



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2012

The Zonta International 61st Convention commenced on Saturday July 7 – and closed Thursday July 12. A total of 2,353 attendees, guests and guest speakers attended over the six days.

I have received a report from our proxy Di Harmsworth and will be emailing the full report to the members and highlighting the motions, resolutions and projects discussed during the convention at our next dinner meeting on September 20.

Di added at the end of her report the following: *“I always come away from an Area meeting or Conference knowing that I have been reinvigorated by all that I have seen and heard.if you ever have the opportunity to attend a convention you will not be disappointed because as Zontians we are all different but we have one common goal to advance the quality of life for women”.* Thank you Di for your informative report.

Dear Pam, we all wish you a very warm welcome back, and I am looking forward to seeing you when I return from Brisbane within the next few days.

Congratulations Dawn on capably handling the Service Directorship position, you have a rather long list of important projects at present...so I ask for any members who have the ability time-wise, to help don't hesitate to contact Dawn and share the load!

Angela Spicer, President



Just another day at the office? Or a lovely afternoon Progressive Lunch?



Breakfast meeting with Penny Wilson



SERVICE

BOOKS FROM BIRTH

Next meeting: Wednesday, 19th September 3pm—5pm

Judy Brett's 26 Macona Crescent Cannonvale

Call Judy if you wish to donate books or get information about doing so—0419388661

This will be the last packing and shipping to be done before wet season begins

BIRTHING KITS

Saving the lives of mothers and babies

The date for our Birthing Kit Assembly day is Thursday 18th October at Proserpine High School. This annual contribution to saving the lives of mothers and babies in developing countries is always popular with Zonta members and high school students, who participate as part of their curriculum, which includes the subject of mothers and babies.

With the increase in the cost of each birthing kit to \$3 (from \$2), we are this year remaining with our budgeted \$1200 to put together 400 kits, instead of our usual 600. Roughly 3 hours are required, which includes preparation and packing, then preparation for despatch.

Members who wish to assist, please contact Wendy Downes, Chair



REFUGE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Hopefully, you saw the article in the Times (9 August) that was titled "Minister opens new playground at refuge" and the lovely photo of all the contributors, with our lovely Roz representing our Zonta club. It was a long, arduous project that has finally come to fruition, with the generosity of many in the community. The displaced children at the refuge come to us sad, mad and confused but can now enjoy a play in a safe environment. As you know, the fundraising started in 2009, had a major set-back with the loss of the deposit to receivers, but finally is being used by laughing, happy children.



ADVOCACY

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

SEPTEMBER 27 AND 28: ZONTA HAS BEEN INVITED TO HAVE A PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY SHOWCASE TO BE HELD AT THE WHITSUNDAY SHOPPING CENTRE

We would like to have some helpers: it is really to come along and chat to people as they pass by. We will have our display board with photos and information stand. We need two people in the morning (10 am to 12 pm) and then two more from 12 noon to 2.30 pm.

This is a great way to meet new people and prospective members and to be able to chat to people about what Zonta is about. If you are willing to give up some of your time on either of these days please call

Janet Keppke 0419783524



UNITED NATIONS BREAKFAST

Another hugely successful breakfast session was held at Capers in August with Proserpine midwife, Penny Wilson, telling us about her experiences with Medecins sans Frontier in Africa. I think the members who attended were moved to tears by her stories of the hardships and trauma so many Africans face on a daily basis and of the overwhelming task faced by the medecins sans frontier taskforce. How protected our lives in Australia are!

This month, **September**, our speaker will be Karen Douglas who also has firsthand experience with suffering and dislocation – this time with refugees in Israel. Karen, who holds a master of laws degree, is an international human rights lawyer and is currently Resource Development Coordinator at an Israeli non profit organization called the African Refugee Development Centre. With 50,000 African asylum seekers currently in Israel, many of them women, Karen will speak of the suffering and trauma the women endure including physical and sexual assault, unwanted pregnancies and lack of medical services. It is important for all of us to realize what challenging but worthwhile work is being done by NGO's in the Middle East.

In **October**, Sue Manthey, will speak of domestic violence month and will also talk about White Ribbon Day and the 16 days of activism in November. She is very keen to involve Zonta in some of the workshops she wants to do and also she has great ideas for bringing community awareness to White Ribbon Day (25th November) So this will end this year's UN breakfast sessions and we can look forward to many more inspirational speakers next year.

I think you will all agree that we have an amazing number of women in our local area who are doing truly wonderful work in trying to improve the status of women, locally, nationally and internationally.

Roz Jennings, Vice-President

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE

This month we'll be giving a talk on the UN International Service Project, supported by Zonta, called 'Edutainment for Social Change'. It aims to change attitudes and behaviour, which see violence against women as 'normal' and 'inevitable'.

The Project does this through the use of mass media edutainment programs, such as, street theatre, computer games, TV soaps, music videos etc. These are designed to give positive and locally-relevant messages as part of an effective anti-violence campaign.

The countries selected in the first year of the Project are Bangladesh and Nigeria. Did you know, in Bangladesh:

- 47% of women experience physical violence from their spouses
- 50% of female murders are committed by an intimate partner.
- 68% of women do not report abuse.
- Much of the abuse is dowry related and involves restriction of movement or acid throwing

We'll be reporting on how this Edutainment Project aims to change attitudes and behaviour to improve the lives of women.

Robyn Mitchell, Co-Chair UN Committee

African Film Night Fundraiser

Please see the last page of this newsletter for the flyer for you to print and distribute

When: 13 October—6.00 PM

Where: Palmers Restaurant, TAFE College Cannonvale

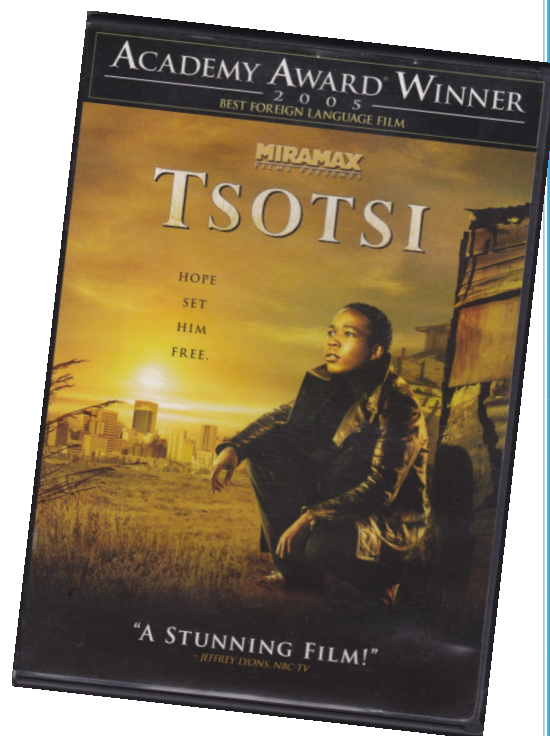
Why: *Get ready to party and raise funds for our Zonta charities and AFADU*

Cost: \$30 per person

Fundraising: Money will be raised, primarily, from raffles and auction and this is where YOU come in.

What next?: Via a separate mail, a flyer and sample letter will be sent to you to assist you in obtaining raffle items for this evening. As well as a list of what has been obtained, so that we don't "double up". Please check this carefully. Each of us is asked to obtain one more raffle item.

THIS IS OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISING FOR THE YEAR—
IT'S SUCCESS IS VITAL TO OUR CLUB'S PROJECTS





MEMBERSHIP

HELP WANTED

Since it's inception in 1991, a member of Zonta has been on the Management Committee of the Whitsunday Crisis and Counselling Service. It's founder, Pam McClean, was a charter member of our Zonta club. At most times two, or even three, Zontians have sat on this Committee. For the very first time, the WCCS in danger of NOT having a Zontian represented, as both Judy Brett and myself are stepping off the Committee this year, due to extensive travel plans. The task is not onerous but quite fulfilling, working with a wonderful, dedicated group of women. We meet only once a month and most of the decision making is done then. The role of the Management Committee is the oversight and direction of the broad operations of the Service.

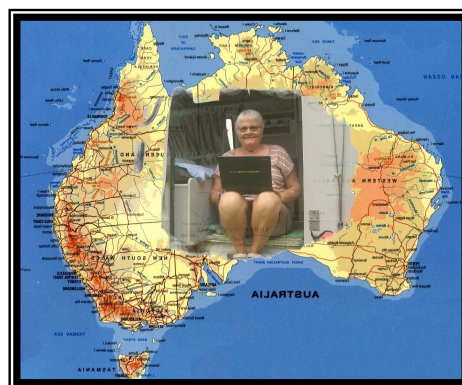
We do not see or even know the names of clients. If you even think this could be of interest to you, please contact me for a chat.

P.J. Halter

MEMBER NEWS—GUUS HERMANS

"I wanted to have a real conversation with few Aboriginal women. In a place, not far from Tennant Creek I saw three women sitting under a tree. I walked up to them and asked: could I join you for a minute? No answer, they looked at me, than to each other and by a nodding head of one of them I dropped on the grass. Tension. I am a member of Zonta I started and explaining what this organization is all about, my role in it and what it had to do with me sitting with them....."

Want to read more? Want to know what our traveller is doing? See Guus' beautiful and interesting website: www.ghworldwide.net



CALLING ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF ZONTA

The following items are needed for our various projects:

- *Clothes, accessories, books for our Clothes and Book Swap (coming up in November).
- * Children's picture books and magazines suitable for the mothers and other family members for Books from Birth.
- * Skirt hangers for our chair covers
- * New or unused fabric for breast cushions and head scarves, including some plain fabrics, colours and patterns suitable for men not slippery satins.
- * Dacron filling
- **All items can be brought to the social meeting or see Kerry, Judy or Dawn for appropriate drop-offs.**



PROFILE: Lesley Prachett



In my next life I am going to be an Osprey.

This will ensure I hatch with good eyesight and am considered beautiful in spite of a huge beak and mousy brown feathers.

Osprey chicks are fed by their mother for a very short time. As soon as they can deal with the food themselves it is dropped to them by both parents who have no further close contact with their young.

I was born in South Wales where Dad was a 'Bevan Boy', working in the pits during the war, but we relocated to London when he returned to his job as pharmacist/manager of a chemist. Mum went to work in the shop as soon as I started preschool and during the long vacations my younger brother and I were dispatched back to Wales to stay with my father's maiden aunt; great days out at the beach, but also tea in Victorian Drawing rooms where good mannered children sat still and silent. These days I talk a lot to make up for this, but I never had a meaningful conversation with my parents.

Ospreys must live near water in which they catch their prey.

When I was 6, my parents discovered their Paradise; a small seaside town on the Essex coast where children could safely be left to explore the beach and countryside. We were "latchkey children". This apparently causes psychological trauma and would have rendered us blameless if we later became hippies. I was, however, boringly well behaved, and with minimal effort obtained good academic and sporting results.

When Ospreys catch fish, their grip following a good strike is so efficient that they cannot easily let go and may be dragged beneath the water.

I was happily gliding through my sixth form years when I became aware of a really great catch who had been in the same school pond for many years. He was tall, handsome, noisy and extroverted and having caught him I was happy to be dragged anywhere.

Ospreys mate for life

This year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our first date.

Ospreys left England when it became overpopulated. They live in many remote parts of the World.

Dave is an agronomist. Following him I taught at the University of the West Indies, Maryhill Secondary school in Uganda, and Botswana Agricultural College; taking full advantage of house staff to have only a few weeks off to produce each child. Our first son was born in Uganda just as Idi Amin began destroying that beautiful country and we learned much about the horror of civil war and the terror of having inexperienced soldiers wave guns at our baby. Our second son was born in peaceful Botswana, but later, to avoid boarding school, we were delighted to find permanent employment in Australia. Arriving in the Kimberley in 1980, we experienced real remoteness for the first time. The lack of secondary education meant we eventually had to send the boys to school in Perth! As there was no teaching position for me, I moved into tourism, eventually building and running a motel. Inspired by an amazing bare boat holiday in the Whitsundays, we bought a couple of blocks of land in sunny Queensland and spent our holidays with the boys clearing lantana and fencing paddocks, retiring to our Calen property in 1992, where I proved to be completely useless at farming, but in great demand as a teacher. From Secondary Science I moved to Teaching Principal at Pindi Pindi; a big learning curve, but one I fitted so well I only resigned last year.

Ospreys are often shown as a symbol of positive response to the environment

Our interests have always been centered in the environment and we are delighted (and a bit jealous) that our second son, Morgan, is a marine biologist, living in Townsville with wife Debbie and two of our grandchildren. Our eldest, Jason, balances this, however, by working in the oil and gas industry and living in Wales with wife Rhiannon and our other grandson, which means we fly more miles than I like to count. Their relationship however, was obviously meant to be: Rhiannon was born very close to my original home, where they now live and support local rugby team, the Ospreys, while by further coincidence, Rhiannon's brother married a girl from Mackay; I taught her sister!



Osprey nests are built with whatever is to hand on any convenient perch

Our move to Duval Road in 2008 was the first time we ever chose a house (motels and a farmhouse which required extensive renovation don't count). The sensible choice of an easily managed unit somehow morphed into land for 3 retired horses and the house we fell in love with was most unsuitable for small grandchildren; but they are growing, while we are fully occupied growing bird friendly gardens and re-vegetating 15 acres.

Ospreys were seriously affected by DDT but are recovering rapidly since this was banned.

Our lives were disrupted less than a year later when I developed cancer of the gum (unfair - I have never smoked and I have another very rare disease as well!), but I have a new slim figure and increased empathy with those that are sick and those who care for them.

We continue a long association with Calen Toastmasters, and enjoy the very social Whitsunday Garden Club. This year we started outrigging, which is great physical exercise in a magnificent environment; I love the closeness to the water and interaction with all ages.

On joining Zonta, I was immediately welcomed into many activities and enjoy working with such positive and interesting women. I have never experienced discrimination because I am female, and hope to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.



Lesley Pratchett

ARE YOU OR YOUR FRIENDS
HAVING A PARTY? WEDDING? BIRTHDAY?

THE CLUB NOW HAS THE CHAIR COVERS IN STOCK ALONG WITH SASHES OF MANY COLOURS
RED, BLACK, PURPLE, GOLD, PINK, LEMON, SILVER
THERE ARE ALSO BLACK PLACEMATS, CLOTH NAPKINS AND RED TABLE RUNNERS
AND CEILING DRAPES TO FINISH IT OFF



COST IS \$7.50/COVER INCLUDING SASH AND LAUNDERING

PLEASE CONTACT – NOLENE 49452208
KERRIE ADAM 49454214 /0409331639 OR
LAUREN HAACK 0400028959

Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Contact Details

President - Angela Spicer: zontaclub7@hotmail.com
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Reef Talk Editor – P.J. Halter: zontaclub7@hotmail.com

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PROGRESSIVE LUNCH FUN - lots of smiles and happy tummies



a night in **AFRICA**

SATURDAY OCTOBER 13

Barrier Reef Tafe Palmers Restaurant Cannonvale, from 6pm \$30pp

LISTEN to Live African Drummers

ENJOY Fork Food "A taste of Africa"

WATCH Award Winning Movie "Tsotsi"

AUCTION heaps of great items up for grabs



Major auction prizes and raffles are to raise funds for:
School of Nursing and Orphanage in Zimbabwe,
Proserpine Nursing Home and Educational Bursaries
for our local girls

AUCTION ITEMS INCLUDE:

Fijian holiday package, Hamilton Island holiday,
Hamilton Island Golf package, Several framed art works,
Cruise Whitsunday's reef trip and MORE...

TICKETS: Call Roz 4946 7370

TAFE Customer Service Counter

Visit Rockman's in Centro or Art Whitsunday
Gallery (Magnum's Courtyard Airlie Beach)

LIMITED AVAILABILITY DON'T DELAY

Brought to you by the **ZONTA CLUB** of the Whitsundays

AFADU (Aid for African down Under) and with support of **International Students of Tafe**



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Advancing the Status of
Women Worldwide