



*Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Newsletter: September 2019*

## **President's Report**



Hello everyone and welcome to any new members reading this newsletter for the first time.

Our Zonta L.w.L. (Ladies wot Lunch) at Mika's on Thursday

22<sup>nd</sup> August was indeed a very exclusive soirée with PJ, Christine and myself enjoying the delights of Mika's hospitality and fine wines. Glorious weather, fantastic dining with unforgettable friends.



Our next L.w.L. is on **September 26<sup>th</sup> at Mantra Croc at 12.00.** It would be lovely to see some more ladies there

so I look forward to welcoming you and your friends whether they are in Zonta or not. I have a very generous voucher that will take \$50 off our collective bill!!!!

As many of us are either away, busy, travelling, with their family or working, it has been decided to just keep our hectic social calendar to Ladies wot Lunch on the last Thursday of each month and forgo the morning tea on the first Thursday of each month.

**Kindness and Karma:** A little true story to gladden your hearts.

During the last BBQ at Bunnings, we were frying and working very hard when a gentleman standing nearby said, 'cancel that snag and cold can ladies, I don't have any money on me'. We, of course, said that it was fine, you can have it on us, but a younger man standing nearby said that he would pay for it; which he did! Bless him!



An hour later the 1<sup>st</sup> gentleman drove back into Bunnings in his Ute and handed over a \$20 note saying he was very impressed with the kindness from both the Zonta ladies

## **President's Report cont.**



and the other gentleman and he would never forget it. His Karma was certainly paid back in full!

### **Another reminder Ladies!**

If you show your orange lady badge to the staff in Garuma Café (or any Zonta proof) then you get a meal discount and a loyalty card giving you free coffees!!! Sounds good to me!

With this newsletter, I send all our best hopes and good wishes to Wendy, Mandy and Laura who are representing us at the District 22 Conference. Many thanks ladies, and I know you will ace it!

*Best wishes, Patsy*



Last month we farewelled Claire Jardine. Claire has been a very hard working member of our club especially in her role as “data enterer”!! Claire is leaving for work and to further her studies . We thank you Claire for your cheerfulness, your friendship and your passion for Zonta Whitsundays. Best wishes to you as you embark on the next phase of your life. We shall miss you.



We also welcomed two members into our club. Welcome Sharon Dewsbury and welcome back Judy Johnston (formally Brett).

Sharon and Judy are pictured with their mentors Wendy Downes and Cath Fernbach.

# INVOCATION – Meeting 15/08/2019

Catherine Moscato

## THE POWER OF CHOICE

Life is a matter of choices. The Power of Choice, this 6 letter word, “ *choice* “ is a powerful word because of the rewards it avails us but really what is powerful , is the fact we can make a choice – any choice - good or bad.

We, women, in our western world, take the power of choice, for granted, from the day we are born to the day we die. We are making choices every day, from the time we wake up, to the time we hit the sack at night. Some of these are so routine we do not even stop to think, for instance the choice of what we eat, what we wear, what transport we use to go to places, what job to apply for, who to live with, who to marry, have children, etc....

There will be moment where opportunities to exercise our Power of Choice coupled with our emotions will be tough. Yet, we are in control as we can make choices which will define us as a person.

The Power of Choice – Choice Overload – when we not cannot cope with the many options which are plenty.

And yet, in some countries I visited a few months ago, women, not through lack of awareness though, have been denied the Power of Choice.

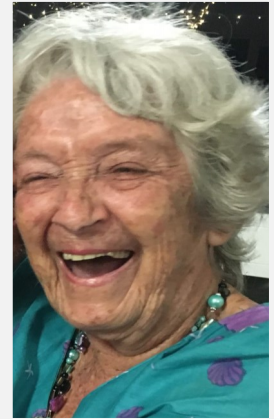
How can these discriminated human beings make decisions, never presented with options, deprived of their right to free choice, deprived of their right to travel, to marry and have a private life, deprived from leaving home without their husbands’ permission, deprived to their right to divorce, to choose their occupation, deprived of their full right of testimony in the courts, deprived of their full right of inheritance, the list is long, very long, quite exhaustive, but the most pervasive of all, women are deprived of their free choice of clothing,

Not allowed to choose their clothes to suit their tastes, their shapes, their age, and needs, they saw their room for choice being narrowed, by their government, to pieces of clothing, the most liberal being an overcoat and a scarf, as to conceal their body shape.

Although I have no intention to enter the debate about whether a veil, a headscarf is a religious requirement, I would like to point out that some members of our society at present consider it as asserting their identity, at dispelling the conception of women body exposure equals liberation, the polemic is fierce and yet ultimately, what are they doing,...Zontians, they are exercising **their power of choice** –



# Advocacy Report



## Keisha McEwan:

Noelene has received an email from a very excited Keisha . Keisha has been awarded a scholarship to attend the Indigenous Allied Health Team Challenge and National Conference in Darwin from Sept 20th-22nd. More information on this event can be found at:

<https://iaha.com.au/2019-healthfusion-team-challenge/>

Keisha has also begun work at the Whitsunday Neighbourhood Centre. This is an unpaid job as she completes her studies but the Centre is hoping to be able to give her paid work in the near future.



**WHITSUNDAY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**  
14-20 Hazelwood Court, Cannonvale  
07 4946 7850  
nc@whitnc.org.au www.whitnc.org.au

**WELCOME**  
to our team!

We would like to welcome Keisha McEwan into our team. You will see Keisha around the Centre for the next 6 months while she completes her Uni placement hours. Keisha is currently studying 4<sup>th</sup> Year Bachelor Of Social Work . More about Keisha:



- ◆ Keisha already holds a Cert IV in community services.
- ◆ Whitsunday's 2016 Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year
- ◆ Former member of Proserpine Indigenous Reference Group
- ◆ Keisha McEwan selected for Australia- wide annual Straight Talk summit. In Canberra 2016.
- ◆ Committee Representative for Out of the Shadows and Into the Light suicide awareness event 2015
- ◆ Volunteer at 2016 Whitsunday Community of Practice Youth Mental Health Forum
- ◆ Advocate for preventing Domestic and Family Violence
- ◆ Former member of Y Factor
- ◆ Selected for Queensland Indigenous Leadership Program 2014, in Brisbane

Whitsunday Neighbourhood Centre is funded by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

## Advocacy cont.

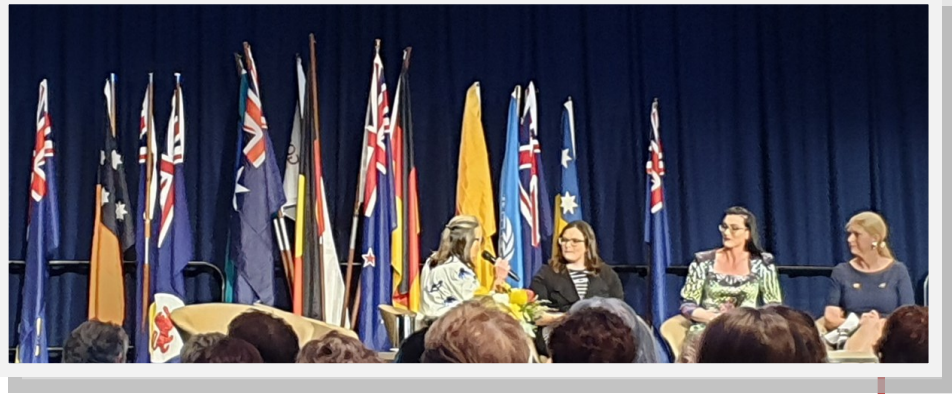


### Advocacy report from the Inter-District Brisbane Convention

Hello Everyone.

Wendy, Laura and I had a fantastic time at the convention. We were lucky enough to have our International President and 2 International Board members attend along with 820 fellow Zontians from New Zealand and Australia. Also, a Canadian Zontian! New Zealand was well represented with over 160 members. All clubs were represented for the first time and it was the first time in 30 years that New Zealand and Australia have all come together. The atmosphere was electric, and the collective brain power was overwhelming and inspirational.

Friday was our District 22 voting and meeting. Our new District board has been voted in without issue, our AGM was held, and a couple of amendments were made to our Bylaws



and Resolution report. Can view these on the District 22 website.

We should all be proud as our club was awarded the District winner for our Advocacy Project "Whitsunday Festival of Motoring and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Showcase" as part of the Share our Story. I was able to present our showcase to our 220 fellow district members from our 44 clubs. Honestly, I was relieved I didn't have to present it to 820 members! It was a very humbling experience.

What I didn't know at the time, after a few people came up to me afterwards with their story was, other clubs had already heard about the showcase, not because they heard it through Zonta avenues and newsletters but members of the public had thanked them for what Zonta did in the Whitsundays when they attended the festival. Other club mentioned wanting to do a similar thing but were unsure how to initiate the process, they are now progressing with their club's project proposals.

Other news from the District meeting:

- Dues are to remain at \$30 annually.
- Next AGM is to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2020.

## Advocacy cont.

- New Club currently being chartered in Biloela. 18 members already showing interest in the new club.
- Currently we have 16 Z Clubs in our district and the focus is on Golden Z Clubs for our universities.
- Australia is the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest category for young professional scholarship nominations after the US
- District 22 Centennial Anniversary award went to Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Qld Police. She will be presented with the Dianne Leggo Honour Roll award at a later stage. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend as she was called to Townsville.



*Dame Quentin Bryce and Sandy Venn Brown*

The opening ceremony was something to behold and beyond words. You could sense and witness the 100-year tradition in the Flag parade ceremony which officially opened the conference. The welcoming traditional dances from Australia and New Zealand were entertaining, steeped in tradition and we all felt very welcome indeed. The keynote speaker Dame Therese Walsh had us laughing, crying and standing in respect in a standing ovation. Certainly, felt like I already had my money's worth but that was just day 1!

Day 2 was even more impressive for this first-time attendee, hosted by District 22 & 23. It was mentioned our combined 134 clubs have over 3000 members. Dame Quentin Bryce was wonderfully interviewed by our very own Governor Sandy Venn-Brown. She mentioned how she thought Zonta was the forefront of information and engaged in our community. She also felt Zonta was a sisterhood of solidarity and friendship. The "Not Now, Not Ever" report and recommendations were crucial for human rights and when she was asked to work on it, she stepped up to the opportunity and felt Zonta has the same attitude. "When asked you have to say yes, then work out how".

The district Service showcase winner and overall district winner was Zonta Ipswich, who shared their story about helping the refugees in their area. They located the women through schools as the hubs were discretely placed and offered funds towards things they need. However, once they established the connection, they didn't want money, they wanted skills and to learn English. The connection



*Commissioner Katarina Carroll*

## **Advocacy cont.**

not only enabled Zonta to empower these women with education and skills but brought them all together with lifelong friendships. It was a very inspirational story.

Our international President Susanne Von Bassewitz was amazing. I think we were all in

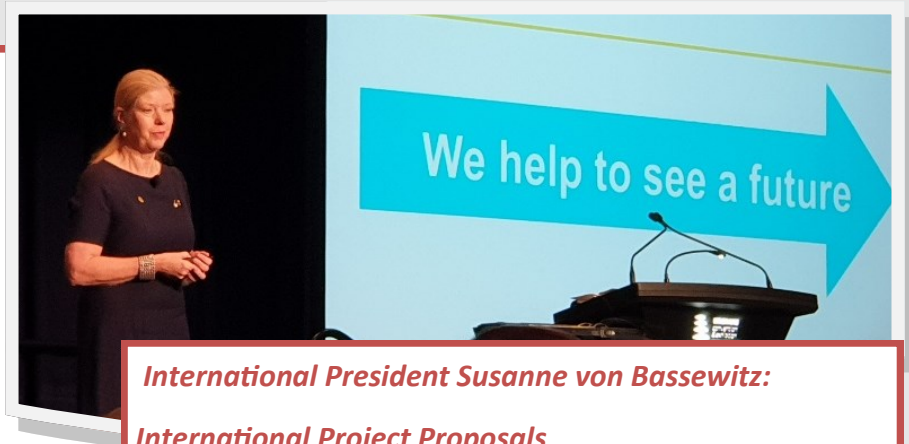
awe of her. She showcased 2 International Projects, Jordon and Zambia. She also spoke of sisterhood and the importance of education to empower young women.

The advocacy presentation had me reflecting on the challenge of the “next 100 years” and how Zonta and our club can leave a legacy and mentorship for our next generations. Our young Professor guest speakers, YWPA and JMK winners certainly made me feel rather inadequate after learning of their accomplishments and wondering what I had done with my life. Finally, the Global Project of “Ending Child Marriage” was the last discussion, closing the event. Very heartbreaking information but a project well worthy of our united global commitment for change. I will put all this and more into a full report as I could talk for days.

In conclusion, the overall theme of the whole event seemed to be, not only celebrating the past 100 years but focusing on the next 100 years. What worked in the past doesn't always work for the future. How is our district and clubs going to stay relevant in the next 100 years? Food for thought??? Oh, and I almost forgot! The Cocktail Party and Gala Dinner were beyond expectations and the perfect opportunity to meet fellow Zontians, glam up a little and make new friends. By the end of the conference my head was full of ideas and projects however I think some brainstorming sessions might be in order.

***Amanda Walter.***

***Director of Advocacy.***



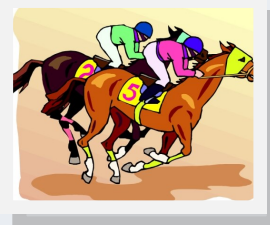
***International President Susanne von Bassewitz:  
International Project Proposals***



***The Gala Ball***

## **Bowen Race Day:**

Ladies and Gents, it is that time of year again! Time to dust off the 'Race Day Clobber' and head to Bowen for a wonderful day out.



## ***Bowen Cup Race Day***

***Saturday 12th October 2019***

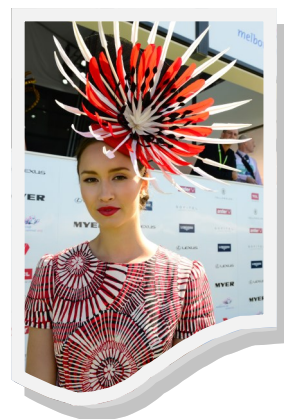
Enjoy the Bowen Cup atmosphere trackside and from a Marquee where all the action, glamour and entertainment comes to you.

### ***Zonta Trackside Marquee \$140 per person***

- Bus transport from Cannonvale to Bowen
- Admission to Racecourse
- Prime Private Marquee
- 5 hour beverage package— beer, wine, soft drinks
- Chicken and Champagne Lunch
- Close proximity for Fashions on the Field Competition
- Marquee opens 12pm
- Prizes for Best Dressed and Best Fascinator/Hat

### ***Bus pick up:***

- TAFE Cannonvale 10.20am
- Centro Cannonvale 10.30am
- Leaving Bowen Race Track 5.30pm



*This is a fundraising event for:*

***Zonta Marquee tickets must be confirmed and paid for***

***By Thursday Sept 19th. Contact Dawn on 0417664668***

***Or [wwdmg@optusnet.com](mailto:wwdmg@optusnet.com)***



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
THE  
WHITSUNDAYS INC  
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY



## **Service Report**

Thank you to everyone who helped on the BBQs. Once again they were a great success and as you can see from Patsy's report, people are very generous! I believe that people are becoming used to seeing Zonta and are becoming aware of what we stand for in the community.



Thank you to Warwick Green who stepped in for Dawn and was “the scintillating cooker of the snags!”

*Marlene*

## **It's Birthing Kits time Again!**

It's that time of the year already and we have 2 birthing kits assembly days in Oct. (start term4)

St. Cath's are locked in for 11th Oct 8.40am to 10.40am—- assembling 500 kits.

ZClub will raise some funds but the college has tightened up on fund raising on camps and so may not be able to raise \$2500. We are grateful for \$\$\$'s the students raise as it creates more awareness at the college regarding the plight of women in developing countries.

PSHS are locked in for 18th Oct in the afternoon with 2 shifts— also assembling 500 kits.

Obviously we will need our usual number of volunteers to be able to make sure that everything goes well. So please let me know if you are available for either or both of these days. It is always a fun time working with the students. For both



days we need to be there 45mins before the students arrive so that we can get everything set up and ready to go. We an get into St. Caths at 8am.

The stock has already been ordered and when paid for, will be delivered

to my doorstep by the end of Sept! We can then get started on the usual pre-event preparation.

Soap cutting is not required as it now comes already wrapped.

**Wendy Downes**

**Birthing Kit Co-ordinator**



## Member Profile: Judy Johnston



Judy Bebbington (23 years) Hampson, (7 years) Brett, (26 years) Johnston (14 plus 3 years)

Commonly known as Hey Judy in Zonta ( so as we don't muddle the Judy's up) and still referred to as Judy Brett by some, and grandchildren as granny or gammy, step families as Angel Judy..... so.....take your pick.

My membership began 6/6/2011

Rejoined 18/7/2019

I first joined Zonta in June 2011 after several years as a "Zonta friend", helping out as needed and meeting so many interesting women, many of whom are firm friends today and know my history but for all our new members a quick recap.

Born in Cheshire, North England, January 1946, to Ada, a stay at home mum and Samuel, a policeman and a brother John, twelve years my senior. A very happy home life moving around Cheshire for dad's work, living by the sea or in the country. My love of gardening encouraged by my father and caring and community involvement from my mother.

My working life both in U.K. and Oz (I emigrated age 29) has mainly been centred around children, Residential Children's Nursery', Day care centres, Kindergartens, Family Day Care and finally teaching Child Care students.



I married the boy next door (virtually) in UK (my twenties man) we emigrated together to Sydney, began our working travel around Oz with car and caravan and were in Airlie beach six weeks after arrival, working on the islands and boats of the Whitsundays. I thought this new life in Australia was fantastic especially when I caught and cooked fresh Barramundi, coral trout and red emperor for breakfast. I thought everyone did that! Those were

my hippie days.

Skip a few years. I remarried Walter (my family man) We lived in Cockatoo Victoria (survived the Ash Wednesday Bush Fires) and Cape Paterson on the coast between Philip Island and Wilsons Prom. We had four children, Sarah, Jesse (F) Amy and Samuel (all my pride and joy)

Skip a few years I met Ian (my rock and retirement plan) and five step sons. We have lived in Airlie together for 16 years and sailed the magic Whitsundays. Four years ago Ian and I were married as I had promised if we were still together and still alive!! We decided to travel for two years and rent out our house and then sell and move to the Gold Coast. So we set off with our caravan ..... three and a half years later we are back in Airlie having ticked off most of our bucket list.



***Judy started Zonta Whitsundays Books From Birth.***

## Member Profile cont:

Canada, Europe ( three and a half months touring with a car) especially Italy, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Russia. Then New Zealand and all parts of Oz including a Kimberley Cruise.

I am loving being “home” with my own kitchen and a garden and have no yearnings to move to the Gold Coast so we will pack up at Christmas and leave for the wet season to return in May.

My involvement in Zonta is mainly practical and hands on (not computer work) I began Books from Birth which Lauren and Zonta members have kept going and we are looking at its future. If it has encouraged one mother and one child to be close and enjoy books then it has all been worth while.

My main focus in life has been family and friends with my interests in gardening, theatre, reading, travel and antiques....fitting in where possible. I still intend to do something to keep fit- become really good at Tai Chi, something for my soul- gardening, my mind- learn a musical instrument( ukulele ), my artistic side –silk painting or water colours, my heart – give love.

I have a family of independent women and a son who is very respectful towards women so I strongly support the ideals of Zonta. It is so amazing to return to Zonta and find new “young” members with such enthusiasm and new ideas when many service clubs are struggling with membership.

May the future Zonta continue to be even more inspiring and empowering for the women of the Whitsundays, Australia and the World.

Life is what you make it so best go and get on with life

*Judy (who?)*



# Advocacy Spotlight

*Contributed by Pammie Harrison*



It is with great pleasure that I can share with you news of my recent, 8<sup>th</sup> trip to the Lirhanzo Children's Village, situated in a remote area of Zimbabwe.

Most of you know I have been supporting this village, founded by Ezelle a white farmer's wife and displaced landowner and her amazing off sider Margret for 15 years through AFADU. I have proudly served on the AFADU Board for 10 of those years as Sponsorship Director.

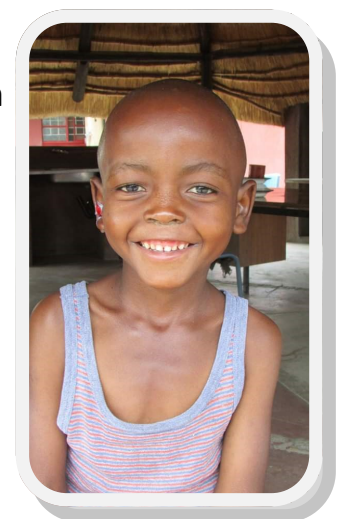


With shipping connections, AFADU started out by sending containers of desperately needed aid, then raised funds to help build the Village infrastructure. As support gathered, we found sponsorship for the children and ongoing top up salaries for 2 local doctors to ensure they would stay at the 160-bed local hospital. We then fundraised for many other

projects including Stage 1 of the Primary School, opened in 2017. This was initially built to just educate our orphans but is now packed to the gunnels with 250 kids from the local community.

This year out trip was special because it was AFADU Chairman, Ian Routledge's first. Ian had been involved since 2002 but had never met the kids or seen where everything slotted into place. We took along Leanne Abbott who had set up the Sewing Scholarship program in 2015 plus local Whitsunday ladies Wendy Davidson and Mel Deacon who both have very close Zimbabwean connections.

We journeyed for 3 days to a country that has so many challenges. Unstable government, no electricity, no jobs, a monetary system that doesn't work, and water supply to the major cities about to run out, just to name a few! The positives, however, are the Zimbabwean people who refuse to give up and the little miracle of our community which is thriving because of our efforts.



Education is the key and AFADU have put through university a veterinarian, 3 school teachers, (one now acting as head master at the school) a banker, now doing his Mas-

## **Advocacy Spotlight cont.:**

ters and presently we are sponsoring 3 girls who are at various stages of their University degrees. Egneta, who ZONTA helped educate completed her degree last year and now has an excellent

job in South Africa. One of our lads, after completing his motor mechanics course, now runs his own garage and many others are doing tertiary courses at technical schools.

Last year, through my amazing connection with Melbourne man Mark Edmonds after appearing on Hot Seat we went on to establish the LCV commercial garden which not only feeds our own children but people in the surrounding community. There is plenty left over produce to sell and once we complete our next project, a solar pump to pump the water from the Mwenezi River to the orphanage garden and school, we will no longer have issues with money to buy diesel. We can then plant the next two thirds of the garden which will move the community so much closer to sustainability.



I have been blessed, and in 15 years I have seen so much cultural change. The horrific local practice of Khomba, to ready girls at puberty for a life as a wife is now openly discouraged at our school. Parents and elders attend meetings, where the huge monetary value of a girls education, compared to an early marriage and a life of producing up to 12 babies is openly discussed and passed on by the teachers.

I have also been blessed to develop close relationships with these incredibly grateful children who understand how lucky they are and treasure the opportunities they have been given. As they grow in this nurturing community, they understand how change for all Zimbabweans must happen.

They are up for it and I just hope I will be around to see it!



***Pammie Harrison***

## Member's Moments



Betty has had her sister Helen and brother-in-law Bob staying with her and Tony for several weeks. Helen and Betty have enjoyed some wonderful “sister” time. Helen is no doubt known to some of the members as she took Betty’s shift on the Bunning’s BBQ— so that Betty could fulfil a commitment to the Bowling Club Championships!!

*You are a champion, Helen!!*



Betty has joined the Friends of Zonta Knitting Group and has had Helen knitting squares!!

Bob has enjoyed the time here too. He has Myasthenia Gravis, a progressive disease but can be and is controlled with medication.

Whilst here the family celebrated Helen’s, Tim’s (Betty & Tony’s son), Betty’s and Tony’s birthdays. A lot of celebrating!!

Betty is going to miss them.

## Dates to remember

**19th Sept:** General Meeting

**24th Sept:** Ladies Wot Lunch

Mantra Club Croc 12noon

**12th Oct:** Bowen Cup Race Day

**25th Oct:** Reclaim the Night March

6pm Airlie Main Street

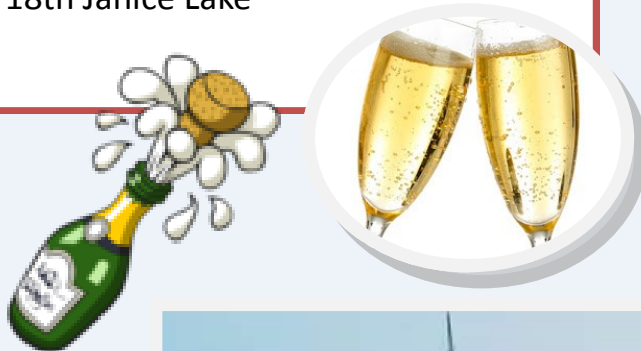


## September Birthdays

6th: Wendy Downes

16th: Annie Lloyd-Lewis

18th Janice Lake



**NB:**

*Birthdays are good  
for your health.*

*Studies show that  
the more people  
have the longer  
they live*





## Life's Lighter Moments



***So, what have you been eating?????***

***Brains, I hope!!***

<b>President:</b>	Patsy Morgan
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***Zonta Whitsundays: empowering women through Service and Advocacy for 20 years.***