

DIARY DATES

DINNER MEETING
Thursday 19th APRIL
Coral Sea Resort Jetty
6.15 for 6.30pm start

RELAY FOR LIFE
April 28-29

Cannonvale Primary
School Oval
THEME: HOLLYWOOD

**FOOD HANDLER'S
COURSE 26th April**
PALMER'S AT TAFE

BOARD MEETING
Thursday 3rd MAY
6pm at Connie's home

**GROW ZONTA
WORKSHOP IN MACKAY**
5th - 6th MAY

ROTARY BOAT SHOW
9th & 10th JUNE
Abel Pt Marina

**DISTRICT 24
CONFERENCE**
TWIN TOWNS RESORT
TWEED HEADS NSW
7th to 9th SEPTEMBER

WORLD NEWS

7th APRIL
WORLD HEALTH DAY

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Official Newsletter of the
Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Inc.

PO Box 427 Cannonvale Qld 4802
Club 1633, Area 7, District 24
Chartered 16th April 1999

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide



From the President's desk

Hello Girls,

I hope you all had a nice restful Easter, and if not restful then at least constructive and fun.

During our March General meeting Eunice gave us an extremely enlightening and heartfelt talk on her experiences with breast cancer. As one of our Advocacy projects is breast cancer and care, this was beneficial to us all to see where the health system is lacking in the treatment of patients suffering this terrible disease. It was also wonderful to hear and see Eunice's positive approach to her illness.

Our last meeting was also a membership evening. Unfortunately owing to time constraints this had to be shortened but nevertheless most will agree that it was educational to all who attended and we thank the membership committee for their hard work in putting this together.

What a wonderful Indian theme progressive dinner was put on by the Nara squad. We had an absolutely marvellous time. The food was scrumptious, the costumes fantastic, and the ambience and company the best. Adjectives abounding and extremely hard for the Country Road etc etc to live up to. This will be our Christmas party this year so we will be looking for a theme to make it a fun night also.

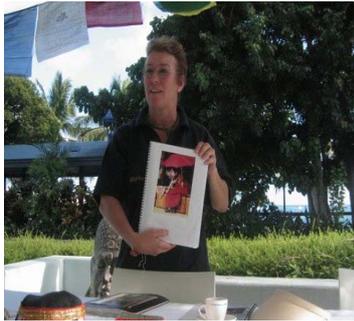
Anyone thinking of joining the seven of us going to The Area Workshop on the 5th/ 6th May please contact me. Zonta will pay the \$80 fees to attend but you will have to pay for the evening meal and accommodation. I will send another e-mail and registration form to the full membership for those who wish to attend.

Look forward to seeing you all at the General Meeting on the 19th April.
Love Carole



Whitsunday Zontians having fun as only they know how !!!

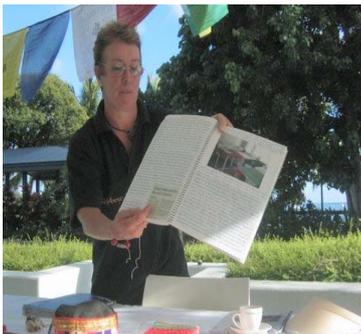
What a breakfast !!



What a great way to start a morning – sunshine, good company, great coffee, and an inspirational speaker. Joanne showed us yet again what amazing things people can do when they have the commitment and spirit to help change the lives of others. And of course have their own lives changed in the process.

Joanne talked about her recent trip to North India as part of a group of six dental volunteers, both dentists and dental nurses who worked in Daramsala, the home of the Dalai Lama. She talked about the young monks the team treated, many as young as 6 years old who had walked for up to a month across mountain passes to escape the repression of China. Most would not see their families again. We also heard about the schools whose mottos reflected the Buddhist principles of compassion and absence of self interest. And then we heard about how all those dental procedures were done in simple surrounds without lots of equipment, but with lots of interested onlookers.

Joanne accompanied her talk with her amazing journals which showed through photos and text the richness of the landscape and the hospitality of the people. We saw her journey to little known parts of North India on a trek which took her to hidden valleys with centuries-old treasures. It was awe-inspiring and made us feel yet again that we should hop on a plane and **Just do it.**



Thanks Joanne, and thanks to all those who came along.
Robyn Mitchell, Chair UN Committee

YOUR ORGANISATION

Zonta International is the overseas aid face of Zonta, and supports three main projects each biennium (two years). Some of our club funds help support these projects.

This biennium our projects are:

- * HIV/AIDS in Africa
- * Education and Health in Afghanistan and Bolivia
- * Economic self-sufficiency in Sri Lanka

You can read about each of these on the Zonta website www.zonta.org and during the next few months various members of our committee will be giving a talk at the monthly meetings on each of these projects.

HIV/AIDS in Niger

In partnership with CARE we are providing AIDS education, self-esteem and negotiation skills training and establishing women's savings groups (microcredit).

Education and Health

Afghanistan: The Afghanistan Institute of Learning (AIL) is working to improve the health and education of women in Mir Bacha Kot, a town near Kabul. AIL also provides birth attendant training, teacher training and human rights classes to women. We support AIL.

Bolivia: 50% of rural women are illiterate in Bolivia. In partnership with CARE and Bolivia's government we have been providing learning opportunities to vulnerable youth, specifically working with girls and young women.

Sri Lanka

We are working with the UN to provide hands-on assistance to women and women's groups affected by the tsunami and the war. The project aims to revive and create opportunities for income generation and employment. For example we are training women farmers to increase productivity and gain entrepreneurial skills.

This is just a brief overview so you know where some of our money goes. Zonta takes great care each biennium to support projects that will bear fruit so that your money is well spent. There is much discussion at high levels in the organisation to make sure these projects are worthwhile. For example, at the last international conference in Melbourne we heard from a Zontian sent out to Niger who reported on our work there... it was fantastic to see the presentation showing real people at the end of all this effort actually benefiting hugely. You can read lots of personal stories on the website www.zonta.org It's truly inspiring to see how globally we can make a difference to women's lives! **Go Zontians!**

Joanne, on behalf of UN committee

WORLD HEALTH DAY

Each year on **April 7**, the world celebrates World Health Day. On this day around the globe, thousands of events mark the importance of health for productive and happy lives.

The Zonta Club of Mackay Invites you to
Area 7 Workshop

"Growing Zonta – Sowing Healthy Seeds"

11am Saturday 5th May until 1pm Sunday 6th May
at the Reef Resort Motel

166-170 Nebo Road Mackay

Registration: \$80.00 Dinner \$45.00

An action packed weekend is guaranteed with information being shared by experienced Zontians: *Patricia Lawson, Bev Follitt, Vicki Varthas, Leonne Elliott and Dorothy Koukari.* Guest speakers *Dr Elissa Hatherly and Caroline Doyle* will talk of their experiences working at the coal face, with women's and Aboriginal issues.



To date, President Carole, PJ, Wendy, Connie, Robyn and Sue have registered. If you find you are now free to attend, please let Carole know asap.

Birthday babes

Many happy returns
Robyn 4th April Guus 16th May Sheryn 23rd May



XXX

Walkers, talkers & WONDER WOMEN

We have registered our Team for the Relay for Life as WONDER WOMEN, and that we are! The relay begins at 3pm on 28th April with the Opening Ceremony and Survivors Lap of Honour. The Candle Lighting Ceremony at 7pm is really moving and there is loads of entertainment. It all ends at 9am on the 29th April.

There is a roster sign up - we are only required to have one person on the walk at a time so pick your brightest time of day or night! Of course, walking with another WONDER WOMAN (OR MAN) would be heaps more fun. Most of you put your hands up to participate so it's time to get started:

First, we need a Team Captain. PJ has registered the team to get the Information Pack but we need some- one to chair this. Should be lots of fun and doesn't require much time.

It should be obvious, the Dress is that of WONDER WOMEN... and the theme is **Hollywood!** You will need to decide when you'd like to walk and talk or stroll, moll! Eunice's talk at the last meeting should have inspired us all to participate and collect funds.

You will need to register \$10 with the Team Captain, which entitles you to the Relay for Life shirt and a free breakfast. Then, begin asking friends, co-workers, family members, anyone you know to donate. There are lots of other ways to raise funds which also adds more fun. Each participant is encouraged to raise \$100 or more.

Please contact PJ 4946 4363 or pjhalter@hotmail.com to register your interest in the **TEAM OF WONDER WOMEN** and your interest in being Team Captain).



Introducing...

Jill O'Keeffe is the new Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Coordinator for the Office for Women, part of a new state-wide team building partnerships with other government agencies and community organisations to help promote women's needs and encourage the delivery of women's services throughout the state. They also work to develop a strong understanding of local women's priorities. This information is used to keep government policies in touch with the challenges women face.

Jill's work will focus on issues and initiatives for enhancing women's health and safety, workforce participation and leadership and decision making. In line with key Office for Women priorities, this includes encouraging women in the region to take up careers in science, engineering and technology, including in non-traditional mining and construction fields, become members of Government boards and be recognised for their achievements through the Smart Women - Smart State Awards.

The Office for Women will soon be rolling a number of new initiatives including:

- * a workshop in Mackay in early June to provide women with industrial relations negotiating skills
- * the Science, Engineering and Technology Action Plan
- * the Women in Hard Hats strategy
- * the Women on Boards strategy
- * the Smart Women – Smart State Awards: and
- * a series of new infosheets on key issues for women.

Jill can be contacted on 0428 195 969 or
jillokeeffe@women.qld.gov.au

INSPIRING World Wide Women

RACHEL PECK from Melbourne. A Civil engineer, received a leadership award from the Future Summit. The leadership awards are intended to recognise outstanding new-generation leaders from many personal and professional backgrounds and give them a chance to build relationships with their peers and other participants. Rachel Peck believes property booms can conflict with quality construction, but sees a push for higher standards in places we live, shop and work coming from another booming sector: superannuation.

ANGELA MERKEL, Germany, 52. She is German's Chancellor with a growing reputation world wide, for her vision and support for the European Union and her way of handling national and international problems.

TZIPI LIVNI, 48, Foreign Minister of Israel and a lawyer. She is what they call "a lady in waiting" to replace Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who faces a possible political death sentence next month from a commission investigating last summer's war in Lebanon.

MAXINE McKEW, Sydney, a former brilliant ABC-journalist, taking a risk in following her ambition to participate in changing things in the social sector. Her first and maybe most stumbling hurdle might be to win John Howard's seat in Benelong in the coming elections. The polls today give her a big winning margin.

Whatever party you support, **Zonta supports women.**
Augusta Hermans, UN & PR&C Committees

April Inductions

Angela Spicer sponsored by Carole, has an online travel agency "Holidays All Over".

Janine Benjter sponsored by Louise, is the manager at the Airlie Beach branch of the National Bank.

Juzie Beine sponsored by Wendy, is an interior design consultant and has opened an Interior Design Boutique in Airlie Beach.

Julie Boss sponsored by Joanne, has interior design qualifications and her dream is to open a business in the Whitsundays. Julie is a volunteer of Red Cross.

Stay tuned to the May edition of "ReefTalk" to find out more about these talented women

Thought for the Month

*"Everything that happens is my teacher.
I just have to sit at my own feet and learn"*



Nara Progressive Dinner 1st April



Heaps of fun, fun, fun !!!

Status of Women Service Committee

Rotary Boat Show, 9th & 10th June

Thursday 26th of April at 5.30pm we will hold our **TAFE Food Handlers Course** at Palmers on the TAFE Campus which will last approximately 2 hours. As we all voted and agreed to take on this BIG project, your attendance will be obligatory, if humanly possible. It really is imperative we have your full support!

Ms Sheryn, our whiz-bang organizer, has cajoled, begged and negotiated great deals for us on all fronts: food, equipment, ice creams, coffees, etc. She has almost everything complete and is amazing to watch in action:

* **We** have a refrigerated ice cream trolley sourced from Mackay at no charge to use to sell Peter's ice creams. We do need someone with a trailer to go to Mackay on Thursday prior to the Boat Show to pick it up.

* **Annie** has presentation/decorations/uniforms under control to make us look beaut while we work.

* **Most** equipment has been sourced free of charge and The remainder ordered from Whitsunday Party Hire. We do need three urns for hot water (the Kambrook home/business style) and perhaps another large glass fronted refrigerator.

Lions and Whitsunday Food Service are each providing refrigeration vehicles. We will need someone with a tow-bar to pick up the Lions refrigerated trailer from Proserpine on the Friday.

* **The** majority of food items will be purchased from Whitsunday Food Service. Drinks are being sourced at Big W. Quotes are coming in from Whitsunday Catering and Green Gecko for sandwiches/wraps.

* **Coral Sea Resort** will be loaning us coffee urns.

* **Most** paper goods will be donated by Whitsunday Food Service.

* **PJ** and Sheryn will meet with Rotary next Tuesday for final number on quantities.

* **Application** for license is almost complete and ready to be lodged with the Shire.

Any questions, problems or what-if's, please feel free to call, write or email me (PJ 4946 43630 or Sheryn 4948 2288.)

Advocacy Projects

Women's Health Advocacy Project –

Mr Kerry McGovern, District Manager of Mackay Health Services has responded to February's letter stating that monies are not available to increase funding for a Breast Care Nurse. This was the expected response and allows the committee to go further up the chain of command with the request. Look for a full report at Thursday's meeting.

PJ, Chair SOW



From the Editor

I hope everyone had a very happy relaxing Easter! Now it's time to focus on our next big event, the Rotary Boat Show 9th/10th June. By attending the Food Handlers course at Palmers TAFE 26th April you will be making a commitment towards Zonta enjoying a roaring success. Regards, Luella. ima00845@bigpond.net.au

Media / UN Director's Report

United Nations

The following plans are currently under discussion and when finalised will be communicated to Zonta members:

1. *Breakfast Speakers*
2. *World Literacy Day later this year*
3. *Committee members speaking at General Meetings on Afghanistan, Bolivia and Sri Lanka*

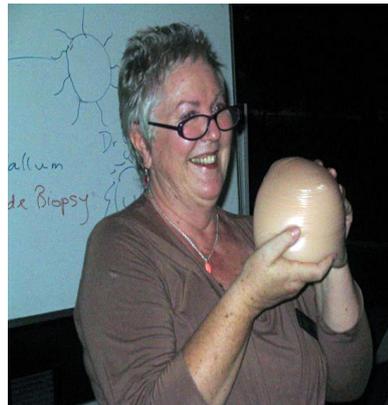
As well as this, Lucy Fraser in Peru has been sending the Committee emails giving information on the wonderful experiences she has been having. A summary of these will be featured in May/June editions of "ReefTalk".

Eunice Shearer

Members Snippets



Treasurer Connie – so that's where you keep all the money!!!



Talk on Breast Cancer by Eunice, very much from the heart



What is this all about? First correct answer wins free admission to the Rotary Boat Show

