



FEBRUARY 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As always time is going by so fast, it is hard to keep track of everything. We are into February already and with so much happening to look forward to, the balance of the Zonta year for my term will come to an end before I realise it.

There are a couple of International Days I would like to bring to your attention:

- 6 February 2017- the Day for Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation is a day to raise awareness of the practice and work towards its elimination.
- 11 February 2017 is the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. This day is vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

These International Days are very important to us as they raise awareness of the plight of women and show us that the world is taking notice.

One of the major things we have to look forward to is the up and coming IWBD. The committee has been working very industriously for quite some time now to bring us a Super Special Event. Let us all show how much we appreciate their hard work and buy your tickets to attend as soon as you can and even take the time to organise a table with a group of your friends. I can guarantee this will be a very exciting event and well worth the cost. I am looking forward to seeing all of you there.

It appears the big wet is finally upon us and allows us time to spend indoors and on the computer. Why not take this time to make sure you are registered with the District (<http://www.zontadistrict22.org/>) and International (<http://membership.zonta.org/>) websites. Open them up and have a browse. You will be amazed at the wealth of information that is there and how informative and interesting it is. What better way can you utilise our time on a rainy day than exploring and learning more about Zonta and the projects they embrace. If you are unsure how to get into the sites or where to find them just ask Membership, myself or any of our Board Members and they will point you in the right direction.

Looking to the future, we have so much happening starting with our IWBD in March, AGM and Presidents Breakfast in April, our Changeover in May and the new Board and New Year in June. How exciting is that. I for one can't wait to be a part of these events and watch them unfold.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the February Meeting,

Connie Riley – President



International Women's Day Brunch Sunday March 5th 2017

This year we are highlighting the strong connection that Zonta has formed with the young women in our school community. This is an investment in the future; both the future of our club where we are seen by the wider community as a forward thinking and active club and also the future of our young women who may need assistance to achieve their academic life.

Because we appreciate lovely things, we have organised gourmet food and a glass of bubbly and booked the very elegant "Lure" as our venue. Because we enjoy having fun, we've organised great entertainment. A fashion parade of the best of wearable art, some outstanding musical entertainment, and a superb speaker. Margaret Staib will speak of her life in the military at Government level she is a highly successful woman who has a passion for ensuring that young women have great career options available to them.

There will be great raffles with some very special prizes and a free parking voucher. Cost is \$60 per ticket. Time 9:30 for 10am start.

Our club has traditionally always hosted the International Women's Day event, it's our event, it's our opportunity to shine. Let's bring it into the public in great style, Marine theme, Marine style.

Cath Fernbach, Media



Lure's mouth-watering menu:

Canapes:

Assorted Wonton

Bruschetta with goat's cheese

S&P calamari

Mains:

Deconstructed Caesar salad with grilled chicken

Warm grilled prawns' with heirloom tomatoes.

Dessert:

Pavlova with seasonal berries Chantilly cream

Warm sticky date pudding.



dumplings



Lure's proprietors are insisting on final numbers as soon as possible, please book your tickets straight away so we can provide them with numbers for catering purposes. Only takes a couple of minutes online: <http://whitsundaytickets.com.au/event/4197> (you can copy & paste this link to your browser!)

ADVOCACY

Our ZONTA District Goals for the next 2 years state: "We will continue to Empower Women – TOGETHER!" and our club has been asked to put all our efforts into helping to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. I am so excited, therefore, that our guest speaker for International Women's Day on March 5th is Margret Staib, a woman I had the joy of meeting a few years ago.

Marg was born in 1962 served for 30 years in the Australian Military reaching the Rank of Air Vice Marshal in the Australian Airforce. Between 2000 and 2002 she held a post at the Pentagon in US and was working there during the 9/11 Attacks on the Pentagon and the Twin Towers World Trade Centre. Her work in logistics at the Pentagon was recognised with the United States Meritorious Service Medal and the Conspicuous Service Cross and in 2009 when promoted to Air Vice Marshal she was also appointed Commander Joint Logistics Command and awarded the Order of Australia. A lovely lady and the mother of 21 year old twins, she tragically lost her husband in an aircraft accident when she was pregnant. Her circumstances empowered her and she is passionate about women having every opportunity to make good choices in their lives, becoming financially independent and ensuring that women are equally represented in all walks of life and profession.

Please remember ladies, International Day of Women and Girls in Science will be held on 11th Feb. Science and gender equality are both vital for the achievement of the United Nations internationally agreed development goals and over the past 15 years, the global community has made a lot of effort in inspiring and engaging women and girls in science. Presently we have 19 ZONTA UN committee members from around the world representing us in that global setting something no other Service Club can match. According to a study conducted in 14 countries, unfortunately, women and girls are still excluded from participating fully in science. The probability of female students graduating with a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree and Doctor's degree in science-related field are 18 percent, 8 percent and 2 percent respectively, while the percentages of male students are 37 percent, 18 percent and 6 percent.



ROSE DAY March 8th 2017 : Who are the women you most admire, who will stand beside you in your endeavours? This Rose Day, let them know how much you appreciate them by making a donation to the Rose Fund in their honour. Your donation to the

Rose Fund enables Zonta to continue supporting projects and programs that help women achieve a life free of violence and empower them to overcome gender barriers that hinder their access to health, education, and professional resources. With each donation to the Zonta Rose Fund, your honouree will be emailed and given a virtual yellow rose with a special message to let them know that they have made a difference in your life. The campaign runs 3 February - 3 March. All emails will be sent by 7 March. Funds are utilised by the ZONTA Foundation for new program development. To make your donation to the Rose Fund please click on zonta.org/donate ----- as I have!

Pammie Harrison, Director



The Last Wednesday Book Club

An on-going membership activity, the book club has been meeting on the last Wednesday of the month since June 1910. We meet in the evening at a member's home to enjoy good company and interesting conversation over a glass of wine. We then get down to business discussing the book which we have all been reading over the past month, sharing our thoughts and responses. Sometimes these responses are quite different from one another which can make a lively discussion! It can be quite fascinating where the discussion and different insights take us. We then enjoy dinner, to which we have all contributed and general conversation.

Now that Judy Brett and Angela have both moved away we have room for another two members, so if you would like to join us, please let me know; we always enjoy new input!

REVIEWS

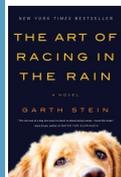
Over the Christmas/ New Year break we read our own selections which we shared at our first meeting for the year, held at Catherine's amazing new home. It was an interesting selection and some brief summaries follow.



Catherine read Flood of Fire by Amitav Ghosh which is about the opium trade between England and India which led up to the Opium Wars. She writes:

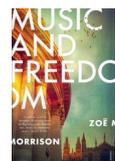
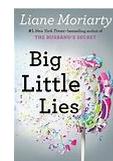
"I have felt privileged to read the Ibis Trilogy by Amitav Ghosh, an incredible series of three historical fiction novels.

*"Characters from both previous books, Sea of Poppies and River of Smoke reappear along with new ones in Flood of Fire, the final volume. It starts with opium farmers in India and ends with events leading up to the first Opium War of 1839-42, thus forcing China to open its ports (Hong Kong etc) to British trade. Undoubtedly, Ghosh is a great story teller and a master of history. Hilarious in parts, fascinating and a real page turner. I did not want it to be over and I give the Flood of Fire a top rating *****"*



Cath read The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein. *"Written from a dog's point of view, it is a very tender and gentle story about the dog's adoration of his owner, a racing car driver. The owner takes the dog along on races with him. ****"* and Our Souls at Night by Kent Harif. *"A love story about growing old with grace. Two elderly people live a solitary life alone. One evening Addie visits Louis and their lives change. ****"*

Roz read Music and Freedom by Zoe Morrison ***** and Big Little Lies ***
"both of which deal in a very different way with domestic violence".



There'll be more reviews next month.

Kerry Kenyon, Chair





February: 9th – Marlene Reiffel

March: 6th – Mae Secomb

12th – Lauren Haack

13th – Cath Fernbach

January Birthdays



A toast to Zonta Club of Bergen from the Zonta Club of the Whitsundays

INTERNATIONAL: President's Corner Blog - SONJA HÖNIG SCHOUGH



Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

Today, we join the United Nations in recognizing the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation and reiterate our support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which promises an end to the harmful practice by 2030.

“On this Day of Zero Tolerance, let us build on positive momentum and commit to intensifying global action against this heinous human rights violation for the sake of all affected women and girls, their communities, and our common future,” UN Secretary-General António Guterres [said in a statement](#).

It is estimated that globally, at least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of FGM. If current trends continue, 15 million additional girls between ages 15 and 19 will be subjected to it by 2030.

Zonta recognizes that FGM is an extreme form of discrimination against women and girls that violates their rights and is harmful in many ways. From 1998-2002, Zonta International worked with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF to reduce the incidence of female genital circumcision in Burkina Faso. As a result, Burkina Faso saw a 40 percent decrease in the number of girls who underwent FGM – from 66.35 percent in 1996 to 25 percent in 2005. The government now sees FGM as an issue of public health, violence and individual rights rather than just a traditional practice.

THOUGH ZONTA IS NOT CURRENTLY SUPPORTING PROJECTS DIRECTLY RELATED TO FGM, WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ALL ITS FORMS, EVERYWHERE. WE PROMISE TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING AND ADVOCATING FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SO THAT FGM IS ABANDONED BY 2030, AND WE ENCOURAGE OUR CLUBS AND MEMBERS TO DO THE SAME.

Community news item: BOOMERANG BAGS

Many of you will know or have heard of Barb Adamson, who does a lot of community work. I have known her for many years through netball in our area.

Some months ago there was an article in the Times about her work in trying to get recycling happening our area. This had been tried many years before but had failed mainly due to the distance between us and a recycling plant.

I had read an item about Boomerang Bags in the newsletter of Zonta Club of the Northern Beaches in Sydney (my old area) and passed it on to Barb. She has contacted various groups (in other areas of Australia) who make these bags and is now in the process of getting them into shopping centres in our area. There is a lot of work ahead but she is very confident it will happen.

Go to Google and read about these bags – the idea is that if you forget to take your “green” bags with you, you can use the Boomerang Bags which will be available and then return them next time you shop. Barb is working to get them in Whitsunday Shopping Centre, Centro and Proserpine.

She is now looking for people to sew the bags for the group and has quite a few volunteers, but as always more would be welcome. The material used is any strong material – she has cut up old bedspreads, curtains etc.- and has organised a local business to print the Boomerang Bag logo which is used as a pocket on the outside of the bag. This is being done for free for as long as they are needed !!

A pattern for the bag is available with instructions.

If you don't want to sew, maybe you could help by cutting out the patterns for the bags (material will be supplied).

The project will be launched on Thursday 2nd March at Whitsunday Shopping Centre (in front of The Reject Shop) from 9.30am where you can see the bags and how they are made and will be used.

If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Barb Adamson 49467572 or 0458525700 or Noelene on 49452208 who will answer any queries you have.



Date Claimers

February:

7th: Board Meeting

15th: Books From Birth Laura's house at 12 noon

16th: General Meeting – 6.00 for 6.30 start—Reef Gateway

Book Club: 23rd **Thursday** - 5.30 p.m. at Joan's. Contact Kerry Kenyon for details

March

5th: International Women's Day Brunch—Lure at Abell Point Marina

16th: General Meeting—6.00 for 6.30 start—Reef Gateway

Book Club: Last Wednesday of Each Month – Contact Kerry Kenyon

Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Contact Details

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