

BPW NZ Awards 2010

BPW NZ Awards 2009 - awarded at the 46th BPWNZ Annual Conference held 23-25 April 2010 in the Emerald Hotel, Gisborne

Award:

Nepal Lamp Literacy

Alix Haywood Gavel

Harrison-Lee Membership

Jean Park Community Achievement

Brooker Marketing

Daphne Chapman

Anne Todd Bell

Club of the Year

1. THE NEPAL LAMP FOR LITERACY

The Nepal Prayer Lamp is awarded annually to the Club that raises the most money for the literacy programme. Awarded in 2010 to Warkworth. Warkworth's donation to the literacy fund was \$500



2. ALIX HAYWOOD AWARD FOR BEST CLUB NEWSLETTER

This award is presented at Conference to the club which is judged to have displayed the best standard of communication during the previous year, primarily through the club newsletter. Awarded in 2010 to Hibiscus Coast - Hibiscus Coast fulfilled all the criteria and portrayed their club well. It looked like they put some extra thought into the content and had articles for example on their club history or relevant issues.



3. THE HARRISON-LEE CANDLESTICK

The Harrison-Lee Candlestick is awarded annually to the Club that has achieved the highest percentage increase in membership.

Awarded in 2010 to Huntly and District. Huntly and District membership increased by 27%



Recipient:

Warkworth

Hibiscus Coast

Huntly and District

Huntly and District

Franklin

Carolyn Savage - Franklin

Auckland -

Challenges of Migration

Auckland

4. JEAN PARK COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Community Achievement Award Each year many BPW Clubs have a positive input into their local communities by instigating actions and practical support for various organizations. This not only benefits the organizations and the people associated with them but the BPW Club locally and nationally as well. This award is presented annually to the club that contributes the most to their local community during the past year, recognising the efforts that the members put into being an active part of their community. This award will consider both annual projects as well as new initiatives. Awarded in 2010 to Huntly and District Huntly and District have been running



their Arts Fashion show and Exhibition for many years now. The professionalism of the show and the reach it has in the community has grown immensely. It has very good buy-in from the community and a wide audience reach. This year a waiting list for tickets had to be established after the 500 tickets sold out in two days. It takes over 18 months to organise and has 100% involvement from the club. It also receives funding and support from the Waikato District Council. The exposure that BPW receives in the community is huge with not only radio and newspaper but this year also through television. The show has given the club a real focus and a great way for members to develop their skills and a positive venue for recruiting new members.

5. BROOKER MARKETING AWARD

This is a trophy presented at Conference each year to a Club that has been the most effective in marketing BPW through an activity they have completed in the current year. Awarded in 2010 to Franklin Franklin took the opportunity of their 25th Anniversary to show-case their club to the community. They built on the road show idea, producing a profile of all their club presidents which they used in conjunction with the Road show on display for three days at the entrance to the Franklin Library. A



table displaying BPW information was manned by BPW volunteers for the whole three days, before dismantling and erecting at the Franklin Club which was the venue for the 25th Anniversary celebrations. Tickets for the 25th Anniversary celebration were sold to the community at large and not just to BPW members. The profiling of the club outside the library in the Franklin centre provided members a real opportunity to talk with the community about what BPW does and showcase what BPW has achieved in 70 years.

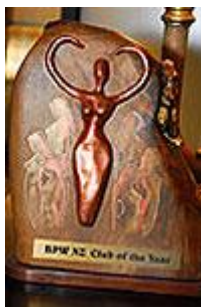
6. DAPHNE CHAPMAN AWARD

The Daphne Chapman Award is awarded annually by the Federation to a member for the promotion of the image of BPW New Zealand. This includes actions which may have been undertaken within the Club, local or national community, which promote the vision of BPW New Zealand. The nominee needs to show how the skills of communication, leadership, training, and originality have been used. Awarded in 2010 to Carolyn Savage Carolyn has been a member of BPW for five years and during that time she has made a huge contribution to the organisation. She has been involved within her club holding positions of responsibility in four of the five years since she has joined starting out as events convener rising through to 1st vice president in 2009. She has activity encouraged her club to participate in the Keys to Achievement programme and lead a very successful White ribbon day campaign in the



Franklin Community. Nationally Carolyn has been Marketing Convener and Co-ordinator BPW NZ 70th Anniversary Road Show. She attended BPW Congress in Mexico in 2008. Carolyn is currently 1st VP for BPW NZ.

7. ANNE TODD BELL AWARD (Issues Award) This Award is presented to the BPW Club that has most actively pursued an issue which improves the status of women. Awarded in 2010 to - Auckland for Challenges of Migration - coping with Cultural Diversity. BPW Auckland has an ongoing project which centres round cooking classes for migrant women. This year they took it to another level and introduced Cultural Sharing. Their aim was to learn as much as possible from the migrant and refugee participants about their cultures in order to have more effective cultural interactions. Each ethnic group within the cooking class group was invited to share their culture after the cooking session and to provide a cultural exhibition displaying items such as their national flag, arts and crafts, traditional clothing, country profile and pictures of their home country. Eva Ritcher BPW International Permanent UN Representative presented BPW Auckland's cooking and friendship project to the UN Committee on Migration, reporting back that they were amazed at how simple yet how profound the conception was and how many ramifications it had for advocacy in the area of migration. Also the UN NGO Committee on Social development believes that this project can be replicated in other countries.



8. CLUB OF THE YEAR This Award is given to the club that has best demonstrated the Aims of BPW over the past year. Awarded in 2010 to Auckland Auckland has such a clear focus of where they are going as a club it was a unanimous decision from those who judged it. Auckland's secret is its clear business plan which is put together each year. It is easy to follow

and to clear to see if objectives have been met. Roles of responsibility are clearly laid out so each member knows who is responsible for what. This can be measured and the boxes ticked when the objectives are met. They complete the plan by backing up what they did with supporting evidence from reports within their clubs minutes and monthly newsletter. Their business plan could become a model for other clubs throughout the country. It is clear and simple to follow and could easily be adapted for any club.



9. SPECIAL AWARD

The Awards evening was completed with a special award. This was a new award - Badge of Honour - awarded for the first time to Colleen Brooker. Colleen was surprised but delighted to receive the Badge of Honour. Full details will appear shortly.



Nepal Literacy Programme update

BPW New Zealand and BPW Nepal

When Pauline Gapper, a past BPW NZ President and a member of Hibiscus Coast Club, met with BPW members in Kathmandu in 1988 she was asked if the New Zealand Federation could help financially with the literacy classes the Nepali clubs wished to set up for illiterate women. At that time Nepal had the lowest literacy rate for women in the world. There were a number of reasons for that:

- Until 1951 no girls were permitted to attend school
- School attendance is not compulsory
- There was a school entrance fee to be paid annually
- Children had to have suitable clothing. Sometimes this meant buying a school uniform
- Stationery had to be paid for
- If a family could afford to send anyone to school the boys had priority because they were the parents' insurance for old age
- Girls were needed for minding younger siblings
- Girls were needed to help with farming activities, to gather grass or leaves for fodder or to watch over stock foraging for food, or to gather wood
- Girls were usually married off early so why waste money educating a girl who is to become some man's chattel?

Our Federation in New Zealand decided clubs would be asked to contribute on a voluntary basis to this project.

All BPW Chapters in Nepal have been running these classes. When the first class opened the response was poor so the women were offered a few rupees 'tea money' for each attendance. There has been no problem filling classes from that time.

The women attending classes have probably been up since 5 am to feed the family and do household chores before starting work. After finishing work at 5 pm they would have fed the family before attending class at 7 pm for a 2 hour session. Classes are held 6 nights a week. Classes have been held for women butchers, those working as labourers on construction sites, factory workers, farmers, domestic workers and housewives.

BPW Nepal wanted to extend classes to areas of the Kathmandu Valley which were not accessible by road. It was impossible to send tutors to these areas so they visited villages, found girls who had completed their secondary school, were keen to teach and had the right personalities. They brought these young women to Kathmandu, gave them a 'pressure cooker' course in teaching, provided them with the necessary teaching aids and also a small wage. The girls returned to their own villages to set up their own classes. BPW monitored the situation to see all was going well.

Originally the girls and women were taught to read and write simple Nepali and also the mathematical skills they would need in everyday life. When the course was completed after 6 months, or longer if necessary, a certificate was presented to each woman. This became her CV if she was applying for a better job.

At the present in addition to literacy and mathematical skills life skills are taught. These include:

- Legal literacy
- Gender and human rights
- Nutrition
- Child care
- Reproductive health (HIV AIDS) and reproductive rights including contraception

Often some home or other work skills are included e.g. home preserving and pickling, better farming practices, for example obtaining better seed and use of fertilisers. Sometimes they are taught a craft that they can sell locally. These improving skills bring in more money to the family. Chapters running the programme have to pay the tutors (unless it is a club member who is working voluntarily), provide teaching aids such as blackboards, chalk and charts, as well as stationery and text books.

At first BPW Nepal wrote their own textbook as the texts suitable for young primary school children were not suitable for adult women but now the Ministry of Education and Culture has issued textbooks suitable for more mature students and requires these to be used. Every woman is supplied with one of these and it becomes her personal property.

Advantages of the Literacy Programme Are:

- Women grow in self esteem
- They can obtain a better job
- They can even break the caste barrier
- A woman discovers it can be worthwhile to educate a girl and if she cannot afford to send her daughters to school she can teach them at home.

Today the government is waiving the school entrance fee for children in the cities for 2 years and in rural areas for 4 years. However that does not guarantee that a girl will be sent to school.

The literacy programme run by BPW Nepal Chapters can have such an effect on the lives of underprivileged women and their families. Education more than anything else can help empower Nepali women.

Pauline can assure us that no money we raise for the scheme is spent on administration. **All is spent on running the literacy classes.**

July 2008

OTHER PROJECTS AND ACITIVITIES

At Federation level

1. Polytechnic Training Centre courses include Secretarial and Office Management, Marketing at 3 levels – professional, short term and intensive, Vegetable growing, Computer training.
2. Project 5-0 BPW Nepal along with Nepal University Women's Association runs training courses for housewives and maids in
 - a. Literacy, numeracy, food processing, preserving, food hygiene, sanitation
 - b. Cutting and sewing and a 6 months dress designing course
 - c. Mushroom cultivation and organic composting.
- 3 Women's Employment Exchange Service Centre for placing educated women and girls.
- 4 Business management for young entrepreneurs.
- 5 Nepal Water Partnership Programme BPW Nepal was invited by the government to join a body they set up to solve the drinking water problem and to provide safe water for all.

At Chapter Level

1. Literacy Classes (as first page) - about 2000 girls and women become literate each year.
2. Micro Credit Loan Programme. All chapters run this programme which is set up in urban and village areas. Women work in groups usually or sometimes as individuals to perfect a commodity and market it. The small loan enables the women to purchase articles needed for their scheme e.g. chickens, cows, goats, seed, craft materials, preserving and mushroom growing requirements.

Every month they meet with BPW and have to pay back a portion of their loan over 2 years. No woman has ever reneged on the payments. Each time they come to repay they have to renew some promises

"I will keep my house neat and tidy"

"I will send my children to school"

"I will not do any harm to another person"

There are more such promises.

Now this extends to design work in Kathmandu which is more upmarket than basic sewing and may extend into fashion.

Patan (pronounced Parton as in Dolly!) Club applied to become their own bank and received Government approval to run their own bank following on from the Micro Credit programme.

Thimi Club outside of Kathmandu is a lively group of mainly of younger women who are mostly in business. There is a very active YBPW group of women under 40.

3. Day Care Centres These were setup and run by BPW in industrial areas. Except for one which is still run by a chapter, the others are now under the control of local boards, but still supervised by BPW chapters.

4. Scholarships to secondary schools for girls who would not have the opportunity to further their education beyond primary level. The girls are orphans or from very poor families.

They are provided with tuition fees, books, stationery and uniform costs.

5. Chapters run a variety of workshops, seminars, talks, demonstrations and rallies.

Federation and chapters celebrate annually International Women's Day, World Water Day, World Consumer Rights Day and World Environmental Day by activities such as those mentioned in 5 above. Conferences, festivals, fairs and competitions are held. Exhibitions are about health and diet relating to Nepali food and of local craft.

Awareness programmes on cross border trafficking of girls, sexually transmitted disease, education on the deficiency of Vitamin A, and parental education programmes are run. There are leadership training programmes for members and non-members.

Kathmandu headquarters have their own building from which they run conferences and courses. They run secretarial courses including computer skills and other secretarial skills and including oral and written English. The girls are trained there along with work experience with importers, embassies and hotels.

They run marketing courses at 3 levels.

Vegetable gardens have been formed for instruction in agriculture

BPW have their own employment agency to place these girls.

Ambica Shrestha, a prominent Nepali business woman, the current president of BPW Nepal, is the moving force behind many of these projects. All 9 chapters in Nepal are involved.

This is all against a background of mountainous terrain, unforgiving monsoons. The hydro dam project built by the Austrians was washed away by the monsoon waters.

There are many orphans. It is currently the third poorest country in the world. The others are in Africa. There is little education, sanitation or transportation. There is outward migration as many perhaps 800,000 or even more work in Korea, in Japan as carers, in the Middle East or even in India. The range of crops grown is limited by ignorance or tradition as well as the climate. There is malnutrition and 28,000 children annually die of diarrhoea. Babies do not cry and protest like here. I wonder why. Is it the different religion or are they too hungry and feeble to bother.

Christine Pelosi and Rhyll Bramley-Miller.

Katikati Club visited Nepal March 2008 with Pauline Gapper, from BPW Hibiscus Coast, and others.