

GPO Box 3060 Brisbane 4001

Charter Number 1235—13 March 1989

July 2008

CONVENTION—ROTTERDAM 2008

Next Dinner Meeting Monday 11 August

Pre-Dinner nibbles 6pm
Committee Meetings 6.15pm
Dinner 7.30pm –9.30pm
At

Terraces

Wickham Tce
(Ground Floor)

Cost \$32.00 each
\$5 Meeting only

Apologies to
Margaret Casey
Friday 5 August
39070845

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



Jill Hedley Denise Conroy and Ros Kinder, Brisbane East's representatives at the Convention in Rotterdam. Hear more stories at the August meeting.

Reflections on Rotterdam

By Jill Hedley

Arriving at Rotterdam station encumbered by **the luggage** which had been steadily increasing in weight during two months of travelling around Europe, we encountered our first problem –stairs.

With some difficulty we found a service elevator which took us into a subway and thence to a taxi rank.

We discovered later that Rotterdam Central Station is being redeveloped. Access for suitcases on wheels is not at present a priority!

Emerging from the station my companions took one taxi to their hotel and I set of in another for my allotted Hotel.

Fortunately the lady taxi driver spoke excellent English or I may have

felt that I was being kidnapped or hijacked or something as we kept on driving and driving. She did remark that it was a very nice hotel as she delivered me to my country residence. It was indeed a very comfortable establishment but well away from the convention venue.

Obviously commuting by taxi was too expensive to be considered so with directions from the obliging staff at the hotel and a piece of paper on which was written the number and destinations of the tram I set off to find the convention venue.

This proved to be a steep learning curve for me as I do not speak any Dutch at all. However the tram conductors were very helpful and before the week was out I became quite adept at travelling around Rotterdam.

There were several other Zontians at the hotel and we formed a sort of mutual aid group and this proved to be one way to make new friends.

One of the best things about convention is the opportunity to meet

women from all over the world and hear their stories.

Despite this inauspicious start I did enjoy the convention on the whole. Positive aspects for me included the opening ceremony.

The flag parade is always impressive and reminds us of the number of countries where Zonta is to be found. Listening to the reports of International projects puts a lot of things into perspective for me.

There is so much to be done to improve the circumstances of women in so many countries that any thing we can do is just a drop in the bucket.

Convention closed with a wonderful concert given by the Rotterdam Orchestra - pity about the buffet. In fact the less said about of the organisation of the buffets at the social the events the better!

I will leave the saga of leaving Rotterdam station with luggage to another day but I do hope their revamped station includes ramps and/or lifts.

DISTINGUISHED QUEENSLANDER RETURNS HOME TO SERVE AS 25TH GOVERNOR

Her Majesty the Queen has agreed to the appointment of Ms Penelope Wensley, AO, BA (Hons I), Hon.DPhil (Qld) as the next Governor of Queensland.

Premier Anna Bligh, who made the announcement at Parliament House today, said Ms Wensley was a distinguished Queenslander who had made her mark on the world stage.

"Ms Wensley's extensive diplomatic career has seen her represent our country at the highest level and with distinction – and I am delighted she will become Queensland's next Governor," Ms Bligh said.

"Born in Toowoomba and a First Class Honours graduate of the University of Queensland, Ms Wensley has most recently served as the Australian Ambassador to France since 2005.

"Prior to this, Ms Wensley served as Australia's High Commissioner to India and immediately prior to this was Australia's first female Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, where she played an important role in international peace and security, economic and social issues and humanitarian affairs and development.

"And now this outstanding Queenslander is coming home to serve our State," she said.

Ms Bligh said she believed Ms Wensley's international experience would bring an important global perspective to the role of Governor of Queensland.

"Our future as a State rests in a global context," Ms Bligh said.

"We now operate in a truly global economy where international relations play a crucial role in the prosperity of our State.

"Ms Wensley was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2001 for her service to the development of Australia's international relations and I welcome her extensive experience in this area," she said.

"But beyond that, I also believe her dedication to social welfare, human rights and humanitarian and environmental issues will make her a warm and compassionate Governor for all Queenslanders.

"In her role as UN Ambassador, Ms Wensley made a significant contribution to the global fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS, and also has a keen interest in the advancement of Indigenous Australians, particularly through art.

Ms Bligh said Ms Wensley had made it clear to her that her heart had always remained here in Queensland, where much of her and her husband's family remain today.

"Ms Wensley and her husband, Stuart McCosker – a veterinary surgeon - have a very proud and distinguished Queensland heritage and have owned property on the Sunshine Coast hinterland for more than two decades," Ms Bligh said.

"Her parents, Neil and Doris, met at the University of Queensland. Doris graduated and tutored at UQ and Neil went on to become a chemical engineer and defence/munitions expert for the Department of Defence, which saw the family move to the UK following World War II.

"Four generations of the Wensley family have graduated from UQ and Ms Wensley was the first woman to receive the UQ Alumnus of the Year Award in 1994.

"Mr McCosker's family have owned and run a Sunshine Coast dairy and fruit farm since the 1930's, which his family still own today."

Ms Wensley and Mr McCosker have two adult daughters who are both lawyers.

Ms Bligh acknowledged the contribution of Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC, who will retire from office on 29 July 2008.

"Ms Bryce has carried out her duties over the past five years with great distinction and has brought a great deal of humanity and compassion to the high office of Governor.

"She has been a passionate advocate for the rights of women and children and I know she will be an outstanding Governor-General for all Australians," she said.

Ms Wensley was sworn in as the 25th Governor of Queensland on 29 July 2008 at a ceremony at Parliament House.

DATE CLAIMERS

Help Wanted

Antique & Collectible Fair
Sunday 17 August 2008
10am opening
Jindalee State School