



Business & Professional Women's Club of Port Moresby

Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Susil Nelson, President; Michaela Dion, Vice President; Australian High Commissioner, Ian Kemish with his wife, Roxanne Martens, also a BPW member

The 2011 recipients' meeting has now been and gone and was attended by over 120 people. Each year the attendance at this event increases and we appreciate the effort made by families to come along and support their daughters.

As our scholarships committee reported at the meeting, the requests for support increase each year and we may be unable to meet all of the requests this year. After the meeting we had a few small donations and we thank the people responsible for those contributions.

Once again I also thank our sponsors, especially City Pharmacy Ltd, who provided toiletries and other goods for us to give as gifts to all of the young women who attended the meeting.

Our guest speaker was a wonderful example of the power of education to transform lives. Dr Heagi Lovai talked to us about the hurdles and challenges she had to overcome to reach her goal of being a medical doctor, along with 5 other young women who were all on scholarships. A more detailed account of her address is included below in the August monthly meeting report.

This year we want to seek some funding to conduct a small evaluation of the outcomes for a sample of young women who have been supported through our scholarships program. We know how

important education is to women. We want to be able to demonstrate this through the stories of the young women who have used their education in many different ways to improve their lives and that of their families.

We were very honoured to have so many young women and their families attend and to hear some of them speak about their experiences. We were also pleased to have the Australian High Commissioner, Mr Ian Kemish, and his wife, Roxanne Martens (a BPW member) attend, along with Mr Brian Riches from PNG Ports Corporation.

As we reflected on the comments made by our young women I felt very proud of the work BPW is doing to change lives. We are concerned that we may not be able to respond to all of the requests we have had this year. The more successful we are, the more our services are requested.

The Executive Committee is looking at new ways of increasing our income.

However the only way we can achieve an increase in the time which is left for 2011 is by fund raising. In November we will be hosting a sing-a-long Gala Night to the Rock of All Ages. I encourage you all to attend, to bring your families, friends, and colleagues to the event and assist us to raise funds for the rest of 2011. It promises to be a fun night.

If you are reading this and are part of the corporate sector can I encourage you to consider a donation to BPW.

Our September monthly meeting will feature a young woman who now works with Exxon Mobil on the PNG LNG project. Please come along and hear Sisa Kini, the Social Impact Coordinator with Exxon Mobil, who will share her inspiring story and tell us what she can about her work.

**Susil Nelson
President**

BPW AUGUST MEETING



Guest Speaker, Dr Heagi Lovai, (second on left) and her first born daughter, Tahura, with BPW members after the meeting.

Dr Heagi Lovai was one of 6 young women on BPW scholarships at UNPNG studying medicine a decade ago. She noted with great interest that when she was a recipient, BPW was supporting 30 young women, today there are over 200. Dr Lovai is currently a GP at Port Moresby Private Specialist Medical Centre in Port Moresby. Two of the young women who graduated with her now work with the LNG project as doctors.

She described being very aware that BPW had entrusted her to make the most of her scholarship and she was determined to succeed, an attitude she said was shared by all 6 young women.

She described the male dominated profession she had ventured into as a tough place for young women including the attitudes they have to deal with such as suspicion from the public of female doctors. She had 2 children whilst she was studying and is now aiming to complete her Masters in Public Health.

Dr Lovai outlined 7 factors which she said kept her going through her studies:

- Her trust in God and prayers
- Trusting the support and admin people around her and learning from them – the cleaners, clerks, nurses who all know a lot about the system and her places of work
- Learning from others
- The courage to stand up for what she believed in
- Her family and BPW
- Remembering where she came from and where she was going
- Trying to help where she was needed.

She has worked as a rural doctor and greatly enjoyed the learning from this experience which also led to her new goal of working in public health.

She urged the current band of young women on scholarships to work hard and to honour the trust placed in them by BPW by completing their studies and going on to be leaders in whatever field they chose.

The Australian High Commissioner, Mr Ian Kemish, followed Dr Lovai and noted what a great experience it was to be at an event that was celebrating real achievements and results; the education of young women.

The High Commissioner asked the audience to be aware that Australia is still on the journey of addressing issues for women and must not be too critical of PNG as it goes on the same journey. He noted that PNG has more graduates coming out of universities now and that Australia is supporting women through its scholarship program with 50% of scholarships going to women. He also noted that alleviating school fees would be a major breakthrough for PNG and contribute enormously to girls being supported into school.

Mr Brian Riches, CEO of PNG Ports Corporation, then spoke to the group about his organisation's commitment to encourage women into employment. He talked briefly about what corporate employers can do to encourage women into employment including setting employment targets, having supportive workplace policies, addressing violence, and creating opportunities for women to take up senior positions.

Two women then spoke to the meeting of their experiences as scholarship recipients.

Mary Yama described her joy at getting a BPW scholarship to study at Hohola Community College after being married at 16, being one of 3 wives, and finally walking away from a violent marriage and being a student again 41 years old.

Jennifer Peter told her story of being handed a tiny piece of paper with BPW's contact by her mentor which led her to study for a diploma and now to complete her degree with the support of BPW. She moved people at the meeting by her honest account of the struggles she has faced over the past decade and her determination to succeed. Jennifer now works with Deloitte as a Financial Analyst after several financial management positions including with the law and justice sector. Jennifer finished with a lovely statement *"I tell everyone about BPW – 3 more women have been supported by BPW (as a result of her encouraging them to apply)"*

See our photos below for a glimpse of the event.

SCHOLARSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2011



Yogi Baramataz delivers the Scholarship Report.

The Scholarship Sub-Committee provided a detailed report of the applications for 2011 with 200 young women supported to July 31st in 36 institutions across PNG.

The Committee has been working constantly on improving the application process for our scholarships. In this edition we are publishing the purpose, criteria and conditions used to decide successful applications.

The **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** of the Scholarship – **Who can apply?**

- Female students who are **already enrolled at Vocational Centres, Secondary Schools or Tertiary Institutions in Papua New Guinea.**
- Females who are intending to attend **short courses at reputable education institutions in Papua New Guinea.**

The **PROCEDURE** to apply for the BPW Scholarship:

STUDENTS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

- The Secondary School Headmaster or the Tertiary Institution Principal or the Head of Student Welfare or the Guidance and Counsellor teacher will identify and recommend the student(s) who meet the criteria of the BPW Scholarship selection.
- Each selected student has to fill in the BPW Scholarship Application Form and provide all of the information supported by the essential required documents.
- The Secondary School/the Tertiary Institution submit their students' completed application forms to the BPW Scholarship Committee.

APPLICANTS INTENDING TO ATTEND A SHORT COURSE

The Applicant submits the completed Scholarship Application form **accompanied by all of the essential documents** to the BPW Scholarship Committee.

The **CONDITIONS** of the BPW Scholarship

- The scholarship recipient maintains at least an average of **C** or a GPA of **2.0** during the course of her study.
- The scholarship recipient must not display any behaviour or be involved in any activity against her School/Education Institutions' rules.
- The scholarship recipient must regularly inform BPW on her academic progress by submitting her Semester Reports at the end of each Semester.
- The scholarship recipient must be willing to attend BPW monthly meeting if possible and be involved in activities organized by the BPW wherever possible.
- The Scholarship Recipient must be prepared to have her details
 - released to organisations that provide financial support to BPW for scholarships, and
 - used for BPW promotional purposes on the understanding that any promotion will portray the student in a positive way
- In the instance that a scholarship recipient withdraws from her study, she must inform BPW immediately. The education institution where she studies is requested to notify BPW as soon as possible and is responsible for returning the unused portion of the scholarship funds to BPW

NB: The BPW Scholarship Funds are intended to be used solely for educational purposes in the educational institution as identified by the BPW – and not for any other purposes.

The Scholarship Committee sits regularly and takes the business of deciding on applications as one of its most important tasks. We appreciate the support given by the many educational institutions to supporting the application process.

We hope this information helps our members, young women and our partner institutions to understand our process.

In the next edition of the newsletter we will publish the full account of the number of scholarships to date by institution and province.

For further information about the scholarship program please email:

yogi.baramataz@stjosephsinternational.ac.pg

A BRIEF PROFILE OF SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS PROVINCE

Southern Highlands Province is one of the five highlands provinces in Papua New Guinea, and the provincial capital is Mendi. It has a land area of 25,587 km² and a population of 546,265 (2000 Census). The province is made up of mountainous ranges, valleys and limestone plateau, home to some of Papua New Guinea's rare species of flora and fauna. Its popular natural features are Lake Kutubu and the dormant volcano, Mt. Bosavi.

It has 8 districts and each is represented by a member of parliament with the Governor as the head of the province. PNG's new Prime Minister, Mr. Peter O'Neil is from this province and is the member for Ialibu Pangia.

The Highlands Highway runs through the province connecting some parts of the province and the people use it to access vital services such as health and education. However, most parts of the province are very remote and isolated; it takes days to reach the service locations.

People mainly get their income from the sale of coffee, food crops and livestock. Apart from this, pockets of income are derived from the oil and gas operations and is restricted to areas near these resources.

The province has been one of the most difficult provinces in PNG to manage given its high population and isolation from service centres and lack of roads and infrastructure. A new province of Hela is currently being created and the legislative process is currently underway to divide SHP into two separate provinces.

As the host province of the LNG Project the province's future is bright with improved infrastructure, road system, and social services soon to transform the lives of the ordinary people. However this future requires strong and accountable provincial government, strong national government accountability and leadership, and community engagement.



Beautiful Lake Kutubu in Southern Highlands

BPW SEPTEMBER MEETING

- Date:** Saturday, September 3rd 2011
- Venue:** POM International School, Boroko East
- Time:** 12 noon for lunch with the meeting starting at 1 pm
- Event:** **Working with the LNG project in PNG: as a career move, what the LNG is doing in communities, and working with women**
- Speaker:** **Ms Sisa Kini
Social Impact Coordinator
Exxon Mobil**

Sisa is a young Papua New Guinea woman with an inspirational story and unusual career path; she is passionate about her work. Come and learn more about what the LNG project means for PNG.

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.



New airport being constructed at Komo in Southern Highlands



New road under construction in Komo and employment for local people

PHOTOS FROM THE AUGUST MEETING



Jennifer Peter addresses the meeting



Young people sing a song of thanks to BPW



Susil Nelson with young women and member



Full house



Brenda Auhava, Newsletter Editor, and a BPW Executive Sinedou.



Certificates of thanks to our sponsors – Margaret Aila and Michaela Dion officiate

BPW PNG Website
BPW Port Moresby
BPWportmoresby@gmail.com

BPW international website
www.bpw-international.org/



Lunch for 120!

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

PNG is not alone in needing to address issues for women's participation in decision-making and leadership:

- Germany has no women in its top 100 companies
- The Australian Governor General, Quentin Bryce, recently chastised Australian businesses for their poor record of recruiting women onto Boards in Australia
- The United Nations continues to raise issues related to the participation of women in democratically elected governments across the world
- The European Union is promoting equal representation of women on Boards of European companies as a major priority
- The United Nations telecommunications agency partnered with a Philippine's NGO to train a million women to use computers and other Information and Communications Technology (ICT) applications to improve their livelihoods.

Now for some facts about women as nation state leaders:

- Sükhbaataryn Yanjmaa of Mongolia (1953-1954) was the world's first female (acting) president
- There are 20 countries in the world today with female leaders; 12 of these are in non-western countries – 14 of the 20 were democratically elected, five were appointed (by a ruling party or executive), and one was successful in a coup. Only Ireland and Finland have a female leader who was elected over 10 years ago, 17 were elected within the last 5 years
- Only 17 countries in the world have had more than one female leader in modern history (since 1960), 13 of these have had only two women as leaders

Some facts from US Women's History Month 2011:

- The two highest IQs ever recorded, through standardized testing, both belong to women. One of these high IQ women is the columnist and author [Marilyn vos Savant](#).
- The first woman to [rule a country as an elected leader](#) in the modern era was Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka, who was elected as prime minister of the island nation in 1960 and later re-elected in 1970. [The first country to grant women the right to vote](#) in the modern era was New Zealand in 1893. In this same year, Elizabeth Yates also become mayor of Onehunga, the first ever female mayor anywhere in the British empire.

And more facts from Black History Month 2011 (US) on black inventors and innovators:

- Dr Betty Harris, from Louisiana, is a world re-knowned expert on the chemistry of explosives. Through her research, Harris obtained a patent for her invention of a spot test for identifying explosives in a field environment. She received the state's Governor's Trailblazer Award for her achievements.
- From 1964 to 1995, Valerie Thomas worked for NASA where she developed real-time computer data systems, conducted large-scale experiments and managed various operations, projects and facilities. While managing a project for NASA's image processing systems, Thomas' team spearheaded the development of "Landsat," the first satellite to send images from space.

Next newsletter we will feature some facts on the use of quotas and reserved seats for women in different countries.

From your newsletter team:

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or

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

APOLOGY FROM YOUR EDITORS

We apologise for the mistake we made with the distribution of the August newsletter. We inadvertently gave our very reliable Secretary the wrong version for circulation. Some of you who are very observant will have noticed the date was wrong and the scholarship article was incomplete. We have corrected that in this edition and will be more diligent in future. Again - our apologies!