



MARCH 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

March has started off with a Big Bang. What a great and successful Women's Day Event with an outstanding attendance. A hearty Congratulations, goes out to all of you who have spent hard hours making this happen. Thanks, also, to the members who attend the event and supported our Club. As always, a job well done!

Because March is the month of International Women's Day, I thought I would take the time to give you some facts about how this event came about: In 1908, there was great unrest and a critical debate was occurring amongst women. Oppression and inequality was spurring women to become more vocal and active in campaigning for change. Then, later in 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights.

In 1910, The 2nd International Conference of Working Women was held in Copenhagen. Clara Zetkin (Leader of the 'Women's Office' for the social Democratic Party in Germany) tabled the idea of an International Women's Day. She proposed that every year, in every country there should be a celebration on the same day – a Women's Day – to press for their demands. The conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, greeted Zetkin's suggestion with unanimous approval and thus International Women's Day was the result.

On 19 March, 1911, International Women's Day was honoured the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland with more than one million women and men also attending. However, less than a week later, on 25 March the tragic 'Triangle Fire' in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working women, This disastrous event drew significant attention to working conditions in the United States that became a focus of subsequent International Women's Day events.

1913-1914, on the eve of World War 1, campaigning for peace, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1913. Following discussions, International Women's Day was transferred to 8 March and this day has remained the global date for International Women's Day ever since.

1975 – International Women's Day was celebrated for the first time by the United Nations. And in December 1977, The General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by Member States.

The UN commenced the adoption of an annual theme examples of which are:

1996, "Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future"

1997, "Women at the Peace Table"

1998, "Women and Human Rights"

1999, "World Free of Violence Against Women" and so on, each year until the current day.

Most recent themes have included "Empower Rural Women, End Poverty & Hunger" and "A Promise is a Promise – Time for Action to End Violence Against Women".



I have just hit the highlights of what International Women's day is about. If you would like to read the full article, please go to <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/About>. I am sure you will enjoy it.

I will now leave you with the following thoughts.

"Make a difference, Think Globally and Act Locally!"

"Make Everyday International Women's Day"

"Do your bit to ensure that the future for girls is bright, equal safe and rewarding."

President, Connie Riley



ADVOCACY



International
Women's Day

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8th 2017

Last Sunday, the ZONTA Club of the Whitsunday's was one of the many ZONTA Clubs in more than 50 countries around the globe to galvanize attention on gender equality and women's rights issues. What a fantastic event it was and how lucky were we to get such an inspirational guest speaker, Marg Staib who spoke so eloquently, around this year's theme "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030.

Following the signing of the Australia-UN Women 2016-2020 Partnership Agreement on 16 December 2016, Julie Bishop, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, outlined why her Government believes funding UN Women is an important priority. The Australian Government has established a \$55 million Gender Equality Fund and remains committed to ensuring that more than 80 per cent of development activities address gender equality.

Australia also supports UN Women through the provision of technical expertise. In 2016, it funded the engagement of former Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, to work with senior business leaders in the UN Women Private Sector Leadership Advisory Council to promote gender equality within the private sector.

So many of the current initiatives were instigated by Zontians with the "Squeaky Wheel Syndrome". As Margie Staib pointed out, we have come a VERY long way, however, we must continue to use our unique position, intelligence, and resourcefulness to hold more wonderful awareness events, such as our own International Women's Day and continue to stand up for gender equality. We must also let school girls and young women in our community see us supporting and encouraging change so that they will be inspired to do the same.

BIRTHING KIT PACKING DAY ON HAMILTON ISLAND

The second Birthing Kit Packing Day will be held in April on Hamilton Island and will be organised and funded by the ladies who belong to the Hamilton Island Whine Club and in memory of Janet Keppke.

Pammie Harrison, Advocacy Director



**Birthing Kit
Foundation**
Australia



The team that produced a brilliant day!

MEMBERSHIP

We would like to increase the Membership Committee this year, as it would be good to get new ideas on how to retain our members and grow our club. Anyone interested in joining the Membership committee please let me know (carlandjudy@whitsunday.net.au or ph: 4948 3657 or 0488033402).



Morning tea at Ann Cleghorn's will be held on Saturday, 11th March between 10am and 12noon. We are hoping to invite guests from our IWD Brunch to come along and meet our members and find out more about Zonta. Come along for a great morning.

Our Zonta Dress Shirts: These are required to be white, button front with a collar. They can be long, ¾ or short sleeved. The New Zonta Logo is available for embroidery at "Embroidery in Stitches" – Whitsunday Business Centre Suite 20. 230 Shute Harbour Rd. Ph: 4948 0034 at a cost of \$7.15. Shirts are also available there.

Z Clubs: Susan Beale (St. Cath's) had their first Z club meeting with 12 girls showing up. They were mostly from Year 7 (but that is OK as they are our future leaders). They came up with some great ideas for awareness and fundraising. Susan also ran a Valentine's Day fundraiser on behalf of Zonta and raised \$270 for Domestic Violence. Susan is already doing, and will continue to do, a fabulous job promoting Zonta. Thank you, Susan. **Judy Brown, Membership Director**



Proserpine High School
entertainers!



SERVICE

Thank you to a wonderful IWDB committee, the Whitsunday Schools, Lure & Kev Collins for a fantastic day. I think all will agree that despite the muggy weather the venue was exceptional, the food was great, showcasing the schools was marvellous & everything ran to clockwork.

Many thanks to Cath who excelled as an MC & took charge in my absence, Judy for the hard job of raffle wrapping & raising funds, Kerry for the floral arrangements, Laura & Carol for all the agendas & tickets, Janice for all the pre liaisons with Nolwyn from Lure, & Lauren who helped with the raffles & everything else. I would like to thank Wendy for her tireless job of collating the tickets and everyone else who helped to make this a truly successful day.

We have shown what a wonderful Club we are. Thanks, everyone.

Carole Brauner Lindsay, Service Director



Whitsunday Christian College talent

Books from Birth

Our first session, on the 15th of February, was well attended by 7 Zonta Members including Noelene's daughter Fiona. We packed 17 Boxes, some of which were later mailed to Joyce Palmer Hospital Palm Island, Ingham Community Centre, Tully Hospital, Kowanyama Child Care Centre, Joyce Palmer Hospital Palm Island, at a total cost of \$432.00. Our second meeting, on the 23rd of February, was also well attended by 6 Zonta Members plus two guests from previous General Meetings. We managed to pack 15 boxes, some of which were later mailed to Hopevale Shire, PCYC Palm Island, Palm Island Children and Family Co-Op, which were re transported from Townsville to Palm Island at their own expense, Kowanyama Child Care Centre, Girudala Community Centre Bowen, with a total cost of postage of \$385.75. **Cheers, Lauren Haack, Chair**



The Last Wednesday Book Club

This month the book club welcomes two new members, Odette and Mae to our next meeting, to be held at Joan's on the 29th. We are looking forward to enjoying their insights, fellowship and culinary delights. For anyone interested in reading along, the book for this month is "The Ottoman Motel" by Christopher Currie. Following is a book review from Roz of a book she read over the summer holidays. **Kerry Kenyon, Chair**

Book Review

I love being a member of our Zonta book club. Our monthly meetings are wonderful times for friendship, stimulating discussions about our current book followed by an absolutely magnificent meal and wine. We often all read the same book but sometimes we have free reading which I also love.

In January, I read Zoe Morrison's excellent debut novel called Music and Freedom which examines the long term effects of domestic violence on a woman's psyche. The time frame covers a period of time approx between the 1930's up until present day. It is a compelling study of how a patriarchal society can inhibit the success of a gifted and confident young woman. As a young Australian woman, Alice, the main character, wins a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London where she blossoms into an outstanding concert pianist. It is in London (in the 1950's) that she meets a good looking "charming" Oxford professor, marries him, only to find out after marriage that he is an angry, violent man - a marriage where her needs must forever yield to his. After marriage, Edward, an entrenched misogynist, does his best to sabotage her music career until he absolutely destroys it in one horrific single event. Alice, as a stay at home wife and mother, is criticized by Edward for her cooking, her cleaning, her appearance, and he spoils her relationship with her only son, ultimately shattering her self-confidence until she becomes completely socially isolated.

Melbourne based author, Zoe Morrison, herself an extremely accomplished pianist, is a Rhodes scholar and for her PHD at Oxford, extensively researched the field of domestic violence and social exclusion, spoke to many victims and draws on this research to great effect in her novel.

Yes, it is quite dark and made me very angry at the injustice of it all, but you can look forward to some relief and lightness at the end of the novel and Morrison writes beautifully about music and piano and how the music eventually offered Alice some freedom. **Roz Jennings**



March: 6th – Mae Secomb

12th – Lauren Haack

13th – Cath Fernbach

April: 21st—Lesley Prachett

St. Catherines Catholic College wearable art show



INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

Zonta International is proud to partner with organizations who share Zonta International's vision of a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. By partnering with like-minded organizations, Zonta International extends its reach and impact to empower more women and girls around the world to realize their rights. At the local level, Zonta clubs partner with local NGOs that share this vision.



Toast to the Zonta Club of Beirut, by Roz on behalf of Kim.

As Kim lived in Dubai for a while, she wondered whether there was a Zonta Club there. Well, no, but it did raise the question: Is there a Zonta Club in the Middle East? Yes, there is one and it is the Zonta Club of Beirut in Lebanon. The club was established in 2012 and is the first and the only Zonta club in the Arab world. It is in district 14 which also includes Germany, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Greece and Hungary. According to their current face book page, they have many projects which include Zonta educational awards, IWD fundraiser lunches, film nights and the Ray of Light/prison outreach project where they team with Bank Audi and visit moms in prison and help them with new born clothing and related utilities. In 2016, the club was very active with the Zonta says No campaign with street walks, uni lectures and In November, in a show of solidarity for the say No to Violence against women campaign, Beirut international airport joined Zonta Beirut in lighting the airport orange. Check out their very active face book page to see photos of this spectacular event and all their other varied projects. Lebanon has a cross culture of various civilizations over thousands of years. It is the most religiously diverse country in the middle east and although Arabic is the official language, French and English are also spoken. Lebanon shares a 79 km long border with Israel and a 375 km border with war ravaged Syria. So, from a relatively safe and secure Zonta Club of the Whitsundays I would like to raise a glass and toast those remarkable women in The Zonta Club of Beirut.



Sandii celebrates IWD in Bali

OUR ABSOLUTE FABULOUS GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR ABSOLUTE FABULOUS IWD

Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Margaret Staib, AM, CSC



Air Vice Marshal Staib is a director of the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (since May 2014) and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (since 2015) and a member of the Royal Australian Air Force Active Reserve (since 2012), following a distinguished career over three decades in the permanent Air Force. Her military service included holding the position of Commander Joint Logistics and Commandant of the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Air Vice Marshal Staib formerly held the position of Chief Executive Officer of Airservices Australia (2012-2015). She was also a member of the Industry Advisory Board for the Centre for Aeronautical and Aviation Leadership of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (2010-2015). She is also a Certified Practising Logistician, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. Air Vice Marshal Staib holds a Bachelor of Business Studies, Master of Business Logistics and Master of Arts in Strategic Studies. She has received the United States Meritorious Service Medal, the Outstanding Contribution to Supply Chain Management in Australia Award and was appointed in 2009 as a member in the Military Division of the Order of Australia. In 2000 Air Vice Marshal Staib's contribution and leadership in the field of ADF Aviation Inventory Management was recognised when she was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross.

WHEN THE WORLD GETS YOUR DOWN, REMEMBER THIS: (Submitted by Noelene)

Spare a thought for the series of unfortunate events that befell one Lionel Kermode on a summer's day in 1924 and your problems may pale in comparison.

"Kermode, 25, an overseer at Yacamunda Station near Mt Coolah in Central Queensland, was accompanying a party of ladies on a duck hunt with the station's bookkeeper in tow. Sometime into the day's shooting Kermode went to rest the butt of his shotgun on the ground. Holding the weapon in his left hand, he bent down to lock it, but just as he touched the safety, part of the gun exploded - practically blowing away the inner part of his left arm. One of the group, a nurse tended to the wounds. In need of urgent medical attention, the next setback was that none of the party (excepting Kermode himself) knew how to drive.

With his arm hanging by a thread, the seriously injured man was placed in the driver's seat to make the trip back to Yacamunda. Yet again fate intervened and after only 3.2km the car broke down. With night falling, the bookkeeper continued on foot for the remaining 12.9km to the homestead. The others remained to monitor Kermode's condition. Their only source of light was a box of matches.

Several hours later, Kermode was taken to the local doctor before being sent to Rockhampton where his arm was amputated." Keep smiling - :-):-:-)

Date Claimers

March:

5th: International Women's Day Brunch—Lure at Abell Point Marina

16th: General Meeting—6.00 for 6.30 start—Reef Gateway

Book Club: Last Wednesday of Each Month – Contact Kerry Kenyon

April:

2nd & 8th: Bunnings Sausage Sizzle – see Carole Bolton to sign up

20th: General Meeting—6.00 for 6.30 start—Reef Gateway

Book Club: Last Wednesday of Each Month – Contact Kerry Kenyon

30th: President's Breakfast – see below

May: 20-21st Area Conference – Cairns – put this on your calendar/wish list!

Presidents Breakfast Event: 30th April Venue: Azure Sea Resort, poolside. (Apartment 26- Connie's in case of rain) Time: 9:00 am til ? Selected members to bring food or Champagne. Balance of Membership to pay \$10.00 pp.

Connie to provide: Bacon and Sausage to cook on BBQ, Coffee, Tea, Orange Juice. Members to bring: a plate, cutlery and a glass (as if you are attending a picnic). Partners are welcome. Activities: Swimming available for those who wish, otherwise, fun, companionship and chats as well as enjoying great food. Any funds obtained will be donated to the Zonta General Fund.

Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WhitsundayZonta>



District 22 Facebook: There is now a District 22 Facebook page also.

<https://www.facebook.com/District-22-Zonta-International-1224453047645795/>

Our photos from IWD 2017 (in case you haven't looked already!)

<https://pjhalter.smugmug.com/Edited-photos/> as well as our Facebook.

Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Contact Details

President: Connie Riley: lesterandconnie@bigpond.com

President Elect: Kerrie Adam: kerrieandken@gmail.com

Vice President: Sandii Hansen: sandii52@gmail.com

Past President: Roz Jennings: peteandroz@bigpond.com

Secretary: Lesley Pratchett: secretaryzontawhitsundays@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Dawn Green: wwdmg@optusnet.com

ReefTalk Editors: Laura Morrison, PJ Halter

www.facebook.com/WhitsundayZonta

zontaclub7@hotmail.com

Address - PO BOX 427, Cannonvale, Queensland 4802