



St George and Sutherland Shire Leader

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Big year for business women's network

IT HAS been an outstanding year for the Sydney Women's Network, now in its third year and growing.

"There is a growing number of businesswomen in Sydney and many of these run small and medium local businesses," network co-founder Natalie Moutia said.

"We help to meet the demand for local dynamic women's business networks, small business expos in local areas and business support for women in business," Ms Moutia said.

The network started in 2008 by offering monthly networking lunches in a relaxed, yet professional, atmosphere.

More than 100 networking lunches for businesswomen are held each year at 12 venues in Sydney and the Central Coast.

Sutherland launched its inaugural last month to mark Small Business Month.

The network also has business retreats, speed networking nights, Be Inspired Nights, workshops, e-learning and other special events for members.

A percentage of the money raised from these functions and fund-raisers at the lunches was given to the network's charity of choice: SISTER2sister.

This charity has a mentoring partnership between little sisters (teenage women at risk) and big sisters (businesswomen).

Ms Moutia and network co-founder Cindy Steele won two of the five charity awards for fund-raising and advocacy at the Nivea Awards.

"We are now looking at holding networking lunches in other key areas throughout Sydney and expanding into other regional areas in NSW," Ms Moutia said.

Details on the network or the SISTER2sister program:
sydneywomensnetwork.com.au or
lifechangingexperiences.org.