

Women's Professional Development Network

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2000

The **Women's Professional Development Network (WPDN)** continued strongly during 2000. The Steering Group concentrated its efforts on several key initiatives.

The program of **Lunchtime Networking Forums (LNFs)** and workshops continued to attract an interested audience:

- **Helen Katruk**, a consultant with Australian Business Enterprise Development, talked about how to put some fun back into the workplace.
- **Julie Pollard**, Membership and Information Services Manager, South Australian Branch Australian Institute of Management (AIM), spoke about what AIM is, what it does to support professional development (for women in particular), and about the networking opportunities afforded by the Women in Management functions.
- **Helen Alm** from Professional and Continuing Education discussed practical ways for women to raise their professional profile both within and external to the University.
- **Margaret Terrell**, Conferences on Campus, spoke about how to host the perfect event without a murder.
- **Claire Bossley**, Director, Human Resources, SA Water, spoke about the importance of women's networks for encouraging women's professional development and some ideas for being more comfortable with gaining power in the workplace.
- **Liz Pryzibilla**, Professional and Continuing Education, facilitated a forum on the experiences of women general staff who have worked at the University for 20 years or more. Speakers included **Shirley Pearce, Sue Turner, Di Coffey** and **Barbara McCullagh**.
- **Christine Locher** from Select Staff presented a workshop on "How Recruitment Agencies Work".

In a major achievement for the year, the Steering Group secured **funding** of \$3000 per year for the next three years to support the Network's initiatives, including lunchtime networking forums, and mentoring programs.

The third **WPDN Mentoring Program** began in December with 24 mentorees participating. The program will run for 6 months.

The **website, electronic listserver** and **regular advertisements in the Adelaidean**, were the main source of information on WPDN initiatives. A **brochure, poster, and bookmark** were also developed and distributed to women general staff.

As part of a new **Health and Well-Being Program**, the WPDN negotiated a discounted membership package for Adelaide University women staff (general and academic) with the Fernwood Fitness Centre in Rundle Mall.

Anama Morriss from Human Resources facilitated a **Focus Group** in November to gain feedback from members about the WPDN, and identify priorities and issues for 2001.

Several **Breakfasts** were held throughout the year, and provided an opportunity to catch up with colleagues or meet new friends. **Christmas breakfast** at the Stamford Plaza was a popular event and provided a final chance to catch up before the New Year.

The Steering Group will hold a planning weekend in January 2001, in order to review its activities in 2000 and plan for the coming year.

Catherine Edis
Information Technology Services
ext 36151

Danielle Hopkins
Information Technology Services
ext 33937