

I S S U E 3 - 2 0 1 3

# ZONTA BRISBANE METRO BREAKFAST CLUB INC NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013

## A Note from the President

The last few months have gone so quickly. I wrote in the last newsletter about the then upcoming **Fashion Showcase** prepared by a group of Zonta Clubs in our District led capably by Amena. This event was spectacular. Over 350 guests attended in the beautiful Brisbane City Hall, tempted with delicious food, amazed by the items auctioned and raffled and truly bedazzled by the Couture designers and their fashions. Over \$30,000 was raised which makes this a day that will not be forgotten easily.

July marked the 13<sup>th</sup> birthday of our club. We celebrated at **Spicer's Balfour** in New Farm where we sat back and enjoyed each other's company while we pinned and welcomed new members.

Political satire was the taste for our **Trivia Night** this year with cameos from who was available on the political front. This was presented superbly by Ruth who arranged and compared the night with some of her work colleagues. I send our sincere thanks to Ruth, in her first year at our club, for taking on such a task.

Elaine has now organised and run 12 annual **Trash and Treasure** Days. Every year she does this event mainly through her own efforts and we appreciate the support of her Business Colleagues, Fred and Mina Drake. It is a tiring day but we make use of getting to know each other. Thank you Elaine. I know this was made more tiring for you by your injury.

Zonta Says No to Violence against Women is the theme of the **District Walk** to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November and the District Conference is to be held in late September. Ask around the club to learn about both of these major events. You will find more info inside about the Walk which will put Zonta on the map in Brisbane.

I will see you and your friends there.

*Leanne*

## Thank You

Thank you for these lovely tulips that were sent by the Club to my mother Elda following her serious accident and shoulder operation. They were just beautiful and certainly brightened up the room. Mum was most appreciative of your thoughtfulness and best wishes.

She has now been at home two weeks but still requires much care and physio and is a long way of total recovery. However I am hoping that she will be able to take over the cooking again very soon!

I also wish to thank everyone for their support during this most stressful time. It is times like these that I feel most fortunate to belong to such a Club of wonderful ladies whom I can also call friends.

*Flora*



## Birthdays

- Cath, Emma, Prue – September
- Leida - November

## New Member Profile

### Meet Prue Densley

Current employment:	Head of Fundraising, Cancer Council Queensland
Past jobs/roles held:	Cancer Council in various roles for 4 ½ years in Queensland and NSW. Prior to that, an Event Manger for many years in both not-for-profit and corporate sectors in Australia and the UK.
Most significant event in my life (to date):	Completing my Masters whilst working full time and surviving! Never again...
Favourite holiday destination:	Cambodia
Special people in my life:	My mum Ruth! My boyfriend Brian and by big brother Ryan.
In my spare time, I like to:	Hang out with my animals, half start DIY projects at home, drink wine with friends, watch movies and pretend to exercise.
I dream of:	Travelling to exotic destinations
Most people don't know that I:	...have an unhealthy obsession with toasted sandwiches.
Favourite role model.	Dalai Lama

## Trivia Night

We had a tremendous night of trivia, laughter and visits by special guests on September 7. Ruth and her 2 colleagues presented a well run and entertaining evening for us all.

Chantell's team won for the second time in a row.

The profit was about \$1300.

Many, many thanks to Ruth and her colleagues who went to a lot of trouble to stage such a wonderful event.



## Trash & Treasure

The weather smiled on us again for the 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row. It was a beautiful sunny day.

The profit from the Trash and Treasure is currently \$2,486.95.

Many, many thanks for all your donations. BUT most of all for all the willing volunteers. The sense of co-operation and camaraderie was wonderful. We raised money for our projects and also helped out those who needed lower cost items.



I must be one of the most luckiest mothers in the world to have experienced tracking Kokoda with my youngest now adult son. It is a truly memorable bonding experience for any mother and child - sleeping, eating, tracking through mud all day, getting wet every afternoon about 3pm when the skies open up pelting down buckets of water onto our weary bodies. It really hit home that I had raised an amazing young gentleman on this trip when at the end of the day tired and weary - he would without a word just touched underneath my backpack to ease the weight. You can imagine how I felt...

Sincere credit and admiration has to be given to the trekkers who carry up our tents and set up exhausted weary travellers' campsites at the end of each day. Their life is very hard, they trek without shoes day in and day out, their main focus is to work to purchase food to support their family and extended families who live in their village. They do it all with a happy smile and are very grateful to have such a strenuous job. The appreciative look on their faces when you share your food with them is simply amazing - much better than their choko vine soup they are accustomed to. (yak!)

What I found the most interesting during my time on this track were my thoughts that travelled to the sadness of war, about the real boys from the real World War II. They survived hardships, endured pain and dug trenches with little more than their tin hats to dig with. I could not fathom to imagine the terrifying moments of these brave men back in those horrifying morbid days.

I could not appreciate the scenery as much as I wanted to as the most important factor was looking at the ground below and my next step so I didn't fall over. The nature when I could appreciate it was breathtaking with steps derived from tree roots guiding our paths. Without these roots to guide us we would have slipped down the muddy hills caused by the incessant rain each day. So much mud, so much mess but we survived. We did this walk for pleasure and once again I couldn't imagine being here in wartime, being shot out whilst carrying heavy ammunition along with food and supplies.

When we reached the top of the mountain - I held my breath in awe of the paramount view. It was so green and luscious - I had never experienced scenery like this in my life.

I have to say it wasn't easy... It was really tough walking up through those mountains, no connection to the big world, no power no luxuries. Just you, a sleeping bag and some dry clothes to sleep in at the end of a big day. My whole outlook of life changed upon return to civilisation. I didn't feel the need to want such material possessions. I asked myself a few times...Do I really need that new pair of shoes or would my money be better spent sending books to New Guinea? It really is an eye opener.

I wouldn't recommend the track to the faint hearted or



the unfit - it was tough! If you are prepared and fit and ready to experience raw life then it will be a rewarding and wonderful experience. The track itself is an emotional journey, I found myself living in my head for awhile, but then my focus started moved to a rhythm, taking one step at a time.

My major life experience from this track was to take life one step at a time and break it right down to the actual lifting your leg and landing on the next piece of ground soundly. It sounds simple but it's actually very challenging.

And if you concentrate on that one moment everything else in life will link with the same ease. Don't look too far ahead, naturally planning is paramount but don't look too far back at what could have happened, there is no changing the past only lessons to be learnt for the present.

Another great joy was giving each little child in the villages a balloon - something small but still a token of friendliness. These children are amongst the happiest children I have ever met yet they have nothing. No possessions, no money, no education and not much food. It was the glowing smile from each child's face that made me feel humble, a little selfish I guess, but by giving to the children I gain some much more. Every time I hear a balloon squeeze I will see those happy faces in my mind for the rest of my life.

*Marie*

# Zonta Fashion Showcase





## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday 27 September –  
Sunday 29 September**

District 22 Conference  
Noosa Convention & Exhibition Centre

**Friday 11 October**

UN Day of the Girl Child

**Thursday 24 October**

United Nations Day

**Friday 8 November**

Zonta International's 94<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**Monday 25 November**

White Ribbon Day & 16 Days of Activism

**Saturday 9 November**

**Walk to Say No**

On 9 November 2013 Zontians, their families and friends are invited to join a walk from Brisbane's **Newstead Park**. The objective is to make a visible statement to media, other organisations involved in violence prevention, and the Brisbane community that Zonta is a strong advocate for ending violence against women locally and internationally.

For more details:

[www.zontasaysno.com.au](http://www.zontasaysno.com.au)

