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President's Report

During September, our Zonta Club of Mackay celebrated its 20th anniversary of being an active and committed community organisation within Mackay. In this day and age, it is important to celebrate the significant achievement of continuing to be a relevant, energetic and committed organisation within our community. Particularly in this era of constant change, it is important to celebrate this milestone of being a sustainable organisation.

The evening provided an opportunity to acknowledge other community organisations with whom we partner through our local community projects, such as Breastscreen, Mackay Base Hospital Oncology unit, the Mackay Base Hospital breast care staff, the Women's Centre, the George Street Neighbourhood Centre World Cafe and other service clubs such as the Mackay Soroptimist Club. It was wonderful to have these community members share in our celebrations.

The occasion also gave recognition to our many business, industry, education and training sponsors and supporters who continue to provide financial assistance and in-kind support of our many varied activities over the past years.

Special thanks must go to Zonta Area 5 Director, Hilary Grant, who attended and provided the keynote address. Hilary also presented Certificates of Service to two of our Charter members, Judy Spannagle and Lynette Dupuy, and assisted with the cutting of the anniversary cake. Though our other wonderful Charter member, Vassie Comino, was unable to be there, it was extremely pleasing to have so many of the original Charter members join our celebrations.

A highlight of the evening was the launch by our Honourable Mayor, Deirdre Comerford, of our fabulous anniversary cookbook 'Mackay: Past, Present, Future – A Little Book of Tastes and Topics'. Eunice and Gemma, our ever-keen marketers, were successful in selling an additional 43 books during the evening!

Sincere thanks must go to all of our Zonta members both past and present for their involvement, contribution and commitment to continuing to make our Club a relevant and meaningful organisation in our community. As one of our Charter members, Vassie Comino, recently said, 'We have done so much but yet there is still so much to do'.

We look forward to the Zonta Club of Mackay continuing to be involved in service projects and advocacy initiatives which advance the status of women and girls throughout our community and internationally.

Yours in service

Marie Cameron (President)



Cutting the 20th Anniversary Cake - From left: Marie Cameron (current President), Lynette Dupuy & Judy Spannagle (charter members) Hilary Grant (Area 5 Director)

[More Anniversary photos pages 7 & 8](#)

Cookbook News: River 2 Reef Stall



At River 2 Reef Zonta stall: (From left) Trish Gibbins, Marie Cameron, Viv Hanrahan, Vassie Comino



At River 2 Reef Zonta stall: (From left) Sarah Hatherly, Gemma Clark

Our bookselling and Zonta information stall at the River 2 Reef markets last Saturday, 6th October, was a great success, where we made a healthy \$300 on the day. Our sincere thanks go to all our members who assisted on the stall, as well as to Peter Cameron for his 'muscle help' in lifting, carrying, setting up and taking down.

Eunice Shearer (Cookbook Sub-Committee)

STEPS Student Graduation at CQUniversity, Mackay Campus

Marie Cameron a former CQUniversity student and currently a casual tutor at CQUni, was recently invited as guest speaker at the graduation morning tea of twenty three students enrolled in the Skills for Tertiary Education Preparatory Studies program (STEPS). From the 23 students completing the program, 61 per cent have applied for direct entry into university. 51 per cent of those students have selected nursing as their choice of undergraduate study.

Marie spoke to the students about the Zonta

STEPS scholarship programme, which is currently open to graduating female STEPS students who are enrolling in their first year in a Bachelor Program at the Mackay campus. Marie also handed out a number of service awards and spoke to the students about the Hail Creek Mine scholarship programme which she coordinates through her employer, Rio Tinto Hail Creek Mine.

Marie Cameron



STEPS student Rebekah Lisciandro receives an award from Zonta's Marie Cameron for her contribution to CQUniversity's Open Day 2012.

DATE CLAIMERS

- * Tuesday 16th October: Dinner Meeting, 6.30 pm, Reef Resort Motel, Nebo Rd.
- * Sunday 28th October: Global Grooves Multicultural Festival, 10am - 8pm, Queen's Park, Goldsmith St., Mackay.
- * Friday 9th November: MWiB Meeting, 12 noon, Reef Resort Motel, Nebo Rd.
- * Sunday 18th November: White Ribbon Day, Sausage Sizzle and Car Wash, 9am - 1pm, Porters Car Park, Gordon St., Mackay.
- * Tuesday 20th November: Dinner Meeting, 6.30 pm, Reef Resort Motel, Nebo Rd.
- * Saturday 1st December: Zonta 'Round the World' Christmas party at Peter and Marie Cameron's house.



What we're doing

Interview with 'The Telegraph'

Zontians have been improving women's rights for 20 years



Lynette Dupuy has supported Zonta from the day it started in Mackay.

By Natalie Dixon

IT'S been two decades since a group of community-minded, professional women banded together in Mackay, determined to improve the status of women – not just in their own hometown, but throughout the world.

Tonight, the Zonta Club of Mackay celebrates 20 years of service and advocacy with a ceremony and cocktail evening at The Central Conservatorium of Music. The group will also launch their latest fundraiser, a high quality, high gloss cookbook filled with images of the region, and designed to correspond with the Mackay 150 anniversary.

It's almost impossible to name everything the Zontians have achieved since their inception. Their projects span across the globe and they have contributed to projects designed to help women in developing countries improve their legal, political, educational and health status. In this region, the women have backed several projects, donating items to the Mackay Women's Centre, supporting women



Leanne and Taryn Shepherd with Judy Spannagle, one of the original members of the Zonta Club of Mackay.
Photo Amanda Balmer

affected by domestic violence with funds and making specially designed cushions for women after breast cancer surgery.

The group have also started up Z Clubs at schools in the region, encouraging young women to give back to their sisters around the world and at home through service.

Despite the hard work and dedication over the years, the group say there is still a long way to go before women enjoy the same status and access to health and education as their male counterparts. Judy Spannagle, Lynette Dupuy and Vassie Comino have been involved with Zonta in Mackay since the beginning and say the group will remain relevant until women's rights are fully realised.

"Things are changing. Now in Australia we have female CEO, women owning their own businesses in numbers never seen before," Ms Dupuy said. "Twenty years ago that was unheard of, but at the same time we are a long way off pay equality here.

Continued on p.4

Z Club news: HOWW Z Club

The MNSHS HOWW Z Club has invited their entire school to join their Operation Christmas Child Christmas Gift Box Project, displaying completed boxes in the Administration office foyer for all to enjoy. The first week back after holidays the club will be bagging red and green 'Christmas themed' frog lollies to be sold at school to raise funds to cover postage of the gift boxes.

Plans will also be finalized to sell 'White Knight' bars to raise funds for White Ribbon Day in November.

Leanne Shepherd



A completed Christmas Box

Interview with 'The Telegraph' (cont'd from p.3)

Then you travel to some of the Third World countries and see how far they have to go. They are not concerned with their status, education is not so important to mothers when they don't have the basics like clean water and food, so we are working on that there."

Ms Spannagle said being part of the organisation had opened many members' eyes up to the issues faced by women in the Mackay community, especially domestic violence. "We try to help raise awareness of the problems and do what we can to support the organisations helping these women," she said.

Leanne Shepherd joined Zonta just a year ago. Her teenage daughter Taryn is also on board, part of the Z Club at Whitsunday Anglican School which has recently put together the latest round of birthing kits to send overseas.

"I think Zonta will always have a place, which is why I joined," she said. "Women are so much more educated now. And the more

we know about what we can have the more we expect. "I think that is the case for women. No matter what their status in life - the key is educating ourselves and continuing to push forward, moving to the next level."

The Zonta cookbook is available to purchase for just \$10.

Sausage Sizzle and Car Wash

Join the Zonta Club of Mackay Inc and raise money for
White Ribbon Day - Say No to Domestic Violence

Date: Sunday 18th November
Time: 9am - 1pm
Place: Porters Car Park, Gordon St
Mackay

We will be selling White Ribbons, BBQ sausages & Car Washes.

If you can help contact Gail Clark

doug.gail@bigpond.com or

Leanne Shepherd leanne@jsis.com.au

Hope to see you all there.

Malala Yousafzai: Young activist for the education of girls

Last Tuesday afternoon, 9th October, Malala Yousafzai was a 14-year-old girl riding home on a school bus. Now, after a masked gunman apparently boarded her bus, asked for her by name and shot her in the head and neck, she is fighting for her life. Malala was targeted by the Pakistani Taliban because for the past 3 years she has spoken out for the rights of all girls to become educated.

After this despicable shooting, a Taliban spokesman said his organisation considered Malala's crusade for education rights an "obscenity" and accused her of "propagating" Western culture. If she survives, the group promises to try again to kill her.

Eleven years ago, America and its allies woke to the barbaric mindset of the Taliban. Its regime in Afghanistan was dedicated in part to the brutal repression and abject subjugation of women. Women were not allowed to work or attend school. Taliban religious police patrolled the streets, beating women who might venture out alone, who were not dressed "properly" or who dared to laugh out loud. Women could not wear shoes that made too much noise, and their fingernails were ripped out for the "crime" of wearing nail polish.

Today, the Taliban has been pushed back, but it still operates in parts of Afghanistan and in the northern and western regions of Pakistan along the Afghan border. The city where Malala was shot, Mingora, is in Pakistan's Swat province, which has been on the front lines of the battle against Taliban extremists. In 2007, the Taliban gained control of Swat, but was largely pushed out in the summer of 2009 by a Pakistani military offensive.

During its time in power, the Taliban closed and destroyed girls' schools, leaving little more than piles of rubble; enforced its own interpretation of Islamic law; and banned the playing of music in cars.

At age 11, (see Youtube clip) to protest what was happening in her homeland, Malala began to write about her experiences, producing a blog for the BBC's Urdu-language service. She described wearing plain clothes, not uniforms, so that no one would know she was attending school



and wrote about how she and other girls "hid our books under our shawls".

After the Taliban forced the closure of her school, Malala had no choice but to stay home and suspend her education. A few weeks later she wrote, "I am sad watching my uniform, school bag and geometry box" and said she was "hurt" because her brothers could go to school while she could not.

Malala had dreamed of becoming a doctor, but recently she became interested in politics and speaking out for the rights of children. In 2011 she was a nominee for the International Children's Peace Prize, which lauded her bravery in standing up for girls' educational rights amid rising fundamentalism at a time when few adults would do the same. Last year she was awarded Pakistan's first National Youth Peace Prize. These are the accomplishments of the young girl who so terrified the Taliban.

Condemnations from various nations of the attempt on Malala's life have been swift and powerful, but speaking out after such an atrocious act, however, isn't enough.

Malala inspires us because she had the courage to defy the totalitarian mindset others would have imposed on her. Her life represents a brighter future for Pakistan and the region. Malala Yousafzai refused to look the other way. We owe it to her courage and sacrifice to do the same.

(Adapted from an article in the Washington Post, Thursday October 11th, written by Laura Bush.)
Editor's note: At the time of publication of this article, Malala remains in a critical condition in a hospital in Pakistan.



Photo (right): Malala after the shooting en route to hospital

- Original article and links at: [Malala, an icon of courage who sets us all a challenge](#)
- Related article from The Huffington Post, 13th October: [Malala Yousafzai 'stable'](#)
- Youtube clip showing scenes from Malala's daily life at age 11: [Malala Yousafzai - The name bravery, courage, success and peace](#)

Eunice Shearer

(Advocacy & Awareness Committee)

October: Leanne Shepherd

Birthday: I was born on 15/10/1960 to a dairy farming family in Northern NSW, however spent most of my school years in Sydney.

When I joined Zonta Mackay: I have been a Zonta Mackay Member for one year and am the 2012/2013 Minutes Secretary. I first became aware of Zonta when my daughter Rhiannon was involved with the WAS Z Club, and we assembled Birth Kits to send to Third World countries.

Family: John and I have lived at Bucasia Beach for over 30 years, and have 3 children. Mitchell is 22 and in 4th year of his Engineering / Business degree at QUT Brisbane. Rhiannon is 20 and in 2nd year of her International Hotel Management / Business degree in Adelaide. Taryn is 16 and in Year 11 at Whitsunday Anglican School.

My story: My journey to Mackay began after a particularly cold and wet winter in Sydney in 1980. After seeing photos of a friend's holiday on Lindeman Island, I knew I had to go there. I rang the island the next day to enquire about employment availability. A few months later I arrived in Mackay, ready to experience my first plane trip, on a small 6 seater to Lindeman Island, where it was to land on a grass airstrip. Overnighing in Mackay before the trip I happened to meet a young man from Newcastle, who was in Mackay working for a mining company. His name was John, and we continued to meet up in Mackay during my days off the island. We married in King Edward Park, Newcastle in 1983, and returned to Mackay to live, and continue our careers. We started a business in 1988, which has grown into the successful mining industry supply company we still run today.

Career highlights: It was at age 13 during a minor stint in hospital that my passion for nursing was ignited. The dedication, professionalism and care shown by the nurses attending me inspired me to begin my 30 year career.

Since becoming a Registered Nurse in the 80's, I have specialised in Intensive Care, Oncology, Ear, Nose and



Throat (ENT) Allergy & Immunotherapy, and Ophthalmic Nursing, holding several post grad qualifications from CQU and QUT. In 2011 I joined 10 other Registered Nurses from the Mackay Health District to travel to a remote village in northern Cambodia. Our goal was to resource the small clinic and up skill

the traditional staff. With each nurse having individual specialised nursing backgrounds, the 10kg's of extra luggage we took each contained, apart from donated clinic supplies, essential items to conduct our particular specialised area of nursing practice. My bag contained 50 Zonta Birth Kits, ENT and Ophthalmic diagnostic instruments, and 7kg of prescription Glasses. With very little knowledge of the facilities awaiting us, we hoped we would be prepared to cope with the challenges ahead. When we arrived at Prey Village, in an area home to 11,000 people, we found dirt floored huts, no electricity

and no running water ... also, nobody wearing glasses! Within two weeks, I had fitted 150 pair prescription glasses with no equipment other than hand signals to communicate whether the prescription spectacles were enhancing the patient's vision. Often I knew from the delight on their face when they could see clearly for perhaps the first time in many years. Suffering from 'night blindness' (cataracts), the person is a burden to their family as they are unable to contribute to family duties. When I left the village 150 people were

once again able to help prepare food, sew fishing nets and return to being a functioning family member. Even some safety glasses I took over were especially popular to the motor cycle riders for eye protection along the dusty roads and working in the fields.

The next chapter: I am again collecting donated glasses, (thank you to Dr Kirkwood's Patients) for a planned trip to Prey Village in perhaps 2013 and also to possibly co ordinate further eye treatment and surgery by transporting villagers to larger centres and helping with accommodation during treatment.

Leanne Shepherd

Photo Gallery: 20th Anniversary Celebration, 29th September, 2012



Presenting the 20-year Certificates of Service. From left: Hilary Grant (Area 5 Director), Lynette Dupuy & Judy Spannagle (Charter Members)



Vassie Comino's Certificate of Service. (Vassie was unable to be present on the night)



The Anniversary Cake



Past members who attended. From left: Angela Volz, Maria Michales, Elspeth Ledwy, Cheryl Green, Sue Rowlinson, Karen Caldwell, Robyn Leach



Original charter members. From left: Lynette Dupuy, Judy Spannagle, Cheryl Green, Maria Michaels, Heather McTavish, Enid Forsyth and Angela Voltz. (Vassie Comino away). Margaret Stenson was the first Zonta President, and Enid, Vassie and Lynette were first board members.



Lady Mayor, Deirdre Comerford, launching our cookbook



Cookbook Subcommittee. Front row: Marie Cameron (far left), Gemma Clark, Eunice Shearer, Lyn Gargano & Viv Hanrahan (3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th left)



Current Zonta Club of Mackay members. From left: Marie, Judy, Lynette, Bridget, Viv, Leanne, Sue, Gail, Eunice, Lynne, Gemma. (Absent: Trish Gibbins, Cath Bogaard, Vassie Comino)

What we're doing

More photos from our Anniversary



From left: Lyn Gargano (George St Neighbourhood Centre), Belinda Hassan, Lisa Davis, Gail Clark and Leanne Shepherd

Tara Hanrahan singing



From left: Trish Gibbins, Bridget Mather, and Eunice Shearer

More photos from the evening will be in our November newsletter!



Wendy and Tess – Friends of the CON Helpers who looked after us very capably during the evening



From left: John Shepherd, Alec Gibbins, Gordon Spannagle and Peter Cameron

Global Grooves Festival

Date: Sunday 28th Oct
 Time: 10am – 8pm
 Place: Queens Park, Goldsmith St, Mackay

Visit an authentic Filipino village, taste Fijian food, share cultures, music and traditions, Sunday October 28 at Global Grooves Queens Park. Dance to African drumming, there's market stalls, free workshops and the spectacular Diwali Festival of Light Fireworks display. Bring the family! Celebrate our local multi-cultural community at this one day festival promoting arts, music and culture. Global Grooves is an initiative of Mackay Regional Council and proudly supported by Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal P/L.

If you can assist selling our cookbooks please contact;
Gail Clark doug.gail@bigpond.com
Leanne Shepherd leanne@jsis.com.au



Happy Birthday

• Trish Gibbins (14th October)

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