

Annual Report of the Zonta Club of Brisbane North

Presented at the Annual General Meeting on Monday, April 19, 1982.

It gives me great pleasure to present the fourth Annual Report of the Zonta Club of Brisbane North.

During this year as President, it has been my aim to further the objects of Zonta International by stimulating the desire of each member to be of service and to promote good fellowship as an opportunity for service. I believe these goals have been achieved and that 1981 will be remembered as a most successful year when all our members have shown their desire to fulfil International President Shirley Schneider's theme to

"Share with Others and Serve with Love".

In August, 1981, our Recording Secretary, Jean Sinclair, and I represented the Club at the District XVI Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand. It was exciting to meet President Elect Cornelius Hodges and Executive Director Valerie Levitan and so many enthusiastic Zontians all striving to uphold and practice the ideals of Zonta. District Governor Jeanne Edgar told us of the tremendous growth of District XVI during the past two years -

In 1979 there were 45 Clubs - 17 in New Zealand and 28 in Australia;
In 1981 there were 65 Clubs - 21 in New Zealand and 44 in Australia.

It was at this Conference that Leneen Forde, Charter Vice President of the Brisbane Club and Lieutenant Governor of District XVI, was elected Governor for the next biennium. More recently Jean Sinclair was chosen as her Secretary. All members extend congratulations to Jean and wish her a happy and rewarding term of office.

The Tenth Anniversary Dinner of Zonta International in Queensland held at 29 Murray Street, Wilston, on Wednesday, 21 October, 1981, was well attended by our members. It provided an opportunity for Zontians in Area 1 to meet together and to offer congratulations to the Zonta Club of Brisbane - the first Zonta Club in Queensland.

Committees are a vital link within our Club, and I believe the success of the past year has resulted from the strength of our Committees. I thank the Chairmen of the Committees for their encouragement and efforts and particularly for their Annual Reports which I shall endeavour to summarise here.

During 1981, the Membership and Classification Committee was able to maintain our membership at 40 despite the loss of five members. We regretted the resignation of the following members: our former Club Treasurer, Margaret Gannon, because of a transfer to Sydney, Barbara Gettinby, Judy Miley, Shirley McLeod and Roslyn Rhodes. On the positive side we welcomed four new members in April, 1981, Robyn Aydon, Edris Mathers, Eunice Clarke and Joy Brannelly and our most recent member, Lorna Webber at the March, 1982, meeting.

Joan Webster became the Club's first Merited Member in July, 1981, and as a member of the Membership and Classification Committee has shown much interest in Club Extension.

The Fellowship Committee has worked to encourage friendliness within the Club and now has ready a Member's Kit for presentation to newcomers at their first meeting. The Committee's thoughtfulness has been greatly appreciated by those who have received messages of congratulation or condolence.

As 1981 was the International Year of Disabled Persons, it seemed appropriate for our members to consider them in our charitable efforts, and we chose to support the Spina Bifida Association. We were indeed grateful to Pam Bray for introducing us to Bernadette McGarry, an Arts Student at the University of Queensland, who is a Spina Bifida sufferer.

Bernadette won all our hearts when she spoke to us about the Independent Living Centre being planned by the Spina Bifida Association at Coorparoo. On another occasion, Mrs. Betty Russell, Administrator of the Association, discussed the valuable work being done by the Association in co-ordinating team work in the best interests of spina bifida children and their families.

Realising that attitudes of society are the greatest obstacles facing persons with disabilities, our Service Committee organised a Film and Discussion Evening, entitled "Spina Bifida - What is it". This evening was held at the Creche and Kindergarten Association Headquarters at Newmarket on Wednesday, October 7, 1981. Dr. Leigh Atkinson and a Specialist Panel presented a most interesting and informative programme, which was well received by the sixty people who attended.

Our Fund Raising Committee planned a splendid year of activities. To summarise -

- The year commenced with a Fashion, Fellowship and Fun Evening at Chopin's Restaurant at Ascot.
- A Trash and Treasure Fair held at Robertson Park, Indooroopilly, in July, was our most successful function ever, both in terms of member participation and dollars raised. We sincerely thank the Brisbane Girls Grammar School Concert Band who delighted us with their music, and the members of the St. Lucia and Indooroopilly Girl Guides who provided Billy Tea and Damper.
- A Garden Luncheon at my home on September 20, 1981, was attended by one hundred guests. Delicious food was prepared by members and two young musicians provided background music.
- In November we gathered with friends at La Boite Theatre to enjoy "London Blitz", which was followed by another of our now famous suppers.
- Hon. Zons joined us at our Christmas Dinner Meeting and gave us an opportunity to thank them for their help throughout the year.

Because of the hard work and involvement of all members, the amount raised this year was far in excess of previous years, and the splendid sum of \$4,859 is available to share between the Columbia Urban Slum Project (our Unicef/Zonta International Service Project), Amelia Earhart Fellowship Awards and the Spina Bifida Association.

Our Club has also provided gifts to elderly people on Mother's Day and Father's Day and a cheque for \$200 was sent to the Spina Bifida Association for Christmas Cheer. In addition, \$100 has been donated to the Basil Stafford Training Centre for the purchase of a special tricycle.

Our Safety Committee has discussed various aspects of public safety and letters drawing attention to methods, which have been found successful in other States for reducing the road toll, were forwarded to appropriate Government channels.

Our Amelia Earhart Committee is obtaining a film on the life of Amelia Earhart. A special evening is being planned and the film will be shown to members.

The Newsletter, Programme and Public Affairs Committee concerns itself with the well-being of the Club. The monthly Newsletter keeps members well informed of developments not only in our own Club but in the Zonta world generally. The Committee brought to our attention the good news of Bernadette McGarry's success in winning the Caltex Woman of the Year Award, which was a great thrill for all members. We intend making a special presentation to Bernadette before she departs for the United States of America.

We are fortunate in our Club that we have a most active and hard working Status of Women Committee who meet regularly at monthly intervals. It was during the Zonta Conference in Christchurch that mention was made of the great importance of the Status of Women Committee, which is needed now, as much as ever, to help towards the improvement of the legal, political, economic and professional status of women. During the year, the Committee's interests included the following:

- Members of the Committee have studied the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and a joint submission with the Brisbane Club was forwarded to the Justice Minister, Mr. Doumany.
- Several letters were written concerning the proposed cessation of funds for women's refuges.
- Tax relief for child care has been discussed with the Women's Lawyer's Association of Queensland.
- The Equal Rights Amendment legislation in the United States received attention and a letter was sent to Zonta in America offering support.
- The possible abandonment of the Commonwealth Youth Support Scheme was considered to be detrimental to young people.
- Superannuation and the various ways in which women are discriminated against in superannuation was studied.
- The White Paper on Family Welfare Legislation is being investigated.

May I say that it has been a pleasure to take time to pause and reflect on the past year of our Club. I thank you for the honour of being your President and for the many kindnesses shown to me. To my very hard working Board and Chairmen of Committees I extend my most sincere thanks. Finally, I wish the Club and all members every success in the future, and trust that we can continue to appreciate our privileged position as members of the International World of Zonta.

Joan Sheridan.