

Event Calendar

Wednesday 9th November

Wine Tasting and Gill Burns from
Habitat for Humanity

December

Christmas Function
(date to be advised)

President's Report

We have had a hectic time since our last newsletter with several site visits, the Mid-Winter dinner and NAWIC Life Time Membership Awards, and the AGM.

The most exciting event of this year has to have been the Mid-Winter dinner in July. This was a chance for us to Celebrate Successful Women, and we did so in style. The Honourable Hekia Parata, MP, was our Inspiring Speaker and managed to attend our function after cancelling other events, as she was still recovering from a recent illness. She demonstrated her grit and determination in not giving up on what you believe in, even if you don't succeed at first. We thoroughly enjoyed her wit and words of wisdom. She also encouraged our NAWIC members to stand up and take Leadership roles in our Industry, as she noted there are too few women at the top or in Boards.

The night progressed to the presentation of the NAWIC Lifetime Membership Awards, the real highlight of the year. The award was given to four NAWIC members who have been instrumental in the inception of NAWIC, and have constantly supported, encouraged and donated hours of their time towards the success and continuity of NAWIC throughout the years. I was delighted to have the pleasure to give the awards on behalf of the NAWIC Board. The awards were presented to:

- Gina Jones
- Marian Salmon
- Jane Cuming
- Deb Cranko

The AGM passed a motion for a Women in Construction Photography Exhibition, incorporating women in trades. This was a unanimous vote and filled the meeting with excitement. Since then a committee has met to start the planning for an event next year.

I am looking forward to catching up with you at our next NAWIC function.

Warm regards
Stacey Mendonça
NAWIC President
rsvp@nawic.org.nz

President's Report – AGM 2011

President's Report – AGM 2011

As President of NAWIC, it is my pleasure to present the President's Report for 2010/2011.

We are delighted to continue the success of previous year's rebuilding. Our membership goal was to have 100 NAWIC members (our 100th member was Janine Mitchel), in fact we have 103 members.

This has been an active year for NAWIC, with a varied programme of events since the last AGM held at Beca's offices.

A brief AGM, followed by Inspiring guest speaker Sarah Gibbs, Director of Trilogy Products.

Oct 10 – Networking drinks at SPA was a fun blind bubbly tasting, followed with a presentation on the WCC Newtown Flats housing project.

Oct 10 – Site visit to Republic Apartments on Lorne Street.

Dec 10 – Held our Mentoring Event. This event was supposed to kick start the Mentoring scheme however I am still to complete this project. But it will be my next priority.

Dec 10 – We held our popular Christmas Function at Estilo Design showroom; this was another fantastic event as we enjoyed the hospitality from Niki and Emiel. The spot prizes were amazing with a huge range of donated products from generous suppliers.

Feb 11 – Our members toured around the partially complete Kilbirnie Indoor Stadium.

March 11 – Networking drinks at Cuckoo.

April 11 – We visited the workshop where the construction of the 'First Light' Solar decathlon project. Nick Officer talk us through the project before it headed off to Frank Kitts Park.

May 11 – Site visit to WCC Central Housing project, a project with several NAWIC members involved.

June 11 – Site visit to Chevening Apartments seismic restrengthening project.

Highlight of the year - July 11 – Mid-Winter Dinner Celebrating Women with inspiring guest speaker MP Hekia Parata, and the presentation of NAWIC Life Time Memberships to Jane Cumming, Marian Salmon, Deb Cranko, and Gina Jones, all worthy recipients having served NAWIC since the inception.

August 11 – Site visit to 'The Royal Thai Embassy' project.

Four NAWIC newsletters produced.

Two Board planning sessions.

Connect – Connecting Women in Engineering and Construction has gone from strength to strength with several inspiring speakers and workshops. Rachel Kenny from IPENZ (NAWIC member) and Sue Slater have worked hard to ensure the successful momentum continues.

The CIF group continues to invite us to their varied range of events.

Generally our Board Members have maintained the same with a couple of bonny boys born since the last AGM. Christina had Zander and Alice had Van, they have had a leave of absence, with Alice producing the newsletter throughout. I was delighted when Shauna Heringhouse agreed to join the Board at the beginning of the year. With the good news there is always some bad, and it is with regret that we accept the resignation of Jody Rudman who is relocating to Auckland with work. We thank Jody for her contribution to NAWIC over the last year and wish her well in her next adventure.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the fantastic NAWIC Board members. Thank you for your innovative ideas, energy, enthusiasm, and time. NAWIC is continuing to develop and grow, largely thanks to your combined efforts over the year.

Stacey Mendonça
NAWIC President

NAWIC

Member Profile



Name

Shauna Herminghouse

What did you study / graduate in?

I studied for my Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona in the United States, and for a while in Copenhagen, Denmark as well. I came to New Zealand to do research for a Master of Architecture at the University of Auckland, studying daylight in buildings and the psychological/perceptual response it elicits in people, affecting how people move through and thus experience buildings.

What are your interests?

There's the obvious interest in architecture - I'm interested in workplace strategy and theory, plus my background in daylighting and a strong push for sustainability. I spend my spare time taking on the winds of Wellington in keelboat yacht racing, and am a keen mountain biker - splitting time between riding, races, digging new trails, and often, sitting around cafes just talking about it.

Where do you/have you work(ed)?

I am an architect at Studio Pacific Architecture, specialising in commercial interior architecture and workplace design. Previously, I worked in Auckland at Archoffice and also Andre Hodgskin Architects on community buildings and high-end residential design. Before moving to New Zealand 8 years ago, I worked in San Francisco on townhouses and community building design. And then there was that dream job a long time ago at a chocolatier...

What are you currently working on?

We have just completed design for Beca's office fitout in Auckland, and are about to start construction. It's going to be such a great transformation for them, introducing some new ways of working and a completely new feel to their office environment.

Who is a role model to you?

My next-door neighbour when I was a teenager. She was an amazing woman, a mother and nurse who changed her career in order to set up an organisation to bring a lecture series of very successful artists and writers to our city. She had the courage to follow her dream, and did it with the style, success, and grace she always exuded. I worked with her for years, and she provided me with the rare opportunity to meet such inspiring people as Maya Angelou. She gave me a folio for my high school graduation, to start me on my way to being an architect, and I still carry it with me to every meeting I go to now.

Do you have any words of wisdom?

Live every day like it could unexpectedly be your last, embracing every opportunity and moment that comes your way. While some people think that sounds exhausting, I find it energising.

What is your favourite ...

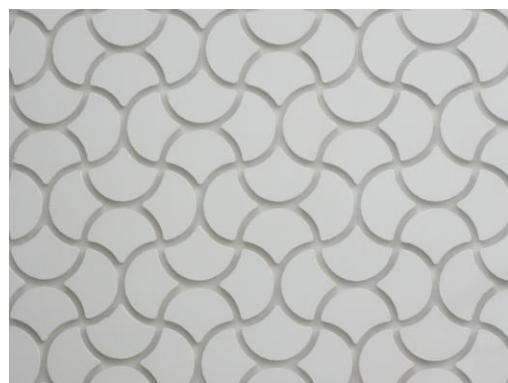
Café - Floriditas

Cheese - smelly, French and gooey

Wine - Pinot noir

Colour - Blue

Site Visit



Royal Thai Embassy

Thursday 18 August 2011

By Stacey Mendonça

For many years the former Thorndon Tavern has been an unused, derelict building. It was a relief for all to see construction finally commence on the high profile site. Utilising the existing structure, the refurbishment was adapted to suit the structure and extended. NAWIC was able to visit the site a few weeks before the completion date and was shown around by the Fletcher's supervisor Callum Sutherland. He was able to take us around the finished area's such as the commercial kitchen, the main functions rooms, the apartments and Embassy office areas. The Ambassador has a spacious office overlooking Molesworth Street and the main entry courtyard, with an outside deck to catch the last of the evening sun. The main entry has timber slatted panels fitted into the existing structural grid. Most impressive was the exterior cladding, it is intricately detailed precast concrete panels all full height (approx. 16m). The design is a classic Thai pattern and is followed in the furniture and fabric design, which was described, as the furniture was not yet in place. We were interested in the seismic details and saw the 3D metal covers at the seismic joints. Sadly we could not go up to the roof and see the Skellerup shingle roofing. Although we were visiting the site amongst the hectic last few days prior to completion it was a great chance to see it.

Event

Mid-Winter Dinner

Thursday 7 July 2011

By Alice Carmody

Hekia Parata: guest speaker at the Mid-Winter Dinner. 'celebrating women'.

After having the previous day off sick we thought that Hekia wouldn't be able to make it to the dinner, especially as it was pouring with rain. She didn't stay to eat, but she did make it to speak. She was very keen to meet a group of construction ladies and was curious to know about our roles. After addressing us formally in Maori, Hekia told us a little about growing up, getting into politics and her vision for the women of New Zealand.

Hekia is vivacious women commandeering the roles of:

- Minister for Ethnic Affairs
- Minister of Women's Affairs
- Associate Minister for ACC
- Associate Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector
- Associate Minister of Energy and Resources
- Member, Electoral Legislation Committee.

Hekia spoke to 3 main points.

- Spread wealth distribution by getting women into higher paid jobs.

It's not that all women are paid less- it's that women take up more of the low-paid jobs. A hairdresser generally earns less than a plumber or tradesperson. She wants to see career advisers referring girls to consider trade jobs too and women seeking out better income opportunities.

- Challenge women to help each other
Other successful women are not competition or threats. We should be supporting each other and making it easier for more women to excel.

- Increase the percentage of female board directors. She made an insight into why less women may apply for senior roles. Imagine that the job description has 10 key skills needed. A man will consider that he has 3 or 4 of those skills, so he'll apply- 4 skills is plenty. A women will apply if she has at least 9 skills. We need to trust in ourselves and take the next step. She further challenged us individually to consider joining a board.

Hekia worked in the public sector before moving to parliament. In one of her management roles she was able to put some of her ideas into practice about workplace diversity.

She introduced flexi-time and allowed staff to work from home, which suited her mainly female work force. This distressed the upper manager when he saw an almost empty office, with staff working non-traditional hours. Hekia asked him "are we meeting our goals and deadlines? Are we getting the work done?" he answered "yes", she asked him what the problem was, and he said "but no-one asked me!!"

Hekia's comments sparked a lot of conversations that night, the results of which may be seen in upcoming NAWIC events. She reinforced that women have the capabilities to succeed but we need to we take up opportunities and push ourselves forward.



Up Coming Events....



Habitat for Humanity
Lower North Island

Guest Speaker: Gill Burns, Habitat for Humanity

+ A Taste of Spring - a wine tasting of new season's whites

Habitat for Humanity is a worldwide non-profit organisation that aims to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the face of the earth by building adequate and basic housing. Habitat for Humanity in New Zealand has helped give over 390 families a hand up into their own home.

Gill will share some stories of Habitat's model for building, buying and reinvesting in houses with the assistance of the future homeowners, volunteers, community and businesses, and the amazing success they have achieved in providing much needed housing for many families throughout New Zealand and the world. More information on Habitat for Humanity is at www.habitat.org.nz

And enjoy a white wine tasting event afterwards!



Women In Architecture NZ initiative and exhibition

The Women In Architecture NZ initiative and exhibition has been re-launched, based on the original 1993 exhibition. A calling has gone out to current and former female architectural students, graduates, designers, or architects, in the construction industry as an individual or a practice, in NZ or overseas. Visit www.architecturewomen.org.nz and add your details to be part of an exhibition of New Zealand women in architecture planned for 2013.