

# *Women's Professional Development Network*

## *UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES DURING 1997*

The **Women's Professional Development Network (WPDN)** was established in mid 1995. The Network comprises all women general staff at the University of Adelaide and focuses on issues affecting the professional and personal development of its members.

1997 has been a busy and exciting year for the WPDN. The WPDN Steering Group successfully presented a varied and interesting program of lunchtime networking forums (LNF's) and workshops which are highlighted below.

The Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Mary O'Kane**, was the guest speaker for our March LNF. Professor O'Kane spoke to a large group of women about the Pennington Report. She acknowledged the effectiveness of the WPDN with a grant to be used to attract high quality speakers.

A strong interest in **Careers** was expressed by women through the questionnaire which we circulated late in 1996. So, for our April LNF, we invited a panel of Personnel Consultants. This generated much interest and discussion which resulted in a follow up in November where discussion centred on the University's ongoing **review of recruitment practices**.

Sue Graebner briefed us on the **role of the Secretariat** in May and in June, Aggie Lim facilitated an interactive workshop on '**Living with Change**'. During a fun session we examined how we manage change in our lives. The Financial Planning session in July stimulated a lot of interest and requests for follow up sessions.

In August the LNF was held at the Waite Campus in the beautiful Urrbrae House. A panel of women comprising Pat Cree, Director of Media and Public Relations, Yvonne Routledge, Curator of the Mawson collection and Jane Copeland from the Equal Opportunity Office spoke on '**General Staff Women in Research**'.

Linda Matthews, the Equal Opportunity Commissioner addressed a small group of women at the September LNF and Kate Spargo fascinated us all with '**Tips for making yourself indispensable in your job**' in October.

The **WPDN Pilot Mentoring Program** which concluded in April has attracted much interest nationally, with requests for copies of the evaluation report being received from as far away as Canada. Two WPDN members presented at the Association for Tertiary Managers (previously AITEA) national conference in Sydney during September. This presentation was repeated to the WPDN in November, at which time expressions of interest were received for future mentoring programs.

Thanks to the grant from the Vice-Chancellor, the WPDN ran a free one-day seminar "**Working From The Inside Out**" for general staff women. It was facilitated by Karen DeTysson, who has been facilitating the highly successful University program for Supervisors titled "Reflections on Practice". We were very excited to be able to give general staff women the opportunity to attend this special seminar free of charge.

We held our **inaugural WPDN breakfast** in October and it proved to be so successful and well attended that we are planning to make it a bi-monthly event. We are also planning a dinner for early next year. The Steering Committee is holding a planning day later this year where we will review our activities this year and plan our 1998 program of events. So look forward to another exciting year.

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