

BPW Pilbara



NEWSLETTER

PO Box 1450 KARRATHA WA 6714

Issue 4 - March - June 2001

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Throughout the last few months, we have had a steady number of invited guests and as you spread the good word about the value of BPW Pilbara, our membership is slowly growing. But what more do you want out of BPW Pilbara? Where do you want the Club to go, what issues do you want us to tackle together? If you are interested in answering these questions please contact me as the Mission & Vision Subcommittee are working on these strategic objectives as well as developing the constitution.

Finally, the Committee has been very busy with the regular business of running the Club and organising our monthly meetings. If you have any suggestions or would like to help in even in a small way, we would love to hear from you.

Jessica Worrall, President

10/03/01

PRESIDENT'S DESK

The first BPW Pilbara Newsletter for 2001 and already there is so much to relate. The first two meetings for the year had a great response. *MEET THE CANDIDATES*, was very effective despite being organised at short notice in January, due to the timing of the Election. It was notable not only for the speakers Fred Riebeling, Robin Vandenberg, Dr Carmen Lawrence and Greg Smith, but also for the number of guests who joined us. There were appreciative comments from the politicians on both sides of the fence, about having the opportunity to discuss the issues that concern us in such a format. Judging from the number who stayed on, this was also appreciated by the audience. Carmen mentioned a desire to meet with us again later in the year, something we will actively pursue.

In February, *COPING WITH LIFE THREATENING ILLNESSES*, challenged us to think more about ourselves our health and our coping mechanisms. Arran Payne talking in such a frank and open way along with Amanda Samanek provided some insights which we all valued.

The next two meetings also promise to provide opportunities for growth in our professional and personal roles. *BPW & the World*, on March 19 will look at BPW's role in the world plus the challenges and learning experiences offered by working abroad. And on April 23 we have *Wills & Trusts*, whether in your businesses or at home, we all need to be aware of how essential wills and trusts are and how to use them to our advantage.

A raison d'être for BPW Pilbara is the opportunity for networking and mentoring. The Mentoring & Networking Subcommittee has been hard at work this year and is delighted to be able to deliver the first formal workshop on this topic. We are bringing top class presenters to the Pilbara to deliver this workshop, so remember keep **April 28** free!



Karratha & Districts

NETWORKING & MENTORING FOR SUCCESS a workshop for women

with

Robyn Henderson & Michele Kilminster-Clement

---Goal Setting & Personal Networking---

---Internal & External Networking---

---Mentoring---

Saturday 28th April 2001

the aims of this practical workshop are

---you will leave with a personal action plan---

---BPW Pilbara establishes a formal mentoring scheme---

The speakers are:-

Robyn Henderson, Australia's foremost networking specialist, has built a reputation throughout Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the Middle East for getting results. With 30 years in the corporate world, including over 7 years as an international business educator and professional speaker, Robyn has authored 5 books - 3 on networking.

Michele Kilminster-Clement, the State Manager, Women in Business WA for Challenge Bank, is committed to meeting the needs of female customers, and supporting women in business. Michele is a member of BPW North Shore, member of Zonta International Women's Group and Member of the Executive Women's Forum.

THE PEOPLE TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION ARE

NERIDA KICKETT 040 908 4023

JESSICA WORRALL 9158 8401 (wk)9185 6325 (HM)

WHAT A NOVEL IDEA!

Book Review featured this issue is **'BANKER TO THE POOR'**:
by Muhammad Yunus with Alan Jolis

'When I first set up the Grameen Program, the banks told me that the poor were not credit worthy. My first reaction was: 'How do they know? You have never lent to them. Perhaps it is the banks which are not people worthy'.

"At the Grameen Bank we have worked with the poorest people in one of the poorest countries on earth, yet we have maintained a recovery record of over 98%".

THIS BANK LENDS ONLY TO WOMEN!

Grameen Bank has strict lending rules, rigid protocol, and even requires its members to acquire skills before borrowing money. Muhammad Yunus strongly advocates lending rather than welfare, empowering women along the way, in a culture that traditionally did not allow women to have financial dealings. Members, [borrowers] adopt Sixteen Decisions, and it is said that most members can recite all sixteen, and feel humbled if they have not lived up to everyone.

The author, Muhammad Yunus, was born in 1940 in Chittagong, the business centre of what was then Eastern Bengal. He is the third child of fourteen. Educated in Chittagong, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and received his PhD from Vanderbilt University, Tennessee. In 1972 he returned to Bangladesh and became Head of the Economics Department at Chittagong University. Professor Yunus is the founder and managing director of Grameen Bank. In 1997 he led the worlds first Micro-Credit Summit in Washington, DC.

The book is available from Aurum Press, The Autobiography of Muhammad Yunus, 1998. Or you will find it in Today's Best Non-Fiction, Readers Digest condensed version, 1999, or you can borrow it from Valeri, your fellow BPW Member. I hope you enjoy the read.

DIARY DATES:

- 20 March, Women's Advisory Council Luncheon
- 21 March, Harmony Day
- 23 April, Club Meeting, 'Wills & Trusts' 7pm
- 28 April, 'Networking & Mentoring' Workshop
- 21 May, Club Meeting 'DISC' a behavioural evaluation tool, 7pm
- 18 June, Club Meeting, 'Valuing Self' Practical advice on identifying your skills and resumé preparation, 7pm
- 14 September, WA Division State Conference, Geraldton 'Batavia to Edith Cowan to Cyberspace'
- 25-28th October, Presidents' Meeting in Cyprus



MEMBER PROFILE – Lisa Beaumont

The second of four children, I grew up and was educated in the North Eastern suburbs of Melbourne, completing year 12 at Swinburne College in 1978. Weekends were always spent together on the family block in central Victoria where my dad had a few grape vines and pursued his hobby of making vino. We kids just ran around in the paddocks, read, rode bikes, swam in the creek or picked grapes. We were never able to play weekend sports or stay behind in the city.

I decided very early on that I wanted to strike out on my own so I joined the Army and left home in 1979 when I was 18 years old.

Having only ever played team sports at school, I never knew the world of fitness combined with hard work and good pay even existed. It was the best choice I could have made. Pretty soon I was traveling around Australia, learning my trade, experiencing life and making new friends. Daily routine was taken up with fitness and playing sports, working shiftwork and going out "bush" at certain times during the year. I found the military lifestyle demanding with a big emphasis on mateship and motivation, however I'm glad to say I did not experience the bastardisation that is mentioned today, this is probably because none was ever directed at me.

I had been serving for three years when equal pay & equal rights for women in the forces came into effect. It had a huge impact on our conditions of service not to mention the changing design of our uniforms every couple of years!

I served a total of ten years in the Australian Regular Army as an information systems and cryptographic operator and then as a Field Recruiter living and working in Queensland, New South Wales, Canberra, Victoria and lastly Western Australia.

I met my husband Brad in the Army and we were married in 1987 with our daughter Monique being born in Perth in 1988. I discharged myself from regular service for twelve months to become a full time mum but decided the withdrawal symptoms were too much so I re enlisted into the Army Reserve where I worked at units in whichever state Brad (& family!) were posted to.

Our life was full on, no posting ever longer than two years and we ended up in Port Hedland in 1990. Our son Alex was born there and we found that we loved the North West, (Brad grew up in Carnarvon) its lifestyle and the people. While in Port Hedland I worked at the Hedland College in student services before we were posted back over to Queensland in 1992. In 1994 Brad went to Rwanda and was away for a total of eight months. I found strength in my ability to focus on the day to day issues of looking after two young children, working 4 – 5 days a week in the Reserves, playing both mum and dad plus keeping house. The hardest part was not having family or relatives close by as they were all in Victoria and WA. Still, I think the experience made me stronger and gave me the opportunity to be self-reliant and realise my own strength and fortitude.

On Brad's return we were posted to Karratha and as soon as we arrived we knew that this time we wouldn't leave. I started working at the Pilbara Regiment but in September 1995 I was successful in securing an administration position at Karratha College. I worked full time and continued with Army reserves but after 12 months I knew that I was overstretched so sadly I discharged myself in Aug 1996.

I miss the military lifestyle; it moulded my work ethics and influenced my attitude to fitness and mateship.

My achievement this year is to be awarded with a Defence Long Service Medal in recognition of my 16 years military service. I am so proud and excited that I have a piece of history to pass down to my children.

I have found myself becoming more and more involved in this community and have loved playing my favourite sports of basketball, softball, jogging and swimming. My family love the North West lifestyle and we have bought a home here to settle. Any spare time is spent out on our boat, gardening or having friends over for a BBQ. We have made many special friends while managing to keep in contact with the extended network of friends and family down south and on the Eastern seaboard. In fact more and more of them are making the pilgrimage over to us for a visit - just fantastic!

The last twelve months have seen many changes in my life. My daughter has started high school, we have started our own business selling my fathers wine from Victoria and I have changed jobs within the college, which has made my work new and challenging. It was through my participation in the college Women Leadership and Management Program that I have been involved with the establishment of BPW Pilbara club. This is something I have enjoyed, as I love the opportunity to network.

WOW! HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WEBSITE

– check it out at www.karratha.com/~bpwpilbara/

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 June Newsletter [our 1st Birthday] at jaws@kisser.net.au or post it to BPW Pilbara, PO Box 1450, KARRATHA WA 6714.

E-COMMERCE - FROM MARKET PLACE TO CYBERSPACE

Over one year, 5% of Australia's population shopped via the Internet. To put it another way, 650,000 adults made three million purchases between May 1998 and May 1999. The Australian Bureau of Statistics figures tells us that cyberspace shopping has grown by almost 60% over the corresponding previous year. Net shoppers bought: books and magazines [38%], computer software and equipment [34%] and music [14%]. With figures like that, why wouldn't a business get into E-Commerce by selling their products or services on the Internet? Obviously a lot have done just that. The move from doing business in the market place to cyberspace will not be a choice for some businesses. If they don't go online, suppliers and buyers might simply go around them and remove them from the supply chain.

If a business is not considering and planning to use E-Commerce now, they certainly are not preparing to be successful in the year 2000 and beyond. The E-Commerce enabled business, can become the new intermediary that provides a short cut to products and services and fulfilling new online customer demand. Here are the recommended steps to rolling out your E-Commerce business:-

1. Become computer literate and computerize key business functions.
2. Connect to the Internet and use it to locate business information.
3. Use email for business communications.
4. Define and/or refine your E-Commerce plan and strategy.
5. Create your E-Commerce site and services.
6. Promote your products and services via your site.
7. Provide online ordering and service to your customers and purchase your supplies online.
8. Provide online payments and pay your bills online.

Last but not least, include ways for you and your staff to ensure they continue to learn and stay aware of movements and methods in E-Commerce. The motto for E-Commerce is: **start small, grow smart. So what can you do?** E-Commerce aficionados predict that if your business is not on the Net within 3 years, you may not be in business in 3 years. Don't let the notion of E-Commerce spook you. Take the evolution in manageable steps. You can contact COSBOA [Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia Ltd]. Their website [www.cosboa.com.au] contains the names of all members and this can be linked to your own web site. For further information contact COSBOA on 1800 634 583.

Extracted from an article published in the 'Small Business at Work' Magazine produced by the Council of Small Business Organizations of Australia Ltd, Volume 1 - number 2



CONFERENCE CHITCHAT

BPW International Congress Melbourne 3-12 October 2002, mark your diaries NOW. Pre-congress board meeting on Friday before celebrations begin with the Opening Ceremony and the President's Reception. The Workshops are always a favourite activity of those attending. Pat Harrison, International President, has made a change to previous congress programmes that alternates Plenary Sessions with the workshops to ensure ample opportunity for all to attend their choice of the wide variety on offer. While everyone works hard at congress on inspiring matters, opportunities for strangers to become friends is also an exciting element. The Banquet, International Friends function and of course, the Farewell Party, are great occasions to do that. And the **National AGM** will follow! What a gig! Ask AFBPW VP Comm for more info.



SITES TO VISIT:

Check out these sites next time you log on:-

- www.oscars.com - see if you can predict the winners
- www.abc.net.au - go and visit Aunty sometime
- www.kisser.net.au - checkout our very own Pilbara Artists on line on the main page
- <http://www.corpwatch.org/trac/> A worldwide corporate watch dog on the net

MEETING DO'S & DON'TS

Please make sure you let Kellie Beacham, 9144 4333 during business hours, know if you are **NOT** attending the meeting [failing that let the Secretary, Minutes & Agendas, Bev Moxham know]. You can also e-mail Kellie at beacham@westnet.com.au 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 in progress, 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!

WOMEN

They smile when they want to scream. They sing when they want to cry. They cry when they are happy and laugh when they are nervous. They fight for what they believe in. They stand up for injustice. They don't take "no" for an answer when they believe there is a better solution. They go without new shoes so their children can have them. They go to the doctor with a frightened friend. They love unconditionally. They cry when their children excel and cheer when their friends get awards. They are happy when they hear about a birth or a new marriage. Their hearts break when a friend dies. They have sorrow at the loss of a family member, yet they are strong when they think there is no strength left. They know that a hug and a kiss can heal a broken heart. Women come in all sizes, in all colors and shapes. They'll drive, fly, walk, run or e-mail you to show how much they care about you. The heart of a woman is what makes the world spin! Women do more than just give birth. They bring joy and hope. They give compassion and ideals. They give moral support to their family and friends. Women have a lot to say and a lot to give.

IT'S GOOD TO BE THE WOMAN

We got off the Titanic first. We can scare male bosses with mysterious gynaecological disorder excuses. Taxi's stop for us. We don't look like a frog in a blender when dancing. No fashion faux pas (mistake) we make could ever rival The Speedo. We don't have to pass gas to amuse ourselves. If we forget to shave, no one has to know. We can congratulate our teammate without ever touching her rear. We never have to reach down every so often to make sure our privates are still there. We have the ability to dress ourselves. We can talk to people of the opposite sex without having to picture them naked. If we marry someone 20 years younger, we're aware that we look like an idiot. There are times when chocolate really can solve all your problems. We'll never regret piercing our ears. We can fully assess a person just by looking at their shoes. We can make comments about how silly men are in their presence, because they aren't listening anyway.

STOP PRESS! SOROPTIMISTS HOST A SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION.

At dusk on 8th March [International Women's Day] women gathered under the gum trees at the Tourist Bureau, with the flapping of the flags and the whir of the windmill in the background, to listen to migrant women enthral us with their stories, poems, songs and dances. After our Fijian, French, Dutch, Indonesian, Welsh, Russian, Sri Lankan, Polynesian, Chilean, Australian, New Zealand, Phillipino and Maori friends had shared their stories, we all had more insight into the way Australia has been blessed by many cultures. There are many more untold stories out there, waiting to be explored by us all.

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].

Pilbara Women are invited to discuss social issues affecting their wellbeing and that of their children.

Interested? The Women's Advisory Council is hosting a luncheon to celebrate International Women's Day and Harmony Day on Tuesday, 20th March at the Karratha International Hotel, 10am – 2pm, all women are invited [sorry no crèche facilities]. Contact Pamela Howle for details on 9183 1511.

'PILBARA' PICTURE PERFECT

2 oil paintings of Pilbara scenes will soon be adorning the walls of BPW Australia's Headquarters in Canberra. In response to the call from the National Office for donations for their newly leased premises, BPW Pilbara decided that artworks showing this unique part of Australia would be an appropriate gift. Club member Annette Davis and local artist Carolyn Marks have chosen different aspects of the Pilbara landscape. Annette's painting "Pilbara Sky" shows stunning cloud formations over a rocky outcrop, while "Warm Breeze, Blue Trees" by Carolyn depicts a view from Mt Nameless, Tom Price. The Club is meeting the costs of the materials and frames for these two paintings, with the artists donating their time and talents. Thank you Annette and Carolyn. Remember, if you are visiting Canberra for business or pleasure, visit the BPW Australia's new home at 20 Getting Crescent, Campbell, telephone [02] 6257 2775, email: bpwaust@bpw.com.au Accommodation facilities will soon be completed, offering cost effective accommodation to BPW members.



WOMEN'S ROUND TABLE MEETING -

With an Australian Federal Election due sometime this year, political parties are gearing up to woo the women voters, who form 53% of voters here in Australia. *(I hope I have my percentages correct, if not I am sure someone will put me right).*

Yesterday, Judith van Unen and I attended a meeting at Parliament House, Canberra initiated by The Hon. Dr Carmen Lawrence, of the Australian Labour Party. It was an immensely successful meeting attended by some 35 representatives of NGOs. It was a real pleasure to have the opportunity not only of speaking frankly with a representative of a major political party but also to network and meet face to face with women with whom BPW contacts on a regular basis by email and the various lists that have become an important part of our communication networks.

The women represented such a diverse range of interest groups and ethnic backgrounds, but all were united with one goal to get the vital work for women completed.

Issues raised were

- recent changes in disability allowances;
- funding of abortion clinics and counselling services;
- the need for mentoring women employed in rural and regional Australia;
- health clinic issues;
- the treatment of women in science;
- sterilisation of women with disabilities;
- domestic violence and sexual assault;
- menopause;
- single mothers; employment and settlement;
- access to legal services;
- erosion of women's rights;
- gymnasium facilities for women;
- scholarships on offer.

The above represents a few of the items put forward for the ALP to consider and it will be interesting to see what follow-up is generated.

I feel sad that because of an election year our voice is going to be heard, however, it is what happens after the election that is going to be crucial to women.

Jo-An Partridge ~ Vice President Communications,
BPW Australia Federal Executive

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

ONLY JOKING!!

A language instructor was explaining to her class that French, nouns, unlike their English counterparts, are grammatically designated as masculine or feminine. "House," in French, is feminine - "la maison." "Pencil," in French, is masculine "le crayon." One puzzled student asked, "What gender is 'computer'?"

The teacher did not know, and the word wasn't in her French dictionary. So for fun she split the class into two groups appropriately enough, by gender and asked them to decide whether "computer" should be a masculine or feminine noun. Both groups were required to give four reasons for their recommendation.

The **men's group** decided that computers should definitely be of the feminine gender ("la computer"), because: 1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic; 2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else; 3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for possible later retrieval; and 4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay cheque on accessories for it.

The **women's group**, however, concluded that computers should be masculine ("le computer"), because: 1. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on; 2. They have a lot of data but they are still clueless; 3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and 4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you'd waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

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 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 fellow BPW colleagues want to have a go please contact me. We could start on the June [our 1st Birthday] Issue together.



Regards Jenni