



**Gibraltar Business Network**  
for business & professional women

## NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2007

The last few months have been eventful ones for the GBN and its members. Last year's "Strait Ahead" conference was an enormous success. Great thanks go to all who participated. The conference brought together over 300 business and professional women from Gibraltar, Morocco and Spain. The Gibraltar, Moroccan and Spanish speakers came from many walks of life, but all were examples of just how successful women can be when they put their mind to it. Oonagh McDonald urged conference participants to "help themselves" – something which fits well with GBN's aim of enabling and assisting business and professional women to network with a view to improving their contacts and their business and professional life.

Since the exertions of organising the conference the GBN Committee have been regaining their energy and seeking to listen to and talk with members to plan out new series of activities. The Committee is always delighted to hear from members with ideas for new events and energy to organise them.

This project started with the sending out of questionnaires to all members and was followed by a brain storming meeting open to all GBN members on 28 March 2008. Responses received indicated that members value the opportunity to network both with other women in

Gibraltar and with others outside, however some feel that they would like to be better informed about what the GBN Committee is up to.

In response the GBN organised a get together lunch at Corks on 1 May 2007 – enjoyed by all who attended. The GBN is also making a concerted effort to send updates to members about activities – if you are a GBN member and would like to publicise an event or activity to others please do let the GBN secretary know.

The GBN has also been working hard on its new website which we hope will be online soon at - [www.gib-bus-net.org](http://www.gib-bus-net.org)

GBN members who wish to put their details on the website or to advertise their business through the website should contact the GBN Secretary.

The GBN talks at Westside Girls School continued apace; Marisa Pallas with a group of other GBN members ran a number of workshops using management techniques to help assist the students prepare for the world of work. If you are a GBN member and interested in being involved please do contact the GBN Schools Liaison Officers.

This newsletter contains an insight into just a few of the activities of the GBN and its members during the last few months – but the GBN is always interested in new ideas

and to hear from member's what they are doing.

### **EXPRESSIONS OF ART**

*GBN members Dorcas Hammond, Donna Montegriffo, Dominique Martinez-Lopez and Priscilla Sacramento were among the ladies who exhibited their creative talent recently at Casemates Exhibition Gallery in Gibraltar as part of the 2007 Gibraltar Spring Festival.*

*An art exhibition with a difference, Expressions of Art featured a diversity of artistic expressions and practical skills, including doll's houses with minute furniture and household objects, a variety of dolls ~ some depicting recognizable personalities, intricate cross-stitch pictures, delicate silk prints, hand-crafted trinket-boxes and ornaments, interesting leatherwork, some lovely jewellery, jams, biscuits, and even fashion creations.*

*Pride of place among Dorcas Designs was her collection awarded with the 'Agulha de Ouro' (Golden Needle) in Portugal; on display were other gowns and photographs, including many worn by Miss Gibraltar contestants and by previous Miss Gibraltar winners at Miss World pageants. Dorcas also exhibited some of the tools of her trade, including her own patterns.*

*Donna is well-known for her doll's houses, and has quite a following of fans and students. The detail in the houses and on the tiny figures has to be seen to be believed! Dominique's exhibits proved that her skills and creativity go well beyond photography: a talented lady indeed.*

*Displays of photographs, hats and gowns were Priscilla's contribution to this sample*

*of the amazing versatility and creativity of women in Gibraltar.*

### **Mar del Sur Women's event**

Mar del Sur organised an evening of talks by female politicians and the GBN's very own Lyanna Armstrong-Emery President of Gibraltar Friends of the Earth. It was a pleasure to see Lyanna speaking in public – as did those GBN Committee members who attended.

### **GBN members news**

**Anne Balestrino**, Committee member of the GBN gave birth to a little girl, and no doubt, future GBN in November 2006. Cristina would like to thank all GBN members for the lovely presents. Congratulations to Anne and we look forward to receiving the membership application form!

**Daphne Alcantara** and **Nathalia Berkowitz** both received post-graduate diplomas from the University of Durham Business School – congratulations to them both.

**Geraldine Finlayson** completed her PhD – congratulations to her.

### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

#### **Call for help during August 2007 – Cheshire Homes in Tangiers**

GBN member Bea Adams is looking for people willing to assist at the Dar el Hana Cheshire Home for disabled people in Tangiers during August. Basic accommodation will be available for volunteers. If you are interested please contact Bea Adams at [bea.adams@npestates.com](mailto:bea.adams@npestates.com) or tel 5401278.

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## **Constitutional Modernisation**

Following the lead of Gibraltar's politicians, the GBN Committee is considering modernising its own constitution – it is hoped that proposals will be put to members at the AGM.

### **Current GBN Committee**

**Hon. President** – Lydia Darham

**Chairwoman** – Maruchi Riso

**Vice Chair** – Maggie Mifsud

**Treasurer** – Priscilla Sacramento

**Secretary** – Nathalia Berkowitz

**Schools** – Anne Balestrino & Marisa Pallas

**Membership** – Jennifer Stentiford

**Committee Members** – Samantha Golt,  
Rosana Olivares, Rose Tilbury, Myra Zayas

## ***JOIN US!***

*GBN welcomes new members. If you are interested in joining, speak to a member of the Committee and/or download information and an application form from [www.gib-bus-net.org](http://www.gib-bus-net.org)*