

# Zonta News June 2021



## THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

No matter what your level of ability, you have more potential than you can ever develop in a lifetime.

Anonymous

## Upcoming Events

### Dinner Meeting

Time 6pm for 630pm  
19<sup>th</sup> July

### District Conference

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### Birthing Kit

Assembling Day

12<sup>th</sup> Sept

### Morning Tea

Broadwater Village

!5<sup>th</sup> September 10 A M

## International Conventions

2022 5<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> June

Hamburg Germany

2024

Brisbane Australia

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Once again welcome to our new 2021-2022 Zonta year. Thank you to all for your efforts thru the past twelve months, it was a different year, but we can now look forward to hopefully a nearly back to normal time, where we can hold social and fund-raising events.

The new Committees have been formed, and these are listed on the Club Directory. I know That all members will take a keen interest in their committees, and this will in turn help our club to achieve the goals that we set for the next 12 months.

Our Theatre Afternoon "Red Plaid Shirt" is a sellout for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2.00pm. Thanks to Pauline for organizing the day. It looks like the food is sorted. There will be 5 tables of 7 people, so if everyone brings 3 small plates of food this will give each table a selection of 4 plates and a good variety.

### **Note:-**

The Theatre is at the Tweed Heads Civic and Cultural Centre, Cnr Brett St and Wharf St.

Chris Cherry, Tweed Shire Mayor has accepted our invitation to be our guest speaker Monday 19 July. Thank you Yvonne for organizing this. I will be away for the July meeting, but my trusty Vice President, Kaye will take on the chairing of the meeting. So bring along any friends who may be interested in hearing Chris, and also learning more about Zonta.

See you on the 20<sup>th</sup> Theatre Day and 21<sup>st</sup> Dinner Meeting

Lesley-Anne Marsh

President

## Merle Stephen's Story



Born in Ringwood suburb of Melbourne, primary school Bayswater state school then Methodist ladies College [MLC] Did an apprenticeship in Commercial pattern making and design at a Clothing Factory. Stayed there for 5 years, my parents then moved to Coolangatta where my father was in partnership in Natureland Zoo. Did various jobs at the Zoo for 2 years, then moved to Brisbane several jobs there before taking off on the great O.S. Trip. First stop after a great boat trip across the Pacific was U.S.A. where I spent 3 months travelling and visiting relatives and family friends. After meeting up with a friend I decided to stay and work in Canada, as she said better money than England so we ended up in Toronto where we worked for 9 months. An eye-opening experience for this Aussie factory work oh so different. Loved the snow, an experience going to work and coming home in the dark.

Then to London from New York I sailed to U.K. on the Queen Mary, great trip and landed in London where I moved into a flat with 4 other girls we are still in touch nearly 60 years later.

Worked 2 different places, if you are old enough to remember "The Race Trade" that was it, very different from Australia, as was Canada. In between working, travelled U.K. Holland Germany, visited Berlin and witnessed "the wall" a lasting memory, Denmark Scandinavia weekend in Paris, skiing in Austria. Spent time in Scotland with family amazing, like the TV show Who do you Think you are, they remembered my Dad visiting them 35 years ago.

After 2 1/2 years in London I decided to come home via U.S. crossed the Atlantic on a cargo ship (cheapest way) Travelled for 3 months by Greyhound Bus slept, on buses in between visiting family and friends who spoiled me, yes I was lucky I came from a family of travellers

Arrived in Sydney with no money, just as well Mummy was there, but lots of wonderful memories. I came back to Coolangatta and got a position in Surfboards didn't last long, and decided to start my own business. That I did quite successfully for over 50 years.

In 1989 I was asked to join Zonta, I had always been interested in "the Objects of Zonta" having Salvation Army Grandparents and Aunts. Zonta has been a great learning experience for me, the friends I have made, the travel to International Conventions 3, District Conferences can't remember how many, Area meetings, visits to other Clubs. The knowledge about the third world,

and how we can help women to achieve. Helping in our community, often going unnoticed by the wider community but knowing we are helping our fellow women and girls