



PRESIDENTS REPORT

JANUARY 2019

Hello Everyone,

I'd like to wish each of you and your family a happy and productive new year.

For Whitsunday Zonta it is going to be a celebratory year as well with our 100th Birthday Celebration for Zonta International and for our own club it will be our 20th birthday!

This first month of the year is a great time to evaluate the year that was , make new goals and make the changes that need to be made to achieve them. The Board will be starting that process on Monday 7th.

Personally, I always start with a new diary early in the new year and enter the important dates for the year for both family and Zonta. I'm a little late with 2019 as we've just returned from a lovely holiday with family and friends in Victoria.

I'm looking forward to a fantastic year ahead with the club, there have been great achievements already and plans are in place for interesting and important projects to become involved with.

The January meeting will reveal the careful planning and hard work that both our Fundraising team have been doing and our Advocacy plans for an exciting event in May, plus of course there is International Women's Day on March 7th to anticipate

I look forward to working with you in the year ahead on projects that will assist women and girls to achieve their goals.

Warm wishes **Cath Fernbach, President**

Christmas Party fun with our Area 5 Director Barb Coleman,
Cath & Betty



Our Christmas....



Christmas for others



And our Orange Ladies march about town!



ADVOCACY

The Saga of the Orange Ladies!

Our "Ladies" have had a bit of a hard time out in the streets during ZI 16 Days of Activism.

Firstly, I had a bit of trouble placing some of them. I must have been going to the wrong places although I thought that those I did ask were places where families would gather. It seems these days it has to pass several desks before a decision can be made. However, I give many thanks to the following who displayed our ladies with enthusiasm for the message that they were there to bring.

PCYC Whitsundays; Vinnies; Porters Mitre10; Whitsunday Fishing World; Brighteyes Airlie Beach; Salvos Family Store Cannonvale; Betty Whitehorne, who displayed one on her balcony and we had two displayed in front of our house in Abell Road.

The people at PCYC were so excited that THEIR lady got extra recognition because the Carols were held at PCYC due to the inclement weather. How beautiful!

The ladies that Kevin & I had put up were vandalised by two young girls who went off up the street laughing after their act. They stripped the messages off them and pushed them over. I put this on our Facebook page and the response was amazing. So, by default our message reached many more than they otherwise might have-- albeit the converted! Kevin & I fixed the ladies and put them back up where they stood proudly for the next two weeks. Many people have mentioned to me that they saw the ladies and slowed up to read what was on them. What saddened me most about this is that it was girls who were to blame. It made me wonder if they were victims themselves and it was their way of letting off steam.

Mary (Mez) had her "lady" stolen!! Our girl was footloose in Airlie for a while as the thief didn't take her feet!! "Detective Mez" got on the job and through her Facebook page was able to locate the missing gal and have words with the young man who stole her! Now that incident went to hundreds of people so once again by default our message got around! But alas, she went missing again. This time found by Meredith Maloney and this time she was a bit worse for wear -- a bit battered and bruised but a survivor. With both of these incidents it proves that women are not safe when alone on our streets after dark!

So, after feeling a bit sad and deflated to start with, I believe that we had a pretty good campaign in the end with all 12 ladies making their mark and making it back to the shed.

A bit of History: I have been asked by a couple of new members the origin of the Orange Ladies or Zollies as they are also being called! (Zonta Dollies) In 2013 I was a very new Zonta member and a very green Advocacy Director in 2014. My mentor in this Advocacy journey was Noelene. She saw where the Zonta Club of Ipswich had cut-outs of ladies displaying messages and thought that we might be able to do something like that. The Ipswich ladies were white. I had a look, thought that they would be a "goer", rang Ipswich to ask permission to steal their idea and then set about drawing up a pattern. Kevin did a template for me and the Men's Shed of Airlie Beach agreed to make them. I decided that they should be orange-- the colour adopted by the UN and ZI for the awareness of violence against women.

So, with the ladies made and messages put on them, they were displayed around the town in May 2015 for the National Family Violence Awareness month. During this month, the Area 5 Conference was being held in Townsville and together with other awareness and crises groups; Zonta took part in an awareness campaign at the Cowboys and Broncos NRL game. Two of Our ladies stood proudly at the entrance to the stadium. The next day they took centre stage at the conference where our District Governor and Area Director were very impressed with the idea. I found myself sending the pattern to them and to several Zonta Clubs around the state and the rest is history as they say. Our Orange Ladies went viral!

Maxine Thiele, Advocacy Committee



ADVOCACY

Happy New Year! This year looks set to be very productive for us. I hope everyone had a great Christmas with their families. November and December were great for awareness and fundraising.

16 days of Activism campaign Zonta Says NO (to Violence against women and child marriage).

We certainly showed orange everywhere. Hopefully our sign at Airlie and WCS raised some much-needed awareness to our campaign. The sign at Airlie is still up! Fantastic for us. Our social media had a 300% increase in activity from likes. 88% Increase in page views. Over 900 people reached during our campaign. I think that was a great effort for awareness.

Businesses that supported our campaign by setting up our orange ladies were, Whitsunday PCYC, Brighteyes Airlie Beach, Fishing World, Porters Mitre10 and Vinnies. We also had some amazing Zontians that set them up at their homes. I'd like to thank everyone involved and without your help it wouldn't have been the success it was.

Unfortunately, our media release in the Whitsunday Times wasn't picked up but hopefully our next campaign will be. We also had a mishap with one of our orange ladies. Hopefully we can repair her, but I think putting bandage on and keeping her damaged might have a greater awareness impact for our next campaign! We learnt a lot from this campaign and I think it was made clear that we still have along way to go when discussing Domestic Violence.

Whitsunday Festival of Motoring

Some board members and members were able to attend the WFoM meeting with the event organiser Lauren Penny from Innerpulse on Friday the 7th of December. We also had the CEO from WCS, Wayne in attendance with us.

The date has now been confirmed for the 3rd, 4th and 5th of May during Domestic Violence Month in 2019. The Australian Motoring National Body has confirmed it on their Queensland Championship Rally rounds and will be the first event of the 2019 season. It will also be our Foundation Event. If all goes well at this event, then we can be a nomination location for the Australian Rally Championships in 2020. There are 6 event locations held in Australia and for us to be an event site, another site will have to fall off the list. So, it's important for us that our rally goes well to show we can host this event in our community. Fortunately, there are no current QLD locations in the Australian rally, so this is a huge opportunity for us as they are currently looking for new sites. I will go over more details in the next members meeting. I will also go over some ideas that Whitsunday Counselling and Support came up with that they are applying grants for. We will need volunteers for the 3 days for locations in Airlie Beach, Bowen and Proserpine. This will be such a fun community event for all ages. **Amanda Walter, Director**



MEMBERSHIP

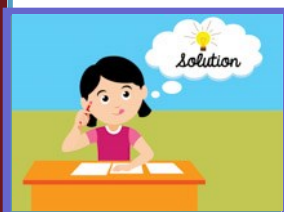
We had a very successful 2018 with 9 members inducted during the year. Keep bringing your guests along to our meetings, it would be nice to equal or even beat that number this year.

I will bring along the donated Zonta shirts to the January meeting so if you're looking for a shirt check them out. (Cost donation to the club).

We will also have our library there so if you have one of our books please bring it back. The books are for you to borrow for one month. Please just put your name and the book you are borrowing on the list provided.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the January meeting, **Judy Brown, Director**

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT, MEAGON. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU:



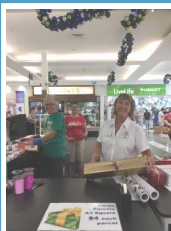
“Meagan Folkers has accepted the position of Deputy Principal Primary at St Catherine’s Catholic College, The Whitsundays beginning in January 2019. Meagan has a Physical education teaching background and has taught all year levels from Prep through to Year 12. She has experience teaching overseas, interstate and at schools within the Mackay and Whitsunday region. She is currently completing her Masters of Education through the Australian Catholic University. Meagan has been educating students at St Catherine's for the last three years and has held the

position of Middle Leader Pastoral for the last 2 years in the secondary setting. In this role, Meagan has worked closely with our Year 11 & 12 students, developed innovative leadership programs and organised major college events. Meagan also has two young children attending the primary campus at our college. Meagan has shown exceptional leadership and management strengths and skills in her teaching and administration at the college. She has a reputation of being a diligent worker, intelligent and an empathetic listener and leader. We look forward to welcoming Meagan to this position and we wish her all the best for the years ahead.”

Jacqui Francis Executive Director

SERVICE

Whitsunday Plaza Christmas Wrapping fundraiser



An incredible amount of work, but a huge success. **\$5072.15**

The last 4 days before Xmas were intense. So many members did so many extra hours.

3-4 people need to be rostered on every hour for the last four days.

Centre Management very happy with our efforts, having only heard great things about our work.

Holly has offered us this opportunity for Xmas 2019 and for the week before Mother’s Day.



Adopt-a-Family and Pamper Packs for Xmas

Four families received 2 amazing hampers each – 1 full of gifts the other food based
7 Pamper Packs were delivered to Whitsunday Counselling and Support

At our January general Meeting we will vote as to whether we do these fundraisers _

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hi Happy New Year 2019 Good health and happiness to all my Zonta friends and to each of your families.

The year 2018 has been very successful as far as fund raising goes. The fund raising is for local service projects and one third of the funds raised will go to Zonta International, our commitment to International projects. At a local level this year, we have not yet spent to our budget for Awards and Assistance, but there still is time to do so. The budget was increased for Pamper Packs and Adopt a family and the finished baskets looked stunning.

The orange ladies were dotted strategically about for the 16 days of activism, 25th November to 10th December and that was an inexpensive but worthy exercise. Thanks to Maxine for managing that.

Carol has led us all year with amazing confidence and encouragement in all of our fundraising Ventures. I returned to Airlie yesterday and had the easy task of banking the money made from the gift wrapping project at the Whitsunday Plaza. That was two weeks of working together to achieve a great financial outcome and also to be seen in the community. I worked my hours in the first week, and there was the time to chat to my co workers. The second week I understand became frantically busy and well done to those ladies that raised \$935.45 on Christmas Eve.

I went on a Christmas cruise to PNG and in my travels met up with a mid wife Francis Misal, who was telling me that she and her colleagues are forced to use unsafe practises. Something for me to follow up this year.

It is good to be home again, and I look forward to a great 2019. This next week I will be making up the accounts for 2019 membership fees and will give them out hopefully at the January meeting.

Thank you, **Betty Whitehorn, Treasurer**



January:	Carole Lindsay—2nd
	Noelene Helman—6th
	Patsy Morgan—10th
	Meagon Folkers—14th
February:	Marlene Reiffel—9th
	Janet Goldman—27th

HELP WANTED: We are looking for fresh ideas, via members, to take over production of our monthly newsletter. (You DO NOT need to use Publisher, as other clubs do not nor does our District.)

Laura & PJ have been the team for several years & PJ worked with other members 10 for years previously producing our Reef Talk. It is time for them to step aside. (As with all our positions in the club, training is available!!) PJ will be overseas mid-year and Laura will be taking on a Board position.

Please let it be known to either of them that you would like to put your hand up!

(No meetings to attend; you 'work' at home!)

PROFILE: Mez Bowen



The one thing I keep hearing repeated in our Zonta club, is how everyone is so proud of this new “Breed” of Zontian, coming into our club, so I thought I would put my life into member perspective for you...

When my beautiful neighbour and Zonta mentor Maxine was 34 (which was my age when I joined Zonta) I was born, in Dunedin New Zealand. I am the oldest of 2, which is probably why I’m so bossy.

I was an awful child... now don’t get me wrong, my mother still tells me she loves me – But she can still tell me how many cracks were on the ceiling tiles of the bathroom at their first house, as she spent most of her time lying on the floor of it. I made her sick the entire time. She should have known then, that she was in for a ride with me...

I was into sports in a big way. T-ball, gymnastics, trampolining, swimming, karate, Soccer, Jiu-Jitsu, you name it I wanted to try it (except for Netball, because I didn’t want to be like all the other girls).

My husband Murray and I went to Kenmure Intermediate School together when Mandy Walter was celebrating her 21st birthday. He was a nerd, I was a naughty kid. Not in the super naughty crowd, just the mediocre rebellious crew.

And then when Patsy Morgan was 45, I started at Otago Girls’ High School. A girls only school probably wasn’t the best fit for a sporty, no catty expletive type of girl. I stopped being interested in school, and quit most of my sports. My high school years were pretty much just about turning up so I didn’t get in trouble for not being there, just as long as I checked in. But I lasted the whole 5 years. Mainly only went for lunch, and to see friends – my favourite memories are from wagging school with my friends, and walking into town to get lunch. I was also super independent. I knew what I wanted, and how I wanted to do it – which is why I struggled as a teenager. Sometimes, moving out of home at a young age is not the best idea – but hey, I knew best. But being on struggle street has helped make me the person I am today.

I left school with no direction, and decided to do a “Food and Beverage” course, just so I had something to do. The one thing I can remember from that course, is how to say “would you like another drink, Sir?” in Japanese. Also, I learnt how to waitress silver service style, although I usually dropped the breadrolls so it definitely wasn’t my calling.

Then, I just sort of worked. I seemed to be able to pick up jobs along the way. I’ve was a telephonist for a taxi company (following in my mothers footsteps as she used to work in the telephone exchange back when you had to move the plugs around), worked in Bars, and I also made Dishdrawers at Fisher and Paykel. (I ended up getting let-go from my job at Fisher and Paykel eventually because of my job in the bar. I couldn’t lie when they asked why I was late AGAIN – I had stayed late at my bar job because there was Jelly Wrestling on, and of course had to give it a go.....)

But then when Diane Truman was 53, I lost one of my best friends.

Her passing, was pivotal for me. I went down the wrong path, and started abusing alcohol. I was probably drunk for a good 6 months. And then one day a friend told me I needed to wake up, and decided I needed to change. I didn’t like her very much for saying that, but something made sense. I spoke to my friend who Mum had died, who happened to be a Psychiatric Nurse, who asked me to stay until her anniversary. She helped me get on the right track again, taught me how to grieve, and then Claire Jardine turned 18, Christine Mayne turned 50, and I moved to Australia. I’ve never looked back.





I started working in the IGA warehouse, picking orders. Then I moved into the office. I was always bored, as I would finish my work and then go ask the managers if they had anything for me to do – I can't just sit and do nothing! And then, my now husband (who I had been dating on/off for a while, but off since I'd moved over here), finally had his lightbulb moment. Yes, we all know that I'm awesome. It just took him longer to realise that he couldn't live without me. So he moved over.



He had been working in Mining in NZ, so started working up near Moranbah. I wanted a change, and the company he was working for finally relented to me. I kept asking and kept asking, and offered to work for free while they did my training. I worked for 3 months for nothing. And it paid off.

When Carol Bolton was 48 (2011), my husband Murray and I came up to the beautiful Whitsundays for a long weekend holiday, thought "this place looks amaaaazing" decided to check out rental prices and then what do you know? The next day we were approved, flew back to Brisbane to pack up our house and off we go on this beautiful adventure.

I worked in the mines for 6 years. Not only was I a Machine Operator, but I ended up joining the Emergency Rescue Team and now hold my Cert 3 in Mines Rescue (Fire Fighter qualifications, which was me following in my fathers footsteps as he's a fireman back home in NZ).

And then I fell pregnant.

Unable to go back to the mines, I bought a sunglass shop. Why not? We had our daughter Piper, joined Zonta, started studying to be a Marriage Celebrant, and who knows what the next few years have in store.

All I know is that you ladies better fasten your seatbelts, you're all sitting in front row seats with me,
it is definitely going to be a wild ride!



Our next breed of Zontian, born 2016 (when Janet Goldman was 62 J)

Date Claimers

17 January—**General Meeting: BOWLS CLUB—6pm for 6.30 start**
TEMPORARY MEETING VENUE WHILE VMR UNDERGOES REPAIRS

Knitting Group – last Monday of every month – contact Laura Morrison
Book Club last Wednesday of every month – contact Kerry Kenyon

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY :

March 10

OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY AS A CLUB:

March 15

Mark your calendars: BBQ dates for 2019 are - March 17th Sunday and 24th Sunday
May 11th Saturday and 26th Sunday
August 18th Sunday and 24th Saturday
November 2nd Saturday and 9th Saturday

CAR RALLY DATES:

May—3, 4 & 5th

Visit our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/WhitsundayZonta>

District 22 Facebook:

<https://www.facebook/District-22-Zonta-International>



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