

# International Women's Day



## BPW members

ANY woman can become a member of BPW. Members are a reflection of the PNG community: PNG women from various provinces throughout the country, employed and unemployed, young and old.

The club was formed in 1982. Dame Carol Kidu was a founding member and Mary Gole, still a member, joined soon after.

Dame Carol, now PNG's only female Member of Parliament, was a teacher at the time she joined. She works tirelessly to improve the

lives of men and women in PNG and BPW members are proud to have her as Patron. Mary Gole, a potter, has since become known internationally for the quality of her work.

BPW's President is Michaela Dion, a teacher at Sacred Heart School in Hohola.

Before becoming President, Michaela took a key role in the BPW scholarship program for some years, working to ensure that schools informed girls of the availability of scholarships for those who needed financial support to complete their education. Vice President is Deborah George who is producing the next Moresby Arts Theatre performance.

Some women have commented that they may not be eligible to join as they are not in business or professional positions; however, BPW takes a very broad interpretation of this.

In fact, any woman who is prepared to support the club in achieving its aims is welcome to join.

Many PNG women have stated that they have gained much from being part of a club that helps them to develop their skills and allows them to make a contribution, even if small, to assist others.

Any woman who would like to join BPW can contact a member or email [bpwportmoresby@gmail.com](mailto:bpwportmoresby@gmail.com) for further information.

## Where are they now?

RECORDS going back to 1993 indicate that since then around 600 girls and women have been awarded BPW scholarships to enable them to continue with their schooling. Occasionally, BPW members hear of what has become of these girls and women. Some are now very successful. There are women working in senior positions in the public service; there are doctors and lawyers, and at least one is a tutor at UPNG.

Sometimes members hear that a scholarship recipient has withdrawn from study. For example, in 2008 one young woman left school when she became pregnant. This alerted BPW members to the need for other support as well as financial assistance. School fees are needed, so is assistance with life skills. As a result of this incident, BPW prepared information kits for young women and introduced a training program.

Such a situation also suggests a need for practical assistance to enable pregnant girls and young mothers to continue with their schooling. In some countries, schools encourage young mothers to return to school – and they are given assistance with child minding as well as classes in child care. It is a double loss when a young pregnant woman discontinues her schooling: a loss to her and a loss to her child.

Clearly, there is also a need for good quality sex education and for policies that enable young women to return to school when the time is right for them.

BPW members would like to hear from past recipients wherever they are now and whatever they are doing.

## A dream come true for Dorothy

DOROTHY Tira is a first year nursing student at St Gerald's Nursing School, Veifa'a in Mekeo, Central Province. At 20 years of age, Dorothy has a dream and that is to become a doctor and treat patients. She loves helping others.

Dorothy has been sponsored by BPW since 2005 when she was the Class Captain Grade 10 at Gerehu Secondary School. Dorothy went onto Port Moresby National High School in 2006 and 2007 to do Grades 11 and 12 and in 2008 and 2009 she attended DODL to upgrade her marks to get into University or Nursing School.

In 2009, Dorothy participated in the BPW Mentoring Programme and Training Workshops. In the latter part of 2009, she spent time doing voluntary "on the job training" with New Image Training. Some of the skills that Dorothy learnt whilst being engaged there are: use of office equipment, Word 2007, typing, answering telephones and attending to queries.

In December 2009, Dorothy applied to St Gerald's Nursing School and was advised in mid-February 2010 that she was accepted as a 1st year student. She commenced her Nursing training on Monday 22 February, 2010.

Dorothy comes from the Southern Highlands

and has two brothers. Her father is the only wage earner and her mother is a home-maker. Her older brother is in his first year studying Business Studies at UPNG and her younger brother is in Grade 12.

There is not much left in her father's finances for Dorothy to continue her education and she was actually asked to discontinue any plans for studies this year.

Fortunately with BPW's assistance once again, Dorothy has been able to continue her education. She is very grateful for the BPW school fee support. She notes the difficult situations that many girls and women are in and is aware that, with BPW's support, many women and girls are able to achieve their dreams and goals.

Dorothy's dream is to be a doctor. She was inspired by Dr Benjamin Carson, a leading Neuro-surgeon. She has read his book, "Gifted Hands That Heal". She loves telling Dr Carson's story and uses it as a benchmark for herself. She believes that the training she will get at St. Gerald's Nursing School will be a stepping stone to entering medical school.

Dorothy has initiative, determination and works very hard. She is passionate about furthering her studies and has a potential to do very well.



Dorothy Tira can see her future as a doctor with the help of BPW



# Happy International Women's Day

# International Women's Day origins



**MICHAELA Dion, President BPW Port Moresby is a teacher at Sacred Heart School, Hohola.**

**C**ONGRATULATIONS! As we join together in celebrating International Women's Day, let us be encouraged, strengthened and reminded of the many achievements of women, past, present and future.

Let us celebrate with pride and joy our social, economic and political achievements.

Today we celebrate the achievements of the Business

and Professional Women's Club of Port Moresby.

BPW - Port Moresby is a local non-government organization under the umbrella of the National Council of Women in PNG; Dame Carol Kidu is the Patron of the Club.

BPW Port Moresby is an associate member of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

The club has grown from strength to strength in its capacity to assist Papua New Guinean women and girls with financial assistance to further their education at different levels.

I joined BPW because of its aims and goals which I believe in and value as very important and vital, which are to:

Promote and to encourage cooperation among Business and Professional Women in PNG and other countries,

Encourage women and girls to further their education at every level, and to

Work for equal opportunities in the economic sphere.

BPW organizes activities such as workshops and panel discussions to promote better awareness and understanding of cur-

rent issues affecting women and society in general such as HIV and AIDS, domestic violence and human rights abuse. BPW also provides training programs, workshops in career development and mentoring for young women.

My sincere thanks and gratitude to my fellow members, both past and present for their commitment and continuous support in ensuring the club is operating well financially. Special thanks also to our corporate donors, companies and individuals for your support.

I am sure our past recipients who have benefited and are now either employed or self employed and current recipients would also express their words of appreciation in their own ways.

May I appeal to the women of Papua New Guinea to join with BPW in empowering other women through networking and in doing so, to make the world a better place to be.

Happy IWD Celebration

Michaela Dion  
President, BPW Port Moresby



**I**nternational Women's Day (IWD) is known to many of us who lived through the civil rights and social movements of the later decades of the twentieth century and is now one of the most significant days for women across the world.

However many of us may not know the long history of IWD and that its origins are located in the work of many strong and intelligent women from the late 1800s in several countries.

In 1908, 15,000 women marched the streets of New York demanding social and economic changes including better pay and conditions and voting rights.

In 1909 the Socialist Party of America declared the first National Women's Day (NWD) on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

It was observed across America. Between 1909 and 1913 NWD was celebrated on the last day of February every year.

In 1910 at the second International Conference on Working Women in Copenhagen, a Danish woman, Clara Zetkin, tabled the idea of an International Women's Day (IWD).

100 women attending the conference voted to support this proposal and so IWD was born. On March 19<sup>th</sup> 1911 IWD was honored by four European countries and over one million women and men attended events in these countries.

A week later 140 Jewish and Italian women died in a tragic industrial fire in New York, known as the Triangle Fire.

This event drew world attention to the working conditions of many

women (and men) and became the subject of a major international campaign on women's rights and safety.

Between 1911 and 1918 women in many countries had to deal with the tragedies of several wars including World War 1, ongoing oppression and disempowerment.

In 1917 Russian women went on strike for four days for 'bread and peace' to protest the death of 2 million Russian men in war.

As a result, in 1917 the Czar of Russia abdicated, a provisional government was installed and women were granted the right to vote.

The date of the strike was February 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Julian calendar in use in Russia at that time; it was March 8<sup>th</sup> in the Gregorian calendar.

Thus March 8<sup>th</sup> was declared as IWD from 1917 onwards and it became a day of global recognition, celebration, and often protest against the ongoing oppression of women.

The United Nations held an annual IWD conference for many years and in 1975 this was designated by the UN as International Women's Year.

IWD is an official holiday in many countries including China, America, Russia, Mongolia, Vietnam and the Ukraine.

The United States of America designates the whole month of March as 'Women's History Month'.

Some years are themed internationally and some years countries might choose their own themes to reflect local issues or priorities.

The international theme for 2010 is 'Equal rights, equal opportunities: Progress for all'.

In the new millennium it is easy in many countries to forget the history of the IWD and to be seduced into believing that women have equal rights and opportunities and there is no need for protest and special recognition.

However women's work continues to be less valued, women's earnings for comparable work remain lower, women still face glass ceilings, women and children are by far the biggest group of victims of violence and abuse, and women benefit least from economic development in developing countries.

They make up only a small proportion of the world's political and business leaders and men are still more likely to be promoted more quickly into senior positions in professions and industries which are traditionally women's work.

In some countries, including Australia, progress on getting women onto boards and governance structures remains a massive challenge.

Despite significant progress over a century the IWD theme for 2010 is as relevant today as it was in 1908.

## Contributions by sponsors change lives

**T**HE BUSINESS and Professional Women's Club of Port Moresby has been supported by a number of sponsors over the years. Some have provided small amounts of regular support for various Club activities and some have provided major sponsorship for an event such as the annual International Women's Day breakfast.

Increasingly the Business and Professional Women's Club is attracting sponsors who want to support the work of the club because they can see that the funds raised can make a real difference.

Sponsorship, however large or small, is channelled directly to where the assistance is most needed and not the organisation of the event itself.

It means more money is available for scholarships!

The Club has been able to raise the level of income during the last 3 years because of the generous support and encouragement of sponsors.

Sponsorship can be items donated as raffle and door prizes, assisting with catering for a fundraising event, or items to be given to scholarship recipients.

In 2008 BPW produced specially printed bags which each scholarship recipient was given at a special ceremony. The bags contained donated items of toiletries along with educational literature regarding important social and health issues in Papua New Guinea.

The bags were sponsored by the Rotary Club and printed at the City Mission. This is an



BPW International logo

example of how the Business and Professional Women's Club is working together with other like minded organisations.

In addition to sponsoring events and activities, the Business and Professional Women's Club is proud to work in partnership with the PNG Sustainable Development Program.

PNGSDP has agreed to a five year period of funding support which has enabled the club to double its scholarship program.

This means the club can plan ahead and make a longer term commitment to scholarship recipients with the confidence that sustained funding can bring.

Thanks are due to all sponsors, members and friends of the Club who recognise the importance of education for young women and girls and acknowledge that relatively small contributions can truly change lives forever.

Thanks are also due to the hard working team who create the networks and links which help to make all this possible. It really is a fine example of teamwork!

For the International Women's Day Breakfast, the Business and Professional Women's Club sincerely thank the following, without whom the breakfast would



BPW Port Moresby Logo

not be such a financial success:

Below is a list of the sponsors for the Business and Professional Women's club of Port Moresby's International Womens Day sponsors:

**Main sponsor**  
AusAID

**Gold Sponsors**  
GRM International  
Coffey International  
Development  
International Education Agency  
PNG Ports Corporation Limited  
Deloitte  
The Port Moresby Kiwi Club

**Other sponsors**  
Post Courier  
Air Niugini  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
City Pharmacy  
Linden Blossom  
Alexander & Lloyd Group,



# 'BPW Breakfast an international event

**T**HE Business and Professional Women's Club of Port Moresby's International Women's Day Breakfast is fast becoming an annual international event. Following the success of the first IWD breakfast in 2009 the club has now determined to repeat the event annually.

In 2009 Christina Kewa, a Papua New Guinean now resident in New Zealand, was the IWD guest speaker. Christina is a journalist and author of a book titled "Being a Woman in Papua New Guinea".

She argued at the 2009 breakfast that bride price, rape and polygamy are the three key issues that need to be addressed in PNG to ensure equality and to break the cycle of violence and abuse imposed on women and girls.

She stated, "These three causes are hostile, physical and psychological acts or threats that target women by reason of sex alone."

In planning for the 2010 event, BPW again selected an international speaker, Ms Judith Fordham, who has an outstanding reputation as a forensic scientist, barrister, writer and public speaker. Ms Fordham is an associate professor

who teaches forensic science. Her book, "Life, Law and Not Enough Shoes" is her story from her early life struggling on welfare with four children to becoming a successful barrister and associate professor.

The international nature of the breakfast is also reflected in the international backgrounds of guests and in the level of interest being shown by other countries.

The BPW IWD breakfast is registered on the International Women's Day website along with others taking place throughout the world in early March: [www.internationalwomensday.com/events.asp](http://www.internationalwomensday.com/events.asp)

BPW is already putting plans in place for the 2011 IWD breakfast. Discussions have already taken place with potential speakers. Guests, particularly those who have not been able to book tables this year, are already asking to be included on the 2011 invitation list.



**CHRISTINA Kewa, guest speaker at the 2009 BPW IWD Breakfast with Mr Bill Costello, then AusAID Minister Counsellor and Judith Bona, past President of BPW Port Moresby**

## BPW empowering women

**T**HE aim of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Port Moresby (BPW) is to empower women by assisting them with education fees.

The club also conducts training workshops for BPW scholarship recipients, offers a mentoring programme and runs seminars to support women in business.

Another venture is the establishment of an information centre for women who need advice on how to start a small business and to get direction to agencies that provide aid for victims of domestic violence, HIV/Aids and other issues.

In 2009, BPW set a target of 100 scholarships. This target was exceeded. BPW assisted 134 girls and women who would not otherwise have completed their education. Subject to successful fund-raising, the club again aims to increase the number of scholarships in 2010.

Fund raising from events, sponsorships and grants, is a time consuming, challenging and also rewarding task that is critical to the future of the BPW scholarship program.

In 2009, PNG Sustainable Development Fund awarded a grant to BPW for the next five years and this provides a sound foundation for scholarships.

The BPW workshops for scholarship recipients are designed for young women who are about to finish their studies.

The training develops basic skills such as how to write a CV, how to present at an

interview, personal presentation and what to expect in the work-place.

BPW also uses its networks to circulate positions vacant, encourages job seekers to circulate their CVs and assists with simple requests for employment such as house staff, etc. The whole point is to get women into jobs.

BPW sees education as a way out of poverty and a solution to domestic problems for both genders – a huge task but an essential one.

Members are aware that many girls in PNG become sexually active at a young age, not necessarily by choice, and yet they have little or no understanding of the reproductive system and the way HIV/Aids is transmitted.

With this in mind, the club has developed a kit containing relevant information and advice and listing organisations where assistance can be obtained.

The kit also contains toiletries and other useful items donated by local businesses.

They were distributed to senior female students in National Capital District in 2009 but BPW would like to extend this project country-wide. This requires increased support from sponsors.

BPW produced a DVD in 2007 featuring women and girls who speak about how BPW has helped them.

It is extremely moving. Dame Carol Kidu, the patron and a founding member of BPW Port Moresby is interviewed on the DVD.



**BPW President Michaela Dion and 2009 scholarship recipients who completed the BPW training program.**

An exciting development recently is that BPW has attracted more Papua New Guinean members including some former scholarship recipients who have received a good education and now hold responsible positions in the public sector, medicine, education and the legal sector.

Scholarship recipients are invited to attend the August BPW meeting each year to inform members on their progress.

This is always a moving occasion with stories of young women who are determined to finish their education against what appear to be insurmountable odds.

Such meetings confirm that BPW is making a difference.

BPW will continue to raise money to increase the number of scholarships awarded, and to develop more services to educate, assist and empower more young women.

BPW members believe the way forward for PNG is through its women.

## Working together to improve the lives of women

**I**T IS recognised around the world that empowering women is integral in ensuring a country's ongoing development. And in order to empower women, we must address some of the underlying issues which inhibit women reaching their full potential.

A serious issue for PNG's women is maternal health. Sadly, more than seven women die giving birth, for every 1,000 children born in PNG.

One of the keys to addressing this is to increase the percentage of deliveries supervised by skilled medical staff.

As head of AusAID in PNG, I am committed to working with the Government of PNG to improve maternal health and this is reflected as an urgent priority under the PNG-Australia Partnership for Development. I want to congratulate the PNG Government for establishing a ministerial taskforce to look at maternal health in PNG. I believe this is a very positive step forward and recognition that women's health is a priority for the PNG Government.

AusAID stands ready to support the recommendations of the Taskforce. These include working towards increased access to supervised delivery and comprehensive obstetric care, as well as promoting universal free primary education for girls – a recognised intervention to address maternal mortality.

Working with our key partners such as the National Department of Health, AusAID continues to provide support in priority areas such as training rural health workers to identify and manage health complications early in pregnancy and to provide family planning services. We are also working to develop health promotion materials and activities to be disseminated in rural areas, including through community theatre, radio, songs and print materials, to increase community awareness about danger signs in pregnancy and to promote the use of skilled birth attendants.

Maintenance of the national radio network for health is a crucial link for obstetric referral and emergency transfer management and this is supported by providing maternal health advisers to selected provinces. We have also recently supported training in maternal and child health for the Diploma of Community Health program, and a review of the Midwifery Program, at the University of PNG. But of course any specific health focus needs to be underpinned by a strong health sector and that is why we continue to support the PNG Government in the development of the country's health system as a whole.

International Women's Day is an opportunity for all of us to take stock of where the world stands on the rights and roles of women in society. And it's also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that we will continue to work together to improve the lives of women.

Stephanie Copus-Campbell  
Minister Counsellor, AusAID

## Legal expert to grace POM

**A**USTRALIAN legal academic and barrister Judith Fordham's work largely involves criminal offences, an area where only a small percentage of lawyers practice. Ms Fordham is also an author whose book is about life at the criminal bar – as it really is.

Ms Fordham is currently working on a survey of jurors in Western Australia that will break new ground. The work looks at questions such as: What do juries really think? How do they reach their conclusions? What jurors will an accused person challenge? Many myths exist about juries, and most lawyers have particular theories. Ms Fordham is trying to sort out myth from reality.

In addition to representing transvestites, bikies, murderers and alleged rapists, Judith raised four children as a single mother. Her book *Life, Law and Not Enough Shoes* is her story, from her early life of struggling on welfare with four children to becoming a highly successful barrister and associate professor. Her bold approach to her life and career is inspiring, and her stories about the world of crime and justice are fascinating.

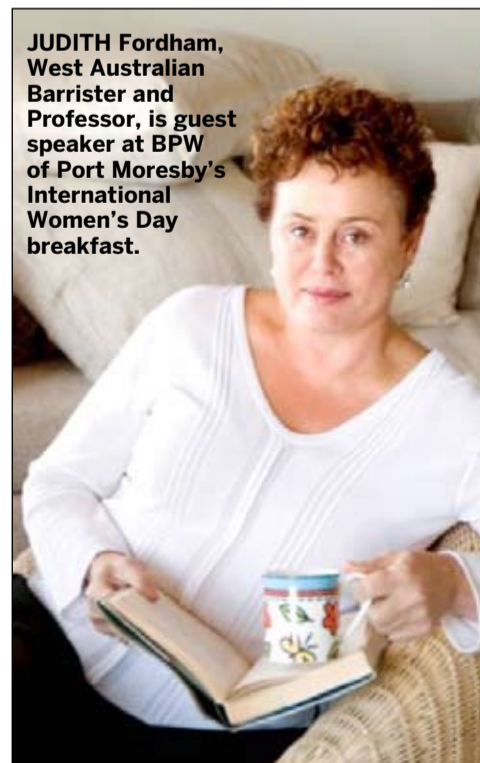
Fordham's personal life and her decision to study law are an important and interesting part of her book. So too are

her anecdotes about the legal profession in WA. She even writes about the Director of Public Prosecution in WA, not only drinking champagne from a shoe belonging to her, but as well publishing the incriminating photographic evidence!

Judith is a workaholic. She started her career in science and later studied law as a single parent. She then founded and ran her own law firm but is now an Associate Professor in Forensic Science at Murdoch University running two postgraduate courses: Forensic Science and Criminal Investigations.

Judith is in the final stages of her research on jurors, juries and expert evidence. At the WA State Attorney General's personal request the research also focuses on juror intimidation. To complete the research she has permission for almost unprecedented access to jurors for post-trial interviews. This is normally illegal in Australia.

Prof Fordham, is vice-president of the Criminal Lawyers Association of WA, president of the WA Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law and a member of the WA Law Society's Council. She argues that lawyers need knowledge about forensic science in several areas. She says lawyers owe it to their clients to up-skill. Judith has an international reputation as



**JUDITH Fordham, West Australian Barrister and Professor, is guest speaker at BPW of Port Moresby's International Women's Day breakfast.**

a presenter having spoken in New Orleans and Connecticut in the United States.

Port Moresby will make a colourful addition to Judith Fordham's CV.



# We can change the future



**DAME Carol Kidu, founding member and Patron of BPW Port Moresby with Margaret Aila, BPW member and trainer.**

DAME Carol Kidu, Minister for Community Development, a founding member of BPW, has been appointed as the Patron of BPW. Dame Carol features in a DVD produced for BPW to promote the Scholarship Program. Dame Carol comments in the DVD, "For many families that are struggling to make ends meet, it is the girls who miss out on an education." This is something that BPW has found to be true for girls and women who apply for scholarships. Some actually have made some

progress with their education; however, when financial hardship confronts the family, the girls are confronted with an end to their education. Other scholarship applicants, sometimes young women with children of their own, realise that they want to improve their situation for the future of their own family by getting better educated and improving their employment prospects. Dame Carol points out that no money is actually given to scholarship applicants. It is paid directly into the school

accounts. She also refers to research that shows that the single most sustainable strategy for achieving poverty alleviation is the education of girls and women.

"Together we can make a difference," says Dame Carol. "We can change the future."

Copies of the BPW DVD are available by placing an order with the Secretary or by emailing [bpwportmoresby@gmail.com](mailto:bpwportmoresby@gmail.com)

BPW plans to produce an updated DVD. Sponsors are needed.

# Coalition for change, PNG

COALITION for Change PNG Inc (CFC PNG) is a community based advocacy group formed following the presentation of a petition calling for the elimination of violence in the family, by Dame Carol Kidu, Minister for Community Development to the National Parliament on 9 October, 2007. The petition was organized by a group of concerned women in response to an horrific act of violence against a pregnant wife by her husband. Public outrage saw 6,500 men and women sign the petition demanding serious government action on the issue of family violence.

CFC PNG was officially launched on 27 November, 2008. Its vision is "To work towards achieving cultural change in Papua New Guinea, where violence especially spousal violence and violence against children is not tolerated and the rights of women and children are respected".

To achieve its vision, CFC PNG recognizes the need to collaborate with key stakeholders and institutions at the political, business and community levels, develop and implement programmes to bring about appropriate policy and legislative reform and develop strategic alliances and coalitions to enhance its own capabilities, effectiveness and sustainability.

In 2009, CFC PNG supported the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, a sectoral committee of the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council to address changes to legislation recommended by the Law Reform Commission's Final Report on Domestic Violence of 1992, changes which would achieve better protection for victims of domestic violence. For information on changes to these legislations please contact our office.

CFC PNG also launched activities under its Community Awareness Programme. It's Community Awareness Programme being focused on advocating, supporting



and facilitating awareness and educational programmes focusing particularly on men and the involvement of men as partners in preventative programmes. Activities it undertook in 2009 were the publication of monthly articles in the New Age Woman supplement of the Post Courier and also monthly awareness programmes through the NBC Radio.

CFC PNG also launched monthly awareness and networking breakfasts and a membership recruitment programme. It released its first newsletter to members in September 2009.

A notable highlight in CFC PNG's first year was the launch of its White Ribbon Campaign in October to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and White Ribbon Day. The campaign's launch raised the profile of the significance of the White Ribbon, which signifies taking a stand against the issue of violence against women. These ribbons were sold by CFC PNG, individuals, companies and organizations leading up to the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women which fell on November 25. The white ribbons are available from CFC.

CFC PNG currently has 68 members. For further information about the organization you may contact its office at: [emcfc@cfcpng.org.pg](mailto:emcfc@cfcpng.org.pg), or 3241807 (Ph) or 3255503 (Fax) [www.cfcpng.org.pg](http://www.cfcpng.org.pg) (website).

## Reaching out to Australian scholarship applicants

THE next round of Australia Award Development Scholarship applications is now open with the application closing date of 31 March 2010. AusAID's managing facility PATTAF has improved access to scholarship information and application processes for all prospective applicants and particularly for women, people living with disabilities, and provincial based prospective applicants, especially those living in remote areas.

Relationships with a number of womens' networks including Business and Professional Women's Club, Women in Politics, National Council of Women, Community Development Office Women's Desk, Soroptimist International, Women in Mining and Women in Agriculture are being used to get the message out there for more women to apply for these scholarships.

PATTAF is also making good use of internet, radio and print media as well as Alumni chapter networks to target church and civil society groups, and is undertaking provincial visits for program marketing. Women are strongly encouraged to consider their eligibility for 2011 and apply.

More details on eligibility can be found on the PATTAF website: [www.pattaf.org.pg](http://www.pattaf.org.pg)

Over 400 PNG women have completed AusAID funded Scholarship awards in Australia over the last 6 years and are using their new-found skills in many walks of life.

For some excellent examples of women who have successfully completed their studies check out the profiles on the PNG-Australia Alumni website <http://www.png-oz-alumni.org.pg>.

Supporting the government of Papua New Guinea priorities, the Australian Scholarships contribute to the long-term development needs of PNG to promote good governance, economic growth and human development.

ADS provide people with the skills and knowledge to drive change and influence the development outcomes of PNG.

Under AusAID's gender/equity policy, awards

are allocated equally between men and women. People with disabilities and their care-givers, and people in the provinces, especially remote locations, are encouraged to apply.

After obtaining tertiary qualifications at participating Australian institutions, graduates are required to return to PNG for a minimum period of two years to contribute to PNG's development.

Expression of Interest Forms for people employed in the private sector, church and civil society organizations are available through the National Training Council (Ph 3212244, Fax 3200639).

Bid Forms for people employed in the public sector are available from the Department of Personal Management and Human Resource Managers.

Expression of Interest Forms and Bid Forms are also available from Provincial Post offices and Department of Labour offices, UPNG Open College Centres, Universities and PATTAF.

PNG citizens employed in the private sector, church and civil society organizations who meet the selection criteria are eligible to apply under the Open Category by submitting an Expression of Interest Form by 31 March to the: Scholarships Liaison Officer, National Training Council (NTC) P.O. Box 1170, Boroko, National Capital District.

PNG citizens employed in the Public Sector are eligible to apply under the Public Category.

They should consult the DPM Circular for instructions and submit a Bid Form by 31 March to: HR Consultancy and Advisory Services, Donor Funded Training, Department of Personnel Management (DPM) P.O. Box 519, Waigani, National Capital District

Remember: Closing date for Expressions of Interest and Bids is 31 March

Applications for Australian Leadership Awards Scholarships (ALA) open on 10 March. For further information on ALA Scholarships refer to the AusAID and PATTAF website:

AusAID: [www.ausaid.gov.au](http://www.ausaid.gov.au)  
PATTAF: [www.pattaf.org.pg](http://www.pattaf.org.pg)

## Women in Business Forums

IN 2009, BPW commenced a monthly forum series to support women in business in PNG. To date, sessions have been held on culture and business, starting your own business, managing finances, and practical budgeting. The forums aim to combine theory and practice and to encourage women to share their experiences for the benefit of others. Key to the success is that every woman who joins the forum can both learn and share her own experience. The informal style of the forums is part of the attraction as women feel more comfortable



**PARTICIPANTS at a BPW Women in Business Forum take time out**

to express their opinions and share their worries. Participants at the most recent forum thanked BPW for providing a space in which to learn skills, to learn from others and to share the challenges of being a professional woman or a woman in business.

The next BPW Women in Business Forum will take place on Saturday 20th March. It will provide a practical 'how to' on registering a business in PNG. It will include company name registration, tax and GST issues to think about. The session will be led by Susil Nelson who will walk participants through government requirements for starting a business.

Future Forums will include marketing, business planning, writing proposals to get finance, and other important aspects of running a business.

Anyone wishing to attend or join the mailing list for the Forums should contact Suzi Chinnery on email at [suzichinnery29@hotmail.com](mailto:suzichinnery29@hotmail.com)