



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2013

We have had a VERY busy month. I wish to thank all the club members for making it such a success:

Thank you, Roz, for organising our Breakfast Talk with Anna Durham, who outlined her survival from Breast Cancer.

Thank you, Wendy for, yet again, organizing the packing of 400 Birthing Kits with the students at the Proserpine & St. Catherine's schools (also for John's help in preparing the soap, cord and sheeting for the kits).

Thank you, Ann, for the successful Fashion Parade. The proceeds came to \$539. Well done.

Thank you Noelene, Lauren, Wendy, Roz, Lisa and Sue for helping at our annual Pink Ribbon Stall (and John for man handling all our props and display tent.)

We all enjoyed meeting our District 22 Governor Judith Anderson. It was a whirlwind visit starting at Christina's Whitsunday Beefalo property. An hour behind our schedule, as Judith took a detour through Strathdickie countryside while looking for the blue car parked at the Conway Beach turn off! We are still debating whether it was the expert directions by our secretary Noelene that sent her astray or Judith just wanted to soak up the Whitsunday hinterland. Anyway, Judith enjoyed every minute of her tour with Christina, which included an "Up close and personal" visit with the Berkshire pigs at feeding time and walking around the paddocks inspecting the Beefalo Cattle as Christina explained the breeding plans for her herd. It capped the visit off when Christina told Judith that a newborn little white calf was named after her to commemorate her visit.

As previously mentioned, we were invited by District 22 to hold the 2015 District Conference in the Whitsundays. During Judith's visit, Noelene and I took her around the various venues in Airlie Beach where we thought they could accommodate 150 guests. We visited Coral Sea, VMR and the Gateway Hotel. Hamilton and Daydream Island have purpose built conference facilities that would certainly be able to cater for this event. Noelene has continued to collate extensive information from these venues and this report will be forwarded to Judith and the membership soon.



Our October dinner meeting was a very lively affair, with an informative power point talk by Judith covering the engine room of District 22 and the extensive "Zonta Says No" campaign: the Domestic Violence against Women Project. This was followed by a Breast Cancer Skit, read by Mae and performed by Noelene and PJ. The meeting finished with a video of our Changeover Day last May, which included a humorous poem by our Recording Secretary Lesley and our Horizontians performing a hilarious skit.

I wish to thank the 15 members for marching at the "Reclaim the Night March" against Sexual Violence. We were very prominent in our Zonta Shirts and helped to make a statement of how women in our community are affected by this violence.

A few days ago I received an email from Jo Sweeney the owner of Zest Design here in Airlie Beach, this is an extract: "It's with a huge amount of sadness that all good things come to an end. The head injury that I incurred in August has affected my health to the point that I have no choice but to announce that Zest Design is no longer continuing to operate, effective Friday 25th October 2013".

Sandii, our past President, gave me an insight into Jo's involvement with Zonta and added the following: "For many years Zest design has been a major sponsor for our International Women's Day events, this included the printing of our programs and brochures. Nothing has been too much trouble. Jo is such a dynamic and keen young local business woman, who has received many awards and accolades for promotion and building of Zest Designs". I know we all send her our best wishes for her speedy recovery, an open invitation to become a friend of Zonta and perhaps speak at one of our dinner meetings in the future.



Angela Spicer, President



ADVOCACY



ADVOCACY

It has been a busy month and in my absence, much has been done to raise awareness of women's issues. ZONTA has worked closely with other community groups which have fallen in line with our ZONTA says NO campaign and other initiatives which support women.

Clothes Line Project

This month ZONTA has helped support the DSVIRN (Domestic and Sexual Violence Integrated Response Network) Clothes Line Project that has raised awareness of the need to prevent sexual violence. The clothes hoists of hand painted T-shirts have been displayed at all the community markets and were prominently displayed during the Reclaim the Night March on October 25th.

Supporting Hands WCCS 14th Oct

Jessica Morrow of Bravehearts.org.au spoke for nearly 2 hours about child sexual assault, why the organisation was founded and the fact that most perpetrators of this hideous crime are family members. (See report from Lesley)

Reclaim the Night 25th October

About 15 Zontians, who marched along with members of Whitsunday Crisis and Counselling Service and other supporters, was very well attended. Organisers said this was the best march ever. After marching, one brave woman shared her own very powerful story, which illustrated the very reasons we were there! A sausage sizzle was held afterwards! (See Janet's article below)

ZONTA says NO Banner

Will be displayed on the Airlie hill and has been organised with support of the Chamber of Commerce as a community service. This will be displayed for at least 2 weeks.

ZONTA says NO walk 9th Nov Brisbane If any Zontians are in Brisbane on this night please consider joining the walk. It will be well attended by all clubs and will have large media coverage.

General Meeting November 21st Sgt Rowena Lacey Rowena is a police officer from Mackay whom is one of the district's Domestic Violence Officers and will be talking about her job, very relevant in relation to our ZONTA says No to Violence activities.

International Day for the elimination of Violence against women AND White Ribbon Day November 25th

This is the beginning of the 16 days of ACTIVISM against Gender Violence Campaign and the ZONTA says NO campaign ties in with this.

16 Days of Activism

This will run from 25 November to 10 December, which is International Human Rights Day. It is an International campaign begun in 1991 and these dates were chosen to reinforce that violence against women is a human rights issue and that violence against women is a human rights violation. This year's theme is "Structures of Violence: Defining the Intersections of Militarism and Violence against Women" which will be a multi-year project and will address issues such as "the economic consequences of war on women, women's role in peace building and peace negotiations, violence against women committed by members of the military, sexual violence and sexual slavery in conflict situations, impunity for military personnel in cases of violence against women and women and girls' vulnerability as refugees and internally displaced persons." The issue of violence against women is at the centre of Zonta's mission. The 16 Days Campaign is one that has been taken up by women's groups around the world in order to shed light on the problem and to make people aware that "Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation" (former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan). As members of our own Zonta Club what can we do? We can raise awareness by participating and supporting the activities planned, wearing the ZONTA says NO ribbons throughout the 16 days, maybe write a letter to the editor of the newspaper or hold a small film night and show a film which highlights the issues. Please think about this and contact me with your suggestions. **Pammie Harrison, Director Advocacy**



Zonta reclaims the night



RECLAIM THE NIGHT

What a great night we had last Friday 25th October; certainly a different experience for me. With Angela's nudging and prodding, we had a great turnout of Zontians. This formed a large part of the 70 participates in the Reclaim the Night ceremony at the beachfront of Airlie.

People from all walks of life arrived and lovely Jayde brought along her drum, husband and lovely little children to participate. Meeting around 6 pm, the group was welcomed by Carmen Bekker. Before setting off we all formed a circle so that Jayde could use her drum to bring in some good energy and have us all in a positive space. That drum really resounds through ones whole body.

We then set off being led by Leah Anderson and Crisis and Counselling women, with some of us carrying signs and T-shirts completed by victims of domestic violence. We followed the path along the foreshore, around the lagoon and then down the beach side of the main Street, being especially loud near the drinking holes! Being especially loud, what does that mean? We had chants to reclaim the night, earn respect and remind people of what we were about.

Walking along what came to my mind was "what would my mother have thought"? Things were a little different 50 or so years ago. I am sure there was domestic violence but it was swept aside and not talked about. Whilst the whole subject is a little odious, and reticently talked about, at the end of our walk to hear a brave soul beared her heart, talking of her experiences and treatment by her family as an 8 year old, made me quite sure of the wisdom of participating in such a worthy exercise.

If we helped just one person to be able to seek help and talk of terrifying experiences or made someone think twice before forcing another to do something against their will, then it was well worth the exercise and on reflection I am sure my mother would have approved!

At this month's General Meeting we will have a representative of the Police Domestic Violence unit in this area speaking. It is a good chance to ask some questions and find out about our area.

Janet Keppke

SUPPORTING HANDS

is an Introduction to Child Sexual Assault, was presented by Jessica Morrow of BRAVEHEARTS. She spoke for almost two hours but her compelling message kept the audience riveted. The most shocking aspect is that, because over 90% of the assailants are members or close acquaintances of the family, the child brave enough to report the incident is often not believed; most children are groomed not to talk about what happens. Hetty Johnston founded Bravehearts when she discovered a grandparent abusing the second generation of a family in which abuse has been covered up. Jessica gave clear guidelines for responses to comments made by children (no leading questions but encouragement to explain clearly) which will be familiar to educators or other professionals who are bound by mandatory reporting, but should be clearly understood by every adult. Jessica's visit to Airlie, which included a two-day workshop for professionals, was sponsored by Rotary. The workshop can be purchased online from <http://www.bravehearts.org.au/pages/training-and-workshops.php>

Lesley Pratchett

SERVICE

PINK RIBBON STALL AT MARKETS SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER

On a bright sunny Saturday morning, Ann Cleghorn was at the markets at the crack of dawn, to help set up the T-shirt display for WCCS, and then stayed to help set up our stall with John (Lisa's husband). Ann and Lauren decorated the stall with streamers, bows and balloons and, of course, our pink handprint sheet.

We displayed our breast cushions, drip bottle bags and hats for cancer patients as well as Anna Durham's book and another book of anecdotes of breast cancer patients called "A Weight off our Chests", which we purchased from Zonta Club of Bunbury WA. Sue Hansen made some brownies to sell and we sold our "Fruit Cocktails and Cream". Both sold out by about 11am. The cost of the fruit and cream was covered by a donation of vouchers from Coles for \$100. Many thanks to Dylan the manager for this wonderful donation – especially with the price of fruit now!

The proceeds of \$240 will go to the Breast Care Nurses and we will be sending some cushions and bags to local hospitals for distribution to those patients needing them. Thanks to Ann, Lauren, Sue, Roz, Angela, Wendy and Lisa for their help and a very special thanks to John for his help in setting up and closing down.

Noelene Helman, Secretary



STUDENTS HELPING TO SAFE LIVES OF MOTHERS AND BABIES

On Thursday, 16th October, members of the Zonta Club of the Whitsundays, students from Proserpine High School and students from St Catherine's senior campus, joined forces to assemble 400 birthing Kits. This was the first year that St Catherine students have been involved in what has become an inclusive part of the Proserpine High School year 11 curriculums.

The Birthing Kit Project commenced in Adelaide in 1999 and became recognised as the Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) in 2007. In developing countries, every 90 seconds a woman dies of complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. With an estimated 385,000 women still dying annually in childbirth, many from infections acquired during childbirth, there is a great need for our clean birthing kits.

The program is supported and funded by Ausaid, together with donor partners and Zonta clubs around Australia. The kits are distributed to countries including Africa, PNG, Afghanistan, Tibet and Vietnam. For more information on this Project, and if you want to become involved, contact Wendy Downes on 0418 768 493, Birthing Kits coordinator for Zonta Club of The Whitsundays.

4 Zonta Club of the Whitsundays - member of Zonta International



Entertainment Books

Do not forget our Entertainment Books are still for sale but the sooner you purchase them the better. They sell for \$55.00 and \$11.00 goes to the Zonta Club. Vouchers are valid until 1st June 2014 and so plenty of time to use your discount vouchers, especially if you are having family and friends visit at Christmas time. Everyone who has bought one has already saved heaps and had a good time and raised money for our club as well .

Whitsunday vouchers in the book:

Capers	Event Cinemas (Mackay)	Sorrentos	Coles Vouchers
Tides at Peppers	Woolies Vouchers	Cactus Jacks	Rent a cars
The Coffee club	Hayman accommodation	Denmans Cellars	Hamilton Accommodation
Mamas Boys	Daydream Accommodation	Mangrove Jacks	Peppers accommodation
Salt	Thai Spicy Restaurant	Sidewalk café	Ocean Rafting
Whitsunday Sailing Club	Sushi Hi	Brumbys	Wendys
Cold Rock	Dominos Pizza	Donut King	Eagles Boys
Red Rooster	Hungry Jacks		

Plus lots of on line shopping vouchers like Witchery, Yarra Trail and Review.
Call Roz 49467370 and she will deliver one to you.

MEMBERSHIP

ROSA RECEIVES AWARD

Rosa Wort was the very deserving second recipient of the "Thumbs Up to You" Award last Friday. The award, presented by the Zonta Club of the Whitsundays, is designed to give recognition to local women who demonstrate individual excellence or in some way provide great service to the community. Rosa is one of those very special women who do both. She has been a successful businessperson in the Whitsundays for over 40 years who has owned cafes and restaurants at Horseshoe Bay, in Cannonvale and in Airlie Beach. She has also run a successful cleaning business on Hamilton Island, employing approximately 45 staff and has been a contributor to local tourism bodies such as Tourism Whitsunday.

In particular, the Zonta Club wanted to acknowledge Rosa for her community work and other acts of service. Rosa has been a tireless worker for Meals on Wheels in both Proserpine and Airlie Beach for 15 years, providing food, comfort and companionship to the elderly or infirm. By contrast, she has also been a volunteer at the "Chill Out" tent during Schoolies Week where young people in need of some TLC have commented that they couldn't believe that she would provide such service without payment! However, Rosa is the type of woman who sees reward in other terms. She is seen as a surrogate mother and grandmother to dozens of local families and is confidant and counsellor to many. Rosa is kindness personified. All this has been achieved despite a number of personal trials, the most recent of which was surviving Breast Cancer and other illness, which Rosa did, as always, with philosophical cheerfulness. She is a shining example to all who know her.

Kerry Kenyon, Membership Director

NEWS FLASH! We are thrilled to add three new members at our November meeting: Maxine Thiele, Suzanne Byron and Rosa Wort. Please be sure and attend this meeting to WELCOME them!





**THIS IS OUR YEAR THAT WAS!!!
THANK YOU FOR ALL JOINING IN**

**FROM
YOUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
2013**

**Kerry, Director; Connie, Chair;
Sandii, Lauren, Cath , P.J, Sue**

THUMBS UP



NEW MEMBERS



INFORMATION NIGHT



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



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FUN AT MEETINGS

**CLUB
BROCHURE**





AFADU hard at work? Looks like fun too.



Breast Care Skit

CELEBRATION: Put on your thinking caps

Pam Graham has reminded us that the club will be celebrating its 15th birthday next year : organisation meeting was held on 29th Jan 1999, first club meeting held 18th February 1999 and the charter dinner on 16th April 1999.

We will have to do something big for it—any ideas?



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