



East-enders

NEWSLETTER OF ZONTA CLUB OF BRISBANE

GPO Box 3060 Brisbane 4001

Charter Number 1235

August 2004

Next Dinner Meeting

Monday

13 September

Pre-Dinner nibbles 6pm
Committee Meetings 6.15pm
Dinner 7.30pm –9.30pm
At

Good Earth Hotel

Wickham Tce
(Ground Floor)

Cost \$32.00 each

\$5 Meeting only
(This includes one raffle ticket)

Apologies to

Karen Hendry

Thursday 9 September

3262 2864

Mobile 0419 027 156

In absence on an apology an invoice for \$27.50 will be sent to all non-attending members.

PRESIDENT'S PATTERN

Art Day

There was a small group of budding artists who attended the Art Attack Day yesterday at Christine Goodfellow's home. I was even enthused by the results that were achieved. Unfortunately I didn't attempt anything because I arrived late, left early and didn't have a spare hand. Hopefully next time I will have a chance. Thank you to Christine for the wonderful day.

Breast Cushion Workshop

We held the workshop on 25 July at my home. Thanks to Margaret Casey, Karen Hendry, Bev Farley, Michelle, Lynn Callander, Jill Hedley who worked enthusiastically and managed to finish 18 cushions. The next one will be on Sunday 29 August at 9am. I would encourage as many people to attend. We will find you a job even if you can't sew!

Race Day

Please support this on 23 October as this will be a major event for our year. We are currently

looking for raffle prizes. With our small numbers, it is likely that everyone will be asked to play a small part in some way either before the day or as part of the function.

President's Day

Our Area Director, Vicki Varthas, has organised a President's Day on this Saturday 14 August. Lynn and I will be attending. We will report back next month.

On a final note, I would like us all to think about our contribution to Zonta and what our personal direction will be for the next 12 months. I am sure we are all feeling that our time is stretched but we need to look at why we are in Zonta and who will be benefiting from our activities. Please keep this as our main focus when planning any activities.

Lynn Papa

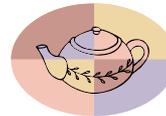


ART ATTACK

Contributed by Sandra Langford

I had little expectations about the Art Day and what I was going to achieve. How wrong I was! Christine inspired all of us in the work that she has done and took us step by step through the mechanics of building a painting. Although it was a disappointing turn out, it meant that we had personalised attention. By the end of the day, Christine had each of us beginning our very own beautiful painting in watercolour. If I can do it, then each of you can! The day was also a lovely fellowship day for those who attended and the setting at Christine's home is very inspiring. For some of us, there will be further lessons so watch out for our name in future exhibitions. Thank you to Christine for her time and patience.

High Tea



The gathering at the Hilton Hotel to celebrate 20 years of the Sex Discrimination Legislation included more than 200 women and a handful of men from a wide range of organisations. Brisbane East was represented by Denise Conroy, Margaret Casey, Kate Hutchings and Lynn Callander who were joined by former International President Mary McGee, Area 5 Director Vicki Varthas and former Zontian Betty Byrne-Henderson. Also spotted Robyn Sullivan along with Governor Quentyn Bryce.

The speakers, including Hon Susan Ryan, who introduced the Bill back in 1983 and current Sex Discrimination Commissioner Pru Goward, were excellent and the atmosphere invigorating.

Even 20 years on it seems there are still some difficulties in making the changes necessary to eliminate sexual discrimination in Australia and the job on an International scale seems daunting.

However, it is clear that there is still plenty of work to do and organisations such as Zonta are at the forefront.

Contributed Lynn Callander

Contributions to this newsletter can be sent to Lynn Callander by Fax 3388 5942; email: lyncall@powerup.com.au or phoned to 3200 5942

SEX DISCRIMINATION—20 YEARS ON PART 2 *Contributed by Denise Conroy*

The Debate.....

The Sex Discrimination Bill was introduced by Senator Susan Ryan, as Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on the Status of Women, on 2 June 1983. Its introduction was followed by a public furor, where many claims were made which misrepresented the aims and content of the Bill. A large number of amendments were introduced by the Government in the Senate although most of these were minor and did not alter the main aims of the legislation. The Bill was finally passed by the House of Representatives on 7 March 1984, the day before International Women's Day.

The public controversy about the Bill was entered into by all major sectional interests in the community although most media attention was given to claims by conservative women and women's groups and by representatives of several mainstream churches. The tenor and content of the Parliamentary debate reflected this publicity.

Various claims were made by the opponents of the 'Sex Bill' as unfortunately it was dubbed by newspaper headline writers. It was asserted that the Bill would undermine women who chose not to join the paid workforce as their role would become undervalued. The then leader of the National Party, Doug Anthony, claimed that while the Opposition was committed to fighting discrimination, the Bill would become a law 'which, in seeking to redress one set of problems, open(s) the way to a further weakening of the basic unit of our society - the family' (*Sydney*

Morning Herald, 30 September 1983). On 15 September 1983, he issued a statement, on behalf of the National Party, opposing the Bill as:

" We believe the Bill would make it more difficult for women to follow a traditional role in the home and in raising of their children, should they wish to. We believe it is important for women to know that if they take on this role, they have the support of society. We believe the Bill as it stands works against that aim....."

Another argument raised was that individual commentators had not been discriminated against, and this demonstrated that there was no discrimination against women in Australia....

There was a concerted attempt to undermine the credibility of Senator Ryan, who was closely identified with the Bill, and the women's movement in general as having some ulterior motive to destroy the power of men within society. Doug Anthony, in supporting his wife's intervention, said that the wives of National Party members believed that the Bill was a 'crusade by feminists motivated by their hatred of men'.

This tactic was a cliched and divisive way of frightening many women with the alleged impact of the Sex Discrimination Bill. Conservative women's groups such as the 'Women Who Want to be Women' (WWWW) attacked supporters of the Bill as 'radical feminists'. In one WWWWW pamphlet it was stated that radical feminists were trying to 'force us into a gender-free, unisex society, in which women are locked into the paid labor-force for their entire lifetimes just like men (except for brief periods of maternity leave)'....

A Senior representative of the Catholic Church claimed that the Bill would 'denigrate marriage' by recognising de facto marriage (*Catholic Weekly*, 26 October 1983). The fact that the Bill was only recognising a social reality rather than forcing any change seemed to pass these

opponents by.

In 1942 the Commonwealth Government extended the widow's pension to widows from a de facto relationship. This legislative recognition followed a change in the behavioural modes in society and could hardly, on any rational analysis, be seen as precipitating a change in the marital patterns of the community.

The Parliamentary debate reflected the tone of the public debate and was notable for the rhetoric used by opponents to the Bill and the wild and unsubstantiated claims of the 'damage' that would be caused by the Act.

(Excerpts from Ronalds, C. (1984))

A review of the SDA '20 years on' reveals that Australia's incidence of sexual harassment is comparable to other 'like' countries.

A survey found that 41% of Australia women aged between 18 and 64 years and 14% of men have experienced sexual harassment. Two thirds of this occurs in the workplace and over half of the incidents involve physical forms of conduct (touching, hugging, cornering, kissing etc). Non-physical types of conduct include suggestive comments, jokes, staring or leering, explicit emails or SMS messages and explicit pictures or posters. About half of the harassers were co-workers; one third were persons in authority. Seven in ten cases involve men harassing women.

Sex Discrimination Commissioners 1984-2004

27/6/1984 – 1988 Pamela O'Neill
1988 – 1993 Quentin Bryce
1993 – 1996 Susan Walpole
1996 – 1998 Moira Scollay (Acting)
1998 – 2001 Susan Halliday
28/4/2001 – July 2001 Alice Tay (Acting)
July 2001 - Pru Goward



DATE CLAIMERS

Monday 23 August—Next Board Meeting
Sunday 29 August -Breast Cushion Day
Monday 13 September—Dinner Meeting
(September is Literacy Month)

Zonta

Spring Carnival

Race Day

Saturday 23 October

at

Doomben

Cost \$90 pp

Zonta Marquee includes buffet
luncheon & entry

RSVP 1st October

Invite your friends