



**ZONTA**  
 CLUB OF  
 CHARTERS  
 TOWERS INC  
 MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
 EMPOWERING WOMEN  
 THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

**Newsletter : March 2017**

**Zonta Bursary**

Hilary Grant presented the 2017 Zonta Club of Charters Towers Bursaries to Julia Keough (top photo) All Souls St Gabriels School, and Karrie Campbell (bottom photo) Columba Catholic College, in February. Both girls also received vouchers for two driving lessons each from Survivors Driving School.



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Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her potential.

The Zonta Club of Charters Towers holds a dinner meeting on the second Thursday of the month at Henry's Café and Restaurant, 5.30pm for 6pm.

**To find out more about Zonta,  
 visit the website [www.zonta.org.au](http://www.zonta.org.au)**

**From President Corralie Clarke.....**

Well, another Zonta year begins, and as a Regional Club in North Queensland, we have many achievements to be proud of.

The message from International President, Sonja Honig Schough, "we are an army who, through friendship, understanding, cooperation and goodwill, are an irresistible force to secure that women's rights are human rights", is apt and fitting to all Zontians.

As I write this, the news came out of another sentencing of a young man in Queensland who killed his partner in a traumatic and brutal way. This type of news highlights our work as Zontians as so important, and each and every Zonta Club member participates through friendship, co-operation and goodwill to achieve an end to Domestic Violence. So, it is important to keep pushing for changes in attitudes, to focus on advocacy and this in turn will enable women of all age groups to become empowered in their own daily life.

Our Club has undertaken many activities over the past few months. Here in Charters Towers we have a very active ZClub, and they have undertaken projects in their own right highlighting the Zonta ethos. They regularly meet to come up with ideas to fundraise and on a recent school trip, the girls travelled to Cambodia with "Days for Girls" hygiene packs to distribute to the young women in the orphanage they visited. The young women have attended some of our meetings and as a Club we had a presentation night to highlight their achievements.

Some of our achievements included, awarding 2 Bursaries of \$500 each to young women in years 11 or 12, which was decided after an application and interview process. We made and distributed emergency toiletries packs for students. We had a Breast Cushion packing day, which is always fulfilling and fun. We had a Movie evening which was sold out & consequently provided the Club with almost \$2,000 to add to our fundraising monies. We helped pack food items for the Ministers Fraternal prior to Christmas, which get distributed among the families in Charters Towers.

Our Club members are a very eclectic group of women who are all passionate about women and young girls and to this end we are constantly endeavouring to come up with new ideas and encourage new members. We get together once a month to have a drink and a laugh and we have named this our Social Friday.

We look forward to another prosperous year as Zontians and we will continue to embrace the Agenda 2030 adopted by the U.N. and its member countries. We will work towards the Sustainable Development Goals and be part of a group endeavouring to create change so we can all prosper with less inequality in the world.

Corralie Clarke,  
 President.

## Days for Girls Project

When a group of students from All Souls St Gabriels visited Cambodia last year, they took with them a quantity of Days for Girls kits for distribution in the school.

Days for Girls is an international, nonprofit, grass roots organization aiming to give all girls access to quality, sustainable, feminine hygiene.

Girls can miss up to two months of education and opportunity every year if they are forced to stay at home because of their period. Some girls resort to using leaves, mattress stuffing, newspaper, corn husks - anything they can find.

A kit consists of a draw string bag, moisture barrier shields, a bar of soap, 2 pairs of panties, a wash cloth, 8 absorbent tri-fold pads, and a one gallon zip-lock freezer bag for laundering soiled items using very little water and a visual instruction sheet.



The kits were sewn and assembled by members of the Zonta Club and the St Gabes Z Club.

The hygiene pack gives back up to six months of living just in three years of use -180 days of education, health, safety and dignity.

After distribution of Days for Girls kits, school absence rates dropped from 36% to 8% in Uganda and from 25% to 3% in Kenya.

The cycle of poverty is broken when girls stay in school.



## Zonta's Overseas Projects: Nepal

The Zonta International Foundation funds the projects and programmes of Zonta International.

Zonta clubs usually donate one-third of the money they raise to the Zonta International Foundation utilizing the remaining two-thirds in local projects and programs in line with Zonta's mission and vision.

During 2016-18 Zonta will donate US \$1,000,000 to UN Women programmes aimed at addressing human trafficking and the unsafe migration of women and girls in Nepal.

Nepal has long been a country of origin for labour migration and trafficking of women and children for the purposes of sexual, labour and other forms of exploitation.

In the aftermath of the April May 2015 earthquakes, Nepal faces a heightened risk of human trafficking and unsafe migration.

Loss of livelihoods and assets, displacement and poor living conditions, disrupted law enforcement and justice systems, and the loss of family protection contribute to an increased risk of abuse, exploitation and of violence.

The UN programmes will focus on both prevention of and response to trafficking.

For example public awareness campaigns will challenge gender based discriminations, mobilizing partners, young people, community leaders as well as transport sector personnel.

Trafficking survivors and returnee women migrant workers will be taught new skills, including financial literacy, for job placement or entrepreneurship development.



ASSG School Nurse Kate McCartney RN, with school boarders' toiletries packs packed by the Zonta Club

# The Yellow Rose Award

On International Women's Day each year, the Zonta Club of Charters Towers presents a bouquet of yellow roses to a woman in the community to acknowledge her service to others.



## Zonta Yellow Rose Awards over the years:

2007	Lyn Snowdone	Cancer Council and Lions Club
2008	Ann Dunn	Lions Club
2009	Dot Birgan	First and only female Mayor of Charters Towers
2010	Shirley Symes	Restoration of the Stock Exchange, reopening of the Don Roderick Gallery
2011	Meg Ogilvie	St Vincent de Paul Society, Towers Players
2013	Bev Whalen	Cancer Council
2014	Lyn Prichard	QCWA, Girl Guides, Show Society
2015	Val Cragg	Charity Markets, Show Society
2016	Carole Phillips	first female Dalrymple Shire Councillor, Soroptimist Club, Management Committee of the Neighbourhood Centre, Bush Curlews Writers Group
2017	Norma Ross	Friends of the Theatre Amnesty International



Rebecca Burge attended our August meeting to talk about her book "Life As It Is"



Zontians and CWA members met with 2017 Australia Day Ambassador Prof. Kay Saunders AM



Carole Phillips (2016 Yellow Rose Award) and Zontian Robyn Pratt



Zontians rock at Towers Rocks.....



# White Ribbon Day 2016



L to R: Kate Thomson, Deputy Mayor Sonia Bennetto and Guest Speaker Tania Ault



Robyn Pratt and Robin Bassingthwaigte



Viv Pierce, Clay Pierce and Barbara Salisbury



Sue Farmer, Maxine Lockman, Lesley Collins and Kate Thomson



L to R: White Ribbon Ambassador for Townsville James Fitzgerald, Mayor Liz Schmidt, Snr Sergeant Graham Lohmann (Guest Speaker) and Cr Brett Maff, MC.



Our 2016 Christmas celebration

