

Women's Professional Development Network

1998 Activities

1998 has been another busy and exciting year for the Women's Professional Development Network (WPDN). WPDN activities began this year with our Picnic on the Torrens in February.

The WPDN Steering Group successfully presented a varied and interesting program of lunchtime networking forums (LNFs) which are highlighted below.

In **March Ian Creagh** the new Director of Student and Staff Services at The University of Adelaide spoke to us about his vision for the future.

Linda Kirk, a Lecturer in the Faculty of Law spoke to us in **April** about her experiences as a delegate at the Constitutional Convention. Linda gave an informative presentation to a very interested audience.

In **May, Sandy Policansky** told us all about the Employee Assistance Program. Sandy is a counsellor with the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services and also one of the counsellors who works on the Employee Assistance Program.

Professor **Chilla Bullbeck** kept us enthralled in June. Chilla was appointed as the Chair of Women's Studies in 1998 and is the Head of the Department of Social Inquiry. She gave us a very entertaining talk about some of the difficulties for women in senior positions, and the ways in which women are valued in our society.

In **July Carol Parry**, who has been employed by the University of Adelaide in the Security section since 1991 gave an interesting talk about personal security, campus security, the security office, escorts and what the security officers can offer staff at the University.

Caryl Cresswell, Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering was our guest speaker in **August**. Her topic was 'An Engineers' Reflections on Education' and she told us of her view and reflections on education over the past twenty years or so and looked at the issues facing educators today and in the future.

Mirella Canziani, Manager, Human Resources, for the Aunger Group of Companies and previously Manager, Employee Relations in the University, has had extensive experience in the private sector and spoke to us informally about transferring skills between the University environment and private industry.

In **October Carmel O'Loughlin** from the Office of the Status of Women spoke on leadership and women. Her key messages were to identify our vision (what lights us up, what turns us on), challenge our thinking, invest in our strengths and have courage to take on the new. It was a stimulating and affirming session.

In **November** we extended an invitation to the Academic Women's Forum to join the WPDN and listen to **Dr Jane Lomax-Smith**, Lord-Mayor of the City of Adelaide.

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Two other initiatives that we can be proud of this year are the state women's conference and the funding and subsequent planning and implementation of another mentoring program for women general staff.

In **June** the WPDN and ATEM jointly presented a **state women's conference** at the Waite Campus entitled '**Succeeding in Spite of Chaos**'. The theme of the conference was how women can achieve their goals in spite of changing professional and personal circumstances. Around 40 participants from all three South Australian universities attended this very successful day.

The **mentoring program**, thanks to funding and support from senior management of the University, kicked off with workshops for mentorees and mentors on **13 November**. 30 women mentorees have been matched with men and women mentors from within the University. It is the mentor's role to provide support or advice when needed in areas identified by the mentoree. This might include making decisions around work, life or career, or developing options or strategies for overcoming particular situations or problems.

The close of our WPDN year was on **1 December** and included a visit to the Waite Campus for a tour of the grounds, Xmas drinks, and some networking.

Kathie Hurst

Liz Pryzibilla

Lee Jones