



Reef

Talk



March Newsletter 2008: Issue 27

DIARY DATES

- DINNER MEETING
6.30pm Thursday 20th March
- BOARD MEETING
6pm Thursday 3rd April
- DINNER AT APRLIAMENT
HOUSE, 28th March
- CHARTERS TOWERS AREA
7 WORKSHOP, 12-13th April
- RELAY FOR LIFE, 26-27th
April

WORLD NEWS

- INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY, 8th March
- WORLD HEALTH DAY, 7th
April
- 58th ZONTA INTERNA-
TIONAL CONVENTION in
ROTTERDAM, June 27, 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

- P1 From the President's Desk
- P2/3 IWDB Reports
- P4/5 This Busy Month news
- P6/7 Forming the Whitsunday
Branch of Zonta International,
Part 4
- From the Editor, Birthdays
- P8 Date Claimers
- P9 Member news

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Official Newsletter of **ZONTA**

The Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Inc

PO Box 427 Cannonvale Qld 4802

Club 1633, Area 5, District 24

Chartered 16th April 1999



Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.

From the President's esk

Hello Girls,

Well, we pulled off another wonderful International Women's Day Breakfast due to the hard work of our fantastic team of Julie, Melody, Marlene, Eunice, Kerry, Adele & Sharon. They worked tirelessly to perfect the day and it was not only a social success but a financial one as well. Thanks go to the members for their donations for the raffles and additional help given.

Some of the board members met with Premier Anna Bligh on Friday and voiced their concerns and objections to the Premier regarding The Adult Entertainment/Cabaret proposal at the venue in Airlie Beach. She was a keen listener and supportive of our concerns and will contact me through Jan Jarratt's office regarding her investigations and attention to this matter. We all felt that we had achieved something discussing this with her and look forward to positive results.

A number of our members went to the High School on Friday also to pack the birthing kits with the students and I look forward to hearing about this. We must thank Jessica Buckley for staying on and organising this with Wendy prior to resuming her University studies in Brisbane. I feel Jessica will go a long way after hearing her speech at the breakfast. How many of us could have spoken like that at 17 years of age?

Please remember to let me know if you would like to go to the Workshop in Charters Towers on the 12th & 13th of April. We have 6 going other than Pam so a couple more would be great.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 20th March.

Love, Carole

International Women's Day Breakfast

Saturday, 8th March, 2008

2

On Saturday, March 8th, 150 women and one heroic man converged on Coral Sea Resort in that wonderful fragrant cloud of buzz, anticipation and laughter that only a group of women (& one man) can generate.

The Nautilus Room looked fresh and inviting in green and white with a gorgeous burst of colour from the Gerberas on each table. Congratulations go to Melody Cross in particular for her organisation here. The morning was packed with activities: music, speakers, raffles, jokes, auction, all accompanied by a gourmet two-course breakfast and plenty of laughter.

Mention should be made of Julie Boss here, our self-confessed "anally-retentive" Committee Chair who put a stupendous effort into the meticulously timed programme. Oh well, best laid plans of mice and women!

For most of us, the highlights were the speakers. Each had such an interesting and personal bent on the "Survive and Thrive" theme. Judging by the attentive audience others would agree.

Dr Jane O'Brien's presentation on breast cancer and the latest findings – interspersed with hilarious cartoons on the same subject - was both informative and positive.

Dr Joanne Richardson's slides were superb and with her anecdotes of working with other volunteers for the Tibetan refugees made for an inspiring talk.

As for our YWPA speaker, Jessica Buckley, her excellent speech left us well-informed about the millennium goals to eradicate poverty, as well as full of admiration for her speaking skills.

Another highlight was our inimitable M.C., Annie Lloyd-Lewis, with her jokes, anecdotes and very interesting auction items!

Judging by the many congratulatory emails and comments the morning was a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by all. For the IWDB Committee it was also the culmination of a team effort lasting almost one year. Congratulations go to Chair Julie and her team, Melody, Marlene, Eunice, Kerry, Adele and Sharon, for their commitment and a successful outcome. Bouquets also go to those who contributed their time, talent, items for the auction and raffle.

It's very gratifying to reflect on how some worthwhile goals, a bit of hard work, interesting speakers and a lot of fun can result in a **fabulous profit of \$3,673.00!!**

Kerry Kenyon

Proceeds from the Whitsundays Zonta International Women's Day Breakfast are donated to the local Whitsunday Women's Crisis and Counselling Centre



MC Annie

Committee Chair Julie



President Carole (L) with Dr Jane O'Brien (R)



Dr Joanne (R), the "real tooth fairy", and friend



Adele (L) guests & tables

Jessica Buckley (R) and friend

International Women's Day Breakfast

³ Saturday, 8th March, 2008

RECIPE FOR AN EXCELLENT BREAKFAST

1. Take 7 willing Zontians, one very worthy cause and a special day celebrating the unique contribution of women.
2. Put these ingredients together. Add a bottle (or two) of wine, some nibbles, a theme, a venue and a large pinch of enthusiasm. Stir well until ideas begin to bubble.
3. Separate into individual portions and keep in a warm place to develop.
4. Repeat the above steps a number of times over several months until the Breakfast takes shape.
5. Now take the 7 Zontians, add 140 more women and 1 man and put into a palm-filled room at Coral Sea Resort. Add a glass of champagne, some eggs, rosti, smoked salmon and pancakes.
6. Blend in some music, 3 excellent speakers, a fun M.C., raffles and an exciting auction.
7. Stir with some rousing singing and a hilarious joke or two involving potatoes and pussies.
8. Cook for 2-21/2 hours until warm and fuzzy in the centre.
9. Turn out and cool before cutting into generous portions of profit.
10. Share with others in need of nourishment.

Kerry Kenyon

WELCOMING OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER FROM MELBOURNE

Wednesday 6th March was the long anticipated day when IWDB committee members, Eunice Shearer and Kerry Kenyon, met our keynote speaker from Melbourne, Dr Jane O'Brien., and her party of 2 breast case nurses and secretary, at Shute Harbour to take them via a "cook's tour" to their accommodation at Water's Edge Resort. Dr O'Brien is a leading breast cancer specialist with 2 practices in Melbourne. Dr O'Brien and her staff also had a second motive for visiting us—to have a short Whitsundays holiday break, understandable of course!

That evening, a Welcome Dinner for our guests was held at Cath Fernbach's house. This was an enjoyable, informal evening with Zontians entertaining our guests over a delicious shared meal; a joint effort in true Zontian style.

A "Getting-to-Know-You" session followed the meal. Our city guests from "The South" could be seen visibly adjusting their ideas about our club (a CWA clone – no way!), as members and guests alike shared information about each other, some members in particular sharing a little more information than was absolutely necessary amid loud gusts of laughter. (Well, you can imagine ... no names mentioned, or needed.)

Our more serious sides were shown in a subsequent Q & A session about possible improvements in breast care facilities in our area, with Dr Jane and her assistants sharing some useful pointers which we hope to follow up.

A huge thankyou and Zonta hugs go to Cath for hosting her lovely home for this event, and to Rayleen, fellow Zontian and manager of Water's Edge Resort, for providing luxury accommodation for the group.

Kerry Kenyon



Dinner is served:
(L-R) Andrea
(Epworth breast
care nurse), Mary
(Epworth secre-
tary), Dr Jane,
Annie, Kay

Dr Jane gives us
the low-down on
breast cancer plus
other "less
serious matters"



The IWDB 2008 team: (Back L-R) Eunice, Sharon, Kerry,
Melody, Julie (Front L-R) Adele, Marlene



THIS BUSY MONTH

Thursday, 21st February: JILL AND JANINE SPEAK ABOUT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Globally, gender-based violence is the most pervasive and least recognized human rights violation. It affects every race, class, culture, ethnicity, age and country. Women are potential victims of violence at every stage of their lives. Beyond individual consequences, gender-based violence has public health and economic impacts as businesses and public health systems often bear the costs of treating injuries related to violence against women and girls.

Jill Harland

THERE ARE NO BRUISES by Jill Harland

*Pain and Anguish
His words like a knife
Cutting into my soul
Where the gaping wounds can't be seen*

*Sadness and Grief
His words like a hammer
Pounding into my head
But there are no bruises*

*How can I show you
That his words are like fists
Punching me in the guts
When you can't see the marks on my flesh*

*How can you understand
That my life is ebbing away
Like internal bleeding
When x-rays won't show the breaks*

*Horror and Agony
His words like feet and hands
Stamping and breaking me
How can you see
There are no bruises*

Saturday, 1st March: LICENCE TO GRILL



In the Cannonvale TAFE friendly competition "Licence to Grill" Zonta was there, represented by Carole and Kay. The Zonta team came second, our "poulet roulade" pipped at the post by the Spanish Saffron team.

But Kay, Pam and Sharon all agreed our efforts were delicious.



The Fairy Face-painter, Cath, did a fantastic job there too. Guess there was not quite enough magic dust in the wand she waved over Carole and Kay though.



Saturday, 8th March: QUILT RAFFLE DRAW



Winner Pip Brooks (L) with Jill Harland having a snuggle under her new quilt. Says Jill: Pip was thrilled with her win and said the quilt will take pride of place on her bed. When I sold her the ticket she said she had a good feeling about it...

THIS BUSY MONTH



Friday, 14th March: MORNING TEA WITH QUEENSLAND PREMIER ANNA BLIGH AND MP JAN JARRATT



This photo was taken on Friday morning, 14th March, at the morning tea with Anna Bligh and Jan Jarratt, where we took our concerns regarding the adult entertainment venue being proposed in Airlie Beach. The Premier was extremely supportive of our objections.

Also at the morning tea, and with breast screening issues fresh on our minds after the IWD Breakfast, we discussed the possibility of digital breast screening coming not only to Mackay (as planned by the end of 2008) but also to the mobile breast screening units used between Mackay and Bowen, where breakdowns and delays often occur with the images. Premier Bligh was very understanding of the problems and undertook to find out when the mobile units would also be equipped with digital machines.

Carole, Brauner, Robyn Mitchell

NEW MEMBERS



Zonta welcomes new members Judy Brown (second from left) & Liberty Hickson (second from right)

Friday 14th March: Birthing Kit Assembly Day

The Zonta Birthing Kit Program

The Zonta Birthing Kit saves lives and reduces suffering by providing for a clean birth for women in developing countries. (Half a million women in these countries die annually, many from infection, tetanus and haemorrhaging.) The kit costs just \$1 to make, is small, light, relatively waterproof and simple to use.

Zonta Club of the Whitsundays is just one of the 100 Zonta Clubs in Australia that have raised funds and held Assembly Days to make birthing kits. Inspired by past student of Proserpine High School and recent winner of the Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program, Jessica Buckley, and with the assistance of the Proserpine High School students, 600 birthing kits were assembled on Friday 14 March, with 200 being sent to East Timor and 400 to Tibet.

Wendy Downes

Photos from the day will be published in the April Reef Talk.

Meanwhile, to see exactly how our birthing kits are being used, see the photo below of Dechen, a Tibetan woman on the receiving end of the kits.



Leaving Gargon (Tibetan village) to go off and graze her yaks and sheep, student mid-wife Dechen takes with her a pile of Zonta birthing kits from Australia and fleece blankets sewn by Jane of Chino, AZ.

She will distribute these to the women she meets along her way, and will teach the women their use.

From the site:

<http://www.tibethealthproject.org/2004/class/class4.html>

Part 4: Forming the Whitsunday Branch of Zonta International

How close did we come to abandoning the idea of forming our Club?

Pretty close. It was only after we contacted Townsville's Zonta Club that we realized that our Club members needed to be drawn from executives in the business and professions.

We knew that there were very few local women who fitted, strictly, into this category and we almost abandoned the idea of forming a Club of this kind. More devastating, most of our Women's Action Group were not eligible to join.

I wondered if there were even 20 people who fitted Zonta's qualifications in the Airlie area. However, May McPhail had come down from her Club in Townsville to help us form a Club similar to hers, and we didn't want to let her down. It was a good decision as May had already contacted the Bowen and Mackay Clubs to assist, so we were persuaded to continue forming this club.

Why were there so few Professional and Business women in our area?

In the 1990's, Airlie Beach and the Coastal Community was a small tourist destination which was still under the helm of the early rural settlers. They were the established landholders. Consequently, development of the Coastal/tourist area, in business terms, was of low priority.

It was the exception to find Professional and Business women on salaried payrolls other than those who managed their own business. There were some women Councillors, but until Louise Mahony won a by-election in the early 90's, no councillor mounted a successful research into finding a solution to the huge drain of revenue (raised largely by

the tourist sector), which was used to benefit the Rural and Proserpine areas.

A general cloud of apathy pervaded the struggling Tourist area. Many businesses pulled up their "tents" and re-established themselves in a more optimistic environment. The well qualified employees moved on with their struggling businesses.

It was in this atmosphere that I approached Louise for help in my quest to bring in a fairer Shire Rating System. This was desperately needed if all Divisions of the Shire were to live peacefully together instead of having one group of residents at a distinct monetary disadvantage compared to the others. There was constant conflict. (But that is another story.)

As mentioned in an earlier "Reef Talk", Louise brought together a roomful of community people to see what we could do to make the shire more attractive to women so that they would stay and grow with us. While getting our bearings we decided to support the Council's idea of beautification, mounted a successful march down Shute Harbour Road against MacDonalds fast food outlet. This resulted in the banning of an enormous advertising sign which they wanted to exchange for the Clock tower which was submitted in earlier drawings. We did not want to swap the wonderful sight of palm trees above the beautiful shoreline in the center of our village for a huge commercial sign, as it would dominate our Tourist advertising and was plainly ugly. This action was more successful than we had hoped. There were people who cared about the Shire's direction. (*cont'd next page*)

March 2008 Birthday Babes

Cath Fernbach: 13th March

Belated February 2008 Birthday Babes

Leigh Robinson: 6th February
Marlene Reiffel: 9th February



Oops!

The Editor wishes to apologise to Kirsten and Daniel Moriarty for inadvertently wrongly naming Daniel as "Greg" in the Status of Women Service Committee Report on p.5 of the February issue of Reef Talk.

From the editor: What a busy month this past month has been, as you can see by the reports and photos. Great Reef Talk material of course! Happy reading.

Websites will be available shortly that you can download the photos from used in Reef Talk. The photos will be in a larger file size than I can fit into this mag.

Member profiles start next month.
Who would like to be our April feature?
Eunice Shearer, 14th March, 2008.



Part 4: Forming the Whitsunday Branch of Zonta International



We had not yet formed Zonta, but some of us notched up some brownie points with the council. We drew strength from this action. We eventually persuaded Mayor Mario's wife Gloria and daughter Andrea to join us.

As anticipated, we had only sporadic success in recruiting women from the "established" professions. The essence of their problem was the small amount of time they had to spare. We could only hint at the value they could derive from the meeting of like minds. It did not help when a few high profile men and some women, actively smeared the organization by questioning our gender and agenda. I deemed it fortunate that one of these people, a councillor, asked me why I was part of this "strange" team. I fell about laughing when he named the people he identified as "very suspect." I must say that I enjoyed sending him back to the community to refute these ridiculous claims.

Following this encounter, I was even more driven to begin this Club. We desperately needed to raise the profile of women and there were plenty of intelligent and experienced business women who would benefit from "networking". So our focus broadened to invite them even if they were now unpaid workers in the community. These women welcomed the chance to share their expertise. They were used to finding that extra time. So the term "business women" was stretched in order to establish the Club with the required twenty people.

We knew that we would have a better chance of attracting those other professional women when they saw a welcoming Club in action.

We followed this direction until such time as the pool of professionals and employed business women were in larger supply. We couldn't rely on locally trained people as we did not have the training facilities such as a local University, a tertiary college or even a local High School. At that time, however, we were fortunate to have "a climate change" in our favour as the normal Wet season disappeared. People from the cooler south emigrated in their droves to this paradise.

What else helped attract professional women to us?

First of all, the Principal of the local State Primary school, our Pam, encouraged a large handful of her Parents and Citizens committee to attend a meeting. That resulted in a huge gain in numbers. Better still, most of them stayed to eventually take on committee roles with us.

Secondly, we began to hear more about the practical way we could introduce reforms into the community and especially in the third world countries.

Thirdly, the local TAFE, MRAEL, began to open doors. Up until this time, we could not find a large venue suitable for our meetings. Hither to, large meetings had to be held a fair distance away in Proserpine. However, our Luella was working at MRAEL, and she noticed that they had a room big enough to hold our Club meetings. We benefited greatly by being able to separate the social side of our meeting from the business side. We have never been good at listening without talking with food in front of us. Here, was The Bayside restaurant only a few steps away. It was owned by a woman, so we invited Cathy Joyce to join us too.

Our numbers reached 20, and to the surprise of May in Townsville, she had to sky dive from a plane. She had recklessly advised her Club that she would dive from an aircraft if ever the Airlie girls reached the numbers to form a Club.

We are now entering the times that some of you will remember well. I hope to continue this column in the next Reef Talk, and welcome any amendments.

I'd also welcome your input before these memories disappear.

Joan Watson, a founding member of the Whitsunday Club. 3rd February, 2008

ZONTA DATE CLAIMERS

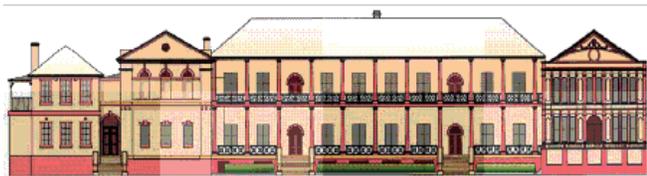
THE ZONTA CLUB OF CHARTERS TOWERS

Invites you to the
AREA 7 WORKSHOP

Commencing Saturday 12TH April at 11.00 am
until 13th April at 1.00pm

To be held at the Charters Towers Civic Club
Ryan Street, Charters Towers Qld 4820.

 **Zonta Club of Charters Towers Inc**
Member of Zonta International
Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide



*Dinner at Parliament House
Macquarie Street, Sydney*

Friday March 28th 2008
6.00 for 6.30 pm

\$55 per person
3-course meal tea/coffee

**After Dinner Speaker: The Hon Catherine Cusack
MLC, Shadow Minister for Fair Trading, Shadow
Minister for Volunteering**

RSVP - preferably by **19th March 2008**, to
District 24 Secretary, Margaret Bateman
email: mb836168@bigpond.net.au
or margaret.bateman@parliament.nsw.gov.au

RELAY FOR LIFE 2008



Remember the fun we had last year doing the Relay for Life? Furthermore we raised a total of **\$65,595.70**, which was **\$38,000 more** than the previous year!

Guess what? It's on again this April,
Saturday 26th – Sunday 27th April with the theme:
“THE WILD, WILD WEST IN THE WHITSUNDAYS.”
(I suggest we 'wild women' can do that one easily!)

Suzie Beirne is the Team Leader, so contact Suzie to join the team and make it another great effort.
Suzie's mobile: 0418758389
Suzie's email: islandedge@maisonjardin.com.au

ROTARY BOAT SHOW: 7TH & 8TH JUNE

On your mark, get set.....go! Sling those burgers, brew those cappies, grill those snags...oh, it must be time to start thinking of the Rotary Boat Show.

As you know ladies (& gents) this is our premiere money making opportunity of the year. The dates to put on your calendar? Queen's Birthday weekend - **7th & 8th June**.

I will soon start on the all important roster. As you are well aware, this is hard work but it's only for few hours. But, did we have laughs & make heaps last year? You bet we did!

Without each & everyone of us participating, it just won't happen & we'll lose our opportunity to do so much for our community of women.



PJ Halter

