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Women's group reaches out

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 business-women in Sydney and many of these run small and medium local businesses," said Natalie Moutia, co-founder of the Sydney Women's Network (SWN).

"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," Ms Moutia said.

The network was established in 2008 and has offered monthly networking lunches in a relaxed, yet professional, atmosphere.

More than 100 networking lunches for businesswomen are held each year and are now held in 12 locations including Liverpool.

As well as the expos and the lunches, this year the group held business retreats, speed

networking nights, Be Inspired nights, workshops, e-learning and other special events.

A percentage of the money raised from these functions, as well as fund-raisers at the lunches was given to their charity of choice: SISTER2sister.

This charity offers a mentoring partnership between little sisters (teenage girls 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 are now looking at holding networking lunches in other key areas throughout Sydney and expanding into other regional areas in NSW," Ms Moutia said.

To find out more about the Sydney Women's Network or the SISTER2sister program go to: www.sydneywomensnetwork.com.au or www.lifechangingexperiences.org