

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2014



This year is flying by so quickly and here we are about to have another very busy month in October with Pink Ribbon Day Stall, Birthing Kits and of course our big fundraiser – Trivia.

The various committees are all working well and without a lot of fuss the work is being done very efficiently. The Membership Night held in September was a great example of this. It was a wonderful night and we are all hopeful of getting some new members as a result. Congratulations to the Committee and once again the food was fabulous too!!

In October we are having a visit from our new Area Director Marie Cameron from Mackay. You should have all received a copy of her first newsletter and I hope you have read it. Marie was very instrumental in helping Z clubs being formed in the Mackay area and will be able to pass on some information to those members who are keen to do something similar here.

There have been many reports recently on television, radio and in newspapers about domestic and sexual violence, and fistula genital mutilation. The news that ex Governor-General Quentin Bryce is heading a committee in this regard is good news and it will be very interesting to read her report when it is handed down early in the new year. Our Advocacy committee intends to talk about this to members by way of short talks at our meetings.

Advocacy Director Maxine has had some experience in this field and is very keen for members to learn more. Recently Christina agreed to be our UN Committee chair which is fabulous news and she too will be giving a series of talks to members starting at our October meeting. She has a great passion for the subject and I am sure we will all learn a lot from her.

Recently the members voted to increase the cost of our dinner meetings to \$30 pp. Our efficient treasurer Lise had noted that our previous fee did not always cover costs depending on attendance. We have 39 members but usually there are only about 24-27 members at the meetings. We need 27 members at \$30 to cut even on cost of the meal and hire of the room. I know we always seem to have some travellers each month (and why not when they can) – and others have work commitments but there are some who just don't attend. I am appealing to all members to attend when they can. We try to make the meetings interesting and run efficiently for you so please help us.

My thought for the month:

“It's not what you gather but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.”

Cheers, Noelene





ADVOCACY

Just something to ponder:

"One woman dies in Australia every week at the hands of a partner or ex-partner"

Some say that it is more like 1.5 every week-- 6 per month.

Is the Zonta Says No campaign working? Is any campaign dealing with violence against women and children working?

Over the weekend I have read reports that indicate that domestic violence in Australia is at epidemic proportions. Natasha Stott Despoja says that it is a national disgrace. But is it worse than it was in years past? Or is it that women ARE speaking up? Is it like the incidences of Child Abuse in Institutions? People are ready and able to speak up because someone is at last listening. Women have long suffered domestic violence with the thought that there was nowhere for them to go. How would they support themselves and their children? Who was going to believe them? They mostly felt trapped. Is it any different today? Yes, there are places for women to go and there is support. But women still feel stigmatised --- they still feel embarrassed and ashamed, sometimes just unable to admit that they are victims of domestic violence. And so the wheel keeps turning.

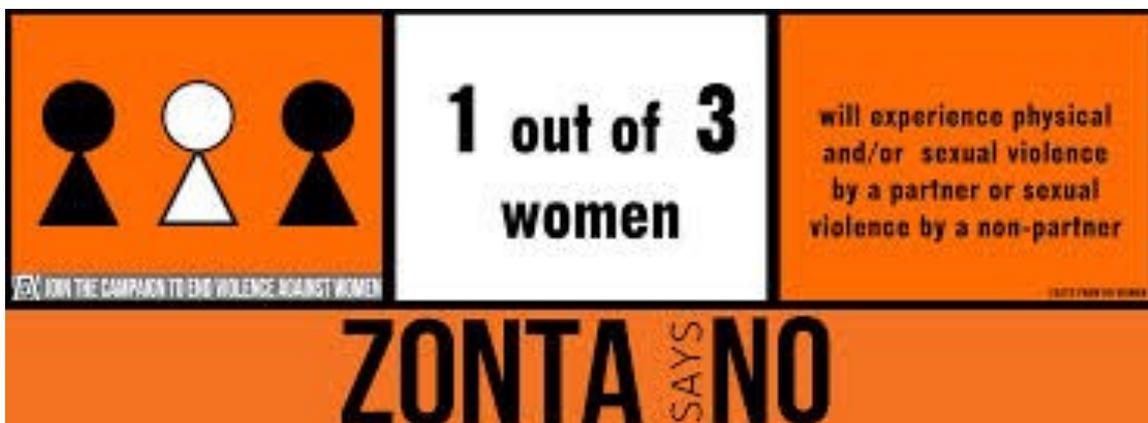
Then there are the women like Kelly Thompson. She did report her abusive partner, Wayne Wood, no less than 34 times in the weeks leading up to her death-- including 9 times in one day. Her neighbours rang police expressing their fear. They were told to ring back if they heard screaming or breaking glass!! They didn't hear screaming or breaking glass but still Kelly Thompson died at the hands of her abusive partner. She had an AVO-- it proved useless to Kelly.

Because of his findings in the case of Kate Malonyay-- murdered by her ex-partner, the deputy Coroner in NSW will recommend that the Education minister in NSW introduce a topic dealing with domestic violence and abusive relationships into the school curriculum. It is interesting that in both the cases that I have mentioned, the perpetrator has killed himself as well.

It is with great interest that I wait to see if the committee being organised and including Dame Quentin Bryce can make inroads into this vexing issue. She has been made an honorary Zontian. Maybe, just maybe, she and others like her can make a difference.

Can we make a difference in our community? Are we making a difference in our community?

I don't know. Love to hear your thoughts. Maxine Thiele, Director





Please attend and wear your shirts and/or Zonta badges to not only to support Whitsunday Crisis and Counselling Service but to tell the community we take a stand against and sexual violence. Invite your men too.

Women should be safe to walk down the street of an evening.

Reclaim the night
March against
Sexual Violence

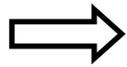
WHEN: Friday 31st October 2014
WHERE: Meet Community Market Space
Airlie Esplanade for
TIME: 6:15 pm start

Stay for the sausage sizzle afterwards!

1 in 3 woman are affected by sexual violence
You can change the statistic

For more information please phone
Whitsunday Crisis and Counselling Service
on (07) 4946 2999 or the Whitsunday Neighbourhood
Centre on (07) 4946 7850

The poster features a dark purple background with a yellow crescent moon and three yellow stars. The text is in white and yellow. At the bottom, there are silhouettes of three people, one with arms raised.



INFORMATION FROM THE UN COMMITTEE

Female genital mutilation: unfortunately a subject that is current even in Australia.

What is FGM?

The World Health Organization (WHO) states that the term female genital mutilation (FGM) refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM is a harmful practice and a violation of human rights of affected women and girls. In 1997, the WHO issued a joint statement with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) against the practice of FGM.

Also known as 'female circumcision' or 'female genital cutting', FGM is deeply entrenched in cultural and societal meanings and beliefs. FGM is considered a normal and necessary aspect of raising a girl properly in preparation for adulthood and marriage in many cultures.

In Australia, it is illegal to practice FGM. New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory have legislated against the practice of FGM and it exists in the Criminal Codes of Western Australia and Tasmania. There is no federal legislation regarding FGM.

FGM in Australia

Over the past decades, through migration and refugee flight, women and girls who have been subjected to FGM have resettled in western countries, including Australia.

In 2011, there were 109,000 people living in Australia who were born in countries that practice FGM. It is difficult to know the precise number of women and girls in Australia who are affected by FGM.



It is important that national, state and territory health and community service providers and planners are aware of FGM in order to care for the special needs of women and girls affected by FGM.

Reversal of genital mutilation in Australia

There are several clinics that are specialized in pelvic health for women, including the reversal of genital mutilation. The Pelvic Health Unit in Pimlico, North Queensland (femalepelvichealth.com.au), is a comprehensive multidisciplinary service aimed at addressing issues of bowel and bladder incontinence, genital prolapse and sexuality. About a quarter of all women suffer from embarrassing leakage of bowel or bladder. Most women suffer silently and wait for years before seeking help, thereby suffering social isolation, depression and even marital discordance. One in five women suffers from genital prolapse resulting in bladder problems, bowel problems or sexual dysfunction. The Pelvic Health Unit is at the forefront in research and treatment of these debilitating conditions and offers comprehensive, compassionate and minimally invasive therapies for their ailments. Prof Rane's unit provides the only sub-specialist urogynaecology service in regional Australia, North Queensland in particular. Prof. Rane was a finalist for Queensland Australian of the Year 2012 and was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2013.

Female genital mutilation all over the world cannot be fought successfully with legislation only, as long as it is deeply entrenched in religion and culture. Only education of the men and women involved can decrease and finally end this brutal practice.

UN Chair, Christina della Valle



SERVICE

The time between now and Christmas is very busy for all of us, but particularly for those on Service Committees. First up is our Trivia Night: Sue, Connie, Cath and Karen Collins have everything well in hand and it promises to be an outstanding night.

On Saturday 25th October we will have our Pink Ribbon Stall at Airlie Markets where we will showcase our Breast Cushions and Drip Bags. The knitting group have made us a beautiful pink rug to raffle, as well we will be selling the usual strawberries and cream. Set up time is 7 am and we run until approximately 12.30. Anyone able to assist on the stall please let me know I will be at the Trivia Night on Friday 10th Oct or ring me.

The IWD Committee is meeting fortnightly in the runup to the Christmas break with the next meeting on Thursday 9th October at Shirley's house at 7pm. We have been very busy getting quotes from different venues and Lynette is lining up two very interesting speakers. We will also be running a fashion parade showcasing different fashion groups in Airlie Beach so it promises to be a very full and informative morning.

My thanks also go to Judy (Books from Birth), Wendy (Birthing Kits), Carole (AFADU) and Roz (Entertainment Books) who run their committees so well, it makes the Service Directors job so much easier.
Cheers, Kerrie Adams Director



THE LAST WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

The Last Wednesday Book Club is a group of 10 Zontians & Friends of Zonta who meet once a month at a member's home to discuss a book read during the previous four weeks. The club started in 2010 and has evolved into what we like to refer to as the "Gourmet Book Club" as our meetings were soon extended to include dinner and sometimes a film based on the book, if available.

This month we are reading "The Blind Man's Garden" by Nadeem Aslam. Given current events, this book could not be more topical as it is set in Pakistan and Afghanistan during the war that followed the 9/11 attacks on the United States. We are given a perspective on these events, on life in Pakistan and the influence of Islam from the inside when Jeo and Mikal, foster brothers from a small Pakistani town, secretly enter Afghanistan with the intent of caring for wounded civilians. Their intentions are soon frustrated however as they are betrayed by Afghans they believed would help them and captured and tortured by the Americans believing them to be members of al-Qaeda. One thing I find particularly poignant is the inside perspective we are given from the women involved of life and events in Pakistan.

Membership of the book Club is limited as our reading is based on book sets from The State Library, however if you are interested or would like to know more please contact me.

The October meeting is on Wednesday 29th at my home, 14 Hayman Views Estate, Cannonvale at 5p.m. Kerry Kenyon, Chair



From the left: Hilary Grant,(past Area 5 Director and President of Charters Towers) , Marie Cameron, (Chairperson and Area 5 Director), Angela Spicer, and Janice Micola (Past Area 5 Director and D22 Chair United Nations).

Zonta International District 22 Area 5 Training Day
Sunday 31st August 2014 at the Townsville Yacht Club
Marie Cameron – Chairperson, Area 5 Director

Approximately 35 Zonta members attended, from our clubs in the Area 5 area.
Mt Isa, Mackay, Whitsundays, Bowen, Townsville, and Charters Towers,

Aim of the Workshop:

Provide an opportunity to facilitate relationships between Clubs within Area 5 and also more broadly within District 22. We all introduced ourselves in turn stating the club we represented and the length of time we had been a member of Zonta, also outlined the various positions we had held during this time. Everyone started to relax and proceeded to enjoy the interaction through the day.

Hilary Grant spoke to us covering the responsibilities of the office bearers, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. As usual, Hilary covered the topic well, with a sprinkling of humour between the lines to keep our interest!

Topics discussed in relation to the continuing management of our clubs proved to be very informative; we separated into small groups which gave everyone an insight into various club members concerns.

Some of the subjects discussed were: Auditing Requirements and Costs, Membership challenges experienced in our clubs, retaining membership, keeping up the momentum and motivation of our members etc....

Maria Hutton was our guest speaker. She is disabled and talked to us from her wheel chair. We were all very interested and impressed with her tenacity and positive attitude to life. She manages to lead a very active life, caring for her husband and children and is the Manager of the Spinal Injuries Association in Townsville.

Our chairperson Marie said “The purpose of Maria's attendance was more of an education about inclusiveness and diversity- both within membership of Zonta and the women’s issues which we support. Women with disabilities seems to be a sector of our communities that we don't know very much about and are not sure how to support”.

I spoke to Maria after her speech and wanted to know if she would like to speak at one of our dinner or breakfast meetings in the future, she seemed very interested and would love the opportunity.....The day was good value, and I was glad I had the opportunity to attend. Angela Spicer, Past President





MEMBERSHIP

Wow! What a Membership Committee we have this year.:

Information Night - The New Member Information Night was a huge success. The committee did it within budget and surpassed the goals with approximately 12 guests attending and 7 of those filling in the Detail sheet to be including in our mailing list.

Everyone participated and enjoyed the event. They did a great job showing prospective members what we do and how we feel about our Club. The food as always wonderful and the midget dance at the end finished off a great evening.

Thanks to everyone for taking part and a BIG THANKS to the Membership Committee. Well Done!

Club Shirts – Our original manufacturer is no longer available. Lauren is looking into getting the shirts supplied locally. More detail to come on this October-November. If you are considering ordering a Club Shirt, contact Lauren 0400 028 959. There are a number of shirts in stock and we will be placing an order for more sizes soon.



Thumbs Up Award - A new Candidate has been chosen. Awarding the certificate will take place soon. Award Recipient will be announced at the October General Meeting.

Knock Knock Mystery Dinner—A Knock Knock Mystery Dinner is happening in October. The date will be announced at our general meeting. Make sure you get your reservations in as soon as can after the General Meeting. This is one not to miss.

Want to host a Knock Knock Dinner? Just send an e-mail to zontaclub7@hotmail.com re Knock Knock Dinner. You will be forwarded a sheet telling how to proceed. It's simple; it's easy and it's fun.

Zonta Biros-You may have seen the Zonta pens at the Information Night. All guests receive a complimentary pen for filling in the Guest Detail sheets. Any members who would like a pen may purchase these for \$2.00 each. This is a small fund-raiser for the club and a good initiative to get prospective members to fill in the forms.

What's in Store for November—Time for a bit of fun with Mentoring Moments by the Membership Committee. It's all happening at the November General Meeting.

AQUA AEROBICS –

Time to get fit!! Talk to Laura Morrison on 0409 396 204, and join aqua aerobics. What a great way to exercise, with a group of friends having fun and enjoying a cuppa.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Christmas Party is just around the corner as Christmas for Zonta is coming early this year.

Don't forget to mark the date in your Calendar – 15 November 2014.

Now is the time to start working on your wardrobe for a "Great Gatsby" theme and look forward to a night filled with fun, laughter, music and of course lots of food glorious food.

Connie Riley, Director





Date Claimers

7 October: Board meeting – 5.30

10th October: Trivia Night - Whitsunday Bowling Club- 6.00pm for 6.30 – Contact Sue Hansen

16 October: General Meeting - 6.15 – Reef Gateway

25 October: Pink Ribbon Day stall at markets—7 AM set up—12.30 take down

27 October: AFADU Carole 4946 6538 for time/place

29 October: Last Wednesday Book Club: 5p.m. at Kerry's home, 14 Hayman Views Estate

29 October: Birthing Kit Assembly Day – Wendy Downes, Chair

4 November: Board meeting—5.30

15 November : Christmas Party – Sue Hansen, Chair

20 November: General Meeting - 6.15 – Reef Gateway

26 November: Last Wednesday Book Club: 5p.m. - contact Kerry - 4946 1460

Put together a table for a bit of fun: Enjoy themed morning teas prepared by the next generation of Hospitality Professionals!

Palmer's Restaurant will be open in October and November for various themed morning tea events from 10.30am-12.30am. Dates and themes below:

\$8 per person, which includes a slice of baked goods or biscuits and tea or espresso coffee.

October : Wednesday 15 - Australian theme

· Wednesday 22 - Beach theme

· Wednesday 29- English theme

November: Wednesday 5 - Chocolate theme

Wednesday 12– Mad Hatter theme

Book now to avoid disappointment. Phone 07 4940 2777

Palmer's Restaurant provides our Hospitality and Cookery students with the opportunity to gain experience in a real life restaurant style environment. Your support is greatly appreciated.



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