

Next Dinner Meeting

Monday

11 September

Pre-Dinner nibbles 6pm

Committee Meetings 6.15pm

Dinner 7.30pm –9.00pm

At

Terraces on Wickham

(Goodearth)

(Ground Floor)

Cost \$32.00 each

\$5 Meeting only

Apologies to

Jill Hedley

Thursday 7 September

3279 2096 (H)

After hours

In absence on an apology an invoice for \$27.50 will be sent to all non-attending members.

**Roster Committee for September:
Public Relations & Communication**

PRESIDENT'S PATTERN

My apologies for not producing a newsletter for July, so there is a little catching up to do and some of this news will be old news for some members. However, it is good to have such positive news from everyone.

Breast Cushions: Our last workshop was a very busy one thanks to the efforts of Bev Farley, Roz, Margaret Casey, Claire Gardiner, Lyn P, Jill Hedley and Jo Diesel. Honzon, Pat cut out some 60 cushions and we had 20 that were filled and ready to hand sew and wrap thanks to Jo and her family. At the end of the session we had 30+ cushions ready to go to the Mater Hospital with Jill kindly offering to deliver on the Monday. Our next workshop is scheduled for the last Sunday in August at the Papa residence with the September workshop to be held at Jo's workplace at Mt Gravatt in conjunction with some members of the Logan Zonta Club. They are keen to be part of the project and there will be lots of sewing and filling to be done. We are looking forward to getting some free filling which has been donated by Tontine and will be delivered to a central location in Brisbane. This donation came out of the article in New Idea and is very welcomed.

Antique Fair: Our Antique Fair was a great success due to the amazing efforts of Denise and Heather and some dealers have already booked for next year. The feedback has been tremendous and the monetary reward for the club a great boost. Our members really put in an extra effort to ensure that everyone was well looked after and that is what keeps dealers and the general public coming back. Thanks also to Logan Club members for their support and HonZon Tracy & son and Sue from Brisbane West.

Prague Zonta President: The reports from the members able to attend the small dinner for the President of the Zonta Club of Prague was that everyone had a great night. Beulah advises that Meluska was enthralled by the evening but may think that all our club members have spectacular views like Bronwyn's. Our thanks to Bronwyn her family for once again opening up her home for our club.

Lynn Callander

Miluska Vrzackova, President of Zonta Club Praha Bohemia, Czech Republic visited Australia to attend a Convention in Melbourne. They took advantage of being in Australia by adding a tour of Australia after the convention. They travelled to Sydney, Alice Springs and to the Great Barrier Reef. They spent a few days in Fiji before flying into Brisbane on 16th July to spend a few days in Brisbane before returning to Prague. Miluska works as a manager in attorney-at-law office and George is a tax driver in his own firm. They have been married for 27 years and have two children a daughter Kveta and a son George. They are both lawyers. They are also proud grandparents of a lovely grandchild by their daughter Kveta. Our Club has supported the Prague Club in the past and were delighted to host a small get together while they were in Brisbane. Brown Campbell and her husband offered their magnificent unit to host the evening of good cheer and discussion that occurred on the night of the 17th July. Miluska and her husband were thrilled with the warmth and hospitality they received that night. Gifts were exchanged and Miluska and her husband invited all Zontians to visit her in Prague. Thanks to everyone who made the night a success, especially Bronwyn, Greg and their family.



CARE INTERNATIONAL
Education and Leadership for
Girls and Young Women in
Bolivia

PROJECT FOCUS

Women's Education, Health, and
Economic Self-Sufficiency
2006-2008 FUNDING
Provided by the Zonta
International Foundation,
International Service Fund:
US\$250,000

Bolivia is the second-poorest country in the Western Hemisphere (behind Haiti), with 60 percent of its population living in poverty. Many children work in the informal sector to help support themselves and their families, yet they are poorly paid, highly vulnerable, uneducated, and exposed to dangerous work conditions. Girls often forego school to be at home, caring for siblings and taking on household tasks.

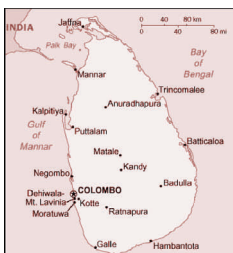


United Nations Industrial
Development Organisation
(UNIDO)

Support for Revival of Rural
Community-based Self Help
Initiatives in Sri Lanka

Project Focus: Women's
Economic Self-Sufficiency
2006-2008 Funding:
US\$250,000

The Tsunami Disaster in December 2004 caused severe damage to the economic and social structures in Sri Lanka.



Women in the Northern Regions have traditionally engaged in various productive and trading activities such as production of spices (curry powder, chilli powder, etc.)

for cooking, chicken farming, cattle and vegetable farming, goat farming, pottery, tailoring, and "art and crafts." They are major agricultural workers in subsistent farming and they sell their merchandise to traders who send the products to bigger markets.

A number of families became female-headed households because of conflict and the Tsunami, and the burden on women has become substantial. As members of female-headed households, they face an uphill battle to survive and raise their children.¹ The high number of female-headed households and widows characterizes the poverty in the North and East Regions of Sri Lanka.

Australia's Response to
FGM

As a signatory to a number of international conventions dealing with womens' and children's rights, the Australian Commonwealth Government in partnership with the states and territories has committed to a National Education Program on FGM (NEPFGM), which aims to prevent the occurrence of FGM in Australia through an emphasis on community education, information and support. **Specific legislation banning FGM has been enacted in all States and Territories bar Queensland and Western Australia, where legislation against FGM relies on the Criminal Code in relation to assault.** In those states where legislation has been passed penalties of up to 7 years imprisonment apply to persons convicted of intentionally performing FGM, or for taking or arranging for a child (defined as a person under 18 years of age) out of a jurisdiction for the purpose of performing FGM. Exceptions are made in the case of medical procedures that have a 'genuine therapeutic purpose'.

FGM affects births

The first comprehensive study of the effects of female genital mutilation on women and babies during childbirth has been published by leading medical journal, *The Lancet*.

The study, which provides the first reliable evidence that female genital mutilation can adversely affect birth outcomes, was undertaken by African and international researchers, including Associate Professor Emily Banks from the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at ANU.

It involved 28,393 women in 28 obstetric centres in six countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan.

The study found that women who have had Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) are significantly more likely to experience difficulties during childbirth and that their babies are more likely to die as a result of the practice. Complications include the need to have a caesarean section, dangerously heavy bleeding after the birth of the baby and prolonged hospitalisation following the birth.

The degree of complications increased according to the extent and severity of the FGM.

According to the WHO, FGM is a common practice in a number of countries around the world, and over 100 million women and girls are estimated to have had FGM. The study used a three level scale set out by the WHO on FGM severity.

In the case of caesarean section, women who have the most severe form of FGM will have on average 30 per cent more C-sections compared with those who have not had any FGM. Women affected by severe FGM are 70 per cent more likely to suffer haemorrhage after birth.

Joy Phumaphi, the Assistant Director General, Family and Community Health at the WHO, which organised the study, said: "We should not underestimate the significance of this study. For the first time we have the evidence that deliveries among women who have been subject to FGM are significantly more likely to be complicated and dangerous. (Australian National University)

FGM has become an issue in Australia as a result of migration. There is no documented evidence that FGM is practised in Australia; however substantial numbers of anecdotal accounts exist.

DATE CLAIMERS

Sunday 27 August—Breast Cushion working bee at Lyn Papa's home 9.30am
Monday 28 August—Board Meeting—6.30pm
Saturday 2 September—High Tea & Fashion—3.30pm Brisbane River Club
8th September—Zonta Literacy Day—
Monday 11 September—Dinner Meeting
Friday 22 September—Brisbane South Theatre Night—Educating Rita \$30pp
Sunday 24 September—Breast Cushion bee at Mt Gravatt
Sunday 27 August—Car Rally by Southern Gold Coast Club—