



March 2013

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Angela has had a flying visit home – just a few days before she heads off on her Jordan/Israel adventure with Robyn. Quite a few of us were able to meet up with her at the Coffee Club and, while enjoying the delicious avocado/smoked salmon/poached egg open sandwich, admiring the rain soaked marina view and lots of catch up chat, we were able to present to her the sympathy card, which you all signed at the last General meeting, as well as a gorgeous bunch of flowers. As you can imagine, she was extremely touched and just loved hearing all the latest Zonta news. She is really looking forward to being home “to stay” at the end of March.

March sees our annual IWDB event. The committee has been working furiously over the last few weeks and ticket sales are going really well. We have had absolutely marvellous media coverage thanks to Sandii. Everybody is looking forward to being thoroughly entertained and Nancy and Laurel will be a real tonic for us all after this wet wet wet weather!!

I am truly looking forward to the March general meeting. We are going to be inducting two new members, Shirley and Mae. Searna Casos is going to be speaking to us about the Hear and Say camp she attended in Brisbane and Sue Tuck will be telling us about the work she is doing with hearing in Nepal. As well, she will be showing us a short, informative DVD.

The February planning session was well attended, with many new ideas coming forward. Please think about the committees you would like to be involved in this coming year:

- ⇒ Our wonderful Service projects
- ⇒ Fundraise so that we can pay for these service projects
- ⇒ Keeping ourselves informed on international humanitarian projects
- ⇒ Attract new members and nurture existing members with social activities and fun

It was so nice to have Hilary Grant, our Area Director, at our February meeting. We all loved meeting her, really enjoyed her address and I know she is very impressed with the many projects our club is involved in, as well as the warmth and camaraderie that is so obvious within our club.

Roz Jennings, Vice-President





## SERVICE

### Seama Casos

Searna is a local girl, who started high school this year, and, who was born with a hearing disability (Microtia which is a small ear and has no left ear canal). In 2011, Searna had a Vibrant Sound Bridge implant - she was the third child in Australia to have this implant – and has had regular follow up visits in Brisbane.

She was invited to attend STAR: Solutions through Adventure and Social Skills . It is a programme offered by Hear and Say Centre in Brisbane and our club was asked to help get her there. The programme is for students 12-14 years and is designed to enhance leadership, social skills, self-confidence and resilience. Our club approved the assistance required and Searna went to Brisbane for the 3-day camp.



She had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed it. We have already had news of a good result from her attendance. She told her mother a boy was bullying her on the school bus and when her mother asked if she wanted her to do something about it, Searna replied that she would handle it herself. Searna spoke to the boy's mother, who dealt with the boy ,and Searna has had no more bullying.

Her mother feels that this would not have happened before the camp where bullying was one of the subjects discussed - she is so proud of her daughter.

Searna and her mother will be our guests at the March dinner meeting and we look forward to hearing her story.

Noelene Helman, Secretary



Cassidy  
Hayward

### YWPA winners for 2012/13

Wendy & Jess are very pleased to advise that the 2012/13 Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program has been finalised and **Cassidy Hayward has taken 1<sup>st</sup> place**. Close behind her in second place was Stacey Miotto. Both girls were attending Proserpine High School when they applied and both have now commenced their university studies in Brisbane. Both girls showed a strong awareness and involvement in public affairs, with a commitment to both the school and the community.

**Cassidy** is studying at UQ in an Engineering degree which will lead her into Environmental Engineering. She won the school leadership award in 2012, coming top in her class in Japanese, which gave her an OP2 (eligible) score.

**Stacey** is studying a dual degree at QUT in Creative Industries and Business, majoring in Animation and Marketing. In 2012, she won the school Citizenship Award and the Dawson medal.

We'll be watching the progress of these two young ladies, and maybe , Stacey will be a contender for the JMK award next year. We are in contact with both of them regarding their next home visit so that they can attend a Zonta meeting.

Their awards - \$500 and \$250 respectively – will be forwarded to them with a certificate.

Wendy Downes & J  
Jess Brett,  
Young Women in Public  
Affairs



Stacey Miotto



### Garden Committee

At the Zonta Planning day in 2008, the idea for setting up vegetable gardens in schools was suggested. A committee was formed and had its first meeting in September 2008. We designed a logo and aims: Grow it, Cook it and Eat it.

A prototype was set up at the Whitsunday Crisis Centre refuge in March 2009. Since then, we have provided two raised garden beds, soil, plants, fertilizer, tools, signs and a manual to every school in the Cannonvale/Proserpine area. The final one being the St. Catherine's senior campus in February 2013.

Judy Brown, Chair



Dukan "do" slimmers



### Date Claimers

**5 March:** Board Meeting—5 PM

**10 March:** International Women's Day—Reef Gateway—9 AM for 9.30 start

**21 March:** General Meeting—Reef Gateway—6.15 for 6.30 start

**27 March:** Last Wednesday Book Club—Joan's, 13 Warrain St, Shute Harbour—5p.m.

**2 April:** Board Meeting—5 PM

**9 April:** Breakfast Sessions begin—7 AM—Caper's

**18 April:** New Members Night—Marina Shores—6.15 for 6.30 start

**20/21 April:** District 7 Conference—Bowen



## Advocacy

### United Nations

#### Birthrights Videos – Women in Ethiopia

“Thirty years of being isolated and alone – it’s a lifetime lost.” This is how one woman with obstetric fistula described her life. “I am poor because I am alone with no husband and no children. And I have this problem”.

She is one of many women who are being treated in remote and regional areas of Ethiopia for obstetric fistula and who are now gaining their lives back.

Since 2005 the Addis Ababa Hamlin Fistula Hospital has opened five regional clinics to treat women who cannot get to Addis Ababa and who don’t have the means to be admitted to other fee-paying medical services. While receiving treatment at the clinics they are also provided with food and shelter and money to cover their transport expenses.

The stories of these women are told in two short videos titled ‘Birthrights’, which were screened in January 2013 for Zontians. The videos also show the work of outreach health workers who carry out education programs in remote villages, in schools, in households, and with traditional healers.

These are heart-warming and emotional stories, and up-lifting too, as all those who watched them will attest.

Robyn Mitchell, U.N. Co-Chair



Lynn McKenzie, Zonta International President and Zonta International Foundation President with fistula survivors

#### Women in New Delhi:

Three young Indian girl singers forming the Rock-group “Pragaash”, meaning out of the darkness, are bringing light to the people through the music. They are living in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The most influential Muslim cleric in the Indian part of Kashmir, Mufti Bashiruddin Ahmad, has proclaimed a Fatwa. “ GIRL Rock bands should be forbidden as the attitude and behaviour of female singers is not Islamic. Singing is not in accordance with the Islamic doctrine. A society can only be established along the line of the Islam. I as Mufti, have ordered these girls and others to live decently and respectful.”

#### Women in The Hague:

The Dutch ultra Christian Political Party, SGP, ( with three seats in Parliament) needed a verdict by the International Court of Justice to change an article in their Regulations: excluding female party members the right to govern in counsels and or parliament. Gender can no longer be used to influence the selection of the candidates. However, the SGP insists that “their right to passive vote is against the ultimate dedication for a woman”. The SGP says: “We will not change our rules and, in accordance with our religious principles, excluding the passive right to vote for women will remain unchanged.”

Submitted by Augusta Hermans





Guus Hermans (back row) rejoins the UN Committee and is pictured here with Christina Della Valle, Lesley Pratchett, Director Janet Keppke and Sharon Rudinski. Other UN members (not pictured) are Pam Graham, and Robyn Mitchell, who took the photo



Roz Jennings greets the Area Director, Hilary Grant

## Membership

**18 April: New Members Night**—Marina Shores—6.15 for 6.30 start - All members are asked to follow up with those guests at our IWDB and invite them to this special night, showcasing our friendly club and sharing a meal.

**20/21 April: Area 5 Conference—Bowen**—All the details of this very special time, meet new Zonta friends and say “g’day” to those not seen since last conference, have been sent separately to you. The guest speaker, Dr. Jay Iyer, will be of particular interest to us due to his fistula work overseas and female cosmetic genital surgery in Townsville. Several of us have all ready put our reservations in with Noelene. Stay both days and enjoy the evening fellowship (which is always good fun) or come for the session on Saturday.

**THERMOLICIOUS CLEAN FOOD POP UP RESTAURANT:** Instant Pop Up Restaurant  
This is NOT a Zonta fund raising event but a community fund raising project  
for the Logan’s Adventure Playground

**When:** Sunday 14th April, 2013

**Time:** 12 noon to 3pm.

**Where:** Azure Resort 26 Raintree Pl, Airlie Beach

**Cost:** \$50.00 per head for 5 course meal (choice of Salmon Chicken for main.) BYO wine & drinks.

**RSVP:** Sue 0415 311 119 **Numbers strictly limited to 22 people.**



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## PROFILE: Cath Fernbach

### *Secrets*

My life has been blessed by the good fairy, how lucky I am!!

**MY** childhood was idyllic, in retrospect. I picture it as one of those 50's movies where everything has a golden haze and mothers wore frilly aprons whilst making cakes. I was raised on our family farm where there was endless time stretching between Christmases and birthdays and seasons that divided up the year. Autumn was the time for harvesting crops for preserves and jam and making hay for the winter ahead, whilst spring brought with it floods, newborn animals and planting crops for summer. It was all such a carefree time from a child's perspective. I had a number of faithful companions of my own, a puppy to play with, a tricky black pony with her playful foals or a hand reared pet calf to cosset and care for. My extended family lived on the adjoining farm: my grandparents were close by, my aunts, uncles and cousins, whom we met with every week for afternoon tea or to share a midday meal and took great pleasure in hearing each other's news.

**MY** adult life too is full of good fortune. I have a loving relationship with my husband and two daughters and their partners, there is a beautiful grandchild with the extraordinary name of Castro, who lights up our lives in a way I never believed possible. My career, too, has been satisfying and challenging, depending on the years, and I've often had the opportunity to mould it as circumstances and opportunities came my way.

**MY** life is not the stuff of an interesting tale so I'll share with you a secret obsession... as seductive and antisocial as drugs or smoking or alcohol or stalking an object of desire. My addiction is to reading and in the way of all addictions, it holds me firmly in its grasp. From the moment I select a new book I'm enamoured with this fascinating friend; the first smell of the newly printed pages with their neatly stacked edges, aligned, pristine and without dog ears. Untouched by another person. Even the glossy tantalizing cover has me in its power I'm hooked and I haven't even turned a page.

**Once** that first page is turned, I'm compelled to finish the next chapter and the next and the one following, regardless of what task gets neglected or who is overlooked in the process. Many times, when I was a child, my exasperated mother would say "Cath would read the cornflakes packet if there was nothing else". That was bit of a family joke.

**Throughout** my life there have been periods when I've become secretive and obsessive. In an era when good housekeeping was important, sheets ironed and slovenly practices frowned upon, I would steal time from those duties and hide with my novel; shortcut my responsibilities in the kitchen and garden just to grab another page or finish a chapter or two of my latest library treasure.

**It** began in Primary School (Trafalgar East No 3499) in the 1950s. In my school days, the Victorian education system printed quality readers that were intended to last for an entire school year. Who can forget the delicious terror contained in the pages of the Second Victorian Reader with its story of the Hobyas as they skipped on the tips of their toes through the gum trees, threatening to eat up the little old woman and little old man and killing little dog Dingo



Age 4

