



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2012

This has been an exceptional month with many events completed. I am so proud to be part of such a dynamic group. This month you have excelled yourselves.

“A Night in Africa” was a sellout! A very successful fund raising event with AFADU and all the club recognizes the tremendous effort and organization that was involved. Congratulations go to the committee members, Pammie, Cath, Janet, PJ, Roz and Wendy. The photos conjure up the atmosphere of the night.

A Pink Ribbon Day stall was held at the Whitsunday Markets on Saturday October 20. Our stall was a standout, everything that moved was in pink and our hand printed back cloth set the scene. Our turbans, breast cushions and DVD's attracted a lot of interest. We also sold out of strawberries and cream with the proceeds going to the Cancer Council Queensland.

The Proserpine High School was again the venue for the packaging of 400 birthing kits on Thursday 18 October, with Wendy organizing the day. This is a project where Zonta members and high school students come together to help save the lives of mothers and babies in developing countries. Well done!

Sponsored by Zonta, the Whitsunday Crisis & Counselling



Wendy & Angela

Service launched a sticker campaign 'It's Time to Talk' to help victims of sexual & domestic violence. These stickers are being displayed in pubs and clubs around the region.

The October issue of the Zonta International newsletter included various articles: 'Elimination of Violence Against Women', UNICEF Rwanda Project Update (continued support for the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV) plus 'Young Women in Public Affairs' scholarship highlights and tools that are available to promote the award.

Another exciting challenge is mentioned in the newsletter about preparations and activities leading up to the celebration of Zonta's centenary in 2019. This article headed "What an exciting challenge for our archivists and historians" describes a plan to create a centennial history of Zonta. This will include sourcing and assessing archive materials in order to create a written history. As I mentioned in October, Connie is progressing well with her software research to collate our archival material. A staged plan of action is the next step.

This month we have our clothes swap on November 10th and our Christmas Progressive Party on November 25th. They both should be good fun.

Angela Spicer, President



SERVICE



PINK RIBBON DAY STALL AT AIRLIE MARKETS

Back at our planning day in February, President Angela was very keen to have a function for Pink Ribbon Day. This all came to fruition on Saturday 20th October when we had a PINK stall at the local markets, giving away homemade turbans, breast cushions and drip bottle bags for cancer sufferers. We also sold strawberries and cream to promote awareness of the cause. Angela said the pink apron clad ladies sold 100 serves of strawberries and cream and received many donations from passers-by.

Angela added – we are all of the same mind that this event was not so much about the money raised. It was the success of this as a community event – getting the word out there. We also gave away copies of the DVD from Redcliffe Zonta Club – “Side by Side’ for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. This DVD has been found to be extremely helpful to the patient’s family as well. This was often the case of those we gave copies to – many of them at a loss to know what to do.

Thanks to our helpers on the day – Angela, PJ, Lauren, Catherine, Noelene, Kerry, Wendy, Judy Brett, Carol van der Gaag, Robyn for photos, Sandii and Pam H. for moral support and Steve Halter and Ian Johnson for physical support in helping to set up and take down the pagoda and tables. Thanks also to those who attended our sewing bee – Dawn, Joan, Pam G, Carole, Judy Brown, Noelene, Laura, PJ. Noelene, Chair



BOOKS FROM BIRTH

It was decided at the last Zonta meeting to buy, wrap in Christmas paper and send new books to the Kowanyama Community. Books for ages 0 - 6 have been bought at an average of \$5 a book and will be wrapped and sorted at the next meeting. This is just a one off box as a special Christmas gift from Zonta Whitsunday. We will fill up the box with women's magazines as a special treat for the women.



Our next meeting is on Wednesday 14th November at 3pm my place. A December meeting(our last for 6 months although still collecting books) will be held on December 5th where we will clear all books and send off before wet season.

We have had some very appreciative responses from groups who have received books which makes the effort from so many people worthwhile. Thanks everyone for your involvement. Judy Brett, Chair

BIRTHING KITS

On Thursday 18 October, 11 students from Proserpine High School plus members of the Zonta Club of the Whitsundays came together to assemble 400 Birthing Kits, to be distributed to women in third world countries.

The Birthing Kit assembly days are conducted by Zonta clubs all over Australia under the governance of the Birthing Kit Foundation (founded in 2007), which is based in Adelaide. The program has been running since 1999 and it has evolved into almost 1 million kits being sent to 26 countries through 40 organisations, working together with the UN. The work of the Foundation is funded by grants from AusAID, and donations from Zonta Clubs and many other groups and individuals. Each Kit costs \$3 which includes supplies and transportation.

Some assistance towards funding for this year’s 400 kits was provided by the Crocodile Cafe who contributed \$200, with the balance from Zonta Club of the Whitsundays. Wendy Downes, Chair



3 Zonta Club of the Whitsundays - member of Zonta International



PAMPER PACKS



ADOPT A FAMILY

Every year we give something special to women who are escaping domestic violence and who spend Christmas with their children in the refuge. It makes them feel that someone cares and gives them goodies they may not buy for themselves. This year we aim to fill 12 Pamper Packs with the help of donations from members. So please bring your gifts along to the November meeting and Laura will be there to collect them. Here are some suggestions: Soaps, body lotions, perfume spray, shampoos, loofas, hair products, etc.

Again, this year we will be selecting a family from those listed in the Whitsunday Times and providing them with Christmas gifts and a hamper. It is so important to care for families in our community who are disadvantaged, especially at Christmas time. We will be filling these hampers from cash donations and with products contributed by members. So please put in your diaries for our November meeting:

"Bring pamper products and hamper gifts to 15th November meeting"

Please also put in your rapidly filling diary: **"Present wrapping 8th December at Laura's house"**

Thanks for your help, Laura and Robyn

ADVOCACY

Advocacy has been quite busy this month:

You will start to see this sticker all around the hotels and various outlets in town. Together with the WCCS, we have arranged the printing of this information to assist victims of sexual violence. We hope that it aids in curtailing the growth of this very real problem in our area.

The AFADU and Zonta fund raising project, African Film Evening, was a major task being one of the largest fund raising events for our club. We wish to thank this hard working committee, especially Pam Harrison, who's idea it was and who carried the vast majority of the load.

Janet Keppke, Director Advocacy



BREAKFAST SESSIONS

Sue Matheny, Client Services Manager of the Whitsunday Crisis and Counselling Service was our last Breakfast speaker for the season.

She both informed and shocked us with statistics about our very own community. An open forum allowed us to raise our awareness further about the sexual violence taking place in our neighbourhoods.

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE Zonta around the world

In Zonta Area 5 of District 17 in the Philippines, each of 15 Clubs has a twin Zonta club in another country. Thirteen clubs have twinned with a Zonta club in the USA and two clubs have opted to be twinned with a club in Canada. To help us find out more about the success of this twinning program, our Club has written to the District Governor of District 17 to find out about the benefits of club twinning and how to best maintain the ties between twinned clubs. This will be useful information for our own twinning project with a club in Thailand. Lesley Pratchett



Date Claimers

7 November: Board Meeting— Dawn Green's—5.30 PM

10 November: Clothes & Book Swap—Kerry Kenyon's—2 PM

14 November: Books from Birth—Judy Brett's— 3PM

15 November: General Meeting—Reef Gateway—6.15 for 6.30 start

25 November: Christmas Progressive Dinner—Mandalay Road residences

28 November: Last Wednesday Book Club—Kerry Kenyon's—Partners welcome—5PM

4 December: Board Meeting—TBA

5 December: Books from Birth—Judy Brett's— 3 PM

8 December: Wrapping Party—Laura's

NO GENERAL MEETING OR NEWSLETTER IN DECEMBER

MEMBERSHIP

CLOTHES AND BOOK SWAP

Our Clothes, Accessories and Book Swap is coming up fast on Saturday afternoon (10th) at 2 p.m. Please support your club and its efforts to support others with the Christmas Hamper and Pamper Pack appeals by coming to the Swap or, if you are unable to attend, by donating clothes or books. You are welcome to bring a friend and could members please bring a plate or bottle of bubbles. You can drop off items any time beforehand, but preferably after 2.30p.m, on Friday 9th. If I am not home please leave your donations on the veranda. Of course, please ensure that items are clean and in good condition. I would appreciate an RSVP to get an idea of numbers. Let's have another great Zonta Fellowship occasion!

LAST WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

The October meeting of The Last Wednesday Book Club, held at Angela's, was a scary event. Members arrived to find Angela in full Halloween mode, handing out witches' hats and champagne cocktails complete with floating eyes! Gruesome!! Somehow we still managed to have a very interesting chat, sharing the books we had read. Our November meeting will be the last for 2012. It will be held at Kerry's and partners are invited to join us for dinner.

CHRISTMAS PARTY



Another beautiful Zonta event for the season, the Christmas party is exactly one month before Christmas on the 25th of November. To ensure that as many members and their partners can attend this year the event has been brought forward and the time has been changed to late afternoon/evening so that our wonderful cruise ship ambassadors are not left out. Roz, Catherine, Laura and Kerry will be having a meeting soon and the final details including time will be emailed. If you were not at the October General meeting and have not given attendance or food selection to Roz, please email or phone her.

FUTURE NEW MEMBER

Mae Secomb, an interesting and lovely lady who has joined us on several occasions recently, has phoned to say that she feels very much in tune with our work and has enjoyed attending our meetings. She will be away and busy over the holiday period but plans to apply for membership in February. I'm sure she will be an asset to our club.

Kerry, Membership Director



GARDEN UPDATE

One of our more successful school gardens was St Catherine's Junior School in Proserpine. It helped that the teachers were very keen too. Annie is teaching at St Catherine's this year and I asked her to check up on the gardens we had installed last year. (I was usually able to see the garden beds from Herbert Street but lately they didn't seem to be there).

It turns out that the beds were moved to the other side of the tennis court where water is more readily available and the school also had purchased two more beds and all were going very well.

Annie has taken some photos of the beds – ours are the red ones – and you can see they certainly seem to be growing well. It is lovely to be able to report a successful project. Noelene





PROFILE: LAURA MORRISON

Hi everyone. Firstly, before I tell you about myself I would like to say thank you to all of you for your friendship and making it easy for me to settle into life in the Whitsundays.

I was born in Londonderry in 1956. Mum was Scottish and Dad Welch. My brother Dave was born in Scotland and sister Cindy in Cornwall, as Dad was in the British Navy, we would up and change country every couple of years. That was until Mum put her foot down and said no more moving, so we settled in Cornwall for several years before coming out here when I was 14 yrs. old.

We landed in Western Australia. I had just started school, but after a family 'chat', we decided Perth was not for us. Mum & Dad bought a land rover and Mum and I made a large tent, which attached to the back. We travelled around WA, VIC, NSW and QLD ending up at Mitchell River (now Kowanyama). Mum, Dad and Dave all worked on the reserve. I finished school through correspondence and then went to work on a cattle station as a governess. Life there was great but when my sister Cindy started talking pidgin English (being the only white child in a school of 400), Mum and Dad decided to move south.

They moved to Strahan in Tasmania and I followed a year later. I met a really tall bloke the first day I got there. Ron and I have now been married for 35 years. We had three children Christine, Susan & Deek (his real name is Steven but his sisters named him Deek when he was just little). Ron's history was tourism, skippering tourist boats by doing day trips up the Gordon River. His family were the original 'Piners' (Huron pine) on west coast so he spent a lot of time in the bush as well.

Grandkids from left:

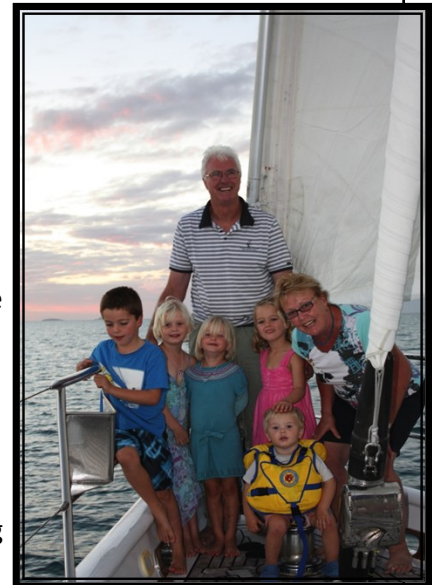
Declan, Ella, Milana, Chloe & Davy in front.

I worked at Strahan Primary School for ten years, as a speech therapy and special education aid.

In 1989, the government issued ten Aquaculture lease areas in Macquarie Harbour. We were lucky enough to get two of them. Our life as fish farmers started in 1990, growing Ocean Trout. The first year we grew 30 tonnes, which was quite exciting for us. When we sold the farm in 2008, we were growing a 1000 tonnes a year.

Sad to say our eldest daughter, Christine, suffered depression from mid teens. She battled it for many years and in 2006 she had twins, Chloe and Declan. Due to her problems, she struggled to cope with the twins so they came to live with us when they were just 17 months old. Christine passed away in July 2011.

After selling our business, which employed 48 people (I was the head bean counter), we started taking holidays...yeh. This is how we came to Airlie Beach. We bought a house here two years ago. We really love living here, although I do confess we go back to Tassie for the really warm months up here. In addition, I miss my three youngest grandkids, but they do come up twice a year to escape part of the Tassie winters.



Before moving here a friend of mine, who had taught in Airlie, told me about Zonta so one of my first missions was to check it out. I contacted Sandii Hansen and she invited me along. I found it hard mixing last year after Chris passed away but I made a pledge with myself to get out there this year and meet people. Where better than Zonta!!

I would like to say thanks for putting the money collected from Water Gym to the Breast Cancer DVD's. I lost my Mum to breast cancer when she was just 58.

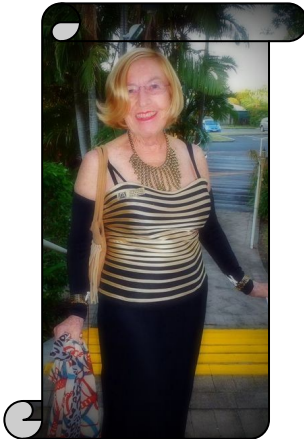
See you all at next meeting or Water Gym. PS. I have offered to do the newsletter while PJ is away next year. I have not done anything like that before so if anyone wants to assist please let me know. Lets face it, PJ is a hard act to follow.

African Evening

If you wish to view all of the photos from this spectacular evening, please paste the following link to your browser:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kgocofsi94z2w1/m93z2RXrMo>

Click on the first photo to start a slide show



A very special greeter



Presidents, Past & Present: Angela, Robyn, Carole, Wendy, Sandii and Annie



Thanks to Pammie for making it all possible



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