

President's Report

Dear fellow Zontians

The year is already well under way and running away from us with a busy period coming up. I trust everyone is rested and ready for another year ahead. Sadly not all of our members have been in such good health and our thoughts are with you all.

The February dinner meeting allowed us to meet and be inspired by the successful Advancement Grant awardees for 2014 – Rebecca Alexander, Natalie Brownsden, Jodi Mitchell and Rose Wombek – who shared with us their aspirations and plans. We hope these awards can go some way to assisting them to achieve their goals.

As mentioned at the dinner meeting, we are very grateful for our band of Sausage Sizzlers who worked hard over the New year and Australia Day holidays in extreme heat to boost the fund-raising coffers by over \$3500. The next club fundraiser will be upon us soon with the **Trivia night on 6th March**, and we are hoping for a very successful evening with much preparation underway. Please come along and gather together as many friends as possible to enjoy this evening. Please RSVP by 28th February – see further details attached.

The Area 1 and 3 meeting is also fast approaching on 21st March with the registration fee of \$55 due by 6th March. I hope as many members as possible can attend to focus on the broader District goals and activities. Details are included within the newsletter.

Also a reminder of Zonta Rose Day for International Women's Day on 8th March, and a number of IWD activities with the IWD breakfast at Convention Centre on 4th March. Also, there will be the Brisbane River Zonta club International Women's Day breakfast with Dame Quentin Bryce on 3rd March.

Congratulations to Anne Vinning who hosted a very successful working bee and to the members who attended to produce over 50 additional breast cushions for PAH and RBWH. The feedback was very positive re camaraderie generated.

Best wishes

Maree



The yellow rose,
Zonta's symbol

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Date Claimers

**March 9th, 7pm USC
Dinner Meeting**

Dinner Apologies:

Apologies go to **Jenny Grant-Taylor 33533591 or 0417745919 or jgrant-t2@bigpond.com**

no later than 9am on the Friday preceding dinner meetings. Please let Jenny know beforehand if you:

- are bringing a guest
- have special dietary needs
- are returning after an absence

**Wed 25 February
Board Meeting
6pm
Ashgrove Library**

Acknowledging incapacitated members

*There are times when we become aware that another of our members has become ill or injured. Please let **Noreen Gorman** know so that she may send them a card from the Club.*



Entertainment Books

Once again, Anne Vinning will be organising the sale of Entertainment Books. She will be giving members more information about purchasing them next month. The books represent excellent value for the purchaser, and raise funds for our good works.

The deadline for recording your intended absence from the dinner meeting is 9am on the Friday before. Failure to notify Jenny in time will mean you will still have to pay the cost of the dinner (\$45), since the Club will be charged for it regardless.



Zonta Club Brisbane North Inc.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Lots of prizes and raffles
Make up your own table of 8 or join up
with others. Themed tables are
welcome.

7.15pm, 7th March, 2015
Little Flower Church Parish Hall,
80 Turner Rd, Kedron

Beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks for sale

Entry \$20/ per person or \$140/ table of 8
and evening supper provided

RSVP by 28th February by
emailing Trish: tdesmarchelier@bigpond.com
or phoning Therese: 3172 6228 or
0407 141365 (mobile)



Zonta Club of
Brisbane North

Member of Zonta International

Australians of the Year

The recent Australian of the Year awards were remarkable in that women scooped the pool for the first time: Rosie Batty, Australian of the Year; Jackie French, Senior Australian of the Year; Drisana Levitzke-Gray, Young Australian of the Year; Juliette Wright, Local Hero.



Source: www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2015/01/25/women-take-all-historic-australian-year-awards

Rosie Batty entered Australians' consciousness following the horrendous murder of her 11 year-old son, Luke, by her father. It was the culmination of a battle against family violence that had gone on for many years. What happened to Luke occurred because of a monumental failure of the system. Despite a number of outstanding warrants for his arrest, and dangerously deteriorating mental health, Rosie was kept in the dark. As a consequence she acceded readily to Luke's request that he spend extra time with his father after cricket. The tragedy that ensued has propelled Rosie into the passionate and articulate fight against domestic violence for which she was made Australian of the Year.

Senior Australian of the Year is author, Jackie French. She believes that books "can change the world", and that "if you want intelligent children give them a book. If you want more intelligent children, give them more books." Jackie is currently the Children's Laureate, and is travelling around Australia to promote literacy. As a child she suffered from dyslexia so understands children with learning difficulties. Her passionate advocacy for them led to her being made Senior Australian of the Year.

Drisana Levitzke-Gray is Young Australian of the Year, and deaf. She believes ardently that deaf children's early access to Auslan (the deaf language used in Australia), is essential to their cognitive development. Drisana was born to deaf parents and thinks it is deaf children's human right "to be able to access their language". Like many others in the deaf community, Disana believes that "it is OK to be deaf".

The founder of GIVIT is Juliette Wright who won the Local Hero award. GIVIT is a unique online site that acts as an intermediary for charities in urgent need and members of the community who would like to donate new or "gently-used" goods. Donors are encouraged to check what is urgently needed on the website (www.givit.org.au/urgently-needed-list), and are given a local address to which they can deliver donations. To date, GIVIT has donated more than 126,000 items to those in need.

References

<http://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2014/october/1412085600/helen-garner/mother-courage>
<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2015/01/25/women-take-all-historic-australian-year-awards>
<http://www.givit.org.au/>

International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

February 6th is the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation. It is observed as a way of enhancing awareness and to support measures aimed at preventing FGM/C.

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) refers to “all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.”[1] FGM/C is a violation of girls’ and women’s human rights. Yet where it is still practised, FGM/C is performed in line with tradition and social norms and is strongly associated with ethnicity. More than 130 million girls and women alive today have been cut in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where FGM/C is concentrated. If current trends continue, as many as 30 million girls are at risk of being cut before their 15th birthday. However, the data also show that the majority of girls and women in most practising countries think FGM/C should end. The practice is less prevalent among adolescent girls than among their middle-aged counterparts in most of the 29 countries. - See more at: <http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/fgmc#sthash.6GGmRO9f.dpuf> (Source: <http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/fgmc>).

The table below provides information about not only the rates of FGM/C, but also the proportion of females who support its continuation. Efforts to eliminate FGM/C must include education of the entire community; when the latter accept the need to abandon FGM/C, it can be eliminated quickly. Anti-FGM/C laws plus culturally-sensitive education and public awareness campaigns have been successful. (Source: WHO, 2008. *Eliminating female genital mutilation: an interagency statement UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO*)

Country	FGM/C prevalence among girls & women (%)	Girls & women supporting the continuation of FGM/C (%)	Notes
Benin	7	2	72% of Peulh girls and women have undergone FGM/C, compared to 0% of girls and women of Adja and Fon ethnicity
Burkina Faso	76	9	76% of girls and women have been cut, but only 9% favour the continuation of FGM/C
Cameroon	1	7	85% of boys and men think that FGM/C should not be continued
Chad	44	38	27% of boys and men think FGM/C is required by religion
Ethiopia	74	31	41% of girls and women with no education support the continuation of FGM/C compared to 5% of girls and women with secondary or higher education
Gambia	76	64	82% of girls and women who have undergone FGM/C think the practice should continue, compared to 5% of girls and women who have not been cut
Ghana	4	2	In the highest prevalence region (Upper West), 60% of women aged 45 to 49 have undergone FGM/C compared to 16% of girls aged 15 to 19
Guinea-Bissau	50	34	18% of cut girls underwent the procedure after age 15
Iraq	8	5	FGM/C is concentrated in the regions of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah
Liberia	66	45	Girls and women from the poorest households are twice as likely to have experienced FGM/C as those from the richest households
Mauritania	69	41	On average, girls are cut when they are just 1 month old
Niger	2	6	55% of Christian girls and women have undergone FGM/C, compared to 2% of Muslim girls and women
Togo	4	2	21% of Muslim girls and women have undergone FGM/C, compared to 1% of Christian girls and women
Uganda	1	9	9% of girls and women support the continuation of FGM/C, even though national prevalence is only 1%
Central African Republic	24	11	
Côte d'Ivoire	38	38	
Djibouti	93	14	
Eastern & Southern Africa	44	20	
Egypt	91	54	
Eritrea	83	12	
Guinea	97	76	
Kenya	27	10	
Mali	89	73	
Nigeria	25	41	
Senegal	26	17	
Sierra Leone	90	66	
Somalia	98	65	
Sub-Saharan Africa	39	23	
Sudan	88	42	
United Republic of Tanzania	15	6	
West and Central Africa	31	23	
Yemen	19	41	

Source: <http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/fgmc>



Some energetic members and their families might be interested in taking part in Care's annual Walk in Her Shoes Challenge



In many developing countries, women and girls have to walk long distances each day to access food, water and healthcare for their family, leaving little time for education or paid work. CARE is working to change that, and you can too - when you Walk In Her Shoes!

The average Aussie walks only 3.2 kilometres per day. Will you step it up to #WalkInHerShoes?

Here's your chance! From 16-22 March 2015, join thousands of Australians taking part in CARE's annual [Walk In Her Shoes Challenge](#). Walk 25km, 50km or 100km to raise money to support women and girls living in poverty around the world.

Your efforts could help women and girls like Finase (pictured), from Ethiopia. She is 14 years old and lives with her family. They need water to drink, cook and clean but until recently, Finase had to walk for 30 minutes, three times a day, just to collect enough for all their basic needs.

CARE works with impoverished communities to reduce the amount of time girls like Finase have to travel to reach water, giving her an opportunity to go to school and get an education.



Since 2011, over 13,000 Australians have taken part in Walk In Her Shoes and raised more than \$2.7 million to support CARE's work around the world. With your generous support, we can help lift more women, girls and their families out of poverty.

Check out walkinher shoes.org.au to register and find out more!

With thanks,

Rich, Emma & Laura
The Walk In Her Shoes Team

<http://www.walkinher shoes.org.au/>

**Zonta Club Brisbane North Committee Membership
September 2014**

Public Relations and Communication

Anne Vinning
Maggie Williams
Noreen Gorman
Pauline Guthrie
Trish Desmarchelier

Awards committee

Gina Brosnan
Peggy Burke
Rita Fraser
June Halliday
Jenni Jolly
Elizabeth Hatton
Lyn Hill
Maree Crawford

Newsletter

Patricia Régo

Membership Committee

Pam Beavis
Mercia Ferrier
Mary Mahoney
Chieko Klerkx
Therese Murphy
Lorna Webber
Siti Constable
Lynette Liddle

Service Committee

Jennie Watt
Glenda Gobe
Ann Jones
Vicki Lomax
Ann-Marie O'Connell
Karen Peterson
Noeleen Foggon
Margaret Marshall
Kerryn Horne

Advocacy Committee

Barbara Newton
Narelle Fraser
Jacque Taka
Paulette Clarke
Jennifer Batts
Linda Fletcher

Fundraising Committee

Jenny Grant-Taylor
Glenda Gobe
Margaret Marshall
Maggie Williams
Karen Paterson
Chieko Klerkx
Narelle Fraser
Linda Fletcher
Trish Desmarchelier

Finance Committee

Margaret Marshall
Jenny Grant-Taylor

Nominating Committee

Margaret Marshall
Gina Brosnan
Noeleen Foggon

The following is an extract from the Zonta Club manual regarding committee roles and responsibilities. The full manual is available on the website under member resources.

**COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES
Responsibilities of the Club Committee Chairman**

- Establish the goals for the committee in cooperation with the club president and club board, and aligned with Zonta's mission.
- Report to the club board and the club regularly about progress.
- Report to the district committee chairman as required and copy the club president.
- Schedule regular meetings to discuss how committee goals will be met, with adequate notice of details, to committee members and the president and prepare an agenda.
- Give each member of the committee some responsibility and encourage each member to contribute ideas and suggestions.
- Adhere to the approved committee budget.
- Work with other club committees and the club board to prepare a club calendar of events and meetings (see Section 7).

Responsibilities of the Committee Member

- Attend committee meetings and participate in committee discussions and decisions.
- Accept assignments and responsibilities.
- Support committee projects and decisions.