

# Metro MUSE

*The periodical Newsletter of the  
Zonta Club of Brisbane Metro Breakfast  
September 2017*



**ZONTA**

CLUB OF  
BRISBANE METRO  
BREAKFAST INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

*Muse (myōōz)n.*  
*(a) A guiding spirit.*  
*(b) A source of  
inspiration*

## **Board members 2017 -2108**

President:  
Leida Pirts

Vice President:  
Ruth McKeown

Immediate Past  
President:  
Michelle Baran

Treasurer:  
Kathy Wu

Correspondence  
Secretary:  
Emma Turner

Minute Secretary  
Kate Green

Directors:  
Isobelle Torralba  
Flora Di Lizio

## **President's Message**

Welcome to the latest edition of our club's newsletter.

Our club has had a prosperous year so far. Our members have been incredibly generous in donating their skills, time and passion to our many projects and fundraising events which have contributed to changing the lives of a great number of local women and girls. For that, all members should be proud.

Hands on service remains a critical part of our activities. Together with some new friends of Zonta, we've made about 200 breast cushions since April for women recovering from cancer surgery. Isobelle also continues to diligently visit the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and work with girls in need.

We've held three fundraising events – an Estee Lauder day which raised nearly \$900, a movie evening which raised \$500, and a trivia night which raised \$1,700.

We've sold mobile phone chargers and USBs, which has raised well over \$1,000, as well as continuing to sell fundraising Entertainment Books to our friends and family. We also donated hampers for Bahloo Youth Shelter for them to use at events.

At our July anniversary dinner, we pinned three Hon Zons: Joe Argiro, John Torralba and Robin Harvey. They are special people, who aren't members, but who put in time and effort toward our events and endeavours to ensure they're a great success.

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**Charter Number: 1624**

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## President's Message cont.

So far this year, we've donated:

One third of our fundraising profits to the Zonta International Foundation,

\$1,350 to Fig Tree Children to assist them in a sewing school for girls,

\$2,000 to Women's House Shelta so they can continue to support homeless and at risk Brisbane women,

\$1,000 to DV Connect to provide vital services to women affected by domestic and family violence. For DV Connect we also sourced training rooms for them to use.

And we've committed \$500 alongside other local clubs to Zonta Says No activities at the end of the year. Our actions and the work that we do have inspired others to also financially contribute to the Zonta International Foundation and local causes which we support through donations and service, including Be Uplifted, DV Connect and Womens House Shelta.

We had four members attend the Area Meeting in March, and three members attend the District Conference in September. A big thank you goes to Ruth for being our voting delegate.

Overall, our members have been generous and willing, and we look forward to an eventful conclusion to the year.

*Leida Pirts President*

## Committee Reports

### Advocacy

The Advocacy Committee of Ruth (Chair) Jo and Emma decided to trial alternate e-meetings and dinner meeting this year and it seems to be working well. The Committee has decided to re-introduce letters of congratulation the high achieving women in our catchment, beginning with the winners of the QUT Alumni of the Year. We are working on activities for the 21 Days of Activism in November and have gained approval to hang our Zonta Says No Banner at TAFE. We are also planning an evening walk during the nights that the City Hall, Story Bridge and Kurilpa Bridge are lit up orange and we are working closely with the District in these activities.

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## Committee Reports cont.

### Service

The Service Committee of Isobelle (Chair), Tricia, Kate and Michelle have conducted e-meetings to discuss service activities such as mentoring at Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, breast cushion sewing bees and providing assistance at the Birthing Kit assembly day . Isobelle is encouraging all members to become blue card holders and has arranged for a blue card induction by BYDC so that other members may go with her on her mentoring missions. The committee is also looking at ways in which the club can offer more “hands on” help to charities such as volunteering on the various “soup vans” which feed the homeless around the city, or sewing Ecopads to help that charity. Isobelle and Kate have been volunteering their time on Saturday mornings at St Andrews Church in the city, feeding the homeless.

### Membership

Louise (Chair) and Flora held a lunch meeting at Flora’s mums house where they indulged in delicious home made pasta whilst discussing Membership matters. The info evening that was planned for August was postponed as members were busy preparing for the Trivia Night. Flora, Leida and Kate have since met with a prospective new member over an informal dinner catch up last week. Discussions are also under way with the Advocacy Committee in organizing a combined city clubs membership evening, an idea that was put to the Area 3 clubs at the D22 Conference by Ruth and met with enthusiasm and offers of assistance from a few of the other clubs. Metro Breakfast Club plan to facilitate the evening and hope to attract some high calibre guest speakers and media coverage. As Membership increase is a top priority for Zonta International this year the event will be well timed to increase the awareness of Zonta in our community.

# Metro Muse

## September 2017

### Advocacy cont.

#### Anniversary Dinner

In July, we held our Anniversary Dinner at Lennox Restaurant. The food and service were excellent. We pinned three Honorary Zontians (HonZons), Joe Argiro, Robin Harvey and John Torralba who put in a lot of time and effort doing all sort's of "man jobs". It was a very enjoyable evening and lovely to have Ans and Elaine join us for our 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



Pine Rivers YWCA Club invited a representative from our club to attend a morning tea and talk about our work at Zonta. Flora and Ruth obliged and had an enjoyable morning telling about 40 ladies about Zonta and the activities we are involved in. YWCA's mission and values are very similar to Zonta so the interest they showed was very warming.



#### 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.

Planning is under way for an evening walk to be held in November while the Story Bridge and Kurilpa Bridge and King George square will be lit up orange. Ruth is busy using her GIS skills to map a suitable route which will take in all the lit up sites while maximizing our presence in our orange TShirts and caps. We will also be hanging our big Zonta Says No" banner at South Brisbane TAFE during this time to generate awareness..

**ZONTA SAYS NO**  
TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
JOIN US AT [ZONTASAYSNO.COM](http://ZONTASAYSNO.COM)

# Metro MUSE

September 2017

## Service

### BYDC

Isobelle continues her regular visits to BYDC mentor the girls and attended the NAIDOC Day in July. Our Club received a certificate of appreciation for Isobelle's efforts in supporting young women in detention.



### Bahloo

Flora and Isobelle attended the Bahloo NAIDOC week morning tea in July. Our club provided a lovely gourmet food hamper as the major raffle prize.

### Breast Cushion Sewing Bees

These sewing bees continue to be great fellowship days and the afternoon tea never disappoints! Our small but enthusiastic group of members and friends sewed about 35 cushions at Ruth's house in April, and 35 at Flora's in September. The cushions were distributed to St Andrews, North West Private, Holy Spirit Northside and Wesley Hospitals. Since then our wonderful friends of Zonta, Lydia, Jeanette and Evelyn have assisted by sewing over 100 extra cushions for us.



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## September 2017

### Fundraising

#### Movie Night

Ruth and Flora arranged a movie evening with a difference in July. Instead of choosing a “girly” movie, “Dunkirk” was chosen with the enticing our significant other halves and friends out for a night together for a mix of fellowship and fundraising. The movie was held in the Gold Room at the New Farm Cinemas where guest relaxed in armchairs and had their meals delivered to their seats. A great raffle filled with “man prizes” added to an enjoyable evening which raised \$500



#### Estee Lauder Shopping Day

Flora organised a shopping day at the Estee Lauder outlet store in Milton in June. 70 tickets were sold and members and friends visited the store during the day to pick up some great makeup and perfume bargains. A few ladies met afterwards for lunch and a bubbly over the road at La Dolce Vita Ristorante. A total of \$700 was raised. Well done Flora.



#### Entertainment Books:

These continue to be a profitable fundraising project for our club and this year we raised approximately \$500



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## Fundraising cont.



Hosts Ruth and Louise



Best Dressed: Lorraine, looking fabulous in a classic 50s outfit

**Trivia Night**  
We held our Trivia Night on 1<sup>st</sup> September at 66 on Ernest Restaurant at South Brisbane TAFE. The theme was 50s and 60s and as usual it was a very enjoyable evening capably hosted by (Rockabilly) Ruth and (Lulu) Louise, dressed in fabulous 50s outfits. Guests were treated to a fabulous dance demonstration, and there were prizes for a fun twist competition, best themed table, best dressed individual and a “build a tower” competition, as well as a lucky door prize and lots of great raffle prizes. Emma’s team had a particularly successful evening, winning the Trivia competition and the tower building competition as well as best themed table. Well done Emma! The recipient of funds raised on the night was Be Uplifted Breast Cancer Charity.



Guest Dancers



The lovely Be Uplifted Ladies



Winners are grinners!



Fabulous raffle prizes

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## Fundraising cont.



Our Club's "Hot item of the Year", the D22 branded mobile power banks "flew" off the table at the D22 Conference. We have ordered another batch to fill back orders and to hopefully sell them for Christmas presents.



President Leida presenting Jane Shakespeare of Fig Tree Children with a cheque for \$1,350 to assist with the establishment of sewing classes in a school in Sierra Leone



Leida and Ruth presenting Women's House Shelta with a cheque for \$2,000 to assist them with obtaining new ID documentation for women who have fled domestic violence situations without taking any personal items





# Metro Muse

## September 2017

### Muse News

In this edition we are sharing some of our Member's interesting stories

#### Jo's African Safari in July/August 2017

This amazing holiday with friends started in South Africa in Johannesburg then on to East London in the Eastern Cape to share in my friend's family festivities. A side trip for a few days to Pumba Game Reserve where we experienced the wilderness and a Safari. We were lucky to see four of the big five and so much more. No Leopard to be seen.

We travelled from the Eastern Cape to the Western Cape. There were so many highlights, Knysia, Oudsthoorn, Franschhoek (beautiful town in wine country) and Stellenbosch, but Cape Town had so much to see and do - Table Mountain, Lion's Head, cruise, galleries and restaurants. The Roundhouse restaurant degustation was a special evening shared with friends.

We flew to sunny Durban another change of scenery. Day trips to the Midlands Meander where highlight was Nelson Mandela capture site and amazing sculpture of Mandela. What an amazing man and the difference he made to this country. The food at the Oyster Bar restaurant in the old colonial building in Durban was the best I have ever eaten - Silver service within the most beautiful ambience. Our Australian dollar works very much in our favour in South Africa which allowed us to indulge.



# Metro Muse

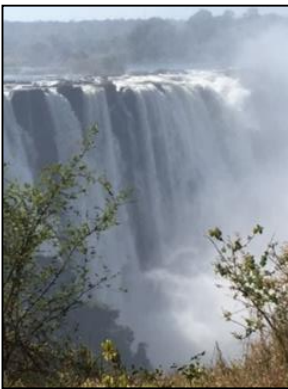
## September 2017

### Muse News

#### Jo's African Safari in July/August 2017 cont.

The last leg of our trip was on to Victoria Falls in Botswana. Immigration here was an eye opener due to primitive manual issuing of visas.

The Chobe river cruise and another safari Zimbabwe/Zambia was another lovely experience. Victoria Falls, a wonder of the world is breathtaking, a must see and should go on everyone's bucket list. Another highlight was a BOMA night of native dancers, singing and drums - interactive and so much fun.



This country relies on tourism and has so much to offer but also has high unemployment and poverty. Because of this crime is high and people begging on streets just to survive. Security of persons and property is necessary in many parts. I was lucky to be travelling with a South African who lives in Australia who knows this country well and could guide us safely.

We do live in the lucky country and travel makes one appreciated this even more.

*By Jo Jones*

# Metro Muse

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### Muse News

#### Tricia's Big Birthday in China

In March 2017 we went to Hong Kong for a week which is a great place to go as it has so many things to see. We went up to the Peak by cable car where you can see Victoria Harbour and the many skyscrapers. We caught a local bus to Stanley which is a quiet little seaside town with a great local market which was very different to the many copy markets in Hong Kong. It had lots of local artist art and clothing and some local foods.

We ate lots of the local food, and as I have dietary requirements of gluten free I did take along a translation sheet but this seemed to confuse them so it was easier to go to a local eatery and just point to a food and rice - amazing.



After a week in Hong Kong we went on a cruise from Hong Kong to Shanghai for 14 nights. We decided that we wouldn't book any of the shore excursions through the cruise and we could do it on our own so we researched our options, had currency for each country and off we went. We always got to see what we wanted and sometimes more than those on the excursions but it was fun travelling on the local trains and buses, some a bit tricky not speaking the language but that adds to the excitement.

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### Muse News

#### Tricia's Big Birthday in China cont.

First stop was Taiwan, we met a gentlemen in morning before arriving in Taiwan Robert, he advised us that he had been researching this whole trip for 6 months, did we think that our luck had changed, as we had done some research So we get off the boat at the port where there is an information centre, so off we go with Robert, to discover that he doesn't have any currency. So he goes to get currency and by the time he got back we had found the train we needed to catch, what stops to get off and had local maps. Poor Robert was very grateful for our help.

The actual cruise boat had so much to do and we met some great people, some of them were on our a set evening dining table. There was one couple from the UK , one couple from Canada. We had a Commonwealth table tennis competition. Yes, the Aussies won! Well, Ray did the country proud. We met a gentlemen, who Ray named young John, who celebrated his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the boat and we were all invited to his party. I could not believe that so many people in their late 80's were travelling on their own. Well, yes, you guessed it. We were the youngest by a long way at the party! Some of the other guests were a gentlemen in his late 80's from the UK on his own, young John from NZ on his own and a couple of Australian ladies in their late 80's. We were pleased to see that life doesn't stop at 80. Oh, and I celebrated my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on the boat, went to a speciality restaurant for dinner and had flowers, champagne and wine sent from friends, very spoilt.



*By Tricia Walker*



*Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Tricia!*

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### Muse News

#### Ruth's R and R in Indonesia and Thailand

My partner Joe and I spent a week in May on Bintan Island in Indonesia and the following week in Phuket, Thailand, doing very little! This was my first visit to both of these places and whilst they were very different from each other, I loved them both. Bintan Island is a very unspoilt small island only a 40 minute ferry ride from Singapore. It is a conservation park so the guests planted coral and tended turtle hatchlings. The weather was hot and steamy so there was lots of swimming, snoozing in the AC and eating delightful meals, if not a little too spicy! It was such a relaxing week.



Our week in Thailand was spent at the beautiful Marriott Resort at Mai Kao beach up in the northwest corner. One day we hired a car and drove around the island visiting the Big Buddha in the south and stopping off at the very busy Phuket Town for lunch (and got a \$2 parking ticket!) Another day trip was to the stunning Phi Phi Islands by high speed (and very bumpy) motor boat where we swam and snorkelled among coral and beautiful fish in the amazing blue lagoons.

The remainder of the week was spent relaxing, dining at the many restaurants at the resort, drinking cocktails at the swim up bar, indulging in Thai massages on the beach, learning basic Thai language and wandering around the beautifully manicured gardens around the resort.



*By Ruth McKeown*

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### Muse News

#### It's a Dog's Life! Kate's Dog trials & tribulations

It is no secret that my white shepherd, Kholo, is my world. We have had a very busy few months training in obedience and competing at both the state and national dog obedience trials held at Durack in early July. Kholo gained her off-lead obedience title at the Sunshine Coast in June after much training and guidance. So onwards to a new challenge!

I openly admit to being a crazy dog lady so when my mentor suggested an endurance test I decided to dust off the bike and start riding with Kholo running beside me. We slowly built up the distance to a 5km daily run and after a vet clearance headed out to Laidley for a 5am start and a 20km ride. I was very relieved when we pulled in to the finish line!

Kholo has just turned 5 and of course we celebrated her birthday with a party with her besties! She is the most lovable companion I could ever ask for.

*By Kate Green*



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## Muse News



Leida, Flora and Ruth attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial D22 Conference in September.

Here they are with DG Ans, Area Director Elaine and ZI and ZIF Director Ute Scholz who was visiting Australia for the first time

Flora and Ruth represented the Club as guests of the Lady Musgrave Trust (LMT) at a cocktail party at Government House in March as a thank you to their supporters. The Governor of Queensland His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, as Patron of the LMT gave thanks to Trust for its vision of a brighter future for young homeless women.



Leida, Kate Ruth and Flora attended the the Area 1 & 3 Meeting in Maleny in March. It was an enjoyable day of discussion, ideas and fellowship, and Kate's first time at an Area Meeting!



A few club members frocked up to attend the Lady Musgrave Trust High Tea Cocktail event in March at the beautiful Blackbird Bar overlooking the river at Eagle Street. We were treated to delicious cocktails and canapes whilst listening to music from Phil Emmanuel. Karen won an afternoon of guitar tutoring by Phil which she gave to her nephew as a wonderful present. *(Editor: Jo Jones missing from photo - must have been fetching our cocktails!)*

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## On the couch with.....*Emma Turner*

*ZMBC Past President,  
Correspondence Chair, Principal at  
Dixie Ann Middleton & Associates,  
Family Lawyers*



**I grew up in** .....Cairns FNQ

**I always thought I would be** .....a teacher, but then I changed my mind in Grade 9

**My first job was** .....a checkout chick at the Big Tomato!

**The word that best describes me is**.....Wonder Woman!

**My favourite smell is** .....lilies

**A book I really enjoyed was**.....Sushi for Beginners by Marian Keyes

**I relax by** .....having a glass of wine with friends

**A favourite meal I like to cook is** .....Melted Mozzarella Chicken by Donna Hay (*Editor: can you share this recipe with us all please?*)

**Celebrity Man Crush?**.....Matthew McConaughey!!!! I was also quite keen on Andrew McFarlane (I bet nobody knows who he is)

**Favourite QLD holiday destination?** .....Hamilton Island, but I've only been there for a day.  
Also love the Sunshine Coast

**What is something people don't know about you?** .....I'm terrified of green frogs

**My next challenge is**.....to survive the teenager years with my children

### Club Calendar

October	4th - Breakfast Meeting 26th - Board Meeting
November	1st - Breakfast Meeting 25th - 16 days of activism commences 30th - Board Meeting
December	6th - Christmas Breakfast 10th - 16 days of activism end