



*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*  
**ZONTA CLUB OF BRISBANE NORTH INC.**  
**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2005**  
P.O. Box 368, Spring Hill, Qld 4004

**REMEMBER ZONTA ON THE WEB!!!!** [www.zontadistrict24.org](http://www.zontadistrict24.org) AND [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

### *Editorial*

It will be a long time before the word Tsunami fades from everyday conversation. And it is likely that Zonta, like all other service groups will be involved in the gigantic rescue and restoration activities for a long time to come even if this is just in contributing funds and possibly goods of some kind. The financial contributions from our District 24 alone are "huge" – and still counting - our District Governor Ros Kinder says. Ros. was speaking at the Amelia Earhart breakfast at the Brisbane Golf Club on January 16 where two budding space engineers received their Zonta International Amelia Earhart 2004/2005 Fellowship Awards. Brisbane North was represented by Chris Christensen, Lorna Webber and Jean Sinclair.

It will be remembered that at our November Dinner meeting when the club entertained all our wonderful Hon Zons to demonstrate our gratitude to them for their cheerful assistance at our Fair and other functions our guest speaker and long-time Zontian of Brisbane Club was Ann Shevill. Ann read a memorable piece I Am A Volunteer. President Glenda asked that this piece be placed in our December newsletter. Chris and I thought it might be better to place on hold for the New Year when members would be back in serious mode after holiday festivities. Little did we know how prescient we were for soon afterwards the Boxing Day Tsunami created a need for volunteers as never before. So read this morale-boosting piece which was composed by Sallie Davis of the Volunteer Centre of Western Australia and with permission had been extracted from the June 1994 issue of Guiding in Australia.

As I was writing the Interesting Woman for this issue, the winner of the 2005 Australian of the Year was announced as Dr Fiona Woods, the Royal Perth Hospital burns specialist who invented the "spray-on skin" treatment that healed the burns of victims of the Bali bombing disaster. Just imagine if the male prejudice against which this month's IW - another pioneering Australian medico, Dame Kate Campbell - had to battle had still persisted into this day and age there might have been a different outcome for the Bali victims. The fact that last year Dr Woods was overlooked for the title in favour of a cricketer and that this year a pretty actress was one of the major contenders for her title makes one really wonder at the immaturity of judgment (male?) in some quarters.

*Jean Sinclair*

### *President's Letter*

Hello everyone. Welcome to the 2005 Zonta year.

I hope you all had the best of Christmas cheer, not too much New Year cheer and that 2005 is shaping up well for you already. It was good to note a few Zontians in the newspapers over the holidays, not the least being our own Heather Mohay, who as Brisbane Mater Hospital psychologist is doing wonderful work in monitoring child development and mental health of very low birth weight babies as they grow to adulthood (CM, Nov. 04).

The Boxing Day Asian tsunami was a terrible disaster for so many families. It was wonderful to see our Zonta organisation grab the reins, both locally and internationally, to send aid to help the victims, their families, villages and towns. The generosity of Zontians has been noted both by our District Governor and also the International president.

Something that all members should know about is that Zonta International is again looking at strategic planning for the organisation, and they have set up a web site for us all to have a say (more at the dinner meeting). The whole strategic planning idea makes me a bit nervous, but inevitably something good comes about. The strategic plan will help us as we look ahead to our 100th anniversary in the year 2019 and answer questions about the kind of organization we want to be in the future, what we want to achieve as members and as donors, and what kind of world do we envision for women and girls?

We as a club are off to a good start in answering some those questions in 2005. We will give out two Advancement Grants and the Club Orienteering award to young women at the February meeting on Valentine's Day. We also have the District UN Chairperson (Margaret Casey) coming to talk to us about our role as Zontians in the UN.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 14<sup>th</sup> February.

Glenda Gobe

# Notices

**UNIFEM BREAKFAST – Friday 4 March 2005 - Plaza Ballroom, Brisbane Convention Centre**  
**\$45 per head (\$32 concessional) 7am to 8.30am (be seated by 6.45am)**  
**GUEST SPEAKER: Ethel Sigimanu, Permanent Secretary,**  
**Unity, Peace & Reconciliation Ministry, Solomon Islands**

*We have booked, and paid for, a table (of 10 places) for Zonta Club of Brisbane North.*

*Members were advised by email, but are reminded now to book a place or places (you may wish to ask a friend or family member). Please pay the Treasurer (Chris) with a cheque made out to "Zonta Club of Brisbane North" or cash (in an envelope with your name).*

*Preference will be given to Club members until the February dinner meeting. Then we will look for others to fill the numbers at our table, if necessary.*

**NEWS ITEMS:**

❖ *The obituary in the Courier Mail for Dr Bruce Gutteridge triggered some Zonta memories. Who remembers the glorious fundraising evening "Come into the Garden, Maud" at historic Mayfield? The function was conceived and organised by our still greatly missed member, actress Jennifer Blocksidge.*



Remember Christmas? And the piles of brightly-wrapped gifts that members brought to our Zonta Christmas party with the object of making Christmas brighter for recipients in women's shelters?

Joan Sheridan at whose house our annual Christmas party has been traditionally and happily held for many years has received a letter of thanks from Sharon Boyle, the Acting Executive Director of Better Housing Projects Association Inc who distributed our gifts around the several properties of the Association which shelters women and children in unfortunate circumstances.

Sharon Boyle writes:

*" These generous gifts will provide some Christmas cheer for lives which are beginning to be pieced together or which are constrained through factors which may include substance abuse, domestic abuse or mental illness.*

*Please thank your members and wish them and their families a very happy festive season."*



**DINNER MEETING DATES – 2005 : United Service Club - 6.30pm for 7.00pm**

14 February	14 March	11 April	9 May	<b>6 June (NB 1<sup>st</sup> Monday)</b>
11 July	8 August	12 September	10 October	14 November
12 December (Christmas venue to be announced)				

**YOUR BOARD:**

**President:** Glenda Gobe **Vice-President:** Jennie Watt **Minutes Secretary:** Liz Mellish  
**Correspondence Secretary:** Narelle Sommerfeld **Treasurer:** Chris Christensen  
**2-year Directors:** Ann Jones, Christine Stewart **1-year Directors:** Lynette Liddle, Patricia Réao

## INTERESTING WOMEN – DAME KATE CAMPBELL

Two young doctors, one male, one female, had had a high-pressure day in a hospital labour ward when the young male doctor became faint with exhaustion. His female medical partner suggested he lie down and she would fetch him a brandy.

Stung to the quick the male doctor sat bolt upright. "You'll not get me brandy" he shouted, "you look like three ha'porth of God help us and you're as tough as an old boot!"

The female doctor of this story became Dame Kate Campbell who in the 1950's made the important discovery of the link between the use of high levels of oxygen in childbirth and blindness in low-weight premature babies

A Plain Jane she may have been as her photograph indicates, and she never married, but her achievement in the happiness stakes was enviable enough. At the end of her career she told her interviewer: "I am always grateful that it has been my good fortune to spend my life in the satisfying, rewarding and fascinating field of pediatrics. Such fulfilment is the lot of few people."

Nevertheless, Kate Campbell, born in 1899 had to face all kinds of prejudice when she began medical studies in 1917. She said that in those days, while doctors had a very high status, a girl taking up medicine was considered a curiosity. Kate was one of 26 girl students in a class of 160. The large number of girls was probably due to the fact that World War I was raging and women were filling up the gaps left by men doing war service.

Nevertheless the male students did not approve of women studying medicine and thought they must be strange, said Dame Kate. There was no open hostility or outright nastiness but sometimes a lecturer would embarrass them with coarse jokes. For clinical work the male students were assigned to the best clinicians and the women to clinicians who mostly were not top flight. Moreover when the women went to the Melbourne outpatients for their first clinic (as a very unsophisticated group), they were given the male VD clinic.

After graduation, discrimination became much more serious. One hospital refused to take women doctors using the excuse that it could not provide toilet facilities for females! Kate, one of the top graduates of her year was accepted by the Melbourne Hospital where she and female colleagues were given all the dirty work. Kate said, "We didn't protest about it, we simply expected it. We were at last in, glad to be there and grateful – we knew our place."

A very serious area of discrimination was that the women were not allowed to do casualty duty where doctors see every case that comes into the hospital and thus are provided with great overall experience. Kate said, "Even though we were barred because casualty wasn't nice for girls, there were no qualms about placing us in Ward 32, where the refractory or mentally ill patients were treated."

Moreover the male doctors at Casualty saw to it that their friends got a variety of cases to treat, whereas Kate at first had a ward full of fractured femurs. A senior doctor saw Kate's plight and roared at her to get down to Casualty and make herself "damned offensive" about such treatment.

For financial reasons Kate knew she would have to be a general practitioner but to qualify for this she needed experience at the Melbourne Children's Hospital and again her path seemed blocked because that hospital did not take women doctors. But a senior physician at the Melbourne (and an honorary at the Children's) had been very impressed by the work of Kate and another woman doctor and through him both were taken on at the Children's. Afterwards he used to boast that he had earned his place in Heaven by this one good deed alone! It was at the Children's that Kate had the flash of inspiration that determined her future. While tending a sick little two-year old she described as "the dearest little thing" the conviction came to Kate that she must specialise in child health.

Thus inspired and after 10 years in general practice Kate went into private practice. She expected to starve, but her reputation in the field of neonatal pediatrics grew so that she was appointed as lecturer in neonatal pediatrics – the first such appointment in Australia – and possibly the world. Medical students who attended her lectures, when they became doctors themselves sent their cases to her and her reputation grew so that she was awarded the C.B.E and later created a Dame.

In reviewing her life Dame Kate stated that the inferiority of women in her younger days was due to three "M"s – muscle, maternity and money. When women were solely dependent on their husbands for money they had no power. Some of her women colleagues had to give up medicine on the order of a husband lest his male colleagues asked "can't he keep her?" Dame Kate said that she had learned three things in her life: firstly you can't have everything; secondly, nothing for nothing; you - or somebody else - has to pay for everything; thirdly, everything has a good and a bad side.

From The Half Open Door (Editors: Patricia Grimshaw and Lynne Strahan)

**Here is the article about Volunteering read by Ann Shevill at our November HonZons Dinner Meeting:**

### **I AM A VOLUNTEER**

Some say I am eccentric, others assume I am rich. I know that I am free. My freedom lies in the opportunities I can create and in the way I feel about myself. I am a volunteer.

I can dream, I can help to make that dream a reality. I cannot always do it alone. I can search for others with that dream and we can together create a vision. I am a volunteer

Some say I am a fool doing unpaid work in an unappreciative society. I value the unpaid work I do, and to others it can be untold wealth. I am free. And in my freedom I am rich in friendships, satisfaction and fulfillment. I am a volunteer.

I need help and support, guidance and training. I need protection, consideration and appreciation from myself and from others. I need to learn and to grow in my volunteering. I need to know the feelings of others, to understand their expectations. I need flexible, clear and understanding direction. The work I am doing is free, but it does not come free of charge. I am a volunteer.

I have responsibilities to stand up for myself, to listen and to learn, to be reliable, honest and understanding, to be considerate of others, to allow others to have an opinion, and to accept the agreed boundaries of my commitment. I am a volunteer.

Some say I am cost-effective, others demand the service I deliver. I know that I am willing to help, I care, and it feels right. I know that I am committed, and that means I might be abused, taken for granted or forgotten. I try to understand. Responsibility works both ways.

*(This was composed by Sallie Davis of the Volunteer Centre of Western Australia and with permission, had been extracted from the June 1994 issue of Guiding in Australia.)*

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#### ***Don't forget!!***

***Your payment (for dinner and UNIFEM Breakfast, if booking) in an envelope marked with name, amount, & chq. or cash.***

Don't forget to wear your *Name Badges*



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*Editorial*

Hopefully by our March meeting we will have shaken off that awful summertime lethargy. If there is any Zontian in our club who actually enjoyed being gently boiled just about every day this summer the Editorial desk does not want to hear about it.

Meanwhile as you can see your Editors have not been idle. You should find plenty of information inside that will come up for discussion at our March dinner. Your Production Editor (Chris) will be hard put to it to get everything into our normal four-page newsletter.

Your News Editor is looking forward very much to the touch of Culture in our March program meaning the talk to be given by Deborah Eddy the creator of conducted bus tours around Brisbane and SE Queensland commercial and public galleries.

Perhaps we could do with some more Culture in our meeting programs. It would be interesting to know what our members' cultural pursuits are wouldn't it? A few years ago we had famous Brisbane sculptor Rhyl Hinwood to address the club. There was even talk that we might have a fund-raising day out at her studio. Do we have some members who are hiding their talents - talents like pianoforte performances, violin playing, dramatic talents etc? Do any of our members know theatrical personalities who might be persuaded to help our club set up the great dramatic evenings we used to have? These were hard work, but a lot of fun and financially well worthwhile.

The Programme Committee on whom the main burden of such bright ideas falls possibly will have something to say about these suggestions at our March meeting.

*Jean Sinclair*

*President's Letter*

Dear Brisbane Northers

By the next dinner meeting, we will have had a couple of fellowship functions: the welcome morning tea for all 2004 new members at Lynette's on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March; and the first of the Fair meetings at Joan's on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March. These are always very enjoyable occasions and I recommend members to attend both. The Fair meeting means that we have started our plans for this year's Fair in earnest and we will all be expected to do as much as we can.

Each year our District 24 has a conference and this year we are lucky as it is at our own Gold Coast. The theme is "Zonta - Making A Difference". This is another chance for the club members to work together and also work with other Zontians. The advertising for the conference has been circulated to all members and I hope we can get a group together. The conferences are a great learning experience on how Zonta works. The club supports payment for registration for one member representative, so please indicate if you are interested in being that person.

Remember our discussion on the assembly day for the birthing kits. I have tentatively suggested the 7<sup>th</sup> May to the Adelaide Hills club and they have no problems with that late date. This is a Saturday and I'm hoping many of you will come along, even if only for an hour or two that day. We will finalise the venue later but have two excellent suggestions in Maggie William's board room or the church hall associated with Joan's church.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March's dinner meeting looks interesting, with a talk on Women in Art by guest speaker Deborah Eddy and presentation of the club's YWPA award.

Glenda

# Notices

## **Status of Women: Awards Task Group**

We had two excellent candidates for the YWPA Award this year – SALWA MARSH and LYDIA ELSWORTHY - both Captains of their schools, Brigidine College and Brisbane Girls Grammar respectively. The YWPA selection panel - Jocelyn Grant-Taylor, Rita Fraser and Narelle Sommerfeld - after careful deliberation have chosen SALWA, who has her sights set on a career in Law or Journalism and ultimately some area of politics. Her special interests include Debating, Public Speaking and participating in musicals. She will receive \$350 as our Club prize at our March dinner meeting and goes on to District level, where the prize is US\$500.

❖ **We look forward to the induction of new member Pauline Guthrie at our March dinner meeting. This will bring our numbers to 46. We are enjoying the influx of new lively members – not to cast any aspersions on the liveliness of the existing membership!!**



## DISTRICT 24 CONFERENCE – 7-9 OCTOBER 2005

### CROWNE PLAZA, SURFERS' PARADISE

#### **“ZONTA - MAKING A DIFFERENCE”**

Full registration:	\$270 by 30 June;	\$280 by 15 August;	\$295 full rate
Daily rate – Saturday	\$140 “ “	\$145 “ “	\$155 “ “
- Sunday	\$135 “ “	\$140 “ “	\$150 “ “
Individual tickets:			
Opening ceremony (inc.supper)	\$35	\$35	\$35
Saturday night banquet	\$75	\$75	\$75

There are Registration and Accommodation Booking forms with the Conference brochure.

We hope to have as many members of Zonta Club of Brisbane North attending as possible.



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## INTERESTING WOMEN – JOYCE NICHOLSON

“For most of my life I have been dominated by men, often to my ultimate advantage and the cause of much happiness, but probably the reason why I am now a committed feminist”.

So begins Joyce Nicholson in her contribution to the Half-Open Door, the book wherein a group of women academics at the Melbourne University describe how they achieved success in their careers in spite of all kinds of stumbling blocks placed in their path either deliberately or unconsciously.

Joyce explains “First there were my father and elder brother, then my husband, then a managing director of the family business.” (Joyce entered her father’s publishing business instead of going to University full-time like her brother. Both her parents thought marriage was the only proper course for a girl. However Joyce later went to Uni on a part-time basis. Working at the same time enabled her to help the family budget. Years later she became the firm’s Managing Director but her struggles to reach that position provide the bulk of her story.

Her father she describes as a wonderful companion. From the age of 12 she joined him in his small publishing business at week-ends and school holidays. Joyce describes this as the beginning of a long and unofficial apprenticeship eventually enabling her to hold the top position in the business “an equal to which for satisfaction and enjoyment it would be difficult to find” Joyce writes.

Between the lows and highs of this progress however there was marriage. Joyce writes that she had imagined she was entering a life that would keep her fulfilled and happily occupied forever. She made a private resolution to be the perfect wife.

Joyce comments: “It was not a very good way to start a marriage. Marriage should be undertaken by young women well aware of the realities involved, and with the rights and obligations, financial and otherwise, of both partners defined and understood. True love is unselfish, undemanding, sacrificial and easily exploitable.”

Joyce happily gave birth to two children and two more eventually came along to make what her husband considered a proper family. Joyce writes she never realised what she describes as “the true awfulness of rearing four small children” until she was pregnant with the fourth. “One is continually trying to train, feed or direct delightful, sweet, heart-stopping and lovable small beings who either do not know what is expected of them, or do not want to do what they ought or cannot. All this is done in isolation and amid criticism. Mothers are always at fault.” (Joyce was writing in the 1980’s and the expanding child-care industry has provided some sharing of child-rearing burdens.) Joyce writes that during the years of “home incarceration” she had been a director of the family publishing business and when her father retired he asked her to “keep an eye on things” and this led to rows with the managing director her father had appointed if Joyce complained about deadlines not met and changes she suggested were ignored. Joyce writes “To my utter dismay my father would then come into the business, closet himself with the MD and take his side. This was my first experience of how men stick together.” She determined to turn her back on the family business forever. She gained the academic qualifications of M.A. which she would have won earlier had it not been for working in the family business.

But in spite of herself Joyce eventually returned to the firm. She made a business trip to Britain where she was surprised at the courteous welcome she received. She returned to the family publishing firm with improved confidence so that eventually another blazing row with the MD finally convinced her father to appoint her at last as the MD which enabled her to make the necessary improvements she had been longing to put in place. Joyce wrote more than 24 books, she was early involved with the Women’s Electoral Lobby and at the inception of Sisters Publishing Ltd.

*With acknowledgments to Editors of The Half-Open Door, Patricia Grimshaw and Lynne Strahan*

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## **MARCH DINNER GUEST SPEAKER – DEBORAH EDDY**

In 1999 Deborah launched ARTOURS which conducts guided day bus tours around Brisbane and SE Queensland to commercial and public galleries where tour participants can enjoy a mixture of indigenous, contemporary and traditional art.

ARTOURS has won several awards: Finalist in the Brisbane Tourism Awards 2001 in the Heritage and Cultural Tourism category and a winner in the Yellow Pages Direction Award for Professionalism in the Tourism Queensland 2001 Awards, and in 2004 Quest Newspapers Business Achievers Award for Innovation.

In November 2002 ARTOURS opened a gallery in Oxford St., Bulimba with the aim of supporting Queensland arts and crafts people. In 2004 a secondhand book store was merged with the gallery. Other services provided are curating and hanging art work for businesses and individuals and art consultancy and a weekly e-newsletter provides a what's on calendar of visual arts events.

Prior to becoming self-employed Deborah worked in the financial services industry. Deborah is also a very active community worker, volunteering for Meals on Wheels, a board member for Vulcano Women's Circus and a volunteer radio announcer on Planet Radio bringing to air an arts programme called ARTICULATE. Deborah is a member of the selection panel for Churchill Fellowships; and a Curator for the annual Abused Child Trust Charity Art Exhibition.

Deborah holds a Diploma of Graphic Design from Randwick Technical College; and is studying painting and drawing at QUT, Kelvin Grove

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### **Some Snippets from "Montreal Communique No 2" from Janine Schmidt, on leave of absence, working as the Trenholme Director of Libraries, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.**

Picture Janine finding her way around snowy Montreal. Her first lesson was "walk", don't run. She has learned that melting snow becomes treacherous. Even so, she says, it is really quite beautiful when it is snowing, and she enjoys crunching along in the fresh snow.

At the time of writing, it was a Sunday morning, and minus 12 degrees, later rising to minus 9, and a minus 6 to look forward to later in the afternoon. Yet the Montrealers were all discussing Spring. She has found a stunning shop – Ogilvys (somewhat like Georges in Melbourne) – and has taken advantage of the end of winter bargains. Janine was hoping to find a "down coat" (like being wrapped in a doona?) at the sales.

She describes an experience of responding to a fire alarm at 3am one morning. So she found herself standing in the street for half an hour in minus 15 degrees (she doesn't describe what she was wearing!! – maybe this was the trigger for the "down coat"?).

Apart from various adventures, Janine says she is still familiarising herself with the job. [That, no doubt, will be a forerunner to changes, improvements, upgrades, similar to those that have lifted the U of Q Library into world class.]



## INFORMATION ON SOME (POSSIBLY) CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES FROM THE STATUS OF WOMEN SERVICE AND LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

**Parliamentarians for Women's Reproductive Rights** – This is a group initiated by Greens Senator Kerry Nettle that seeks to educate parliamentarians in relation to the medical and societal benefits that current abortion laws deliver and to challenge the unfounded claim that there is a crisis in regard to the number or nature of abortions conducted in Australia. Email Senator Nettle to get involved or show your support. ([senator.nettle@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.nettle@aph.gov.au))

**The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)** is the major policy response of state and federal governments in Australia to homelessness. Women and children escaping domestic violence constitute one of the largest groups of Australians who rely on SAAP-funded services. State and federal governments are currently re-negotiating SAAP funding for the next 5 years. The federal government's offer to the states includes a requirement for a greater contribution by the states. The QLD government is reluctant to agree to this, which could result in a reduction of \$4.9m per annum to SAAP services in the state. Shelter QLD is arguing that both the state and Commonwealth governments need to provide more funding to allow QLD to redress historic under-funding and enable the SAAP system to better address the high level of unmet need. Resources to help with lobbying can be downloaded from the AFHO web site [http://www.afho.org.au/3\\_news/nowhere\\_to\\_go\\_campaign/index.htm](http://www.afho.org.au/3_news/nowhere_to_go_campaign/index.htm)

**Campaign to Protect DV Clearing House** - <http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/> The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse has provided many important resources to the women's sector over its history. These have been critical for supporting the development of better government policies, more effective advocacy by activists, a higher public profile to the issues of violence against women and children, and more efficacious interventions by practitioners. The Clearinghouse is funded under the PADV program which will cease to operate after June 30, 2005. Unless women lobby hard for the continued existence of the Clearinghouse, this vital resource may be lost. The Clearinghouse urges women and their service networks to write urgent letters and emails to Senator Kay Patterson supporting the continued funding of the service. It also asks that women lobby for funding on at least a 4 year basis; for the Clearinghouse to remain auspiced by the Centre for Gender-Related Violence Studies with UNSW; and for there to be an increase of funding provided to accommodate expanding demands on Clearinghouse staff. ([senator.kcpatterson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.kcpatterson@aph.gov.au))

**Disability Services Review** - The Queensland government is reviewing the provision of disability services in Qld and is calling for public submissions regarding how the delivery of disability services can be improved. This is an important opportunity for women in the sector and in the community to raise awareness of the needs of women with disabilities and the ways in which these are inadequately met at present. It is also an important opportunity to raise the profile of women-specific services and highlight their value for meeting women's specific needs. **To find out more about the Review and to download a consultation paper go to** <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au>



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### *Editorial*

First the dreadful Boxing Day tsunami and now a devastating earthquake. Indonesia once more needs international aid for its people in dire distress. Some idea of the dreadful consequences of the tsunami are revealed in the results published on a Sisters of Mercy world-wide website and picked up by Chris Christensen who has passed a print-out to Newsletter.

This reports that four times as many women as men perished in the tsunami disaster. The reason for that disproportion lies in the social conditioning of culture. For instance women have been socially conditioned not to swim or climb trees; severe punishment being their lot if caught in such activities. Many men and boys survived because they could swim and climb trees.

The force of the water ripped clothes off women. Their culture forbade them to appear naked and they stayed in their houses paralysed by fear and custom. Those women remaining clothed in sari dresses were hobbled by their clinging floor-length gowns. Men were well able to run freely in shorts or pants. Women lagged behind trying to help the aged, disabled and children while men according to culture and custom ran unhindered expecting women to follow them as a matter of course.

Relief workers report that now the men are dealing with their grief that their wives, girl children, sisters and mothers have perished because of the cultural restrictions induced by male law and imposed on the feminine gender.

Possibly the effects of the earthquake will be different from those which followed the tsunami and more equitable between the sexes as regards loss of life. Whether there will be a resultant cultural change of any sort remains to be seen.

The issues of land ownership and reconstruction are primary concerns. A widowed woman has little to no chance of claiming land without a husband's presence and legal signature.

In the matter of home-building the reconstructionists are being urged to consider the need for better kitchens, more friendly to women than former ones that consisted of just a camp fire at the rear of the house with no place for a woman to sit, forcing her to squat for hours on end. One wonders what effect that would have on a cook's back. Let us hope that in this area at least the women of Indonesia win the day!!

*Jean Sinclair*

### *President's Letter*

Dear Zonta Club of Brisbane North members

We are often asked what Zonta does and new members may be finding this happening. It is always worth knowing that, as well as our local support, fees we send to Zonta International (one third of our hard-earned funds, mainly through The Zonta Fair) address some of the most crucial and pressing issues affecting women, like HIV/AIDS, trafficking for sexual exploitation, maternal and neonatal tetanus, and female genital circumcision. There are several awards and scholarships, both locally and internationally, all helping women. For example, currently we are advertising for the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship. This one supports women who are studying degrees in business management and helps overcome gender barriers. Jane M Klausman was a member of a New York club who understood the importance of helping women become business leaders, and she generously set up this bequest. And so we help each other.

This coming month (May), we as members can do our bit for women less fortunate than us by building "birthing kits". This is a project initiated by the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills and the kits are sent to Third World countries to make birthing safer. The date set aside is Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May, venue will be the St Thomas Aquinas Church in St Lucia, and even if you can come and help for one or two hours that day, it will be appreciated.

See you on the 11<sup>th</sup> April. Our guest speaker will be Professor Helen Bartlett, speaking on "Women in an Ageing Society" – it promises to be an interesting talk.

### *Glenda Gobe*

#### **Guest speaker**

Professor Helen Bartlett is Foundation Director at the Australasian Centre on Ageing, University of Queensland. She has held research and lecturing positions in social policy and health care in UK, Western Australia and Hong Kong. Her research has focused on quality and policy issues in community and aged care. Her publications include three books on nursing homes and continuing care and numerous papers on ageing and aged care in refereed journals. She is also on the Editorial Board of several key journals on ageing issues.

# Notices

## **ANNUAL REPORTS!!!!**

Don't forget that your annual reports on Committee activities are due. Please get them to the President as soon as possible, and no later than 15 April 2005.

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## ZONTA INTERNATIONAL *IS MORE THAN JUST ZONTA CLUB OF BRISBANE NORTH*

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET? ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT IT?

**FIRST: AREA 3 – 5 WORKSHOP FOR 2005: SUNDAY 10 APRIL 2005 - \$38 per person  
9.00am to 4.00pm at the Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside  
There is still time to register – till 4<sup>th</sup> April 2005 – with Sue Droughton 5496 8909**

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### **SECOND:**

**DISTRICT 24 CONFERENCE – 7-9 OCTOBER 2005 - CROWNE PLAZA, SURFERS' PARADISE**

#### **“ZONTA - MAKING A DIFFERENCE”**

Full registration:	\$270 by 30 June;	\$280 by 15 August;	\$295 full rate
Daily rate – Saturday	\$140 “ “	\$145 “ “	\$155 “ “
- Sunday	\$135 “ “	\$140 “ “	\$150 “ “
Individual tickets:			
Opening ceremony (inc. supper)	\$35	\$35	\$35
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There are Registration and Accommodation Booking forms with the Conference brochure.

We hope to have as many members of Zonta Club of Brisbane North attending as possible.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DINNER MEETING DATES – 2005 : United Service Club - 6.30pm for 7.00pm**  
11 April                      9 May                      **6 June (NB 1<sup>st</sup> Monday)**  
11 July                        8 August                    12 September 10 October  
14 November                12 December (Christmas venue to be announced)

#### **YOUR BOARD:**

**President:** Glenda Gobe **Vice-President:** Jennie Watt **Minutes Secretary:** Liz Mellish  
**Correspondence Secretary:** Narelle Sommerfeld **Treasurer:** Chris Christensen  
**2-year Directors:** Ann Jones, Christine Stewart **1-year Directors:** Lynette Liddle, Patricia Régo

## INTERESTING WOMEN - KATHLEEN FITZPATRICK

Kathleen Fitzpatrick was an outstanding lecturer in history at the University of Melbourne as well as being a notable writer of historic Australian figures and events.

She was born in 1905 in Omeo, Victoria.

"Like most girls of my generation I was dumped into the twentieth century already so intellectually crippled that I could not comprehend the world I was to live in", Kathleen wrote in her contribution to *The Half-Open Door* (the collection of memoirs that women academics of Melbourne wrote to record their notable achievements). Her schooling she did not regard as a formative influence save for one outstanding figure, Mother Aloysius of the Presentation Convent, Windsor in Melbourne whose teaching gave Kathleen the key to a life-long love of English literature.

For Kathleen home influence was more formative than school. While her father was attached to liberal principles such as freedom of speech and thought, her mother was in a state of permanent revolt against women's lot in life and was confirmed in her view that men had a better time than women because of their financial independence. "The idea of being like a man presented itself to me in a favourable light while I was still a child" writes Kathleen. She writes that the University of Melbourne was her Alma Mater in every sense for it was there that the life of the mind first dawned on her and where she discovered she was capable of and could really enjoy hard work in a place so congenial to her that the happiest years of her life were spent there first as a student and later as a member of academic staff from part-time tutor to associate professor.

Like a good many people Kathleen entered University with a fixed idea about what she wanted to do. She wanted to concentrate on English - her favourite subject. She thought she would combine it with history which she thought would be easy since at school she had found the subject as taught there only required literacy and a good memory. Experience at the University reversed her preferences. Whereas she found the English lectures uninspiring she discovered through a brilliant history professor that history was so much more than a prosaic recital of dates and events. It was full of romance with its study of the people behind those dates and events. So was born the future historian through her initial love of English and acquired fascination in the romance of history. However at this stage she still had a lot of growing up to do. She set sail for Oxford with as she says "a head full of dreams"

Oxford proved to be a culture shock of staggering proportions. Kathleen deeply appreciated all the wonderful advantages of being in a place not merely dedicated to learning but abundantly endowed for its pursuit with magnificent libraries and populated by a host of distinguished scholars among whom she worked. But in other respects the difference between her girlish dreams and stark reality was to disorient her and make her unhappy. Accustomed to thinking of England as "home" as many Australian families did years ago she quickly and painfully learned that although most English people of the day liked having an Empire they regarded "the colonials" such as herself as dreary provincials whom they would prefer not to know.

Another disillusionment was encounters with sexual discrimination, which she had not known at home. Oxford had actually admitted women to degrees only three years before Kathleen entered there. This emancipation had been won against strong opposition. This opposition, although defeated, was still making itself strongly felt. Some dons refused to admit women to lectures. Others, more subtly, had admitted them but then deliberately embarrassed and humiliated them. This prejudice was widely shared by the men students. Kathleen's description of the homosexual social atmosphere among the men is strongly reminiscent of scenes from the TV series *Brideshead Revisited* which is set in the same period as Kathleen's Oxford studies. Kathleen writes that she felt really degraded by all this and did not at all relish being regarded as socially impossible and deprived of the society of young men which she had taken for granted at home. But all this disillusionment was serving a useful purpose. It informed Kathleen of her true identity as an Australian and a member of a new nation in the making.

Returning home Kathleen held University posts in Sydney and Melbourne until she married which required her to resign her academic post. The marriage lasted three years before a divorce, leaving her without a job and no prospect of one so she took up a commercial course which she likened to a University of Hard Knocks. She eventually became a teacher there and found teaching Commercial English an excruciating experience because, she writes, of the prostitution of "our sweet English tongue" to the alleged needs of commerce. But again Kathleen was grateful for this painful experience because it taught her to see life from a completely different angle. Nevertheless she was relieved to be eventually rescued by the University of Melbourne offering back her old job of tutor. She became part of a team which achieved the flowering of the noted Melbourne History School eventually becoming Associate Professor. She also achieved fame as the author of two important books: notably *Australian Explorers* and the biography, *Sir John Franklin in Tasmania*.

With acknowledgments to Patricia Grimshaw and Lynne Strahan, co-editors of *The Half-Open Door*.

### ***Don't forget!! – April Dinner Meeting***

***Your \$30 payment for dinner and/or your \$135 subscription should be in an envelope marked with name, amount, & whether the payment is by cheque or cash.***



*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*  
**ZONTA CLUB OF BRISBANE NORTH INC.**  
**NEWSLETTER MAY 2005**  
P.O. Box 368, Spring Hill, Qld 4004

**REMEMBER ZONTA ON THE WEB!!!!** [www.zontadistrict24.org](http://www.zontadistrict24.org) **AND** [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)  
*President's Letter*

### *Editorial*

This month's Editorial looks back to the past. It seems therapeutic to do so when so many present day events fill us with dismay. So your attention is drawn to the May issue of The Brisbane Courier, the newsletter of the Brisbane History Group. In the establishment of BHG our member Helen Gregory was one of its prime movers and became its foundation president.

BHG is holding a seminar entitled Women in Radical Brisbane to mark the centenary of the granting of franchise to women in Queensland. This seminar will be held on Saturday 7 May 2005 in the Auditorium of the TLC Building, 16 Peel St. (cnr Grey Street) South Brisbane, beginning at 1.30 for Registration and for browsing through a bookshop. Talks will begin at 2pm. Topics will be: Radical Theatre in Brisbane; Women's Liberation in Brisbane; Emma Miller; The Suffrage Struggles and Leontine Cooper. At the end of the talks there will be a Forum when a panel will answer questions. The seminar will close at 5pm. The leading article of the BHG May newsletter is entitled Women in Radical Brisbane. It relates how in 1859 when the State of Queensland was formed, the voting system favoured pastoral interests for adult men only and only those with property and residential qualifications. Over the next forty years the franchise for men expanded considerably, but women still did not have the right to vote.

This right had already been won in New Zealand and some Australian states but Queensland's conservative male politicians decried the move. However, many organizations could see their agendas might well be achieved with the support of women as voters and eventually as legislators. Thus a normally conservative body like the Women's Christian Temperance Union lent support to the suffragists in the hope that this would lead to better social conditions (including temperance) for women. This recounting of the vigorous struggle by women activists promises a lively afternoon.

Those club members who would like to attend should contact the BHG President Mervyn Royle at 3359 3344.

NB: There is no on site parking but parking is available in nearby streets or the Queensland Art Gallery. A train to South Brisbane or BCC bus to QPAC will also get you there.

*Jean Sinclair*

Dear Club Members

One of my aims of the past two years was to increase the interest of the Club in Zonta's role in the United Nations. I have not been successful! I guess international issues do seem a long way away from our relative comfort. However, here is a little of Zonta's history at the UN. ZI was closely linked with the UN right from the start, through its support for the fledgling UN in 1946. As a registered international non-government organization, ZI actively brings women's concerns to the UN, and suggests and helps implement solutions, often through local clubs. Through the ZI UN Committee, we maintain representatives at all sites of the UN. In particular, we participate in the UN Economic and Social Council, mainly through its Commission on the Status of Women (one of nine committees). This CSW committee is a leading policymaker concerned with women's rights and the equal status of women. Now, that all does seem worthwhile to register and keep up to date with, through our own UN Committee.

The guest speaker at our next dinner meeting should interest all of us. Dr Kathy Ahem will speak about "whistle blowers (particularly female) in the workplace – and the emotional, social and professional effects on the whistleblowers". This seems timely given the effect on the nurse whistleblower(s) in the Bundaberg Hospital "Dr Death" saga. Kathy is a nurse educator who has been working at the University of Queensland as a sociologist for the last 5 years. She is currently seconded to the School of Nursing to teach social science to nursing students.

**DON'T FORGET 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY – OUR BIRTHING KIT DAY. SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS. BRING A FRIEND!!**

Hopefully I'll see you then, but if not, see you on the 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Glenda Gobe**

# Notices



**Saturday 7th May**

## **BIRTHING KIT ASSEMBLY DAY FOR OUR CLUB**

**Hours for work - 10am to 4pm or any part thereof!!**

At St Thomas Aquinas Church Hall  
corner Central Ave and Eighth Ave St Lucia  
*BYO lunch but we'll have tea, coffee, treats.*

**Please try to come along for a couple of hours,  
to spread the load.  
Bring a friend!!**



**AND – HAVE YOU BOOKED YET?:**

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## INTERESTING WOMEN - DIANA (DING) DYASON

This month's Interesting Woman is decidedly different from other women academics at Melbourne University who contributed essays on their careers to The Half-Open Door.

Diana Dyason, a notable historian of science, headed the first History and Philosophy of Science Department in Australia at the University of Melbourne and as its foundation president was instrumental in developing the Department to a high international standing. She was a foundation member of the National Committee for History and Philosophy of Science of the Australian Academy of Science. All serious stuff but her contribution also reveals her as someone with an irrepressible sense of humour. In addition she was a recognised water colourist. Other contributions to The Half-Open Door so far examined have given illustrations of male discrimination experienced during career endeavours and achievements. One does not find this in the contribution by "Ding" as perhaps she preferred to be called. She writes glowingly of the masculine influences in her life beginning with her kind, loving and intellectually-inspiring father.

Relationship with her mother was quite the opposite. "On her part Mother wished I didn't exist; on my part I was determined to survive" Quite chillingly she alleges her mother had to be restrained from physically harming her when she was a wailing newly-born and a victim of the Spanish "flu epidemic which was raging at the time of her birth. She tells how when she was three months old her mother took off for China, dumping her baby in some kind of baby farm where the infant went on a hunger strike until rescued by some elderly relations. In spite of this rather shaky start Ding was born into a world of wealth and privilege and was able to make full use of its advantages.

From the time of Ding's birth apparently the mother showed signs of what Ding calls severe psychopathology that became more evident as she aged. There were two younger children but her mother's temper tantrums and punitive acts and edicts seem to have been mostly aimed at Ding. "Our relations were never cordial" she writes. Ding's father indulged his wife, providing her with a car and plenty of money. "Mother never declaimed women's rights – she didn't need to" comments Ding. Her father had ensured that his wife was quite independent and she undertook a deal of independent travel in Australia, Indonesia and Europe. In the late 1930's she set off again for China and is believed to have been the first European woman to travel the Burma Road.

Ding was only 4 or 5 when she got her first taste of boarding school. On her first day she was sent to Coventry for talking to a boy called Cecil who already had been banished to the same place.

Then for a few years she was at a kindergarten where she says a Miss Court fired her life-long interest in science. "Her description of the functions of the root hairs of a carrot was a masterpiece." writes Ding.

At the age of eight she went as a boarder to the Melbourne C of E Grammar where she spent the next 10 years. "Most of the trouble I encountered at school was in the boarding house where I had a tendency to break all the written rules and many as yet unthought of" Ding writes. "Such as thou shalt not climb on to the roof of the tower, thou shalt not run midnight obstacle races" (over back fences down to the Yarra River) ... "put mousetraps in the housemistress's bed... nor... pretend to smell a smell in church thus producing a commotion... during the sermon." Not surprisingly Ding was threatened with expulsion several times and the threat nearly became reality when she organized a strike against early Sunday bedtime for junior boarders. The girls locked themselves in a storeroom "I was only spared because I'd heeded the teachings of my trade unionist grandfather viz. that in unity lies strength" writes Ding. "As the Head admitted when she duly carpeted the twelve of us there was a limit to the number of disobedient daughters from the better-known families who can be expelled from the school at any one time." The Head suspected Ding as the ringleader but could not prove it

To outwit their much admired Head, nicknamed Jonah by the girls, must have been quite an achievement for Ding since the Head, Miss K.A. Gilman-Jones had won a first in the mathematics tripos at Cambridge but as a woman of early 20<sup>th</sup> century had been deemed ineligible to take out her degree - the only reference Ding makes to the discriminating male world of that era. However "I certainly didn't see her as a typical victim.... It would be hard for anyone who knew her to see Jonah as a victim of any kind."

By and large the budding scientist enjoyed school partly, she writes, because her parents gave the school strict instructions that there was to be no censorship of her reading. However she was selective in what she took out of the school library leaving such delights as Burton's unexpurgated version of the One Thousand and One Nights, Karl Marx, The Psychology of Sex, etc. for reading at home.

Ding writes that some of her best friends were professors (including two who tried unsuccessfully to teach her poker) so that for her an academic career seemed the natural thing to do.

Her favourite professor was an uncle by marriage who previously had been married to a daughter of Annie Besant (1847-1933) the well-known fiery feminist and theosophist in a movement that sought to establish the "New Woman" with the sexes on an equal footing.

"Verily the men in my formative years were practitioners of women's lib" writes Ding.

With acknowledgments to The Half-Open Door edited by Patricia Grimshaw and Lynne Strahan.

## ZONTA FAIR

**SATURDAY, 23 JULY 2003**

Keep our big fundraiser well in mind over the next two months. Think of cakes, jams, pickles! Think of books! Think of jewellery and children's toys! Think of potplants! Think of clothing! Think of trash and treasure! Etc. etc. And don't forget to think about some nice contributions to include in the Monster Raffle Basket!!!

**DINNER MEETING DATES – 2005** : *United Service Club - 6.30pm for 7.00pm*

	9 May	<b>6 June (NB 1<sup>st</sup> Monday)</b>
11 July	8 August	12 September 10 October
14 November	12 December (Christmas venue to be announced)	

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*Editorial*

It is action stations from now on for Zonta Fair 2005! Memorise the date - Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2005 – and may it be bigger and better than ever!

The stalls are:- Books; Cakes Cookies, Jams and Sweets; Pre-loved Clothing; Hot Dogs / Tea / Coffee/Drinks; Jewellery and Toys; Muffins; Plants and lovely fresh produce from the Lockyer Valley; Trash & Treasure; Monster Raffle; Lucky Barrel. PLUS – no less than Three New Attractions!!

There is to be a Tarot Card reading by Zoe who will study the cards for \$2.00 a client. There will be a Pancake Drive, convened by our new President Christine Stewart and an adjunct to our already popular Hot Dogs, Tea and Coffee stall - sure to be a goer. And thirdly there are the snazzy Zonta bags especially designed for the Fair - in black and embossed with our Zonta emblem in gold. Supplies of these will be handed to each stall. The sales price will be \$3.00 each which allows each stall to recoup \$1.00 a bag to add to stall profits.

Members are urged to join in this major fund-raiser of Brisbane North's Zonta Year both by donating to as many stalls as possible as well as actively participating on the day. Thanking you in anticipation!

Your attention is especially drawn to the need for donations to the Monster Raffle and Lucky Barrel.

PLEASE NOTE. There are only two more meetings in which you can bring donations to the Raffle and the Barrel. Also PLEASE NOTE the club June dinner meeting is on the FIRST

MONDAY OF JUNE on account of the Queen's Birthday observance on the second Monday.

The convenors for the Raffle and the Barrel are respectively Jane Prentice and Mercia Ferrier. Jane will be looking for all sorts of goodies to pack into her Raffle Baskets. The prizes from the Lucky Barrel will be in the form of gift vouchers from various businesses.

The Trash & Treasure convenors will take all kinds of goods so long as they are in SALEABLE CONDITION. Please do not burden them with the obviously unsaleable thereby making the task of cleaning up afterwards so much more burdensome. The same goes for the Bookstall. Dog-eared volumes only fit for throwing away will not be appreciated. Otherwise all book donations are eagerly sought. Ann Jones has an empty garage at 3/33 Sisley St. St. Lucia which she is kindly making available for the storage of books. Liz Mellish at 132 Victoria Ave., Chelmer, convenor for pre-loved clothing will take donations from now on. Don't forget that Liz has an Exclusive Range category at her stall too if there are any past glories in your wardrobe that you wish to hand on to a deserving cause such as ours. The Book stall has a reputation to keep up for good books at very affordable prices. Remember too there are lots of children who come to the Fair looking for a good read. Children also line up at the very attractive Jewellery stall of June Halliday and Mary Mahoney looking

for trinkets they think would look nice on Mummy or themselves.

Glen Marshall will be delighted if the green-fingered among our members remember to bring something to her to add to her stock. Remember that Glen's stall stocks lovely veggies so do your weekend household shopping there on Fair day.

And all you cooks remember that Glenda Gobe and Lorna Webber depend on being well supplied with cakes, cookies, jams, sweets and biscuits to cope with the heavy demands they always have to cater for. So to all these stallholders please give generously!

*Jean Sinclair*

### **Incoming President's Message**

It is with much excitement and enthusiasm that I take on the responsibility as President of Zonta Club of Brisbane North Inc. I thank all Members for their vote of confidence in electing me and the members of the Board to Office for 2005 – 2006.

The incoming Board is extremely experienced and talented and are committed to provide positive leadership, future planning and support to the Club; through involving all Members in our decision making process we can and will make a difference to the lives of many women.

2005 – 2006 is an exciting time for Zonta with District 24 Conference to be held on the Gold Coast in October 2005 and Convention to be held in Melbourne in June 2006. I would urge as many of you as possible to attend these meetings and become involved and experience first hand Zonta as a worldwide organisation.

There are several goals I have for this Zonta year. On a personal level I want to develop my leadership potential and interpersonal skills. For our Club I want to attend each

Committee Meeting at least once throughout the year and through Legislative Awareness and Advocacy find ways how we can best use advocacy to bring about improvement in the lives of women ensuring that we are also furthering Zonta's Goals.

I challenge you all to work hard this year, become actively involved in club meetings and activities, appreciate each and every member, have fun along the way and our Club will grow from strength to strength.

*Christine Stewart*

### **President's Message**

My final newsletter message comes as a bit of a relief, but also has a twinge of sadness, as I really have enjoyed the past two years as Club President. This has only been possible with the support from the club, so thank you one and all!

Last night at the Changeover Board Dinner I sat and listened to the new Board discussing ideas for the coming 12 months. I thought what a great idea it is for Presidents to have to move on after a maximum of two years, as I could see what a difference the 'new blood' will make, I was so impressed with the commitment the new Board showed for the Club. I know you will give new President Christine Stewart and the new Board your support, as you did me. Again, my heartfelt thanks for the past two years.

*Glenda Gobe*

### **Your New Board For Induction on the 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2005 by**

*Sue Droughton - Zonta Area 3 Director*

<b>President:</b>	<b>Christine Stewart</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Jane Prentice</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Chris Christensen</b>
<b>Minutes Secretary:</b>	<b>Liz Mellish</b>
<b>Correspondence Secretary:</b>	<b>Narelle Sommerfeld</b>
<b>Two-Year Directors:</b>	<b>Brigid Limmerick</b> <b>Margaret Marshall</b>
<b>One-Year Directors:</b>	<b>Anne Jones</b> <b>Maggie Williams</b>

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*12 September*      *10 October*      *14 November*  
*12 December (Christmas venue to be announced)*

## INTERESTING WOMEN

While I cannot provide many personal details about this month's interesting woman I can concentrate on what this spellbinding author has produced and the era about which she has written-the era of the sailing ships. The writer is Joan Druett of whom I had never heard until I paused at my newsagent's discount stall and picked up what looked like a most picturesque paperback.

Its cover was a most beautiful deep sea blue; it was entitled *Hen Frigates* and had sub-titles of *Passion and Peril – Nineteenth-Century Women at Sea*. The piece de resistance was the reproduced photograph on the cover of a very confident looking woman at a ship's wheel. She has a sou-wester firmly tied under her chin, a three-quarter-length coat of the same waterproof fabric over her long skirt, from under which coyly peeps the crochet trimming of her petticoat. Her stockings are the de rigeur of the period - thick and black. She also wears a very happy expression.

The book was too intriguing to leave with the newsagent. The publicity blurb on the back cover explains that the term "hen frigate" was the traditional description of any ship with the captain's wife aboard. And it took the author more than a decade to collect fascinating stories gleaned from the letters of 19<sup>th</sup> century courageous women who chose to accompany their husbands to sea rather than languish at home worrying and pining.

The author, Joan Druett is a maritime historian and author of ten or more works of history and historical fiction. She has received various awards including a Fulbright Fellowship. Her research for *Hen Frigates* began on Raratonga where the author's curiosity was aroused by a memorial to a young woman who had been the wife of the captain of a whaling ship. She thought she might find a book about what seemed a young woman's strange decision to board a whaling ship.

There was no such book to be had and Joan Druett realized she would have to write one herself. And she has written about numerous women who chose to accompany their sea-faring captains to sea. Her quest led her to Australia, Britain, Hong Kong and the Hawaiian Islands- and to many museums, libraries and historical societies in the United States. Even Brisbane gets an occasional mention. According to Druett one of the sea-faring wives wrote home that she saw a cockroach as big as a man's slipper in our fair city.

All this research took more than a decade and resulted in a fascinating collection of the memories and eyewitness accounts of life at sea from the feminine point of view. Apart from the constant threats of wild weather and/or shipwreck the ships had no doctor aboard and there was very little in the way of medicine chest. Any kind of sickness or injury was therefore another life-threatening hazard to be faced.

*Hen Frigates* is liberally illustrated with reproductions of women's portraits and family studies and there are also many beautiful sketches of various kinds of sailing ships by Joan Druett's husband Ron a renowned maritime artist.

It is difficult for baby boomers to envisage the days when older folk spoke of the adventures our early pioneers endured just to get here. Your editor grew up listening to such tales. At a family gathering my mother pointed to an old gentleman dozing in a corner. "He came out on 'The Flying Cloud'" said Mother. I knew exactly what she implied. The old gentleman as a six-month-old baby had endured a particularly hazardous journey from Britain along with his family. The ship was becalmed for six weeks, fast running out entirely of provisions and water. Scary stuff. Similarly my sister often delights to impress a visitor by pointing to an ancient jug saying "That came out on the 'Whirlwind!'" The jug is a household possession brought out by her husband's forbears. While some of the names of the old sailing ships might not have inspired the confidence of a nervous traveller they are much more colourful and romantic than the prosaic present day Flight No.in which present day travellers arrive.

This book by Joan Druett is a timely reminder of the sort of conditions previous generations endured which would have us all complaining today!