



CBWN

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS

Women's

NETWORK

Bringing local women and local stories together

2018-2020



COMMUNITY & BUSINESS WOMEN'S NETWORK

Community and Business Women's Network (CBWN) was founded in 2018 with a straightforward purpose – to connect women on the Central Coast.

Though population in the area had significantly expanded in recent years, it was clear that opportunities for women to connect socially and professionally had not.

CBWN is built upon the idea that bringing women together creates opportunities for growth, resilience and inspiration at business, community and personal levels.

Through a mix of networking events, business showcase and professional development opportunities, CBWN has expanded rapidly to include more than 250 active members.

It is open to all women who want to network, make friends, learn, share ideas and support local business.

www.cbwn.org.au

www.facebook.com/cbwncentralcoast

CBWN is a project of Iris Foundation, a local mental health charity that has been working to foster hope, resilience and connections in the Central Coast community since 2006.







Message from the Founder - Sharyn Burgess

I have the best job in the world, facilitating a supportive network for local women to collaborate and connect in a welcoming environment. Amazingness happens when you're surrounded by motivated, passionate & inspiring women.

Our mission is to cultivate a forum where women are able to network with confidence and equality, to be enriched by learning, to prosper through connection and friendships and to give back to our beloved Central Coast via community projects. And I believe we absolutely nail that!

In 18 months since introducing membership, CBWN has welcomed more than 300 members. We are not just a 'network', we are a true community. I love watching our members growing their business and friendships, and always supporting each other.

Some of my personal highlights include:

✦ Christmas Twilight Members Market ✦ 2019 Resilience Awards
2019 & 2020 International Women's Day Breakfast and, of course, our
✦ 2nd Birthday party via Zoom – no restrictions can stop a good party!!

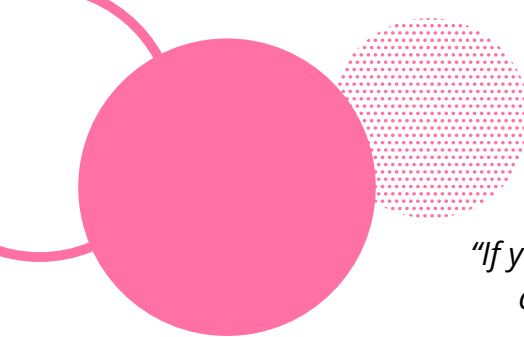
Our network has supported more than 20 Central Coast charities through fundraising, community projects and volunteering. This includes everything from donated food pantry items to Bunnings BBQs and Raw Challenge Enduro events. Our members have demonstrated enormous commitment to the success of local people, businesses and organisations.

I would like to acknowledge our fabulous sponsors and thank them for trusting us to create and sustain a truly unique networking group. And of course, none of this could happen without the hard work of our team and the energy of our members. They all bring their own special magic to our events. I absolutely love working with these beautiful women, who have all helped make CBWN the success it is today.

I am so looking forward to the next chapter of Community & Business Women's Network. We are thrilled to be expanding to the Southern Central Coast/Peninsula area. Exciting times ahead! Watch this space!

Yours in Community,

Sharyn Burgess – Community Engagement Officer



"If you want to meet and engage with people who have a passion for their community, a passion for their vision, then you should come here."

- Fran Cummings, Central Coast Kids' Day Out

It's such a warm, positive environment.....

you come out of these meetings ready to take on the world."

- Crystal Russom, Southern Cross Austereo

"I've got a lot of connections and clients through the networking, and a lot of referrals which is really great for me because I was a start-up myself."

- Nathalie Ainsworth, Ainsworth Accounting

36 events held including
lunches, breakfasts, evening
sparkles & workshops

Over **\$2000**
emergency relief food
pantry donations

More than **\$10,000**
raised to support over
20 local community
organisations

Organisations we've helped include:

Women's Justice Network

Bateau Bay Neighbourhood Centre

CURE BLINDNESS AUSTRALIA

CANCER COUNCIL

Because We Care Boutique

Youth Off the Streets

Iris Foundation

Phoenix Youth Support Services

Give Me 5 For Kids

Wyong Neighbourhood Centre

Share the Dignity Program

Watanobbi Community Centre

RU OK? Day

Toukley Neighbourhood Centre

Killarney Vale Public School

Girls Night IN

River Reflections

International Women's Day Expo

Shoebox Revolution



CBWN Timeline

Our story so far

1 May 2018 : The very first CBWN event - a breakfast which involved a last-minute venue change to Watanobbi Community Centre. 40 women were hosted by local entertainer (and publican) Marney McQueen, a proud CBWN member & fundraiser to this day.

8 August 2018: With its ranks quickly swelling, CBWN embarked on a new partnership with Iris Foundation. CBWN is closely aligned with the Foundation's commitment to improving mental health by building stronger social networks.

5 December 2018: CBWN launched a paid membership program, including exclusive events discounts, promotional opportunities, access to private online groups and a very stylish personalised name badge.

6 March 2019: The inaugural Women's Resilience Awards were held during a gala luncheon at Club Toukley RSL (now The Ary, Toukley). Local federal MP Emma McBride opened the ceremony, a celebration of the strength demonstrated by local women in times of struggle.

8 March 2019: International Women's Day Breakfast at the Art House Wuyong with inspiring guest speaker (and Coast local) Gina Jeffries.

2 June 2019: As part of CBWN's commitment to supporting women-led business, the first professional development workshop was held. Facilitated by 5E Digital, the Shine Workshop topic of the day was Tactics, Tools, Technology.

18 October 2019: CBWN took part in the NSW Government Small Business Month representing Women In Business on the Central Coast. We received a special thank you acknowledgement from NSW Minister for Finance and Small Business, Damien Tudehope.

25 September 2019: The network's first foray to the southern end of the Central Coast was a sold-out event at the Entertainment Grounds, Gosford. More than 100 women gathered for lunch and networking, overlooking the historic racecourse arena.

14 November 2019: 55 members showcased their business and services at a public twilight Christmas market. Hosted by Nexus Smart Hub at Wuyong, the market was a chance for locals to support Central Coast women in business in a relaxed after-hours environment.

26 January 2020: CBWN Founder Sharyn Burgess received a Business Strengthening Communities Award at the local Australia Day honours. Bestowed by Central Coast Council, this award recognised Sharyn's decades-long dedication to bridging the gap between business and the Central Coast community.

6 March 2020: Nearly 150 members gathered in force to celebrate International Women's Day at a sumptuous breakfast featuring guest speaker, Sydney PR professional Lisa Burling. Also in attendance were five young women supported by Youth Off the Streets who were warmly welcomed by the group.

1 May 2020: In line with government protocols, CBWN hosted a raucous second birthday celebration via Zoom. Members have embraced connecting online platforms but look forward to an in-person reunion.



The greatest indicator that CBWN is growing and effective is the consistent growth of our members.



Thank you to all the people and
businesses who make CBWN shine ✨

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Diggers@The Entrance
Dreamtree Films
Kwik Kopy Tuggerah
The Entertainment Grounds
Camp Toukley
The Ary Toukley
Phillip Maenpaa Productions
David Harris MP,
State Member for Wyong

and a special thank you
to our members! ✨

