



Advancing the human rights of women caught up in the criminal justice system.

WELCOME to the 5th edition of the WIPAN e-news bulletin

In this e-bulletin:

- Mentee Achievement!!
- WIPAN Self Help Guide Launch A Success
- Emu Plains Correctional Centre
- NEW Correctional Centre Opening December 2010
- WIPAN Annual General Meeting
- Service of the Month – NWCA

MENTEE HIGH achieveR!!

WIPAN would like to congratulate *Anne***, one of the women ex-prisoners who is currently engaged in our mentoring program. Anne came to us several months ago in a state of distress after having been released from prison just 4 days earlier and asked to have a mentor. She was overwhelmed and doubting her ability to cope. She had been a drug addict since adolescence and had never had a real friend but knew she now wanted to create a better life for herself. Several months on Anne is nothing short of an inspiration, she is drug-free, court-free, infectiously optimistic, confident and focused. Anne has surrounded herself with many support services, mentoring being one of them, and has pro-actively set out to be the best person she can be. She continues to go from strength to strength and we at WIPAN are all very proud of her. Fortunately for us, some time soon WIPAN will have the pleasure of Anne becoming actively involved in WIPAN and therefore will inspire many other women prisoners to turn their life around, just as she has and continues to do. Brilliant effort!

** *Not her real name*

WIPAN BOOK LAUNCH: SELF HELP GUIDE FOR WOMEN PRISONERS

The WIPAN **SELF HELP GUIDE FOR WOMEN PRISONERS** launch at Parliament House in Sydney was a great success. Regrettably the Honourable Jodi McKay, Minister for Office of Women's Policy, who was set to officially launch the guide, was called into Parliament several minutes pre-launch. However, fortunately for WIPAN the opening address was handed over to the very accomplished Honorable Helen Westwood MLC. WIPAN would like to thank Ms Westwood for her attendance, her passion in supporting women prisoners and for acknowledging the great work being carried out by the non-government sector.

We would also like to thank the many organisations that supported WIPAN with their attendance, including Sidney Myer Fund, CRC, PIAC, NCOSS, CSNSW, Mudgin Gal, Sisters Inside, NCWA, CLC's, Law & Justice Foundation, Waringah Bayai and the WIPAN Mentors. WIPAN extends a very special thank you to Bronwyn Penrith for her warm and enlightening Welsome to Country and Alison Churchill, CEO of CRC for her master of ceremonies role.

To order a copy of the FREE Self-Help Guide, (either the English or Vietnamese version), please click on this [Order Form](#). This can at least show the level of demand to potential funding bodies and put people on a waiting list until we are able to deliver it.

For an electronic version of the guide click on our website's [publications](#) page to download.

The [Self-Help Guide for Women Prisoners](#) is designed for women caught-up in the criminal

justice system. It is a self-advocacy resource addressing commonly encountered bureaucratic and legal issues faced by women including healthcare, housing, children, complaints, fines and compensation needs. It explains in plain language the procedures that a woman must follow to have her basic needs met, if they are otherwise not being met. The guide is an instructional resource providing up-to-date contact details, sample letters and processes to follow. The guide is available in both English and Vietnamese and will be circulated amongst women prison libraries and education centre's across NSW.

EMU PLAINS CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

Rita Vella, Manager of Services and Programs at Emu Plains C.C kindly invited WIPAN to attend the monthly staff meeting where we were able to introduce WIPAN and our mentoring program directly to all correctional centre staff. The presentation was received well by all staff, particularly those staff members responsible for the education and programs of women prisoners. Staff from Berrima Correctional Centre also attended the meeting and as a result we have been invited to speak at the Berrima Correctional Centre Expo on the 15th of September 2010. Samantha Bamforth, WIPAN's Project Coordinator would like to thank Rita for her continued encouragement of the mentoring program, for sharing her knowledge and experience and for allowing WIPAN an opportunity to gain access to the women prisoners.

NEW SOUTHCOAST CORRECTIONAL CENTRE - NOWRA

The new South Coast Correctional Centre currently being built in Nowra is due to house its first prisoners in December 2010 and will be fully operational early 2011. The centre is located 5km south of the Nowra CBD. It will house both men and women, will have a capacity of 600 beds – 390 maximum security males, 150 minimum security males and 60 minimum security females. There is no mother and child unit available.

There is to be an opportunity for public viewing of the centre on the last two weekends in November 2010. For further information regarding the correctional centre please contact the Information Centre for the SCCC on 02 4421 0933.

On the 31st of August the [Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre](#) in partnership with the [Northern Shoalhaven Community Services](#) Interagency held a forum for community service providers in the Nowra district to inform them of the type of services that may be required to support prisoners during and after imprisonment. Kerry Wright, the Coordinator at the Shoalcoast CLC, kindly invited WIPAN, Community Restorative Centre (CRC), Wirringa Biya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service, Corrective Services NSW and Shoalhaven Health to address the audience. The forum was incredibly informative and very well received by local service providers. WIPAN would like to thank Kerry and the Shoalcoast CLC for providing us the opportunity to share our knowledge and experience with the community and in doing so increase prisoners access to sound service provision.

WIPAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

WIPAN held their Annual General Meeting at NCOS on Monday 6 September 2010.

The Presidents Report and the Financial Report for year ending 30 June 2010, both of which are included in the 2010 WIPAN Annual Report, were submitted and tabled.

A WIPAN Annual Report will be posted to all members of WIPAN.

SERVICE OF THE MONTH: NCWA

[NCWA](#) is a national non-government umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, which seeks to raise the awareness of women to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and to encourage the participation of women in all aspects of community life. NCWA links NCW groups across Australia, each with diverse affiliates, in a federal structure and provides a forum for considered debate on policy matters brought forward by the constituent Councils. NCWA has been a partner since 2001 with other national women's organisations in the [Australian Women's Coalition](#). Individually and in partnership, NCWA works for improved conditions for women and children, especially the most vulnerable. In the ACT, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia members maintain an active program of seminars, conferences, consultations, submissions and publications.

We would like to thank Doreen Todd, the President of the NCWA, and the NCWA members for inviting WIPAN to address their recent meeting for the purpose of learning about the WIPAN initiative. Doreen and the NCWA women are an incredibly professional, experienced and driven group. It was very evident from our time together that they are not only very passionate about

the rights of women but are also very gracious hosts.

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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