

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN THE CLUB INDUSTRY

Last month saw businesses from all industries come together to mark *International Women's Day*, which is celebrated on 8 March every year. In its almost 100 years, it's become a major day of global celebration of women. In different regions the focus of the celebrations range from general celebration of respect, appreciation, and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political, and social achievements.

Started as a socialist political event, the day has since blended in the culture of many countries. And while in some regions of the world, the day has lost its political flavour, in countries such as Australia the original political and human rights theme designated by the United Nations runs strong, and political and social awareness of the struggles of women across the country are brought out and examined in a hopeful and productive manner.

In the club industry, directors, managers, and employees, along with corporate partners and industry supporters of the industry, turned out in support of the event at the annual *ClubsNSW Business Breakfast*, which was held at Revesby Workers Club. The *International Women's Day* event, proudly sponsored by Club Plus Superannuation for the second year, attracted over 170 attendees who enjoyed a fresh full farm brekkie along with freshly brewed coffee from our friends at Global Coffee Solutions. And to spice things up, the new Barossa Blonde was also on offer, kindly supplied by Peter Lehmann Wines.

Those in attendance came together to celebrate the accomplishments of women in our industry and to take

advantage of the opportunity to network with others from the industry and those who support the wider Club Movement.

Keynote speaker, Jen Dalitz of sphinxx, provided a highly engaging presentation to the crowd on some of the serious success strategies that women can use in the workplace. Focus was placed on a number of areas relating to women in our clubs, including:

- Some of the core differences between men and women – the fact that women have seven extra connections between the left and right sides of the brain, allowing them to multi-task much easier than men was one which definitely raised a lot of eyebrows!;
- How men can often underestimate the complexities of women (as displayed in the image above) in our workplaces;
- Some of the things that women get wrong in the workplace such as women are often too polite, will take on too much work or other people's work, and quite often give away their power too easily; and,
- Tips on what women need to do to get noticed and promoted, including:
 - (i) Being part of the solution; approaching problems not just with questions, but with a range of options to deal with those problems.
 - (ii) Creating value for their organisation by being skilled across a wide range of areas.
 - (iii) Doing the 'hard yards.' Women quite often have to work harder than men to be noticed in the workplace.
 - (iv) Managing upwards. Communicating with supervisors/managers more effectively so problems can be avoided or resolved easier.

The engaging nature of the presentation ensured everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they took the time to listen to some of the stories shared by other club employees and those working in the wider club industry. These included stories of struggle from those who are not being recognised for the time and effort they put into their careers through to success from those who have climbed the corporate ladder.

What's more, some of the feedback already received has been overwhelmingly positive: "It's so rewarding to see that all the hard work us women do in the industry that we actually are not alone. I brought an employee with me and two days later she is still talking about the seminar. Next time I might have to book a whole table."

"It was well organised and worthwhile attending. The key note speaker was fantastic, and her down to earth presentation and the tips that she passed on were very beneficial."

There were also winners aplenty as two lucky ladies walked away with a bottle of the recently released *Yellowglen Pinot Noir* as part of the business card draw. And, Global Coffee Solutions generously donated two mega coffee gift hampers which were given away as a lucky door prize.

Thanks must also be given to CEO Edward Camilleri and his team of staff at Revesby Workers Club for hosting the event and for a job well done. We hope to see more of you again next year at a bigger and better *International Women's Day* function so keep a look out for details in the future. ■

