

REEF TALK

FEBRUARY
2020

Newsletter of the Whitsunday ZONTA CLUB

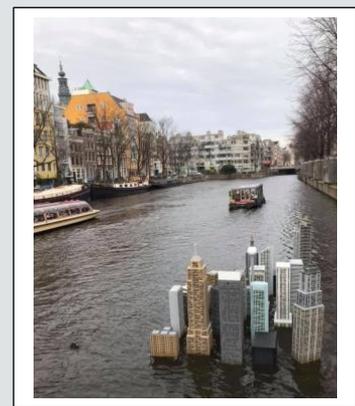


PRESIDENTS REPORT

2020 ...well I hope everyone has 20/20 vision this year!

Welcome back ladies, and I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year as we approached a new decade. I hope one of your New Year resolutions is to help us with the running of this wonderful Whitsundays club.

I had a lovely time with my son, daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter in Rotterdam and Amsterdam and the UK. This was part of the floor of a large bookstore in Rotterdam showing the sugar cane growing in and around Mackay!



The dire warnings of rising sea levels in a canal in Amsterdam!

Unfortunately, our health went rapidly downhill and it took us over a week to get back to normal on our return.

I came back to a rash of resignation letters, which was very disheartening, but each one had their own really good reason to be leaving the Zonta Club of the Whitsundays.

We always hope that they will return to us when they are good and ready. So, onwards and upwards and let's hope there will be many new members starting this year to counteract the drop, in membership. Please spread the word and encourage your friends to come and visit us.

I do send a plea out, at this stage, to all the members to think about whether they could job share a few of the outstanding tasks that still need to be covered, i.e. the newsletter, organizing the gift wrapping sessions, making the members birthday cakes and many more. We also need leaders for Advocacy and Service, which could also be a job share.

Please talk to me or any of the Directors as to how you can help to keep our fantastic club alive, growing and vibrant.

Best wishes, Patsy

THOSE SPECIAL MOMENTS THAT MAKE ZONTA WORTHWHILE (Letter received from a proud Dad about one of our A&A Bursary recipients)

Hi Noelene,

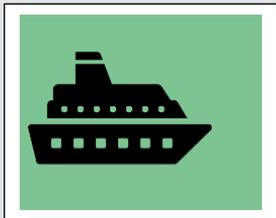
Not sure if you are still in contact with Stevie Smith, however, I thought I should let you know that she graduated from UQ in December with a Double Degree and is now a High School Teacher teaching at Kenmore through some tough times over the last 10 years, but I guess these things make us stronger. Well, it did in Stevie's case!

Thank you and your members again for all your help steadying the ship when things were a little rocky.

Kind Regards

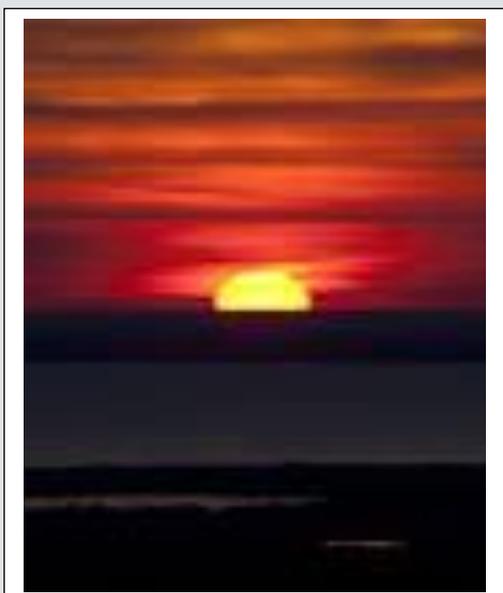
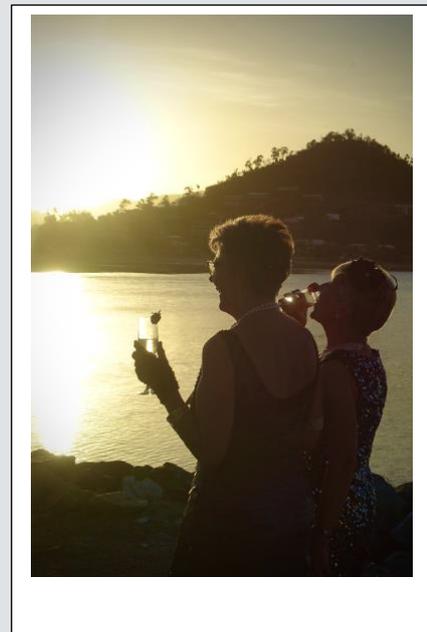


Christmas Party– What were YOU wearing when the ship went down???



FLIRTATIOUS, others FANCY in their FINERY, a few looked FETCHING, FLASHY and FOXY and of course there are always those FOOLISH few who took it all literally and wore life vests!

Annie Cleghorn had to win a prize for wearing her FLAWLESS wedding dress, but was missing a FIANCEE and FLOWER GIRLS!!!!



After the FESTIVE FEAST, prepared by Lynda Baxter and the FABULOUS entertainment by “Whitsend” we FITTINGLY watched the sun go down on another FIRST CLASS ZONTA Year!

Christmas Gift Wrapping Report



WHITSUNDAY PLAZA GIFT WRAPPING

Once again, we were able to raise a tidy sum with the gift wrapping at Whitsunday Plaza. Our final tally was \$4901.40. Everyone who helped should give yourself a big pat on the back--- those who didn't-- you don't know what fun you missed!!

I would like to thank most sincerely, Wendy Downes and Marlene Reifel. Apart from the hours originally offered, they were my "go to" ladies if I needed help. They put in so many hours that one would be forgiven for asking if they had homes to go to!!!

I wish the club well if you choose to do it again next year.

Maxine Thiele

Coordinator

AND THANKS MAXINE FOR ALL YOUR EFFORT AND ORGANISATION!

A Message from Wendy



**Birthing Kit
Foundation**
Australia



As the new school year commences, many schools will be planning their fundraising and volunteering activities to coincide with special celebrations throughout the year. If you are connected with a school in your community, why not ask them to consider hosting an Assembly Day with their students? The packing days provide genuine community connection and offer students a unique sense of purpose as they volunteer their time to help women and girls in need.

Some possible dates during the year to host an event may include:

- International Women's Day | 8 March 2020
- World Health Day | 7 April 2020
- Mother's Day | 10 May 2020

PS Hamilton Island Birthing Kit packing day is set for May 9th

Birthdays for February

Congratulations **Marlene Reiffel and Janet Goldman**



And REMEMBER -----
ON YOUR BIRTHDAY WE WISH YOU THE
BIGGEST SLICE OF HAPPY!



International Women's Day 2020

MARCH 8th from 2:30pm

Planning is well underway, but help will be required to make it **AMAZING!**

Please get ready to volunteer and pass on the brochure to all your friends.

SPREAD THE WORD, TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!!!!



LET'S GO BACK TO THE 20'S IN 2020 WHERE
EQUALITY FIRST BEGAN

**ZONTA CLUB OF THE
WHITSUNDAYS
PRESENTS
FLAPPERS & DAPPERS**

Celebrating International Women's Day
Sunday March 8th from 2:30pm Club Wyndham
Join us for moonshine, games and more!
Tickets \$55

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
WHITSUNDAYTICKETS.COM.AU

OUR IWD POSTER Says “Let’s go back to the 20’s in 2020 where equality first began” and it reminded Noelene of a speech given in 2003 at another ZONTA IWD function. It is for you to decide just how far we have come and if we have a way to go? We hope you enjoy the following.

From Brisbane Courier 1866 – A Man wrote:-

“What more could a woman want than A house to keep, A floor to sweep, A man to scold And a baby to hold”

Things have changed – women at the moment are serving in the Armed Forces in the front line with the men. Several have been shot into space. Today what women want is not just to be EQUAL to the male of the species but to be given the chance to be BETTER THAN. It is quite accepted that some men stay at home and keep house and raise the babies – and the wife goes out to work. It is not known whether these *house husband’s* scold their women for messing up the house of staying late after work for drinks with the girls.

It seems as though women and their fashions became a great trial to men in the middle of the 19th century and believe it or not a law was passed in the British Parliament to draw them into line. Crinolines had been the fashion of the day since the 18th century and these voluminous skirts just got wider and wider and took up all the footpaths and doorways, so the men introduced and passed a law banning them. Here are some excerpts of the full print out of the law in the *Moreton Bay Courier* June 8th 1859.

1. Clause one repeals the right of the female sex to determine the pattern and configurations, shape and dimensions of their exterior habiliments.
2. From and after the passing of this act no female shall under any pretence whatever, wear or immerse herself in a certain protruding skeleton, grating or gridiron pattern under skirt, nor any other anatomically formed framework which shall be in diameter more than two yards whether the same shall be made or fashioned out of steel, whalebone, cane, cord, wicker work, catgut, India rubber, gutta percha, wood or other material, fabric or substance whether screwed together or fitted with hinges for the purpose of folding or decreasing the dimensions thereof, nor shall the same be contractible in any manner of form whether the same shall be made after the pattern of an umbrella or with radiating spikes, leaders, ribs, connections, strings or framing whatsoever or any other complex machinery by means of which the same may be drawn together, for the purpose of making way or facilitating the transit or passage room for any person in the public streets, parks bridges, churches, theatres, doorways, public vehicles, steam vessels or private apartments heretofore incommoded by reason of the collisions and casualties caused thereby, under a penalty of 20/- for each time of offence, such sum to be earned by the offender, either at plain needlework or shirt making at the usual shop charges at the direction of any sitting magistrate.
3. Even more specific – it shall not be lawful for any female above the age of forty to wear, deck or bedizen herself in any underskirt or petticoat, the pattern of which shall be red and black striped, tub or barrel pattern or any other pattern approaching to chess or draught board pattern or colour, which shall likely to cause the taking of fright of any horse, ox or ass, or shall be calculated to cause the unnecessary barking of puppies or draw forth the precocious remarks of any small boys, or charity girls of the present generation who may espy the same although the remarks be gratuitously delivered.

4. Really sexist – Any female who is a married woman and under the age of fifty years or has not been married thirty years, requires a new article of dress (the necessity of which shall be determined by the husband) shall have to get a piece of the stuff with the pattern, price and quantity of the stuff and submit it to the husband for approval. This must be given in writing to the party selling the material at the time of purchase.

Clauses 5 and 6 are not recorded but 7 requires any female who has in her possession before the passing of this act, any frames, rope, ladders, skeletons, grating or wicker-work or other machinery shall be at liberty with the consent of her nearest relative to dispose of the same at any of the Metropolitan Police courts, stations or workhouses, that the same may be distributed to and be used by the poor as fireguards, doormats, bird cages or clothes bags. Such poor persons shall be furnished with the particulars of the trifling alterations required to *transmogrify* them into the article's names. The petticoats may be torn into ribbon to scare birds or presented to the Shoe Brigade.

8. It was not lawful for any female under sixteen or over forty to wear any boots with military or high heels, which shall exceed in height three inches, nor any boots made of buffalo, or cowhide; nor any boots with brass or German silver eyelet holes, nor any boots with leather laces or black boots with pink, red, blue or green binding nor any boots which shall draw the attention of the passengers either to the large sized or expressively elegantly shaped foot of the wearer – Penalty ten shillings, the same to be earned at the wash-tub in a laundry at the usual rate of payment. The fine could be remitted by a Police Magistrate if the offender had a bona fide offer of marriage while so employed.

By the turn of the 20th Century, Queensland women were given the vote. If we read the electoral roll of 1903, we still find that most women were employed at *domestic duties*. Of course, a household at that time was very labour intensive and women had to be strong. Three hot meals were the order of the day – no refrigerator or freezer, so shopping was done daily and cooked daily. The cast iron pots weighed a ton. Laundry or the *washing* as it was called had to be done in a copper boiler and rinsed in three waters, the last one blue and hung on lines held up with clothes props. Heaving a clothesline full of wet washing up with a clothes prop was no job for a sissy. There were no disposable nappies for the ever-present new arrivals in almost every household and the ironing to be done with Mother Potts Irons heated on the massive old wood stove which made the kitchen like a sauna. The disciplines of the Victorian era still had to be obeyed. Clothes had to be hung in neat groups, sheets hung exactly even, towels all together on the line and underwear in matching categories. The neighbours gossiped about the washing. A woman's social standing and housewifely skills were displayed for all to see on the clothesline. The fear of *what the neighbours would say* kept many a household within the social rules of the era.

To have a child out of wedlock was a crime to be punished by social ostracism. It was always the girl's fault. – “Send the poor girl away till after the birth and have the baby adopted”. Nature being what it is this happened all the time. Nowadays genealogy is such a popular pursuit and setting down one's family history is the fashion of the 21st century, we are all learning that most family cupboards hide social skeletons. Pregnancy was an event that was not discussed in front of the children.

Sometimes our flapping ears heard the gossip over the teacups that Mrs So and So was in a certain condition. We thought she must have been dying and were quite amazed when we saw her later looking fat and rosy and nursing the latest addition to the family. The 'cabbage patch' story was not questioned – *we just didn't have a clue!*

The real emergence of women as free spirits came following World War 1 and during the 1920's- the Flapper era. No crinolines or wasp waists then, the fashion was to flatten bosoms with a binder and wear a long waisted straight line, dress. Cloche hats right down over the face were also the rage.

The 1930's remind me that it was the era when radio came into our homes. Dad sat up all night and listened to the cricket crackling short wave. Mum listened to a wonderful soprano Glenda Raymond singing on Harry Dearth's Amateur Hour, and the younger ones listened to Biggles and Nancy the Witch of Salem and Her Wise Black Cat. My mother sang all the time about the house – women don't do that anymore. In the very early days long before stoves had thermostats, women sang to time what they were cooking. You had a certain hymn or ditty for a loaf of bread and another for a tea cake. A roast dinner may have required a full opera.

Snippets in old newspapers remind me of the women and girls who held the fort at home while the men were away at war. Who among us working girls in the 1940's and 50's in our hats, gloves and high heels was not a strap hanger on Brisbane's trams on our way to work?

When articles in the columns of old newspapers did not quite reach the space was often filled with little gems of poems or joke or some such. I thought I had found one such as I had often seen in autograph books which were in fashion in the first half of the century. It was sugary sweet but let me down terribly.

“””Take the perfume of the rose And the honey from the bee
As the shades of twilight close Where the one you love shall be
Take the nectar of her lips But for colds and chills assure
There is ease in soothing sips of WOODS GREAT PEPPERMINT CURE”””””

It has taken a full century for women to become truly liberated. Since the 1970's we have watched a generation of really wonderful young men struggle to come to terms with the loss of inherent male dominance, and many wonderful young women become too dominant. As the decades have moved on into this new century, we see really good partnerships emerging. Motherhood is fashionable again! Childcare centres, maternity and paternity leave have given a choice for a woman to have a career as well as to mother and nurture the next generation. Two loving parents can now equally head the household. So go for it girls, live the greatest adventure – push the boundaries – fly a plane, drive a bus, be the CEO of a company, excel in any way that grabs you

- but please don't feed your baby in parliament.

Contact Details

President – Patsy Morgan, President Elect – Mez Bowen
Treasurer – Dawn Green, Secretary - Janice Lake,
February Newsletter – Pammie Harrison

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