

Reef Talk



Zonta Club of
The Whitsundays, Inc

Member of Zonta International

FEBRUARY 2013



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BRUNCH

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!

- VENUE:** Reef Function Room,
Reef Gateway Hotel.
- DATE:** Sunday 10th of March 2013
- TIME:** 9am for 9.30 start
- TICKETS:** \$45.00 with complimentary
bubbles on arrival

ENTERTAINERS:

NANCYE HAYES & LAUREL VEITCH

"Friends for Ever" Iconic actors from both the
theatre and live television.

TICKET OUTLETS:

Rockmans @ Centro, Arts Whitsunday in Main
Street Airlie Beach, Goodness Gracious @
Whitsunday Shopping Centre or phone
DAWN GREEN 4948 1829.

Lucky Door prize and raffle draws
throughout the morning.

Profits from the event will go towards the
ZONTA CLUB OF THE WHITSUNDAYS
ongoing support to the **WHITSUNDAY CRISIS**
& **COUNSELLING SERVICE.**

SPONSORS:





VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Angela has had some very distressing news in the last few days. Her sister is seriously ill in the UK and Angela has flown across to be with her. I know how precious my sister is and I can hardly imagine how sad Angela must feel - our thoughts and prayers are with her. In the meantime, yours truly, as your Vice President, will take over the helm until Angela's return, with help from the always capable and efficient, Noelene. Angela says Noelene will be my "rock". We have many active and supportive members and already the year is getting off to a rollicking start.

The film afternoon at Robyn's was hugely successful and very well attended. The films about obstetrics fistula were informative, inspirational and moving. The afternoon tea, as always with our Zonta "bring your own food events", was sumptuous. I hope there will be more of these Sunday afternoon film events.

February will see the visit of our area director, Hilary Grant, to our general meeting. Also, we will be holding our planning day on the 24th February at my place so I ask you all to bring along any brilliant ideas for fund raising, social events or ideas on how to improve and enhance existing projects. As always, please bring along a plate of food and we will enjoy afternoon tea and our friendship on the veranda.

March sees one of our most important fund



raisers and social events of the year with our traditional IWDB – this time at the Reef Gateway. The committee has been working furiously to organize this event but they will need help from all our members on the day and also everybody, even if they are going to be away for the event, must be trying to sell tickets and get tables together. We will be inducting four new members at the March meeting – a credit to our hardworking membership committee and I am sure all these new members will contribute enormously to our dynamic and vibrant club. There are so many ways our members can get involved.

It is going to be a fantastic year for our Zonta club. Our membership base is solid, our friendships are strong and our commitment to improving the status of women, locally, nationally and internationally remains focussed.

Roz, Vice-President

SERVICE

International Women's Day Brunch

The theme for this year's brunch is *Let Us Entertain You*. We have a new venue, Reef Room, Reef Gateway and a fantastic new menu. The ticket price is \$45.00 and you are all asked to go out and spread the word and invite the community to come along. (Print to poster on the first page and share it) Even if you will not be able to attend yourself, please help make this day a success by promoting the event to your friends and families. The morning is designed to be full of fun and laughter and with such amazing speakers, Nancye Hayes and Laurel Veitch, I am sure it will be. All Zontians are asked to bring along to our next Dinner Meeting, prizes for the "rolling raffle". Judy Brown will collect them and we need lots. Here are some suggestions: books, chocolates, wine, candles, toiletries, biscuits etc. Remember we are not having the auction this year and we need this raffle to keep our budget in the black. Tickets can be purchased at Rockman's, Goodness Gracious and Art Whitsunday or you can ring me on 49481829. If you wish to pay online, please contact me first so a ticket can be allocated for you. We will also need members help on the day to "meet and greet", sell raffle tickets etc so please let me know your preferences. Dawn Green, Service Director



Books from Birth, collecting again

Although the sorting and boxing of the books is in recess, the collection work hasn't stopped. Judy and Jesse Brett have arranged for a collection box in both sections of 121 Childcare, Cannonvale Library and also in Bowen. Although the Bowen Library is short of space, they are happy to advertise that books can be left for Books from Birth at the PCYC Bowen and also donate their surplus books. Coinda, William Street, Bowen is also a collection venue.

Our boxes usually contain over a hundred books and we have sent over 2000 books to the communities so we constantly need books.



Garden Committee

St Catherine's Proserpine will be arranging for the collection of the two new garden beds, our Club donated to them, early this month. They are excited to be able to expand the benefits of growing fresh vegetables in the new school, as they did in their primary section, last time. The Garden Committee will be contacted when the beds are filled and planted. All are welcome to join the Committee when they visit the new garden to take a photo.



Nursing Home visit

On Wednesday 30th January, Kerry Kenyon, Dawn Green and I went to the new wing of the Proserpine Nursing Home to deliver our donation of 6 large vases, 5 pairs of towels, an aromatherapy burner with lemon myrtle oil and a big bunch of sunflowers.

Back in August last year, the club had donated the cost of three slings to be used in the home, to help move patients from place to place (we couldn't see these as they were being used at the time). As it was advertised that some of the proceeds of the African Film Night were to go to the Nursing Home, we discussed this with Janet Wheeler, the Manager, and it was decided to buy the goods we delivered on Wednesday.

We arrived at morning tea time and, after chatting with some of the residents, sat with the relatively new (8 weeks in the job) general manager, Tom Saile, and Janet Wheeler, who has worked at the home for 25 years. Our morning tea was served in bone china teacups with matching plate and saucer – the kind of sets which a lot of us would remember were very popular in the past. These are used every day and it is a very nice touch.

We were then taken on a tour of the building and shown some of the resident's rooms, where they are able to have some of their own belongings, photos and artwork around them. They are lovely rooms, each with their own bathroom attached and most with a nice view. There are also two large recreational areas, one on each floor, and there is a lift. It is a modern building and is a credit to the board of the Nursing Home and the staff.

As we were leaving, lunch was being served and Janet showed us the kitchen area from where the food is served – all very modern with latest technology and the food smelled good! I hope that our club can keep up the contact with the Nursing Home in the future and if you get the chance to go and visit one of the residents, do so and you will be pleased. Noelene Helman, Secretary



L to R: Tom Saide (general manager), Noelene, Dawn (Zonitans), Jo Keen resident, Kerry (Zonta), Mavis Andrews, Dorothy Wilkes (residents)

MEMBERSHIP

We left the blocks flying in January, straight into projects to promote our club, attract new members and, we hope, to keep our present members happy. I'd like to remind you though, that we can't continue our activities successfully without input from all of you! For example: **We maintain the contact list.** If your details change in any way please let PJ know. Connie will take over this in April.

We are responsible for planning to support the current membership and to identify new members. Every Zonta member is involved in this by inviting friends and contacts along to meetings and other activities such as the Breakfast Talks or IWD Brunch. Please then refer them to the Membership Committee. I have arranged for personal details forms to be at the entry table with Catherine. Please make sure any new guest completes one of these forms and returns it to me.

The Membership Committee aims to make guests and new members feel welcome and to provide information about Zonta and our activities. Some great news is that Lisa Rogatski and Mae Secomb, who have attended a number of meetings and events, are about to join us. Lisa is an accountant and Mae is a retired teacher and kindergarten director. They will be inducted in March. At the same time I hope we will also be inducting Shirley and Lynette. It's

always so good to have fresh faces and fresh ideas in Zonta and it is up to all of us to make them feel welcome. A smile and a chat go a long way.

I am looking for **mentors** for the new members and have sent out an email with information about mentoring and I can help with more ideas. This is a very rewarding and enjoyable activity and one that it would be wonderful to have everyone involved in. Please step up and make a new friend!

We will be working on an up-dated brochure but, in the meantime, there will be flyers on the table at the door. If every member takes a couple and passes them on it will help greatly to spread information about our club.

The April monthly meeting will be the **New Members Information Evening** and will be held at Marina Shores. The Committee will be planning to make this a very enjoyable and interesting evening in a relaxed atmosphere, so start thinking about anyone you might invite. More information later! Finally, we are working on a short presentation at the IWD Brunch. Prepare to be amazed at what some of the friends you thought you knew are prepared to do!

Kerry Kenyon, Membership Director



ADVOCACY

United Nations:

Sima Samar (Afghanistan): An amazing woman

Samar at a girl's school run by Shuhada Organization



Sima Samar is a doctor for the poor, an educator of the marginalized and defender of the human rights of all in Afghanistan. She has established and nurtured the Shuhada Organization that, in 2012, operated more than one hundred schools and 15 clinics and hospitals dedicated to providing education and healthcare, particularly focusing on women and girls. She served in the Interim Administration of Afghanistan and established the first-ever Ministry of Women's Affairs. Since 2004, she has chaired the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission that holds human rights violators accountable, a commitment that has put her own life at great risk.

Sima Samar's early life: Sima Samar was born February 3rd 1957. Following the Soviet-backed coup, in 1979 her husband, his three brothers and more than 60 other family members disappeared and were never seen again. Sima Samar graduated from Kabul University Medical College in 1982. She then practiced medicine at a government hospital in Kabul, but after a few months was forced to flee for her safety to her native Jaghori where she provided medical treatment to patients throughout the remote areas of Central Afghanistan.

In 1984, she went to Pakistan for the education of her young son. After working as a doctor at the refugee branch of the Mission Hospital in Quetta, Pakistan, and distressed by the total lack of health care facilities for Afghan refugee women, she started a hospital for Afghan refugee women and children in Quetta.

Shuhada Organization and Clinic: In 1989, Samar formally established the Shuhada Organization and Shuhada Clinic. The Shuhada Organization now operates 12 clinics and 3 hospitals in Afghanistan, all dedicated to the provision of health care to the Afghan population and particularly to women and girls. In addition, the Shuhada Organization runs nurse, community health worker and traditional birth attendant training programmes and reproductive health education projects.

In 2012, the Shuhada Organization also operated 71 schools for girls and boys in Afghanistan and 34 schools for Afghan refugees in Quetta, Pakistan. During the Taliban regime, Shuhada's schools in Central Afghanistan were among the few academic girls' primary schools; the organisation's girls' high schools were the only high schools that girls were able to attend in the country. The Shuhada Organization also ran underground home school classes for girls in Kabul. Following the collapse of the Taliban, these home school classes became the basis for two schools for girls that now teach more than 3,000 students and were handed over to the government.

Submitted by Robyn Mitchell, Co-Chair United Nations





PROFILE: Catherine Moscato

Passing through.....

I was born in Paris in 1948 along the river Seine and near the roaring train station called the Gare de Lyon.

My mother happened to be a widow. My father had died after a short and fierce battle with cancer, three months before she was due to give birth. Everybody in the family rallied around her. However, she was fiercely independent and decided to become the breadwinner of our household. Always impeccably and elegantly dressed, she would leave every morning early to work as an accountant at the Banque de France, the French equivalent for the Reserve Bank. My maternal grandmother became my nanny.

Lots of love and material niceties from my family! From a very young age I was taught the piano, classical ballet and was taken weekly to the museums by my grandmother. I was very shy and often felt lonely.

When I started school, my books simply became my most trusted friends. I particularly enjoyed the adventures on the roads less travelled and was fascinated by the history of the faraway lands. *I knew I was only passing through.*

At the age of 10, I attended a religious school which offered my favourite subjects: Greek, Latin and Ancient History. Captivated by the diversity of all these mythical characters, they became my friends. Their adventurous lives became my own adventures in my imaginary world.

After a few more years, suddenly my mother, whose health was ailing, moved to the south of France to be closer to her sister. My grandmother would spend the winter with us. The sunny weather, the outdoor lifestyle, house living in a little village ...all were big adjustments for me. The most important ones though were my discovery of the English language, my yearly summer stay with a family in Brighton and my encounter with Maryvonne, my first real friend and future sister in law!

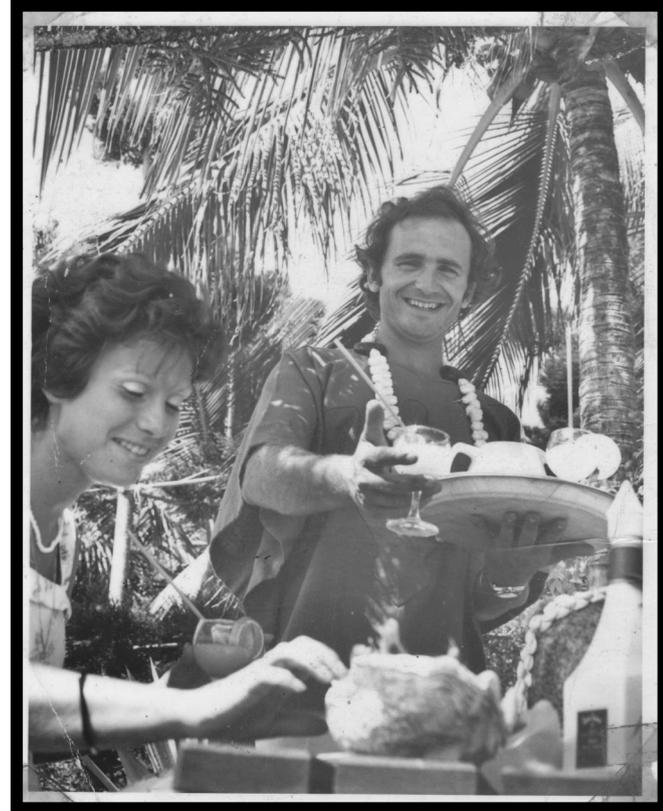
I continued to be a good student, spoiled by my aunts and uncles who were childless. I finished high school, unsure of what I wanted to do. A gap year was unheard of. So I enrolled into a Bachelor of Psychology, no doubt to sort me out.

Something was missing... I was suffocating....Then, at Maryvonne's engagement party, to Jacques, a budding music conductor, I met my breath of fresh air in the name of Antoine, Jacques brother, known as Tony. We both wanted to work abroad. Planning and Surveying would stand him in good stead to find a job.

We became husband and wife in a civil ceremony to appease both families, convinced that it would not last.... We both graduated and fled to Algeria in the stony desert where Tony was given his first big job of constructing a dam. *Only passing through* ... yet I was adamant to make the most of it. I gave up my usual shyness and spent my days with my Algerian sisters, at the hammam, in the kitchen and learning Arabic.

Then Tony landed a job in the Pacific and we hopped from Tahiti to New Caledonia and finally Vanuatu. I taught French Grammar during the week and dived on weekends. Sheer bliss!

On our way back to France we decided to pass through Sydney. There we met Frank Lee, the owner of the site where Coral Sea Resort would be built later. He owned, also, what is now known as Chesapeake. We flew up to Mackay and drove to Airlie Beach, a tiny one street village with a few fibro huts....We took a drive to a place called Mandalay Coral Gardens where corals were grown above sea level. A very quaint tourist attraction! 5 acres on a small peninsula surrounded by the Coral Sea, the high tide lapping at the door of a spartan little dwelling. We fell in love with it at first sight.



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The owners, Shirley and Basil, were very friendly and their guided tour was so informative. The property was under contract, we were told. However, a few weeks later, we got a phone call, from Harry Muller, the real estate iconic figure of the times ...”Me boy, if you want this property, you’d better come up quick.” We were penniless and it was unthinkable to ask financial help from our respective families. So we borrowed the deposit from some friends and the Bank lent us the rest. We became permanent residents in just a few days - the immigration was so obliging then. In November 1973, we became the proud owners of this idyllic property.

Then the monsoon set in. It started to rain heavily for weeks. It would never stop and when it did, it was so hot and so steamy!!!! Simply horrid! We had no electricity..... I certainly had not read the fine prints on the contract.... It rained until April. Keeping the corals alive with so many generators, always breaking down, was nightmarish. Cyclones, northerly winds, high tides, storm surge, havoc in the gardens, dingoes on the beach, we had it all. The road got cut off almost immediately; a trip into town became a slippery dip. I was so homesick! A handful of people lived in Airlie, some have remained my friends to this date, amongst of them, Roz and Peter Jennings. We worked very hard indeed, got the electricity connected....but thank God *I was only passing through.*

On the 21st of January 1975, my daughter Caroline was born at the Proserpine Hospital. The only doctor in the district managed to arrive late. He could not cross the creek. We, for ourselves, almost did not make it, the tide was coming in and the water on the bridge was rising alarmingly. Nothing has changed! My family was beside itself at the news. It did not worry me too much because I knew ...*we were only passing through...*

In November 1977 Vanessa was born in the same little hospital under the auspices of the Goddess Proserpine. We went back to France for a visit every year so my entire family would get to know my girls. We had planned to go back for their education.

In the early 80s, we closed the Coral Gardens as it was no longer a viable business. We could only operate 8 months a year when the weather and the access were good. Tony returned to his job and started his first subdivision “Erromango” at Jubilee Pocket.

Tony and I became a team, subdividing land and building a few spec homes in between.

Our daughters were educated locally, in Brisbane and abroad. We kept speaking French at home and I taught them French Grammar for many years. They both travelled, the eldest lived with my aunt and worked in France for almost 10 years and the youngest one ended up in Spain where she met a gorgeous boy. They have two children.

As for me, in my mind, I was still passing through.

And yet, during many turns and twists in my life, I almost went back to my country of birth. After a few months, each time I returned home to Mandalay. When it was sold in 2002, after 30 long years, I thought I lost my soul. I could have gone back. Instead I hid for a few years behind Funnel Bay studying Financial Markets.

My last relative passed away in February 2003. I am left with the family residence and the memory of our fabulous gatherings. When possible I return every year.

After all, I may be only passing through....

Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Contact Details

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