



OCTOBER 2018

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello everyone,

Our September General Meeting was a terrific evening featuring guest speaker Sergeant Simon Walter. It was apparent that Simon is a man who knows his subject well and is passionate about making changes in the lives of victims of Domestic Violence. His "off the cuff" talk was thought provoking with his facts, figures and anecdotes and his easy manner made it a pleasure to listen to. We are hoping to work more closely with Simon in assisting women who are in crisis circumstances as a result of domestic violence.



We had a good rollup of menfolk for the evening as well, it's great to know that our fellas share our concern for social issues such as domestic violence and are prepared to show their support for this cause.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the knitting group's working day. I actually went for the morning tea and got roped into sewing up squares, so there will be some wobbly ones in the mix this time. I was impressed with the diverse range of helpers who knit squares for these patchwork rugs, I call them "Friends of Zonta" not members but women who share our values and enjoy helping out. I posted some pictures on our Face Book page and you'll see some familiar and some unfamiliar faces. The patchwork rugs made by this group are distributed locally (Proserpine Nursing Home, hospital etc and also to the Africa Down Under (AFADU) project -AFADU is one of Pammie Harrison's commitments and whilst not a Zontian project is a very worthwhile and long running intervention to assist a small Zimbabwean community towards a better life.

Preparations are well underway for the Birthing Kits assembly day, working behind the scenes are the soap cutters, the cord snippers and the sheet folders, this all ensures that the event runs smoothly and efficiently on packing days in schools, as anyone who has ever packed all of the bibs and bobs into the final small pouches knows, every item must be flat and cut exactly to size to fit in.

Looking at the "Big Picture" - Zonta International are offering Zonta International Centennial Anniversary Grants of US \$5000 as part of the 100-year celebrations, clubs have until 31st March 2019 to apply for funding for a project which requires partnering with another organisation to improve the lives of women and girls in our community. I wonder if someone in the club has a great idea that we could develop in our community, it's exactly what we do every time we plan a project for our club to implement locally, only this time Zonta International will support it (if we are successful in our application). Visit Z.I website and look at Centennial Anniversary Tools for guidelines for clubs.

Please note that this month's meeting will be one day earlier on Wednesday 17th of October at VMR, the Game fisher's Club have booked the VMR for a 4-day Angling Club event and we cannot use the venue on our regular Thursday. The Board will be catering for this meeting as Linda our regular caterer will be unavailable to do so.

Have a great month,
Cath Fernbach, President

BIRTHING KIT ASSEMBLY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!

The annual assembly days are getting close and I am soon ordering 5 boxes of Kit Supplies, to assemble 1000 kits. The kits cost \$3 each and supplies arrive in lots of 200. For the really new members – a \$3 birthing kits can save the life of mother and/or child, or risk of infection, during birth in an underprivileged world.

The first assembly day will be on 12th October at 8am at St Catherine's College and I am still awaiting a date from Proserpine State High School. Both dates will be in term 4 and usually fairly close together. Both schools will assemble 500 kits each.

For the 2nd year, St Catherine's Z Club have raised funds towards the kits and this year they raised \$1300, meaning Zonta Whitsundays only need to provide \$200 towards their assembly day of 500 kits. It is so wonderful for these students (the amazing Z Club) to be able to donate the funds, which gives them a much better perspective, and joy, as to why they are part of the process to save lives.

Pre-event preparation will need to be carried out and, as always, member assistance is greatly appreciated. We have our regulars of course, but it would be great to have some new members join in, for either the pre-event preparation or on the day assistance. You don't need to be an expert – it's really easy, and very rewarding. Please think about it and let me know if you are available for the 12th October – all morning. PSHS date TBA.

Please contact **Wendy Downes** on **0418 768 493** if you want to be part of this amazing project.



MEMBERSHIP

I would like to remind everyone that our General Meeting for October will be on **Wednesday 17th** same time 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start at same venue VMR. (VMR was not available for the Thursday). Please remember to let Claire know if you are unable to attend otherwise you will be invoiced for your meal, as the Club has to pay for the meals ordered.

We have unfortunately increased the price of a glass of wine to **\$6** at the meetings as the club has been out of pocket several times. I'm sure you will understand this increase.

Check out our new **orange** pens for sale only \$2 at the sign in table.

Message I received from Lesley:

Thank you so much for the card which was the first item in our new letterbox.
Please pass on our thanks to all for their good wishes and emphasise that we have almost unpacked all our boxes and the guest bathroom renovations will be complete next week, so our B&B will be open!

I am sitting on our verandah looking at trees and hills. We have bought lots of bird attracting plants so will not miss our old place too much! We need only one more shrub to make the place private enough for skinny dipping, though there are so many mirrors in the house I would frighten myself!

Hope to see you at the General Meeting,

Judy Brown, Director



SERVICE

Hi Ladies
BBQ roster attached, still need lots of workers and a coordinator for Saturday Nov 10th.
Bowen Cup Race Goers getting on the bus at Centro must do so at the bus stop opposite the Christian School.
Regards,
Carol Bolton, Director 0409519338

	Saturday Nov 3		Saturday Nov 10th
Coordinator	Carol Bolton to Set up and pack up	Coordinator	Required
8:00- 10:00	Carol Bolton	8:00- 10:00	
	Mae Seacomb		
10:00-12:00	Betty Whitehorn	10:00-12:00	Wendy Downes
	Carole Lindsay		Betty Whitehorn
12:00-3:00	Laura Morrison	12:00-3:00	Roz Jennings
	Lauren Haack		Laura Morrison
3pm	Carol Bolton pack up	3pm	

ADVOCACY

This month is Sexual Violence Awareness Month (SVAM)

This month Whitsunday Counselling and Support are running a campaign “Teal Ribbons for October” to raise much needed awareness in our community on Sexual Violence. Their slogan this year is #Respect Me To. Sexual violence is not only limited to rape and most cases are never reported to police. Centre Against Sexual Assault, 20.6% of women and 10.5% of men reported child sexual abuse by the age of 16. In 95% of cases, the offender was known to the child and was a close relative or trusted friend, not a stranger or random act of violence. Hopefully we will have ribbons available at the October meeting for purchase or you can get them directly from WCS.

The catch phrase “Stranger Danger” has been a focus since Daniel Morcombe was abducted on the 7th of December 2003. We need to keep this message going to remind all children and adults to be aware of their surroundings. Bowen’s Domestic Violence Action Group will present a March “Reclaim the Night” on the 26th of October at 5:30pm which is the “Day for Daniel”. The event will be held at the Town Square in Bowen. There will be a free BBQ and entertainment. All money raised will go towards Morcombe Foundation. The Bowen Zonta is a sponsor in this event and I think it would be great if some of our Zontians could make it as well.

For almost 100 years, Zonta International has contributed to help achieve a world free of violence against women and girls through service and advocacy. The advocacy campaign “Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women” was launched in 2012, the campaign has raised awareness of the global pandemic of women’s rights violations and has united Zonta clubs worldwide in conducting impactful advocacy actions to fight violence against women and gender inequality.

Domestic Violence Month (May)

It’s a bit early but Domestic Violence Month in May next year will be a very important time for us. Whitsunday Zonta is working directly with a new event which will take place over the long weekend 3rd, 4th and 5th of May 2019. This event will be run by Innerpulse Event organisers, Whitsunday Council and Tourism Whitsundays to bring the Whitsunday Festival of Motoring to our beautiful region. Zonta has been invited to participate in this event where we will be able to raise awareness and funds during the 3-day event. Innerpulse’s last event was the Commonwealth games! This gives us some idea on the scale of events they can handle.

They will be seeking volunteers, marshals, stall holders, car displays and all festival activities. This will be a family fun event with many activities throughout the weekend from Bowen, Proserpine and Airlie Beach. In the October General Meeting I will be discussing more about the festivals program, what the event will be, outlining exactly what we are able to do and how we can participate. This won’t just be a one-off event, it will get bigger and better every year, so we have an enormous opportunity to raise awareness in the coming years. I will be setting up a committee and seeking members to join to come up with as many ideas as we can and implement a strategy. Put that in the calendar for next year and let’s get our thinking caps on.

AMANDA WALTER, DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY



Progressive Dinner:

Zonta Facebook has some lovely photographs of the Progressive Dinner last Friday night. It was a terrific event and we all enjoyed the abundance of tasty dishes and the exotic company. Weatherwise it was a perfect night to be gadding about from home to home. We began at Kenyon's for an array of interesting samosas and dips, seated high up on the balcony we enjoyed the vista of lights and ocean in the distance, from then downwards to Cath's home where the first of the main courses included meat and veg curry style. It was a short trip to the Lakes where main course two deliciously took place and then onwards to a secret pathway through Janice and Barry's garden taking us through towering trees and immense heliconia's and serenaded by wild birdcalls, through to Thiele's by the lake. Dessert was in Maxine's garden where she presented the most wonderful choice of delights- and sufficient for each person to taste everything. We do live in a beautiful area and sharing it with friends on a perfect evening is a treat.

Cath Fernbach



Catching up: I have recently caught up with two of our favourite girls - Keisha McEwan and Stevie Smith - here is their news and I think you will agree they are great girls – Noelene Helman

Stevie - This semester has been a challenge to say the least, assignments are piling up and exams are certainly creeping closer. We've had some staffing issues at the pharmacy (where I work) for a few months, so I've been working 30+ hour weeks to cover many missing people. It has been really challenging my time management skills - haha. I have about 6 weeks left of classes/exams and then I will be on placement for 2 weeks for my final education course of the year. After this semester, I will be at uni on and off for another year as I complete my "professional year" during which I will be on prac for 15 weeks while also completing classes. My graduation is set to be in December of 2019 - it's closing in fast !



Keisha - I'm a little bit exhausted and sleep deprived from studying and working constantly, but I've only got one assessment left and then I'm on holidays for 5 months - yay! I've had a pretty good term in regards to my marks so far, received the highest mark of the class for an assessment for the subject reconciliation in the workplace 97/100. Still waiting on the rest of my marks! I'm 6 subjects away from being a fully qualified social worker, none of those subjects are offered in term three - hence the long break. So next year is my final year and also my second and final placement which is a little longer than the last one. My first one at child safety was 440 hours, the next one is 560 hours. I'm not sure where I would like to complete it yet but I'm hoping to do it at a non-government organisation. The placement will be term 2 next year so from July to October.

I'm not entirely sure on when my graduation will be, depends on when I complete my placement and if that aligns with the University graduation ceremonies. I will keep you all posted though. Other than studying and working I've been helping my best friend Jessie organise her wedding, which I am a Maid of Honour for. We were looking for a celebrant when I remembered one of the amazing Zonta ladies is one, so we got in contact with Annie Lloyd-Lewis. Amazingly she had a cancellation for the day of my friends wedding - just worked out perfect!

Some Zonta ladies knew I was trying to organise my passport for my first overseas trip. I'm pleased to announce that it all worked out in the end. Because I was born after 1986 I had to have one of my parents birth certificates, which of course I didn't have, so after a lot of running around I finally got my dad's birth certificate and put my passport application in. Should be here next week! I'm heading over to Bali on 28th December and return on 17th January. I'm going with my friend Brielle and her family. I'm beyond excited and can't wait to be sitting poolside with a cocktail after such an exhausting year. Will keep you posted.



**Knitting Group—Last Monday of each month.
10am Laura’s house. Fun for all ages!**



PROFILE - Meagan Folkers

Life began for me in the small town of Deniliquin, on the NSW/Victoria border in 1981. I was born to two loving parents, Kerrie and Ken, and I was a baby sister to Ben. My time down south would be fleeting as my family moved to the Hunter Valley where we eventually settled in Ashtonfield, near Maitland. Looking back, I had a fairly typical childhood. One I am very appreciative of. My brother and I were encouraged to excel but we were also given boundaries that helped me to become the resilient, assertive adult I am today. Something I fear is missing in our current generation of adolescents. I spent all of my educational years in the Hunter Valley – Metford Primary School, Maitland High School and, finally, The University of Newcastle. I was State school born and bred, and not immune to the inequities of socioeconomics and the residual elements that accompanied them, such as drug use, violence and general disrespect (as my mother will be reading this I need to insert a disclaimer here – none of which I was involved in!). It allowed me to see the value in education and work ethic, as that is what kept you on ‘the straight and narrow’ and opened up endless opportunities. This coupled with my assertiveness, and my passion for sport, naturally lead me to teaching.

For the first three years of my teaching career I worked at All Saints College St Joseph’s in Lochinvar. These three years were some of the best of my life. It was a blast. To have money, independence (while still living at home and being spoilt by my parents) and owning my first dog, life was bliss. Unfortunately what followed these three years was probably my hardest three years of my life. I left home to live and work in London as I had gotten a job at a Sports Academy and wanted to see the world. What I ended up with was a Sports Academy by name only in one of the worst areas of London (for those of you who know London, it was in Peckham) where in the first week a large group of students surrounded me and started to verbally abuse me because I wouldn’t let them into an area they were not allowed to go in. This was just the beginning of the treatment I received and to give you further perspective of what the school was like, we were closed down early one day due to a tip off for a drive by shooting related to local gang violence. This coupled with the worst relationship of my life began the downward spiral of my health. The only way I got through this time was by leaning on a fantastic group of women that I worked with. Although this time was really difficult it was one of the best learning experiences of my life. The highlights of this time were the vast travel opportunities I got to participate in and it certainly opened my eyes to the world.

On returning home I decided a fresh start was in order so I moved to Airlie Beach. My brother had recently moved there and offered a room to stay. I picked up work at Prossie High and my Whitsunday adventure began. Twelve months into my adventure, on a girls night out at Paddy’s, I met Adam. He was living in a small town just south of Sarina and was in Airlie for the weekend. Now, as I said before, my mum will be reading this so the G version of our meeting is that we met for coffee and have spoken every day since. Within two months I had obtained a job in Mackay and we had moved in together. The rest is history. We were married in 2011 on Shingley Beach and 9 months later Ava was born. Not long after, we moved back to NSW to Adam’s parent’s property in the Tweed Valley. The stay was brief and 18 months later we returned to the Whitsundays with Ava and a new addition, baby Jasper.

It turns out teaching is genetic in my family, with numerous educators on both sides. I've never had a burning desire to work with children (which explains why I gravitate towards the older year levels) but what drives me is to inspire. Whether that be a student or a fellow staff member I have always had great joy in making things the best they can be. This has gotten me into trouble over the years as this desire has pushed me to take on more than I probably should. Mary Mackillop once said 'Never see a need without doing something about it'. This has always resonated with me. To maintain my sanity though I had to follow my own moto "Work smarter, not harder" to enable me to seek my pursuits without burning out. I like to try to maintain balance in my life and make sure that work and study is counteracted by my other interests. I am definitely a homebody and am at my happiest with my husband, children, dogs, cows and chickens. I also enjoy crafts such as sewing, quilting, knitting and furniture painting. I also love cooking and reading. At the moment though I only seem to manage one of these things at a time so I always look forward to the Christmas holidays when I can truly relax. Only 9 weeks to go!





CHRISTMAS PARTY

24th November

4.30 PM AT VMR

HAWAIIAN THEME SO DIG OUT YOUR HULA HOOPS, GRASS SKIRTS AND COCONUT BRAS !!

Bring wrapped gifts to value of \$10.00 one girl and one for Partner

Games (Finski) outside whilst enjoying the sunset.

Band is the Whitsend who always entertain us beautifully.

If you have any Hawaiian decorations please bring along to next meeting.

Menu will be Christmas theme, cost per person is \$45.00 please bring along to next meeting on the 17th October.

or deposit directly to NAB account 084501 464422463

(BE SURE TO PUT YOUR NAME ON DEPOSIT)





October:

6th—Joan Watson
17th—Judy Brown
30th—Maxine Thiele

November:

6th – Kerry Kenyon
14th – Carol Bolton
26th – Claire Jardine
27th - Roz Jennings

EMAIL ETIQUETTE: (zontaclub7@Whitsundays1)



Minimise the number of individual emails – all date claimers, reports, and details of events should be in ReefTalk and/or GM agendas

Emails addressed to all members should be sent by the Secretary only; the contact list should not be used for private purposes

If a reply is required, this should be addressed to the one person nominated to receive them; DO NOT use the 'reply all' button

Emails addressed to all Board members should follow same protocol

Emails between Directors and committee members should be restricted to those concerned, not copied to all members

Date Claimers

October:

13th - Bowen Cup Race Day – Private Marquee

17th – General Meeting – VMR – 6 pm for 6.30 start

29th – Knitting Group– (last Monday of every month) – Laura Morrisons

31st – Book Club last Wednesday of every month – contact Kerry Kenyon

November:

3rd & 10th – Sausage Sizzles at Bunnings

HELP WANTED Contact Carol Bolton

24th – Christmas Party at VMR – 4.30 – 9.30 (see attached flyer)

Visit our FaceBook page



<https://www.facebook.com/WhitsundayZonta>

District 22 FaceBook There is now a district 22 FaceBook also.

<https://www.facebook.com/District-22-Zonta-International>

Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Contact Details

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