



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MARCH 2014

Just a little different this month: I thought I would open a window into our neighbours in District 24.

Australia has been part of Zonta International since 1966 and has grown to be home now to three Zonta International Districts. District 22, 24 and 23. Together they incorporate 110 Zonta Clubs, which are spread right across all States and Territories.

I thought we as a club would like to congratulate a brand new Zonta club of Hunter Newcastle in New South Wales. I found this article in the newsletter of District 24 "the Voice". As our club in the Whitsundays has been very involved in the Zonta International campaign "Zonta says No", I was fascinated by the tenacity and commitment of the three members who have formed this club and become part of this campaign!

Some news from a (soon to be) Zonta Club of Hunter Newcastle (authors: Helen Blackburn, Marcia Dane and Jill Maclachlan

The Organising Committee of the Proposed Zonta Club of Hunter Newcastle has been working hard all year, meeting monthly, and in December we will officially become a Zonta Club. Our Charter Dinner is expected to be early April. We three members have a combined experience of almost 80 years in Zonta. We are being greatly supported by our growing membership base.

We conducted our first Zonta activity last weekend, as a way of promoting our proposed club, as well as strongly supporting the "Zonta Says No Campaign" and



White Ribbon Campaign. Taking a leaf out of the recent Zontian, we decided to hold a display of shoes and stories to demonstrate the number of domestic violence cases in Newcastle last month. We collected the 167 shoes required and interviewed the regional manager of our local refuges for true stories to go with each pair of shoes. The shoes may not have been Italian, but the effect was most dramatic and the message powerful.

After much searching, we were given a large space at Newcastle's busiest shopping mall at Charlestown. Our designated space had many shoppers passing by throughout Saturday and Sunday. We were delighted, and proceeded to set up on Friday afternoon. Our display was greatly enhanced by a large "Zonta Says No" banner generously donated by one of our members. In addition, we displayed the large Zonta International banner and two large Birthing Kit banners. No one was going to miss our messages!

Please continue to read this article under the District 24 in "Zonta in Australia" (as I have run out of room)

<http://zontadistrict24.org/news/> click on The Voice December 2013

It is inspiring reading! Looking forward to our International Women's Day Brunch on Sunday March 9. Our theme is also "Zonta Says No", with a large splash of orange!

Angela Spicer, President





ADVOCACY

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

I understand many of you have been scouring all the "orange" designer clothing at Vinnies for that "special something to wear" for International Women's Day! From what I have already seen there were certainly bargains and everyone just going to look stunning on the day.

All our planning is coming together and from the little bag of jaffas and Zonta says NO ribbon, which will be a gift for everyone, to the amazing array of Auction and raffle prizes so kindly donated it is looking as if we are going to have a **SENSATIONAL** day. Our guest speakers do have very serious issues to talk about so be prepared for some confronting thoughts. Human Trafficking is evil and must be addressed!

We have had a small change in the program and due to family commitments. Johnny G has been replaced by Mark Roberts who will sing and accompany himself on guitar. I was told he is talented +++ and his style will suit the day. The organising committee and all other volunteers will be meeting at 2pm at the Reef Gateway Hotel on Sat 8th to set up and we would LOVE you to be there and to have your input and help. The more the merrier!

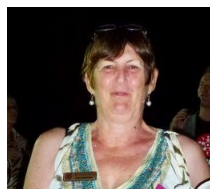
We now have close to \$5,000 worth of Auction prizes for our guests to bid on. They are all fabulous donations so bring some cash or your CREDIT CARD and remember all our profits are going to very worthy local causes. To be in with a chance for the fantastic 2 night island holiday for 2 adults, including transfers and breakfast, the rolling raffles will cost 5 for \$5 and will be available at the day. I am still accepting raffle donations so drop them off to 5 Woomeerah Ave in Cannonvale if you have any more for Judy to wrap. We have over 50 different raffle prizes so it's going to be fun.

Ticket sales are going well and at last count we had 47 sold. Please remind people you know who are interested in coming that, due to catering requirements, THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BUY TICKETS AT THE DOOR but only online.

All you have to do is type in <http://whitsundaytickets.com.au/event?id=408> and the process is simple.

Any problems please give me a call.

Pammie Harrison, Director Advocacy



Always looking for that perfect gift? Try <http://store.hamlin.org.au/>

Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia has heaps of ideas: many great books, a 2014 gorgeous calendar, even more fabulous jewellery, scarves, gift certificates & cards. Just too many wonderful items to list. One I really liked is that 30 is all you need to buy a dress, nightgown and bedding for one patient and a gift card to pass on. P.J.

MEMBERSHIP

Badges: Please wear your badges to meetings – we will have MANY guests at this March Zonta birthday meeting so it really is important that you do...should we have in reinstitute the fine for non-compliance.?

We would hope NOT!



SERVICE

Books from Birth is in recess for several months although donations of books and magazines are still welcome. With such a busy finish to last year, it was decided to put a hold on the fixing, sorting and packing until after the wet season.

International Women's Day Breakfast is on again at the Reef Gateway Hotel on 9th March 2014. Please talk to your friends and try to get as many along to this wonderful event as you are able.

The Aqua-babes are back splashing around with only a small break over Christmas. We meet Tuesday and Friday mornings.



Our AFADU knitting group will recommence in March. If you or you know of someone who would like to join our group, please let me know. We meet on the last Monday of each month at 10 am.

Dawn Green, Service Director

The Birthing Kit Foundation has provided a link that shows some of the great work that Dr Luc of the Mission in Health Care and Development is doing in the Democratic Republic of Congo in partnership with the Birthing Kit Foundation. He has distributed over 70,000 kits for us and trained over 850 traditional birth attendants. PLEASE cut and paste it to your browser and have a read. It will break your heart and make you happy to be part of this wonderful work at the same time: [http://www.birthingkitfoundation.org.au/lib/pdf/News20130912\(PygmyTrainingDRCongo\).pdf](http://www.birthingkitfoundation.org.au/lib/pdf/News20130912(PygmyTrainingDRCongo).pdf)

Wendy, Connie, Pammie and Cath catch up with Stacey to wish her the very best in her studies this year. Stacey was the runner up last year in YWPA



Date Claimers

5 March: Board Meeting

9 March: International Women's Day Brunch—10 AM - Reef Gateway

11 March: Breakfast Meeting/Talk—7 AM – Coffee Club – *Bravehearts* –Speaker Mandy of WCCS

20 March: 15th Anniversary Celebration of Zonta Club of the Whitsundays—6.15 PM— Reef Gateway

24 March: AFADU – Carole 4946 6538 for time/place

26 March: Book Club contact - Kerry K. 4946 1460 for time/place

2 April: Board meeting

8 April: Breakfast Meeting/Talk – 7 AM – Coffee Club – *Women's Health* – Rowena Kissum

17 April: Annual **General Meeting 6.15 PM – Reef Gateway**

26-28 April: Area Conference: Mt Isa

28 April: AFADU Carole 4946 6538 for time/place

30 April: Book Club – contact Kerry K. 4946 1460 for time/place



BIRTHDAYS



- 6th – Mae Secomb
- 12th - Lauren Haack
- 13th - Cath Fernbach
- 20th - Zonta Club of the Whitsundays

Mentoring

How fantastic was our reverse mentoring session at our February meeting!! Jesse did an amazing job of organizing the evening and brought along 6 very beautiful and very smart high school girls to help us all with our laptops/ipads and smart phones. In a one hour time frame, we learnt how to send photos and videos as a text, how to work our phone GPS's, download lots of games for the grandchildren, set up our diaries on our devices with 15 mins reminder alerts and heaps more. Even many of us who felt IT savvy, learnt some more tricks. These girls knew everything, were an absolute delight, had such lovely personalities and managed to give us all individual attention. Born teachers!!! I think they enjoyed the evening as much as we did and St. Caths would like to do a similar event mid term with their leadership program if members are interested. A very big thank you to Jesse who had the bright idea of reverse mentoring and gathered together such a great team of girl Roz Jennings, Vice President





A note from Michelle and her three beautiful daughters



Hello my lovely ladies,

Firstly apologies for the delay, little baby Bella is now 4 months old, Annaleise has started grade one, Madelyn is off to kindy and I am back at work!!

Thank you for your words and your gifts to celebrate the arrival of Isabella Ingrid Rose Bourke. After a long traumatic pregnancy, admission to hospital and her early arrival, we are a happy family unit. Bella is a treasure, she sleeps well, feeds well and is totally in love with her sisters (and her Nan nan & Grandy☺)!!

It's nice to know that you beautiful women are in our life, so the Bourke's thank all of you xx

Warmest regards
Michelle





Zonta

Club of the Whitsundays Inc.

Breakfast meetings/Film Evenings

These are held mostly on the **second Tuesday** of the month. October is the last monthly breakfast session for the year, so please try to attend. This year we will have a couple of film evenings instead of breakfast sessions so check to make sure of the time and change of venue for those nights.

Tuesday 11th March: BREAKFAST SESSION

VENUE: COFFEE CLUB 7 for 7.30 am start

BRAVEHEARTS: Speaker Mandy from WCCS



Our subject will be "Bravehearts" and we will start the morning with a short origins of the Bravehearts organisation and one of its founders, Hetty Johnson, and passions. Bravehearts has been set up to spread awareness of child sexual abuse and to provide counselling support for victims and their families. Mandy from WCCS will be talking to us after the film about the Bravehearts workshop she has attended, how to talk to children about abuse awareness and the signs to look for if you fear a child is being abused followed by a Q and A session.

film describing the her motivations

As mothers, grandmothers, carers, teachers and community members, we all love and cherish the children in our community and want to keep them safe. With the Royal commission into child sexual abuse so much in the news at the moment, it is will be an educational morning for all of us.

Tuesday 8th April: BREAKFAST SESSION

VENUE: COFFEE CLUB 7 for 7.30 am start

WOMENS HEALTH: SPEAKER ROWENA KISSUM WHITSUNDAY HEALTH CLINIC.

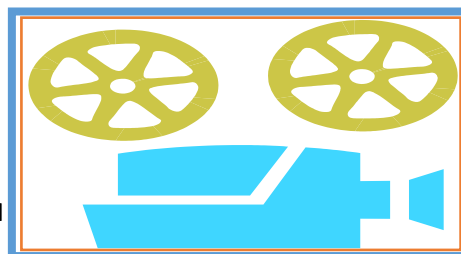
Rowena spoke to us last April and she was absolutely fantastic. I am thrilled that she has agreed to address us again this year and the date is confirmed with her. Once again she will talk about women's health and will vary her talk from last year's. She will tell me more of what she is going to talk about soon so stay tuned and put this breakfast on your "must do" list.

Tuesday 20th May: FILM EVENING (note this is the 3rd Tues of May)

Venue: Laura's house Chesapeake 6 for 6.30 pm start

FILM: TEARS OF RAIN: The status of women in Nepal

We will begin with a short 15 mins film on prisoners of Nepal showcasing work of an amazing local woman, Indira, followed by a 45 min documentary film, "Tears of Rain", about the women of Nepal. We would you all to bring along a small plate of finger food to share preferably Indian/Nepalese and your favourite drink. Also, if you wish to have a small fluffy toy personally delivered to the disabled children's home in Nepal, please bring one along for the HNP Inc "fluffy" distribution. There will also be a small market stall featuring Nepali products for you to purchase if you so wish. Sue Tuck from the Hearing Nepal Project will also be attending to answer any questions. A big thanks to Laura who is lending us her "cinema" for the evening.



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These breakfast speaker sessions and film evenings are very inspirational and informative. For more information or to let her know you are coming email or contact Roz peteandroz@bigpond.com or 49467370 / 0402056518



Members News:

Sunday 23rd saw the Queen Mary arrive in Airlie. Our District Governor Elect Judith Trevan-Hawke was on board with her husband Les. Angela and I met them and took them around to show the suggested venues for the 2015 District Conference, which we have been asked to submit an offer to host. Apart from a little rain now and then, the sun came out when we were at Coral Sea for lunch where Roz and Pete joined us. Judith was very impressed with Airlie as a destination and gave us some ideas to help our submission. It is now back to the drawing board to fine tune some things and hope we are chosen. There are a couple of other clubs vying for the opportunity to hold the conference. We had a lovely day and she is a very vibrant woman.

As a result of the letter from Whitsunday Housing being read out at our meeting, Tiina Randmae has advised that she has had a response which is very pleasing. She thanks us for putting their story forward.

Hi Ladies: Good to read about the activities of the club and membership. I am back in Holland since October and have resettled here. My love for Australia has not changed but my anger over the Visa restrictions and the unfriendly attitude towards tourists I still carry in me. I will not apply for a long-term Visa anymore; just take whatever I can get directly on the Internet. When I am lucky, it will be for three months. When successful, I will pick up my Camper and go to the part of the continent I consider as the most pure Australia: the northern states. I will keep travelling and therefore not become a member of any Dutch Zonta club. It was a great experience the 12 years Zonta in the Whitsundays. I have learned a lot and am very thankful for the warmth and friendship received from so many of you. If you will keep my name on the Newsletter list, I will very much appreciate it. Thank you a lot. With love and tot ziens , Guus.

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