

WOMEN OF THE WORLD

Women in Business and Regional Development (WiB&RD), with the support of members of the South East Area Consultative Committee, the South East Multicultural Network, Lifeline South East, Soroptimist International – Mount Gambier and Naracoorte and Focis on Youth an initiative of Futures Connect a key strategy of the Department of Education & Children's Services (DECS) established the *Women of the World* Committee under the very able leadership of Jan Kentish.

The *Women of the World* initiative sought to increase understanding within the community of the issues faced by migrants when moving to a regional area, and to ease their transition and resettlement, as well as to recognize our cultural diversity and the achievements of women throughout our society.



As a result, the Women of the World Committee contracted Daniela Conesa, a new arrival to Australia from Argentina, as Project Coordinator.

International Women's Day (March 8) was celebrated with a breakfast and dinner event featuring guest speakers, with the theme of "*Women of the World – Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Harmony in the Limestone Coast*".

Breakfast at the Southgate Motel Mount Gambier was attended by 64 women from different areas of government and business, as well as from diverse cultural backgrounds, together with teachers and students from five schools. Dinner at the Naracoorte Town Hall was attended by 62 women and female students.



Promotional activities included two media releases prior to the event, and interviews on local radios. The City of Mount Gambier and Tatiara District Council sponsored the attendance of a number of women of non-English speaking backgrounds. Multicultural SA awarded \$1000 towards the events as part the *Multicultural Grants Scheme*.

In addition, a series of radio interviews about migrant women with diverse backgrounds living in the South East were aired on ABC radio, and 20,000 copies of a 4-page insert showcasing the stories of migrant women and the services available to migrant families moving to this region was placed in all regional newspapers. Sponsorship for the newspaper insert was sought and we thank the many organisations who contributed to the success of the feature.

DANIELA CONESA
PROJECT COORDINATOR