



ZONTA

CLUB OF
BRISBANE METRO
BREAKFAST INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

MARCH NEWSLETTER

BRISBANE METRO BREAKFAST CLUB

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Board members
2015-2016

Michelle Baran
President

Leida Pirts
Vice-President

Tricia Walker
Treasurer

Ruth McKeown
Correspondence

Immediate past
President
Leanne O'Shea

Directors
Ruth Wildin
Isobelle Torralba
Glenda Alexander

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. It seems like only yesterday it was Christmas. I missed the first meeting of the year as the first few months of the year are the busiest time for me work wise. I have recently completed a six week tour of the state running workshops across the state in advance of our annual budget planning process. Since then I have been on weekly interstate trips (mostly staying at a highly desirable hotel destination - overlooking the long-term carpark at Melbourne airport), but last week marked my last work trip for the year.

For those who don't already know, my husband Lindsay and I are expecting our first child in seven weeks - a very exciting time for us both. Thank you to those who have passed on their good wishes. Overall, I have had a pretty smooth pregnancy, but over the past month I seem to have made up for all of the symptoms I missed early on. But, it's not long to go now.

We've kick started 2016 with a new members information session, ably organised by the Membership Committee. Early this year, the new Zonta Club of Brisbane City Heart was officially chartered. Whilst it is a really positive outcome for Zonta locally, it has had an impact on our membership numbers, so we really need to direct our focus on new members to drive the direction of our club going forward.

Whilst on the road in February, I was able to attend a club meeting of my old club in Townsville. It was, like our club, small - teetering around the 20 member mark. But over the past 12-18 months, they have successfully increased their membership to a very active 35 members. The club utilises the committee structure in a way that engages and motivates member participation. They also promote the club throughout the year at public events, such as local markets. I'm not saying that this is something that our club should copy, but it's interesting to see how different clubs adapt in delivering the Zonta ideals.

The end of our Zonta year is fast approaching and this will be my last newsletter as president. The sale of candidates for the new board will be presented at the next breakfast meeting and the board officially voted in at the May AGM. Thank you to everyone who supported me through my Presidency. it is a tough job, but I've tried.

Depending on when the baby arrives, I may not be present at the May AGM, but wish the incoming board all the best for the year ahead.

FUNDRAISING

Farewell to Flora's Op Shop

While fundraising activities generally ceased over the holiday break, Flora's garage based Op Shop continued to flourish.

Apart from selling directly out of the Op Shop, Flora sold some of the better quality clothes to Revamp Fashions in Adelaide Street and placed some on consignment at Encore La Chance at Paddington. Flora also donated clothes to Dressed for Success and Bahloo.

Overall, the final flourish raised \$1,000.

Flora has now closed her Op Shop and reclaimed her garage.

Well done Flora!

Donation to the Lady Musgrave Trust

The Club was pleased to support an application for funding from the Lady Musgrave Trust. The Trust provides short-term accommodation to women and children. It works closely with Micah and Anglicare who provide case management for the clients.

Karen Lyon Reid, CEO, spoke to the members about the work of the Trust at the club's monthly breakfast meeting in February. She gave the club 2 copies of the Trust's annual Handy Guide for Homeless Women.

The club presented Karen with a cheque for \$4,000 for window coverings in two of their new units. Karen estimates that each year 80 to 100 women and children will spend time in these units.

The Lady Musgrave Trust is a long established not-for-profit organisation that relies entirely on donations, merchandise sales, fundraising, and bequests to keep its business operating. Karen is the only paid employee.



Leida presenting \$4,000 cheque to the CEO of the Lady Musgrave Trust, Karen Lyon Reid

Other Fundraising Recipients

The club has approved giving \$2,000 to the Women's Community Aid Association. These funds will be used by women escaping domestic violence to re establish their identity by replacing missing drivers' licences and birth certificates.

The club has set aside packs of toiletries and clothes to donate to the Women's Sexual Assault Health Unit. The club donated bras and clothes to Fijians after the recent devastation caused by Cyclone Winston.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



We are lucky to live in a country where we can celebrate International Women's Day in a happy and optimistic way with good food and friends. Even so, we are well aware that many women throughout the world are either unaware of this event or would be in no position to celebrate it if they were.

Members went to the following events:

Flora and Ruth attended the Italian Club's High Tea.

Isobelle attended Brisbane City Heart's fundraising dinner at Clovelly Estate's Cellar Door, Red Hill.

Isobelle, Leanne, and Ruth attended The Nest Community's fundraising cocktail party.

What do members do in their spare time?

There seems to be a bit of a trend - members are attracted to food activities.

For example, Flora has been volunteering for Eddie's Van some mornings. The van feeds around 50 to 60 homeless people every morning. It is part of Rotary's community involvement.

Flora and Ruth represented the club at the Combined Services Clubs Charity Dinner in January.



Flora second from right with Rotary's Eddie's Van



Flora and Ruth at the Combined Services Clubs Charity dinner

Governance Lessons

The club has a learned member in Leanne O'Shea, Deputy Chief Magistrate. Leanne held a governance information session at her majestic Clayfield home in February. She shared her many years of experience in chairing effective meetings, discussed some of the basic rules of operating an effective club, and described some of the expectations of different Board positions.

NEW ZONTIAN CLUB CHARTERED IN DISTRICT 22

Congratulations to the new Zonta Club of Brisbane City Heart that was officially chartered on 22 January 2016 as Club Number 1947 of Zonta International. It is the 44th chartered club in District 22 and the first new club in District 22 since its foundation in 2008.

Our club was pleased to sponsor this new club and assist it through its establishment process.

We wish Amena Reza, President, and the club's members all the best in achieving their aims of attracting younger members, establishing productive networks, and hosting exciting fundraising events.

Letter from breast cushion recipient

"Thank you to the wonderful ladies who made a lovely pink cushion for me. I recently had a mastectomy done at North West Hospital and was presented with a beautifully wrapped, pink cushion. Before the surgery I wondered what was I to do with it? The first night after surgery I quickly discovered what the cushion was for. It then became my best friend for the next 2 weeks. The ribbon around the top kept it firm and in place on my arm all night long. Thank you I really appreciated the time and effort that you put into the gift. Please don't ever think that your efforts are not appreciated."



Member updates

Our president, Michelle, managed to effectively disguise a growing baby bump until this year. The new arrival is expected in May. Congratulations Michelle.

Julie has been hobbling around in a boot of the unfashionable kind after tripping and breaking her foot. She swears it had nothing to do with anything she ate or drank. Heal well and quickly Julie.



Coming events

- 20 March - Sewing bee from 1.30 to 4.30 at 74 Schooner Circuit, Manly West (park on the street)
- 16 April - Estee Lauder shopping experience - \$10 ticket to be donated back to club
- 17 April - Areas 1 and 3 meeting at Nambour RSL
- TBA - Movie fundraising event
- 2-6 July - Zonta International 63rd Convention, Nice, France
- 27 August - Trash and Treasure, Southbank TAFE

Editor's correction: The date for the Estee Lauder shopping experience has been changed to 30 April.