learn some new skills. Gina also spoke about the women's quilt exhibition which was exhibited in the Karratha City Shopping Centre earlier this year. An important project which came out of that was the community quilt: more than one hundred calico squares decorated by women from all parts of the community have been put together to make a quilt. This is a lasting monument to the women who took part and an important creative expression of local women.

The final speaker was Joan Kirner. Recalling examples from her first involvement in community politics, Joan emphasised the importance of communication and being willing to share power.

Other key points:

- be totally clear about what you want and be prepared to stand up for it
- draw on the power of numbers - the more people involved and prepared to work the better
- keep an open mind - be aware that the person/group usually perceived as your enemy might become your friend if you want the same thing
- develop a thick skin - at some time or other you will be a target for criticism
- remember that the people you are working with, like you, are volunteers
- retain a sense of humour

An important message from Joan was that every individual has power - it is up to the individual to either acknowledge this and use this power, or not to use it which in effect hands it over to someone else.

Annette Davis

## THE LAW & FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Except in Queensland and WA, specific Legislation prohibiting FGM is enforced. However, if individual circumstances require the Criminal Law to be invoked in WA, the following sections of the Criminal Code may be applied:-

- Section 297, Grievous Bodily Harm
- Section 301, Wounding and Similar Acts
- Section 306, Unlawful Acts Causing Bodily Harm
- Section 259, Surgical Operations
- Section 14, Offences Procured in WA to be Committed out of WA

The Multicultural Access Unit within the Health Department of WA has supplied us with a comprehensive kit on FGM as part of a National Education Programme aimed at eliminating this practice, and to assist women and girls who are at risk or who have already suffered from this practice. The kit is available for loan from the Club, contact Valeri on 9185 6662, or email [bpwpilbara@karratha.com](mailto:bpwpilbara@karratha.com), or order via the web page, <http://www.karratha.com/~bpwpilbara>

## SITES TO VISIT:

Check out these sites next time you log on:-

- [www.inspirationfactory.com.au](http://www.inspirationfactory.com.au) - live your dreams, great bookshop, check it out and next time in Perth visit them, they are open 7 days a week in Subiaco.
- [www.zapp.com.au](http://www.zapp.com.au) - Perth based



## DIARY DATES:

Next Meeting dates are:

- 15<sup>th</sup> January 2001
- 19<sup>th</sup> February 2001
- 19<sup>th</sup> March 2001
- 16<sup>th</sup> April 2001
- 21<sup>st</sup> May 2001
- 18<sup>th</sup> June 2001

## MEMBER PROFILE – Annette DAVIS

I grew up in Maida Vale, in outer metro Perth, which way back then was semi-rural. I went to UWA and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Australian history. The Public Service seemed to me to provide the best (only?) employment opportunity and I was selected for the graduate assistant program. I worked in policy and human resource positions for the next eight years. For several years I studied art history part time at Uni, completing a Masters in Philosophy (Australian Studies). This study enabled me to make the career move I'd been hoping for - to work as an art curator.

I've worked with local government and university art collections, and I particularly like curating exhibitions, coming up with an idea, researching artists, tracking down artworks and bringing them together for the first time in an exhibition. I have just started work on an exhibition of seven artists from Karratha and Dampier, which will start touring WA next August. The exhibition will be titled "Intervention" and is about intervention and interaction with the Pilbara landscape.

I really enjoy looking at art, researching, talking and writing about it. This past year I have also been trying to do it myself, by learning oil painting, which has been very enlightening!

I have lived in Karratha for two years, moving here when my husband Brad was appointed to the Pilbara office of Department of Resources Development. We have two children, a four year old boy and 18 month old girl. BPW for me has really helped my sense of involvement in the local community.

## Optional Protocol (CEDAW)

BPW Pilbara issued a press release recently regarding the Federal Government's decision not to sign the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

At the recent 31st National Conference for the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW Australia) in Adelaide, delegates unanimously passed a resolution condemning the Federal Government for refusing to sign the Optional Protocol. The Optional Protocol provides an avenue for women to submit claims of violations of rights and also gives the UN Committee the power to initiate inquiries into situations of grave or systematic violations of women's rights.

Australia has always taken a leading role in women's affairs at the UN and has been seen as a model for other nations to follow. However, the failure of the Federal Government to commit itself to the implementation of the Optional Protocol flies in the face of the work done so far by Australian delegates at the UN.

All members are encouraged to lobby Federal politicians on this issue. A proforma letter to the Hon Barry Haase, our Federal member, has been prepared and is available from Bev Moxham.

## MEETING DO'S & Don'ts

Please make sure you let the Kellie Beacham on 9144 4333 during business hours know if you are **NOT** attending the meeting [failing that let the Secretary, Minutes & Agendas, Bev Moxham know. If you don't, you will still be charged for your meal, as catering numbers must be paid for.

Please be mindful that the commencement time is 7pm. Remember to turn off your mobile phone whilst the meeting is on, normally approximately 1 hour.

Please make sure you have your say on your views and ideas for **BPW**, *it is your Club*.



### YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Do we have your current e-mail address? If you have joined up recently, e-mail one of the Executive team and let them know to add you to the e-mailing list. This is a great communication tool for members to use, especially to get in contact with the Executive Committee and converse with fellow BPW's. Why not get a few e-mail addresses from members tonight to add to your address book!

## SOMETHING FOR THE SOUL

### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ... you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace ... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ... you are more-blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death... you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If your parents are still alive and / or still married ... you are very rare, even in Australia.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful... you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder... you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all. - Merry Christmas to you all!

## CLUB ACTIVITIES IN 2001

The 2001 Calendar of Events for BPW Pilbara has three main themes -

- personal development
- promoting women into responsible roles in the community and
- issues for women at local, national and international levels.

The draft calendar was discussed at the December Club meeting and can be seen on the website. All members are invited to provide feedback and comments. If you know of someone who would be ideal for one of the meetings or seminars, or if you would like to volunteer to organise the guest speaker/s for one of the meetings, please get in touch with a committee member. These activities are for you so let's make them work for you!

### ONLY JOKING!!

On a stifling hot Pilbara day, a man fainted in the middle of a busy intersection. As traffic began to pile up in all directions, a woman rushed to help him. As she knelt down to loosen his collar, a man emerged from the crowd, pushed her aside, and said '*It's all right, honey. I've had a course in first aid.*'

She stood up and watched as he took the man's pulse and prepared to administer artificial respiration. Then she tapped him on the shoulder.

*'When you get to the part about calling a doctor', she said, 'I'm already here.'*

### FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

There once were some gals from the West  
To Genelg went with Kym for her test.

They voted, they thought  
About issues they ought,

But had fun, danced and sang with the rest!



### FOR MELBOURNE IN 2002

W.A. went to this conference in style  
Some by air, some by car, (took a while!).

Next time all go by train,

O/seas visitors too, in the main.

Start saving girls, 'cos you'll need a pile!

Both Limericks courtesy of Pippa Niven, BPW WA Member

Please remember this is your Newsletter, I need items from you to put into it. So next time you think of something, e-mail it to me at [jaws@kisser.net.au](mailto:jaws@kisser.net.au) or post it to BPW Pilbara, PO Box 1450 KARRATHA WA 6714.



If there is something missing, not correct, or you would like to see changed, please let me know, I am always open to changes and *some* criticism. I enjoy compiling the Newsletter and if other fellow BPW colleagues want to have a go please contact me and we could start on the March 2001 Issue together.

Regards Jenni Griffiths - Newsletter Editor