

## Porirua Zontian Wins National Award

Zonta New Zealand, part of Zonta International, recently acknowledged International Women's Day and local club Mana held a Brunch at the Mana Cruising Club where around 40 women and men listened to Dr Jo Cribb CEO Ministry For Women give an excellent description of the Ministry's reporting goals.



These included Supporting Women into Education, Encouraging and Developing Women Leaders and Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls.

Incorporated into the annual recognition of International Women's Day was a celebration throughout New Zealand of 50 women chosen as *Women of Achievement*. Nominations of women who deserved to be recognised were put forward by Club members and the Zonta Club of Mana is thrilled to announce that Porirua resident, Barbara Thompson, a resident of Whitby for 37 years, is one of the 50 Women of Achievement!

During her 10 years as a member of the Zonta Club of Mana, Barbara has initiated many projects that have empowered women of all ages. These include projects to help build the self-esteem of women in Arohata Prison. In December 2015, Barbara and her team arranged a concert at Arohata Prison, involving prisoners together with choirs, churches and local groups. The concert ran over two nights and was very successful. The highlight was a moving solo by Lisa who sang the Whitney Houston song *I Will Always Love You*! The money raised was given to the Women's Refuges in the Porirua area – this was a direct gift from the prison women to agencies in our city helping many people.

As one of the 50 women recognised as a winner of the 50 Years of Achievement, Barbara is in esteemed company. Also recognised were two ex-Prime Ministers – Dame Jenny Shipley and The

Right Hon Helen Clark as well as Dame Sylvia Cartwright, Dame Margaret Sparrow and many other notable women.

Barbara said she was humbled and proud and *It is great to have the recognition; however the projects we have developed together as a club, empowering women, are the best part.*



Barb is pictured 5<sup>th</sup> from right with Zonta Club members, Corrections officers and staff from Porirua Women's Refuge after the concerts.