



Business & Professional Women's Club of Port Moresby



Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome all to 2012 and farewell to 2011. It has been a wonderful and successful year (2011) for us all here at BPW. As we review our past and plan ahead, let's remind ourselves of our core purpose of 'women helping women' thus empowering women to be equal partners in our country's development.

We are proud of our achievements in 2011, giving 261 scholarships worth K166, 944 to over 40 institutions, secondary schools and vocational centres throughout the country.

The Women's Advisory Centre conducted a number of workshops which have been attended by many women since started in June last year. Most participants of the workshops were very satisfied and came back for further assistance.

This year two of our members have been awarded scholarships to study in Australia and New Zealand. They are Dianne Biaun who had been our past scholarship recipient and Janet Rangou. Dianne will be studying a Masters in Electronics and Electrical Engineering at Auckland University of Technology, and Janet will be doing Masters related to Education. On behalf of all of our members, I wish them good luck and all the best in their studies overseas.

To continue to see good results for 2012, we must stay focused and clear about our goals. I am grateful to all our good sponsors for their continued support this year and to all the members for your time, effort and contributions towards achieving our core goals of educating young women and girls.

As the year drew to a close I want to reflect on the contribution of the Executive members over the course of the year. We are all volunteers, most of us are in the paid workforce, and each of us has a busy personal

life with our various family and community commitments, whether those be here or in our country of origin or residence. BPW is very lucky to have such committed women who worked very hard during 2011 to ensure we raised funds, implemented our scholarship program, communicated with our members, and ran small and bigger projects.

As President I am very thankful to all of the Executive members and grateful for the women who contribute to keeping BPW alive, relevant and vibrant. My job is made easier by the efforts of all of you.

As we move into 2012 we have a new situation we have never had before and that is free education across PNG up to Year 10. BPW welcomes this policy decision with great confidence that we will see more girls and young women enter our education institutions, many for the first time. This move will require us to rethink how we target our scholarships and we will keep you informed of this as we refine our approach and our targets.

In just under than 5 weeks, on March 8th we will hold our now famous annual International Women's Day Breakfast (IWD) at the Crowne Plaza. If you are a member of one of our corporate supporters or Gold Sponsors, please make sure you get in early and join a table. More information will be forthcoming about this event in our next newsletter.

We will also be doing an insert for the Post Courier again this year and want to profile some of the women who have supported BPW over the years and others who have benefited from BPW scholarship. If you know someone you would like to see profiled please contact Elizabeth or Brenda.

Thank you all and I look forward to working with you all in 2012.

Susil Nelson
President

NOVEMBER MEETING - GUEST SPEAKER

At our last meeting for 2011 held in November 2011 - we were privileged to have Ms May Mathews from the Nationwide Microbank. She made a very educational and informative presentation on the services they provide in addressing banking needs in Papua New Guinea.



Ms May Mathews addresses BPW

In her presentation, she gave a brief history and its current operations as a Microbank. Starting in Wau, Morobe Province as an Asian Development Bank Project, it was known as the Wau Microbank later changing its name to *Nationwide Microbank*, with 14 branches throughout the country.

The bank is funded by ADB and targets the 85% 'unbanked' rural population of which most are women. It offers facilities in bank accounts - (four different types), loan products- (four different types), vehicle finance. It has recently embarked on a new concept of mobile banking, currently running a pilot project in Kimbe, West New Britain Province. If the pilot is successful, the service will be rolled out to other centres in the country.

Ms Mathews went on to answer questions and concluded with a brief background about her career.

She joined the bank in 2010 and is currently the Manager for Human Resources. Previously she worked with various landowner companies in Tabubil, Western Province, mainly in the Accounting and Human Resources area. She started her banking career with ANZ Bank, serving in various roles for 17 years before

leaving the bank as Manager, Sales and Services. Ms Mathews holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Papua New Guinea and a Certificate in Banking. She is married and has five children.

Ms Mathews is yet another example of PNG women moving into leadership and management positions in our diverse industries.

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS GATHERING

BPW Executive members gathered at the home of Val Salama to celebrate the end of 2011 and to enjoy a shared lunch. This was our last meeting for 2011 and allowed us to relax and enjoy each others company prior to all of us going our various ways for Christmas.

Thank you to Val and Brian for opening your home to us.



Christmas lunch at Val Salama's

SCHOLARSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The Scholarship Committee starts its work for 2012 with a unique and significant milestone for PNG: the provision of free education for all children up to year 10 and subsidised education for years 11 and 12. However many of the young women we support are in tertiary education or undertaking vocational training so we expect to keep this very strong focus in our recipients.

We will also set some new targets for 2012 and keep you informed of any policy changes.

NEW IRELAND PROVINCIAL PROFILE

New Ireland Province is one of the five provinces in the New Guinea Islands region of Papua New Guinea. It is made up of the main island of New Ireland with St. Mathias and East Islands to the north and Tabar, Lihir, Tanga and Feni Island groups to the east. The provincial capital is Kavieng and it has two districts, Kavieng and Namatanai. It shares its border with Manus Province to the east and East New Britain Province to the south-west.

Provincial representation in the National Parliament is made up of the Governor and the two District Open Members. The current Governor is Sir Julius Chan who was a former Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. The other two members are Mr. Martin Aini for Kavieng and Mr. Byron Chan for Namatanai.

The province covers a land area of 9557km² and has a population of 118, 500 people.

Most of the people live in small island communities and depend on their land for fishing and farming to sustain themselves. However, opportunities for earning income are available through cash crops such as copra, cocoa and oil palm with wage-earning jobs in Kavieng and the two gold mines operating in the Province, which are Lihir and Simberi Gold Mines.

A major road network known as the Buluminski Highway runs through the entire island of New Ireland from the north to the south coast. AusAID has supported the maintenance of this road as priority road for PNG. This road has a reputation as one of the best maintained roads in PNG.

Most people depend on sea transport with some people using the commercial flights and charters in and out of Kavieng and the project sites.

New Ireland is a thriving tourist destination and boasts some of the country's best dive spots and lovely beaches for holidaying. These include Nusa Island, Lissenung Island (close to the New Hanover Islands), small resorts along the Buluminski Highway and around Namatanai. It is a very safe province to travel in and is playing a major role in

raising the profile of PNG as a beautiful holiday destination.

The Province is considered to be a major contributor to the economy because of the two gold mines operating simultaneously and other mineral explorations currently taking place in the Province.

However, like any other province in Papua New Guinea it faces difficulties in service provision in education, health, infrastructure maintenance, transport, banking services, and business opportunities. This province has worked hard to improve services for the people of New Ireland over the past few years.

New Ireland was one of the first provinces to offer heavily subsidised education for children and this has been very important for girls and young women.

If you are reading this and have never visited New Ireland Province, here is your chance to change that and visit one of the beautiful New Guinea Islands.



The beautiful orchids of New Ireland



The islands of New Ireland



Simberi Mine in New Ireland



Simberi village in New Ireland

Did you know that in 1912:

- Peter ToRot, PNGs first saint, was born in Rakunai village near Rabaul
- Clara Barton, the nurse during the Civil War who founded American Red Cross, died
- The Republic of China was established
- The African National Congress was founded
- The RMS Titanic strikes an iceberg in the Northern Atlantic and sinks within 24 hours
- Harriet Quimby becomes the first woman to fly across the English Channel (she was also the first woman to gain a pilot’s license in the United States and was one of the first female screenwriters)
- The Olympic Games were held in Stockholm, Sweden.

FEBRUARY MEETING OF BPW

This will be our first meeting for 2012 so please come along and support the Club.

Date: Saturday, February 4th 2011

Venue: POM International School, Boroko East

Time: 12 noon for lunch with the meeting starting at 1 pm

Event: Regular monthly meeting

Speaker: Scholarships PNG team
Dianne Biuan

Please bring a plate of finger food to share a light lunch, K2 for a donation and a few toea/kina for the raffle. A raffle prize is always welcome.

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

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....