

Yarra Ranges Shire –update for LEAS Network March 2011

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Yarra Ranges Council Women's Charter Action Plan

Yarra Ranges Council has developed a Women's Charter Action Plan. Key actions underway include:

- adoption of the Women's Charter and appointment of a Councillor Charter Champion
- establishment of a Women in Local Government Working Group with a Councillor sponsor
- regular networking events to bring women leaders in the municipality together (80+ women participated at community event in November 2010 to hear the experiences and views of Naomi Simson from Red Balloon, together with a panel of local influential women on how women can make a difference in community leadership. The event was so successful a further event is being planned for June this year)
- an on-line Women in local democracy (WILD) forum was held between January 25 – February 18. There were 268 visitors to the site, 65 comments and 38 downloads of documents which included the Women's Charter. A rich discussion ensued with participants ranging from mid 20s to mid 60s age group. Themes from the forum will be shared with local stakeholders including Women's Health East and the 12 member houses of the Yarra Ranges Neighbourhood House network .
- International Women's day was celebrated with a range of wonderful activities yesterday including one held at Council celebrating women's contribution. (We had one brave man join the celebration!)

Promoting Respectful Relationships:

- A Promoting Respectful Relationships forum has been established. The draft Terms of Reference are in progress and members are working on developing the action plan
- Jan 20 attended interview for the PVAW EOI cluster position. We are waiting to hear the results.
- internal and external discussions about our approach to White Ribbon 2011 are underway
- a pilot program Baby Makes 3 supporting new parents is being launched in 3 sites across the municipality.