

August 2021



THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

Thought for the Month

"Be strong enough to stand alone, smart enough to know when you need help and brave enough to ask for it"

Upcoming Events

Dinner Meeting

Time 6pm for 630pm
16th August

District Conference

3rd-5th September 2021

Cancelled – now online

Birthing Kit

Assembling Day

12th Sept

Morning Tea

Broadwater Village

!5th September 10 A M

International Conventions

2022 5th- 29th June

Hamburg Germany

2024

Brisbane Australia

Presidents Report

I hope that after my short break that this finds all members well. From the reports after the last meeting your dinner meeting with Mayor Chris Cherry from the Tweed Shire Council was a great success. We should be able to work more closely with the council to assist with women's issues in our area. Thank you, Yvonne for organising this.

Birthing Kits have been ordered and unless Covid interrupts we will be having our packing day on Sunday the 12th September at the South Tweed Sports Club.

I am sure you are all aware that the District Conference in Mackay has been *cancelled*. The Committee is meeting again this week to consider the electronic format of Conference. At this stage they are confident of having a really exciting program with energising speakers and Zonta business to engage you, so please keep **Friday 3 September** (evening) **and Saturday 4 September**.

I have been in touch with South Tweed Sports Club and as at 10:00am on Monday 9th August it was OK to have the dinner meeting on Monday 16th. However, at 11:00am it appears that the situation has changed. I will keep you in the loop as this situation develops.

Hope to see you soon!!

Lesley-Anne Marsh

President

No Committee Reports this Mont

Yvonne's Story

I was born in Sydney, the fourth child in a strict religious family. I was an energetic, happy child and learned to think for myself, be independent, care for and love others, question 'the norm', stand for equality and rebel quietly. I enjoyed surfing, running, playing the piano, camping and visiting my grandparents.

I studied for 4 years, getting married at 19, then taught English and music at Sylvania High School. We travelled for a couple of years before settling in the Tweed Shire where we bought a small acreage in 1978 at Clothiers Creek. Here we had three beautiful children, Dane, Yolanda and

then Laura. This was a busy time of life with breastfeeding and working at the same time, running, studying Steiner education and helping those in need in the community. We did the 70s/80s alternate lifestyle things of growing our food, taking in unwanted farm animals, planting a rainforest, regenerating the land with native trees, including koala food trees and teaching yoga. I taught at Cudgen Primary School, then later, with friends started a community preschool at Condong, being the inaugural president of Possums' Preschool, then a director and teacher at Kangia Steiner School in Murwillumbah, starting another preschool.

My husband loved our children but struggled with mental health and there was domestic abuse. He took his life when the children were young. This led to great emotional difficulties for our children and Dane sadly took his life five years later, just before turning eighteen. After this I helped start a local support group for those bereaved by suicide, as at the time there was limited support in the Tweed.

I remarried and we were 'The Brady Bunch' at Burringbar. We planted and worked on ten acres of bananas. Within three years I left and returned to teaching again at Cudgen Primary School where I taught for many years. I also taught at St James Catholic School and for the last eleven years taught at Pottsville Primary School. I taught general classroom kindergarten to year 6, studied further and taught specialist remedial reading and writing, science and music, including instruments, concert bands and choirs.

I have recently and very happily retired and enjoying spending time with my grandsons in Melbourne and supporting my 96 year old mother.

Although I have had many sad events throughout my life, I feel fortunate in various ways and thankful to kind, loving and supportive friends and family. I hope to continue to assist others and use my life experiences. Being part of Zonta is a great avenue to enable this and help other women know they can achieve despite life's adversities.

Yvonne

