

## ~ International Award to Professor Shirley Randell ~

### Honorary Member BPW Australia

The Zonta International Board has invited Professor Shirley Randell to become an International Honorary Member of Zonta International. Professor Randell accepted Zonta International's invitation and will formally accept the invitation to honorary membership at the 2012 Zonta International Convention in Torino in July.

Professor Randell sent this email to Marilyn Forsythe saying that:

*"Just back from the Torino Zonta International conference where I received the Honorary Zonta International Member award – wonderful to be recognised by your two peak women's organisations.*



*The 2011 award was given to Quentin Bryce, so once again I was in very good company!"*

Professor Shirley Randell was born on 8 March 1940 in Perth. She was educated at Perth Modern School and the Universities of Papua New Guinea, Canberra, New England and London where she took degrees in education and philosophy. After teaching Aboriginal children in isolated schools in Western Australia, Prof. Randell had four children before moving with her family to Papua New Guinea where she lectured at Uniting Church teachers colleges and was Director of the Teaching Methods and Materials Centre at the University of Papua New Guinea. Returning to Australia, Prof. Randell began a 15-year career in the Commonwealth Public Service, including the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Public Service Commission

As a leading expert in Public Sector and Institutional Reform in Developing Countries, Prof. Randell has provided specialist technical assistance to governments in the Asia Pacific Region and in Africa over the last 11 years.

In other countries Prof. Randell has been Program Implementation Specialist with the UNDP Capacity Building for Gender Mainstreaming Project of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of Bangladesh (2004-2005); Human Resource Adviser with the NZAID Human Development Project for the Government of Niue. In 2006-2008 she was Senior Adviser Governance /Gender/Education for the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) East and South Africa Region in Rwanda, and in 2009 has returned to Rwanda to establish and direct the Centre for Gender, Culture and Development Studies at the Kigali Institute of Education.



Our Patron,  
Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

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# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Dear Members,**

## **Women and the Olympics**

I am a sports fan so I have been in seventh heaven with the Olympics on every form of media at present and it is wonderful to be an Australian when you see all the athletes wearing the green and gold. The first week of the Olympics I was home bound with illness so I was able to enjoy all the great women from all countries competing. These games are historic for the first time every country team has a woman and this included three Arab states that had never sent a woman even as part of the support staff. How thrilled those women must have felt to be part of the opening ceremony.



## **Club History**

One of the special aspects of BPW is that we have been part of the women's movement in Australia for 87 years. Some of our clubs have long histories of commitment and contribution to the women's rights in Australia.

BPW Sydney held their 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting and what an achievement that the club has been in Sydney all that time. I was very honoured to be present. The night was exciting for many reasons but having to evacuate from the 39<sup>th</sup> floor of the building because of the fire alarm certainly added to the night

August began as a memorable month for BPW Adelaide as they celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Mayoral Reception and a Gala Dinner on the 1<sup>st</sup> August. It was a celebration for all South Australian members and it was quite a feat so congratulations to all the current and past members of the Club.

## **Woman in Decision Making Roles in Papua New Guinea**

Two local women have been elected to the Parliament and this is a great achievement in a country that has had one white woman (Dame Carol Kidu) in the Parliament for a number of years. Two more women came very close to being elected so the future looks very positive for representation for women at the highest level.

## **Equal Pay Day September 1<sup>st</sup>**

All clubs should be planning their September meeting to focus on Equal Pay for women. The gap this year is 17.4% and it is estimated that at the current minute amount of change it will be **2040** before we reach a zero gap. Gender equity is a human right and everyone in BPW is committed to human rights.

*We are inspired by the founder of BPW when no matter what Lena Madesin Phillips did in her life, if it was music, law school, or trying to change the gender gap between men and women in the business world, she gave everything she had.*

**Warm Regards  
Marilyn Forsythe**

## **BPWA President's Diary    August 2012**

8 <sup>th</sup> August 2012	BPW Strathfield Information Evening
21/29 October 2012	Oceania Meeting American Samoa
24 November 2012	BPW Western Australia State Conference
1-3 December 2012	BPW Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Taiwan
November 2013	BPW Australia National Conference – Ettalong NSW

## **BPWA Bulletin Changes Its Publication Months**

The Board has decided that the BPWA Bulletin will now be published in the following months: February, April, June, August, October and December

**Please send your stories and pictures to the BPWA Bulletin Editor, Margaret Tipper at [tipptruck@bigpond.com](mailto:tipptruck@bigpond.com) by the end of September. Thank you to all members who contributed to the August Bulletin. There is no guarantee given that all stories will be published, or in their entirety, as submitted.**

# **Pornography or Pretty Pictures?**

## **BPW Australia launches a Toolkit on Sexual Violence and Modern Technology**

Business and Professional Women (BPW) Australia announces the launch of its new 'toolkit' for members on *Sexual Violence and Modern Technology*. The kit was launched at the AGM of affiliate club BPW Melbourne North-West, where the working group developing the toolkit was based (*pictured below*).

"If you're under 30 and have a mobile phone, you probably engage from time to time in a little 'sexting,'" says BPW Australia President Marilyn Forsythe. "Exchanging racy text messages and sharing sexy photos with someone you have a relationship with – or would like to – is just something that young people do nowadays. And it would be nigh on impossible to stop."

The problem is that relationships can turn sour and sometimes the offended party decides to use those suggestive photos or words to harm the person they once cared for.



Under current legislation in many states of Australia, and in other countries such as the US, sharing sexy photos by phone or on a social networking site is considered to be equivalent to distribution of pornography and, if the person concerned is a minor, of child pornography.

In Victoria, Australia, there is currently a Parliamentary Enquiry into Sexting, following the recent conviction of a young man who posted photos of his former girlfriend on his Facebook page without her permission. He now faces seven years on the Sex Offenders' Register as a producer and distributor of child pornography.



*Pictured at the Toolkit launch are the Working Group Members, L-R, Denise Clair, Mayase Jere and June Kane.*

There is much debate around this issue and whether, in fact, the emphasis should be placed not on the nature of the photograph but on the intention of the person who abuses it. Women's and children's groups argue that the focus should be on the intention to cause harm, and that the emphasis should be on whether (and when) there is a victim and therefore an act of sexual violence. One of the major problems associated with sexting is that, despite the tech-savvy nature of our society, people still do not see that the very things that make technology so wonderful – speed, relatively low costs, global coverage and inter-connectedness – also make it high-risk.

"That's why BPW Australia believes the best way to approach the challenge of sexual violence and technology is to promote understanding," Forsythe says. "This toolkit will help our members across Australia – and across the globe through BPW International – to understand the risks while acknowledging the good things technology offers."

The toolkit also includes suggestions on what BPW affiliates can do in their clubs and their communities to help minimise the risks. BPWA Director of Policy, Sandra Cook, suggests that the Toolkit be used as the basis of Clubs' November meetings as it fits into the November theme of Violence Against Women/Sexual Exploitation, etc. The Toolkit will be loaded onto the BPWA website shortly.

The toolkit was produced as a result of the National Conference resolution:

**BPW RESOLUTION 4 OF 2010: SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS (AND BOYS/MEN) THROUGH SEX TEXTING ON MOBILE PHONES AND INTERNET INTERACTIVE MEDIUMS.**

## **REMEMBERING OUR PRESIDENTS**

### **Patience Rosemary Thoms, OBE - President 1960 to 1964**



Patience Thoms was born in Sydney on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1915 and passed from us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006.

Patience was Australia President from 1960 to 1964. Patience was one of the most eloquent Presidents to hold office. Her knowledge was extensive, her energy knew no limits; her dedication was an inspiration. As a young enthusiastic BPW member she spent her holidays forming clubs.

In 1968 she was elected as the eighth president of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women at the Eleventh International Congress (1968) in London, England and held that position until 1971. She was the first International President from Australia, and also the first from the Southern Hemisphere.

Patience Thoms was a Journalist and held the post of Women's News Editor of *The Courier Mail* for twenty years from 1956. She insisted on being part of the daily news conferences which had previously been off limits to anyone from "the hen' coop" as the women's section was dubbed.

In an interview in 1995 she recalled: "the changes of the years since 1946 when I first became associated with the Business and Profession Women's organisation are really quite extraordinary. Today's feminists don't think it's changed enough, and it's hasn't. There are many things need to be done."

When Patience retired she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Asian Languages and became Deputy Chancellor of Griffith University in Queensland. The *Patience Thoms Indigenous Australian (Honours/Postgraduate) Scholarships* are designed to assist Indigenous students moving onto Honours and Graduate studies at Griffith University. The scholarship aims to give both material and financial support for Indigenous students who require such support to complete further university studies. A remarkable woman!



### **Freda Miriklis, BPW International President**

***Dear Members,***

It is with mixed emotions I write this. I'm back home from a fantastic trip to Europe and Brazil where many new collaborations between BPW International, other civil society groups and business were formed. Our alliances in [South Eastern Europe](#) have led to a commitment of new clubs in many of the Balkan States. I was honoured to support [BPW Brazil in meetings with large companies](#) and now they are working together to advance the status of women through the WEPs. At Rio+20 we joined with others to [promote the WEPs](#) as a vital part to building a sustainable future [through empowering women in the global economy](#). We truly are empowered women leading business.

Not long after my return I was saddened to hear the passing of [Pauline Gapper](#), Life Member of BPW New Zealand; a special woman who early on in her BPW career, fought for Equal Pay and latterly was a huge supporter and advocate for the women of Nepal. Pauline empowered women.

So let's build on the success of our collaborations, honour the spirit of our past leaders and continue to empower women to lead business, in the community, at all levels and from the top.

We can do it, together!  
***Freda***

## **Snapshots from the Clubs**

*Small comments from the clubs, who without realising it are supporting the grandiose commitments of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Congratulations.*

### **BPW Swan Hill - 'Women in Leadership'**

The keynote speaker at the Club AGM was Red Cliffs Horticulturist, Tania Chapman is Victoria's Rural Woman of the Year. She was saluted from five finalists in the [2012 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation](#) Rural Women's Award and receives a \$10,000 grant to support her leadership development.



When presenting her Award, Mr Walsh, the Victorian Agricultural Minister congratulated each of the five finalists and said the award recognised the contribution women made to primary industries. "This is all about paying tribute to the hard work and dedication of these women to agriculture and rural Victoria," he said. "It is focused on supporting women with strong leadership skills, a positive vision for the future of agriculture and the potential to make a difference." Tania has demonstrated her leadership capacity in her local community and her industry." Ms Chapman was heavily involved in a national crisis campaign launched in the middle of last year by Citrus Australia. Many growers were facing financial collapse as a result of plummeting returns. Despite the best crop of oranges in more than a decade, the high Australian dollar meant citrus exports were much less competitive in international markets, causing returns to drop by as much as 58 per cent.

At the time, Ms Chapman said she would not pick up to 40 per cent of her oranges this year, making it the worst season in 20 years "At this point in time, most navel oranges are costing more to pick than what they're selling for, let alone what they cost to grow," she said. "This season most growers would be lucky if they got a quarter of the selling price of navel oranges, which is just devastating." (Story courtesy of *The Weekly Times*, 2012)

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## **Call for Gender Targets in the Corporate Workplace**

The Director of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA), Helen Conway, called for organisations to set clear numerical targets for appointing women to leadership and management positions, following the release today of a report by KPMG on ASX-listed companies' response to ASX Corporate Governance Council's recommendations relating to gender diversity.

"I applaud the work of the Council in putting in place these gender diversity recommendations. As can be seen from this first KPMG report, they are driving heightened awareness of the need for gender diversity and, most importantly, prompting tangible initiatives to achieve it," said Ms Conway. "Achieving gender diversity in workplaces requires aligning it with business strategy, treating it as a business priority (rather than an HR department initiative) and dealing with it as you would with any other business initiative. This includes setting targets for the appointment of women and putting in place the necessary leadership, focus and accountability to achieve these targets."

"It is encouraging to see the progress outlined in the KPMG report, and that 61% of companies have established a diversity policy. It is worth noting that only 36% of the companies covered have set measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity and, in some cases, these are not expressed as numerical targets. This will be insufficient to drive the necessary improvement in the female talent pipeline." Ms Conway said the business case for gender equality is clear and is broadly accepted. Impending changes to EOWA's underlying legislation will see the Agency focus on gender equality and use the new outcome-based data, which it receives from employers reporting to it, to work collaboratively to drive change.

The Agency's biennial Australian Census of Women in Leadership, to be released this year in November, will provide a good snapshot of how we are progressing towards the goal of gender equality in Australia's corporate leadership.

*Have a look at the EOWA Website at [www.eowa.gov.au](http://www.eowa.gov.au). The following link will take you to the 'Gender Statistics at a Glance', July 2012. [EOWA Gender Statistics, July 2012](#)*

# Calendar

## BPW Club Events

BPW Australia clubs hold regular meetings and events around the country and always welcome new faces. Club Events can be placed onto the BPWA website by sending your event to [tipptruck@bigpond.com](mailto:tipptruck@bigpond.com). If you're travelling on business or holidays consider meeting up with other members and benefiting from new social and networking opportunities. You can contact BPW clubs by visiting BPW's web site at [www.bpw.com.au](http://www.bpw.com.au) and clicking on the map.

You can check the events callendar online at [www.bpw.com.au/current-events/all-events/](http://www.bpw.com.au/current-events/all-events/)

## President's Diary

November 2013

BPW Australia National Conference – Ettalong NSW

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