

ZONTA ON THE ROCKS

ZONTA CLUB OF ROCKHAMPTON INC.

P O Box 323 Rockhampton 4700.

Club No. 1054 - Charter 05.08.83.

Email: rockhampton@zontadistrict24.org

Rockhampton Web page: www.rockhampton.zontadistrict24.org

District 24 Website: www.zontadistrict24.org

Zonta International Website: www.zonta.org

ABN. 51 605 623 392

AREA 4 - DISTRICT 24.

ISSUE 5 - MAY 2006.

NOTICES.

If you are
unable to attend
the dinner meeting,
please advise
Anna Tempest
Ph 4928 7880 (W)
Ph 4928 7125 (H)
by 10 am
on the Monday
before the meeting.

**Failure to
apologize will
incur payment
of \$25.00.**



**Area 4 Workshop:
20-21 May 2006
Emerald**

**International
Convention:
24 – 29 June
2006
Melbourne**



Zonta Club of Rockhampton
Member of Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

President's Message:

Dear Fellow Zontians

As you probably have heard, the area YWPA winner has been announced. Ashleigh was certainly in the race. It was great that we had so many outstanding applicants from which to choose. It was lovely that Ashleigh was able to come to our last meeting and talk with us.

Convention is fast approaching. It will be such a great experience for those who can make it. It is good to understand the big picture. It is really motivating when one is able to better understand the aims and achievements of Zonta International. At this stage, I am not able to be away from home, but will certainly be eager to attend when the time is right.

Area Workshop is our next big event in the Zonta calendar. A number of members are attending. It will be a great opportunity to get together and enjoy some fun and fellowship, not to mention the sapphire hunting.

Our next dinner meeting is to be at Chris' home. Thank you Chris for inviting us to come to your home.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at committee meetings on 9 May and at our dinner meeting on 16 May.

Yours in Zonta,
Glenys.



President: Glenys Conrade
glenysconrade@optusnet.com.au

Phone: 07 4928 0807 (H)
07 4920 6914 (W)

Zonta international Foundation - Funding Guidelines ***The Zonta International Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals or requests for funding.***

Grant making Policy

The Zonta International Foundation supports projects that address the education, health and economic advancement of women or prevent violence against women, implemented primarily by United Nations agencies or recognized international non-governmental organizations.

Fellowships, Scholarships and Awards

The Zonta International Foundation provides financial aid in the form of fellowships, scholarships and awards to women and girls for specific academic and leadership development pursuits. Qualified individuals are encouraged to apply for these opportunities.

Zonta on the Rocks – Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

MEETINGS.

Board:

6.30pm:
2nd Tuesday
of the month
Venue:
Rockhampton Plaza
Hotel.

Dinner:

6.00 pm for 6.30pm
3rd Tuesday
of the month
Venue:
Rockhampton Plaza
Hotel.

**Committee
Meetings.**

OMC/PR/UN

Program:

Venue:
Rockhampton Plaza
Hotel
5.30 pm—
2nd Tuesday
of the month.

**Finance and
Fundraising:**

Venue:
Rockhampton Plaza
Hotel.
5.30 pm—
2nd Tuesday
of the month.

Status of Women:

Venue:
Rockhampton Plaza
Hotel.
5.30pm—
2nd Tuesday
of the month.

Calendar:



MAY:

- 09 Committee Meetings/
Board Meeting
- 16 Dinner Meeting - AGM
'At Home'
Chris Putman's Residence
- 30 Pre-Carnival High Tea

JUNE:

- 13 Committee Meetings/
Board Meeting
- 20 Dinner Meeting

*Special United Nations Observances
and Other Significant Days.*

May:

- 28 Women's Health Day

*If we can bring ourselves
to meet anger with forgiveness
and ignorance with understanding,
we can melt the stoniest of hearts
and erode the most impossible of
obstacles too.*

Dinner Raffle.

The supply of gifts for the
Dinner Raffle follows the listing
in the Members Directory.

May	Jacki
June	Suzanne
July	Teresa
August	Berenice

Please give your
raffle prize to
Elizabeth to co-ordinate.



*President Glenys presents
YWPA Award winner
Ashleigh Coombe
with the Award Certificate
and cheque.*

**Finance Committee has
arrangements well in hand
for the Pre-Carnival High Tea
on Tuesday 30th May
at 5.30 pm.**

**Invitations will be ready
for distribution at the
Committee/Dinner Meetings.
Your assistance with the
delivery of invitations is required.**

**Also, prizes are required
for the multi-draw raffle which will
be drawn at this function.**

**If you can help with
the donation of a prize,
please bring it
to the Dinner Meeting
and give to a member of the
Finance Committee.**

*Happy Birthday
and
Best Wishes*

- 05 Veronica Rickard
- 14 Jacki Manning
- 14 Teresa Moore



**If you would like to contribute to your Newsletter
please forward articles to Berenice Payne
either by
Fax: 4922 3315 or Email to
berenice.a.payne@bigpond.com**

Deadline: First Tuesday of the month.

Mark Your Calendar.

2006 - Area 4 Workshop
20-21 May Emerald

2006 - International Convention.
24 – 29 June: Melbourne.

A Nostalgic Look Back at Happenings around RVAC from the old "glory" days.....

"A celebrity member of days gone by"

How many of us realize that we have had amongst our members some people who may not have super high profiles but who in their own way have helped shape this "Greta Nation" and promoted GA in a way not otherwise imagined and have been real heroes in their own way?

One such member of this club and one that I would like to share with you now is a past RFDS pilot – Capt. Beth Garrett. **Beth Garrett was the 1st woman RFDS pilot.** In Ivan Rudolph's *Outback Angels Vol 2* he describes her thus: "She was a forthright but pleasant lady who softened hard words with a ready smile". Beth advises that her recollection is that she wanted to fly from as early as 4 years of age, in 1930.

She had her first flight in the "Southern Cross" piloted, not by Kingsford-Smith, But by one of his colleagues. It mattered not to her. That flight at that tender age sealed her fate. Beth grew up on a sheep and wheat property run by her widowed mother in the Riverina District of NSW and despite a severe shortage of cash they lacked nothing in a loving and emotionally stable family. Beth left home and moved to Melbourne to take up a Secretarial position. When she turned 21, (1947) she started her training and joined the Royal Victorian Aero Club. She waited till then so that she would not have to seek her mother's permission. Her mother was not keen on flying and did not want Beth to take up the challenge and was concerned not only for her safety but "how much it was going to cost".

Beth obtained her licence in 1947 and her Commercial and Instructor rating in 1952. All paid for from her salary and her scrimping and saving, walking to training, hanging out at the Club and wearing for 3 years the same smart blue uniform purchased at Myers bargain basement. Beth married in 1953, a young TAA pilot, Martin Garrett and Martin was seconded to the RFDS in Townsville. Martin described the wood and fabric "Dragon" Biplane operated by the RFDS as a "heap of old junk" and did not like it. It was "gutless and could not maintain altitude with one engine out". Tragically this lack of power coupled with hot and dry conditions at Cheviot Hills Cattle Station in October 1953 proved his fears of the "gutless" Dragon to be correct. On take off, it failed to lift, crashed and Martin, along with Catherine O'Leary (a 22 year old nurse), was killed. It was the RFDS only QLD fatal crash.

Beth's life changed after the death of her one love. She was pregnant and later gave birth to a daughter. Beth was resourceful and got on with her life and stuck to her flying and obtained several flying positions despite her gender which worked heavily against her. After losing her job due to the failure of her employer, after about 4 years from Martin's death, the sun shone on her from the top of the RVAC building. Beth was approached by Air Commodore Paddy Heffernan to be an instructor at RVAC and with 3000 hours under her belt she was to stand out candidate and took the job. The job was described as a well paid, marvellous and allows her to be at home with daughter Catherine.

She trained pilots in Tiger Moths and Chipmunks and during her term she achieved A1 and A1+ Instructor ratings and was qualified to test candidates for private pilot licences. Beth occupied this position for many years and when her daughter turned 9 she decided that the time was right for her to move on and so she moved north to warmer climes. Beth applied for and was successful in obtaining a position with the RFDS. As she explained, the interest was not primarily humanitarian: "rather it was the highest paid job advertised in GA at the time!!" (And here for the benefit of all you envious (or should be envious) members) - Further more the RFDS was using the Beechcraft Queenair - an aircraft that she loved!! "What a woman and why wouldn't she love it - it's the best aircraft on the Australian Register!! (author's prerogative - (but no bias of course!)).

Beth describes flying the Queen Air in atrocious conditions, in the pitch black of night in thunderstorms, in the middle of nowhere and obviously had the utmost faith in the aircraft which never let her down even when it was not as well as it could have been. No matter whether it was night, wet, boggy strips, wild animals, birds, long grass... you name it, it performed. At this point I must stop because the story is long and complex and full of inspiration. I urge all members to buy the reference **Ivan Rudolph's "Flynn's Outback Angels Vol 1 & 2** to read the rest of the unbelievable story of this magnificent woman also a past member of our club, and other heroines of whom we should all be immensely proud. Beth lives in retirement in Brisbane and was a torch bearer at the 2000 Olympics. *By Tony Taggart.*