



# Reef Talk

SEPTEMBER 2017

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

How quickly the time is flying by, the weather is warming up, the cane trains are rolling and perish the thought Christmas will be here soon. It has been rather quiet this last month, not that I am complaining, it has given me time to catch up on things outside Zonta.

Over the last few months we have had three new members join our ranks and lots of guests attending our monthly general meetings so even though most of us know them well, I thought I would introduce the board members for this Zonta Year:

**VICE PRESIDENT SANDII;** Sandii's knowledge of all things Zonta has been invaluable, she has schooled and guided we members of the board with limited computer skills through the frustrations of Dropbox, when what we really wanted to do was throw the computer out the window.

**SECRETARY LESLEY;** Lesley loves this position, she must as this is her fourth year. As a member of Toastmasters, she has advised us on public speaking (I was away that month), she knows our constitution inside and out and I will be so glad when she gets home from the UK.

**TREASURER DAWN:** What a perfect fit, former bank manager, aided by Catherine, Dawn keeps all things financial in order, as a shopping buddy she has no equal.

**SERVICE DIRECTOR CAROL;** Amazing energy when I ask her to do something I know it will be done, full of ideas for fundraising, the BBQ is great fun and I am so looking forward to the Bowen Races.

**ADVOCACY DIRECTOR MAXINE;** Maxine is the woman behind our orange ladies (Zollies) we saw them at local businesses, at the traffic lights and even at the football in Townsville, now she is working on Orange Families. Maxine spends the money that Carol helps us make.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR JUDY;** Judy's enthusiasm for membership is infectious. She has a 100% record, three general meetings, three new members and more to come.

**PRESIDENT ELECT CATH;** Media person Cath is across everything at board meetings, she is willing to help everyone, great at sourcing grants and information that may benefit us. She will make an excellent president, also has a wicked sense of humour.

**AND THEN THERE IS ME:** Some days I struggle with the work involved, but honestly how can we go wrong, with these wonderful women above and you, the members. Whitsundays has a reputation as a party group and I don't deny that we do like to have a good time but there is also a very committed bunch of women behind the party who get things done. Well done. **Kerrie Adam, President**



## SERVICE

### Books from Birth

**Books From Birth:** Hi Ladies, since we have a big collection of children's books, I wish to plan a Books From Birth working bee meeting at 1 pm on the 28th of September at my home at 2667 Shute Harbour Rd, Mandalay. It is opposite Island Inn Motel (driveway is on left after 3rd white post past Bus Stop sign) I will put out a sign for directions, also my mobile is [0400028959](tel:0400028959). Looking forward to seeing those that are available to come. Cheers, Lauren



### Bowen Cup Race Day

Saturday September 30th. About 40 people will be going.

Bus will pick up 10:20 at TAFE Cannonvale and

10:30 Burnups car-park Centro.

Bus leaving Bowen Race track 5:30pm.

### Bunnings BBQ's

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked on the BBQ's for the 3rd & 10th September. They were long but successful days and has proved to be a great opportunity for our fundraising. I can appreciate how hard Carol Bolton has worked to make them a success. Her procedures, and liason with Bunning's have been very helpful and made everything easy for our volunteers who will follow on our November dates. Cheers, Marlene



## Thank You

Thank you PJ and ZONTA members for your very special encouragement and ongoing support of both Joanne's and my International Projects. Though not part of the ZONTA International project program, both of us support children and women in the most desperate and needy of third world countries. Pammie Harrison



## ADVOCACY

"Hidden Figures"-- what a wonderful film! Thank you Roz for putting this film forward and thank you Laura for hosting us once again. The stoicism of these women was amazing. Not only did they have to battle being women - they were also African-American women. Segregation was a part of American life at this time. It was a part of our own Australian history too where Aboriginals were banned from certain sections of our community. Fortunately, these women weren't "put aside" by everyone. The immigrant engineer who encouraged the young engineer and the Judge who had the courage to award her a place in school: the boss of NASA who made changes to make Catherine's life as a Coloured woman easier and finally, his acceptance of her genius. Of course there were many negatives facing these young women. For me, the one that stood out was once again the young engineer whose husband was questioning who she thought she was---- what made her think that she could achieve such things. After all, she was a woman and a coloured woman. Thank goodness he saw sense!! And she had the courage to proceed. But it wasn't only men who opposed these women---- other women did as well and it is still the case today.

A lot has changed since the 1960's regarding gender equality but we still have a long way to go.

This brings me to the UN International Literacy Day. This was first celebrated on 8th September 1967. It is 50 years since this first celebration and is now celebrated worldwide bringing together governments, multi and bi lateral organisations, NGO's, private sectors, communities, teachers, learners and experts in the field.

"The world has changed since 1966 (when International Literacy Day was first proclaimed) but our determination to provide every woman and man with the skills, capacities and opportunities to become everything they wish, in dignity and respect, remains as firm as ever. Literacy is a foundation to build a more sustainable future for all." UNESCO Director General.

According to the Indian Express newspaper, UNESCO has reported positive trends toward growing literacy levels in children but not adults.

"The wider population has not benefitted to the same extent in some regions. It is a troubling fact that there are now more adults without literacy compared to 50 years ago meaning that our efforts have not kept pace with population growth." Quian Tang. UNESCO Education Assistant Director General.

However, UNESCO is still aiming for 2030 to "ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong education".

As a NGO member of the UN, Zonta International promotes education of women and girls. This is done in many ways in many countries around the world. One such country is Liberia where ZI has been supporting the fistula program since 2008. Education has been the key in the success of this program --- educating women, girls and the wider community-- teaching them that this is an unnecessary women's health issue. Literacy has been a major part of this education. Many of the girls who have been helped in the past are now educators in their own villages. ZI continues to work with the Liberian government--- continuing to educate-- continuing to empower women. It is truly a success story.

ZI is currently partnering with UNICEF USA and the Ministry of National Education for "Let us Learn Madagascar" which creates opportunities for vulnerable and excluded girls to realise their rights to education in a secure and protective environment. There is a lot about this program on the ZI website.

ZI has also been part of the education of girls in Niger in a bid to delay early marriage.

Today we not only have illiteracy as we have known it (the inability to read and write) but we have the digital world to contend with. (And you know about my love for Dropbox!!!) With an estimated 750 million adults (of which 2/3 are women) still lacking the most basic of literacy skills, we still have a long way to go to reach the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG4) which aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030. ZI is a proud partner and supporter of the UN and it's organisations in our implementation and support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Of course, our own club promotes further education for our local girls by offering education bursaries and encouragement to those suffering hardship and with our first Z Club up and running at St. Catherine's College, our involvement with girl's education on a local level will only grow.

September 21st is UN International Day of World Peace. One can only pray!! **Maxine Thiele, Director.**

## MEMBERSHIP

It has been lovely to welcome both Meagan and Betty in the past two months. Our new members are getting involved and helping where possible.

We have been very lucky in having several guests at our General Meetings with potential to becoming future members. Please remember to bring along your guests, they are always welcome; just let Carol know in advance. **Judy Brown, Membership Director**



Welcome to Betty and



Meagan, with her Mom & our President, Kerrie

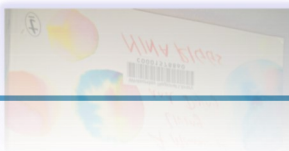
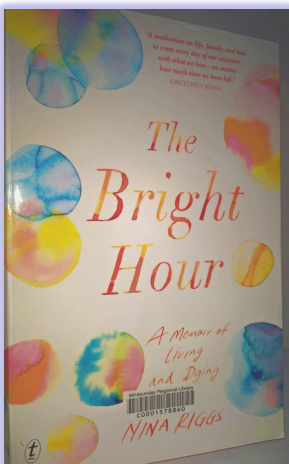
### Book Review by

Mae Secomb

#### THE BRIGHT HOUR written by NINA RIGGS

This touching memoir was written by a young woman in her thirties who was diagnosed with breast cancer. She tells of the ups and downs of her journey, how it affected her life and the lives of her husband and two primary school age boys.

Narrated in diary form, she shows touches of humour about the impact on her family, the day to day dramas both at home and during hospital treatment. The small dot that showed on her mammogram was treated in the conventional way, successfully it seemed. However, more tumours developed through her body, and despite her health, Nina continued to enjoy life with her family, plus writing her diary. It was completed and was in the publisher's hands in January 2017, and Nina passed away 5 weeks later. A wonderful, inspirational story by a courageous lady!







### September Birthdays

6th—Wendy Downes

16th—Annie Lloyd-Lewis

18th—Janice Lake



Annie and her mates enjoy the Z Club  
Trivia Night in great form...  
as our Annie always does!!



### **Congratulations St Cath's Z Club for your Trivia night raising \$1200 to buy 400 birthing kits!**

The students, along with guidance of Susan, put on a fabulous Trivia evening where we Zontians had 2 teams competing. After an introduction by Susan the Z Club students then ran the evening, most of their members are at a year 7 level so we are definitely looking at future leaders of tomorrow stepping up today. The format of the evening was very innovative with teams providing their own nibbles and drinks, we provided the winning team with identical prizes and all other raffles and prizes were sourced from the school community. Wonderful effort and these were reported at the District 22 Conference and we are to pass on congratulations from the entire State of Queensland!

Sandii Hansen

### **NEWS FROM ABROAD**

Past member Christine Garabedian reports : I am living in the south of France and loving it. Sometimes in life you get opportunities that unfold and you must grab them while you can. I have had a wonderful time with family and friends and experienced some great moments. I don't know what the future holds but what ever happens the journey has been wonderful.  
(She may be back in Australia soon to do some housesitting and we will most likely get a chance to catch up with her)





## Date Claimers

General Meeting: 21 September - 6pm for 6.30 pm Start—

**MANTRA CLUB CROC**



Books from Birth: 28 September—Lauren's—see article above

Bowen Race Day—29 September—see article above for pickup time

Board Meeting: 3 October—Dawns

General Meeting: 19 October—6pm for 6.30 start Location to be advised

1st December—Christmas Party—Rainbow Cafe

Book Club meeting last Wednesday every month: Contact Kerry Kenyon

Visit our Facebook pages

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

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



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