



Reef

Talk



April Newsletter 2008: Issue 28

DIARY DATES

- DINNER MEETING
6.30pm Thursday 17th April
- BOARD MEETING
6pm Thursday 1st May
- RELAY FOR LIFE, 26-27th April
- ROTARY BOAT SHOW, 7th-8th June

WORLD NEWS

- 58th ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION in ROTTERDAM, June 27, 2008

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Official Newsletter of **ZONTA**

The Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Inc

PO Box 427 Cannonvale Qld 4802

Club 1633, Area 5, District 24

Chartered 16th April 1999



Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.

From the President's Desk



Hello Girls,

We 7 Zontians Pam (our area Director), myself, Wendy & Robyn, (otherwise known as the 3 P's) & Joan, Judy & Jill (otherwise known as the 3 J's) have all returned from a fantastic weekend in Charters Towers. We went to the very last Area 7 District 24 Workshop which was hosted by The Charters Towers Zonta Club. We will now belong to Area 5 District 22 due to the new divisional split.

It was a weekend of fellowship, education, inspiration and fun. The Whitsunday Zonta Club was congratulated many times for our advocacy sessions and advocacy work which was spoken about by Robyn. If I were to name one thing that stood out in the workshop it would be "let's help the people in our own backyard". The remote areas of Australia are suffering from the lack of education, health services, etc. in both the white and indigenous communities. It was certainly inspirational to know what we can do to help our own country's women.

The end of my presidency is looming and arrangements are being made for the AGM and changeover dinner.

The Quota Changeover Dinner is on Friday 18th April with 4 of our members attending. If anyone else would like to come along please let me know ASAP.

On a sad note for us but a happy note for Eunice I have to announce that Eunice will be unable to be editor of Reef Talk for some time as she is going to Guilin in China to teach English for one year. She has given us a few wonderful editions but life presents us with certain priorities, especially after a close call. We wish her well and look forward to extracts from China until she returns. Meanwhile, for the nominating committee the search for a new editor is on.

Our next meeting is being held at Blue Horizons Resort in Hermitage Drive where I look forward to seeing you all on 17th of April.

Love Carole

Charters Towers Area 7 Workshop

2 Saturday, 12th—Sunday 13th April, 2008

WHITSUNDAY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

The Area Conference on the weekend gave us a great opportunity to showcase the work we have been doing on Advocacy in the Whitsundays. The session I ran started with the Christmas song composed by Sandii. All attendees were asked to stand up and sing, led by Jill and the Whitsunday team. It was truly memorable.

I then spoke about our 3 workshops run in 2006 and the projects which evolved from them in 2007. The Breast Care Nurse project, and the potential for the Rock and Water trainer training, and the suggestion of the Jane Klausman Award for next year were all positively received.

I then went on to talk about the work being done this year by club members informing others about the issues for women and the constructive initiatives which have come from this – a heightened awareness of local issues and the need to do something positive, such as the Loretta project and other suggestions for the future.

The session was constantly referred to throughout the rest of the weekend as an example of what other clubs can do, especially as Advocacy has been identified as a key function of Zonta in the next biennium and has been elevated in the Committee Structure at the international level.

Yet again, the Whitsunday Club was a great team and a leading light.

Robyn Mitchell

AREA WORKSHOP REPORTS

Wow, what a fantastic weekend. The Charters Towers workshop gave me a great insight into what Zonta is all about. It was so inspirational. The guest speakers kept everyone listening, wanting to hear what we can do to help women “in our own backyards”.

It was also great to hear what all the other clubs have been doing over the past year.

Zontians certainly know how to have a great time while sharing their knowledge and ideas with each other.

I just can't find the words to express and relay to others how much the workshop has meant to me. Thank you to Carole, Robyn, Wendy, Joan, Jill and Pam for making this such a great weekend.

Judy Brown

It was a weekend of fellowship, education, inspiration and fun. The Whitsunday Zonta Club was congratulated many times for our advocacy sessions and advocacy work which was spoken about by Robyn.

If I were to name one thing that stood out in the workshop it would be “let's help the people in our own backyard”. The remote areas of Australia are suffering from the lack

of education, health services, etc. in both the white and indigenous communities. We heard of the hardships from a Mount Isa member who is a doctor in the area and they would be extremely grateful to anyone who could spend a bit of time helping ie. to teach a mother the right way to feed a baby or child so that the child will survive. It was certainly inspirational to know what we can do to help our own country's women.

Carole Brauner



Joan, the Flower Queen

Joan Watson delighted with her winning prizes of flowers at the workshop.

At Charters Towers

AS THE DAY PROGRESSED ...



1.



2.



3.



4.

WHITSUNDAY CRISIS AND COUNSELLING SERVICE: OPENING OF NEW PREMISES

On Friday 4th April the new premises of the Whitsunday Crisis and Counselling service were officially opened by Jan Jarrett, Member for Whitsunday, assisted by Ms Dianne Knight, the Regional Director of the Dept. of Communities.

Two Zonta members attended, Joan Watson and Linda Wilkinson, to represent Zonta as part of the acknowledgement given to community groups for their support of the service.

Robyn Mitchell, as Chair of the Management Committee, welcomed the 40 guests present at the opening and thanked the staff and Jillian Grant the CEO for all their hard work.

Zonta had a strong presence at the opening with Carole Brauner and Marie Abrahams being on the Management Committee (as well as PJ who is away) while Libby Hickson, our newest member, is a counsellor on the staff of the Whitsunday Crisis and Counselling Service. A plaque has been placed in the Board/training room to recognise the contributions made by Zonta.

Robyn Mitchell



Cutting the cake:

RM, Jan Jarratt, Dianne Knight, Jillian Grant



Zonta room with Zonta members gathered to celebrate

MARCH MATTERS



BIRTHING KIT BUNNY



President Carole (left) congratulates Wendy Downes in an Easter-ish way for her role in the organization of the Birthing Kit Assembly Day on 14th March at Proserpine High School

GO WAHEJA!

or
**HOW INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
ON 8TH MARCH WAS CELEBRATED BY
ONE WOMAN IN SAUDI ARABIA**



Saudi women's rights activists have posted on the web a video of a woman at the wheel of her car, in protest at the ban on female drivers in the kingdom.



Advocacy:
Noelene Helman and Angela Spicer speak at the March meeting about lack of access to education for girls

Wajeha Huwaider talks of the injustice of the ban and calls for its abolition as she drives calmly along a highway. She says the film was posted to mark **International Women's Day**. Thousands have viewed it on the YouTube website.

In the three-minute clip she at first drives around a residential compound where she notes that women are allowed to drive because it is not a public road.

But about halfway through, without comment, she executes a left turn onto the main highway and proceeds to drive along it in defiance of Saudi law.

"Many women in this society are able to drive cars, and many of our male relatives don't mind us driving," she says in Arabic.

"I hope that by next year's International Woman's Day, this ban on us will be lifted," she concludes.

Click this link to watch Wajeha's video on YouTube

[Wajeha Huwaider on Youtube](#)

The related videos on this link at the time of Reef Talk publication should arouse some "interest" among women of the West.

NEW MEMBERS IN MARCH



Zonta welcomes new members Kirsten Moriarty (second from left) & Deborah Friend (second from right)

Part 5: Forming the Whitsunday Branch of Zonta International

The photographs below form part of the Club Archives. **Noelene Helman** and **Annie Lloyd-Lewis** have been keeping this material up to date over the last 9 years.

The inspiration to form a women's club began with Councillor Louise Mahony. (Ref February Reef Talk)

Lineke Hudson, one of her Women's Action Committee, was working as Community Educator with the emergent Whitsunday Women's Services. (This center has just been renamed, "**Whitsunday Crisis and Counselling Service Inc**").

Lineke was invited to address a Club Meeting of the Zonta Club of Townsville on the new work she was pioneering. She was impressed with the women at this meeting yet none of us had heard of this Club. We decided to make contact with them. Pam McLean, the co-founder of the Whitsunday Women's Services, telephoned Townsville and requested help from their Zonta Club so that we could better consider forming a similar Club in Airlie Beach.

As a result, **May McPhail of the Zonta Club of Townsville**, came to address several meetings over the next 18 months. The first took place at the Whitsunday Community Center in Altman Avenue, and later at various restaurant locations in our town.



Picture 1: l to r **May McPhail** (Chairman, Area 7 Organization and Extension Committee of Zonta International), **Glenda McChesney-Clark**, (Governor, District 24) **Vernice Irving-Lee** (first President of The Zonta Club of the Whitsundays) **Ann Leathwick**



(President of Zonta Club of Townsville 1999).

Picture 2: The First Board of The Zonta Club of the Whitsundays. 15th March 1999.

l to r: **Lineka Hudson**, **Sue Hansen**, **Andrea Sharpe**, **Bronte MacNamara**.

Front: **Janelle Casey**, **Jenny Ryan**, **Wendy Downes**, **Vernice Irving-Lee** (President), and **Pam Graham** who was persuaded to take on the Presidential role when Vernice's partner passed away suddenly in mid 2000. Vernice needed to return to Victoria. Pam was the full time Principal of the Cannonvale Primary School at that time.

Next newsletter will remind you of some of the ways we used to get our Zonta name associated with a force for good in the Community

Joan Watson, a founding member of the Whitsunday Club. 5th April, 2008

ZONTA DATE CLAIMERS

RELAY FOR LIFE 2008



Remember the fun we had last year doing the Relay for Life? Furthermore we raised a total of **\$65,595.70**, which was **\$38,000 more** than the previous year!

Guess what? It's on again this April, **Saturday 26th – Sunday 27th** April with the theme: **“THE WILD, WILD WEST IN THE WHITSUNDAYS.”** (I suggest we ‘wild women’ can do that one easily!)

Suzie Beirne is the Team Leader, so contact Suzie to join the team and make it another great effort.
Suzie's mobile: 0418758389
Suzie's email: islandedge@maisonjardin.com.au

ROTARY BOAT SHOW: 7TH & 8TH JUNE

On your mark, get set.....go! Sling those burgers, brew those cappies, grill those snags...oh, it must be time to start thinking of the Rotary Boat Show.

As you know ladies (& gents) this is our premiere money making opportunity of the year. The dates to put on your calendar? Queen's Birthday weekend - **7th & 8th June**.

I will soon start on the all important roster.

As you are well aware, this is hard work but it's only for few hours. But, did we have laughs & make heaps last year? You bet we did!

Without each & everyone of us participating, it just won't happen & we'll lose our opportunity to do so much for our community of women.

PJ Halter



Join us!



Zonta International
Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ROTTERDAM 2008

DATE:
June 27—July 2, 2008

LOCATION:
Rotterdam,
The Netherlands



Convention website: <http://www.zonta2008.com>

Click here to download: [Call to Convention 2008](#)

MEMBER NEWS

We've found Luella!

(an excerpt from her email)

Wasn't easy but we're finally back on air - had to go Broadband Wireless here in East Gippsland.

New email address - maccalue17@bigpond.com



Well, we've bought and moved into a mudbrick house on an acre of beautiful smelling eucalypts in Nungurner which is the artist's colony around the bay from Metung and 20 mins from Lakes Entrance. My neighbours are potters, glass blowers, oil and watercolour painters, sculptors and quilters. The birdlife is fantastic - at least 10 varieties of rosella's plus cockatoos, maggies, and bellbirds. Even have wombats, kangaroos and rabbits! Metung still has the 'village' atmosphere we remembered and loved 15 years ago with the local farmer's Saturday markets on the village green. It's a holiday town boating paradise with heaps more very modern units on the water, boasts a great yacht club and golf club at The Cove with a very good restaurant called 'Seasons'. SO life is wonderful!

D-day for daughter Emma is Thursday 17th April - the doc has booked her into hospital for an 8am Caesar. The twins will probably weigh 5.6lbs each so she's carrying a huge load - waddling like Jemima Duck but otherwise glowing! I'm going down to Melbourne on the 15th to settle in and learn Finn's routine re playschool, etc. He'll be hanging out with Nana Lue for 3 weeks - joy!

Bye bye for now - look forward to hearing from you and all the news. *Lue*



Give
us
the
Goss!



April 2008
Birthday Babe
Robyn Mitchell: 4th April

From the editor:

Member profiles have started this month and on the following pages we kick off with a "newbie", Deborah Friend, and an "oldie", yours truly.

I took Editor's privilege of starting with me because this will be the last Reef Talk that I will be editor of and the last opportunity, for a while, that I will have to tell Zontians about what makes me tick. Exit from centre stage, so to speak.

I wish all my wonderful friends in Zonta a wonderful coming year doing what Whitsunday Zontians do best. As I don't do "goodbye" I look forward to seeing you all, plus a few more, about one year from now. Meanwhile, I'll keep you posted about my life.

Eunice Shearer, 14th April, 2008.

OUR WONDER WOMAN, WENDY DOWNES, HAS BEEN AT IT AGAIN!!

THIS TIME

**WENDY HAS BEEN NOMINATED AS
COMMITTEE CHAIR FOR THE**

JANE KLAUSMAN AWARD

FOR

THE NEW AREA 5 DISTRICT 22

**DOES THIS WOMAN EVER STOP
ACHIEVING???**



MEMBER PROFILES

Born 15th October, 1962 (UK).

First arrived in Australia (Sydney) in 1986.

Joined Zonta in March 2008 after attending meetings for about six months.

I heard about Zonta through a friend in Sydney, then when I got back to Airlie Beach, in May 2007, I bumped into Carole Brauner selling the Zonta recipe book at the Airlie markets.

I am very interested in helping out on the PR committee, as PR and marketing is what I do for a living (I am also a trained journalist). My core skill is writing and I can help with writing media releases, advert copy, flyers, menus and event programs - anything really that requires writing!

I live in Cannonvale, in a Whitsunday Harbour Apartment that my husband and I bought last September.

I do not have children myself but I do have two step children who live with their mum full time and come to us for holidays and Christmas. I have three siblings and five nephews and nieces that I am very close to.

Life highlights include meeting and marrying my husband and generally being a good friend, daughter and sister throughout my life. I have travelled fairly extensively in Europe, America and Africa and I certainly want to do more travelling. Discovering Airlie Beach and the Whitsundays in 1988 was also

DEBORAH FRIEND



a definite life highlight!

Career highlights include getting my business/marketing degree ('84), my first "proper" job in a large advertising agency (Sydney in the mid 80s), switching careers to train as a journalist (early 90s), the seven weeks I spent as Acting Editor of the Whitsunday Times (June/July 07) and now bringing it all together in public relations.

My favourite activities – apart from socialising! - are mostly sport related. I enjoy walking, swimming, tennis, pilates and watching most sports. I plan to learn to sail now I am back in the Whitsundays and also refresh my scuba diving qualification. I love snorkelling and bush-walking and anything to do with the beach. I am also interested in photography.

Apart from that I love to have a meal or BBQ with friends, read, listen to music – all the usual really!

Deborah Friend, 9th April 2008



EUNICE SHEARER

Birthday: 2nd October, 1941

Joined Zonta: Some time in 2003, June I think

How I heard about Zonta: From the estate agent I was renting my house from when I moved to live in the Whitsundays, who introduced me to Tiina Randmae.

Positions held in Zonta: Member of Fundraising Committee (2003, 2005 - 2006), Chair of Recipe Book Committee (2005 – 2006), Board Director (2005-2007), Member of International Women's Day Breakfast Committee (2007 – 2008); Member of Public Relations and Communications Committee (2006 – 2008); Editor of Reef Talk February (2008 – present).

Why I am in the Whitsundays Zonta Club: My Whitsundays story begins when I came to Queensland in 2000 from Melbourne, seeking a "sea change", like so many of us. In order to

MEMBER PROFILES



do this I took a job teaching Indonesian language in the primary schools circuit in the Alligator Creek area, 36km south of Mackay near Sarina. And during that time I lived at nearby beautiful Grasstree Beach.

In 2003 I moved from Grasstree Beach to Airlie Beach. Grasstree Beach had been a bit "too quiet", with a population of around 200 and social life restricted to the local Fire Brigade annual BBQ – yikes! With the Whitsundays I was attracted both to its astounding scenery as well as the promise of a livelier social life, which I got, obviously. I thoroughly enjoyed living at Airlie Beach for four years.

But in 2007, needing more urban facilities than Airlie Beach could provide – but no way ready to return to Melbourne - I moved from Airlie Beach back to Mackay and that year bought my much longed for Queensland beachfront property, an apartment at the Blue Pacific Resort at Blacks Beach. This is my dream home, where I can finally drift off to sleep with the sound of the waves lapping on the shore nearby (yeah, right ... see last paragraph of this article). But to keep in touch with my friends in Zonta, I have remained an active member of the Zonta Club of the Whitsundays.

My family: I am divorced with 2 adult sons. Glen is 37 and is currently living in Hanoi, Vietnam, working as an English teacher. Iain is 32 and married with 2 children aged 1 and 3 years old. His wife is Indonesian and they currently live in Jakarta where Iain is a financial planner. So, I have lots of excuses for overseas travel ... as if I needed them!

Life and/or career highlights:

My move to Airlie Beach in 2003 brought with it the discovery of the Whitsundays College of English, a small language college that had just opened and that was teaching English to overseas students. I secured a job there and this has led to wonderful new experiences that are still happening.

But one year before that ... this is something I'm rather proud of and which epitomizes Zonta's ideals for women: Since I believe that one is never the wrong gender nor the wrong age for study AND that as we age, we MUST keep our brains as well as our bodies active and challenged, in 2002, at the age of 60, I retired from full-time teaching in the primary schools, to commence studying the Bachelor of Mul-

timedia Studies at Central Queensland University. This was something that I'd been plotting for a few years and that combined my lifelong loves of music, art, photography and literature with my new found passion for computers. Multimedia Studies involves skills development in, among other things, graphic design, web design, digital photography, desktop publishing, moviemaking, programming and interactive animation. Fascinating and very useful areas of study but ones that are often done by men rather than women.

In November last year after 6 years of study, I completed the degree.

The next chapter:

Also in November 2007 the Whitsundays College of English sent me to Chengdu in China (panda country) to teach a 6 week English course at a university there. It was my first visit to China. After the course finished I took another week before returning to Australia to tour 3 other Chinese cities, Guilin (famous for its mountainous scenery), Xian (famous for its terracotta warriors) and Beijing the capital (famous for ... well, famous). To cut a longer story short, I fell in love with Guilin. Last week I secured a job there to teach English for one year at the English First School, a private school teaching English to children aged 4-16 years. And so, on 29th April this year, begins a new challenge and a new chapter in my life ...



Typical scenery near Guilin, China

Eunice Shearer, 12th April, 2008