



The yellow rose,
Zonta's symbol

President's Report

This is my last update for 2013 as I leave for Amsterdam on 13 November to join my son and his family for both the Dutch Christmas and the traditional Christmas. This will be a very special time for my family as we also remember the little one we lost earlier in the year.

Everyone has contributed to make this year such a success. Our fund raising had a change in direction with the hugely successful Trivia night and the continuing dedication of Margaret and Pam in coordinating the sausage sizzle. Because of this hard work, the club was able to support Chisholm refuge, and planning is underway to assemble a much larger number of birthing kits in 2014.

Gina and her committee have once again nominated outstanding candidates for YWPA and JMK Women in Business Award for 2013, with Teegan Green receiving one of 12 Zonta International JMK awards. Congratulations to the awards committee.

Member numbers have increased by 5 in 2013 and I have very much enjoyed working with these ladies in different activities of the club.

Working in collaboration with three other Zonta Clubs on raising funds for Project Now has been a great success and this has raised awareness of Zonta in the community. The ZI initiative, 'Zonta Says No', will be promoted as 300-plus people dressed in orange T-shirts join together and walk along the Brisbane River from Newstead.

The nominating committee will shortly be seeking volunteers to stand for club office in 2014-15 year and I encourage you to consider any request.

So, 2013 has been a great year for Brisbane North. I will be thinking of everyone as you sing Christmas carols at the December meeting. I shall be in Innsbruck on a Christmas markets tour. An early Merry Christmas to all members, Hon Zons and friends, and I look forward to the last few months of my presidency in the New Year.

Anne

Zonta and Climate Change

None could be unaware of the discussions about climate change (CC). Even modest predictions of the impact of CC are concerning. ZI has examined the issues in relation to the effect on women and UN CEDAW articles, and the ways in which Zonta clubs can advocate on behalf of those affected (see page 2).

UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW)

The 25th of November celebrates attempts by the UN to eliminate violence against vulnerable women such as those rural/remote areas, Indigenous and refugee women, girls, elderly women and those in war zones. The United Nations see the day as one of action, and urges:

international organizations and non-governmental organizations, to organize on that day activities designed to raise public awareness of the problem of violence against women.

Source: tinyurl.com/UNDocEV

The deadline for recording your intended absence from the dinner meeting is 9am on the Friday before. Failure to notify Noreen in time will mean you will still have to pay the cost of the dinner (\$41), since the Club will be charged for it regardless.

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Date Claimers

November 11th 7pm USC Dinner Meeting

Apologies to Noreen Gorman on 3371-5752 by 9am on Friday, 8th November. Please let Noreen know beforehand if you:

- are bringing a guest
- have special dietary needs
- are returning after an absence

Sunday, November 17th Fund-Raiser

Croquet and Dinner
(full details p.4)

November 27th. 6pm Ash- grove Library Board Meeting

The secret of happiness is to count your blessings while others are adding up their troubles.

~William Penn

What should Zontians do About Climate Change?

The world's poorest and most vulnerable people – the majority being women and their children – are the most adversely affected by natural disasters generally, and climate change in particular. There is a cruel irony in the latter because the poorest consume least and therefore have a much smaller carbon footprint than we in more developed economies. Poor women will be disproportionately affected by climate change (CC) because they are more dependent on the natural resources which are threatened by CC. In the Pacific for example, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification reports¹ that the low-lying coral islands of the Pacific are already being affected adversely in various sectors such as “agriculture, water resources, forestry, tourism and other industry-related sectors”. In the future, Kiribati and the Marshall Islands are at risk of losing 12.5% and 80% of their lands if the sea rises just one metre.

ZI does not have an “official” position on CC or sustainability, but it does believe there is a role for Zonta members in meeting the challenges of CC as they affect women². If action needs to be taken in a country other than in Australia, then the matter should be referred to the Chairman of the International LAA Committee and the Chairman of the International UN Committee for action. So that there is only one ‘Zonta voice’ in submissions to government, any action taken in Australia needs to be at a national level if possible (i.e. collaboration across districts) or if that is not possible, then at a local level only. Remember, for every advocacy action a Club takes, it must advise its District LAA Chairman and District Governor so that they can provide reports on request to the Zonta International Board. Actions that need to be ‘checked’ for relevance in Australia or our region may be seen in the following table

1 www.ifad.org/events/apr09/impact/islands.pdf

2 www.tinyurl.com/ZontaCC

Gender and the Effects of Climate Change: Mapping Sustainability for Women to Zonta's Objects and CEDAW Articles

Zonta's Objects

Legal Status

CEDAW Article 2 extracts:

- # Embody principle of equality of women and men in all measures which affect them.
- # Ensure that public authorities and institutions act in conformity with equality principle.
- # Take measures to modify or abolish laws, regulations, customs and practices which discriminate against women.

CEDAW Article 5 extracts:

- # Eliminate prejudices and customary practices which are based on ‘stereotypes’ of roles for men and women.
- # Ensure that maternity is a social function and that men and women should be jointly responsible for children's development.

Political Status (esp. leadership roles)

CEDAW Article 7 extracts:

- # Women to be considered for election to all public bodies
- # Women to participate equally in formulation and implementation of government policy

CEDAW Article 8 extracts:

- # Women to be on equal terms with men in representing their governments at the international level and in participating in the work of international organisations.

Educational Status CEDAW Article 10 extracts:

- # Access to same educational opportunities as males.
- # Elimination of stereotype concept of roles of men and women.
- # Reduction of female drop-out rates.

Health Status

CEDAW Article 12 extracts:

- Women to have adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation

Link to Effects of Climate Change (Including Disasters)

- Women need to be included in all discussions, policy – making and implementation associated with climate change, thus enhancing their legal status.
- A study of disasters in 141 countries provided decisive evidence that gender differences in deaths from natural disasters are directly linked to women's social and economic rights. In ‘unequal’ societies, boys are likely to receive preferential treatment in rescue efforts; women and girls suffer more from shortages of food and economic resources. (Neumayer and Pleumper, 2007)
- In industrialised countries, more women than men died during the 2003 European heat wave. During Hurricane Katrina in the US, African-American women who were the poorest population in that area faced the greatest obstacles to survive.
- Most key decision-making institutions related to climate change have a male-dominated hierarchical structure.
- Women, if they are permitted to own land, generally have smaller holdings,
- Women should be appointed / elected to all international, national and local bodies concerned with the effects of climate change as they bring distinct experiences of such events to the discussion.
- Such representation should not be ‘tokenism’ (one or two women), but they should comprise one-third to one half of any organisation's delegation.
- Women should be represented at all international, national, and local conventions, meetings, forums dealing with climate change to enhance their political status through official representation on this issue
- We need to ensure that the effects of climate change do not have an adverse impact on the educational status of women and the girl child due to their increased household burden such that they drop out of school or cannot participate in programs which enhance their productive skills, especially those related to agricultural pursuits.
- Climate change can also cause forced migration away from [degraded] areas, thus contributing to a diminished opportunity to pursue education.
- Women's health status is directly affected by climate change as there is an increase in health problems of pregnant women caused by carrying heavy weights (firewood, water) leading to bladder problems and/or miscarriage. There is a reduction in the number and variety of plants needed for medicinal purposes and increased workloads can weaken their system and expose them to acquiring infectious diseases.
- Water-borne diseases and malaria are easily contracted by pregnant women and anaemia, an effect of malaria, causes 25% of maternal mortality.
- The high incidence of mortality of mothers in natural disasters (climate-related), causes an increase in infant mortality. In post-disaster situations where people are forced to live in crowded facilities, there is an increased risk of HIV/AIDS infection.
- In situations where women have to use fuels for cooking (due to no electricity), there are effects of pollutants from such fuels on ‘indoor’ areas where such cooking takes place. Access to ‘safe’ energy is central to improving nutrition and avoiding associated health issues, yet the gendered aspect of energy policy is often not adequately addressed.
- Climate variability not only increases the incidence of malaria, but also cholera.
- Water shortages are linked to increased diseases in women, especially young and old, since hygienic practices are sacrificed to more pressing needs such as water for drinking and cooking. In India, reduced rainfall is more strongly associated with deaths among girls than boys.

Zonta's Objects

Health Status

CEDAW Article 12 extracts:

- Women to have adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation

Economic Status

CEDAW Article 11 extracts:

- Women's right to job security and all benefits/considerations of retraining/education
- Right to protection of health and safety in working conditions including safeguarding the function of reproduction
- Provide special protection to women during pregnancy in types of work which may be harmful to them

CEDAW Article 14 extracts – Rural Women:

- Governments to take account of the special problems of rural women and the significant role they play in economic survival of their families.
- Pay special attention to rural women working in the non-monetized sectors of the economy.
- Participate in elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels.
- Have access to all types of training and extension services to improve technical proficiency.
- Have equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes.
- Enjoying adequate living conditions particularly in relation to housing, sanitation electricity, water supply, transport and communications.

Link to Effects of Climate Change (Including Disasters)

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- In some countries women have been attacked and raped whilst gathering firewood, water or thatch for houses. This is exacerbated where they have to travel further due to local degradation of resources.
- Women's diminished economic status due to climate change comes from changes in biodiversity (extinction of animal and plant species used for food/medicine; reduction of wooded cover; changes in geographic regions for some species); changes in agricultural and food security (negative impacts on agriculture and fishing; lack of water for irrigation; impact on managing domestic animals; reduced productivity in crops); changes in hydrology, (lack of available water; extreme climate events); changes in coastal zones and marine ecosystems (structural damage from storms, floods; erosion; pollution); changes in health – increase in infectious diseases; increased malnutrition; cardio-respiratory disease increase; increased deaths due to extreme climate events. Adverse health effects result in reduced economic activity and production. Women often have knowledge of 'local' hydrology (access to potable water) as well as 'shorelines' since they gather shellfish close to the water's edge. In order to access the full range of knowledge about economic sustainability in times of extreme climate events, women need to be included in all policy-making decisions.

- Matters affecting the economic status of rural women are the same as for other women, but the relative isolation of rural communities from essential goods and services makes their problem worse in terms of outcomes.
- Women are the main producers of the world's staple crops providing up to 90% of the rural poor's food intake, and producing 60-80% of the food in most developing countries. Most of the crops they produce (maize, sorghum, millet, groundnut yields), have a strong association with year to year variability of ENSO (El Nino/Southern Oscillation) in Africa. Significant effects on global climates will imperil crop production and economic livelihoods, not to mention health and survival.
- In China, for example, insect outbreaks increase due to climate changes. Locust outbreaks are associated with cold, wet periods, floods and droughts. An increase in pest outbreaks not only reduces crop and milk yields, but also adds to the number of hours and resources women need to invest in pest control.
- Changes in precipitation patterns can cause the extinction of pollinators such as butterflies and bees and this can seriously affect women's agricultural production of fruit, honey, nuts and flowers.

Sources: Bridge Institute (2008); Neumayer & Pleumper (2007); UNDP (2010a); (2010b); (2010c); UN Women (n.d.); UN Womenwatch (2009).

References

- Bridge Institute of Development studies (2008), Gender and Climate Change: Mapping the Linkages. A Scoping Study on Knowledge and Gaps. University of Sussex, UK. (www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/)
- Neumayer, E. and Pleumper, T. (2007), The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: The Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy, 1981-2002. (<http://ssrn.com/abstract=874965>)
- (UNDP) United Nations Development Programme (2010a), Gender, Climate Change and Community Based Adaptation, A Guidebook (www.undp.org/go/cms-service/download/publication/?..live).
- UN WOMEN, (n.d.) Facts and Figures on Gender and Climate Change (www.unifem.org/partnerships/climate_change/facts_figures.php)
- UN WomenWatch (2009), Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change (www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/)

Fund-Raising Event

Event: Croquet Afternoon and Gourmet BBQ dinner

Date: Sunday 17th November, 3pm to 8pm

Where: Merthyr Croquet Club, New Farm Park

Final Details

- ◆ Croquet will start from 3pm
- ◆ Dinner around 6.30pm to finish by 8pm
- ◆ Croquet & dinner, **\$40.00**
- ◆ For those not playing and joining us for dinner, **\$25.00**
- ◆ Drinks will be available to purchase.

Prize Sub-Committee of the Fund-Raising Committee

Would you like to be part of a *Prize Sub-committee* of the Fund-raising Committee via email? Please tell Glenda at: g.gobe@uq.edu.au

UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW)

District Governor Judith Anderson reminds all clubs that we are expected to take action, alone or in conjunction with another club, on or around 25 November, the IDEVAW. We can advertise actions on the *Zonta Says No* website.

United Nations Advocacy Day, November

25th: UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Newsletter Items

Please email any items of interest or notices of proposed activities directly to patricia.rego@uqconnect.edu.au. Contributions are particularly sought from Chairs of Committees who might like to advertise what they are doing, and to seek assistance from members.

Do you have recent ZCBN photos?

Our website needs some more recent photos. Please send them to me at: patricia.rego@uqconnect.edu.au.

**Their names were Anne, Margaret, and Jenni.
Look upon their and your works, oh kind members of ZCBN, and be glad.
(with apologies to PB Shelley)**

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of ZCBN members, Anne and Margaret were able to present Project Now with our final cheque for the project at a Brisbane Metro breakfast.



Jennie Watt also presented a well-deserved Service Award to Jacque Taka from Chisholm.

