

## e-newsletter

Affiliated to the New Zealand Federation of Business & Professional Women Inc.

September 2017

### From the President.....

Hello

Hope this September newsletter finds you all well, and for those not well we are all thinking of you.

Condolences to Dianne Glenn on the passing of her sister and our thoughts are with you and your family.

What a brilliant evening we celebrated in August for our 33<sup>rd</sup> Birthday and the Meet the Candidates evening, a low turnout of members for dinner but about 60 turned up for the formal part of the meeting. Thanks once again to Virginia for organising and advertising the function and it was a shame that you missed it, but hope your trip was a safe and enjoyable time with family. Toni, thank you for the beautiful Birthday Cake you kindly donated for the evening and with our yellow theme it just made the evening.

The Fund Raising team have been busy again and have organised a Bursary Award Breakfast at Mitre 10, please look in the newsletter for more details for this event.

We are going to miss Andrea and Colleen as valued members with Andrea and her family moving to Hamilton for work commitments, we all wish you and your family all the best for the future.

As Andrea was to move to the Presidents role next year and I will be stepping down as President this is going to leave a big gap in our Executive Committee. Please members, think about taking a role to make a difference to our fantastic club and bring some new fresh ideas and changes with you.



Please mark our BPW NZ Conference in your diaries for April next year that is to be held in Warkworth, an event you should not miss.

Look forward to seeing you all at our next Dinner Meeting.

Regards Glenys, President BPW Franklin

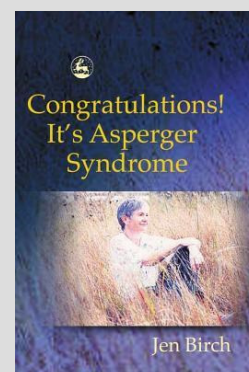
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### Jen Birch

Struggling with anxiety, depression and confusion during her thirties. Jen's inability to read facial expressions, body language, tone of voice, and whether people were joking or not, meant that she often made incorrect judgement calls. In her late thirties, Jen decided to take a Bachelor of Arts paper at the University of Auckland. Jen attended all the lectures in her own subjects (German, Comparative Literature, Linguistics, Anthropology, English), and any others she could fit in. Near the end of her B.A., Jen turned up for a seminar by Dr. Angela Arnold of the Department of Psychology, where Dr. Arnold described a particular developmental disorder which affects one in every 300 persons, world-wide, and listed its characteristics. Shock waves hit Jen as she started shaking. Jen managed to arrange a formal appointment and it became official: Asperger Syndrome, (a form of Autism), diagnosed at the age of 43. A lifetime burden of inadequacy, guilt, confusion and fear was lifted from Jen.

Jen graduated with a B.A. in 1999, and began voluntary work in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorders. For the first time in her life, having Asperger Syndrome was a PLUS, because her "Insider Knowledge" meant that she was now an advisor and consultant on the condition. Jen has given training sessions for parents and teachers, participated in New Zealand's TV One documentary about Autism and Asperger Syndrome, and gave the Keynote Speech for the Auckland Autism Conference and the New Zealand National Conference in 2001-2002. Jen's contributions to Autism Spectrum awareness have been received enthusiastically in New Zealand so far. To provide a written resource for people to refer back to, she then wrote a book: "Congratulations! It's Asperger Syndrome", launching it at the N.Z. National Conference in 2002. It has been re-published in London, and is now available world-wide.



Also on neighbourly.co.nz

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## Apologies

Members if you are unable to attend this month's dinner, please phone an apology through to:

**Marilyn Bennett**

**(09) 236 0636 (leave a message)**

**(027) 479 9121 (text preferred)**

**Email: marilynbenett35@gmail.com**

**Before 8.00pm  
on Sunday 24th August**

**If you have any special dietary needs,  
please notify Marilyn**

- If you are bringing guests, please let Marilyn know.
- An account for dinner will be sent for late apologies.
- Waiving of this charge will be at the discretion of the committee.

## September Birthdays

2nd	Marion Walker
4th	Tara Mostert
9th	Lee Walter
17th	Andrea Kimber
17th	Marilyn Bennett
21st	Annette Senton
25th	Hansa Naran



**givealittle**  
from the Spark Foundation

### Neelam O'Neill Update

A massive thank you to everyone who has donated so far! Things are looking on track, training has picked up and we are slowly getting things sorted before Thailand comes around! Two months left and its going very fast!

Neelam's givealittle page has raised \$750 so far. If anyone would still like to donate please visit the link below.

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/neelamheadstothailand>

### Draft Programme 2017

- Oct 25th: Predator Free NZ
- Nov 22nd: Stan Gammon—Light-hearted Tales from the Metropolitan Police Special Escort Group (Partners welcome)
- Jan 24th Informal Strategic Planning Session
- Feb 28th Bursary Award Presentation & AGM

**27th September 2017**

### Franklin Club

7 East Street, Pukekohe

Mix 'n mingle at 6.15pm,  
start 7.00pm

**COST: \$30.00**

**HOSTESSES:** Tara M, Jane M

**INTRODUCER:** Marilyn B

**THANKER:** Anne T

**ASSIST. TREASURER:** Annette S

**COLLECT READER:** Toni H

If you are unable to undertake your role, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. However, if you need help finding a replacement a committee member will assist you.

## Bursary Breakfast Fundraiser

Friday, 27 October, 7am—8:45am

Mitre 10 Café off Manukau Road

\$20pp for breakfast (Buy own tea & coffee)

Lucky dips & raffles

Guest Speaker: Lynda Hallinan

Local gardening guru and radio speaker.

Lynda is sure to entertain you.

Tickets will be available at September dinner meeting and from Designer Flowers

Members help requested

We need you each to assist with donations towards the \$5 lucky dips. This could be: movie tickets, cake/ biscuits, wine, cheese/ crackers, coffee voucher, hand cream, pot plant, vouchers, scratch & win tickets etc. This is a fund raiser for our Franklin women's bursary award for continuing education. We are looking for members to buy/sell 3 tickets each.



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38 KING STREET, PUKEKOHE, NZ  
PH/FAX: (09) 238 2235  
EMAIL: [designerflowers@xtra.co.nz](mailto:designerflowers@xtra.co.nz)  
[www.designerflowers.co.nz](http://www.designerflowers.co.nz)





## Members Happenings...

Condolences to **Dianne Glenn** who lost her sister (Jenny Majurey) last month. Jenny inspired Dianne with her work advocating for women with disability (as well as for the environment) which Dianne received an Officer of the NZ Order Merit Royal Honour. Our thoughts are with Dianne and her family at this sad time.

Congratulations to **Bree Cameron (nee Corrin)** on her recent marriage and her new sales position at Ray White.

Members Have been busy travelling around the world lately: **Lee Walters** has visited China, **Virginia Warren** is back from the UK, **Trudi Harrison** going to Ireland for her son's graduation, **Gail Littin** has been in Canada, **Janet McFadden** has been to Australia and **Toni Hill** is off to Rarotonga.



**BPW New Zealand**  
**54th Annual Conference**  
 Friday, Saturday & Sunday  
 20-22 April 2017  
 Warkworth



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We show you how to celebrate relationships through discovering your creativity, to preserve & share the moments that matter most.

## BPW Franklin joins the Equal Pay March

On August 12<sup>th</sup> BPW Franklin members Juliet Pratt and Vicky Mee with Individual Member



Melissa Jones joined 300 others to march up Queen St to hear politician from five political parties speak. There were banners to be carried plus plenty of chanting and Melissa was great on the "What do we want? Equal Pay! When do we want it? Yesterday!" Juliet was right on the outside of the march waving her banner and I had a number of red BPW Equal Pay bags to give away ..... and there were plenty of takers!

The rally stopped at Te Hā o Hine Place (ex Khartoum Place) to hear party positions on equal pay and in particular on the contentious Employment (Pay Equity and Equal Pay) Bill. Mental Health support worker Sandra Rawenata also spoke and drove home the plight of those in the mental health sector who are still working at very low rates despite the care giver settlement going through. There is still a lot of work to be done here.

BPW NZ is part of the Pay Equity Coalition in Auckland and Wellington and we joined with many other organisations for the equal pay Week of Action from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> August to raise awareness of the issue and to draw attention to the Bill before Parliament. There were also rallies in Whangarei, Palmerston North, Wellington (BPW was there), Hamilton, Nelson, Christchurch and Dunedin.

It's worth noting that BPW NZ submitted on the draft exposure of the Employment (Pay Equity and Equal Pay) Bill and we are deeply disappointed that no significant changes were made despite close to 100 submissions being made about the shortcomings of the Bill which does not accurately reflect the recommendations of the Joint Working Party on Pay Equity Principles.

The march was a lot of fun and it also received very good media coverage across the country and the Auckland rally was well covered by TV 1 and 3 News. Equal pay needs talking about as we come up to the election.

Vicky Mee, Immediate Past President BPW NZ

**Suffrage**  
**Day**  
**19 Sept**





## In the News...

A huge thank you to Vicky Mee for being MC at last months Meet the Candidates debate. Thanks to Virginia Warren and Vicky for putting together the questions asked and for holding a great event. Check out the article that featured in The Post about the event.



## Meetings imperative to making an informed decision

Emma Sharplin  
emma@thepost.nz

**OPINION;** Last week saw several opportunities for the community to meet their candidates who are standing for the Hunua electorate, yet few people turned up.

Considering that Franklin has over 50,000 people living in the district, only 60-odd residents attended the first meeting of several organised at the Franklin Club last Wednesday evening, which was hosted by Business and Professional Women (BPW) Franklin. I noted and was disheartened to see that as a 26 year old, I was the youngest in the room by many years.

The second meeting was organised by the Rotary Club of Waiuku, which drew an even smaller crowd of around 30. It was said that only ten of those were actual residents from Waiuku.

While it is our role to report, inform and educate our readers to help enable them make a balanced decision, meeting your candidates face-to-face and being able to ask them those hard hitting questions is more valuable than words in the media.

The five candidates who are standing for the Hunua electorate are totally diverse to each other, with four parties represented and an independent in the line up for the role.

Soon-to-be Pokeno resident, Baljit Kaur is currently standing for Labour, Jon Reeves is New Zealand First's representative. Software developer, Anthony Smith is standing for Act, while Andrew Bayly, Hunua's MP since 2014, is representing National. Ian Cummings, a local businessman, isn't letting the fact that the last time an independent stood in parliament was in 1943, get in his way, and believes that 'now is the time for change.'



All candidates were given the opportunity to briefly introduce themselves, and promote the reasons why the community should choose them for their party vote, as well as to select them as their member of parliament. Apart from Ian, who, as an independent, wants to represent the community in parliament.

A list of questions was compiled by the team at BPW Franklin, and were given to the five candidates before the meeting was held, enabling them enough time to research good responses. The questions touched on topics that BPW Franklin believed concerned the local area, including how will their party improve the transport infrastructure in Franklin, their thoughts on the Equal Pay bill, and what would their party do about the housing crisis in Auckland.

All candidates reiterated the same answers that can be found when researching their party policies, apart from the occa-

sional personal reference made from when they shared their own experiences on the topic.

The real juicy questions that give you a better opinion of your candidates are the ones asked at the end of the organised meeting session. The ones raised at this meeting included discussions around our mental health services, opinions on the assisted euthanasia bill, what is being done about mercury still being used in dental fillings, and what are their personal morals and values.

These meetings serve as a great opportunity to meet face-to-face with the potential candidates, and allows you to help make a conscious and well informed decision on who you would like to represent our area and deal with our issues going forward into the future.

I would encourage our readers to make the time and effort to attend at least one of these sessions. You will not be disappointed. See our calendar, page 8, for the next meeting.

**Sponsors of the Bursary wanted** — As the more well established members of BPW Franklin Inc. know the club makes an award of around \$3000 in an Education Bursary to a woman with connections to the Franklin area, who is furthering her education, either as a mature second chance opportunity or as a young woman entering tertiary education. The costs for tertiary education continually soar and when BPW Franklin first awarded this in 1989 it was considered to be a generous award. With the rise in costs the students are experiencing, this is no longer as generous as we would like it to be. As a result BPW Franklin Inc is looking for businesses willing to contribute to the advancement of women in our community. Members may like to approach their own work places or can let Glenys, Lee or Virginia know of any businesses they think are possible sponsors.



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89 King Street, PO Box 313 Pukekohe, 2340  
Auckland South, New Zealand  
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