



OCTOBER 2011

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello everyone

What a brilliant weekend we have just had with the Expo! The cocktail party was immensely successful, very relaxed and congenial atmosphere. Our guest speakers Claire Dulieu, Mark Bell, & our very own, Christina, were the perfect presenters to open up our Healthy Lifestyle weekend. There was an amazing sense of "healthy community and lifestyle" in the room and the catering provided by the Airlie Beach Hotel was superb. It was fabulous to see so many Zonta members there supporting the event (and how very nice was it to be waited on too!!)

Sitting on the Zonta Membership stand, I could not get over the positive vibe in the hall and the amount of networking and connection with exhibitors and community members! We had so much interest in our "birthing kit" display, with an actual kit present with information pamphlets. People were just amazed and asked so many questions; the new cafe owners at Myrtle Creek want to display one so that they can fund raise to support next year's project!

Our aim was to put on a "community event" and I believe this Expo was the best ever! I know you will all join me in congratulating the Steering committee Connie, Roz & Sue, the media committee crew, the catering committee extraordinaire, the muscle men, and all you, our volunteers on the day! It was fantastic to see the entire club get behind and support this event. We not only achieved putting on a very professional and well run show, we successfully raised our profile in the community with the lead up to the weekend with all of the media, the brochures and flyers, the cocktail party as well as on the day. It gave us a forum to connect with the wider part of the community and let them know "what we do". We gained so much more than the "number of people" through the door. I have no doubt that we will benefit from our raised profile in the community, which will last longer than the weekend. The networking amongst all of the like minded people that participated and attended will be on going for the Whitsundays to continue towards a "Healthy lifestyle"! WELL DONE EVERYONE!!!

Cheers, Sandii

Zonta Club of the Whitsundays

Contact Details

President - Sandii Hansen: famhans2@bigpond.net.au

President Elect - Angela Spicer: angelaspicer39@gmail.com

Vice President - Connie Riley: lesterandconnie@bigpond.com

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Reef Talk Editors - P.J. Halter/Jill Harland: Zontaclub7@hotmail.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Coffee Morning

Do you want to know more?
You are invited to join the Zonta Club of The Whitsundays
For Tea / Coffee and Fellowship

Saturday, 22 October

9.30am

Coffee Club

For your opportunity to meet with members of Zonta and get a better understanding of how we work together to raise the status of women globally and fun whilst doing so.....

RSVP Michelle on 0400 334 474 or Zontaclub7@hotmail.com

Members – please join us for a chat and meet and greet prospective members.

The more of us that attend, the better

It won't take much more than an hour and an excuse for a coffee and a chat is ALWAYS good!



DATE CLAIMERS

***Please put these dates on your calendar as there will not be a newsletter in November ***

- 13th October - Birthing Kits Assembly Day - Proserpine High School – Contact Wendy
 - 17 October – Board Meeting – 5.30 – Janet Keppke’s
 - 19 October – Books from Birth – 1.00 – 3.00 – Judy Brett’s
 - 20 October - General Meeting – 6.15 for 6.30 start – Reef Gateway
 - 22 October – Membership Committee/Meet & Greet Potential members – 9.30 AM – Coffee Club
 - 26 October – Last Wednesday Book Club – 5.00 – contact Kerry Kenyon
 - 27 October – TAFE Christmas Party – contact Cath Fernbach
 - 7 November – Board Meeting – 5.30 -
 - 16 November – Books from Birth – 1.00 – 3.00 – Judy Brett’s
 - 17 November - General Meeting – 6.15 for 6.30 start – Reef Gateway
 - 29 November – Last Wednesday Book Club – 5.00 – contact Kerry Kenyon
- Christmas Party/Progressive Dinner: The date will be determined and head count taken at the next General Meeting.



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SERVICE:

Garden Report: Noelene, Angela, Warren (Angela's husband) Kerrie and I finally installed the vegetable gardens at Proserpine State School today (Tuesday 4th October). It was a lovely warm sunny day. We arrived just after 11am. Parnell's had already delivered the garden beds and they were already in place waiting for us. Plants Whitsunday followed me into Proserpine with the truck load of soil and the plants so everything was ready when we were all there.

Grade two was assigned to help us, but unfortunately the soil had to be dropped a little distance from the beds so we had to transfer it into the beds. The teachers organized for several students from grade seven to barrow it over for us. Once the soil had all been put into the gardens the grade two children came back and helped plant the seedlings. We planted lettuce, tomatoes, silver beet, shallots, bok choy, parsley, basil, eggplant, capsicum and corn. We then watered all the plants with Seasol then gave them a good start. We finally placed sugarcane mulch all around the plants. The children promised us that they would look after the plants and would water them each morning. It was a very pleasant day. **Judy Brown, Chair Healthy Lifestyle Expo**
Twitter: Well, the 2011 Expo is now done and dusted. So many of us were involved and a big thank you for a job well done to the Media Committee, the food committee, the garden committee, the membership committee and all the Zonta members who worked so hard on the day. A special thank you to Annie who, as usual, did a fabulous job as MC and Angela who took over from Annie later in the afternoon.

I know that I, for one, thoroughly enjoyed the expo and really enjoyed the few information sessions that I had time to attend. Thanks to Connie once again for her absolutely superb organization. There was a steady flow of people through the door all day and most of all, our exhibitors were very pleased with the day. It was so nice to see that many of our members (and partners) went home with exciting raffle prizes!!!

The Friday night cocktail party was a huge success and, judging by the noise level in the room, everyone had a great time. Tim, the ABH executive chef, did a marvellous job with the food which was just delicious and featured our wonderful Whitsunday local fresh produce. Thanks to Christina, Claire Dulieu and Mark Bell for their interesting talks.

Connie, Sue and I feel as though we achieved our objective of providing an affordable, fun and informative community event for the general public, as well as offering businesses, along with government and service organizations an opportunity to acquaint the Whitsunday community with the healthy products, services and activities available in our local area. **Connie, Roz and Sue, your Expo team.**

Kidney Health Australia Exhibitor:

A total of 8 individuals registered as organ donors during the event. At least 10 others took forms and information to register on line. \$81.25 was raised through "Guess the jelly beans in the jar" competition won by Jan Paterson and the number was 426. \$40 went to Zonta and the remainder to Kidney Health. The free red frogs were extremely popular and caused many more people to stop at the stall that may otherwise have walked by! Lots of information was given out about kidney health and a letter to kidney health has been sent detailing the success of the day. Focus on giving information to women on UTI's and urinary tract health was pushed and successfully delivered.

Jesse Brett





REPORTS

DISTRICT CONFERENCE:

**What a fabulous conference we had in Brisbane on the 23rd-25th September. It is nice to be able to put faces to names and meet and talk to those on our District Board as well as other Zonta members. It was also good to meet a representative from the Zonta International Board. We were privileged to have ZI president elect Lynn McKenzie (from New Zealand) attend the conference. She gave us an overview of how our funds that are sent to ZI are spent.

Our shirts, which we all wore on the Saturday, started many conversations. We had lots of ladies come up and say how nice they looked and ask where we got them from. We certainly had loads of fellowship and I would recommend anyone who can attend a workshop or conference to do so. I have learnt so much about Zonta on a local, national and international level by attending. Judy Brown

**In accordance with the theme of the Conference, *Vital, Visible, Viable*, on Sat. afternoon we broke into workshops about our visibility in the community, remaining viable through membership growth and diversity and staying vital through communication and leadership. I, obviously, attended the "Viable" workshop: Focus on membership. We brainstormed at round tables about our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis). We then worked on developing strategies "to raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination" to quote Albert Einstein. Sounds like hours of discussion, right? Nah, we only had 1 hour total!! Not nearly enough time but a good challenge. P.J.

**Hi everyone, I thought I would put a few words together about the conference. I was simply amazed at how "like minded" we Zontians are, from being a member of our very own club right through to ZI President elect Lynn McKenzie. Lynn sat up at the official table and freely offered advice and her expertise to the District Board, jumped up and typed up a motion when needed, made sure the sound system was working, adjusted the microphones for the speakers, a simply amazing and inspiring woman who is an ordinary member of Zonta in New Zealand!

Highlights for me were: Lynn's keynote presentation and photos of her visit to Liberia raising our awareness of the Zonta International Service Program: Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality and Morbidity in Liberia. It reaffirmed to me how valuable our yearly contribution to Zonta International really is. Watch this space, we will most definitely be utilising the resources available to us from the ZI website to present at general meetings.

The Service and Advocacy projects that some of the clubs presented on the second day, so many clubs are doing such great things in their own communities, you certainly come away very inspired! Presentations were: *The Millennium Generation; Our Vital Future,* Enlighten Education – Bowen club,* Rise – Caloundra Club,* No Place 4 Harm – Paradise Point Club,* LOVE BITES – Maryborough Club.

We have a date claimer for our next Area meeting to be held in Townsville 14th – 15th April 2012, I certainly would recommend that you think about attending. Sandii

** My first! I was only able to attend the Saturday and evening (apparently missed out on some terrific speakers on Friday and shopping and walking the areas of Brisbane!) The presentations given by three young awardees were, to say the least, inspiring and left myself and, I am sure many others, wondering why we do so little for community and how much are these three women going to achieve in their lifetime.

Giselle Newton, YWPA District 22 recipient 2010-2011, a student of Lismore High School with a career path in international aid, humanitarian work, diplomacy and international relations and intends volunteering in her gap year in Africa. Giselle told us of her involvement with various community projects such as Reclaim the Night, a march to protest about sexual violence against women.

Jade Denmar, JMK District 22 Recipient 2010-2011. Jade is in her third year of Business Management with further studies in International relations and Mandarin. She also speaks Spanish. Her experiences living in Asia and volunteering in Cambodia and completing a semester of study at Beijing University have determined her intentions to be competitive in the world of business

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Onvaree Techakesari, Amelia Earhart for 2nd time. Citizenship: Thailand. Onvaree moved to Australia to complete her undergraduate and doctoral education in aerospace studies. She is investigating two problems in future air traffic management concepts with increased levels of automation; system performance and maintenance of high levels of safety. Her experimental work on pilotless planes will lead to them

being used in many ways, particularly flying into dangerous zones such as bush fires and the aftermath of catastrophes.

Wonderful women setting out to achieve wonderful things with the assistance of Zonta.

Judy Brett

ORGANISATION, MEMBERSHIP & CLASSIFICATION:

Badges for our men: Many of us have badges (done in Annie's time as President) for our support team – our husbands/partners. I'd been thinking about ordering them again and brought it up to some of the Expo 'muscle men'. Discussion amongst them ensued and the consensus was they'd like to have a name tag with something like "Friends of Zonta" instead of the current ones. I throw this open to you for discussion/suggestions. The cost would be about \$10 for magnetic back badge. It might be nice to hold a special event to present them to our 'support team'. Let me know what you think.

Always remembering that membership is the responsibility of all members, I have read a lot of great ideas from the last Zonta International newsletter and the District Conference about retaining and recruiting new members. Many we are all ready doing, some we could improve upon and others are new (to me) ideas.

- How about "March is membership Madness Month" to follow our successful International Woman's Days Brunch?
- Targeting certain professions to recruit from by developing a "Wanted List"?
- Zonta history lessons presented at meetings?

Regularly scheduled coffee chats or happy hours to socialize between existing members but also to ask all of us to bring along a guest who may be interested in joining Zonta?

Please speak to Michelle or me or email us and let us know what you think and how you'd like to help.

P.J., Director OMC

Books from Birth:

Things are starting to happen!

We have about 150 books donated, with many boxes still to arrive from Hamilton Island Library (thanks Pammie and Jenni). They range from hardback books for babies to first readers for school age. Several private offers and Op shop books have come in with several offers to come after the Expo.

The committee has been meeting every two weeks and have established the nitty gritty of forms, labels, postage, packaging, signage and where and when to ask for books.

Our main task is to cover and parcel up at least one box of books at our next meeting. We need as many hands on deck and books as possible.

Please come and help for as little or as long as you can. If you are unable to make the meeting but would like to help, we can find a box of books for you to take home and cover at your leisure!

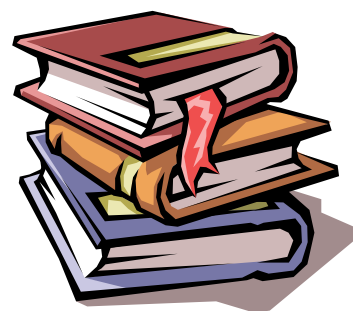
I will be going along to Bowen Zonta group on Wednesday 12th October to talk Books from Birth!

We will be taking an empty box to Zonta meeting each month and hopefully filling it, please ask anyone you know to donate and I will always collect if local.

It will be sooooo exciting when we actually send that first box

Judy Brett, Chair

Reef Talk | October 2011



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UNDER UNITED NATIONS/ADVOCACY:

Africa's first female President & Liberian Peace activist honoured:

Women share Nobel Peace Prize:

OSLO: the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberian peace activist Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman of Yemen for their work on women rights.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee last night honoured the three women "for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work."

Karman is a 32 year old mother of three who heads the human rights group Women Journalists without Chains. She has been a leading figure in organising protests against President Ali Abdullah Saleh as part of a wave of anti-authoritarian revolts that have convulsed the Arab world. "I give the prize to the youth of revolution in Yemen and the Yemini people" Karman told the Associated press.

Ms Johnson Sirleaf, 72, is a Harvard-trained economist who became Africa's first democratically elected female president in 2005 and was seen as a reformer and peacemaker in Liberia when she took office.

Liberian peace activist Leymah Gbowee, organised a group of Christian and Muslim women to challenge Liberia's warlords. In 2009 she won a Profile in Courage Award, an honour named for a 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book written by John F Kennedy, for her work in emboldening women in Liberia.

Submitted by: Robyn Mitchell.

Also from Robyn & originally published in The Guardian, UK:

The Taliban are uniquely harsh oppressors of Afghan women

Afghanistan has a long history of honour killings and honour mutilation, going back before the Taliban period and continuing until today. They occur in every part of the country and are not confined to the culture of the Pashtun, the ethnic group from which most Taliban come.

Women are brutalised by a tribal custom for settling disputes known *asbaad*, which treats young girls as voiceless commodities. They are offered in compensation to another family, often to an elderly man, for unpaid debts or if a member of that family has been killed by a relative of the girl.

On the wider issue of gender rights, the Taliban are rightly accused of relegating Afghan women to second-class citizenship. But to single the Taliban out as uniquely oppressive is not accurate. Violence against women has a long pedigree in all communities in Afghanistan, among the Shia Hazara and the northern Tajiks, as well as the Sunni Pashtun.

Underage marriage is common across Afghanistan, and among all ethnic groups. According to Unifem (the United Nations Development Fund for Women) and the Afghan independent human rights commission, 57% of Afghan marriages are child marriages – where one partner is under the age of 16. In a study of 200 underage wives, 40% had been married between the ages of 10 and 13, 32.5% at 14, and 27.5% at 15. In many communities, women are banned from leaving the house or family compound. This leads to a host of other disabilities. Women are not allowed to take jobs. Girls are prevented from going to school. In the minds of western politicians and the media, these prohibitions are often associated exclusively with the Taliban. Yet the forced isolation of women by keeping them confined is a deep-seated part of Afghan rural culture. It is also found in poorer parts of the major cities.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE REPORT CONTINUED

Funds contributed from District 22 to International Foundation is a total of US \$149,476.35. Our District ranks 3rd in the world for contributions across all areas. We rank #1 in contributions to ZISVAW (ZONTA INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROGRAM). Congratulate yourself for a job well done!

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Before...(the white shirts were a hit)



And After - our girls look great no matter what!



Boogie Baby Sandii



Duck, Duck, GOOSE!

The Hostess with the Mostest!



Reef Talk | October 2011



Proserpine State School garden beds



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MEMBER PROFILE: I was born in Frankston, Victoria, the third daughter of a family of five girls and one boy. We all attended the local Primary School followed by the local High School. After completing Year 10 (Intermediate), I worked in a Delicatessen until I was able to start my training as a Mothercraft Nurse at St. Gabriel's Babies Home in Balwyn Victoria. While training I met my husband Carl.

After completing my training I worked at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne in the Neonatal Ward. I really loved working with the premature and very sick babies. I left nursing when Carl and I married, then twelve months later, Carl joined the RAAF and we moved to Amberley, Qld. This was the first of many postings in his 21 years of service. We had three children, one son and two daughters. Clifford (the eldest) is married and has two adorable children. He is in the RAAF and is based at Tindal in the NT. Our two daughters Yvonne and Julia are still single and living and working in Sydney.

Once all the children were at school I went back to work as a Mothercraft Nurse in a New Childcare centre in NSW (where we were posted at the time). Then we were posted back to Amberley and I discovered that my qualifications were not accepted in Qld. I managed to get relief work in a childcare centre and part time work in a Preschool/Kindergarten. I up graded my qualifications and continued to work in the kindergarten/Preschool for 12 years.

In 2003, I finished work and moved to the Whitsundays. We bought 2.5 acres at Riordanvale and built our home. The first few years flew by as we were busy establishing the gardens etc. An acquaintance invited me to a craft group which turned out to be the ADAFU Blanket club. I met Carole there and was invited to a Zonta meeting. Being in Zonta has enabled me to become involved in the community in many ways and I look forward to many more years as a Zontian. **Judy Brown**



MEMBER NEWS:

Hello Zontians: Most of you will know by now that I have returned to Canberra. I was unable to be at the September meeting and regret that I couldn't thank you all in person. Thank you for your friendship over the last eight months. My special thanks go to Sandii, Carole, Wendy, Janet, Jill and PJ. I have really appreciated the warmth and kindness you have shown me. I think that is what makes Zonta Whitsunday special. I will miss you all. **Sharon McInnes**

