

MAY 2012

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi everyone,



7-12 July 2012 ~ Torino, Italy

By now you will have received a more detailed email with all of the relevant information and paperwork for the ZI Biennial Convention for 2012-2014. This email included the attachments listed below; this is for your information and consideration so our vote can be taken to the Convention by our designated voting delegate from the Zonta Club of Wynnum Redlands Inc, on our behalf. I ask you to please take time to peruse the documents.

- * 2014 Biennial Goals
- * Bylaws & Resolutions
- * Slate of Candidates
- * Proposed 2012-2014 Projects Descriptions
 - a. Liberia Fistula Program
 - b. Elimination of New Paediatric HIV Infection and Prevention Response to Survivors of Domestic and Gender Based Violence in Rwanda
 - c. Mass Communication with a Purpose: Global Partnership on Edutainment for Social Change
 - d. Safe Cities for Women in Honduras
 - e. Empowering Women in Rural Samoa to Combat Violence

(Editors note: I had to look up Edutainment on Zonta site as it is not in dictionary. Edutainment combines traditional and contemporary media with community outreach to transform the myth that violence against is "normal")

We are conducting our Annual General Meeting next Thursday 17th May, 2012. This will give us a chance to celebrate and reflect on our successes for this past year! The formalities of the evening will then commence with the election of your new board members for 2012-2013! I know you will all join me in congratulating and thanking the members who have accepted nomination along with wishing them all the best for the next 12 months!

I am also really looking forward to you all joining me for this function my last hoorah!
Cheers, Sandii





REPORTS

LAA REPORT AND UNITED NATIONS

- * Zonta International is affiliated with the United Nations as an NGO in the following ways:
 - *General Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
 - *Consultative Status with the International Labour Organization (ILO);
 - *Affiliation with the Department of Public Information (DPI);
 - * Member of the Conference of NGOs (CONGO) which has a Consultative Relationship with the UN
 - * Operational Relations with UNESCO (Paris);
 - * Accredited Representative to Working Group Sessions of the Human Rights Council (now Commission) via consultative status with ECOSOC (Geneva)

Members of the International UN Committee represent Zonta International in NGO Forums in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Paris. Members of the International Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Committee also assist in formulating advocacy statements on international issues which are then endorsed by the Zonta International Board.

CEDAW is also another body which has particular relevance to us as if desired we are able to direct our international funds directly to its workings. It is a body to which Zonta International regularly refers to undertake advocacy at a global level.

CEDAW denotes:

CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Janet Kepcke, Director

ORGANISATION, MEMBERSHIP & CLASSIFICATION

NEWS FLASH: We will be holding another beautiful Saturday afternoon tea at the lovely Whitsunday B & B on 7 July at 2.00 PM. Details to follow but start thinking about whom you'd like to invite and share the joys of Zonta. Please put this most important date on your calendar. We will not be holding the Information Meeting that we've put on for the last few years in place of a General Meeting. It hasn't produced the desired results by being a bit too formal. This casual approach where we can "strut our stuff" by the sharing of ourselves in a beautiful environment, along with some good food and wine, will show our "shine".

P.J. Halter, OMC Director

DATE CLAIMERS

- 16 May:** Combined Service Clubs Function with Whitsunday Lions—6.30
- 17 May:** AGM – Reef Gateway – 6.15 for 6.30 start
- 30 May:** Book Club—Bonny Bombach's—transport to be arranged
- 12 June:** Breakfast meeting Capers, Speakers Lyn Brett and Emily Holmes:
The Proserpine Midwives Cambodian Challenge
- 13 June:** Board Meeting – 5.30— Kerry's
- 17 June:** Changeover – Daydream Island - \$40 p.p. (Free transport) Flyer attached
- 7 July:** "Invite a guest" Zonta Information Afternoon Tea—2.00—Whitsunday B & B
- 10 July:** Breakfast meeting Capers, Speaker Anna Derham. Transformational and personal success.





BREAKFAST MEETINGS AT CAPERS

Members and friends of The Zonta Club of the Whitsundays enjoyed another inspirational breakfast session at Capers on Tuesday 8th May.

With enormous sincerity and compassion, Pam Harrison told us the story of her commitment to her African Charity, AFADU (Aid for Africa Down Under). The journey began when she was working as a nurse at The Wesley Hospital in Brisbane and one of her patients shared with her a dream of setting up a charity for children in Zimbabwe. So the idea of AFADU was born and many years later, an orphanage has been successfully established in Zimbabwe. Many of these orphans have lost their mothers to HIV/Aids, which is rampant in Zimbabwe as it is in most of Africa. Pam shared with us wonderful photographs of these beautiful children and of the many volunteers who make sure the kids are healthy, happy, educated and safe.

At present, Pam is in the process of establishing a special nursing school in the same vicinity. The Zonta Club was proud to be able to present to Pam a donation to be used specifically to build an ablution block at the new nursing school precinct.

Although Pam finds her frequent trips to this troubled and sometimes dangerous country quite challenging at times, she is devoted to her volunteer work there and determined to provide a better future for the children. We are so privileged to have her as a member of our Zonta Club.

Don't forget our next meeting on the 12th June where we will hear Lynne Brett talk about her Cambodian challenge.

Roz Jennings, UN Chair



A vibrant tropical beach scene with palm trees in the foreground, a clear blue bay with a white boat, and a sandy beach with people in the distance. The text is overlaid on this image.

Changeover Lunch
at Daydream Island
on June 17, 2012

"partners & friends of Zonta welcome"

includes
**Asian Buffet Lunch held in
the Private Sunlover Function Room**

**2-way Transfer to island
(Free from Cruise Whitsundays)
depart from 8am - last return 5.15pm**

\$40.00 per Person
RSVP & payment to Catherine by 24 May

Zonta Club of the Whitsundays

The Zonta International logo, a stylized 'Z' in a square, is located in the bottom left corner of the advertisement.



MEMBER NEWS

Joanne Richardson was a local dentist and VERY valued member of our club for many years. Her volunteer work with Tibetan orphans turned into a full time, paid position. She sold her practice and is living, mostly, in India. We all still value her greatly and support her amazing work....Another Zontian to be very proud of:

Just to keep you in the loop with my movements I now am running two projects in India;

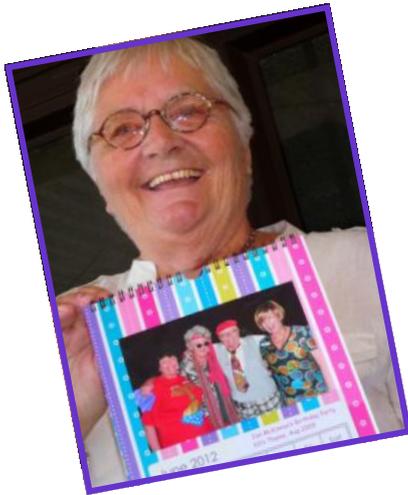
1. TCV - The one I presented to you all over the years is now at the mentoring stage i.e.. we have set up surgeries and trained dental therapists to run them and so they provide the dental care to the students of the Tibetan Children's villages. We just return yearly to mentor and provide ongoing training as well as checking the prevention in the schools i.e. toothbrush supply, tuck shops etc. In September, we are running a refresher workshop for them for a week, probably eight therapists will attend and we will do lots of hands on clinical work as well as theory presentations. These schools are now at a stage where the pool of dental disease is so low it can mostly be managed by the therapists, with us just doing the tricky wisdom teeth cases etc and providing back up. This of course should be the aim of all volunteer projects – to do ourselves out of a job!

2. SPITI—Great name for a dental project! No seriously, it is the name of a remote region of Eastern Himachel Pradesh in northern India, so close to the Chinese border that we need a special permit to visit and can only stay two weeks ...in theory (there are always ways around that in India!). I wanted to target an area that had no access to any dental care and to focus on children. I knew of a Tasmanian dentist, Dr Bob Lavis, who had set up two clinics in monastery schools in Spiti and last year Dr Garry Wells, Dr Mayin Chan, a young dental assistant and I visited these clinics for the first time. The need was great and there was lots of work to do, not just dentally. These children are all either orphaned or from very poor families and need all the love they can get.

Garry and I are visiting again this year in August. It takes two days along a treacherous road subject to land slip to reach Tabo monastery and the area is only open during summer. We are working at about 10 000 feet so it takes a bit to acclimatize. The elderly Abbott, was asked by HH Dalai Lama to open these schools. Although they have a library and computer room, there is only one old laptop computer and very few books. We cannot carry a lot as we need to also take in dental supplies but if anyone has upgraded their laptop and has an old one lying around we would be grateful for any donations. But it is only worth carrying in if it works! Love, Joanne



THANKS, JOANNE, FOR JUST BEING YOU
AND KEEPING US ALL INFORMED



I turned five years old on May 16th 1940, the day the WW II broke out in the Netherlands and that still has a strong impact on my way of life. All the years until finishing High school, I was drilled and educated by Nuns. As a result of the war, we could not go to school half of the year before final exams and were all given the Certificate without the exams. Amsterdam University was the next step. I wanted to become either a medical doctor, my father's profession, a TV journalist or an Ambassador. I chose to study Political Science. However, the political colour from the professors in Amsterdam was so blood red that I took the opportunity to change direction.

The World Food Organization in Rome created a group of 25 students (FAO) and all had to have a different nationality. After I spent two years in Rome, one of the largest tour operators in Holland needed a city guide and I needed money. This job started with one day a week but exploded into a full time job. The study faded away with no degree. I had also become very disappointed with the WFO/FAO.

In that period, one of my tourists was a high person at an EEG ,the European Commission, and offered me a job as a Press Officer. I passed all the tests and worked for one month, then received a 3 year contract for the full job. However, with the note: due to the fact that you have no title, your salary will be 55%. I would still earn at least 5 times more than in the travel business so I went back to Pope-city.

During my Rome years I started my freelancing doing journalist work, politics and tourism. In later years I was a member of the current affairs team for KRO-TV in Holland. After the chief editor, and for 30 years a very dear friend passed away, I stopped. I have been working in the travel business for 36 years. From city guide in Rome to general manager over 50 outlets in three countries, 300 staff in the head office in Rotterdam, and around 400 representatives on locations all over the world. My career went through many accreditations: seven seasons ski teacher in five different countries, four years manager for the Eastern bloc countries still behind the iron curtain.

Another station was three and a half years manager for the Middle East with head office in Tel Aviv. I needed a diplomatic second passport to enter the surrounding Arabic countries and had to fly through Cyprus to get into those countries. When the Yom Kippur war broke out, 1200 tourists were spread all over the country. It was a job with high responsibility, but the higher the pressure the better I function. Long hours working and for many, many hours my bed was an uncomfortable seat in a planes.

Unfortunately, I have no kids to whom I could tell how lucky I was, how interesting meeting people is, and how much I am doing my best to write a book about it. During the seven years I was back in Holland I was a member of the Council. Interesting indeed. My age was rising and I chose to then go travelling . I have had 8 very difficult years in my personal life but so far, as of today, I am very happy that I have taken and enjoyed all the opportunities coming my way.

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My affinity with Australia grew more and more each time I came to visit this continent. In 2001 I bought a self-contained Hi-Ace Campervan. On my stop in Airlie Beach, I needed a dentist. The receptionist at the caravan park recommended Joanne Richardson, who became a close friend I dearly miss and so does Zonta.

So, last but not least, I want to thank Joanne who is responsible for the fact that I am now glued to the Whitsundays and who has introduced me to almost every person in Airlie. Not only did she take away my wisdom tooth but also took me to Zonta. Travelling for me means meeting people and always asking the question: Why...why...are they living like they do? On May 7th I have to get out of the country again and I will go to Thailand, Burma, Laos and China.

Apart from work as a freelance journo, my hobbies are: debating politics, reading, writing, playing Mah Jongg, golf, laughing and loving, and my favourite booze is black label scotch.

TOT ZIENS, Augusta (Guus) Hermans

augusta@ghworldwide.net

We will miss you, Guus, and hope
for your return
Happy Birthday 16 May



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