



NEWS

Zonta Club of Caboolture Inc
Charter Date: August 3, 1993
District 22 ... Area 1
Club Number 1428

SEPTEMBER 2014

President: Carole Tomvald - 0402 547 835
Treasurer: Karen McNab - 0439 629 195
Secretary: Patricia Clunes - 0410 617 825
Newsletter Editor: Patricia Clunes - 0410 617 825



SERVICE



This has been a very busy month for your Service Committee, so, feeling very proud of the work that our club has done.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

During the past month we assembled 1200 birthing kits with the help of The Lakes College at North Lakes. The Zontians who attended this event enjoyed themselves and had an impromptu picnic lunch in the car park at the school. On Saturday 13th we had a Sausage Sizzle at Bunning's, Morayfield. By all accounts it was one of our most successful one to date. Thank you all.
See you at the Dinner Meeting

President Carole

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE TREASURER!!!

Treasurer's report should have been received by now.

Please note the venue for dinner meetings is now *Robbio's Restaurant (St Columban's College training restaurant) entry via Pettigrew Street. All numbers have to be at the college by Friday prior to the meeting.*

The cost per member for our dinner meetings is \$30. They charge us \$25 per meal with the other \$5.00 being for club expenses ie guest speakers dinner, guest speakers gift, stamps etc

If you miss a meeting regardless of apology, you need to pay \$5.00 at the next meeting you attend.

If you are unable to attend a meeting please call Patricia. If she doesn't hear from you by midday Monday PRIOR to the meeting she will presume that you are attending. If you then unable to attend after this time you will be liable for the cost of the meal - \$30.00.

Treasurer, Karen McNab



BIRTHDAYS for October

Patricia - 19th (who is celebrating in Melbourne)

Breast Cushions: We have plenty of stock on hand. I hope you all received my email re the change of date for our stuffing day. Edith has other commitments on Sunday the 2nd of November so the new date is Sunday the 9th of November. Please bring a plate to share for lunch, and it is 9.30am for a 10.00am start.

Birthing Kits: Thank you all very much for another successful birthing kit packing day. We packed 1200 kits in a little over two hours, and then proceeded to have a picnic in the car park. (I thought that was fun). Glenda will send our certificates of appreciation to the college and to Abbey Solly who initiated the College and students to become involved.

The service committee would really love to think that we may be able to afford to increase the number of kits to 2000 in 2015.

Fight like a Girl: Sara & I attended the third week of this course at the Caboolture High School. We were very warmly welcomed at the front office by the Deputy Principal Allyson Seymour, from there we were introduced to Fabiana Everitt (Student Mentor) and Marie Pritchard (School Nurse).

This program has proved to be an enormous benefit to young women aged 15-16 years. Sara & I were very impressed with Christina Marshall and her program. We would like to give further details at the September Dinner Meeting. I congratulate the members of our club who initiated and recommended this brilliant program.

Emergency Packs: The Service Committee has discussed at length the direction that we would like to take this ongoing project, so therefore we are recommending some changes of the packs to club members.

The committee feels that we would like to specifically target women and girls, so we need to look at restructuring the packs.

The rationale being:

(a) Packs are being given to male clients of FOTS (as witnessed by me). The pack had a sanitary pad in it. What happened to the pad? They are too expensive to be discarded.

(b) CRDVS have indicated that we may no longer be required to supply emergency packs to them. Both Lorraine & I saw that CRDVS had an abundant supply on hand.

(c) If we supply Emergency Feminine Supplies this will become a Zonta "A" project as opposed to the "B" project, that it currently is.

We will still supply to local organisations but the packs will be specifically be for women

(d) As this is an expensive project the committee agreed it would be more economical and more worthwhile to look after women and girls.

Because this project has been an integral part of Zonta Caboolture for many years, the committee recommends that a full discussion be held at the September Dinner Meeting, and if members are in agreement, a vote be held at the October Dinner Meeting.

Banksia Awards: Award notifications have been sent to schools and we have received invitations for members to attend and present prizes.

CRDVS Dinner: The committee recommends that the club subsidise half the cost (\$27.50) for all members attending the dinner.

Rationale: CRDVS need our help on the night.

e.g. Door & seating hostessing, selling raffle tickets & later distributing the prizes (like IWD), Glenda's I.T. & computer knowledge etc.etc.c

Deception Bay Girl Guides: Have sent out an SOS urgently requiring tables & chairs for approx 80 girls, as they ones they are currently using are considered dangerous. This will be further mentioned at the Dinner Meeting.

Sue Droughton
Chairman



MEMBERSHIP

1. Follow-up Contacts with Guests at Dinner Meetings.

The Membership Committee will keep in contact with recent guests at our dinner meetings, Sarah, Heather, Avril, Deanne, and Therese, and keep them informed about our various functions and meetings. Sandra also has emailed an updated version of the dinner invitation leaflet to members.

2. Our Zonta Club's Information CD/USB

Initially developed by Glenda a couple of years ago, committee members discussed the need to update the content. A presentation was shown at the IWD luncheon and the Area Workshop earlier this year, and committee members would like to incorporate this into the updated information CD/USB. Cecil will liaise with Glenda.

3. Dinner Meetings - Hostess

Cecil inquired about the Hostess roster (and for Objects and Thanks). Sandra has since followed up and notified members.

4. Role of Membership Committee 2014-15

- Discussion focussed first on a **review of the duties of the Membership Committee** as per ZI Marion de Forest Manual. The list is quite impressive, but it was noted that our Committee does fulfil the majority of duties listed.
- Sandra noted that at a recent Officers Training Day (23/8) participants were informed that some changes have been made by ZI to streamline procedures for recruitment and retention. The Membership Committee has now received a report of this Training Day.

Suggestions from the Club Survey 2013

- Members began the task of studying suggestions given by members about membership, and implications for our Club. From a brief study today, it was noted some key concerns in 2013 were *feeling unwelcome, not being valued, personalities dominating, and being ignored.*
- In 2014, so far, our Committee felt that these concerns were being addressed. It was also noted that some of the positive suggestions from members will be fulfilled by adopting changes made by ZI at the International Convention. Further information will be available in October when ZI advises all Clubs. This is a work in progress for future meetings.

Plan and Focus for 2014-5

As an ongoing task, the Membership Committee will continue to consider ideas around the key functions of Recruitment, Retention and Renewal.

Many thanks to Sandra for her positive discussion and time, and to President Carole for her input.

Cecil Nielson
Chairman



FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

We have tentatively booked Hetty Johnston of Bravehearts to be our guest speaker for IWD. Her fee is \$1,000 which goes towards various programs they run to safeguard children. Acceptance of her as guest speaker is to be voted on at this month's meeting.

Thank you to Waltraud, Karen and Patricia for volunteering with me at the Redcliffe Festival - hopefully we've added \$160 to our "Our Village" fundraising tally. We now have raffle tickets to sell @ \$5 for about \$80,000 worth of prizes including a new car. Our club receives \$4.10 per

ticket so this is a great opportunity to raise funds with little effort from our members. We'll take the tickets to all our upcoming events. Drawn 15th March, 2015.

Last month we had our most successful Wednesday BBQ and this month we smashed our Saturday record with almost \$1,500 profit so well done and thank you to all who volunteered.

For the CRDVS dinner in November, our club will be organising the raffles so please ask your local businesses if they'd like to support this worthy cause by donating a raffle prize.

Mark your diaries:-

Sunday 5th October - Shoe & Bag sale at Caboolture Markets - roster required

Wednesday 15th October - Bunnings BBQ - roster to be circulated at meeting

Saturday 25th October - The 39 Steps at Twelfth Night Theatre - tickets \$40

Saturday 8th November - Estee Lauder Shopping Day - tickets available now for \$10

Monday 24th November - CRDVS Fundraising Dinner

Sara Allard
Chairman.



Flyers for '39 Steps' have been sent out to 'Friends of Zonta' and all school in our Banksia Awards catchment area. Certificates have been sent to Simon Armstrong, Principal The Lakes College, and Abbey Solley Student Leader at the College for their help and organization for our recent Birthing Kit Assembly Day.

Glenda Moor
Chairperson

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

No Report
Sandra Cooke Chairman

ADVOCACY

1. **Zonta Says No ongoing campaign** - our partnership with CRDVS fundraising dinner to be held on Monday 24th November 2014 at Norths Leagues Club. Lorraine, together with Sara of the Fundraising Committee, is meeting with Estrella and her team directly after this Advocacy meeting to obtain an update on the planning for this night. She will provide a report to this committee and Board after this meeting. The Service Committee has recommended that Zonta members who attend this event pay only \$27.50 instead of the \$50 for the tickets. After discussion it was decided that Lorraine should ascertain how much the CRDVS people will be paying for their tickets and the cost of the meal, thought by Lorraine to be \$30. If so,

then CRDVS would suffer a loss for attending Zonta members who paid \$27.50.

2. **The Safe Bus for Women and Children in Port Moresby**

In order to plan the Powerpoint presentation, Lorraine has been researching the subject of violence against women in Papua New Guinea. Some of this was viewed by committee members and guidance given to Lorraine who intends to have a draft version of the document ready for our October meeting.

3. **Quentin Bryce Chair of Domestic violence taskforce in Queensland**

This taskforce is to work with communities in an effort to eliminate domestic violence. After discussion Cecil was asked to make enquiries as to how our District and Club can align ourselves and support this specific taskforce. We are cognisant of the fact that we need to work through our District Board.

4. **Support of Refugees, especially those in Detention**

This committee has previously searched without success for ways to penetrate the barriers of secrecy enveloping refugees. [We had hoped to find a way to reach out to the women and children perhaps by way of providing small feminine items that would be enjoyed and items for children. Every contact we had in the past has proved unhelpful.

Action: Waltrud to follow up on a name she has of someone from the Writers' Guild who appears to have knowledge regarding welfare of refugees.

5. **International Dialog on Women in Leadership**

This is an event being organised by UN Women, Australia and it will be held in Brisbane on 16th and 17th November around the G20 summit. Lorraine, Waltrud and Sandra are very interested in attending this event. The question raised here is whether or not any Caboolture Club attendees could:

- Attend as representatives of our club
- If not attending as members of our club could our club badge be worn

Action: Lorraine to contact Christine Stewart about these points.

6. **Member recommendations regarding Advocacy matters from our Club survey**

We discussed all responses regarding Advocacy. It appears that we are already attending to all issues raised

Lorraine Samaraweera
Chairman



**UNITED
NATIONS**

Normal Relationships are not Violent: The devastating findings in the Oscar Pistorius case

By Georgina Dent

Justice can be a fickle business particularly in the realm of criminal law. As members of the public, generally, we are only privy to criminal cases that capture the media's attention. When that happens, we inevitably weigh in. We see photos of the children abducted or the spouse killed; we see footage of the family members of either the victims or the alleged perpetrators entangled in a particular crime; we form our own opinions about what really happened and what ought to happen next.

It is not at all unusual for there to be a disparity between what collectively the court of public opinion might deem appropriate in any case and what a court of law actually finds. A complex web of rules, precedents and statutes dictate, limit and shape how and what any court is capable of delivering. This complexity is the price we must pay for a principled legal system.

Occasionally, however, principled legal systems yield results that, even with an acceptance and understanding of the complexity of such a system, are [difficult to fathom](#). And so it is with Oscar Pistorius.

Last week a South African court determined the famous athlete was guilty of the equivalent of manslaughter; he was acquitted of murdering his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. He is due to be sentenced in October.

The court of public opinion is never the appropriate forum for determining the fate of an individual charged with a crime. Legal systems exist to ensure individuals - guilty or innocent - are afforded far more objectivity, protection and consistency than that. I accept and support that. I also recognise that I am not remotely qualified to comment on the intricacies of South Africa's body of criminal law.

But there is something about the Pistorius verdict that I cannot accept or support and it goes beyond technicalities and extends beyond South Africa.

The Pistorius verdict is not sensational in my mind because of hearsay or innuendo. It is sensational because he shot four bullets, from close range, into a bathroom, in which another person was known to be present. The person

present was his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp and she died almost instantly. Shortly before this neighbours heard a female's "terrified scream".

The judge determined Pistorius' actions were negligent but didn't accept that he thought it was Steenkamp inside. I sincerely hope that was the case but based on the evidence presented it seems a generous finding.

Throughout the trial [evidence revealed](#) that Steenkamp was frightened of Pistorius. Three weeks before she was killed she sent him this text message: "I'm scared of you sometimes and how you snap at me and of how you will react to me."

Earlier she said she felt "attacked" and "needed protection" from him.

These messages obviously do not constitute proof that Pistorius intended to kill Steenkamp but it's difficult to dismiss given the outcome. And regardless of his innocence or guilt of murder, it's impossible to accept Judge Thokozile Masipa's categorisation of these exchanges.

"Normal relationships are dynamic and unpredictable most of the time, and human beings are fickle."

That is certainly true but intimidation and fear are not normal. Being "scared" of a partner is not normal. Feeling that you need "protecting" from your own partner is not normal. But perhaps the devastating truth is that it is normal and it will remain normal for as long as we choose to accept it.

In 2009 three women a day were killed by a partner in South Africa according to anti-violence organisation Gun Free South Africa. The World Health Organisation estimates that 60,000 women and children in the country are victims of such violence every month.

Very few of these cases ever see the light of day which helps to perpetuate the shame that keeps other victims silent. If they don't see or hear about other victims they believe they're alone.

When a case does see the light of day, where it captures the world's attention for over a year and there is clear evidence of intimidation and fear and a judge accepts that as symptoms of a "normal relationship"? It's devastating.

Because intimidation and fear are part and parcel with the abuse - physical, emotional and financial - that domestic violence entails. Symptoms that need to be openly challenged, not tacitly accepted. A substantial part of the challenge in dismantling this subversive problem is the fact it happens behind closed doors. Eradicating domestic violence requires a resolute and public rejection of the attitudes and behaviours that enable and excuse it.

This is prescient in Australia, where more than 23% of women have experienced domestic or family violence, according to ABS statistics. Today VicHealth has released the findings from a survey of 17,500 Australians called National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women 2013, the third of its kind.

Alarminglly, it seems a number of Australians are ready to excuse rapists and men who control, intimidate, bash and kill women and many apportion blame to the victim. One in five Australians agree that a woman is partly responsible for rape if she is intoxicated, whilst one in six support the notion that women say 'no' when they mean 'yes'.

"We are really concerned about the number of people - men and women - who still believe that rape and physical violence are justifiable, and that women are often partly to blame," VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter said. "A culture that excuses rape and violence is one that allows it to happen."

Fortunately most people surveyed understood that domestic violence was a crime and that women were far more likely to be victims and almost everyone surveyed said they'd intervene if a woman they knew was the target of violence.

"What we're seeing is more people who now understand that violence is more than a bruised eye or broken bones," Rechter said.

The [report concludes](#) that above all else, the main influence on people's attitudes to violence against women was their understanding of the issue and how supportive they were of gender equality. The more they subscribe to conservative stereotypes about men and women, the more likely they were to excuse, trivialise or justify violent behaviour.

The fact that Reeva Steenkamp, a talented and capable young woman, is dead is undeniably tragic. The fact part of her legacy is not a judge using an opportunity -- while the world was watching -- to publicly reject a dynamic of fear and intimidation effected by a famous young man in his personal relationship, compounds it. I fear the most devastating consequence of the Pistorius judgement is not that he was acquitted of murder but that his conduct within his personal relationship was categorised as normal.

[From Women's Agenda Forum]

Lorraine Samaraweera
Chairman

ARCHIVES

Could ALL Committee Chairman sort through their 2013-2014 Zonta Year's records and retain what is required with the 2012-2013 Zonta Year (in other words keep for handy reference the past two years of records) and give me anything to file in the Archives from 1993 up to the end of 2011-2012.

Sandra Cooke
Chairman