



Ode Cologne
The news journal of WIPAN



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Welcome to the 26th edition of the WIPAN e-Bulletin.

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WIPAN AGM

The **WIPAN Annual General Meeting** will be held at **5.30pm on Thursday, 13 November 2014 in Training Room 2 in the Trades Hall building**. The positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive General Members are being vacated and new office holders will be elected at the meeting. The agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome WIPAN President (including apologies)
2. Previous Minutes - 2013's AGM
3. President's Report & Annual Report
4. Treasurers Report & Financials
5. Appointment of Auditor
6. Nominations/Elections of Board Members
7. Special Resolution
8. Staff Reports
9. Any Other Business
10. Close at 6.30pm

All members are welcome to attend.

Breakfast Event at NSW Parliament House

A breakfast at NSW Parliament House, Empowering Women - Changing Lives, was hosted by the Hon Catherine Cusack MLC to advocate for improvements to education and employment opportunities for women in prison.

WIPAN's Director Kat Armstrong talked of the pressing need for women in custody to earn a decent wage and have access to meaningful educational opportunities. Other speakers at the breakfast included Professor Eileen Baldry, Deputy Dean of the UNSW School of Social Sciences & Professor of Criminology; Helen Wiseman, Chair of Shine for Kids; and Philippa McDonald, Senior ABC Journalist.

All funds raised from the breakfast were donated to **WIPAN**. Find photos on [our Facebook page](#).

WIPAN Fundraising Event

WIPAN hosted a fundraising event in early September to celebrate the ongoing support from

donors and members, and welcome our first patron, [Cheryl Kernot](#). With the grant from the NSW Department of Attorney General & Justice **WIPAN** can ensure that our mentoring program continues for the next 18 months.

Now is the time to build on that momentum and raise our profile to agitate government and private funding bodies for ongoing funds. Thanks also to Gilbert & Tobin who provided the room and catering for the event. Photos are on [our Facebook page](#).

29 New WIPAN Mentors Trained

In conjunction with TAFE NSW, **WIPAN** trained 29 new mentors over two recent Saturdays. Thank you to all our dedicated new volunteers who are on their way to becoming mentors, and also thank you to the speakers over the weekend including past mentors and mentees. **WIPAN** will be training the next wave of volunteers on 14th & 21st February 2015.

Register your interest to become a mentor [here](#).

Mentee Referral Drive

With 29 new mentors, **WIPAN** is now looking for new mentees. Any woman who has been in contact with the criminal justice system can refer herself or be referred to the mentoring program. The [referral form](#) is on our website, or just contact **WIPAN's** mentoring coordinator, Lana Hutchison on 02 8011 0693 / 0415 454 770.

Sisters Inside Conference

WIPAN Director, Kat Armstrong, was fortunate to attend the biennial [Sisters Inside, Is Prison Obsolete Conference](#) held in Brisbane in October 2014. As an international conference it was well attended and the most pivotal message of the conference was allowing the voices of women affected by the criminal justice system to be heard.

There was a considerable international line-up of speakers including, Angela Davis, Gina Dent, Kim Pate, Cassandra Shaylor and also many Australian women speakers. The conference is the only platform in Australia in which women and female youth most affected by criminal justice system get to present and share their inspiring stories of diversity, courage and hope.

Hong Kong Students Intern at WIPAN

WIPAN would like to thank Rainbow Lai and Winnie Cheung from City University, Hong Kong who volunteered their time to **WIPAN** for 3 days per week over 6 weeks in June/July. It was a great opportunity to share experiences of the criminal justice system in both countries. Rainbow and Winne helped collate 2½ years of data which will be used to conduct an external evaluation of our programs.

Damning Report into Prison Programs in WA Released

The Inspector of Custodial Services in Western Australia has released a [report](#) detailing recidivism rates and the effectiveness of current treatment programs in prison. The Inspector was damning of programs which had been developed for men yet run in women's prisons without consideration of gender specific needs.

The report found that women who completed the programs were in fact at greater risk of re-offending, and called for gender-specific programs to be developed and implemented as soon as possible.

Victorian Ombudsman Inquiry into Post-release Support

The Victorian Ombudsman has released a [discussion paper](#) on the progress of her investigation into the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners in Victoria. The Ombudsman noted that women face particular challenges with regard to the rehabilitation and transitional services.

The paper flagged further investigation into changes needed to support women post-release, particularly around the risk of homelessness. **WIPAN** wrote to the NSW Ombudsman asking for a similar investigation to be carried out in NSW. Unfortunately this request was denied.

WIPAN Mentors Recognised by Awards

The team of **WIPAN** mentors have won the 2014 Sydney Inner West Team Volunteer Award in recognition of their time and commitment to the community. The team is now in the running for the State awards, which will be announced at a ceremony on 5 December 2014.

WIPAN mentor Bronwyn Culling has also won an [Edna Ryan Award](#) for mentoring. Bronwyn has been a mentor since 2012 and was described as 'making a true feminist difference, building social capital with her female orientated guidance'. Congratulations!

WIPAN Director, Kat Armstrong, has been shortlisted for the [Australian Human Rights Commission's Community Individual Award](#). The nomination recognises Kat's work in establishing **WIPAN** and her contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights of women affected by the criminal justice system.

The award will be announced on 10 December 2014. Tickets for the event can be purchased [here](#).

Service of the Month: Twenty10

[Twenty10](#) incorporating the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW is a not-for-profit community organisation that works to support people of diverse genders, sexes and sexualities, their families and communities through counseling, case management and other support.

They also have a specialized service for young people. **WIPAN** would like to acknowledge the support Twenty10 has provided to mentees and the important work they do in our community.

Membership Drive

WIPAN asks members to talk to their networks about the work of our organisation and encourage others to become members. Membership applications, including secure credit card payment, can be made [here](#). Alternatively download a membership form, complete and post together with your payment to **WIPAN**, PO Box 345, Broadway NSW 2007.

Even if you are time poor (which most of us are!), and feel you don't have time to dedicate, becoming a member can still assist **WIPAN**. Please continue to support us to do the community work - **WIPAN is the ONLY community organisation in NSW mentoring and advocating for women and female youth affected by the criminal justice system.**

CONTACT WIPAN

For further information about **WIPAN** including our executive members, general members, our funding bodies, strategic plan or **WIPAN's** vision & aims, please contact us.

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