



MAY 2018

PRESIDENTS REPORT

THE FOLLOWING IS OUR CLUB SPOTLIGHT THAT I PRESENTED AT THE AREA 5 CONFERENCE:

NO SINGING AND DANCING THIS YEAR I WANTED TO TELL YOU ABOUT OUR MEMBERSHIP EFFORTS.

LAST YEAR WE LOST A LOT OF MEMBERS MAINLY DUE TO FAMILIES RELOCATING. AIRLIE BEACH IS A FAIRLY TRANSIENT AREA WITH PEOPLE COMING AND GOING ALL THE TIME, SO WE KNEW WE HAD TO MAKE A BIG EFFORT TO BRING IN NEW MEMBERS. WE HAVE A WONDERFUL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR IN JUDY BROWN AND SHE, HER COMMITTEE AND ALL OUR MEMBERS HAVE EMBRACED THIS TASK.

THIS YEAR WE HAVE INDUCTED;

BETTY.....RETIRED NURSE

CLAIRE.....A BIRTHING COACH, TRAINEE NURSE

PATSY.....RETIRED TEACHER

MEAGAN.....TEACHER

MEZ....SMALL BUSINESS OWNER

CHRISTINE....PASTOR

MANDY.....SMALL BUSINESS OWNER

HELENA.....LAWYER

HALF OF THESE LADIES ARE UNDER FORTY WE ARE LITTLE BY LITTLE LOWERING OUR AVERAGE AGE.

THIS DIVERSE GROUP OF WOMEN. THEY HAVE SHOWN THEIR ENTHUSIASM FOR ALL WE DO IN ZONTA BY ALREADY JOINING ADVOCACY AND SERVICE COMMITTEES AND BETTY HAS JOINED THE NEW BOARD AS TREASURER.

WHILE WE HAVEN'T ACHIEVED A 5% INCREASE ON LAST YEAR, WE ARE NOW CONFIDENT WE WILL NEXT YEAR. WE HAVE FOUND THE BEST WAY TO SPREAD THE WORD OF ZONTA IS WORD OF MOUTH, TALKING TO FRIENDS, FAMILY, PEOPLE NEW TO TOWN, A LOT OF TALKING GOES ON WHEN WE ARE MANNING THE BBQ AT BUNNINGS. IF THEY ARE INTERESTED, INVITE THEM TO A MEETING. WE REGULARLY HAVE 6 – 12 INVITED GUESTS AT MOST GENERAL MEETINGS, AND JUDY WILL TAKE IT FROM THERE WITH INVITATIONS TO MEMBERSHIP MORNING TEAS AND ANY OTHER FUNCTION WE ARE PRESENTING. SHE WAS SEEN GOING FROM TABLE TO TABLE AT OUR INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY LUNCH TALKING AND TAKING NAMES. HOW MANY JUDY?

I BELIEVE ONE OF CATHS FIRST DUTIES AS PRESIDENT WILL BE TO INDUCT A NEW MEMBER IN JUNE. WHAT A GREAT WAY TO START.

THIS YEAR OUR FIRST Z CLUB WAS FORMED, ST. CATHS Z CLUB. A WONDERFUL GROUP OF YOUNG WOMEN, MOST OF THEM ARE ONLY 14 – 15. AT THEIR FIRST SERVICE EVENT THEY RAISED \$1200 WHICH THEY USED FOR BIRTHING KITS. THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE FUTURE OF OUR CLUB AND THE ZONTA CLUB OF THE WHITSUNDAYS IS LOOKING STRONGER THAN EVER.

THIS IS MY FINAL PRESIDENTS REPORT AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR THE SUPPORT AND HELP YOU HAVE GIVEN ME. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH CATH AND HER NEW BOARD AND TO CELEBRATING OUR TWENTITH YEAR NEXT YEAR.

KERRIE ADAM, PRESIDENT



ADVOCACY



UN Happenings this month: During the month of May, The UN celebrates World Tuna Day; World Migratory Bird Day; even World Bee Day but they also celebrate on 23rd May:

International Day to End Obstetric Fistula. Let's hope that the important work being done in this area is ongoing and women are spared the horrendous effects of a very preventable condition.

May is National Month for Awareness and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence: Our club is participating by having our sign on the Chamber Billboard for two weeks and our "ladies" will be present at the markets again.

Food for Thought: A few weeks ago, I watched an interesting Insight program hosted by Jenny Brockie on SBS. It was about the Dowry. There were several couples talking about their culture and how it affects them and their families. Firstly, I always thought that the dowry was something that the woman's family paid the man's family--but not always so. The couples interviewed were from Sth Sudan, India, Zululand and Bangladesh. Except for the woman from Bangladesh, it is the man's family that had to pay. For Rooper (Bangladesh), it was agreed before her wedding, in Australia, that she would not have to pay-- her family paid for the wedding (\$52,000). However, after the wedding the groom's mother demanded that she pay and wouldn't let her son see her. The marriage lasted 4 months and has left her with all sorts of negative and depressive feelings.

So, I "Googled" dowry: and yes, it is "a payment to the groom's family by the bride's family." The payment by the groom's family as called "Bride price". Today, it has all become known to us as "dowry".

As I listened to the first couple interviewed it was clear that Ajah (the woman) didn't mind the tradition although she agreed that hers and her husband, Chol's children would probably not have a dowry when they marry as they are Australian born. She stated that the dowry shows respect for the wife's family who decide on the amount---- what their daughter is worth. If the man cannot pay--there is no wedding. In Ajah and Chol's case, the family asked for 70 cows which relates to \$US70, 000. As her father had passed away, it was her eldest brother who got the "money". Later in the program, Chol was making light of it but he commented that his wife and everything that she owns "belongs to him" because of the dowry. My thoughts were racing: "No wonder the wife can be ill-treated-- she has been bought. She is 'owned' by her husband; sold by her family. The dowry has determined her worth."

Sheron, a Zulu woman and Nick, from Vienna, met and married in Australia. His mother was horrified at the thought of a dowry being paid for Sheron. "It's buying a wife" was her immediate reaction. Sheron's family back in Africa were putting pressure on the couple to have a dowry. Sheron decided that she and Nick would have a budget for their wedding and that the family "back home" could have half. That was it. She wasn't going to let her Uncles decide her worth. It didn't please her family, but she stood strong. Her only regret is that she gave in at all. Sheron's thoughts were that she wanted to have her own "traditions" and that those of her homeland were "made up by someone at one time". Now it is time for change.

Nasema was an Indian woman being married for the second time. She and her husband are of the Muslim faith and it is the faith rather than the country that has the dowry tradition. In this case the dowry is paid to the woman. It is to secure her future if anything should happen to her husband. The bride makes the request to the groom. Her husband, Mahomed, was very pleased to have her ask for a goat to be slaughtered and given to the poor in Sierra Leone! He felt he had gotten off lightly! So, in the Islamic tradition, the dowry has quite a different meaning. To Nasema and Mahomed it was just a gesture to the tradition.

Another Indian couple of the same faith had decided that as they were Australians now, the dowry tradition was merely a formality. She asked for \$30,000 and then pardoned it. As they said, in Australia people are looked after and a dowry isn't needed. Yet another Indian couple, Divya and Gurjab, who were both raised in Australia, thought that a marriage should be the bonding of two hearts. They had a lavish wedding both in India and Australia and their families shared the cost. They said that the dowry was illegal in India which is interesting as 5% of the women killed in India has something to do with the dowry.

Then came Nyadol, an educated Sth Sudanese woman, married and living in Australia. She said everything that I had been thinking. She spoke about her mother (who was with her). She had been taken out of school aged 16 to marry. Her husband (Nyadol's father) was a well-known and respected Army Officer. Apparently, he "paid a lot of money" for her. But she wasn't his only wife-- he had several-- which meant that Nyadol has a large family. When Nyadol married, her husband paid 300 cows and at \$US1000 per cow-- that is a lot! The dowry went to her family and her family's friends. She thinks the dowry should be banned for many reasons but mostly because "it puts a worth on a woman. It gives incentive for families to pull their daughters out of school-- as with her mother--- although a family can ask a larger dowry if their daughter is educated." She also spoke of the woman being "stuck" in an abusive marriage as to leave she has to pay the dowry back and most have no way of doing that. She has no rights only the family does. Nyadol went on to say that the man "owns the woman"; he has "bought her". It was at this point that Chol made his statement about him "owning" his wife and all that she has. Nyadol also mentioned that the wife does not have the same rights to the children either if the marriage does break down-- because he has paid.

In summary, some didn't see it as an issue for them, but all agreed that it is no doubt a dying tradition-- especially by those who have migrated to countries like Australia--- and that it is time for the next generation to have their own traditions. None of the couples interviewed would ask for a dowry to be paid for their daughters. They would however, tell them about the tradition but they live in Australia now, the children are Australian. Life is different.

Amnesty International states: "The ongoing reality of dowry-related violence is an example of what can happen when women are treated as property."

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women classifies violence into three categories:

- 1) That occurring in the family (DV) which includes dowry related violence.
- 2) That occurring within the general community.
- 3) That perpetrated or conducted by the State.

"Dowry is widely considered to be both a cause and a consequence of son preference. The practice of dowry inevitably leads to discrimination in different areas against daughters and makes them vulnerable to various forms of violence. It may lead to them being unwanted: gender selective abortion or she may be abandoned or mistreated after birth." Kirri Singh (Amnesty International)

Unicef notes that dowry helps perpetrate child marriage and the World Health Organisation has expressed concern for dowry-related femicide. They state that the actual number of deaths per year varies up to 25,000. It is reported that there have been thousands of bride burnings in Pakistan but very few prosecutions. UNDOC includes dowry deaths as gender-based violence. About 5% of crimes against women in India are dowry related even though the practice has been illegal since 1961.

Nepal is a place that through our friend Sue Tuck, we relate to. So, what about dowry in Nepal? It is banned. However, it is still very much a part of life. It is stated that with increasing wealth in the area, the amount being asked by the groom is increasing to the detriment of women. Parents are "dreading" the birth of a daughter and are aborting female foetuses. Even educated people are continuing this practice and it is becoming closely related to social prestige. It is reported that many female deaths have occurred because of the bride not giving enough dowry to the groom's family. In Nepal, dowry is not practiced by Non-Hindu and Indigenous peoples.

I pose a question. With families where the dowry is payment from the bride's family, parents are practicing gender based abortions. So, are families where the groom pays (Bride price) also practicing gender based abortion and aborting male foetuses? I don't think so but it is "Food for thought"! And what happens when there are no women? It will spell the end of mankind.

I guess we could argue that our marriage tradition of the bride's family paying for the entire wedding was a kind of dowry. It certainly was the "done" thing and it was offensive for the groom's family to want to contribute. I am glad to say that has changed too and in time for my children's weddings!! Today it is a shared occasion; even the bride and groom contributing with no offence made.

As with a lot of issues affecting women in the world, I feel that it is the next generation that will make change. We are "sowing the seeds" but they are the ones to carry it out. Women are becoming more educated and so are men for that matter. As one couple stated on Insight: "The next generation are finding that middle ground-- that men and women are equal". This is where I am proud to be a member of Zonta International. As a group we are helping to make change-- one that might be impossible as an individual.

Maxine Thiele, (Out-going) Director of Advocacy

MEMBERSHIP



New Board for 2018-2019 – Outgoing President Kerrie, Lesley, Judy, Janet, Carol, Betty, P.J., Laura & Cath



It was with great pleasure that we welcomed Christine Mayne, Mez Bowen, Helena Dziejulska and Mandy Walter into our club at the April General meeting. Welcome ladies.

It was a fantastic weekend at Ayr for the District 22- Area 5 Conference. Lieutenant Governor Sandy Venn-Brown gave a talk on Membership on the Sunday morning. Sunday afternoon Kerrie had her showcase which she did on Membership. All the Clubs were amazed at how successful our club has been at recruiting new members. Thank you everyone for bringing along your guests, without that we would not have been so successful.

We have been asked to have another photo competition (the baby photos last year were a great success). We have decided to have a Wedding photo this time, so hunt around for an old photo to be in the completion. Please bring your photo (with a name on the back) along to the June GM (as we don't have a GM in May) and if I get enough photo's we will have the competition at the July GM.

Judy Brown, Membership Chair



WE WILL MISS YOU:

Hi EVERYONE: Lester and I are finally on our way, after some delays, to our new home in Mareeba . We leave Airlie Beach on the 22nd of April. I wanted to send this as a last farewell and wish all of you and the Club my very best for the Future. It is exciting times ahead for the Whitsunday Club and I will regret not being a part of that. I will miss you guys. My years at Zonta are filled with wonderful memories and I will never forget the great women that make up our Club.

Our New Adventure begins now, but we do not want to say a final goodbye to all of our old friends. Rather, I would hope you will all come to Mareeba and stay with us sometime in the future. I hope to be back to visit Airlie from time to time as well. Mareeba is a wonderful area in the Tablelands and approximately 35 min from either Cairns or Port Douglas. There is lots to do and you could use us for a base for any of your travels north if you wanted.

We have the same phone number and e-mail address so you will always be able to contact us, so jot it down before my details are removed from the Zonta Contact list. I will be waiting for your call. Warm wishes to you all.

Connie Riley, Past President



Our Favourite Ships Captain at work.....Ann Cleghorn

SERVICE

Books from Birth: Books From Birth held a very successful working bee on 12th of April, with the help of our wonderful committee (whom I wish to say a big thank you), we sorted, labelled and packed approximately 466 books, some of which we need to transport to Ingham and the Tully Hospital. If any of our members who may be travelling in June and could do so, please let me know. Cheers, Lauren



Knitting Group: Just advising that the friends of Zonta Knitting Group resumed on Monday the 30th April at Laura's home with 12 members attending. We had a lovely day putting together about 4 blankets with the usual delightful lunch. We all bring a plate for lunch or morning tea, knit, sew & chat making for an enjoyable day. We will be holding the Knitting Group at Laura's home 8 Palm Drive on the last Monday of every month until December. Anyone who would like to join us please email Carole on cbrauner@mtatravel.com.au prior to the day to enable us to get an idea of those attending. Cheers, Carole

The Sausage Report—long and tasty:]

We had a good day at Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Sunday 6th, The club thanks each of the helpers who made the day flow smoothly. We enjoyed each other's company and that of the loads of shoppers as they made a beeline for Bunnings entrance.

We met loads of interesting people and pooches along the way these include:

A large number of beautiful young dads minding the kids for the morning and getting smoko for the family from us

The Dog Wash business setup further along provided us with a promenade of fluffy puppies with their noses swivelling towards the Zonta stand. One thoughtful owner put in an order for her dog... "two please no onions, I'll collect when they've cooled"

A new competitor in the cake sales market gave out samples of her iced chocolate cupcakes—beautifully decorated and deliciously moist. (She comes from Woodwark so keep an eye out for her)

Two dear little kids coming over to buy their own sausages (sauce, no onion) so short only their noses and eyes could be seen above the table, and their little fist clutching their coins'

A young man stopped and talked, with a small child and an even smaller puppy which wasn't much bigger than a cupcake, cute puppy, cute kid and a lovely dad.



Quirky 'gourmet' buyers...one who wanted sausage crispy well done, no bread, no onion, and another who wanted snag with crispy skin on bread but nothing else... we were able to oblige of course!

All in all, an affirming day with loads of sales and a good, social time. It's worth a try sometime.

**Cath Fernbach, President Elect
(& dog owner!)**



No birthdays in May

Christine Mayne

13th June

Catherine Moscato

30th June

July is a busy one !!!

EMAIL ETIQUETTE: (zontaclub7@Whitsundays1)



Minimise the number of individual emails – all date claimers, reports, and details of events should be in ReefTalk and/or GM agendas

Emails addressed to all members should be sent by the Secretary only; the contact list should not be used for private purposes

If a reply is required, this should be addressed to the one person nominated to receive them; DO NOT use the ‘reply all’ button

Emails addressed to all Board members should follow same protocol

Emails between Directors and committee members should be restricted to those concerned, not copied to all members

Date Claimers

Sun 13th May...Mother's Day

27th May Change Over VMR 4.30pm for games
6.00pm Formalities & Italian Meal

Knitting group last Monday of the month Laura's house.

Book Club contact Kerry Kenyon

Visit our FaceBook page



<https://www.facebook.com/WhitsundayZonta>

District 22 FaceBook There is now a district 22 FaceBook also.

<https://www.facebook.com/District-22-Zonta-International>

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