

Reef Talk

The Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Inc. Newsletter

March 2019



President's Report

Wow, such a lot has been happening: International Women's Day was a huge success again this year, thank you to the organisers, we all know how hard the committee works to get things right, from the raffles and ticket sales to the activities to keep the day moving. La Marina was great venue providing us with excellent service and abundant food.

Our District Governor the lively and lovely Sandii Venn Brown gave an excellent overview of the struggle for women's vote including our own Muriel Matters the Australian woman who chained herself to the British House of Commons in London and used an air balloon to distribute pamphlets to raise awareness of the Suffragette cause.

I spoke to St Cath's Z. Club members, and Susan their teacher, they were having a lovely time

and were excited to have won a raffle prize or two.

The Birthday Committee has been powering along and our party sounds like a great evening out I'm delighted that some of my favourite ex-members will be attending.

The first photobook containing the history of our club in words and pictures (1999-2009) was on display at IWD and what a beautiful way to present our history it is. Well researched by Noelene and put into electronic form for publishing by Kerry it contains so much information about the formation of the club and all of the events that took place in the first 10 years. Thank you to both Noelene, Kerry for the many hours of work...and to the other Birthday Committee members who provided backup and assistance.

..and then there are the Banners, they look magnificent- the big one for the Shingly Beach hill you will see on our Facebook page and currently displayed on the hill. The rollup banner will accompany us to each meeting from now on, it clearly reflects our values and showcases the beautiful Whitsundays in image and colours.

Core Magazine has done a terrific article on both Mackay Zonta and Zonta Whitsundays, it's great to see our names, projects and values in print!!

.....and that's not all

Next month will be our AGM where the opportunity is presented for you to take a leadership position within the club, we would love you to nominate for a position on the board, it's a opportunity to learn more about Zonta and to develop your skills in committee and decision making. Please give it some thought!

Share with us in this busy and exciting month

I am very pleased and proud of our club and the way that we do things...beautifully and well.

Cath Fernbach

President

Membership

I just want to remind everyone that we all have responsibilities: regular attendance, participation in club service projects and support of our international programs. If you are not already on one of our many committees please look at joining one, just ask one of our directors to find out which one would suit you.

Judy Brown

Director of Membership

Service

International Women's Day Luncheon 2019 was a huge success. Our venue, La Marina, provided a sensational 3 course meal and impeccable service. Guest speaker Sandy Venn Brown gave an awesome talk on 100 years of Women and our progress in education, equality and empowerment. Rolling raffles proved to be popular as ever with guests donating over \$1200 and winning some awesome prizes.

Don't forget March BBQs: Sunday March 17th and 24th. I have two slots to fill Sunday March 17th. Thanks to you, members Sunday March 24th is covered. **Don't forget to turn up and wear closed in shoes.**

Mother's Day Wrapping is coming up in May. There are many, many spots in the afternoons to be filled. Please contact Carol by email: carol@pcweld.com or 0409519338 and slot in your two hours.

Carol Bolton

Director of Service

Advocacy

I'm always saying there is a lot happening but there is a lot happening! Thanks to the brilliant efforts of service and everyone we have plenty of money to spend. The last meeting we passed a few projects but we have more project proposals and A&A award nominations coming through.

A&A Nomination

Thanks to the tireless work of Roz, Mez, Meagan and Dawn we are starting to get a foot in the door with the schools. 1 new nomination for consideration and another one on the way hopefully soon. We are starting to build a fantastic network with key people within the education departments which is brilliant. I emailed the A&A Award nomination, Pheobe out to everyone so

please make sure you read it before our next meeting.

Whitsunday Festival of Motoring

We also have another project proposal to support the female women's team for [Whitsunday Festival of Motoring](#) and QLD rally championships. Not just in motorsports but educating and helping young women who want to get into the field. I have spoken to Melinda on the phone a few times and have corresponded via email and she is absolutely lovely and supports everything Zonta values. They truly empower others and worthy of being honoured. Please read through the email which explains what the motion is about to help speed up proceedings so we can celebrate our momentous birthday occasion. We will only be volunteering Friday and Saturday in 4 hour shifts. Zonta will also have a marquee in Airlie and Bowen. 2 people doing 1-2 hour shifts depending on numbers. Please email me with names, shirt sizes and which day or days you want to volunteer. Let me know numbers and shirt sizes by the 15th of March. Don't forget friends and family can help volunteer alongside us as well so please put down shirts for them as well. Most of our volunteer roles will be customer assistance roles. I put an "x" next to the ones that don't apply to us. You can chose which areas interest you the most and we can work out shifts later. I just had some correspondence from Melinda: "Regarding the stickers, I was thinking of putting the Zonta logo on both sides of my rally car, boot and big one for the bonnet." This is massive exposure for Zonta! *Please keep an eye on your inbox for the attendance roster and T-shirt order form.*

Volunteer training dates for Whitsunday Festival of Motoring

Experienced rally and event staff will train all volunteers. Training will be held on the 6th and 7th of April. This training is mandatory to ensure you are equipped with the information necessary to perform your role.

When: Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 April 2019 (attend 1 session)

Duration: 2 to 3 hours

Location: Lure, Abell Point Marina

Time: Various, 2 sessions per day

Happy International Women's day and Happy 20th Birthday to Whitsunday Zonta. Let the bubbly flow and the good times be had by all. Time to celebrate our achievements.

Amanda Walter

Director of Advocacy

Project Proposal: Timebanking

Have you heard of Timebanking before? At the February General Meeting, a new Advocacy project proposal asked members to consider the idea of Timebanking as a way for the Club to extend services and reach women in our community. Watch the below video to learn more about the concept of Timebanking.



International Women's Day 2019

President's Speech from the Zonta IWD Event

Today, on this International Women's Day celebration, I would like to honour the European women who migrated to Australia in search of a safer, better life. They came with few resources and no English language...and some trepidation about moving to an unknown country. They set to work selling whatever skills they had - house cleaning, ironing, growing vegetables and selling eggs - just to get ahead.

They left mothers sisters family and friends to come on this adventure knowing that they were unlikely to meet again. They grew within their new community, adapting to new ways and keeping some of the old ways as they made new homes and new family and new friends. These

women were tough and resilient and brought a new perspective to Australian ways.

I'd like to you toast with me, my Grandmother Caterina from Italy and my mother-in law Eva from Croatia, who are two of a vast number of immigrant women who did their bit to make Australia multicultural.

To Caterina and Eva.

Cath Fernbach

President





Slate of Candidates of Officers and Directors

**Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Inc Nominating Committee 2019-2020
Official Slate of Candidates of Officers and Directors
for Election at Annual General Meeting 2019.**

Position	Candidate	Nominated by	Seconded by:
Candidate for President: One (1) to be elected	Patsy Morgan	Nomination Committee	
Candidate for President-Elect: One (1) to be elected	Mary Bowen	Nomination Committee	
Candidate for 1 st Vice President:	Carol Bolton	Nomination Committee	
Past President:	Cath Fernbach	Nomination Committee	
Candidate for Treasurer: One (1) to be elected	PJ Halter	Nomination Committee	
Candidate for Secretary: One (1) to be elected	Janice Lake	Nomination Committee	
Candidate for Director – Service: One (1) to be elected	Laura Morrison	Nomination Committee	
Candidate for Director – Advocacy: One (1) to be elected	Mandy Walters	Nomination Committee	
Candidate for Director – Membership: One (1) to be elected	Judy Brown*	Nomination Committee	
Candidates for Nominating Committee: Three (3) to be elected:	Carol Lindsay, Kerrie Adam, Dawn Green,	Nomination Committee	
Candidates for Finance Committee: Five (5) to be elected	President Patsy Morgan, Treasurer PJ Halter, Catherine Moscato, Carol Bolton & Betty Whitehorn	Nomination Committee	

*Directors shall hold office for either (one or two years) ***or until their successors are elected and take office.***

Invocation

100 YEARS of Zonta and 20 years of the Zonta Club of The Whitsundays.

With both Zonta International's 100th birthday and our 20th imminent, I thought it would be timely to reflect on the International projects we have supported since 1999 when our club began.

In our first biennial project, Zonta's international program, was directly linked to Zonta's long-range goal of eradicating violence against women and girls. It was a steep learning curve for us as we supported the prevention of female circumcision in Burkino Faso, Africa.

Then followed these projects:

- Eliminating Maternal and Neonatal tetanus in Nepal and later, in Afghanistan
- Also in Afghanistan, improving women's lives with the Afghan Institute of Learning
- The Bosnian and Herzegovinan anti-trafficking community mobilization
- Reinventing India, with the focus on preventing violence against women and girls
- Micro Credit and health education for HIV/AIDS affected women in Niger
- Education and leadership for girls and women in Bolivia
- Support for the revival of community-based self-help initiatives in Sri Lanka
- Reduction of Obstetric fistula in Liberia. We have supported this program since 2008 and during the 2012-2014 biennium saw the treatment integrated into the government's national health system
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Rwanda
- Safe cities for women in Guatemala and San Salvador
- Promotion of safe, accountable, child-friendly schools in Vietnam where gender-based violence around schools is highly prevalent
- And in our current biennium, Let us Learn Madagascar, a program for adolescent girls, where 90% of the population lives on less than \$2.00 a day.
- Hand in Hand, a program to improve the resilience and empowerment of Syrian and vulnerable Jordanian women. 10% of Jordan's population is made up of Syrian refugees. The project aims to increase Syrian and Jordanian women's access to sustainable and decent employment.
- Our current International President's personal mission is the eradication of child marriage, worldwide.

I think the two projects that resonated most with me were the reduction in obstetric fistula program and the prevention of female genital circumcision, both such violent physical invasions and often closely related.

We haven't done it all on our own. While Zonta's partnership with the UN began on a regular basis with an education program to support women in Jordan in 1962, Zonta International has cooperated with the United Nations since the UN was founded in 1945. Seventy-two years later, Zonta International has had consultative status with the UN since 1969. Then in 1986, Zonta was

accredited by with General Consultative Status, the highest status a non-governmental organization can hold.

We currently have representatives at UN locations in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Paris and in Bangkok.

1923 when Zonta was 4 years old, there were just seven clubs and Zonta supported the Near East Relief in efforts to care for 115,000 orphan children in Smyrna, Turkey, and furnished means of self-support for the women. No information on the amount is available, but that was the beginning.

Now, 31,000 members in 65 countries contribute almost one half of our membership to support the International biennial projects.

How far does \$180 go in your household? Since 1923, Zonta has provided more than US\$19.2 million to projects benefiting women in 35 countries.

It's not always easy for one person to make a difference, but look what 31,000 of us can do.

Annie Lloyd-Lewis

Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign

To acknowledge the 100th year Celebrations of Zonta International our club will be donating \$1,500 to the Zonta Centennial Foundation. I have included a clip explaining how this foundation is operated, that is, earnings from the foundation are spent on projects that empower women worldwide. If you would like to read more about this Foundation please go to the [Zonta International Website](#). The donation will be made at our International Women's Day to Sandii Venn Brown, as District 22 Governor she represents Zonta International on the occasion.

Cath Fernbach

President



CAMPAIGNS

Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign

Zonta International's 100th anniversary is quickly approaching. As part of our celebration, Zonta is undertaking our Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign. It is the opportunity for members and contributors committed to Zonta's service and advocacy work to establish our legacy for the future.

The Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign is committed to growing Zonta's endowment fund by US\$10 million and developing a robust planned giving program. Earnings from the endowment fund may be used to fund – or expand – any part of Zonta International's work, including the potential to sustain a long-term Zonta flagship program.

**CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN**

**BELIEVE • INVEST
EMPOWER**

Member Profile



Christine Mayne

I was born in a taxi outside my grandmother's house in 1958 Cross Nest Sydney. My twin sister was 8min behind me, born in a hospital lift. My mother had given birth to 6 boys before us

(loosing her 3rd though at 6 months) so as you can imagine we were very welcomed in the family. She then had two boys after us so I grew up with 7 brothers. Yes, I became a tomboy, playing all the sports they did. What was interesting was their friends kept saying that I could not play because I was a girl, however I was fortunate that my brothers did stick up for me and let me play. Growing up in Manly Sydney I did spend a lot of my time bodysurfing, which again I found myself surrounded by males because back then girls did not do that. Time at home was spent in the kitchen with my Mum and sister cooking and serving my brothers and dad at the table. This annoyed me every day as it was so wrong that the boys never had to help. Up until the day my Dad passed away, I never saw him do any housework.

At 11yrs of age my sister and I went to Loreto Kirribilli, a very private girls' school. When I was in the second year of high school, I mentioned that my mother went back to work nursing. I knew it was to pay for our very expansive school fees and she had missed being a nurse, but the word went around and everyone was horrified because middle class women did not work. I was looked down upon for years but I felt very proud of my mum because I could see how nursing help fulfilled her life. Years later, at our 20th school reunion, I discovered the same girls that were horrified by my mum working, were back at work themselves after having kids. They had finally caught up with the times.

At 19 I had a double wedding with my twin sister. All four of us lived together for the first two years as we were all studying higher education. Our husbands had been good friends for years. At 21 I became a high school teacher, teaching Art and Maths. My first school was Stella Maris Manly where I found myself teaching the girls to look at a career in life and not just being content that when they leave school, they will get married and have kids. At 25 and 27 I had two children a boy and a girl named Tony and Lucinda. They were 16 months apart and I became the first teacher at the school to take maternity leave of 9 and 12 months as it had just come in. A lot of people disapproved each time I went back to work including family, friends and colleagues who were mostly women.

I feel like I am spending my life pushing through boundaries one after another for woman's rights. I got divorced when my children were just babies. I taught my daughter to follow a career with good pay because anything can happen in life where you can be raising your children on your own. That a woman can have dreams of a career and have a happy family in life.

I taught for 28yrs and in one of my last schools I taught at Greystanes in the western suburbs of Sydney, an all-boys school mostly Lebanese nationality. On my second day I was whistled at in the hallway. I turned around and in a very loud voice for everyone to hear, told him off. For the following years I took it upon myself to teach all the boys from year 7 to 12 to respect female teachers, their mothers and the girls they were dating. I also taught for a few years in North Carolina, in the states.

I then trained to become a Paster. Some of the churches I had belonged to did not allow women

to preach. So here I was again pushing through the boundaries to be a leader and a Paster in Churches. I started up a Christian Church in Zurich Switzerland around 12 years ago. To provide some context women in Switzerland did not get the vote until 1971. I felt like I had gone back in time as most women stayed home and were not treated equally to their husbands. I had people and Churches coming against me being a single woman without a man, running a Church and preaching. I was there for 8 years and I am now the overseer for the Church today. I trained up a divorced lady as a Paster to take over. During my time away my son died at the age of 23 from pneumonia.

I am now at present here starting up a sister Church. Yes, there are still people who believes a single woman should not be in charge of a Church, let alone start one up or preach. All this is not biblically based.

As women I feel it is our job to push through cultural ideas and prejudices for the next generation to come. Where all women in the world are equal and respected by men without abuse. This is done by standing up for women's rights and teaching men and women that women have a right to be whoever they want, and do whatever they want without others saying NO.

Announcements

Date Claimers

Wednesday 27 March: Breakfast talk at Cath's with Amanda from Moving Along Physio.

Sunday 17 March: Bunnings Barbecue.

Thursday 21 March: Birthday Party combined with General Meeting starting 5:30 for 6:00 start. Please RSVP

Noelene: helmans@bigpond.com.

Sunday 24 March: Bunnings Barbecue.

Thursday 18 April: AGM. Please note there is no meeting in May.

Saturday 1 June: Changeover High tea.

Birthdays

Amanda Walter	8th	MAR
Cath Fermbach	13th	MAR
Lauren Haack	12th	MAR
Mae Secomb	6th	MAR

Helena Dziewulska	16th	APR
Lesley Prachett	21st	APR
Di Trueman	28th	APR

Contact Details

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