

President's Report

Dear members

This month we are privileged to have Florence Spurling as our guest speaker at the dinner meeting on 8th September. Florence was a broadcaster with the ABC for 30 over years until 2013, reporting and producing many documentaries including *Encounter* on Radio National, which explored life and religion. She has also been particularly interested in life in regional Australia, has won international awards for her work, and was elected to the Royal Society of the Arts in 2003.

District 22 office holders conducted a very informative club officer-training afternoon for Area 1 and 3 on 23 August. Of particular interest to me was the exploration of the wide-ranging resources contained on the district website with linkages directly to Zonta International. I would certainly encourage all members to access and explore these particularly the member section. Other aspects discussed included fostering membership, particularly continuing to engage new members, 31% of whom resign within the first 2 years; and management of risk and insurance around events.

There has been much interest in the Fashion Showcase on 21 October, with all 60 tables sold in a very short time from release. If members are still wishing to purchase individual tickets these may still become available as there is consideration being given to extra releases.

I would like to remind members to take some time to consider the questionnaire about the functioning of our club to help direct our planning meeting, and to return these forms at the dinner meeting. I look forward to seeing you on Monday evening.

Maree

ZCBN Planning Day

To improve the fruitfulness of the Club's forthcoming planning meeting, perhaps members could provide suggestions prior to the meeting, and also give some thought to the following possible items:

- A review of the outcomes from the last planning day
- Development of key focus questions
- Advocacy
- Membership
- The functioning of committees

Also, a copy of the Members' Survey is attached to this newsletter.

The deadline for recording your intended absence from the dinner meeting is 9am on the Friday before. Failure to notify Jenny in time will mean you will still have to pay the cost of the dinner (\$43), since the Club will be charged for it regardless.



The yellow rose,
Zonta's symbol

Inside

- International Literacy Day
- Members' Survey

Date Claimers

**September 8th, 7pm
USC
Dinner Meeting**

Dinner Apologies:

Apologies go to **Jenny Grant-Taylor** 33533591 or 0417745919 or jgrant-t2@bigpond.com

no later than **9am** on the **Friday preceding dinner meetings**. Please let Jenny know **beforehand** if you:

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

**Wednesday, Sept
24th 6pm
Board Meeting
Ashgrove Library**

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Mahatma Gandhi

International Literacy Day 2014

Literacy is a key lever of change and a practical tool of empowerment on each of the three main pillars of sustainable development: economic development, social development and environmental protection. ”

Former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan

International Literacy Day 2014

(UNESCO (2014), Retrieved from: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/literacy-day/>)

The theme of International Literacy Day 2014 is “Literacy and Sustainable Development”. Literacy is one of the key elements needed to promote sustainable development, as it empowers people so that they can make the right decisions in the areas of economic growth, social development and environmental integration. Literacy is a basis for lifelong learning and plays a crucial foundational role in the creation of sustainable, prosperous and peaceful societies.

Literacy skills developed from a basic to advanced level throughout life are part of broader competencies required for critical thinking, the sense of responsibility, participatory governance, sustainable consumption and lifestyles, ecological behaviours, biodiversity protection, poverty reduction, and disaster risk reduction.

This year’s International Literacy Day will be celebrated worldwide. A main global celebration will take place in Dhaka, where the Government of Bangladesh in cooperation with UNESCO will organize the International Conference on “Girls’ and women’s literacy and education: Foundations for sustainable development and the awarding of UNESCO Literacy Prizes” in support for the UN Secretary General’s Global Education First Initiative (GEFI). (UNESCO (2014))

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The importance of literacy for women cannot be overstated, indeed it is life-preserving in that it is one of two predictors of longevity for women in developing countries; the other is clean water (SLI, 2014). Literate women have more control over their own lives. They have fewer, healthier children than illiterate women, and the rate of female literacy is positively correlated with lower infant and child mortality rates. Literate women breed literate girls because they are more likely to see the value in education and ensure their girl children go to school. The knock-on effects of a good education are economic self-reliance and women’s greater engagement in their society.

Sources:

http://www-01.sil.org/literacy/wom_lit.htm

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35859#.VAwxG_mSzEg

In preparation for the upcoming planning day in October I am requesting members to consider aspects of the club's functioning to assist with prioritization of discussion. I would be grateful if members could complete the following questionnaire and **bring it with you** to the September dinner meeting. **Please note that your responses will be anonymous.**

Maree Crawford

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
Overall the club functions well and in keeping with the ideals of Zonta						
I feel satisfied with my contribution to club functioning						
I would like to be more actively involved than at present						
The dinner meetings contain the appropriate balance of business and fellowship						
I feel that I know most members well						
The dinner meetings are well organized and conducted						
The programming of guest speakers in the past 12mths has been stimulating and of appropriate frequency						
I enjoy and receive satisfaction from my involvement with Zonta						
I am satisfied with the performance of the current board						
I am able to contact and communicate effectively with club leaders						
I am familiar with the website of district 22						
I am confident finding resources on the website						
The newsletter provides information I find interesting and relevant						
I would be interested in use of social media to raise club profile						
I use social media for other purposes						
Membership in Brisbane North is healthy						
Age demographics of the club is a threat to long-term stability						
Recruitment of new members is a priority for the club						
I believe new members to the club could be better supported						
My contribution to committee is rewarding and stimulating						
Committee activity is what I would expect						
Service projects supported are worthwhile and sufficiently varied						
I am satisfied with the selection of club awardees						
I dislike or find it difficult to contribute to fundraising activities						
The club is performing well in raising awareness of women's issues						
Advocacy is as strongly developed as I believe reasonable						
I am concerned my membership of Zonta may need to lapse within the next 1-2 years for whatever reason						

PLEASE COMPLETE LAST 3 QUESTIONS OVER THE PAGE

If you have provided negative answers to any of the above could you please elaborate fully on the relevant issue

The biggest area needing improvement in Brisbane North club is

The most positive aspect of Brisbane North Zonta club is