



NOVEMBER 2105

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Imagine the world for women in 1919. World War one had just finished during which time women had been expected to step up and contribute and were in many cases doing the jobs of the men who had been away at war. Yet, in the United States of America women were still denied the universal right to vote. In Australia, the first woman didn't enter parliament until 1921 and worldwide, women were beginning to demand more equality. Against this backdrop, in 1919, a group of business women in Buffalo New York formed the very first Zonta Club under the leadership of Mariah de Forest. Its charter was essentially the same as the charter for Zonta clubs today - to empower women through service and advocacy. In 96 years Zonta International has become a global organization with over 1200 clubs in 67 countries throughout the world. We are going to be celebrating Zonta's birthday at our November meeting and look forward to the delicious birthday cake being planned by Maxine. Be prepared to step back a little into the history of Zonta and learn about some of the changes that have happened for women in 96 years. Fascinating!!

As well as being happy birthday month, November is also the month where we focus on the very sobering subjects of domestic and sexual violence. The focus began with sexual violence awareness month in October, culminating in a reclaim the night event organized by WCCS and at which event I had the opportunity to speak about the important work Zonta does with our global Say No to Violence campaign and Zonta's safe cities program. White ribbon day is on the 25th November followed by a national 16 days of activism against domestic violence. You will notice that Maxine has organized for our Say No to Violence sign to be erected again for 2 weeks during the 16 days of activism, once again sending our strong message out to the whole community. We will have a very special speaker at our November meeting who will give her heartrending account of the consequences domestic for children who are victims of domestic violence.

We have had very exciting developments with our Z clubs being led by our powerhouse, Sandii. She has spoken to St Cath's and Proserpine High and has lined up teachers in both schools - similarly working on the Whitsunday Christian College. The students are very interested and excited. The birthing kits program was a huge success run by our super-efficient Wendy and we have a wonderful candidate for our education bursary. Don't forget to bring your goodies for the pamper packs and adopt the family to the November meeting. We will wind up a very busy year with a fabulous Christmas party on the 5th December and then we all deserve a lovely relaxing break with the next general meeting to be held on the 21st January.

I will close with a quote from our international president, Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaad:

"Violence against women is not a woman's issue but a societal issue. It is often rooted in a misinterpretation of history, inadequate laws, culture and religion, but can also be based on social structures and traditions."

Roz Jennings, President



ADVOCACY

November 25th sees the start of ZI 16 days of Activism:



Zonta says NO to violence against women:

For the first time in a long time, we are seeing a massive focus on domestic violence and how to overcome it in our society. People are talking about it, sporting clubs and other organisations (like Zonta) are promoting awareness; there is more help for victims and more help for perpetrators. In our country this has come about (in my opinion) by the tragic circumstances of one woman; Rosie Batty. And our governments both State and Federal have listened.

However, for some who have never experienced domestic violence, there is the vexing question:

Why do women stay? Over my working life, I have seen my share of DV--- both victims and perpetrators. I too have asked myself the question: Why does she keep going back? Why doesn't she just leave? And in my day: Why doesn't she press charges? In my own life, I begged my mother to leave my abusive father. It was 1964. I was 15yrs old and had just started working. I was earning a whole 5pounds 10shillings (\$11) a week! But I was so desperate that I thought I had the answer. "I am working now, we can go." She hugged me and asked where I thought we could go. We didn't have any family in the Riverland (SA). All of our family were in Victoria. There was no such thing as a Women's Shelter. My parents had a mixed fruit property and she had worked long, hard hours to help establish this. So her other response was that she had done too much work to walk away. So, she chose to stay and put up with, turn the other cheek to, whatever she had to do to keep going. Dad's abuse was psychological-- and relentless. We all "walked on eggshells" so to speak, all of our lives. Right up until his death in 2012 at the age of 90. I believe that he had issues

stemming from WW11 but of course in those days; nothing was done to help these men (and women): so most of them drank. And so it was with my father.

So, why do women stay? There are many reasons. Here are just a few.

1. Afraid of the unknown. We have all heard the saying "better the devil you know than the one you don't". Fear is the number 1 reason why women stay in abusive relationships. Fear of being outcast by friends and family; fear of repercussions by her abuser; fear for her children; fear of not coping financially; fear of having nowhere to go; and the list goes on.

2) As with my mother, there is the issue of financial support. If the woman has a good job she may cope but in most cases this is not how it is. The perpetrator will often tell the victim that she will not survive without him. That she is nothing without him. He may stop her from accessing their bank account, credit cards, etc.

3) He may have threatened her. This could be in the form of threatening harm to her, her family or the children. So she sees no way out.

4) She may not want to deprive her children of a father. (Now, I could write a book on this issue!). But as it was with Rosie Batty; she didn't expect her ex-partner to hurt their son. She thought he would be safe. For me, this is totally misguided in most cases. But at the time, the woman may fear that if she deprives her children of their father, they will turn against her. Once again, this ties in with the issue of threat---- he may exaggerate the truth-- blame their mother for the violence. He may bribe the children and they may become confused. It just adds to her fear and her pain.

5) And of course, she probably loves him despite his ways. She may think that he will change. Many women are led by the perpetrator to believe that he is like he is because of her. It is somehow all her fault. Often the abuser will beg for forgiveness after the event; that he is so sorry for what he has done. That he really does love his victim. He doesn't know what gets into him. My father fitted into this category. The last time I spoke to him I told him that he couldn't continually abuse people then expect to be forgiven. As expected, it fell on deaf ears. But that is what happens. Does this notion come from confessing our sins and all will be forgiven?

6) Fear of failure. What will people think? I have failed as a wife---embarrassed to admit that she is a victim of abuse. As a young girl, I never spoke of the fear that I felt at home. I didn't want anyone to know that my father was abusive. I didn't want my mother to be embarrassed. Many years later, I was having lunch with a friend I had known since we were in grade one. Her mother had just been diagnosed with Pick's disease-- a form of Alzheimer's. "Probably from all the beatings she endured", my friend stated. I sat there in total shock. I had thought that her father was the best dad in the world! But the sad part was of course, that we were the best of friends, been in each other's homes and had both harboured the same sad secret. In both cases, the abuse never happened when people were around. It happened behind closed doors, so to speak.

7) Perpetrators may give wrongful and demeaning information----- "they won't listen to you"; "you are so stupid"; "who would have you"; and so on.

8) Then there is the question of where to go. Not every town has a shelter. Not every woman has family close by. If she has children, there is added fear. How will she look after them? Where will they sleep? So, she may choose to take the "easy" option and stay.

Research shows that most women who are murdered by their partners had left the relationship. So this brings us back to the beginning. Why doesn't she leave? Probably because she sees no way out. It is a vicious circle.

Food for Thought:

We as Zontions are endeavouring to advance and empower women through education. BUT: are we "barking up the wrong tree?" In light of the wonderful story that is Michelle Payne (1st woman Melbourne Cup winner), our champion netballers, female cricketers, hockey and soccer teams; should we (Australians) be teaching the world's women to play sport?? In recent days, the Matilda's (soccer) have negotiated a better pay deal. There is still a long way to go but it is a start. Unfortunately, it seems that women have to be at the top their tree to be heard but hopefully, Michelle's story at least, will empower young women to follow their dreams and never give up.

Maxine Thiele, Director Advocacy



3RD November 2015

OH WHAT A DAY

Ian proposed to Judy again – he had done it previously but her answer always was ‘ask me when I am 70 and I’ll think about it’. Well on 3rd November, 14 years after first meeting on Melbourne Cup Day Judy finally said **“yes”**



There was great celebration. The party moved on and we watched the first female jockey Michelle Payne win the Melbourne Cup.

We were then asked to move out to the pool area for the judging of best dressed etc and after a while, Ian and his three sons appeared and they were followed by Judy, her son and her three daughters and granddaughter flower girl, they were married.

It was one of the happiest weddings and shortest engagements I have ever been to. Noelene



The Brady Bunch
L to R Amy, Jesse,
Sarah, Judy, Ian,
Gordon, Scotty &
Steve



MEMBERSHIP

Hello everyone

At the November General meeting we will be celebrating Zonta's 96th Birthday with acknowledgement of our Club History; Guest Speaker Caroline who fosters children from DV families; membership moment; and birthday cake!! I would also like to draw your attention to Member November article below.



On 8 November 2015, Zonta International will celebrate its 96th birthday. We invite you to join the celebration by helping to change the lives of women around the world.

During November, the Zonta International Foundation is asking all Zontians to make an individual donation to the Foundation. As a Zontian, you have already made a personal commitment to build a better world for women. The projects and programs supported by the Zonta International Foundation help women achieve a life free of violence, and help them overcome gender barriers that hinder their access to health, education and professional advancement.

By making your personal donation to the Foundation this November, you will not only be reaffirming your commitment to Zonta International, you will be empowering women worldwide, giving them a voice, an opportunity and a chance. **Please make your special anniversary donation today**, and join Zonta International in its mission to empower women.

Z Clubs: *“Future Leaders Building a better World Today through Service & Advocacy”*

We have had very successful presentations to all three schools by attending the Whitsunday Christian College fete and liaising with the Birthing Kit Assembly Days where we presented the concept of Z Clubs to some very interested young people at the High school and St Catherine's! Appointments have been with all three Principals to drop off information packs about Z Clubs and we already have interested teachers at all three schools wanting to run with Z Clubs! They have all been given links to find out more about Z Clubs and what they are about now it is your turn.....

Find out more about Z Clubs: www.facebook.com/ZontaInternationalZClub
 Visit Zonta International: www.zonta.org/WhatWeDo/InternationalPrograms/ZClubsGoldenZClubs.aspx

Cheers Sandii, Membership Director



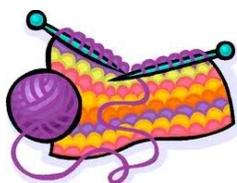
SERVICE

Another year is coming to an end and what a busy year it has been.

BIRTHING KITS... This was the first time I was able to join in with Wendy, the kids from St Catherine's, Proserpine High School and other Zonta members to assemble birthing kits. I really enjoyed the experience and it was great to see young members of our community (possible Z Club members) willing to help out.



NATTY KNITTERS GROUP... The ladies have a large supply of beautiful knitted blankets this year, as well as supplying us with much appreciated raffle prizes they will be donating some to the WCCS and Adopt a Families. Proserpine Nursing Home has requested knee blankets so, even though this group has officially finished until the cooler weather next year, the ladies are sewing squares together to fill this request. Because the ladies have been so productive, they have a few blankets for sale to members. This will ensure that they have a good supply of wool to start next year. (Any member interested in a blanket please see article by Carole below.)



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY... Preparations are well underway: the Reef Gateway has been booked for Sunday 13th March 2016, our guest speaker Debra Howe has confirmed and our very own Annie Lloyd-Lewis has pencilled us in to be our most wonderful M.C.



PAMPER PACKS AND ADOPT A FAMILY... Any member wishing to donate items or cash to the Pamper Packs and Adopt a Family Christmas Gifts, please bring items to our November meeting, Thursday 19th. Wrapping date to be determined at meeting – will be at Laura's.

CONFERENCE... I know this is well passed now but I wanted to say a big thanks to the ladies who helped Judy and I on the marketplace stall. We were busy selling most of the time our product was well received by other club members.



SHOPPING EXPERIENCE... After the success of our last shopping night at Rockmans, we have decided to hold another one. Airliewood has offered to host us and the date will be Thursday 3rd December at 6pm. Enjoy relaxed shopping, drinks and nibbles and Maryanne has offered to donate 10% of our total sales to a charity of our choice. I will need to know numbers attending.

Cheers All,

KERRIE ADAM, SERVICE DIRECTOR

BIRTHING KITS REPORT:

The Annual Birthing Kit Assembly Day, which is probably now in its 8th year, was this year again held at Proserpine High School in October. 400 kits were assembled with assistance from Year 11 & 12 students, who are all studying Early Childhood. The students are always so eager to be involved and this year was no exception, including one male student who joined the Early Childhood studies to become a good father when the time is right.

The following day, for the first time, a second assembly of 400 kits was held at St Catherine's Catholic College and was very well received by both students and staff, as part of the years 9 & 10 Pastoral Care studies. The students were very interested in learning the what, why and how of this program and keen to participate further.

Both schools have indicated that they will be looking at raising funds in 2016 to be in a position to assemble more kits which will be a great achievement for our club and our region.

The Valerie Browning video which was presented at our District 22 Conference in October by Jenny Weaver (Director, Birthing Kit Foundation) was provided to both schools and the year 11/12 students at Proserpine SHS watched it on the day. This was confronting to many of them but the knowledge gained is powerful enough to give them a reason to "do something".

Zonta members and friends of Zonta were also fantastic, some handling the pre-assembly tasks, such as folding plastic, cutting cord and cutting soap. I thank every one of them – 8 each day.



The kits were packed, sealed, labelled and collected by courier to be despatched to store in South Australia, from where they will be forwarded to a location in need in any one of the developing countries. We will be notified where our kits are going once they have been shipped.

"Every woman has the right to a clean and safe childbirth"



Wendy Downes OAM,
Birthing Kits Co-ordinator



CONFERENCE

Before Dining At Zonta Conference 2015:

Presented and written by Joan Watson and Pam Graham



We meet today in the Whitsundays to share our thoughts as well as our meal.

We understand that we are amongst the most fortunate women in this world.

We have freedom to meet, we have the wisdom of combined experience and
we have the joy of knowing that our decisions will be far reaching.

Our commitment is to those women who are denied the freedom to make choices
about their health, their education and their dreams.

We delight in sharing our beautiful surroundings with you and anticipate
great outcomes from this conference.

May the passion we have for fine dining be just a shadow of the passion
that will drive us to work with commitment, conviction and courage to
achieve a fair and just world where the human rights of women and
children are recognised in our communities worldwide.

Bon appetite



FROM Roz's speech at Reclaim the Night event with Whitsunday Crisis & Counselling Service:

Australian women are most likely to experience physical and sexual violence in their home at the hands of a partner or ex-partner. For 62% of the women who have experienced physical assault by a male perpetrator, the most recent incident was in their home, 73% if these women have experienced more than one incident of violence and 61% had children in their care when the violence occurred. And yet 58% of these women had never contacted the police and 24% had never sought advice or support. I understand that all initiatives of the "Not Now, Not Ever" campaign recommended by the recent task force headed up by Quentin Bryce, are being implemented by the state government including such things as GPS tracking of perpetrators and more victim friendly law courts and police stations. Zonta clubs from all over Qld, at our recent district conference held here in Airlie Beach, pledged to advocate that the state government adheres to this commitment.

Roz Jennings



Zonta Rock and Roll Christmas Party

Date: Saturday 5th December, 2015 4 PM

Venue: Laura & Ron Morrison's

Secret Santa: BYO own female and male present to value of \$20.00

Catering: Aqua Group is supplying meat; members bring along a salad or sweet; BYO drinks.

Fancy Dress: Come in your best rock 'n Roll gear and be prepared to DANCE

Cheers Sandii, Membership Director



MEDIA

The Natty Knitters

Zonta has developed a lovely connection with our broader community of Whitsunday women, who enjoy the fellowship of the knitting/crochet group. The group meet regularly to share lunch and to knit squares which are then stitched up to create wonderful works of art, gorgeously coloured and comfortingly warm for those in need.



The Zonta and "Friends of Zonta" recently presented six of the blankets to the Crisis and Counselling Service to raise money for Domestic Violence Intervention.

Carole and Dawn with members of the Crisis and Counselling staff displaying the donated Blankets.



Peter Lindsay presenting Suzie Parnell and Courtney Dunk of the Cannonvale Endeavour Foundation with a magnificent wool blanket to assist in their fundraising efforts.

Request: If anyone is doing a Zonta event, can they please take a photo and send it to cathfern@bigpond.com.au with a brief note accompanying it and I'll "facebook it" (making a noun from a verb I love it!!!)

I am away a lot at the moment and am aware that TERRIFIC AND NOTEWORTHY stuff is going on. I'd love to keep up to date with Awards, Birthing Kits, Pamper Packs and I think this is the best way to do it.

Cath Fernbach, Media Chair



Keisha McEwan Update

Hi ladies. Noelene has asked me to give a quick report on my studies for this year and what I am hoping to achieve next year. When I started University this year, studying a Bachelor of Social Work, it was quite a daunting experience and I had a lot of trouble believing I could actually succeed. Term 1 began in March and finished in June, when I got my marks back I was so proud of myself – receiving an overall distinction for all 3 subjects.

Term 2 quickly came around starting in July and finished in October, I was also proud of my achievements receiving a credit for one subject and 2 distinctions for my other subjects. As I am studying full time social work is only offered in term 1 and 2 so I won't be studying again until March next year which is a massive gap between now and then but it gives me some time to revive and get ready for the year ahead. I also was a successful candidate for the Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarship that has been an enormous help financially.

As well as studying I have been a bit busy this year, can't believe it's November already! Not sure who has heard what I've been up to this year but here is a little recap:

- I was chosen as 1 of 6 mentors for the Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (some of you may remember I was selected last year to attend as 1 of 40 participants) and had to fly to Brisbane in May for mentor training.
- In May I was a guest speaker again at Whitsunday Crisis and Counselling's Domestic and Family Violence Candle Lighting ceremony.
- May also saw the closure of the Whitsunday Youth Committee that I was facilitating, a decision made by Whitsunday Regional Council. Money that was fundraised by the group over the years was distributed to not for profit organisations in our community, which the youth members agreed upon.
- In June I flew back to Brisbane for the Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program that went for 6 days. I had my own little group of 7 participants to look after for the duration of the program, which was exciting and stressful. By the end of the program we were all like a little family and they gave our group a name #teamkeisha.
- In June NAIDOC week celebrations also began and as events coordinator for the Proserpine Indigenous Reference Group (P.I.R.G) I was busy organizing that too.
- In July I headed North to Townsville for a weekend away, and to attend my sister in laws wedding, she got diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease (MND) just 6 months ago at the age of 31 which is quite upsetting given the doctors have said she only has a year left to live and already has lost movement in her legs, right arm and just recently has been told to organize her final wishes as her lung capacity is at 46%.
- August was another big month for me as I found myself back on a plane heading south to the Gold Coast where I attended a DRUMBEAT facilitator-training course after being successful for a Indigenous Professional Development Grant thanks to the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and Brisbane Office for Youth. *At the core of the DRUMBEAT program is a focus on social connection. The universal nature and importance of relationship issues allows the program to maintain relevance across cultures, genders and age groups. Behind the challenges faced by most people struggling to find meaning and focus in their lives are relationship issues; in fact it is widely agreed that healthy relationships are the building blocks of happy and productive lives.*
- As part of my University studies it is compulsory for me to attend a 3-day Residential School on campus in Brisbane every term for the remainder of my course, this was also in August.

On the 12th of October I received a phone call that changed my life – my sister in law had passed away in Townsville just 9 days after she turned 32. She was suffering from Motor Neuron Disease. I am now currently in Townsville staying with my sister and her fiancé and will be attending Shala's celebration of life on Friday. Given the recent events I haven't really thought about the New Year yet, but I will be continuing University in March. I would also like to try and source some funding for Djembes (African drums) so I can facilitate DRUMBEAT courses in our community.

Once again, thank you to the Whitsunday Zonta Club – not only for the Macbook and accessories but also for checking up on how I am going. It honestly means a lot. Keisha McEwan





NOVEMBER

Birthdays

November

Kerry Kenyon – 6th

Pam Graham – 23rd

Catherine Knezevic – 26th

Roz Jennings – 27th

December

Janet Keppke – 13th

Connie Riley – 17th



APOLOGIES FOR MEETINGS:

Please remember that you **MUST** apologise to Carole by Tuesday arvo before our dinner meetings on Thursday. If you do not, you **WILL BE** charged for your meal. The venues charge us and the Finance Committee met recently and found that many are not either apologising on time nor offering to pay. Our lovely Treasurer doesn't like to have to bill members so **PLEASE** fulfil your obligation and apologise timely.

(Emergencies are always given consideration!)

Date Claimers

NOVEMBER

19th: General Meeting—Reef Gateway - 6.15 for 6.30 start
25th: Last Wednesday Book Club—5pm—Contact Kerry Kenyon

DECEMBER

3rd: Airliewood shopping spree – 6PM Contact Kerrie Adam
5th: Christmas Party – Morrison's – 4PM



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