

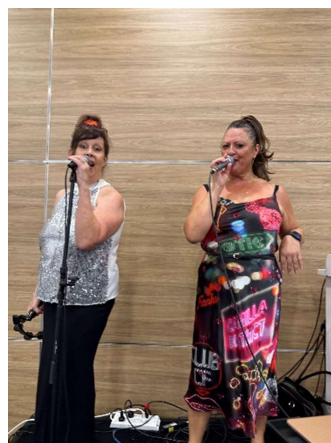
Reef Talk



BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Zonta club of the Whitsundays January to April 2025

IWD 8 March 2025



President

Hi Everyone,

This is our first newsletter for the year 2025 and although January was a quiet month while we were all on holidays, we seemed to have hit the ground running since then. We held two meet and greet meetings in the month for potential new members, preparation for IWD was full on and then of course our big fundraising day, we have moved our meetings rooms to Whitsunday Green Café and are welcoming new members and interested guests. We held our planning day, a Bunnings BBQ and two social events.

Thank you all for your great efforts in making our club a successful, vibrant, and growing Club.

Marlene

0407 288 244

Membership report - Vicki

There have been changes in our membership, sadly Jo Harry who has been a wonderful ambassador for Zonta has had to step down from the position, as she will be spending a lot of her time in Brisbane over the next few months. However, we are so appreciative that Vicki has offered to help at this stage as acting Director membership and Lauren and Judy B are supporting and assisting.

Marlene



Vicki

After a break over the Christmas/New Year period and despite some appalling weather conditions, a very successful membership drive was put into action. Our President Marlene, supported by all available members held meet and greets, lunch dates and coffee mornings, with fantastic results.

The upcoming April meeting will see six new members being inducted, as well as a record number of interested guests in attendance. Congratulations and Welcome to Debby, Deborah, Shannon, Susie, Jo It should make for exciting times ahead for Zonta Whitsundays, getting to know each other and making plans for the wonderful work we do and of course some fun!

We also send our very best wishes for the future for departing members as they begin new chapters and embrace new places.

Acting Membership Director

Vicki Krogh

Service Committee

We have been busy. Another successful BBQ, and birthing kits are to be ordered shortly.

The Board has recommended that we prepare and donate Mother's day pamper packs rather than Christmas packs for the refuge this year at the cost of up to \$600 for 12 packs. A number of groups donate at Christmas so we thought this may be a little more meaningful at this time of the year.



We are looking forward to the monthly Knitting Group starting again in April for the coming. International women's day was a wonderful success again and there is more about that separately. It has been agreed that we will hold Derby Day again in November and bookings have been arranged.

International Women's Day Sunday 9 March 2025



It was a wonderful day. We had a full house, and everyone dressed up in glitter and bling and looked terrific, the room was beautifully set and the talks from the students and our guest speaker Caroline De Costa were excellent and inspiring.

The selection of our IWD Women of the year, Marg and Kurzok and Faye Chapman was successful, and we will do it again next year. Our band proved to be a hit, with people up dancing and our traditional song 'I am a Women' was sung with gusto. Mel did her usual fabulous job as auctioneer and Annie Lloyd Lewis, did an excellent job interviewing Caroline.

Our sponsors did us proud enabling Zonta to have a successful fundraising day and a couple of our Zonta supporters swept the field with a bid on the auctions.

The food was good, and every chocolate disappeared. We received excellent comments from the schools and may even gain two teachers interested in joining Zonta. Sad about the air conditioning, but it goes to show how resilient we all are, as most stayed right to the end. A little gift of fans to hand out next year???

Caroline De Costa sent a lovely reply:

Your Zonta team does amazing work, both in organising the day, and, as I learned, in so many different fields during the year. I was incredibly impressed by the many young women received awards and their achievements, but also by many longtime Zonta members who I during the day.



who met

Jubilee Tavern

Was a great supporter of Zonta this year and ran a raffle to raise funds to donate to Zonta IWD and also gave us great exposure for several weeks leading up to the day. They raised over \$600 which was presented to Di and Marlene on the 8th of March.



Advocacy

Sadly, Helen has had to step down from the Director role due to family and travel commitments Thankyou Helen for a great job during your directorship. Looking for a new one.....

Our orange ladies were very blingy with their appearance at IWD 2025. Thank you, Maxine, for being such a fine dresser....



16 Days of Activism 25 November to 12 December

We are thinking of a few changes for our orange ladies for 16 days of activism and hope with earlier planning we can make an impact on the community. More about that later in the year.



The toilet signs are quietly going up over town. So far, we are at Jubilee Pocket Tavern, the Bowling club, and the Proserpine golf club. Next step is the lagoon and surrounds with more slowly going up as we find willing partners.

Scholarships, School Bursaries and Awards

So proud of our award winners at International women's day.

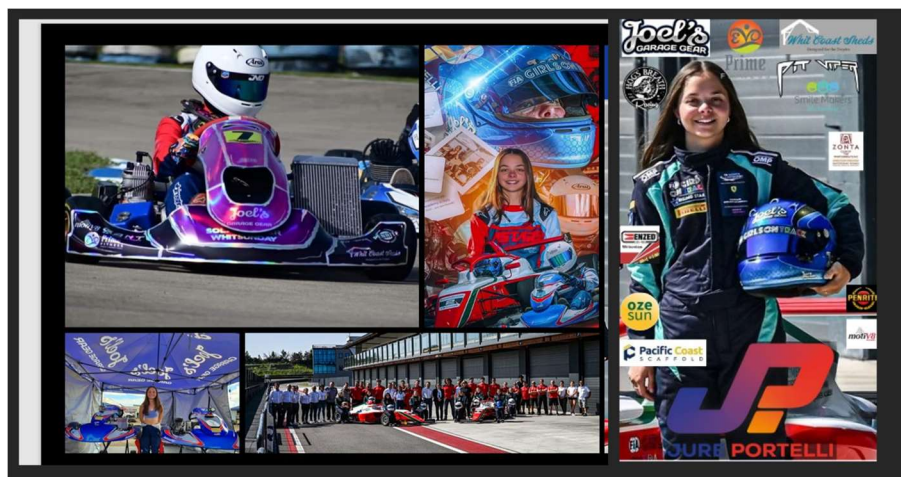
Our speakers, Eleanor Baldock-Ellie who won our PJ Halter Memorial Scholarship and Isabella O'Sullivan recently from Charters Towers and crowned 2024 Enterprising Girl of the Year!

Were both outstanding. Several of our other scholarship and bursary winners we also attended and along with representation from both Proserpine high and St Cath's.



Jure Portelli

We also recognised the outstanding achievement of Jure for her career achievements and goals to achieve more in the racing world.



National Youth Science Forum February 2025



A request was received from Thalia and Isabella, both from Proserpine High school to assist them in expenses to attend the National Youth Science Forum February 2025.

Thalia has forwarded the following note.

'The experience was amazing. For myself, I got to see a particle excellerator, deep sea specimens and autonomous robots. I also got hands on experience in DNA testing, filtration engineering and fake crime scene inspections. Each day we got a new riddle, and we each were part of a constellation, along with having a buddy.'

So, here's a riddle for you (one we were given).

"In the lake there's a boat, in the boat there's a lady in a big red coat, and you might guess her name. I've said it once before, what's her name?"

Overall, it was a once in a lifetime experience that would not have been possible without your support.' So, thank you. Sincerely, Thalia

We were delighted to assist Abbie with financial assistance:

Hello, I just wanted to reach out regarding my pathway into university. I am currently a year 12 student from Proserpine State High School, who attended the women's day lunch yesterday as school vice-captain. I am really keen to go into Medicine at university next year however in order to get into medicine, I also have to sit the UCAT exam. It is a 2-hour exam that I will have to travel to Townsville to take in order to get into medicine. Additionally, it is \$325 to book the exam, without any other costs involved such as accommodation and travel expenses. I thought it was really inspiring listening to the guest speaker yesterday and her talking about her pathway into medicine and how much she loves it. I loved how the day was full of women inspiring and motivating other women. I am aiming to bring that into our school environment as school vice-captain this year.

I would really appreciate if the Zonta club would be able to support me with expenses so I can achieve my goals and study medicine. – AND we did.

DV Safe Phone Turns 5!



DV Safe Phone celebrated **5 years** of saving lives and restoring hope on Friday the 4th of April. Since our humble beginnings in 2020, we've now officially gifted our **12,000th DV Safe Phone Kit** to a victim of domestic violence. 💜 📱

That's 12,000 lifelines—each one a critical connection to safety, support, and freedom.

Founder & CEO **Ashton Wood** marked the occasion with power words sharing the journey, the impact, and the importance of continuing this life-saving work.

Thank YOU to every single person, partner, and supporter who has walked this journey with us. Together, we're making a difference. Here's to the next 5 years—and beyond.

Nikki Firmin

Head of Community and Corporate Partnerships, DV Safe Phone, Australia

Mayhem in the world economy and geopolitical uncertainty is affecting our Zonta Club in the Whitsundays.



Recent chaos in the world economy brought about by US tariffs, Australis's exposure to the Chinese economy and ongoing conflict in the Middle East, Ukraine and other parts of the world has now had a direct impact on our club here in the Whitsundays.

When I first became Treasurer the USD: AUD exchange rate was \$1 United States Dollar =\$1.40 Australian Dollar. Now the exchange rate is \$1 USD =\$1.60. In the two weeks since the Board set our 2025-26 membership fees-the AUD has dropped 10% against the USD.

Why does this matter?

Even though Zonta International has maintained each member mandatory annual contributions to Zonta International at USD \$88—each member now needs to pay AUD \$139.36 to cover this payment. Add in district dues and the amount left over from our membership fees is quite diminished.

In addition-our 30% annual contribution from our fundraising budget to the Zonta Foundation for Women will decrease because of the extremely low exchange rate. An AUD \$10,000 contribution to the Zonta Foundation will only be USD \$6,000 in today's terms.

So, pain all around. Things are unlikely to improve in the short term – so it is even more important that we double down in helping our local community where we can have the most impact.

Margaret Kennedy

New Library Books for 2025



Building on the success of the Zonta Section at the library we have purchased a further 12 books which were delivered to the library.

Next time you are in the area why not take a look at the collection - quite extensive now. Love to hear what you think of them and suggestions for new books are always welcome.

Janice

Judy Johnston - My Departure Lunch

Many many thanks everyone who came to lunch and treated me. I felt very spoilt and thank you for the gifts. I felt so special because you are all putting so much time and effort into Women's Day and still came along for lunch.



My memories of Zonta over the last twenty years have been one of fulfillment, friendship, and the knowledge that in a small way we have supported the ideals of Zonta both locally and internationally.

I am sure Sunday will be a fantastic success with a great day had by all.

Good luck in the future and wishing you many new members. We intend to split our time between Newtown near Geelong Victoria around Jan to June and Runaway Bay, Gold Coast July to December. That all could change but please if any of you are in those areas anytime, please let me know by email and come to visit. Hopefully, we will be in Airlie around June July August, and I can catch up with you all as a meeting guest!! Much success for the future.

Judy

We also farewelled:

- Shelagh Ford whose home is now in Tasmania and
- Cath Fernbach who has moved to Townsville to be closer to her family.

Who is doing what?

- Betty has just been to Norfolk Island
- Janice is back from Japan.
- Jo is having to spend more time in Brisbane with family.
- Helen is spending a lot of time in Rockhampton caring for family.
- Maxine is packing up but is still with us until her new home in Sth Aust is ready.
- Judy Brown is on holidays in Sydney with Grandchildren
- Pam and Margaret are both preparing to go to Boston for Margaret's son wedding.
- Carole is off on holiday in July.
- Marlene is off to India in August
- Debbie B is off to Gallipoli for Anzac day
- Shannon spends a lot of time travelling with her job.
- Nikki is also away a lot with her job.
- Suzie id settling into Airlie beach after a few years on the road.
- Lisa has been off travelling on the road.

Norfolk Island - Betty Whitehorn

I have attached photo of Tony and me in Norfolk Island at the Queen Elizabeth look out overlooking the sweeping vistas of Kingston.

What a fascinating and beautiful island. It's history engaging. It is recorded that Captain Cook discovered the island in October 1774 on his second voyage to the South Pacific. More recently archaeological remains suggest that Polynesians occupied the island from 1150-1450.

Norfolk Island served as a penal colony twice. Convicts (men and women) were sent from New South Wales from March 1788- February 1814 and again from 1825 – to 1853. Convicts were housed in Kingston and building remains are still there today.

In 1856 Pitcairn Islanders, descendants of the Bounty Mutineers came to Norfolk island to settle. Some stayed and some got homesick and went home to Pitcairn. Family contact was maintained by letter writing. Queen Victoria granted Norfolk Island to the relocating Pitcairn Islanders. To this day there is some disagreement about this arrangement.

The Australian Government in 2016 assumed responsibility for services replacing the previous self-governing model. The Norfolk Islanders are openly lobbying to have this reversed. Tourism is a thriving industry on the island, and it was a holiday over far too soon. J



Japan March 2025 - Janice

Barry and I spent a month in Japan in March. We arranged this through a travel agent in Brisbane that specialises in tailored itineraries for countries in Asia. So, we had all our bookings made and a day-by-day outline of where and what. Some guided days and a lot by us with suggestions on what to do.

We chose to spend a few days in the major cities and most of the time in less visited areas. So having arrived in Tokyo, from Cairns, we travelled north to Sapporo on the northern island of Hokkaido – by train, visiting, amongst other places the Onsen town of Noboribetsu. Wonderful hot spring bath in our room or could share the communal (women and men separate).

Sapporo was very cold and snowing a lot of the time – lots of layers of clothing. Beautiful part of the world.

We flew south to Fukuoka on Kyushu – moderate sized city and easy to get around. Wonderful train service throughout most of Japan but can get lost in the subways. From here was made our way south to Kagoshima – lots of history here. Then on by ferry to the island of Yakushima. A large part of this small mountainous island is UNESCO listed forest of mostly Japanese cedar. Some of the trees of more than 700 years old and individually named. Lots of walking in rainy and cold conditions but it fitted in with the forest.

Back to Kyushu, where we drove through forested national parks areas, small towns and farmlands and stayed at a couple of lovely traditional Japanese hotels, complete with hot spring baths, tatami mats and futon beds. Beautiful shrines, temples, and gardens.

An overnight ferry (read ship) took us to Osaka and the highlights of the street food and Sumo wrestling –

such a fun day. Local train to Kyoto next and an evening in the Gion district (geishas still exist if you have the money and contacts). We did see a couple of the girls, but no photos allowed.

We had a fabulous trip. Outside of the major cities there is not much English, but Google translator helped. Travel is relatively easy by train, and we drove without getting lost too many times.

The food in Japan is everywhere, anytime. All good and lots of sweets as well. Japanese breakfast in traditional hotels is a bit of the challenge but that's part of the experience.

The Japanese people are very polite and overall, I think quite conservative. Just bow and smile. It is a very safe country to travel in and there is so much to see. Outside of the major cities we were often the only white faces.



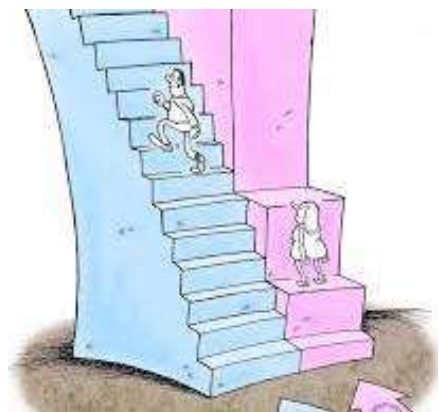
Janice Lake

Thoughts on Equality



Quotes about strength and resilience:

- "A woman with a voice is by definition a strong woman." - Melinda French Gates
- "Nothing can dim the light which shines from within." - Mahatma Gandhi
- "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." - Helen Keller



Birthdays



April
March
February

Di Trueman
Lauren
Marlene



Happy birthday to you.



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Knitting club for Zontians and friends will be holding their first meeting of the year this Monday 28 April at Carole's house – Call Carole on 0417 619 098

Zonta & Friends Sewing & Knitting



- ❖ Blankets
- ❖ Breast cushions
- ❖ Drainage bags
- ❖ Head scarves

These provide comfort for women in the post-operative phase of breast cancer.

Blankets provide comfort for women & men in hospital, nursing homes and for young children in refuge



ZONTA BUILD A BETTER WORLD
CLUB OF THE WHITSUNDAYS INC FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Future meeting dates

Board meetings –Tuesday mornings -

Date	Venue	Notes
Tuesday 13 May 2025	Whitsunday Green Café	10.am
Tuesday 10 June		
Tuesday 8 July		
Tuesday 12 August		

General Meetings – Third Thursday of the month. 6.00pm for 6.30 start.

Date	Venue	Notes
	Whitsunday Green Café	Golf Club Cannonvale
Thursday 17 April		
Thursday 22 May****	NOTE 4th Week of month	AGM
Thursday 19 June	This is changeover-	venue and date may change
Dates to remember		
Monday 28 April	Knitting Club	Carole's house
Wednesday 7th May	Candlelight ceremony	VMR – 3.30 – 4.30
Saturday 10 May	Proserpine HS Musical	PEC 1.00 pm
Friday 16 to 18 May	Area 5 District meeting	Mackay
Saturday TBA	BBQ to be advised	
Sunday 1 June	Zonta & partners social day	Details to be advised
Thursday 5 June	Morning melodies	PEC