



Women's Professional Development Network Achievements during 2005

The Women's Professional Development Network (WPDN) was very pleased to celebrate 10 years of achievements in 2005. The 10th Anniversary was marked by a gathering of special guests including guest speaker Professor Fay Gay, Patron to the Women's Professional Development Network.

Each year, the WPDN has grown and developed in its contribution to the development and networking of women general staff. 2005 was no exception. Along with the WPDN's signature LNFs, a new series of 'Come 'n Try Events' was introduced in 2005. These events – Pilates, meditation and belly-dancing – were well attended and proved an ideal opportunity for staff to try something new. Although we held four rather than six LNFs in 2005, this year's topics were particularly appreciated and we would like to thank our speakers for the excellence of their presentations.

Another ½ day staff development workshop was held for women general staff. This year's theme – 'Manage Yourself, Manage Up' – proved to be another winner with 30 staff attending and 15 on the waiting list. As with the Mentoring Program, the success of these events demonstrates the demand for staff development for women general staff.

Our lunchtime networking forums covered a variety of topics:

- **Stress: Control It, Change It or Let It Go**
Sue Barnard, a registered psychologist with over twenty years experience in counselling, training and lecturing, spoke about balancing work and how to avoid negative stress. Sue Barnard was back by popular demand and once again enthralled listeners as she did last year.
- **Understanding Enterprise Bargaining**
Susan MacIntosh, Executive Director, Student and Staff Services spoke on issues related to Enterprise Bargaining with particular emphasis on the process involved in the recent round of enterprise negotiations. Ms MacIntosh's presentation was most informative and extremely interesting. Listeners were very appreciative of the insights into how Enterprise Agreements are formed.
- **Centre for Learning and Professional Development (CLPD)**
Geoff Crisp, Director, CLPD and James Burgess, Manager CLPD spoke on the new organisational role for the CLPD. The talk was very informative, detailing the services offered by the CLPD and the ways in which the CLPD can help both areas and individual staff.
- **Its up to you**
Professor Deborah Turnbull inspired listeners with an open and personal account of her career story. Prof Turnbull noted the importance of mentoring and also included strategies for coping with setbacks. The audience were unanimous in their praise of Prof Turnbull's presentation which was insightful, motivational and informative. It was also attended by members of the Academic Women's Forum.

A joint ATEM / WPDN event also took place this year on 19 September at the University of Adelaide Staff Club. Professor Anne Edwards, Vice-Chancellor, Flinders University and Dr Barbara Pocock, Visiting Research Fellow, University of Adelaide, spoke to the topic: 'Women in Management – Can we have it all?'. The presentation was facilitated most successfully by Julia Della-Flora.

The seventh WPDN mentoring program attracted 20 mentorees. The program ran from April through to October, and the mentorees again reported that they found it a very valuable experience. The eighth mentoring program will commence in April 2006, and preparation is already underway.

We are very pleased to have Silvia Schwarz as the WPDN representative on the HEWRRS working party.

Under the Steering Group's Health and Well-Being Program, the agreement with the Fernwood Fitness Centre in Rundle Mall has been re-negotiated for discounted membership packages. All women staff (both general and academic) at the University can take advantage of the offer.

WPDN members have also had the opportunity to meet and network with staff from other areas of the University at the social breakfasts and the WPDN Christmas Social which this year was held at The Chapel Café. This proved to be a delightful venue with much chatter and laughter. This event raised \$50 and 15 book donations for the Smith Family Appeal.

The Steering Group will hold a planning day in January 2006, in order to review its activities in 2005 and plan for the coming year.

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