



# BPW Joondalup News

September 2007

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## Next Dinner Meeting

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September

## You'll Never Walk Alone

presented by

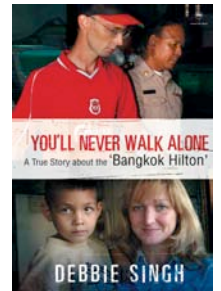
**Debbie Singh**

**Activist, Author & Charity Worker**



Mother of three Debbie Singh's comfortable, suburban life fell apart when she received a letter from her younger brother. John had been sentenced to ten years in Klong Prem prison, the notorious 'Bangkok Hilton', for fencing a fraudulent cheque. The severity of the sentence shocked Singh and she immediately set off to Bangkok to visit him, offer her support and locate his Thai-born son. Appalled by the horrendous circumstances in which she found him, she started a campaign to have him transferred to an Australian jail, something never achieved before.

In her book "You'll Never Walk Alone" Debbie recounts how her campaign eventually changed the law in two countries and launched her on a journey of self discovery and social awakening: she shows how even the most traumatic experiences can lead to personal growth. Today Debbie Singh is well-known as a campaigner for Australians in foreign jails, an author and for her ongoing charity work in Thailand.



## Welcome to our new members!

We're delighted to welcome our newest members, **Lorraine Town** and **Aliz Loy** to our favourite BPW club... We look forward to getting to know you!



## Noticeboard



📅 Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Nov – *Details almost finalised:*  
BPW Joondalup will partner with the City of Joondalup to run the inaugural Business Women's Forum which will coincide with a visit of delegates from Joondalup's sister city of Jinan in China. A fantastic program has been developed. A morning forum is planned with delegates attending our regular Monthly Dinner Meeting that night.

📅 Wed 3rd Oct – 9.30am BPW WA official launch of Think Fertility campaign to be held at ECU Gym Café in Joondalup!! Dr Mal Washer MP will be invited to speak at this federally funded program launch.

# BPW Leadership Training Weekend Fairbridge 17-19 August 2007



BPW Joondalup members having fun applying the 'Six Thinking Hats' (L to R) Bianca Chantry, Deb Woods, Jasmyn Mumme, Vicki Chantry, Liz Flatters, Sarah Jayne Flatters, Rita Cleaver and Sherryl Paternoster

I feel confident in saying that, without exception, all members who were able to take up the opportunity to participate in the recent Leadership Training Weekend at Fairbridge would say 'what a great weekend'!

We arrived on Friday evening and enjoyed a delicious dinner provided by BPW Joondalup members (who else?). Later in the evening we joined other clubs and spent a very enjoyable time hearing about the lives of BPW members throughout WA. We really are a most diverse and impressive group of women!

Saturday was filled with workshops on many important aspects of leadership within our clubs, followed by a lively 'barn-raising' session which resulted in ideas for some great club projects.

Before dinner many of us took the opportunity to wander through Fairbridge and learn the history of this fascinating place. Fairbridge is a wonderful location not far from Perth with very good accommodation for large groups.

Saturday's wonderful dinner was followed by some hilarious fun during our "Quiz". Jazz and Deb did a brilliant job as Quiz Mistress and Scorer, although some may have wondered if the proceedings wouldn't come to a standstill when our Mighty Mistress was challenged on her ability to count. Jazz got the giggles and for a while it seemed she would not recover in time to save the night from becoming a shambles! Of course she came through wonderfully! It really was quite a spectacle and most entertaining.

More workshops followed on Sunday and included an excellent mock meeting run by our very own President, Liz.

Mentoring in our clubs most certainly was a hot topic throughout the weekend, with experiences and ideas shared generously. BPW Joondalup can look forward to benefiting from the knowledge gained and enthusiasm harnessed by those members who attended Fairbridge. See you next year!



**Vicki Chantry**  
**BPW Joondalup Vice-President**

## Happy Birthday!



### September

- 1 Joanne Newton
- 4 Helen Axton
- 18 Carolyn Crook
- 23 Trudy McOnie
- 29 Nicky Badman

### October

- 7 Sarah Jayne Flatters
- 9 Rita Cleaver
- 18 Sherryl Paternoster
- 21 Lorraine Town

And remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed!



Some people are like Slinkies  
Not really good for anything  
But they still bring a smile to your face  
when you push them down a flight of stairs

## Ten Ways to Change the World

Don't just sit there – do something! You can change the world. Just as women in previous eras have taken action to fight for rights, such as to be able to vote or to do any job for which they are qualified, so today women can take steps to put equality back on the political agenda. It is women who will have to act to stop the present reversal of our rights and to restart the revolution that will take us to true equality. Many of these changes will need political action, especially at the federal level, so a lot of the ideas for action set out below concentrate on getting the message to Canberra.

But there are other avenues for action. The main thing is to get busy and to not stand by while women's position is further eroded. A good slogan to remember is **“DON'T GET MAD: GET JUSTICE”**. If you feel something is unfair to you as a woman – say, you receive less money than men doing the same work at your place of employment – complain about it. If you think you have been discriminated against, make a complaint to one of the federal or state agencies that exist to investigate such issues. Discrimination means you have been treated less fairly because of your sex, because of your marital status or because you are pregnant. If you feel that you are not getting the right kind of assistance from the government, for example if you cannot find or afford childcare, then tell the government. If you know of a company that is unfair to women, don't buy from that company.

**There are many forms of action, big and small, that can make a difference. The suggestions listed here are just starting points. You and your friends can change the world. The thing is to get started...**

1. Write the prime minister a letter <<http://www.annesummers.com.au/actioncontacts.htm#wrt>> (not an email, a letter) describing those parts of your life that could be better if his government was more attuned to women's needs. Send copies of the letter to the leader of the opposition, the leader of the Australian Democrats and the leader of the Greens.
2. Find out who your federal member of parliament is <<http://www.annesummers.com.au/actioncontacts.htm#fmp>> and send her/him an email to let her/him know your opinion on issues that affect your life.
3. Choose one of your senators <<http://www.annesummers.com.au/actioncontacts.htm#sen>> and email her/him as well.
4. Make sure the women members of parliament know how you feel. <<http://www.annesummers.com.au/actioncontacts.htm#wmp>>
5. Join one of the political parties <<http://www.annesummers.com.au/actioncontacts.htm#pol>> and work to achieve change from the inside.
6. Write a letter to the paper to express your views – especially if one of the newspaper columnists is stating opinions that you think are detrimental to women's equality.
7. Ring up talkback radio and air your opinion. Don't let the airwaves be dominated by ratbags.
8. Check out the groups <<http://www.annesummers.com.au/actioncontacts.htm#grp>> linked to below that fight for women's equality; you might want to give one of them your support.
9. Boycott companies that are unfair to women.
10. Above all, talk about this stuff. Share your thoughts and feelings with your friends, people at work, your family, anyone you come in contact with."

**Sandra Cook**  
**BPW WA Policy Officer**

Anne Summers is a best selling Australian author, journalist and speaker on political and social, especially women's, issues. Anne led the [Office of the Status of Women](#) from 1983-86 and was advisor to Prime Ministers [Paul Keating](#) and Bob Hawke. She is a former editor of [Good Weekend](#), and is a [Sydney Morning Herald](#) columnist. Anne's books include [Damned Whores and God's Police](#) (still in print after 31 years) and [Ducks on the Pond](#) (1999), her autobiography, and [The End of Equality](#) (2003). In 1988 Anne and [Sandra Yates](#) led a buyout of [Ms.](#) and [Sassy](#) magazines. Anne is a member of the [Australian Society of Authors](#) and of [Sydney PEN](#), a [Walkley Award](#) winner and an [Officer in the Order of Australia](#). Since 2002 she has facilitated the annual [Serious Women's Business](#) conference, Australia's leading conference for women in business. She is Deputy President of Sydney's [Powerhouse Museum](#) and was Chair of [Greenpeace International](#) from 2000 to 2006.

## Women and WorkChoices

### *What sort of ethical society do we want for our daughters and granddaughters?*

This was one of the questions posed by Marie Coleman (NFAW) on launching Women and WorkChoices: Impacts on the Low Pay Sector at UWA this month.

Research was conducted by National Foundation of Australian, Women's Electoral Lobby and YWCA Australia, with the total support of the National Secretariats, including Security4Women. They examined the impact of two major changes to employment in Australia: Work Choices and Welfare to Work. It was primarily concerned with the effects on areas of work with high female participation such as retail, childcare, aged care, hospitality and cleaning. These areas tend to be under valued and under paid and workers are very dependent on minimum standards.

Even after the introduction of the Fairness Test the research reports decreases in take home pay, increased job insecurity and uncertainty of hours - how do you budget when your income varies from week to week? The Federal government is dismissive of the report, claiming that it was "beneath contempt", despite it being independent of either state governments or unions.

Marie Coleman also called for renewed support for **paid maternity leave**. While some 37% of women have access to paid maternity leave (mainly in the public service and finance services sector) the majority have none. Latest polls suggest there is qualified support for paid maternity leave depending on how it is funded - government, private or in combination. It is time for the Productivity Commission to examine and provide alternative models so that a real assessment can be made and then debated.

How can BPW contribute to these issues? First and foremost these are ethical issues which we should be debating. As women employers and employees, what sort of society do we want to have for our daughters and grandchildren? With this in mind we need to consider how we can contribute: can we pay fairly? Employ fairly? Fund paid maternity leave?

**Sandra Cook**  
**BPW WA Policy Officer**

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Our August Dinner Meeting was a special night in our yearly calendar as it was our second "Young BPW Presents..." event. This meeting was organised and run by Anita Cheetham - Young BPW Joondalup, Bianca Chantry and Sarah Jayne Flatters. New Young BPW member Katie Brooks also did a 3 minute spot.

The aim of this annual event is to present a program attractive to young women to give them a chance to see what we are doing in the areas of policy, contributions to the community and personal & professional development. Some may be surprised to find that BPW is for them now but, if not, then at some time in their future career, when the time is right, at least they will know all about us and how to find us.

The main guest speaker was Junior Lawyer of the Year Award winner in 2006, Jasmine Denkha. She told her amazing story of being a refugee from Iraq following the first Gulf War, arriving in Australia at 14 and unable to speak English to becoming a lawyer and co-founder and convenor of Australian Lawyers for Human Rights in Western Australia.

Other presentations included: Alicia Curtis speaking on her recent visit to the Young BPW Meeting in Seoul Korea; Anita Cheetham on 'What BPW Means to Me' and her role on the inaugural National Young BPW Board; Bianca Chantry on how BPW has helped her with AFS and resettling back in WA after working overseas for two years; and Sarah Jayne Flatters talked about how to get involved in volunteer programs overseas and her experience of volunteering in Peru last summer. Also Melissa Stanton gave us a very interesting presentation on the Think Fertility project and the information and statistics behind it.

Around 60 women attended this very enjoyable and informative evening. Our young BPW members did a wonderful and professional job of putting together this great evening - thank you Bianca, Sarah Jayne and especially Anita, who is expecting her second baby very soon!

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## And finally...

Five relationship tips for women....

1. It is important that a man has a job and does his share of the housework.
2. It is important that a man makes you laugh.
3. It is important that a man is reliable and doesn't lie to you.
4. It is important that a man loves you madly and spoils you rotten.
5. It is important that these four men don't know each other.