



OCTOBER 2015

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Conference is now a matter of days, not weeks, away. Noelene and her conference committee have done a sterling job in organizing our end of the conference so adeptly. It is now time to enjoy the inspiration we will receive, the knowledge we will gain and the fun and friendship that this conference will bring. It is with great pleasure that I can announce that in the last week, 2 more of our members have registered for conference. Odette, who has now found that she will be in town after all, and Joanne who is flying in for the weekend. (It will be party time at Ann's house no doubt). That means now that 34 out of our 38 members are attending conference. Very impressive!! Hope you have all been onto our District 22 conference facebook page. Cath has been doing a fantastic job with this.

There is life after conference, however. We still have our October general meeting at Christina's beefalo farm to enjoy with special guest speaker, Beryl Anderson, from the CWA talking about rural women and the role of the CWA, and Christina talking to us about her farming methods. It will be a lovely change from our regular meeting format at Reef Gateway and hopefully a good unwind and a great celebration of international rural women's day. Thank you so much to Christina for organizing this night for us.

Also at the end of October, we will be doing birthing kits at both St Catherine's and Proserpine High School - 800 all up!! The birthing kits project is once again being run by our very capable Wendy, who has her team well and truly organized.

A big congratulations to the membership committee who organized a most successful information night at Waterline on Shingley in September. Our directors, Maxine, Kerrie and Sandii all gave excellent presentations about the great work we do as a club in our local and global community and the skit at the end of the evening absolutely stole the show. Well done, Sandii, our membership director and MC, Sue, our membership chair and the wonderful membership committee. I think we will definitely get a good result from the night with new members joining.

Maxine explained advocacy very well at the membership night. It can be a word which can stump people especially when they first join Zonta. Zonta empowers women through service and advocacy. Service is easy for everybody - it simply means helping others but what exactly is advocacy? It means to strongly support, work to influence opinion like our Zonta says No to Violence road sign. I am thinking of some of our motions for conference and the workshops we will be holding over conference weekend. Our Zonta club can advocate to achieve really worthwhile changes which empower women and girls by working together as combined district clubs and by engaging with decision making bodies like State and Federal Government and the United Nations.

*Roz Jennings, President*



## CONFERENCE

We welcome our special guests, Sally Bean Zonta International Liaison Officer, Dr Marilyn Waring, respected human rights speaker, Val Sarah Centenary Anniversary Endowment Campaign, Dot Patrick Z.I. Foundation Ambassador, Emma Tait YWPA District Winner 2014, Birthing Kit Rep, Jenny Weaver. We look forward to meeting you.

This was copied straight from our District 22 Facebook page. if you would like to see more of the events happening at the conference do checkout our Facebook page....just Google Zonta District 22 Conference. *Cath Fernbach, Media*



We welcome Sally Bean Director 21. Zonta Club of Janesville USA who will speak at District 22 Conference in October.

Ms. Bean works as HR Manager for Ecolab. Sally Joined Zonta in 1991 and was Board Director at the University of Wisconsin and Whitewater Foundation National Chair for Ecolab women's network during 2012-2014. Her interests include travel, volunteering, musical theatre and reading.



Speaking at the Zonta District 22 Conference will be Dr. Marilyn Waring (Phd. Political Economy Uni Waikato NZ.) Currently she is Professor of Public Policy AUT University (NZ). Dr Waring has been an active feminist for 40 years, working to make changes within society at government level. Dr Waring is an Honorary member of Zonta International.



We are fortunate to have Katherine Webber speaking at our conference. Katherine is the Programme Specialist of the Port Moresby Safe Cities Programme with UN Women Papua New Guinea. She has worked with a range of government and non-government programs to address social issues and achieve results, including in local and state government social planning and community development in Australia and the Pacific.

**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:**





## A great big thank you !!

What seemed like “a good idea at the time” has certainly had its moments over the last 2 years.

There have been plenty of “ups and downs” in that time but now the conference is here and I am sure it will be terrific.

It would not have been possible without a lot of hard work and my thanks go to all those members who have helped in some way with the organisation necessary.

I will give a more detailed report after the conference, but for now thanks again for your support and enjoy the conference.

The Friday afternoon session for ‘first timers’ will be beneficial to those concerned and you will meet Zontians from all over Queensland and hear some interesting guest speakers.

*Noelene Helman, Conference Committee chair*

### Birthing Kits Assembly Days in October

**"Every woman has a right to a safe and hygienic childbirth"**



A Zonta initiative that is close to our hearts are the Birthing Kits Project, ably led by Wendy Downes. These are Zonta's practical gift to women with few resources. In our case, it's a partnership between our Zonta club and local school children who assist in the packaging of materials and learn about community service at the same time.

Director, Birthing Kit Foundation Australia Jenny Weaver will be speaking at the District 22 Conference. We eagerly anticipate Jenny's presentation.

Cath Fernbach, Media

**28th & 29 October—Birth Kits Assembly—Contact Wendy Downes**

**St Catherine's Senior campus and Proserpine High schools**

## MEMBERSHIP

### **Knock Knock Dinner Parties:**

If anyone would like to host another dinner please email [zontaclub7@hotmail.com](mailto:zontaclub7@hotmail.com) and let me know your theme, the date, number of guests and cost. Our dinners have been hugely popular this year with themes so far being: fine dinner party; roast dinner with or without Tom Cruise; taste of India; 4th July; landlubbers and seafood and hostesses and guests have enjoyed them immensely.

**Information evening:** Congratulations to The Membership committee for organising another successful Information evening with many of guests registering their interest in finding out more about Zonta. The night was a great success with fantastic catering by all coordinated by Sue and our 3 directors giving a great overview of their portfolios! The finale "Different Lifestyles" coordinated by Mae (Mrs Hardup OBE and pregnant) and ably backed up by Mrs Average Maxine; Ms Career girl Pammie and Mrs Rich & Snobby Sandii was hilarious!



**Christmas Party:** will be held at Laura and Ron's home starting at 4pm on the 5th December. We have Angela & Steve as musicians. The theme will be Rock & Roll, which they are so good at. I'm sure that the members and partners will have a great time preparing their costumes & practising their steps from the good old days. We will send out an email as to who is able to come and it will be 'bring a plate', which we will organise once we know how many are coming.

➡ **Z Clubs:** The committee is going to take up the opportunity of doing presentations to St Catherine's Senior campus and Proserpine High schools on 28th and 29th October, coinciding with the Birthing Assembly days. This is a chance to talk to the kids directly about Z Clubs but also guiding them to facebook so they can do their own research! This will be followed up with the formal approach to the Principals of each school with information on how to start up a Z Club. The formation of a Z Club has to be driven by the school and we, as a Zonta Club, are responsible for their charter if the school decides to go ahead and for providing Zonta Liaison members to liaise with the clubs. We are very fortunate to have the Mackay Zonta clubs support with their expertise, along with Vassie Comino, Z Club and Golden Z Club, Chairman, District 22 presenting a workshop at the District a Conference.

Cheers Sandii Hansen, Director

## ADVOCACY

### OCTOBER IS A BUSY MONTH FOR INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION DAYS

October 15th is International Day of Rural Women; 17th is International Day for Eradication of Poverty and 24th is UN Day. As well as that, October is Sexual Violence Awareness month.

It is very fitting that we will be celebrating Rural Women with our General meeting this month at Christina's farm. We all live in Rural Queensland but some parts are more rural than others. I have just travelled the "loop" from here through Charters Towers, Hughenden, Winton, Longreach, Emerald and home. The rural people out there are doing it tough. There hasn't been rain to speak of since the floods of 2010-11. Our land is truly one of droughts and flooding rain. It is most often the women who keep these rural communities going and it was through this that the CWA was formed in Qld and NSW in 1922. It became a national entity (CWAA) in 1945. Our guest speaker for this month's meeting is a long standing member of the Proserpine CWA.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to eradicate poverty? However, this will never happen. Bob Hawke was very genuine when he uttered "that no child will live in poverty after 1990". Alas, there will always be the rich and there will always be the poor. Being a member of Zonta International gives us a chance to collectively help some of the world's poor and oppressed.

### UNITED NATIONS:

The Beijing +20 conference has just ended in New York. It is 20 years since 30,000 activists and 17,000 registered delegates descended on Beijing to discuss gender equality and women's rights. It was the UN's 4th World Conference on women. Dr Carmen Lawrence was our delegate. She said at the time, "We don't have long. We must accelerate our action for change." Hilary Clinton proclaimed, "Women's rights are human rights." Other prominent women at the conference were: Benazir Bhutto; Madeline Albright and Aung San Suu Kyi who sent a message via video. The collective message was clear and the aim unequivocal: "Gender equality and Gender Empowerment". The outcome of the conference was "The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action". It was signed by 189 nations including Australia and remains the most progressive blueprint ever for the advancement of women.

So - what happened? Why are we in some instances going backwards? Some statistics: Among 196 nations, only 10 have a female head of state and the number of women in parliament is minimal. (We just have to look at our recent past). Some 30 nations still have a law that places the man at the head of the household and 19 legally require the wife to "obey" the husband. 32 nations prohibit a woman getting a passport without the consent of a man and 100 nations have restrictions on what job a woman can do. Then there are those fundamentalists who decide how much of a woman's body can be seen and by whom. It is estimated that 200million women don't have access to contraception while one woman dies every 2 minutes in child birth.

In Australia, the issues are different but we are still a long way from gender equality. A good example is salary. We have actually fallen further behind men since 1995. Violence against women is getting worse as is murder of such victims.

So what is the problem? It is suggested that the answer may lie in the powerful backlash against women's equality being felt right around the world. And a diplomatic quagmire that has stymied any will to fight it. In Perth this month, Australia held its own Gender Equality Convention with such leaders as Dame Quentin Bryce and Dr. Carmen Lawrence. "Australian women have a long history that we should be proud of," Dame Quentin said. "We have had a significant and serious input into International discussions and global conferences which comes from a real generosity from the women of our country."

As there will not be any further scrutiny or re-jigging of the Beijing Platform for fear of rocking the boat so to speak (Ms Phumzile Miambo-Ngcuka-- head of UN Women), I find it reassuring that women like Dame Quentin, Rosie Batty and Natasha Stott Despoja are working on our behalf. Maybe Australia can lead the world in gender equality. (Summarised from an article by ABC reporter: Virginia Haussengger)

*Just a reminder: WCCS will hold their Walk against Sexual Violence again this year on Friday Oct 30th.*

Maxine Thiele, Director

### *The Pied Piper of Whitsunday Zonta*

A miracle happened at TAFE on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

A special Lunch was being prepared by the blossoming First Year chefs.

But where were the paying guests? Only 5 had booked a table!

By chance, a mother of one of the budding chefs, Athena, our newest Zontian, happened to hear this. She reported to her companions, "The Palmers Restaurant has bought the ingredients for lunch and a minimum of 10 more guests are needed to cover costs. Those students will be so disappointed if the lunch has to be cancelled. This is their first public trial. "

With only 2 hours to rally her new Zonta friends, she and her mobile went into action. She proved that "The age of miracles was far from dead." Eleven guests responded.

And what a great lunch it was. Happy diners gave their orders to the student waiters. The lunch was beautifully presented and tasted even better.

The diners wanted to honour the chefs. "Come show yourselves to us"

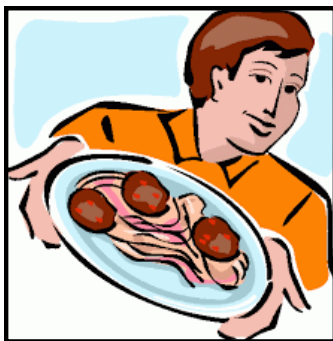
Yet, just one appeared. The Head of the Palmers kitchen staff knew how to thank a "Pied Piper". He popped his own tall white Chef's Hat onto a certain 15yr olds head and pushed him through the door into the Restaurant. This student beamed in surprise to see his mother amongst the 11 diners who had made it possible for them to prepare and cook the beautiful lunch. He had no idea that his mother was to be one of his diners.

And that was not all the excitement. The rest of the students lined up as a team and we were able to applaud them as well we should.

Then a last surprise. All the staff broke into animated applause such as we have never seen or heard before.

Zonta friends. We made a difference today. Miracles do happen. Joan Watson

Thanks Joan and Athena—we do  
KNOW how to support our  
community while having  
heaps of fun!



Did Athena and Joan just  
have too much fun at our  
Information Night?

## WOMEN WHO 'BECAME' MEN TO GET AHEAD—PART 2

### *Denis Smith, born Dorothy Lawrence*

In 1914, Dorothy Lawrence was an ambitious cub reporter with aspirations of becoming a war correspondent. Living in Paris when war was declared, she contacted numerous British newspapers offering her services but was turned down by them all, on account of her being a woman. The following year, and aged just 20, she flattened her figure using a corset, cut off her hair and used a razor blade on her face in the hope of giving herself razor burn. She learned how to move like a man and joined the ranks of the Royal Engineers under the name Denis Smith. She served for 10 days on the Western Front before her real identity was discovered. Lawrence's thinking had been that by going 'undercover' as a Tommy she would secure the access the editors doubted she could get as a female journalist. In 1919, though heavily censored by the War Office, Lawrence published *Sapper Dorothy Lawrence: The Only English Woman Soldier*, an account of her experience in France.

### *James Barry, born Margaret Ann Bulkley*

The story of Dr James Barry was only finally told in 2008. Barry was a pioneering surgeon for the British Army who died in 1865 after falling victim to dysentery. Shortly after his death, a maid tasked with preparing his body for burial claimed Barry was a woman. Army officials, appalled they could have been so badly fooled (and presumably particularly outraged they had been duped by a woman), locked away his medical records. In 2008, letters were found confirming Barry had in fact been born Margaret Ann Buckley, niece of James Barry, a professor of painting at the Royal Academy. Barry, living as a man, became the first biological woman to graduate with a medical degree, went on to have the highest recovery rate of patients treated during the Crimean War, and reportedly became the first surgeon in the then British Empire to successfully perform a caesarean section.



### *Christian Davies, born Christian 'Kit' Cavanagh*

Christian 'Kit' Cavanagh (born 1667 in Dublin) had no desire to join the Army as a youngster, but disguised herself as a man to do so after her husband disappeared, apparently to Holland with the British Army. After 13 years of searching, and having fought in battles, been wounded, captured, discharged and then having re-enlisted, she finally found Richard. Sadly, he was in a new relationship with another woman. Davies' secret was revealed after she suffered a fractured skull in combat, and she was discharged once again. She died in 1739 and was buried with full military honours. Her story was recently told in the BBC4 documentary [Harlots, Housewives and Heroines: A 17th Century History for Girls](#).



## October

- 6th—Joan Watson
- 12th— Sharon Rudinski
- 17th—Judy Brown
- 19th—Kim Britton
- 30th—Maxine Thiele

Zontians & Whitsunday  
Mayor Jennifer Whitney  
Walking for Suicide Prevention



Information/Membership  
Night was heaps of fun,  
with good food, good  
friends and new friends!





## Date Claimers

### OCTOBER

13th: Board Meeting

9th– 11<sup>th</sup>: District Conference

15th: General Meeting—Christina's Beefalo Farm - 6.15 for 6.30 start

22nd: Books From Birth— Judy Brett's—3pm—5pm

26th: Knitting Group—10 am—contact Carole Brauner

28th: Last Wednesday Book Club—5pm—Contact Kerry Kenyon

28th & 29th:—Birth Kits Assembly—Contact Wendy Downes

### DECEMBER

5<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Party – Morrison's – 4PM



### Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Contact Details

President: Roz Jennings: [peteandroz@bigpond.com](mailto:peteandroz@bigpond.com)

President Elect: Connie Riley: [lesterandconnie@bigpond.com](mailto:lesterandconnie@bigpond.com)

Vice President: Pam Graham: [pgraham9@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pgraham9@bigpond.net.au)

Past President: Noelene Helman: [helman@bigpond.com](mailto:helman@bigpond.com)

Secretary: Lesley Pratchett: [secretaryzontawhitsundays@hotmail.com](mailto:secretaryzontawhitsundays@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: Catherine Moscato: [catherinemoscato@hotmail.com](mailto:catherinemoscato@hotmail.com)

ReefTalk Editors: Laura Morrison, PJ Halter

[www.facebook.com/WhitsundayZonta](http://www.facebook.com/WhitsundayZonta)

[zontaclub7@hotmail.com](mailto:zontaclub7@hotmail.com)

Address - PO BOX 427, Cannonvale, Queensland 4802