



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

# Newsletter



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER – SUSIL NELSON**



*Susil Nelson and Michaela Dion*

This month we had three inspirational speakers at our meeting each reflecting different contributions to the development of women in PNG. Two speakers were from a large PNG business, the second was a young woman speaking of her personal journey as a young woman seeking to contribute to change.

City Pharmacy Ltd (CPL) continues to be a strong BPW supporter but also works in other ways to support women as part of their commitment to corporate social responsibility.

For the past few years CPL has sponsored the Pride of PNG Awards for women who contribute locally to the betterment of PNG society but who are rarely recognised for their work. They are not awards for prominent women leaders but rather for women who perform small local acts of 'heroism' and who deserve to be publicly recognised. Nancy Wagner and Prue Go, from CPL, encouraged all women attending the meeting to think about women in their villages and communities who deserve this recognition. The prizes are generous and the recognition is important.

CPL is one of the largest pharmacy chains in PNG. It is a successful business

demonstrating a willingness to contribute back to PNG and we need this social responsibility commitment from all of our businesses, irrespective of who owns and operates them.

Our second speaker was Jordana Kauva, a young Bougainvillean woman who has returned to her home province, ARB, to contribute as a volunteer to the Bougainville Women's Federation in conjunction with the local Nazareth Centre.

Jordana left her paid job as a financial administrator in ENB to spend some time volunteering in her home province recognising that ARB needs young people to return and share the task of rebuilding, post conflict. The Federation is working actively to build the participation of women in a range of social and economic initiatives. Jordana does not know yet where this work will lead but she is deeply committed to being an active young leader in achieving change for women.

Our three guest speakers were symbolic of the contribution large and small businesses, NGO groups, and individuals can make to leading and promoting positive change for women in PNG.

At BPW we aim to promote these efforts and to highlight the good work being done by women across PNG to shape a better future. I know I speak for all of our members in saying thank you to CPL, to Jordana, to the Bougainville Women's Federation (and other NGOs), and to the many women who work quietly in their communities, for your contributions to this shared goal.

We look forward to hearing the winners of the CPL Pride of PNG awards and hope you will take the time to consider women who should be nominated for these awards.

*Susil Nelson*  
**President**

## BPW JUNE MEETING 2011

### **Pride of PNG Awards**

Nancy Wagner, Community Social Responsibility Executive, and Prue Go, Marketing Manager, from City Pharmacy Ltd, spoke to the meeting on the annual Pride of PNG Awards sponsored by City Pharmacy Ltd for the past few years. City Pharmacy has been a long-term supporter of BPW and sponsors many of our events especially the August recipients' meeting.

The CPL Pride of PNG Awards is an initiative of CPL aimed at recognising local women who are 'heroines' in their everyday life but do not seek fame or recognition. They are the women who work locally to improve the lives of their communities, often as volunteers, in the areas of:

1. **Bravery and courage** – for an act of bravery that helped save a life or assisted someone in danger
2. **Care and compassion** – shown care and compassion by taking the initiative to help to improve the living standards of disadvantaged people in the community they live in
3. **Young PNG** – for a Papua New Guinean, 22 years or younger, who has demonstrated outstanding resolve, mature judgement, and moral character, beyond their years
4. **Education role model** – for outstanding achievement in the field of education either as an educator or a student
5. **Community spirit** – for an individual or group whose volunteer and/or charitable activities have most improved the quality of life of a fellow citizen or group of people in their community
6. **Environment** - for an individual or group whose actions have improved the environment in a positive way.

Nominations close on August 30<sup>th</sup> and the results are announced in September. If you know someone or a group of women who meet any of these criteria, then please contact City Pharmacy Pride of PNG Awards 2011.

Their contact details are:

Phone: 312 0000 or:

Email: [prideofpng@cpl.com.pg](mailto:prideofpng@cpl.com.pg)

Nominators whose nomination wins also receive a prize!

BPW takes this opportunity to publicly thank CPL for your ongoing support and contribution to BPW and to the people of PNG.

### **Bougainville Women's Federation**

Jordana Kauva is a volunteer with the Bougainville Women's Federation in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARB). The Federation is a new women's organisation aimed at promoting projects and progress on the participation of women. The Nazareth Centre in Buka, run by the Catholic nuns, is a major supporter of the Federation and Jordana works closely with them. The Centre provides rehabilitation services to women and children who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. It has 3 safe houses and provides counselling, a VCT clinic, accommodation and meals. Jordana assists as a volunteer in providing her skills in bookkeeping and financial management and supports initiatives in the area of hospitality and tourism.

ARB has recognised the work of the Federation and is willing to assist with funds for their agricultural and other projects. The World Bank has allocated \$US2m to the ARB for projects for women. K28,000 is allocated per project and to be eligible women's groups need to be affiliated with the Bougainville Women's Federation.

Jordana was very pleased to speak at our June meeting and expressed her interest to become a BPW member and to act as a liaison point for women in ARB and BPW. She has taken leave from her employment in ENB to assist the Federation as a young Bougainville woman who wants to contribute to rebuilding ARB after the conflict.

## SCHOLARSHIPS' SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

We are doing well with scholarships to date and will provide a full report in our next newsletter on progress towards our 2011 targets. The Convenor is away this month.

### ***STORIES FROM OUR YOUNG WOMEN***

This is a small sample of inspiring stories from young women studying in Port Moresby who are actively supporting the monthly meetings of BPW as scholarship recipients. A strong theme from each story is the positive impact of the scholarship on the young women and their families. In every case the young women speak of the struggle of their families to meet school fees and to keep the young women in education.

#### ***Tasminnie Isimeli:***

Tasminnie, 19 years old and doing year 12 at Marianville Secondary School, is one of 5 children and the only girl in her family. Her father retired early and is now very sick. Her older brother is married and cannot contribute to her education. Her parents pay for half of her fees and she said *'it means a lot to her that the BPW scholarship takes the pressure off my struggling family'*. Tasminnie wants to go on to do accounting or auditing at DWU after completing year 12.

Mrs Josephine Isimeli, the mother of Tasminnie Isimeli, said that BPW is helping her and other parents to educate their daughters and to assist their daughters to achieve their goals. She said that she had only one daughter in a family of five children and considered her daughter's education as very important. Mrs Isimeli wants her to have a good education and a bright future. She said a girl's education was a good investment for families as girls were more responsible and lived up to their family obligations. She thanks BPW members for their time and efforts in assisting young girls in their education. As a recipient's mother she wants to support the club by attending the monthly meetings and contributing to any fundraising activities the club organises.

#### ***Rachel Otihu:***

Rachel is 20 years old and is studying office administration at Limana Vocational College. Rachel says her mother and father were only Business and Professional Women of Port Moresby July 2011

able to complete their schooling to year 8 and really wanted to educate all of their 5 children. She is the fourth child in her family and she says her family have really struggled to pay the fees. She says *'the scholarships means a lot to me and has relieved my parents who don't have regular employment'*. Rachel will go on to do work experience after 6 months training and is hopeful she will then find a job herself so she can contribute to her family.

#### ***Ila Ila Rova"***

Ila Ila is nearly 21 years old and has been studying at PNG Open College doing Business Management. Ila Ila says she would not have been able to keep going to school without the assistance from the BPW scholarship. The Deputy Principal told Ila Ila about the BPW scholarship program and says her parents *'were thrilled when they heard about it as they had been praying for assistance to keep her at school'*.

### **Testimonials from Don Bosco Centre**

We have also received letters from 14 young women recipients studying at Don Bosco Araimiri Secondary School in Kerema, in Gulf Province. The majority of parents in this province are subsistence farmers in one of the most government neglected provinces in PNG. The Principal, Father Edwin Genovia, forwarded his own letter of thanks to BPW accompanied by the 14 individual letters of thanks.

Here is a sample of their feedback to us:

#### ***Edna:***

*Hope that you will still continue to help the girls whose parents cannot afford to pay their fees. I am requesting if I happen to do my further studies if I can write to BPW for a scholarship if I get an offer as I am in Grade 12.*

#### ***Mary:***

*I am very much thank you for the support you have given to me especially to help shorten the hand of parents. It is always a problem to all of the students whose parents are subsistence farmers. But anyway your kindness and generosity is highly appreciated. With that may the good Lord richly bless you in your daily living.*

#### ***Dorcas:***

*I am very much thankful to your BPW Club for assisting me with school fees this year, 2011. Thank you very much for your understanding and consideration. For your club has been so helpful that you have lightened the burden on my parents shoulders and the burden that is within me.*

**Helen:**

*Thank you very much for your help and support. I'm very pleased when the Principal announced this acceptance. I felt like one of my load is removed because this is one of the factors that is affecting my life staying here.*

**Angeline:**

*I thought that I am going to step down (from my studies) but just because of your great help, I believe that I'll be continuing my education. Thank you for your prompt assistance.*

**Isabel:**

*My word of appreciation to your BPW Club..... for accepting me as one of your scholarship students by helping me with the amount I had requested. Hopefully my studies would best be completed in a way which will bring success in future, because of your generosity.*

For our readers who may not know the PNG provinces well, Gulf Province is in the southern part of PNG and is surrounded by the sea and an extensive and beautiful river system. Kerema is the capital but has no bank, no hotels, and a very poor network of government services. For the past 2-3 years many key government administrators have lived in Port Moresby (an 8-hour drive along frequently impassable roads or a one hour flight), leaving the residents with dysfunctional government services.

The road link to Port Moresby has been under constant construction for 20 years and is frequently impassable during the wet season. For the past few months the capital for the province has struggled with no bank, no cash and no store goods in the small and struggling local trade stores. Hotels and other businesses have collapsed. Food supply has been shockingly low. It is one of the wettest provinces in PNG and home to some of the most venomous reptiles and most beautiful creatures in the world. Movement in recent weeks has been impossible because of bad

weather. Water travel is treacherous at this time of the year.

Gulf Province is also the focus of oil and gas resource development and the LNG pipeline runs directly through the province through Kikori District. Recent initiatives of the PNG Government have led to a renewed focus on restoring Government services to this beautiful province.

This situation makes the feedback from these young women very poignant and we are glad to be able to make a small contribution to these families.

### WOMEN'S ADVISORY CENTRE

The Women's Advisory Centre was launched recently, an initiative of the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Business & Professional Women's Club of POM. It is funded by the British High Commission and the NCD. WAC is situated at the POMCCI and managed by Val Salama (in a volunteer capacity) assisted by Mrs Dia Taru-Bogana who is the Project Services Officer.

The Centre offers many services, one of which is information workshops, and two workshops were conducted in June.

The first half day workshop on micro finance was held on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the POM Chamber of Commerce & Industry conference room. Nine women attended this workshop. The Relationship Manager from the National Development Bank, Mrs Janet Kaule, and her team, did a presentation on the different types of micro credit schemes provided by the bank. The different schemes they provide for are:

- Fisheries
- Tourism & hospitality
- Cooperative societies
- Women in textiles
- Small business, and
- The Community based organisation model.

They answered questions and queries from participants and shared views and ideas in relation to micro finance. It was very informative and women learnt a lot from this session.

The second workshop was held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> on the topic of legal rights of women. The workshop was presented by Ms Mayambo Peipul, Project Manager for the Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre in Transparency International PNG. Seven women attended this workshop.

Ms Peipul did a presentation on our basic rights as human beings and made reference to these rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the PNG Constitution. It was an open session where examples and scenarios were given and the participants were given the opportunity to share their views and experiences with each other. A copy of the preamble to the PNG Constitution was provided to each participant.

Mrs Brenda Avahua attended the workshops as a BPW representative.

The Centre plans to do a series of workshops in the coming months.

The contacts for the Advisory Centre are:

[wac@pomcci.org.pg](mailto:wac@pomcci.org.pg)

Phone: 7207 8888 or 321 3077

### BPW JULY MEETING

**Date:** Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011

**Venue:** POM International School, Boroko East

**Time:** 12 noon with lunch at 1 pm

**Speaker:** Rowina Belapuna, Accountant with Operations at PNG Ports Corporation

**Topic:** Rowina will speak on the Serendipity Endowment Education Fund (SEEF).

She will also give an overview on her work at PNG Ports and her previous experience overseas

What you need to bring:

K1 for raffle tickets

K2 - for general costs eg coffee, tea, juice, cleaning, etc.

Food to share for a light lunch prior to the meeting

The BPW Membership Fee is K50 per year

### AUGUST MEETING OF BPW

Our August meeting is traditionally dedicated to our recipients and our sponsors and the BPW Executive is currently planning this meeting.

We encourage you all to keep that date free **(August 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 at POMIS at the usual time of 12 noon).**

These meetings are always inspirational and we will have a past recipient, who is now a medical doctor, as one of the guest speakers. Families always attend this meeting and seeing the range of young women and their families who benefit is always very moving.

### BPW WEBSITES:

BPW Port Moresby

[BPWportmoresby@gmail.com](mailto:BPWportmoresby@gmail.com)

BPW international

[www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org)

### From your newsletter team:

Brenda Avahua and Elizabeth Morgan

[elizabeth.morgan@paljp.org.pg](mailto:elizabeth.morgan@paljp.org.pg)

or

[elizabeth.morgan@morgandisney.com.au](mailto:elizabeth.morgan@morgandisney.com.au)

Please send in your ideas, questions or topics you would like us to address, answer, cover.