



## Northern News (Rouse Hill)

Tuesday 19/10/2010

Page: 12  
Section: General News  
Region: Sydney, AU  
Circulation: 10703  
Type: Suburban  
Size: 163.72 sq.cms.



**slice**  
slicemedia.com

press clip

# It's been a great year for networking businesswomen

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

"There's a growing number of businesswomen in Sydney and many of these run small and medium local businesses," said Natalie Moutia, co-founder of the Sydney Women's Network.

"The network is helping to meet the demand for local dynamic women's business networks, small business expos in local areas and business support for women in business."

This year the network ran four successful business expos in The Hills, Parramatta and Penrith and on the central coast.

The interest generated meant that there were more local business exhibitors and visitors than last year. At some events there twice as many.

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

More than 100 networking lunches for businesswomen are held each year and now in 12 locations, including Penrith and Lower Blue Mountains, the Hawkesbury, The Hills, Blacktown, Parramatta, Ryde, Five Dock, Liverpool, Hornsby, Northern Beaches and the Central Coast.

Sutherland launched its first network event in September to mark Small Business Month.

As well as the expos and the lunches, there are business retreats, speed-networking nights, Be Inspired Nights, workshops, elearning and other special events for members.

A percentage of the money raised from these functions plus fundraisers at the lunches was given to their charity of choice – SISTER2sister, which offers a mentoring partnership between little sisters (teenagers at risk) and big sisters (businesswomen). Network co-founders Natalie Moutia and Cindy Steele won two of the five charity

awards for fund-raising and advocacy at the Nivea Awards.

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

**Details of Sydney Women's Network or SISTER2sister: [sydneywomensnetwork.com.au](http://sydneywomensnetwork.com.au) or [lifechangingexperiences.org](http://lifechangingexperiences.org).**



**Success:** Sydney Women's Network co-founders Cindy Steele and Natalie Moutia.