



ZONTA

CLUB OF
BRISBANE NORTH INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN

THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

AUGUST NEWSLETTER, 2015

President's Report:

Dear fellow Zontians.

I am writing this report feeling fully refreshed and invigorated after a wonderful holiday in Europe, catching up with my children and fully immersing myself in all things french during a superb language course in Provence.

I am very grateful to Trish Desmarchelier for both "holding the fort", and for all her time in planning possible future events, together with the fundraising committee.

August will be a busy month starting with our birthing kit day at Duchesne College this Saturday 8th at 10.45am. Plans are well underway for the Blue Illusions Fashion Fundraiser on 22nd August and other events are in the pipeline. Guest speaker Ann Black will attend our dinner meeting on Monday 10th August.

I would like to acknowledge the very generous bequest from our dear past member Lynette Liddle to Zonta Brisbane North Club. Her gift was an extraordinary gesture. A memoir of Lynette can be found in this Newsletter.

My thoughts are with all our members who are sick or injured and I know that the support of members is readily given and so important at these times.

I look forward to catching up next week,

Maree

August Dinner Meeting:

Date: Monday 10 August

Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Cost: \$46

NB: Please advise Jenny Grant-Taylor by 9.00am Friday 7 August if you are unable to attend.

33533591 or jgrant-2@bigpond.com

August Newsletter

This has been a collaborative effort,

Many thanks to:

Maree

Trish

Barbara

Elizabeth

You are invited to come along and shop at

Blue Illusion

Shop 2027 Indooroopilly Shopping Centre

322 Moggill Road Indooroopilly

from 12noon - 3.00pm on 22nd August, 2015

15% of takings will be donated to the Zonta Club of Brisbane North Inc.

In addition, there will be a 40 minute styling workshop from 12.30pm with limited seats of up to 25 - book now to avoid disappointment.

Contact: tdesmarchelier@bigpond.com

Diary Dates

8 August: Birthing Kits Assembly Day (details to come)

10 August: Monthly Dinner Meeting

22 August: Blue Illusion Fashion Fundraiser

JULY DINNER MEETING: Vice-President, Trish Desmarchelier



***Induction of
Rosmarie Van Haefen
Welcome to the Zonta Club of Brisbane North***



Guest Speaker: Chris Gibson QPS

FRIENDSHIP and FELLOWSHIP

- MAREE:** *A broken and pinned wrist?
And to think you managed Board Meetings, as well as overseas travel, juggling luggage, navigating airports, sightseeing and study. Vous êtes une source d'inspiration!*
- NARELLE:** *Get well soon! Your understanding of, and commitment to Zontian values and practice is peerless. Your humour and generosity of spirit will be sorely missed in what we hope is a temporary absence.*
- GINA:** *See what comes from tripping the light fantastic! You are irreplaceable as Chair of the Awards Committee. But stay warm, no preparation, no marking, and think of all those lovely non-school type books you can read with a glass of chilled white wine!*
- PAM:** *Safe and happy driving during your family holidays!*
- MAGGIE:** *Hopefully we will see you soon.*
- NOREEN:** *Take care, rest and be assured our table decorations will be rather uninspiring until you return.*

A GENEROUS SPIRIT



**Dr Phyllis "Lynette" Liddle (nee Brand)
28th January 1930 – 13th March 2015**

Nominated by her close friend Lorna Webber, Lynette Liddle joined the Zonta Club of Brisbane North in April 1993.

In a time when it was unusual for women to even train as doctors, Lynette graduated as an anaesthetist and eventually became one of the few women to attain 50 years of membership in the Australian Society of Anaesthetists.

Early in her marriage to her surgeon-husband Bill, Lynette found herself practising in a variety of overseas countries. Her almost inexhaustible supply of anecdotes about her travels and medical experiences made for easy listening. Her dry wit, and self-deprecating sense of humour somehow made her stories even funnier.

After she joined Zonta, Lynette was in the habit of giving morning teas for new members at her house on The Corso, Fairfield. In this setting, she willingly listened to, and encouraged the ambitions of others. Her natural demeanour of giving, sharing and encouraging were genuinely aligned with Zonta's ideals.

It was the location of her much-loved home, however, that was to cause her grief. Flooded in 1974, and again in 2011, Lynette took the unwilling decision to relocate herself and her lifestyle, including regular attendance at her local church where she was a well-known member, to the unfamiliar surroundings of Indooroopilly. For as long as she could drive, Lynette continued to shop at Fairfield rather than at the now adjacent Indooroopilly Shoppingtown, the prolonged refurbishment of which, sorely tested her even-handedness.

Like many, Lynette had experienced her fair share of life's hardships, and sometimes these difficulties dented, but never managed to break, her resilience. It was only natural, therefore, that when she faced her final challenge, she did so with her customary frankness and honesty.

In her latter months, Lynette determinedly walked 75 metres to visit with Zontian friends. Despite the pain she endured, both in walking and sitting, she listened quietly, or passed comments about matters of which she approved or disapproved, but more importantly for her, and for us, she was still part of our group. Lynette's no-nonsense approach, and her capacity to support all initiatives, earned her great respect as a member of this Club.

It is with thanks and with a great deal of gratitude, that we all acknowledge Lynette Liddle's generous bequest.

COMMITTEE IN FOCUS

AWARDS COMMITTEE:

(Chair): Gina Brosnan (Chair)

(Members): Maree Crawford Peggy Burke, Rita Fraser, June Halliday, Jenni Jolly, Lynette Hill, Elizabeth Hatton

It is the responsibility of the Committee to recruit, discuss and nominate candidates for each of the following four Awards.

Zonta International Awards:

1. Young Women in Public Affairs
2. Jane M Klausman Scholarship

Zonta Club of Brisbane North Advancement Grants:

This Club is unique amongst Zonta Clubs in that it presents two special types of Advancement Grants. Of greater significance is the Chris Christensen Advancement Grant. For those of you who may not know, this is the background to that Grant.

Joan Glenva "Chris" Christensen
(February 18th 1930 – December 26th 2007)



Preamble:

In 1997, Chris was diagnosed with a skull tumour, and years later with lung cancer, about which she remained somewhat surprisingly upbeat. So it is little wonder that in a Zonta Club of Brisbane North Newsletter, when she realised her time was drawing to a close, that she wrote the following: "This time, I have, for my family's benefit, written my Obituary, and told them that I'd like to see it published in the Courier Mail!" It is from that Obituary (as retold by Alan Fardon) that the following extracts about Chris Christensen have been drawn. Known as Joan to her family, she was nicknamed "Chris" by her friends. As with many families, her Danish/Irish family became economically impoverished by the Great Depression. An intelligent girl, Chris very early in life came to deeply resent the taunts that poverty attracted in the schoolyard, and so she very quickly understood the value of educational opportunities and of social justice, both of which were to govern her future work, faith and community engagement.

As an astute and willing learner, Chris completed her senior in 1946 and began evening study, (with financial aid, in the forerunner of a Commonwealth Scholarship) at the University of Queensland from which she graduated in 1952 with a Bachelor of Commerce (Statistics). She commenced work with the Commonwealth Public Service – in Brisbane, moved to the Commonwealth Grants Commission in Melbourne, and finally she arrived at the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Canberra. What marked her career was her appreciation of how statistics could be analysed and effectively utilised to create knowledgeable and sensible change. Chris returned to Brisbane to care for her father, but she still continued to be a forerunner in statistical analysis. Her main focus was the collection of statistics on women in the workforce, and how the retention of medical databases could effectively assist and project better health care. Statistics, however, were not the sum total of her life!

Her interests included watercolour painting and she completed a botanical drawing course, which enabled her to produce paintings and sketches of Australia flora in the style suitable for botanical reference. As a young woman living in Canberra, she regularly skied on the slopes of the Snowy Mountains. In the 1950's Chris converted to Catholicism but was critical of the overt sexism of the church, and the exclusion of women from church governance. In her retirement, she completed both a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's degree in Theology. She was proud of her Danish heritage and learnt the language. For many years she was a voluntary secretary to the Danish Association. As a frequent letter-writer to the Courier Mail she was often published. Ironically it was the Obituary, she had written about herself that marked her final publication.

But it was her childhood experiences, and her inherent appreciation of the gift of "opportunity" which always drove her to think of, and give to others. She worked tirelessly with asylum-seekers through the Romero Centre, and was determined to leave a legacy by which women refugees and migrants could be supported in their new lives in Australia.

In 2007, Chris Christensen, a Charter Member of the Zonta Club of Brisbane North, gave money to be used as an Advancement Grant; a Grant that eventually bore her name. Since that time, the Chris Christensen Advancement Grant has been given annually to a woman of migrant or refugee background, who needs financial assistance to undertake clearly articulated educational goals, which will result in realistic outcomes.