

Women In Finance Network

“The key to women empowerment lies in supporting other women,” says Jeanette Hearn, Deputy-CEO of Grant Thornton, in a Forbes Woman Africa interview.

It was with the aim of supporting, encouraging, developing and mentoring women in financial services that Women In Finance Network (WIFN) was established in 2013.

The growth of the Network is testimony to its relevance and popularity. Simone Arnold of Investec Asset Management says, “We are encouraged by the level of support the Network has achieved thus far.”

Now hosting two events each, in Johannesburg and Cape Town, WIFN has recently expanded to Durban and hosted an inspiring dinner with author and corporate leader, Shirley Zinn as speaker.

Welcome to WIFN events

If you enjoy a great breakfast or dinner at a beautiful venue, with industry colleagues and an inspiring message, make sure your name is on the WIFN invitation list. Guest speakers for WIFN have included Nicky Newton-King, CEO of the JSE; Shireen Chengadu, former GIBS director; Shirley Zinn, head of Woolworths Group HR and author; Debbie Goodman-Bhyat, author; and Helen Nicholson, networking and social media guru; among many other valued presenters (more details are available on the WIFN website).

Each event allows women in financial services to share worthwhile lessons as they shape their careers and thereby contribute to a growing industry. “Part of our role here is to leave a legacy, to trail-blaze and create opportunities for other women,” shares Jeanette Marais of Allan Gray.





WIFN has enjoyed the support of professional and industry bodies such as the Financial Planning Institute (FPI), Financial Intermediaries Association (FIA), Financial Services Board (FSB), The Insurance Institute of South Africa (IISA), and appreciates the endorsement of companies – both large and small – that have recognised the value of the Network.

WIFN giveback

Women In Finance Network has partnered with The Reaboka Foundation. This non-governmental organisation supports women entrepreneurs in communities that strongly depend on their financial stability and contribution to be sustainable, through skills development. The Reaboka entrepreneurs create beautiful products, one of which is the WIFN bee, which each member receives as part of her once-off R150 membership fee. Visit www.reaboka.org to find out more.

And thanks goes to ...

WIFN has enjoyed and is grateful for the support of the following partners this year, who enabled us to host wonderful events across three provinces: **Allan Gray, Investec Asset Management, Old Mutual Wealth.**

What you are saying about WIFN

Sherma Malan, CFP®, FPI: “We play in a male-dominated field, so WIFN gives us the opportunity to network and support each other.”

Esme Davies, Old Mutual Wealth: “Women bring an exciting and different dynamic to industries, businesses and relationships ... the combination is powerful. Being part of a network like this one is a no-brainer. We look forward to a long relationship with Women In Finance Network.”

Simone Arnold, Investec Asset Management: “Investec Asset Management was excited to partner with WIFN because it aligns with

our own female-focused initiatives. WIFN strongly resonates with our own internal objectives: mentoring, training, networking and generally supporting women in their career path within Investec. So we are excited to share ideas and hopefully increase the presence of women throughout the industry.”

Jeanette Marais, Allan Gray: “Allan Gray is involved in Women In Finance Network, not just to give back to the wonderful young people who work there, but because I passionately believe in the role that women have to play in the financial services industry.”

Amber Chowles, Momentum Financial Planning: “We always love to come to the Women In Finance Network functions. We get to connect with like-minded women and feel comfortable in a space where we all support each other. It is always so much fun and the guest speakers are brilliant – we can’t wait for the next one.”

Mariette Tappan, Liberty: “I was one the very first ladies to join this wonderful Network – I appreciate the professionalism and the speakers are world-class. I believe in the unity of women, I like the sharing, I like to learn. Women need to stand together and, in doing so, we can achieve a lot.”

Yvette Seepe, Chartered Wealth Solutions: “We love the Network because of the networking and mingling with beautiful ladies ... and the delicious food at the events.”

Follow and join us

Visit the WIFN stand at the FPI Professionals Convention. The WIFN website will tell you much more about the Network (www.wifn.co.za) and has contact details should you wish to add your name to the invitation list, become a member or subscribe to the WIFN newsletter. The WIFN Facebook page (www.facebook.com/WomenInFinanceNetwork) is packed with thoughtful articles and photos from the Network’s events. Follow WIFN on Twitter ([@WIFNetwork](https://twitter.com/WIFNetwork)).