

JANUARY 2012

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello everyone

Happy New Year one and all!

I am hoping that everyone has enjoyed the Festive Season activities and that you are all looking forward to a brilliant 2012! We certainly are commencing the year in full swing with the organisation of a \$2000 donation from the Zonta Club of the Whitsundays to be presented to the Fistula hospital via Robyn Mitchell early this year. We had an overwhelming "yes" response from all of our members, our little way of directly making a difference.

We are just so excited for you Robyn and pleased that you are able to hand deliver our donation and thoughts to the hospital. We certainly will be looking forward to hearing all about it on your return and we wish you a safe and wonderful trip!

Your nomination committee will soon be meeting and looking for prospective Board members for 2012-2013 under our President Elect Angela's realm as President. I ask all of you to seriously consider accepting nomination if you are approached to take on a position on the Board, we are a proactive club and you certainly feel supported by the membership as a whole, which makes being a Board member a very rewarding experience. Why not give it a go?

I look forward to catching up with everyone at our next meeting at the Reef Gateway Hotel on Thursday 19th January 2012!

Cheers

Sandii, President.

Zonta Club of the Whitsundays

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MEMBER NEWS

Gossip:

Had a lovely chat to ex Mayor Mario Demartini just before Xmas and he told me Andrea (his daughter and an original member of Zonta) was now in Western Australia. Still with the bank, she is now in charge of hiring and firing for WA. She is keeping very well but still has not met the “one” however is very happy with her life, as I’m sure all who knew her would imagine. I sent her best wishes from us all. Her mother Gloria – also an ex member of Zonta – has at last “retired” from the kindergarten but when I asked him what she would do – his reply was “join another committee”.

Again all who know her would agree just how true this is.

As for Mario – an electrician by trade – he has renewed his tickets and spent 5 months early this year working in the Tully area on homes damaged by cyclone and rain, and loving his new life.

While wandering around Airlie just before Christmas, I ran into Adele McGinty – had a lovely chat and she looked very well. She is very keen for us to become involved in Laughter Yoga, so maybe we could look at this again and see what is involved. I told Adele I tried to laugh every day but apparently this is not enough!

The same day I also saw Marlene Reiffel at the markets, she was here for Christmas and will be back again in a few month’s for a longer stay.

Submitted by Noeline Helman, Secretary

DATE CLAIMERS Please put these dates on your calendar

16th January: Education Bursary Committee Meeting, 5.30 p.m. at Capers. (TBC)

19 January: General Meeting – 6.15 for 6.30 starts – Reef Gateway

14th February: Breakfast meeting Capers 7 for 7.30 Speaker Jeff Grant from Relationships Australia

25th January Last Wednesday Book Club Meeting at Kerry’s 5pm.

11 March International Women’s Day Brunch at Coral Sea commencing at 9.30

13th March: Breakfast meeting Capers 7 for 7.30 Speaker Pam Tindall. Water Wells in Cambodia.

10th April: Breakfast meeting Capers 7 for 7.30 Speaker Robyn Mitchell. A Woman’s Perspective on Ethiopia

8th May: Breakfast meeting Capers 7 for 7.30 Speaker Pam Harrison An update on her work in Zimbabwe



REPORTS

SERVICE:

Service Report January 2012

It may be hard to believe but another year is underway with several Service projects needing support in January. I am calling on members to kick-start and keep the momentum going on several very worthy on-going projects as well as any new ones, which are sure to evolve. Most of these require commitment for only a few weeks once a year, while others are on-going over a longer period. Can I suggest that each member selects one short-term project and one longer project to be involved in and this way we should have everything covered. The first of these is the Education Bursary, which starts in January as information goes out to schools soon after the commencement of term. Only two to three meetings are required plus the Selection Panel's meeting with the finalists. All should be over by March. Another project related to the selection of a suitable young woman to support is YWPA (Young Women in Public Affairs). So far Wendy has made an outstanding contribution to this but she is now in need of some new blood to keep this project alive. The Library Project committee will meet early in the year to organise the final stage of the purchase and launch of a collection of women's biographies. The Garden Project has also reached its final stage with one more garden to install at Proserpine High School with the initial steps already underway. The Last Wednesday Book Club will hold its first meeting for the year this month on the 25th and we look forward to another year of reading, fellowship and lively discussion (not to mention delicious meals)

One of our biggest events, The International Women's Day Brunch on 11th March is coming up soon and everyone's help will be greatly appreciated with this enjoyable and important occasion. Janet is looking for help with finding sponsors for the raffle now and will need other help soon. Please let her know if you can help. The AFADU Group is due to kick off in February, as will *Books from Birth*.

I'm looking forward to another enjoyable and rewarding year; let's make it happen girls.

Submitted by Kerry Kenyon, Director.

Julie's Farewell

What a lovely afternoon we enjoyed at Capers on Sunday 8th January.

Our young Julie Boss was happily chatting to about twelve of us with little Daisy (Melody Cross's smiling baby) on her knee.

It was so special to catch Julie before she drove down to Brisbane to join her husband. This is Whitsundays' loss. The downturn in tourism here has affected many of us, but our Club is losing one of our best

young smiling faces that has been a pleasure to have on various committees. President Sandii spoke to her on our behalf and

recalled her beautiful narration of a starfish. We must have all remembered this moment as many of us shed a tiny tear as we recalled that it was worthy of Sir Winston Churchill!

I'm just so pleased that here is the connection I have been looking for. Julie and Tony named their delightful pup, "Winston"





REPORTS

SERVICE: (cont'd)

Christmas in the Whitsundays



Every year members unite to give some Christmas cheer to those less fortunate than us, by way of Adopt a Family and Pamper Packs. Through the Whitsunday Times we adopted a family of a single father and 4 children and, as always we managed to put together a huge amount of food and wrapped presents for them. A happy group of Zontians gathered at Janet's home, the Organic B&B to wrap and pack on a Sunday afternoon and then enjoy an amazing afternoon tea on the balcony. The hampers and bags of presents were delivered to Lifeline in Proserpine the following Day. We also created 12 Pamper Packs for the women's shelter and I am sure they would have been very well received.

Some generous Zontians offset the club budget for this project and I would like to personally thank all those who donated. A total of \$610 was spent on both projects. I would also like to thank the committee of Noelene, Janet, Dawn, and our friend of Zonta Julie, plus all the Zontians and friends who helped to pack and wrap.

Submitted by Wendy Downs



Fistula Hospital Donation

On November 22 we received an email from our past Zonta President Robyn Mitchell with some wonderful news.

Sometime ago Robyn had organized a trip to Ethiopia with one of her tour groups, and it had just been confirmed that a visit had been arranged for her group to visit the Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa "I'm so excited," says Robyn, "this hospital is where the wonderful Dr Catherine Hamlin is working - she has been described as a 'living saint' and compared with Mother Theresa".

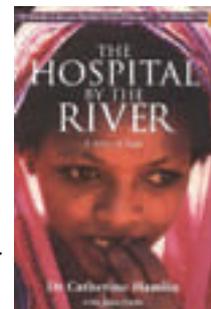
As you are all aware Obstetric Fistula is one of Zonta International Service Projects.

Dr Hamlin's memoir

The awe-inspiring story of the life and mission of Dr. Catherine Hamlin who, with her husband Reg, established what has been heralded as one of the most incredible medical programs in the modern world, by dedicating their lives to women suffering the catastrophic effects of obstructed labour.

Ethiopia's insistence on child-brides and their poor obstetric care is responsible for the high incidence of women suffering fistulae, and until the Hamlin's began their work in Ethiopia, fistula sufferers were neglected and forgotten, a vast group of women facing a lifetime of incapacity and degradation.

With their team of dedicated fistula surgeons, they have successfully operated on over 25,000 women, and the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital has become a major teaching institution for gynaecologists from all over Ethiopia and the developing world.



5 Zonta Club of the Whitsundays - member of Zonta International

Our President Sandii and the Zonta members decided to give a \$2,000 Bank Cheque, with a card showing a photo of all the Zonta Whitsunday Club Members on the front and greetings penned inside:

“The members of our Zonta Club have heard and are inspired by the wonderful work you do at the hospital and we ask that you accept our small donation that will help with sponsoring patient’s treatments and enhance the lives of the girls who are at the hospital. We would be delighted to hear of any feedback on the way our contribution has helped. We wish you well. Sincerely, Zonta Club of the Whitsundays members.”

The feedback we received from our Zonta Members has been wonderful, and we are all happy to be able to show our concern and appreciation for the work of Dr Catherine Hamlin in her fistula hospital and how one intelligent, caring woman has devoted her time on earth to easing the plight of young mothers in Africa.

So Robyn is off shortly on her big adventure in Ethiopia and we look forward to hearing all about her visit at our Zonta Breakfast Talk booked for 10th April

Submitted by: Angela Spicer.

UN/Advocacy:

Child trafficking foiled

Alertness and quick thinking by Emirates staff at Dubai Airport have foiled an attempt by people smugglers to traffic children into Europe.

Four Chinese children arrived at Dubai Airport en route to a European country, accompanied by a man and a woman claiming to be their parents, Colonel Mohammad Al Murr, Director of Dubai Police’s Human Rights Department told the UAE-based Gulf News.

Emirates airlines employees in the airport transit hall became suspicious about the groups’ identities and contacted police, who whisked the alleged family’s passports away to the police forensic laboratory for testing.

Result: the passports were found to have been forged.

More science followed. DNA tests on the six passengers revealed that the two adults were not the parents of the children. The children, aged 11, 13, 15 and 16, were not related.

“The alleged father confessed that he was given \$2000 per child to take the children from their home country and deliver them in a European country, claiming that he thought the people receiving them in the European country were their family,” Colonel Al Murr said.

The colonel said the children were clearly being trafficked, which meant they would be exploited and their fate might have been even worse as “they could have been used in human organ trade”.

The children said they were from China but their forged passports were those of another country, Dubai police said. The children were conveyed to the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children and then handed over to a representative of their embassy, who will take them home.

Investigators found that the children had been living with foster families, who had apparently colluded in the trafficking attempt by instructing the children to call the man and woman accompanying them father and mother.

The report did not disclose the country of destination or the nationality of the passports involved. But the vigilance of Emirates employees may have saved the children’s lives.

Written by Peter Needham

Submitted by Janet Keppke, Director.

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ORGANISATION, MEMBERSHIP & CLASSIFICATION:

Membership

How to get the most out of your Zonta International Membership in one simple hour, without leaving home or attending a meeting:

- ⇒ Log onto www.zonta.org Here you will find a wealth of information; without this knowledge, you are only skimming the surface of what Zonta is TRULY about. For example, did you know?
- ⇒ There are 43 new Zonta Clubs being formed as of 1 Dec 2011? Everywhere from Australia to Uruguay (Look under 'Member Resources/Tools/Membership Tools')
- ⇒ Worldwide, 70% of the 1.3 billion poor are women? With the generosity and collective action of Zontians and friends around the world, Zonta International has supported projects in 46 countries by providing scholarships and awards to women and is a powerful advocate for change in our local and international communities. (Look under 'What We Do')
- ⇒ Zonta International has official Facebook, UTube, Twitter, Flickr and LinkedIn pages? (Look under 'Media and News/Social Media')
- ⇒ On Sunday October 9, 2011, members of the Zonta International Foundation Bank of America Chicago Marathon Team ran 26.2 miles each to raise money for, and raise awareness of, Zonta's international service and educational award programs. Together, the six members of the team raised nearly US\$6,000 for the Zonta International Foundation to support Zonta International's programs, benefiting women worldwide. (Look under 'ZI Foundation')
- ⇒ Did you know that all of the audited financial statements of Zonta International are available online? ('Who We Are/Financial Information')

You do NOT need to log in or have a password – all of this is open to you and the public. Zonta has no 'secrets' – we want the world to know what we do and how we do it! Make yourself a cuppa, enjoy your Zonta membership and make yourself proud to be a Zontian at the same time. I know I am.

Submitted by: P.J. Halter, Organisation Classification and Membership Director

Eco Barge newsletter and link to her TV interview.

A Year without plastic

After watching Libby's interview I decided to act upon our plastic use, we must protect our oceans.

If you are interested in reducing your plastic use please visit: www.aplasticfreeyear.blogspot.com

It is not easy but very worthwhile and you become somewhat inventive with your shopping, I am getting some strange looks at the shops whilst declining any plastic packaging and providing my own containers at the butchers.

Submitted by Sue Smith, Newsletter Editor.

To read Libby's newsletter go to:

<http://www.ecobargeservices.com>

Suggested poster for Woman's Day Brunch:

Women in Action
Zonta International
Women's Day Brunch

Venue: Nautilus Room
Coral Sea Resort

Date: Sunday 00 March 2012

Time: 9am for 9:30 start

Tickets: \$38 with complimentary
bubbles on arrival

Speakers: xxx

Charity Auction, door prizes and raffle

Ticket Venues:

CPQ Real Estate 400 Shute Harbour Road	Moocha's Boutique Shop T26, Centro Cannonvale
Proserpine Hair Shoppe Shop 2 Deicke Arcade Proserpine	Community Solutions inc. Whitsunday Shopping Centre

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Coral Sea RESORT

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

The following page is titled "Christmas in Switzerland" and was submitted by Christina della Valle

At the beginning of December, after some weeks of preparation, writing lists, organising husband and animals, I pack my bags to fly to Switzerland: from summer to winter, from country to city, from daily physical work to leisure, family visits, good food and of course snow. The trigger is a round birthday of my daughter that I want to celebrate with her. As a child Nicoletta resented the date of her birth between Christmas and New Year. A few years later it gives me the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends and enjoy a wintry Christmas (one never gets used to Christmas in summer!).



my 4 grandchildren

After a few days of jetlag I am really able to enjoy my holiday! I think Peter was glad to see me go after filling his head with instructions. We do skype daily, so I should know what's happening if they don't hide the bad news from me.

One of the bison has a hybrid heifer is running around; the latest litter of cheeky. There is just enough rain to paddocks and no shortage of feed for



calf; another Beefalo calf piglets are getting really have luscious green the cattle.

The climate in Switzerland tries to treat

me gently: after 2 days of

Fön, a warm Southerly wind, it starts raining and then the long awaited snow comes! Apart from a sore throat I survive the transition. What a sight! White Bern, snow on the road and a sigh of relief from all ski resorts. In the cosy environments of heated



houses and apartments or long walks in the snow I catch up with family and friends, eating food I haven't tasted in more than 2 years & home-made Christmas biscuits. I visit the big farmers market and browse crowded shops in Bern, like a typical Aussie



tourist. I **am** missing my animals (yes, and my husband...), but I enjoy

myself immensely! I spend Christmas with my son and family at the Valais, the Southern part of Switzerland. The old farmhouse is in the middle of vineyards with a stunning view of the alps. I get to know the family of Nicole, my daughter in law and enjoy my grandson Oscar.

