

## **45th Annual Conference, Masterton 1-3 May 2009**

BPW members gathered at the 45th Annual Conference in Masterton at the Cophthorne Hotel and Resort, Solway, Masterton.

There was an amazing mix of women attending and you could feel the buzz amongst so many dynamic women! There were a number of international guests as well - from BPW International Executive and from BPW Australia.

Teresa Gattung was the keynote speaker on "The Power to make a Difference" at the Awards Dinner on Friday evening where she gave a run down on how she transitioned from Telecom to Wool Partners. She extolled the virtues of NZ Wool. She is passionate about wool and has high aims to ensure that the market is turned round. Even Teresa admits that it is a tough job ensuring that what the farmers produce is what the market wants. Teresa was a great speaker to start the conference. Her enthusiasm was quite infectious. The evening finished with the announcement of the winners for the BPWNZ awards.

Janice Davis was the Saturday morning keynote speaker. Janice is an Attitude Specialist, Success Coach and Motivational Speaker. Janice spoke on the theme "The Power Within". This was a good start to the day although we felt that people didn't warm up and react to her quite as she expected. The lively panel discussion on Saturday afternoon included local speakers Liz Koh, Financial Planner and Lindy McIntyre, Kapiti Coast District Councillor and Sgt Taplin from the local police.

Liz Koh established her financial planning company Moneymax in 1999 and writes regularly in the local press as she lives in Kapiti. Liz spoke about gaining 'financial independence' and the impact of the Recession on Women".

Lyndy McIntyre spoke about "Employment and Pay Equity" with particular reference to how the recession has affected this important and current issue. Lyndy pointed out that the pay gap of 12% is likely to worsen over time during the recession. BPW is advocating that pay equity is restored and becomes a reality rather than just a dream.

In addition to the remits (which numbered 5 in total at the end of the day), there was a presentation to Anne Todd-Lambie, ONZM, who was made a Life Member of BPW NZ. Anne is a practising lawyer in Nelson and an individual member. Anne's CV outlining the work she has done at national and international level is impressive - all the more so as Anne is a lone-member - she does not have the benefit of a club to support her in her work. Ann's CV testifies to her life work in services to women. A well deserved honour!

The Saturday night Dinner theme was May Movie Madness where members were invited to dress up as a favourite film character or movie star. The range of costumes was fantastic ranging from 2 versions of Queen Elizabeth (1st and 2nd), Greta Garbo, Charlie Chaplin, Mae West, Minnie Mouse and Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Heart Club Band.

Di Das was Conference MC for the weekend. Di was up there at the front bringing the sessions to order and making sure the housekeeping notices were relayed. Di was a lynch-pin at the front of house - a perfect balance for the back-office functions which were orchestrated by BPW Masterton and Vanessa Simpson from BPW Kapiti. Everything ran very smoothly! Great work by all concerned!

There are a number of other exciting presentations which we hope to bring you in the near future – including:

- BPW Asia Pacific Presentation by Dr. Young Hai Park

- Notes from Dr. Young Hai Park
- The Action Plan for New Zealand Women – Sarah Turner, GM Policy, Ministry of Women's Affairs
- Global Media Monitoring Project NZ Results 2005 – Dr Kate McMillan, Victoria University Wellington

Watch this space!