



The yellow rose,
Zonta's symbol

March Newsletter

(Vol. 8 2012-2013)

Coming Events	ZBN Action	Notices
<p>March 11th: Dinner Meeting 7pm USC Please phone your apologies for this meeting to Noreen Gorman on 3371-5752 by 9am on Wednesday 6th March (no emails, please). Without an apology, payment of \$41 is obligatory. If you are bringing guests to the Dinner Meeting or if you have any special dietary requirements please let Noreen know.</p> <p>March 8: Deadline for registration for Area meeting on</p> <p>April: Bunnings Sausage Sizzle – Volunteers needed, please.</p> <p>March 27th: Board Meeting, 6pm Ashgrove Library</p> <p>International Advocacy Days, March</p> <p>8th: International Women's Day</p> <p>21st: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</p> <p>25th: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade</p>	<p>Assembly of Birthing Kits</p> <p>Thank you to the 18 members of our club (plus friends and Hon Zons) who once again did a magnificent job of assembling 400 birthing kits. All of this was accomplished within three hours and with warm collegiality. At this stage we don't know the destination of the kits but will let you know when the information is available. Jennie</p>  	<p>Visit ZONTA on the web</p> <p>Read about the International Service projects on the ZI website www.zonta.org</p> <p>Explore the District website for current information www.zontadistrict22.org</p> <p><i>Why not pay your dinner fees by direct deposit??</i></p> <p>Paying your dinner fees by direct deposit online is an easier way to pay!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ BSB number 034-002 ◆ Account number 992870
<p>The Board</p> <p>President: Anne Vinning Vice President: Maree Crawford Treasurer: Margaret Marshall Corres. Sec: Karen Peterson Minutes Sec: Pam Beavis Directors: Heather Mohay Lynette Hill Noreen Gorman Chieko Klerkx</p> <p><i>"The smallest amount of merit dedicated to the good of others is more precious than any amount of merit devoted to our own good."</i> Gampopa</p>	<p>Assembly of Christmas Comfort Packs</p> <p>Margaret, Noreen and Kara are also due thanks from the Club for their time and very creative work on our behalf assembling the 12 beautiful Christmas pamper packs for Chisholm mothers.</p> 	<p>Please describe clearly the purpose of the deposit, e.g. include your surname and the phrase "March meeting".</p> <p><i>When self respect takes its rightful place in the psyche of every woman, she will not allow herself to be manipulated by anyone.</i></p> <p>Indira Mahindra</p>

President's Update

First of all, welcome back Pauline and Kara, both of whom have been on LOA this past year. I look forward to working with you again.

Our club is about to embark on a new direction with our fund raising. As a relatively new member of the club, I have enjoyed hearing all the happy memories of the Fair in particular about Joan Sheridan and the amazing work she did. The history of the Fair will be included when we write the club's history for the Zonta centenary.

A fund-raising committee will be formed to guide the club on this next phase so we are able to continue supporting various service groups in our community. This committee cannot work alone and will be looking for assistance from all members.

Thank you to Jennie Watt and the team for organizing the Birthing Kit assembly day. It was pleasing to see so many members, an Hon Zon, and friends working together to assemble 1200 kits in just a few hours. Thank you to Toowong SCC for giving us use of their facilities.

March is a very exciting time for the club as we welcome five new members – Elizabeth Hatton, Kerryn Horne, Melanie Waugh, Trish Desmarchelier and Jacque Taka. The membership committee will assign a mentor to work with each member to help them become familiar with the club and Zonta International.

Anne

Advancement Grant Awards

The hard work of Gina and her committee once again led to the award of Advancement Grants to three worthy recipients (see photos). **Marlanne Duggan** is working towards a nursing degree whilst also caring for her children and her



seriously-ill husband. **Adella Sapporl** is a Philippina and domestic violence survivor whose law degree was not recognized when she emigrated to Australia. Adella is re-studying a Law & Justice degree whilst also caring for her elderly mother-in-law. **Penny Eckersley** is a single mother of three, one of whom has Tourette's Syndrome and Attention Deficit Disorder. Penny is currently studying social work. Their respective Advancement Grants will assist all three recipients to pay for education and/or childcare expenses.

International Women's Day

International Women's Day had its beginnings in the early 20th century when socialist women's organisations agitated against poor – sometimes appalling – working conditions. For example, in 1911 in New York, 146 seamstresses at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory died horrifically when their place of employment caught fire. They were unable to escape because their bosses had locked all exit doors and stairwells in order to prevent pilferage. The women at this factory worked 52 hours a week and earned between \$7-\$12 per week. International Women's Day marches following this tragedy demanded proper workplace safety regulations. The women's movements in America, Europe and Scandinavia and International Women's Day later expanded their activities to also fight for an end to employment discrimination, universal suffrage, and the right to work and vocational training.

The United Nations plays an important role in supporting women in developing nations to achieve their full potential through vocational training. The following is an inspiring example of what can be achieved.

Empowerment of Women in North Pakistan Through Training

The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations with support from the United States, is assisting women's economic empowerment in Balochistan (the least developed province of Pakistan) through the Balochistan Agriculture Project.

In rural Balochistan women are responsible for the care of sheep and goats. The project has given many women training in animal health care. As a result, fewer animals are dying of preventable diseases, and the animals are also better fed. This has led to increased milk and wool production which in turn has led to increased income. Increased knowledge about wool grading has also allowed the women to sort the wool into different colours and from different parts of the sheep before being sent to market. Again, this has resulted in increased income, in some cases more than 80 percent.

Members of the Female Community Organization said that they had all noticed a change in the men. Because the women look after the animals and do the pre-washing and sorting of the wool, the women have made a direct and visible contribution to the economic well-being of their families. Through this simple training (see photo), the Balochistan Agriculture Project has helped empower rural women.



Photo courtesy of Grant Vinning, International Consultant

All of this has been done without compromising the traditional gender roles typical in the area around Qambrani in the remote and very conservative part of Balochistan. With the increased income and women thus having a voice in the family, their daughters are now attending school.

The project is funding a small group of men and women from Balochistan to visit Australia early in 2013 where they will learn more first-hand about sheep management and wool production. The women will receive training in spinning and dyeing techniques from the Monaro Fibre Crafters in Cooma, and will visit wool handling facilities as well as watching the wool being auctioned.

Snippet

The *Coming Out Ready or Not* show on Radio National was a feminist innovation that remained on air for a number of years. For those who are interested, RN will be travelling down memory lane on International Women's Day and replaying some of the show.

Contributions to the Newsletter

Please feel free to forward items/photos you think might be of interest to the Club to Patricia at: patricia.rego@uqconnect.edu.au