



MARCH 2004

President: Lesley Davis
Home Phone: 9727 2587

Secretary: Maidie Brockman
Email: Maidie@iinet.net.au

Editors: Val Hill & Maidie
Home Phone: 97524405, 97521436
Email: maidie@iinet.net.au
Email: valerie@iinet.net.au

The Newsletter of the
Busseton Business and
Professional Women's
Club

From the editor:

Dear ladies,

Every month I tell myself that I am going to get this newsletter off to you two weeks before our dinner meeting, but it seems that things conspire to prevent me from doing that. Never mind, I'm learning these days that I mustn't let things like that upset me too much, and I think I'm right in believing that you're happy to just get it sometime!

The last business meeting was very busy, with lots of emails and other business to be dealt with, but one item aroused such interest that I have sought permission from BPW Donnybrook to print it for you all to read. Liz, the Donnybrook President, said that they have copies of this article available in the Donnybrook Library for interested people to take away and read. They also took it to the State Conference last year.

I wrote a similar piece about our own club activities a couple of years ago, which I will locate and update, but I thought you'd like to read this one as well....

Focus on: BPW

"The International Federation of Business and Professional Women is the voice of women in the paid and unpaid workforce and has represented their interests nationally and internationally for over 70 years.

The aims of BPW are:

To support and actively promote personal development;

To provide for the exchange of ideas, knowledge, experience;

To lobby and work for issues affecting women and the community.

BPW Donnybrook is a small but dynamic group. Last year they celebrated 25 years in Donnybrook.

Who are they?

They are women: they are mothers and grandmothers, daughters and partner, friends and colleagues. They are professional and business women: they are teachers, soldiers, nurses and managers. They are ministers, therapists, counselors, primary producers and civil celebrants. They manage farms and restaurants and schools and churches and hospitals. They drive ambulances and tune pianos and deliver the mail. They are retired from paid work but never from life! They are creative women: they ring bells, sew quilts, make jewelry and turn wood. They are artists, dressmakers and musicians. They raise sheep and chooks and cows. They grow grapes and olives and wool and apples and roses and avocados. They build houses and gardens and relationships. They are caring women: they work in caring professions; they care for our parents, our community and communities far away. Over the years BPW has provided scholarships, books and motivational lunches to students at local high schools, and contributed to the Bell Plates at the High School.

They have collected drought relief for families in the drought stricken wheat-belt and in Queensland, socks for Kosovo, and

business clothes for unemployed women in the city.

They have sponsored art exhibitions during the Apple Festivals, books for the Library and seats in the Vin Farley children's playground. They sponsor a little girl in a Leprosarium in India. They care about unemployment, youth issues, poverty and domestic violence. They care about women in Afghanistan and Iraq, and about umbilical cord blood collection.

They applaud their successes and comfort their losses. They laugh together and cry together and they have fun together and they achieve together. They meet at 7pm on the first Tuesday of every month at the Re Centre, where they enjoy a wonderful dinner, comradeship and inspirational guest speakers. They are the Women of Donnybrook BPW.

You are welcome to join them."

While I was WA President, I had the opportunity to attend some functions with the Donnybrook ladies, and I found that they are a wonderful bunch. Wouldn't it be a nice surprise for them if several of us made the effort to travel over a join them for one of their dinner meetings!

Women are very good at learning by talking amongst themselves, but we won't get new ideas if we all stay in our little comfort zones and never reach out to others for information. With so many issues affecting women, both employed and at home, it is vital that we involve ourselves in constructive meetings with others in an effort to find ways to resolve those issues. This is another Maidie Challenge!

APOLOGIES & GUESTS

Please contact Nola before bedtime on Tuesday. Just a reminder that her work number is 9752 1355, and although she has moved, her home number at the moment is still 9752 3309. Nola has also asked that if you get her Dad on the phone, just say hello and ring back later to speak to Nola so he does not have to try and remember our messages. Thank you.

DIVISION MEETING

Margaret Tickle was able to attend the last Division Council Meeting in Perth and reported to the business meeting about this gathering. For some reason, the minutes of the Division Meeting were sent to me by email, and then withdrawn. I am still waiting to find out why, and to receive the updated minutes. Division is still looking for a volunteer to fill the position of Communications Officer. Until this position is filled, it is going to be difficult for Division to progress with their idea of a WA BPW Newspaper, which was discussed at our conference last year.

Another topic which was mentioned at the Division meeting was the success of the clothes library. I had a very interesting discussion with a Perth club member at last night's International Night Dinner in Bunbury, about the suggestion that we get together with Bunbury and other SW clubs to start a clothes library in Bunbury for our local job seekers. I can tell you more about this at our next meeting.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Lesley was absent from our recent Business Meeting, so I was unable to twist her arm for a contribution to this issue of our newsletter, but I must say how impressed we all were with her Serenity Letter last month. Well done, Lesley! We should all stick it on our walls and read it every day. In the rush of modern life, serenity is something that is too often overlooked.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Nola, Margaret C. and Leone have this special night well in hand and some surprises in store for us. Muster up as many guests as you can to join us. I think Bunbury had nearly as many guests as they did members. It was a great night, with lot's of friendly chatter and networking. Let's see if we can do the same. I'll see you there.

That's it folks. Maidie.