



The yellow rose,
Zonta's symbol

April Newsletter

(Vol. 9 2012-2013)

Coming Events	President's Report	Notices
<p>April 8th: Dinner Meeting 7pm USC. Please phone your apologies for this meeting to Noreen Gorman on 3371-5752 by 9am on Wednesday 3rd April (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>If you have been absent for a while, please let Noreen know beforehand when you intend to return so that enough dinners may be ordered.</p> <p>April Sausage Sizzle: Volunteers please check with Margaret.</p> <p>April 23rd: Board Change-over Dinner, Brent's Restaurant, 7pm</p> <p style="background-color: #e6e6ff; text-align: center;">International Advocacy Days, April</p> <p>7th: World Health Day (see p.3)</p> <p>22nd: Mother Earth Day — an acknowledgement that the Earth and its ecosystems provide its inhabitants with life and sustenance. It also recognizes a collective responsibility ... to promote harmony with nature and the Earth to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations of humanity.</p>	<p>On Saturday 16 March, I attended the Area 1 and 3 meeting along with Margaret, Elizabeth, Trish, Pam, Maree, Barbara and Gina. Following the meeting, Noreen and I joined other Zontians for an enjoyable dinner at a nearby restaurant. A big thank you must go to Amena Reza, Narelle Fraser and ZC of Brisbane South for putting this day together.</p> <p>The theme of the meeting was Visibility and Credibility. District Governor, Judith Anderson commenced proceedings with a presentation* about the BIG PICTURE, Zonta and its relationship with the United Nations, the international service projects and ZIS-VAW projects..</p> <p>ZI has embarked on a major campaign this biennium, <i>Zonta Says No</i> and Judith is encouraging all clubs to take action on 25 November, UN International Day for Elimination of Violence against women.</p> <p>Members and clubs need to learn how Zonta is working with the UN and we must continue to contribute 30% of service funds to ZI Foundation to enable the projects to continue. The UN through multiple subsidiary organizations including UN Women, coordinates work on gender equality and women's rights. One such project, UNITE to End Violence Against women was launched by the UN Secretary General.</p> <p>Judith also exhorted members to become informed about Zonta's traditions. Additionally and importantly, she noted that many changes are taking place within ZI, and it is imperative that we reflect on our current projects or ideas to ensure they are still appropriate. Up-to-date information and resources may be found through various media such as ZI and District websites, area workshops, District Conference and International Conventions.</p> <p>Continuing with the theme, Megan Walker from ZC of Brisbane Breakfast spoke of ways to increase Credibility and Visibility of Zonta through the use of Media, Marketing, Collaboration and Social Media. I shall include information I gained from this talk in a future newsletter.</p> <p>We were encouraged to think about how clubs can use social media via Facebook, Twitter, and You Tube to make people aware of Zonta's activities. Many of us are not as familiar with this form of communication and therefore not as comfortable with its use. Those members who are linked to these sites are encouraged to view the ZI pages, which are regularly updated.</p> <p>Adam Penberthy from Fresh Advertising looked at ways to gain information about potential young members and to engage with those looking to be involved in some form of volunteering/-charity work. Three of our members were invited to give a presentation at the meeting; Barbara Newton, a long standing Zontian, spoke about her experiences and what Zonta meant to her. Margaret Marshall showcased the "Sausage Sizzle" at Bunnings and thanked ZC of Brisbane for inviting our club to join them. Gina Brosnan presented an overview of the processes the Awards Committee has in place for attracting applications for the various Awards that the club presents during the year and our successful track record.</p> <p>It was a very successful meeting and I encourage members to consider attending the District Conference in September.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Anne</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*To view this presentation, register as a website user (if you have not already done so), and then log on to: http://zontadistrict22.org/news-and-updates/news-from-the-district-board/district-governor-2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contents Inside</p> <p>Page 2—At the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Chris Christensen Advancement Grant ◆ Job Talk ◆ Induction of new members <p>Page 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ IWD in the Solomon Is ◆ World Health Day <p>Page 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Report on the IWD Breakfast
		<p style="text-align: center;">Fund-Raising</p> <p>Members are reminded that the fund-raising Entertainment Books will soon be available through Anne Vinning.</p> <p>We will be able to pay by cash, cheque or credit card. Anne will be providing more information at the dinner meeting.</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">Paying dinner fees by direct deposit</p> <p>Please describe clearly the purpose of the deposit, e.g. include your surname and the phrase "April meeting".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ BSB number 034-002 ◆ Account number 992870
		<p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">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>It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it is the journey that matters in the end.</i> <i>Ursula K Le Guin</i></p>		

At the Meeting

Chris Christensen Advancement Grant

Chris (Joan) Christensen was a charter member of the ZCBN, and also had a long and dedicated association with the Romero Centre in Brisbane. The Romero Centre supports asylum seekers and former Temporary Protection Visa holders and their families. When she died, Chris left the ZCBN a sum of money to be used to help refugee women, and the Chris Christensen Advancement Grant was established.

Rachel Yaratwemereye was the deserving recipient of the Advancement Grant for 2013. Rachel and her family were the victims of serious violence in her home country, Burundi. She was thus motivated to join the police force and to take on first a Certificate III in Justice Studies and now a Diploma. The award will help Rachel to buy a car which will give her more time to study and to care for her daughter.



Job Talk

Members were interested to hear Peggy Burke's amusing talk relating to her illustrious career which encompassed working overseas and at the University of Queensland. In 1956, Peggy was working at the Australian Embassy in Vienna and was able to assist many refugees fleeing the bloody anti-Stalinist revolution in Hungary. On the fiftieth anniversary of the revolution, Peggy was surprised to be awarded a "Heroine of the Revolution" medal by the Hungarian Embassy in Canberra to acknowledge the help she had given to the refugees.

Back at home after much travelling and great fun, Peggy was employed by the UQ's Union College. By dint of hard work, intelligence and the ability to attend free university lectures, Peggy completed her Arts degree whilst there. She decided it was time to leave her position at the College when a second generation of students (i.e. the children of previous residents of the College cared for by Peggy) began to stay at there as well. Peggy had only intended to stay at the College for a couple of years but ended up being there for more than two decades!



Induction of New Members

Narelle Fraser had the pleasure of inducting four new members into our Club: Kerryn Horne (an engineer), Melanie Waugh (a clinical psychologist), Trish Demarschelier (a consultant in food safety), and Elizabeth Hatton (a former teacher).



International Women's Day in the Solomon Islands by Heather Mohay

Greetings from the Solomon Islands where I am just settling into my job at the University, and where it has poured with rain every day because a cyclone has been hanging around (not enough to do any damage but enough to give us a very thorough soaking). Despite the challenges I am loving it here and hope that I can do something worthwhile.

I thought you might be interested to hear a bit of news about International Women's Day (IWD) in the Solomon Islands. At the IWD breakfast each year, an award is made to a Solomon Islands' woman who has achieved a lot in terms of promoting the status of women. This year the keynote address at the breakfast was given by my counterpart at the University, Dr Patricia Rodie, who is the Pro-Vice Chancellor (academic). Dr Rodie talked about the progress that had been made since independence in 1978 and the increase in the number of senior women in senior government, business and community organisations. The following is a brief extract from her speech:

...Although the SI women are still campaigning to increase women representation in parliament and political leadership today, I would like to challenge us with this question "do we need to be in parliament to bring about the changes we would like to see and experience as women and girls in the Solomon Islands? It is my humble view that we have the number of women in influential positions and decision-making roles who can work together to address some of those gender issues that were on our priority list for the last five years. I believe we have reached another decision-making point and need to find out where the gaps are in the priorities we set for ourselves, in as far as gender related issues are concerned.

We need to critically look at what we are doing now in an effort to address women's issues and ask ourselves some important questions. Are the strategies we employed over the last five years working or not? If not, what decisions should we make or actions should we take to address women issues in our country for the next three years or so? Do we only count success by the number of women achieving eminence in various professions or should we be focusing on broader issues. For example many issues adversely affecting the well being of women have their roots in social and socio-economic disadvantage. Should we focus only on women's issues per se, or are there other national issues that women can work on together to address underlying problems which will in the long term have significant benefits for women? Should we for example focus more on our youth?

Women of Solomon Islands, I believe we can work together to address, not only issues affecting us directly, but also to contribute to addressing other issues of national importance. These include educational opportunities for our young people who are seen every day along the streets of Honiara. What can we do for our youths in the different roles we play in the government, educational institutions, and private sector? Should we just sit and wait for the Government to provide them employment opportunities? This is a time bomb that is very likely to backfire on us, if we do nothing to address it now (Dr Patricia Rodie).

World Health Day

In the more affluent countries of the world, the UN's focus on healthcare has shifted to the prevention of increasing rates of cancer, lung disease, and diabetes. In the less developed world however, the UN Millennium Development Goals include a reduction in child and infant mortality rates, improvements in maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. It is heartening to know that in the past decade or two there have been important improvements: 2.4 million fewer children* younger than five years of age died in the decade between 2000 and 2010, deaths from measles and diarrhoeal disease declining significantly. The provision of rehydration salts and immunization are partly responsible for these positive results. *(It is sobering to realize that this reduction in child mortality represents a change from 10 million to 7.6 million deaths—still a shocking statistic.)

No woman should die giving life. Dr Mahmoud F Fathalla, a renowned African obstetrician, has stated that "(w)omen are not dying because of illnesses we cannot treat. Women are dying because society has yet to decide that their lives are worth saving." Nearly all maternal deaths — mainly from antepartum hypertension, postpartum haemorrhage, obstructed labour and infection — occur in developing countries. It is a tragedy that most deaths could be prevented by access to effective contraception, and proper antenatal and midwifery/obstetric care. Nonetheless, although still unacceptably high, maternal mortality globally has decreased significantly over the past two decades by almost half, from 540,000 deaths in 1990 to fewer than 290,000 in 2010.

The theme for 2013 World Health day is hypertension. Adequate treatment has led to significantly decreased mortality from cardiovascular disease in developed countries. This is not the case in less developed areas however, and it is estimated that up to 50% of Africans, for example, suffer from sometimes-undiagnosed (therefore untreated) hypertension. Globally, the UN is also concerned at the rising rates of obesity and diabetes. Women are more likely to be obese than men, and are thus at greater risk of diabetes, some cancers and cardiovascular disease. Despite the emphasis on breast cancer, twice as many women in Australia die from heart disease as from breast and lung cancer combined. ***It is important to note that as well as chest pain, many women suffer "atypical" symptoms of heart attack such as jaw or back pain and breathlessness upon exertion, and are unaware that they should seek immediate medical attention.***

Report on the International Women's Day Breakfast by Linda Fletcher

International Women's Day (IWD), aims to highlight political and social awareness of the struggles of women worldwide and is celebrated globally on the 8th March each year. This year, the breakfast at the Brisbane Convention Centre organised by UN Women was attended by approximately 1,200 women and men. Unfortunately due to the sudden passing of her Mum, Narelle could not be there, but four members of Zonta Brisbane North (Jane Prentice, Mary Mahoney, Jenni Watt and I) presided. The beautiful sounds of St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace Chapel choir, singing Halleluiahs caused me to stop browsing at the Nepalese market stall and take my seat. (These boys together with some girls from All Hallows Chorale will take part in the Anzac Services at Gallipoli next month). Following the arrival of the official party, the traditional Welcome to Country was given by Auntie Carol Currie. (She has four sons one of whom works as an indigenous liaison officer in State Parliament.)



The official UN Theme for 2013 is "A Promise is a Promise: Time for Action to End Violence against Women" Kathy Hirschfield representing UN Women Australia, mentioned that money raised from the breakfast going to PNG women victims of violence. We later heard that 67% PNG women are victims of violence and that this rate reaches 100% in the highlands! Her brief introduction was followed by Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Qld - I could listen to her all day - she always delivers the most meaningful and eloquent speeches somehow making it not sound like a speech but a conversation. She admitted to being a committed feminist and essentially her message was that we must speak out to stop the violence, not only using the printed arena but also cyberspace, and energise all the time and not just on International Women's day. Tracy Davis MP, representing Campbell Newman, (who sponsored the live streaming), welcomed a number of state politicians and mentioned that they had been sitting in parliament till 3.30am in the morning and then still managed to attend the breakfast! The Governor-General, Quentin Bryce AC (patron of UN women Australia) - via video link - looked gorgeous in white dress with a beautiful purple corsage, spoke about the sisterhood of togetherness and that we should remember those feisty, courageous and visionary women on whose shoulders we all stand. Her message was that we should all believe and use our power and privilege to be empowered to make a difference.

The guest speaker, introduced by two Clayfield College students, was Sally Sara, who as ABC's foreign correspondent has reported for the ABC from more 30 countries. These include Afghanistan, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Lebanon. Sally spoke about what it was like being a journalist in countries of violence, and focussed on her time in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. In a most engaging talk, she showed us a few slides of the Australian troop compound and buildings where the architecture is referred to as "Narcotecture" because they were built on drug trade money. She mentioned that when troops who had not had a shower for 3 months were asked if they wanted showers or the internet, they unanimously opted for the internet. One guy was even selling his motorbike in Townsville online whilst in the compound - warfare is very different these days. The conflict there takes place all around families' homes, in the very laneways where they live. To stop children walking down dangerous laneways, parents simply place rocks across the lanes which they consider dangerous to stop children running through and potentially stepping on a landmine. Despite the conflict, Sally described a sense of history - these people have lived for generations in amongst conflict - the Russians were there and almost a century ago, the British.

The highlight of her talk for me was when she went on to talk about coming home and the psychology of violence. Sometimes it can take years for the psychological problems to surface. Explosive landmines are cheap, about \$10, but the psychological impact cost is far, far greater. She spoke about her own experience where she was fine for some time but 11 months after returning to Australia, the full force of what she saw in the war-torn zone began to have an impact. She realised that violence-induced psychological disruption affects families and that the effects of violence are long-standing and always present. Physical violence affects the body, whilst psychological violence affects the mind. (Domestic violence can inflict both types.) She went on to talk about Hiroshima and a young girl Tomito who was late for school that day. When the bomb was dropped, the girls in her school were at assembly. Tomito was hit in the back and was the only one to survive. Physically she always covered up her scars, but the psychological effects stayed with her - only now in her 70's is she speaking out about that day. Fast, accessible and cheap tools of violence can also cause dreadful trauma. A Bangladeshi girl, Hasina, had acid poured on her face by a disgruntled uncle and is struggling with terrible facial scars. However she continues to smile because she still has one beautiful eye. Sally says she's had enough of violence and is enjoying the simple things of life like being at home and with family.

Tim Cox from 612 ABC radio (who was MC for the morning) reminded us of the poem "Desiderata" - "Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence etc". He urged us not to do this at all, but to go out and make a lot of noise (highlighting violence against women) and not to stop! I left for work feeling uplifted and invigorated but also just a little sad that only 10% of our club members were present, despite Narelle's best efforts in booking a table. Let's aim to turn this figure around next year.