



Celebrating Success Breakfast Forum 20 June 2002 Final Report

OBJECTIVES:

This function will offer local women the chance to celebrate the success of their peers and to recognise past achievements

To provide a networking opportunity

And to seek community input into development of a Youth Awards Calendar to continue the recognition of success in the region

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

Recognition of the contribution women have made to the business sector, the arts, regional and community development in the South East

Support for and involvement in the development of the Youth Awards Calendar

ON THE DAY:

Forty local women attended the *Celebrating Success* Breakfast Forum. The group included eight indigenous women who were very happy to celebrate forty years of voting rights for Indigenous Australians.



Our event was opened with a traditional welcome made by Auntie Hilda and then an opening address from Liz Ballinger, Chairperson of the Women in Business and Regional Development.

Commander Sandy Coulson CSM was the MC for the event and introduced two women, Lois Dean and Wendy Monger, who gave a historical perspective to the day. They spoke of some of the difficulties and triumphs had by women in the past.

Sandy then spoke about her working life in the Navy and the significance of the provision of child care and other issues that opened the door of opportunity for women in the Forces. Sandy spent 26 years in the Navy and was one of the highest ranking female officers.

Two young business women, Tarah Ker and Danielle Sage, gave us an insight into how younger women have benefited from changes in business and society that have given them the freedom, room and opportunity to excel in their fields. It was interesting to note that young women today see their age as being the greatest barrier to opportunity, rather than their gender.

After some time for networking and reflection, the Forum was closed with a heartfelt and vocal rendition of the Helen Reddy anthem, 'I am Woman'. Two indigenous women took the lead and sang at the microphone whilst we all supported them with clapping and loud voices.

Feedback after the event was very positive. The indigenous women were very happy to have been involved. Many women commented on the feeling of support and accomplishment they felt.

Media support and coverage of the event was excellent. We had two mentions in local newspapers (attached) and regular mentions of the event, on radio. Sandy Coulson was interviewed on ABC Radio, immediately following the Breakfast. Throughout the organising phase and during the Breakfast we made mention of the funding and support received from the Office of The Status of Women.

ABOUT US:

Women in Business & Regional Development was set up as a catalyst for accelerating the level of active participation of the Region's women in promoting economic growth, business prosperity and employment. It is an initiative of the South East Area Consultative Committee. We now have a database with contact information for over 460 women.

Thank you for your support of the *Celebrating Success* Breakfast Forum. The resources and funding you provided were invaluable. We would like to continue our involvement with the Office of the Status of Women and would be happy to be involved in any future initiatives.

ELAINE POLLOCK
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
21 JUNE 2002