



NEW ZEALAND

Affiliated with the International Federation of Business & Professional Women

BPW
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New Zealand Federation of Business
and Professional Women Incorporated

New Young BPW Leader

We are delighted to announce that **Rachael Clarke of Gisborne BPW** has been appointed Young BPW Convener for BPW NZ.

Rachel has a degree in architecture, graduating from UNITEC at the end of 2005 with Honours. She is currently working with Nicoll Blackburne Architects in Gisborne whilst working towards registration, which she hopes to achieve in the next year, and is relishing the huge range of projects on offer in a small city.

In her third year of study she joined the NZ Territorial Army and spent a large portion of summer 2003-2004 sitting in a bunker in the wilderness of the central plateau learning to do everything from firing machine guns and throwing live grenades through to navigation and field first aid. According to Rachael this would have to be one of the most physically gruelling but mentally and emotionally rewarding experiences in her life so far. It was also during this time that she met her partner Dave, a fitter turner from Kaitaia, who had also enlisted. As the saying goes, there's nothing quite like a man in uniform.

At the end of her fourth year of study she won a University Scholarship to travel to Italy and London for five weeks to study architecture. This was her first taste of international travel and she will most definitely be doing more in the near future.

Rachael is the daughter of First Vice President Barbara Clarke and has been a BPW member since mid 2006. "For the first six months I just quietly sat in on the dinner meetings and never really contributed. However, at the start of this year, our Clubs 50th Jubilee year, I made the decision to get involved in the organising committee. We decided to stage three events, of which the third and final was to be the "Women in Business Expo", an opportunity to showcase the role of local women in business and the professions, with the aim of attracting some younger faces to the club. As I was the youngest face in the club at the time, it was decided that myself and Alison Crosswell, an experienced club member, were to take on this event.

Organising the Expo has proved to be a fantastic experience and the knowledge that Alison has passed on to me during the last five months has been invaluable. I believe that my involvement over the course of this project has seen me grow as a person and given me the confidence and the drive to discover my full potential within this organisation"

"I am extremely honoured and excited to be given this opportunity and I already have a number of ideas that I would like to put into action. I have spent a lot of time already scouring the internet to find out what other YBPW's in the world are up to and believe that YBPW New Zealand is in need of some renovations. There is a huge potential for development in a number of areas and I can't wait to get started!"

Rachael's email is Rachael@nbarch.co.nz

Young BPW to Congress Award – criteria and application details in the October Mail Out.