



FEBRUARY 2010

Planning Day a Great Success

Sue's verandah provided the perfect venue for this year's Planning Day which was very well attended. Ideas came from every direction with lots of new things to think about, some needing further investigation before refining the concepts. In Connie's words, 'embryo' ideas. These ideas included using Camp Kanga for weekend workshops for women (and children) for training, pampering, self-development activities, creative endeavors etc. And then we had suggestions for a Women's Art Show with catering, using our display stands for Women's Work exhibitions, holding a Whitsunday Idol competition and even an equivalent to the Elvis weekend in Parkes. We also had some ideas for developing the Education Bursary and setting up a new award, the High Flier, for young women achieving great things in a non-traditional area. And of course we added to the Fellowship list with ideas for a progressive dinner at Christmas, and another sunset cruise. All the ideas will need to be set in the context of the time people have available and the resources required to get some projects up and running. Our calendar of events will provide the schema for this, and allow us to plan carefully so as not to overload ourselves and still have time to enjoy the effort we put in to making the world 'a safer, fairer place'. (More photos from the day in the Photo Gallery)



International Women's Day is Counting on You!

There are only a few weeks to go until we will be celebrating this year's International Women's Day on 7th March. Tickets have been distributed to our 4 outlets and are selling for \$38.00. This covers a 2 course brunch and sparkling wine on arrival at Coral Sea Resort. We have secured two wonderful speakers in Pru Goward and our local star, Nina Wilson, one of the young women who spoke at our New Members meeting. As usual, you will be asked to contribute a small gift to be part of our quick draw raffles which make the day so successful. Our theme of 'Count Me In' will highlight the need for everyone's participation in making the world a safer, greener, fairer place. So get the message out to everyone and let's get a full house.

Robyn for the Committee



2 Zonta Club of the Whitsundays - member of Zonta International

Pamper Packs and Hampers Truly are Appreciated

A small committee of Wendy, Suzie, Janet and Julie - with guidance from Director Roz - managed to put together an extraordinarily large amount of goodies for our adopted family of 7 plus 2 individual ladies from the Proserpine Nursing Home, both in their 90's; plus of course our 12 pamper packs for the Women at WCCS.

The father of the family of 7 called me upon receiving his hamper and gifts and was literally "blown away" by the size and quantity of the donation. He was so grateful it left me a little teary and, on behalf of the Zonta members, very rewarded. He asked me to pass on their thanks to everyone involved, and was very happy with his Esky (donated by BigW). Well done everyone - it really is worth the effort! **Wendy**



Staff at Meals on Wheels accepting the hampers



Committee & WC&CS staff with pamper packs

Some of the pamper packs went to the counselling clients at the Whitsunday Crisis & Counselling Service. A co-worker reported that one of her clients cried when she was given hers – tears of joy and gratitude. All of the clients who received a pack were surprised and grateful. I had a client arrive to stay in the refuge at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve and gave her a pack, which had been left over as the intended recipient could not be found. This client told me that receiving that gift made her believe there really was a Santa! She was quite thrilled. As a staff member at WC&CS, I would like to thank Zonta for their continued support in this regard - you will never really know what a difference these things make. **Jill**

Whitsunday Amelia Award Proposed

After the successful recognition of Amelia Earhart Day in the local media (ie, see Whitsunday Times 14 January 2010), the Board has been considering an annual Award similar to the Education Bursary Award. This would be aimed at assisting a local young woman with her studies towards being a pilot.

The Award, named the Whitsunday Amelia Award, would be presented annually to the successful applicant. At the moment Roz Jennings is developing the selection criteria, so that this can be put to the membership for discussion. Such an award would recognize and encourage the achievements of young women in a non-traditional career path, and of course keep the memory of Amelia Earhart alive.





Brooke says “Thanks”

Brooke Harris was very thankful for the support offered by Zonta after losing nearly all her possessions in a house fire recently. She received a cheque from the Club for \$300 as a home starter grant and numerous donations of household goods from members.



Carols by the Beach

As part of the community celebrations for Christmas, the annual Christmas Carols were held in the park at Airlie Beach and Zonta was invited to provide a coffee and cake stand for the revelers. This year the National Bank staff banded together to set up a marquee for Zonta – and spent the evening helping out the Zonta team as they served all the carol singers and local families. The Zonta team consisted of Sue Hansen, Helen Keppke’s son Andrew, Wendy Downes, Suzie Beirne & Dawn Green. We all worked hard selling such luscious goodies and coffees – everything at a very affordable \$2.00.

The profits of \$175.00 were topped up to \$300 by Rotary and proceeds spent on the wonderful Christmas hampers.

Suzie

Nominating Committee has new member

With the resignation of Marlene Reiffel from the Nominating Committee, Club members were invited to nominate for the Committee, which has the current membership of Cath, Carole and Suzie. Joan and Kerry put up their hands, with Kerry deciding to take on the Education Bursary Committee role instead. So Joan will fill the casual vacancy for this year. The Nominating Committee will be in touch with members soon in order to prepare for the AGM.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Well, it looks like we are in for another busy and exciting year ahead if some of our planning day ideas come to fruition.

We had lots of new things to think about, including running workshops/training sessions at Camp Kanga, holding a Whitsunday Idol Competition, having an Art Show with catering as well as lots more fresh ideas.

Right now we have the film night coming up on 28th January, which promises to be a thought-provoking and moving story about female genital mutilation, which is one of the areas that ZI has directed its project funding.

Then there is the Clothes Swap to get organized for 13th February and shortly after that, our International Women’s Day celebrations. And our membership fees for 2010 are due at the February or, at the latest, the March meeting in readiness for our next financial year. Let’s hope we get some new members signing up soon so they have the advantage of a full year’s membership.

Thanks to all those who came along to our Planning Day and for all the constructive ideas, the willingness to participate and of course for the wonderful food.

Robyn

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Twitter News for Healthy Lifestyle Expo 2010

Yep, the Expo team is back on deck and we've had our first meeting of the year. Expo 2010 will be held on the 11th Sept with the dinner function on the 10th so mark that in your diaries now! Project Proposal, concepts and budgets are being prepared right now for approval at the February board meeting. More exciting news soon so stay tuned for updates on a bigger and better Expo for 2010.

Your Expo Team:
Connie, Sue, Sandii and Roz

Moolaade Film Review

This film deals with the controversial practice of female circumcision, a difficult and painful subject, but the film's director, grand old man of African Cinema, Ousmane Sembene, is a social activist who has been making films about the clash between humanity and tradition, particularly as it affects women, since the 1960's.

Be patient with this film – it is not the usual western style film with dramatic pace. Most of the actors are not professional and of course the film is in the local language with English subtitles. It is visually gorgeous and despite the grim subject matter, there is a warmth and humour about the film.



Roz

Women Leave Smaller Carbon Footprints

Women have a lower carbon footprint than men but are more vulnerable to the adverse effects of global warming, according to the United Nations' *State of World Population* report.

Women drive and fly much less than men and purchase fewer carbon intensive goods. The research found that women in industrialised countries were more likely to buy ecologically friendly and organic foods, were more likely to recycle rubbish and more interested in efficient energy use.

Women were also generally less likely than men to trust governments and corporations to solve environmental problems and more likely to want to take action personally to address these. The report also found that dietary differences contributed to women's lower carbon footprint. It said: "Not only do women eat less in proportion to their body size but at least in some countries they consume a more vegetable-oriented and less meat-based diet." Men tend to eat much more meat. The report concluded that climate change "threatens to amplify the inequities between women and men."

"Women — particularly those in poor countries — are affected differently from men. Women are among the most vulnerable to climate change, partly because in many countries they make up the larger share of the agricultural workforce and partly because they tend not to have access to as many income-earning opportunities as men," it said.

"Women manage households and care for family members, which often limits their mobility and increases their vulnerability to sudden weather-related natural disasters."

The report also found that drought and erratic rainfall forced women to work harder to secure food, water and energy for their homes. Girls were more likely than boys to drop out of school to help their mothers with these tasks.

The report concluded: "Because of greater poverty, lesser power over their own lives, less recognition of their economic productivity and their disproportionate burden in reproduction and child raising, women face additional challenges as climate changes. Marginalisation of and discrimination against women and the lack of attention to the ways gender inequality hampers development, health, equity and overall well-being, all undermine a country's resilience to climate change"





MEMBER NEWS

Ann sails Sydney to Hobart



Ann Cleghorn paid a quick visit to Airlie Beach this month to tell us all about her recent skippering experiences around South America, and her Sydney to Hobart crewing efforts. She crewed on the yacht Holy Cow on the way to Hobart and came back to Sydney as crew on the maxi-yacht race winner, Alpha Romeo. While in Hobart she met up with Zontians Joanne and Linda, and friends Ailsa and Rob. This year she will spend most of her time in the Pacific and hopes to call in again with her yacht, this time for all of us to have an on-board 'meeting'.



Marlene off again

During the last month, Marlene Reiffel sent an e-mail to Zonta with her itinerary for the next 6 months. It seems she will be travelling for most of the first half of this year .



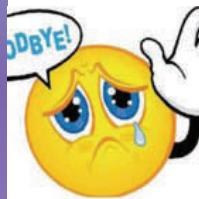
Eunice drops in

It was lovely to see Eunice Shearer again on her brief return to Australia and hear of her work and travels in China. PJ hosted a lunch for members on Saturday 19th December, with the usual Zonta food flair, to say hello and thanks to Eunice for the work she does each month as our newsletter Editor. In February Eunice is off again to visit some Chinese friends in their villages in northern China to celebrate the Chinese New Year with them. Jan McKinnon was co-guest-of-honour as we took this opportunity to farewell her at the same time.



Jan says Goodbye

December was also a time to say farewell to Jan McKinnon who, with Ron her husband, has decided to move to the cooler climes of Mt Tamborine and buy a home there. Jan will still be in touch and will keep visiting her family and friends here. But we will miss her ready smile and her willingness to 'get stuck in' whenever needed. Good luck to you.





Photos from Planning Day, 2010





Getting around town

9



10



Key to photos (names from left to right)

1. Sharon, Pam, Kay
2. (top) Robyn, Sandii (bottom) Carole, Michelle
3. Sue
4. Connie, Cath
5. Annie, Sue, Suzie
6. Roz, Michelle, Sandii
7. Noelene, Kerry, Marie
8. Kerry, Wendy, Guus
9. Guus & vehicular friend in Country Road
10. Ann & Wendy at the Sailing Club

WHAT: FILM EVENING "MOOLAADE"

2 hour feature film.

WHEN: THURSDAY NIGHT 28TH JANUARY ARRIVE 6PM, DINNER SERVED 6.30 PM, FILM STARTS 7.30PM

WHERE: CONNIES HOUSE - 14 NARA AVENUE AIRLIE BEACH

WHAT TO BRING: YOUR OWN WINE GLASS, SPECTACLES TO READ THE SUBTITLES, FOOD OR WINE ACCORDING TO THE ROSTER THAT ROZ WILL ORGANIZE ON PLANNING DAY

DATE CLAIMERS

28 January - Film Night

13 February - Clothes Swap

17-18 April - Relay for Life

3 February – Board Meeting

18 February - General meeting

7 March – International Women's Day Brunch

11 Sept – Healthy Lifestyle Expo 2010

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