

# Zonta Club of Brisbane Annual Report 2007-2008

*compiled by Judith A. Anderson*

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Portrait of Charter President, Babette Stephens, by Lola McCausland (1981)

# President's Message

The Zonta Club of Brisbane has celebrated one of the most successful years in its 36 year history, embracing big dreams and professional fundraising to an extent never before contemplated, and making a difference to the lives of a record number of women and girls.

The unquestionable highlight of the year was the *Joie de Vivre* fundraising evening which provided a significant boost to Dr Margaret McAdam's long-cherished cervical cancer treatment program in Vanuatu, as well as allowing the Club to make a large contribution to the Zonta International Foundation and to undertake fewer fundraising activities over the next 12 months.

Margaret's dream first came to the Club's attention through her friend, Bernadette O'Shea, in February 2006. It is timely to recall what Margaret wrote at that time:

*I am trying to set up a cervical cancer prevention program for Vanuatu and am wondering if you would be interested in taking on this project to champion. There are over 250,000 deaths per year worldwide and over 80% of cervical cancer occurs in developing countries where no screening occurs. Vanuatu has no women's cancer screening at all for its 100,000 or so women.*

*I was speaking to the gynaecologist there recently who said he has seen more cervical cancer there in his four year term there than in the 30 years he had worked in Australia – and in young women too, in their 30s. These are the mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters of the people of Vanuatu and it's a tragedy that they are dying of such a preventable disease and that there is such inequity of access to health initiatives for these women.*

*I have been researching the most appropriate program for Vanuatu and have read with interest the work that the International Agency for Research on Cancer has done for cervical cancer prevention in low resource settings - it's the answer for Vanuatu because it's sustainable, achievable and workable in remote settings; it trains up nurses to do the screening and treatment so it can be accessed by women in remote locations; and there is no high-level technology needed. This program offers great hope to the women of Vanuatu.*

*I have the approval of the Vanuatu Ministry of Health to develop the proposal and have support of local women's groups (National Council of Women and Vanuatu Family Health Association) but there are no Government funds available for the women of Vanuatu to access this benefit (and never will be as health expenditure is less than \$100/capita/year).*

*We need to train nurses, a cytopathologist and community educators to implement this program and we need equipment to do the screening and treatment. I am creating a website to promote the project and all sponsors will be recognised on the site with links to their website. Just \$5 will screen and treat a woman in Vanuatu for pre-cancer cells thereby preventing a future cancer developing. There are 30,000 women to screen so \$150,000 will screen/treat them once in their lives but \$450,000 will fund the project in perpetuity for all future generations of Vanuatu women.*

At the time, raising such a large amount was something the Club felt was beyond its resources, but the Club in March 2007 took a collective deep breath, set the bar very high, engaged a consultant, and launched the *Joie de Vivre* project in partnership with Dr Ian Frazer and Dr Margaret McAdam, with proceeds to be shared equally between the Vanuatu cancer prevention scheme and the Club's service commitments. The result was nothing short of astonishing, raising over \$90,000 for the Vanuatu project as well as enabling the Club to contribute over \$30,000 to the Zonta International Foundation and adding \$60,000 to the Club's available service funds.

But *Joie de Vivre* was not the only fundraising success – Liz Heber's *Liz and Friends* art exhibition once again raised significant funding for the Club's *Save the Children* projects, and the annual sale of salmon and salmon 'pearls' at Christmas topped off a very successful year, a record total of close to \$100,000 being raised by the Club during the year.

Through the efforts of the Club's fundraising committee and the focussed work of the Service Committee, the Board, and the Past Presidents' Committee, the Club maintained our five major award programs and a wide range of service projects through raising funds and donating time and skills.

The Club's award programs for the 2007/2008 year benefited a total of 26 women and girls:

- Zonta Woman of Achievement Award – awarded to Prof. **Marilyn McMenamin**, with Encouragement Awards presented to two exceptional young women, **Jean Madden** and **Alissa Phillips**
- Zonta Bursary for Australian Indigenous Women Students – awarded to two young Indigenous women (**Rhiann Sue See** and **Mareshah Bowie**) at The University of Queensland
- Babette Stephens Memorial Award – presented to QUT acting student, **Gemma Yates-Round**
- Inaugural Z-TOPs Awards – presented to two young women (**Chantelle Marie Young** and **Jenna Bartlem**) at Kingston College adult education centre
- Education Encouragement Awards – awarded to 18 girls and young women in nine disadvantaged secondary and primary schools in the greater Brisbane area (*see details later in this report*)

Apart from supporting the Vanuatu cancer prevention project and the awards program, the Club continued its policy of providing relatively small amounts of funding to causes and bodies which do not have the visibility or appeal of major charities. Five different charitable causes of this kind were supported in the year to March 31, 2008, both in cash and through contributing expertise and that increasingly rare and valuable commodity - time:

- A new edition of the card for the Northside Alliance Against Domestic Violence, and, as planned at the end of the last Zonta year, production of an edition of the Safety Card for the Ipswich Women's Shelter. Plans to produce an edition of the card for the Murri Sisters Inc. were in train by year end.
- Assembling 1600 birthing kits for despatch to Papua New Guinea
- Providing funds to support the Save the Children (Qld) projects inaugurated by the Club (School Readiness Fund and the Cassandra Weddell Memorial Library) as well as Save the Children's own Mobile Playscheme
- Maintaining the 'comfort bag' project and other support for Windana Support Centre
- Continuing to support the St Luke's Nursing Service (Spiritus Care) through donations

Service funds were also boosted by proceeds from fellowship activities, raffles, and the annual auction of Christmas table centre-pieces at the December meeting, as well as by personal contributions from members through activities such as *Bring and Buy*. The Club's administration funds continue to be supported through *Heads and Tails* at meetings.

In the light of the success of *Joie de Vivre*, the Service Committee at year end was able to prepare a generous service budget for the next Zonta year, significantly increasing the allocation to core programs.

I would like to thank the hard-working and dedicated Board members and Committee Chairs for their support over the past two years, and thank all members for their input and enthusiastic participation. This is a great club and I am privileged to have been given the opportunity to serve as President. Finally, while my candidacy for District Office was not successful, I was also honoured to have been nominated by the Club for two district positions for the 2008-2010 biennium and look forward to being part of a vibrant new District 22 from July 3.

**JUDITH A. ANDERSON**  
President



2007-2008 Board of Directors after being installed by PIP Leneen Forde (far right)

# Membership

The Membership and Classification Committee, chaired by Ailsa Gillies, continued the recruitment successes of 2006-2007, with five new members inducted in the course of the year (April 1, 2007, to March 31, 2008). These were Susan Young in May, Rosemary Duncan and Christina Mitchell (June), Alison Tait (September), and Kate Kollar (October).

However, difficulties with the District website since July 2007 have meant that fewer enquiries about membership came to the Club from this source than in the past. This has put responsibility back on members to actively recruit in order to offset resignations and departures.

Three members (Maree Farrier, Ann Dill-Grantham, and Louise Riddell) did not renew their membership at the end of the 2006-2007 year, and the Club farewelled Donna Lyons, and Pixie Annat, a member of many years' standing, in the course of the year. The Club also mourned the passing of former Zontians, Heather Robinson (October 2, 2007) and Ruth Stoneley.

With a total loss of five and the addition of five, the net result at year end was that the membership level was maintained at 60. However, Rosemary Duncan, Jane McDowall, and Veronica McLaughlin flagged their intention of not renewing membership for the 2008-2009 year.

Despite the lack of net growth, the Club remains healthy with a pleasing increase in younger members and members taking advantage of the availability of Leave of Absence for short periods rather than resigning from the Club. Keeping LoA members in touch with the Club through the newsletter and the efforts of the Fellowship Committee have been welcomed.

Our 60 members at year end were as follows:

Judith A. ANDERSON	Julie MANNION
Judith S. ANDERSON	Shirley McCORKINDALE
Sallyanne ATKINSON AO (Dr)	Jane McDOWALL
Karen BRADY	Annette McFARLANE
Dina BROWNE AO	Veronica McLAUGHLIN
Amber BUCKLAND	Her Honour Justice Margaret McMURDO AC
Kate CARNEY	Christine MITCHELL
Kay CAMPBELL	Joan MALONEY
Helen CHAPMAN	Fran MORRISON
Sarah COMISKEY	Barbara MURRAY
Robyn CURRELL	Julie NOBBS
Rhonda DAVIDSON-IRWIN	Bernadette O'SHEA
Janet DELPRATT (Prof.)	Susan PLANT
Merryl DUCAT	Jill POZZI (Dr)
Rosemary DUNCAN	Gail RIENSTRA
Margaret FERGUSON	Rhyl ROW
Veola FEROS (Dr)	Kay SAUNDERS (Prof.) AM
Leneen FORDE (Dr) AC	Iris SCOTT
Tess GARRONE (Dr)	Ann SHEVILL
Ailsa GILLIES	Allison TAIT
Joan GODFREY (Dr) OBE	Jennifer THOMSON
Patrice GREALY-RIDLEY	Ann TREZISE (Dr)
Lea GREENAWAY	Cecily TUCKER
Elizabeth HEBER	Coralie VAN STRAATEN-PERETZ
Caroline HEIM	Sally WATSON
Melanie HO	Jennifer WEST
Shirley KING OAM	Bronwyn WILLIAMS (Dr)
Kate KOLLAR	Beth WILSON
Christine MACLEAN	Margaret WILSON
Mary MAGEE (Dr) OAM	Susan YOUNG

The blend of experienced members and newcomers has continued to characterise the membership of this Club. First, it is unique in the Zonta world in having two Past International Presidents (Leneen Forde and Mary Magee). Second, as the oldest club in Queensland and one of the oldest in Australia, the Club still has five Charter Members (Leneen Forde, Joan Godfrey, Shirley McCorkindale, Ann Shevill, and Coralie van Straaten-Peretz). In addition to our two PIPs, 11 other members have served or are serving at International, District, or Area level. They are (in alphabetical order): Judith A. Anderson, Judith S. Anderson, Sarah Comiskey, Merryl Ducat, Ailsa Gillies, Joan Godfrey, Elizabeth Heber, Shirley King, Margaret McMurdo, Fran Morrison, and Ann Shevill.

Of the 17 members who have served as President of the Club, 11 (almost one fifth of the Club) are still members - Leneen Forde, Mary Magee, Merryl Ducat, Shirley King, Ailsa Gillies, Janet Delpratt, Shirley McCorkindale, Elizabeth Heber, Coralie van Straaten-Peretz, Dina Browne, and Iris Scott.

The Club is also characterised by its large size, its high median age, and its geographically dispersed membership (from Sanctuary Cove in the south to Samford, Caboolture, and Bribie Island in the north, and Blackbutt in the north-west). All three of these factors impact on retention, and it remains incumbent on experienced Zontians to ensure that newer members are welcomed, thoroughly inducted, and retained.

The strong sense of fellowship at Club meetings, the very active service and fundraising committees, and a program of enjoyable fellowship and fundraising activities have helped members to get to know each other.



Susan young is inducted by President, Judith Anderson, in May, 2007

## Club Governance and Administration

The Nominating Committee (Elizabeth Heber, Merryl Ducat, Tess Garrone, Iris Scott, and Margaret McMurdo) served the Club well in compiling the slate for the April 2007 elections.

President	Judith A Anderson	
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Margaret Ferguson	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Ailsa Gillies	
Correspondence Secretary	Julie Mannion	
Minutes Secretary	Christine Maclean	
Treasurer	Robyn Currell	
Directors	Amber Buckland	Lea Greenaway
	Veronica McLaughlin	Barbara Murray
	Susan Plant	Jennifer West

All nominees were elected unopposed and all members were able to serve throughout the year with the exception of Amber Buckland for whom career opportunities necessitated Leave of Absence on two occasions during the year.

The Board has continued to meet in the Board Room of Queensland Ballet as it has since September 2000, making an annual donation of \$200 to the Ballet for use of facilities and equipment.

There were 11 Board meetings during the year. Attendances were as presented in the table below. *(For meetings in April and May 2007, Sarah Comiskey and Helen Chapman were also members of the Board. Helen was on leave of absence; Sarah attended the May meeting).* As with attendances at Club meetings, attendances at Board meetings were affected by a range of unanticipated causes and were particularly impacted by work and personal commitments of members of the Board. Their dedication to Zonta through serving on the Board as well as serving actively on committees, is exemplary.

Judith A Anderson	10/11	90.9%	Amber Buckland *	3/6	50%
Margaret Ferguson	8/11	72.7%	Lea Greenaway	10/10	100%
Robyn Currell	7/10	70%	Ailsa Gillies	8/11	72.7%
Veronica McLaughlin	8/11	72.7%	Christine Maclean	8/11	72.7%
Julie Mannion	7/11	63.6%	Barbara Murray	7/11	63.6%
Susan Plant	9/11	81.8%	Jennifer West	7/11	63.6%

\* Leave of Absence April 24 to June 30 and 24 September to 9 November, 2007 (five Board meetings)

In July, 2007, Barbara Murray volunteered to take on the task of compiling and maintaining the Club's asset register.

# Meetings

## Attendance

Average attendance at meetings during the 2007-2008 Zonta year was 62%, down from 66% in the previous year. Only five members achieved 100% attendance (Robyn Currell, Janet Delpratt, Ailsa Gillies, Shirley King, and Jennifer West) with a further four (Coralie van Straaten-Peretz, Christine Maclean, Margaret Ferguson and Judith A. Anderson) attending all but one meeting.

Attendance is affected by the wide geographical distribution of members but additional factors in the past 12 months included several cases of protracted illness, bereavement, and the need to care for others. Applications for Leave of Absence during the year were received from 11 members (Pixie Annat, Dina Brown, Amber Buckland, Kay Campbell, Helen Chapman, Sarah Comiskey, Merryl Ducat, Veola Feros, Jane McDowall, Rhyl Row, and Kay Saunders).

Judith S. Anderson continued her dedicated service to the Club during the 2007-2008 year through managing apologies and liaising with the United Service Club about dinner meetings.

The annual review of costs by the United Service Club brought the cost of meals to \$35 with effect from the March 2008 meeting.

## Guest Speakers and Visitors

As elections were the main item of business at the April meeting, there was no guest speaker on that occasion. Similarly, there was no guest speaker for the May meeting as the focus was on the AGM and installation of the new Board, conducted for the Club by PIP, Leneen Forde.

Guest speaker at the June meeting was **Monica Otto** who works in community development in PNG, particularly capacity building for women in agriculture in isolated communities. Monica is a Bachelor of Business graduate of QUT and on her return to PNG about a decade ago set up an NGO, FOWIAD (Foundation of Women in Agricultural Development) to train women in crop management. She is now focussing value-adding through cottage industries, especially production of an antifungal soap. Working through the village men in order to gain their support, Monica has been able to introduce skills training programs and microfinancing projects for the women, including traditional string bags and other craft items in addition to soap. Monica hopes to export the items produced by the women and after the meeting negotiated with the women to produce a supply of string bags featuring a 'Z' for Zonta for sale at District Conference, thereby helping both Zonta and the emerging entrepreneurs in the villages. She is also helping several isolated villages to set up schools.

Guest speaker at the July meeting was **Dianne Taylor** from the Department of Corrective Services who spoke about *Women Inside* and the major challenges they face within the criminal justice system. Di joined Corrective Services two years ago after a thirty year career in Education and is now responsible for rehabilitation programs and services for prisoners within the 13 correctional centres and the 13,500 offenders reporting to Probation and Parole Offices across the State. Di oversees the adult education and vocational education programs, health and medical services, prison industries, the drug strategy, external service providers and the Victims' Register.



Students from Queensland Academy of Creative Industries at the August meeting

The Club enjoyed a presentation by a group of 10 students from the Queensland Academy for Creative Industries at the August meeting, prior to their presentation at the District Conference in September.

The September meeting was dedicated to feedback from *Joie de Vivre* and the October meeting was a celebration of the Club's 36<sup>th</sup> birthday. Appropriately for the occasion, members were able to welcome home the Lola McCausland pastel portrait of Charter President, Babette Stephens, which was commissioned by Joan Godfrey in 1981. Lea Greenaway

provided one of her trademark fellowship activities, and the meeting also provided an opportunity to enjoy a brief 'coffee chat' from Dr Karen Moritz, the RD Wright Senior Research Fellow in the School of Biomedical Sciences at UQ, who spoke about her research into how events that occur during embryonic development lead to increased risks of some diseases in adult life.

The November meeting was very successfully combined with the Woman of Achievement presentation dinner. Held in the main dining room at the United Service Club, the evening not only served as an excellent context in which to present the awards, but also provided an opportunity for fellowship and for the Club to showcase its service and fundraising projects to an audience of invited guests as well as members. (*See full report under Service/ Status of Women/ Advocacy below*).

The December meeting has become one of the high points of each year. As Program Chair, Rhonda Davidson-Irwin again did not disappoint, providing accompaniment for two aspiring musicians from the Queensland Academy of Creative Industries. Julie Nobbs conducted the annual auction of the Christmas centrepieces created and donated by Bernadette O'Shea and Caroline Heim devised a festive activity for everyone to enjoy.

After a break in January, the February meeting enabled the Club to begin the year with a celebration as it coincided with Chinese New Year. **Lisa Hillan** from Save the Children Queensland was guest speaker, providing members with an insight into the work and challenges of the Mobile Playscheme, particularly in indigenous communities.

At the March meeting, the Club heard from member **Kate Carney** about her experience of working on an international project to set up a taxation system in Afghanistan. Kate told a fascinating story of life in this deeply troubled country through an interactive presentation which explored the barriers to setting up a business in Afghanistan.

## Service /Status of Women/ Advocacy

The Service, SoW and Advocacy Committee met regularly at the home of committee member, Jennifer West, and continues to produce detailed minutes which serve as an excellent record of their activities, as well as maintaining the Service Grid which clearly summarises the Club's service activities in a one-page format as a useful reference for both new and long-standing members. The service/ status of women/ advocacy projects undertaken by the Club in the 2007-2008 Zonta year are summarised below.

### Woman of Achievement Award

The Club's Status of Women activities are strongly complemented by the biennial Woman of Achievement project which is run on behalf of the Club by a committee drawn from former Presidents.

This year's selection committee (Jan Delpratt – Chair, Leneen Forde, Ailsa Gillies, Shirley King, Shirley McCorkindale, Coralie van Straaten-Peretz) met on October 16 to interview candidates and select the final winner, Griffith University's Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Marilyn McMenamin, and Encouragement Award winners, teacher Jean Madden and music therapist Alissa Phillips. The bronze statuette created by former member Catharina Hampson was presented to Prof. McMenamin together with a cheque for \$1,000, and the Encouragement Award winners each received cheques for \$500 at a gala dinner at the United Service Club on November 14. Guest Speaker for the occasion was Patrice Derrington, herself a former Woman of Achievement winner, who spoke on *Important Achievements and the Importance of Achievement*.

### The Zonta Bursary for Australian Indigenous Women Students



Jennifer West (far left) with Jackie Huggins (far right), representatives of the Brisbane South and Brisbane Breakfast Clubs, and award winners, Rhiann Sue See and Mareshah Bowie

These annual bursaries for indigenous women students at The University of Queensland are funded jointly by the Zonta Clubs of Brisbane, Brisbane Breakfast, and Brisbane South. In 2007, they were awarded to Rhiann Sue See, a Bachelor of Psychological Science student, and Mareshah Bowie, a Bachelor of Laws student. A third candidate was ineligible due to her transfer to Queensland University of Technology. Jennifer West represented the Club in the selection process and she and Melanie Ho attended the award ceremony hosted by Brisbane South on November 14.

### **The Babette Stephens Memorial Award**

This award in 2007 was presented to QUT acting student, Gemma Yates-Round, at a reception following the opening night performance of *Twelfth Night* on October 5. As part of the assessment process for the award, Club members with a performing arts background are given the opportunity to observe the 2<sup>nd</sup> year acting students on two occasions during the academic year. In addition to seeing the final performance, Jan Delpratt, Caroline Heim, Rhonda Davidson-Irwin, Judith A. Anderson, together with Julie Mannion as coordinator of the project, saw the four female candidates in Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters* on April 26 and provided input to the continuous assessment process conducted by QUT staff and guest director of *Twelfth Night*, Bille Brown. On the evening of the award, Dina Browne provided background to the award and to Babette's life and her contribution to theatre in Brisbane. Attendance on the night by Club members was not as strong as in previous years, but proceeds from ticket sales nevertheless made a valuable contribution to the prize fund to ensure that it continues to honour the memory of the Club's charter President.

### **Z-TOPs (Zonta-TAFE Opportunity Programs)**

The Z-TOPs concept was first developed in March 2006 by member Ann Trezise for implementation at the Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre. Difficulties in implementing the program at Albert Park led the Service Committee to approach the coordinator of the Kingston College adult education centre, Bob Topping, about implementing the program there. As an enthusiastic supporter of the Educational Encouragement Awards since their inception, Bob quickly saw the potential of the Z-TOPs scheme to enable his female students to meet the cost of TAFE and other short courses.



Jennifer West and Ann Trezise with the proud winners of the inaugural Z-TOPs awards at Kingston College

Jennifer West represented the Club on the panel which interviewed the final four short-listed candidates on November 15, and Jennifer and Ann Trezise presented the awards to Chantelle Marie Young and Jenna Bartlem. Thanks to the efforts of Annette McFarlane, it was possible to arrange a fee reduction for the students on the grounds of financial hardship and for the Club to be invoiced directly for the students' fees (\$391.72 per student per semester). Both candidates are using the Z-TOPs program to enrol in a Certificate IV program in Community Services Youth Work at the Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE (Yeronga Campus) as a precursor to undertaking a Diploma of Youth Work studies. By year end, the project at Albert Park had been reinvigorated with the hope of making the first awards during the 2008-2009 Zonta year.

### **Safety Cards**

One of the Club's most important ongoing projects is the production and distribution of discreet, wallet-sized cards listing emergency contact numbers for women escaping domestic violence. The so-called *Safety Card* project began in 2001 when the Club was approached for funding by the Northside Alliance Against Domestic Violence (NAADV). Support was later provided to the Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors' Support Centre (BRISSC) which serves Brisbane's southern suburbs. During the 2006-2007 Zonta year, the project was extended to the Maybank Accommodation and Crisis Support Services which serve the eastern suburbs, and, during 2007-2008, to the Ipswich Women's Shelter with 30,000 cards printed. In addition, the Club supported the printing of a revised edition of the NAADV card. At year end plans were being finalised for extension of the project to the Murri Sisters, enabling the Club for the first time to provide this service specifically for indigenous women. The Club's thanks go to Melanie Ho who undertook management of the project on behalf of the Club.

### **Educational Encouragement Awards**

These awards, first established in 2000, were extended to two primary schools in 2008. Further, on the advice of Bob Topping at Kingston College, a new class of award was introduced for students at the College, enabling the Club to provide support for a greater number of girls through paying small amounts towards their fees. The total number of beneficiaries of awards in the 2007-2008 year was 18, bringing the total number of winners to 83 since 2000 when the awards were first introduced. It is a proud record and the Club's thanks go to the Service Committee who have so efficiently organised the awards and ensured that the Club was represented at the award ceremonies whenever possible.



<i>School</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Student Name</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Presented By</i>
Mabel Park State High	10	Kerrie Sollaye	\$200	Jennifer West
	11	Sofia Faletui	\$200	Jennifer West
Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre	10	Sacha-Leigh Coggins	\$200	Ann Trezise
	11	Hollie Wallis	\$200	Ann Trezise
Shailer Park State High	10	Jade Wallace	\$200	
	11	Samantha Sheppard	\$200	
Southside Education Centre	10	Claire Lightfoot	\$200	Melanie Ho
	11	Hayley James	\$200	Melanie Ho
Bundamba State	10	Amanda Hooper	\$200	Jennifer Thomson
	11	Hayley Wesener	\$200	Jennifer Thomson
Glenala State High	10	Cedella Anson	\$200	Julie Mannion
	11	Katlynn Bradder	\$200	Julie Mannion
Grovely State Primary	7	Christine Ely	\$200	Annette McFarlane
St Brendan's Primary (Moorooka)	7	Sinead Auer	\$200	Annette McFarlane
Kingston College fee support		Sara Blake	\$313.50	
		Samantha Jacobs		
		Rachael Greenwood		
		Peta Long		



Melanie Ho presents an Award at Southside Education Centre

### **Save the Children Queensland**

The Club has supported Save the Children Queensland through a range of different projects. The School Readiness Fund established in 2005 was continued in 2007, enabling caravan park families to send children off to school in uniforms, and properly equipped with text books and stationery. The Cassandra Weddell Memorial Library also continued to operate through the Mobile Playscheme, as did the provision of gifts of Avon products at Christmas time, organised through Iris Scott. Proceeds from the *Liz and Friends* art exhibition in 2007 were earmarked for Save the Children to enable these important projects to continue.

Save the Children works with children and families in crisis in Queensland. Mobile Playschemes visit children and their families in caravan parks and housing estates in the greater Brisbane area, Sunshine Coast, Tweed/Gold Coast, and Townsville as well as in northern NSW and Indigenous communities in Darwin and Wadeye in the Northern Territory. Children under five living with their parents and carers in caravan parks in marginalised, socially isolated circumstances are at high risk of abuse and neglect. Children are constantly exposed to substance abuse, criminal activities and domestic violence because of the overcrowded and isolated environments in which they live.

Playscheme also visits two Brisbane correctional centres where children under five are residing with their mothers. In a speech marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Playscheme at Brisbane Women's Prison, the Minister for Police and Corrective Services, the Hon. Judy Spence, acknowledged the donations of books and equipment from the Zonta Club of Brisbane through the Cassandra Weddell Memorial Library.

The Club's sincere thanks go to Liz and her artist friends for making the event possible, and for donating 25% of the proceeds to Zonta. Thanks are also due to Rhonda Davidson-Irwin for organising musical entertainment on the evening and to all members who supported the event by selling raffle tickets and providing support on the opening night and during the exhibition.

### **Birth Kit Assembly**

Following the success of the first birthing kit assembly day in 2006, Jennifer West organised a second assembly day for the Club on July 21, 2007, this time at Grovely TAFE through the good offices of Annette McFarlane. 15 Zontians attended on the day: Judith A. Anderson, Margaret Ferguson, Tess Garrone, Lea Greenaway, Shirley McCorkindale, Annette McFarlane, Christine Maclean, Julie Mannion, Joan Moloney, Barbara Murray, Iris Scott, Ann Shevill, Ann Trezise, Cecily Tucker, and Jennifer West. Others who attended were prospective member Alison Tait, five medical students from TIME, and four Hon Zons – Barbara Murray's husband Rob, Jennifer West's sister Helen, and two of Ann Trezise's laboratory staff. The day was superbly organised by Jennifer and Annette, including pots of soup for lunch and morning tea provided by other participants.

The materials for the kits are sourced and dispatched by the Birthing Kit Foundation which was established with the aim of providing a clean birthing environment for women in developing countries where the incidence of infant and maternal mortality is still unacceptably high. The kits consist of six simple items in a zip-lock plastic bag – a sheet of plastic, a scalpel blade, two clamps, some cotton swabs, a small cake of soap and a pair of rubber gloves. The Birthing Kit concept was developed by the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills, and Australia's international aid agency, AusAID, supports the program through a dollar for dollar subsidy. The money paid by Clubs to the foundation covers the cost of the contents and shipment. The 1600 kits assembled in July, 2007, were shipped to Dr Mathias Sapuri of the Medical Society of PNG for distribution.



Ann Trezise and Hon Zons finalise packing of birthday kits under Ann Shevill's watchful eye

### **Windana Women's Shelter**

One of the Club's ongoing projects is the supply of 'comfort bags' to *Windana* for children who find themselves at the shelter with their mothers as the result of domestic violence. Margaret Ferguson has donated fabric for these bags since the inception of the project, and the Club donates funds for shelter staff to purchase the contents for the bags. The Club in 2007 outsourced the production of the bags to family members and friends who volunteered their services, and Barbara Murray took on responsibility for liaison with the shelter concerning supplies of bags and funds for the contents. While adequate stocks held by the Shelter meant that there were few calls for bags during the year, by year end, plans were in train to deliver a further supply.

### **Spiritus**

Coordinated by Ann Shevill, Club members have donated Christmas gifts of toiletries to the clients of the Community Care Services of Spiritus Care and residents in their Residential Care facilities for the past 28 years. In 2007, Allison Tait volunteered to take over responsibility for this annual collection and in early 2008, Ann, together with Allison and Jennifer West, visited the headquarters of Spiritus to discuss other ways in which the Club might provide support. The outcome is a proposal for the 2008-2009 Zonta year to run a pilot project under which emergency comfort packs would be provided for children in the Inala area.

### **Helen Row Zonta International Memorial Prize**

The Helen Row prize for 2006 was not presented because the Club felt that the University's nominee, a previous winner, should not be awarded the prize twice. A rule change was negotiated with The University of Queensland during the year to preclude anyone from winning the prize more than once. No nominee for the award in 2007 was received. It is hoped that in future years, the award will be more widely promoted to attract a stronger field of applicants.

### **Murri Sisters Support**

On March 1, 2008, Sarah Comiskey coordinated the collection of household goods for the Murri Sisters' new home. Her neighbour, Mary-Ann Cattanagh, provided access to the Ascot Early Childhood Centre as a base for the collection, and four car-park bays were filled with household furniture, kitchen goods, sheets, towels, children's toys and clothes, and food. Sarah and her husband, Steve, hired a truck to transport the goods and also operated a pick-up service to collect larger items from donors. In addition to making the carpark of her childcare centre available and working on the day, Mary-Ann asked all parents of the centre to donate any goods. Mary-Ann attended the March 2008 Club meeting and was presented

with flowers to thank her for her contribution. The Club's thanks go to Sarah for organising the collection and delivery, and to Hon Zon Steve for their hard work on the day, as well as the members, their families, and friends who contributed.

### Supporting Women in Motels

June saw the announcement of the results of the initial trial of the Brisbane Domestic Violence Advisory Centre (BDVAC) project, *Supporting Women in Motels*, which was supported by the Club during the 2006-2007 Zonta year. There were 44 referrals and 32 women "motelled" in the CBD during the first 10 weeks of the project and a total of almost 80 hours of support was provided to the women through agencies such as BDVAC, Women's House, and Murri Sisters. Referrals were made to various health services and agencies such as BRISSC and Gallang Place. No further requests for support had been received at the time of reporting.

### Billums from PNG

Enthusiastic June guest speaker, Monica Otto, returned to PNG after her visit to the Club to arrange for local women to produce billums (carry bags) for the Club to on-sell to members. Coordinated by Julie Mannion, the project produced 15 bags both in natural fibre and in brightly coloured wool. The sale of eight of the bags to members met the cost of production (\$310) and this was returned to the women through Monica. The remaining seven were donated to Save the Children as gifts for women in caravan parks. The net cost to the club of this welcomed gesture was \$7.00.



Allison Tait with some of the colourful wool billums made by women in PNG

### Overview of Service Contributions

The table below lists the contributions made to local service projects in the course of the year in rank order, as well as the contribution of \$32,513.49 to the Zonta International Foundation and the major contribution to the Vanuatu Cervical Cancer project through the *Joie de Vivre* event. Together, they brought the Club's total service contribution for the 2007-2008 Zonta year to \$142,124.89, of which \$51,472.59 went to local or international Zonta projects. A superb result.

<b>Service project/activity</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
Production of Safety Cards (Ipswich Women's Shelter - \$1769.85; reprint for NAADV - \$3552.35)	\$5,322.20
Educational Encouragement Awards	\$3,113.50
Donation to <i>Save the Children</i> for School Readiness Fund, Mobile Playscheme, etc	\$2,000.00
Woman of Achievement awards	\$2,000.00
Indigenous Awards (full cost of one bursary for Semester 2, 2007, and one third of cost of bursaries for two women students at The University of Queensland for Semester 1, 2008)	\$1,666.66
Donation of Avon cosmetics (Christmas gifts for <i>Save the Children</i> women in caravan parks)	\$1,501.85
Purchase of contents for birthing kits and cost of shipment	\$1,375.93
Z-TOPs awards	\$1,175.16
Babette Stephens Memorial Award (proceeds from theatre evening donated directly to fund maintained by QUT)	\$400.00
PNG women's micro-enterprise group (proceeds of sale of billums through Monica Otto)	\$310.00
Wonder Women workshops for migrant/refugee women	\$86.80
Donations of billums to <i>Save the Children</i> women in caravan parks	\$7.00
<b>Total local disbursement</b>	<b>\$18,959.10</b>
<b>Contribution to Zonta International Foundation</b> (one third of funds raised for Zonta in 2007-2008)	<b>\$32,513.49</b>
<b>Total disbursement to Vanuatu Cervical Cancer project</b>	<b>\$90,652.30</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL SERVICE CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>\$142,124.89</b>

The Club's contribution to the Zonta International Foundation was disbursed as follows:

International Service Fund	10,000
Zonta International Strategies to eradicate Violence Against Women and Children (ZISVAW)	10,000
Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund	6,000
Rose Fund	2,513.49
Jane M Klausman Scholarship Fund	2,000
Young Woman in Public Affairs	2,000

## Fundraising

Fundraising events and activities are listed in the table below, ranked by net result. Detailed summaries follow.

<b>Fundraising project/activity</b>	<b>Net result</b>
<i>Joie de Vivre</i> gala evening (Zonta Club of Brisbane share)	\$90,652.30 *
<i>Liz and Friends</i> art show and raffle	\$5,088.30
Salmon sale	\$1,192.50
Auction of Christmas table centrepieces	\$465.00
Theatre evening ( <i>QUT production of Twelfth Night</i> )	\$400.00
Christmas meeting raffle	\$145.50
<b>Contributions from Fellowship, Service &amp; Other Activities</b>	
Sundry – sales of celebration calendars, <i>A Crowning Achievement</i> (co-author Kay Saunders), eggs provided by Sally Watson, vanilla beans & billums from PNG, and donation from Mrs Klein)	\$565.00
Movie night and raffle	\$440.00
Ballet evenings (April 2007 and March 2008)	\$342.00
Woman of Achievement awards and dinner surplus (paid into WOA fund)	\$160.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99,450.60</b>
Other income from <i>Heads and Tails</i> (administration fund)	538.00

\*\$90,652.30 to Vanuatu Cervical Cancer project

Chaired by Susan Plant for the second year in succession, the Fundraising Committee was exceptionally active and committed in 2007-2008 with the result that the Club raised a phenomenal total of almost \$100,000 to benefit our local projects and the Zonta's International Foundation, in addition to facilitating the raising of \$90,652.30 towards the Vanuatu cervical cancer project. A further \$538.00 was contributed to the Club's administration fund through Heads and Tails.

### **Joie de Vivre fundraiser**

The exceptional result for the year was achieved predominantly through *Joie de Vivre*, the French-themed gala cocktail evening held at the new Emporium Hotel in Fortitude Valley on August 2 to raise funds for both Club and ZI service and for the Vanuatu Cervical Cancer project so dear to the heart of Dr Margaret McAdam and Prof Ian Frazer.

The Steering Committee for the event (Bernadette O'Shea, Susan Plant, Susan Young, Lea Greenaway, and Fran Morrison) did a phenomenal amount of work, as did the broader fundraising committee and Treasurer Robyn Currell, with almost every member contributing in some way to the event through working on sub-committees, sourcing or contributing items for the auctions and raffles, or working on the night or in the lead-up to it.



Event sponsor Alastair Lindsay of Singapore Airlines (L), and 2006 Australian of the Year Prof. Ian Frazer (R) and their respective wives

The Steering Committee was very focused and well-organised, establishing three subcommittees (Donations, Guest List and Entertainment, and Finance), developing a carefully-targeted invitation list, designing invitations to reflect the sophistication

of the evening, signing letters of agreement with the Vanuatu Cervical Cancer Treatment Project and with consultant Rosemary Walker, developing a value chain for potential sponsors, establishing a separate bank account, ensuring the required documentation was obtained from various authorities, negotiating tax deductible donations via the Wesley Hospital, and setting up a web log to record and track all donations.

The committee received more than 45 donations of goods or services valued in excess of \$1000 and many more valued from \$200 to \$1000. 12 live auctions and some 75 silent auctions were conducted on the night, as well as two raffles, one at \$20 per ticket with four prizes, and another donated by Singapore Airlines with a prize of two return economy airfares to Paris at \$50 a ticket or 3 for \$100. There were also \$50 and \$100 balloons, each with great prizes, and many people who were unable to come sent donations.

The maximum total of 200 guests was reached and all enjoyed the superb food prepared by the hotel's French chefs, French wines, and quality entertainment, including the Club's own Dina Browne as MC, an orchestra assembled for the occasion by Rhonda Davidson-Irwin, and a can-can performance by students from the Queensland Dance School of Excellence. An atmosphere redolent of the Champs Elysees was created through themed decor, and on departure, every guest received a generous bag of vouchers and samples.



Fundraising Chair, Susan Plant, finalising preparations for the *Joie de Vivre* silent auction

#### **Liz and Friends Art Exhibition**

The work of the Club's silk artist, Liz Heber, and of seven of her artist friends was again showcased very successfully at the Parliamentary Annexe, with a Gala Opening on Friday, October 12 at 6.30 pm, hosted by the Club. PIP Leneen Forde officially opened the exhibition, Judith A. Anderson acted as MC, Rhonda Davidson-Irwin's *Viva la Musica* provided music, and Lynn Stephens (Executive Director of *Save the Children*) praised the support that the Brisbane club has provided for its various projects. Profits from both ticket sales and the accompanying raffle of art works were earmarked for local *Save the Children* projects supported by the Club, including support for women in caravan parks, the Mobile Play Scheme, the Cassandra Weddell Memorial Library, and the School Readiness Fund. The success of the event was due in no small part to the generous 20% contribution made to the Club by the exhibiting artists in exchange for our support. The artists paid generous sales commissions and further major contributions came from sales of raffle and admission tickets. As a result, the event was again a highly successful fundraiser, raising a total of \$5,088.30 to go towards *Save the Children* projects.

#### **Annual Salmon Sale**

The annual pre-Christmas sale of smoked salmon and salmon pearls was again coordinated by Sally Watson and resulted in a total profit of \$1192.50.

#### **Auction of Christmas Table Centre-pieces**

Bernadette O'Shea continued her generous tradition of providing beautiful and desirable Christmas centre-pieces for the tables at the December meeting. Auction of the centre-pieces raised \$465.00 in 2007.

#### **Christmas Meeting Raffle**

The Christmas meeting featured a raffle with first prize of a basket of Nutrimerics products donated by Karen Brady; second prize of a bottle of Emporium wine donated by Bernadette O'Shea; and third prize of a Christmas cake made by raffle organiser, Lea Greenaway. With tickets for \$1 (3 for \$2), the raffle raised \$145.50

#### **QUT Theatre Night**

The Babette Stephens award fund maintained for the Club by QUT was boosted by \$400 through the sale of tickets to the gala performance where the annual award is presented. (*See more details under Service*). Proceeds from this evening are paid directly to QUT.

#### **Sundry fundraising and income**

In addition to events and activities planned specifically as fundraisers, the Club benefits from a range of other Club activities and personal contributions from members. As noted under Fellowship, the two Ballet Evenings during the 2007-2008 year contributed \$342, and the Movie Evening, \$440. In addition, the Woman of Achievement event not only met costs but

resulted in a small surplus of \$160 which has been rolled back into that fund. Sundry other income of \$565 came to the Club during the year through a range of different sources including sales of the Club's *Celebration Calendar* at District Conference, and sales of *A Crowning Achievement*, the history of the Miss Australia quest co-authored by member, Kay Saunders. Sally Watson's now legendary 'girls' also made a valuable contribution, boosting the Club's funds by \$85 through continuing to lay superb eggs. Vanilla beans and billums from PNG were sold on behalf of the small micro-financing project being established in PNG by Monica Otto, raising \$303, and Caroline Heim offered \$5 from every ticket sold to Zontians for *Crossbow Productions'* performance of *Mrs Klein* at Brisbane City Hall on May 4. While few members were able to attend this 'one off' performance, the generosity of spirit behind the offer was greatly appreciated.

### **Heads and Tails**

*Heads and Tails*, conducted at each dinner meeting by Fran Morrison for several years, continued to contribute significantly to administration funds, a total of \$538 being raised in the 2007-2008 financial year, as detailed in the table above,

## **Fellowship and Community Involvement**

### **Evening at La Belle Époque**

Thanks to Bernadette O'Shea, 24 members were able to gather at *La Belle Époque* French bistro at the Emporium Hotel on August 23 to celebrate the success of the *Joie de Vivre* fundraising evening which was held at the same hotel earlier that month. A superb set menu was organised for the occasion by Bernadette.



Sally Anne Atkinson, Susan Young and Rhonda Davidson-Irwin (L to R) at *La Belle Époque*

### **Ballet Evenings**

In the past Zonta year, the Club supported Queensland's State ballet company twice, organising a group booking for one of the Company's *Vis-à-vis* performances at the Thomas Dixon Centre in West End on April 19, 2007, and another on March 27, 2008. A record 40 Zontians and their friends attended the 2007 performance and were given a foretaste of the Company's production of *Carmen* as well as excerpts from family favourite *Alice in Wonderland* and new works by three Company dancers who are developing an interest in choreography. Because the *Vis-à-vis* performances are so popular, it was possible for only 35 seats to be made available for the March 2008 performance and all were sold. The focus of the performance was on *The Little Mermaid* prior to the Company's departure for Japan with the production and the evening was again fleshed out with demonstrations and explanations from Artistic Director, François Klaus. The Club's thanks go to Iris Scott and Sally Watson for organised the catering and to Lea Greenaway who coordinated ticket sales on both occasions. While intended primarily as a fellowship evening, the events resulted in a modest total profit for the Club of \$342.00.

### **Annual Movie Night**

Veronica McLaughlin once again organised a movie night for the Club, this time to see *Clubland* at the Palace Centro cinema in Fortitude Valley on July 10. While primarily a fellowship evening, the event contributed \$440 to the Club's service projects.

### **Woman of Achievement Dinner**

Several Club meetings in the course of the year provided excellent opportunities for fellowship. Key among these was the Woman of Achievement Dinner on November 14. (*See full report under Service and Status of Women*)

### **International Women's Day UNIFEM Breakfast**

Nine Club members attended the 19<sup>th</sup> annual International Women's Day UNIFEM Breakfast on March 6 at the Brisbane Convention Centre (Judith A. Anderson, Judith S. Anderson, Amber Buckland, Helen Chapman, Ailsa Gillies, Fran Morrison, Iris Scott, Ann Shevill, Sally Watson), and a further Club member, Justice Margaret McMurdo, gave the toast to International Women's Day. The guest speakers, Ms Wafa' Abdel Rahman and Ms Ramy Shapira, represented the human face of the brave and determined efforts of Palestinian and Israeli women and others in the International Women's Commission to bring peace to the Middle East. Guests on the Club's two tables included representatives from the Queensland Academy for Creative Industries where the Club is establishing a Z Club, and a range of Hon Zons. The Club's thanks go to Iris Scott who coordinated the bookings on behalf of the Club.

### **Wonder Woman workshop**

The long-awaited *Wonder Woman* workshop at Grovely TAFE was enthusiastically attended by Margaret Ferguson, Lea Greenaway, Barbara Murray, Ann Trezise, Jennifer West, Judith A. Anderson, Christine Maclean, and Rhyl Row. The workshop was organised by Annette McFarlane, and the fees paid by Zonta participants contributed all but \$86.80 of the course costs for six disadvantaged migrant / refugee women. The balance of the fees was paid by the Club as a minor service project, giving these women not only the skills to work with power tools and to undertake basic repairs and construction around the home, but greater confidence and self-esteem. The garden benches assembled by the Zontians are now proudly displayed in homes around Brisbane.



Margaret Ferguson, Wonder Woman

### **Christmas Celebration**

The final meeting of the calendar year is always highly anticipated for the fellowship opportunities it offers. The meeting on December 5, 2007, was no exception with entertainment provided by Rhonda Davidson-Irwin and two students from the Queensland Academy for Creative Industries, as well as a fun activity organised by Caroline Heim, a successful debut by Julie Nobbs as Auctioneer of the festive table centre-pieces, and a Christmas raffle organised by Lea Greenaway.

### **Cassandra Weddell Memorial Lecture**

QUT's biennial Cassandra Weddell Memorial Lecture in honour of former QUT early childhood educator and Brisbane club member, Cassandra Weddell, was presented on May 23 during Under Eights Week by Dr Robin Sullivan, Director-General of the Department of Child Safety, at QUT's Institute for Health and Biomedical Innovation. Five members (Gail Rienstra, Sarah Comiskey, Rhonda Davidson-Irwin, Shirley McCorkindale, and Judith A. Anderson) attended to hear Dr Sullivan's topic, *Investing in the Early Years*. Dr Sullivan drew attention to alarming trends worldwide, with children being subjected to the whims of adult priorities, many of them never recovering the losses suffered through physical, psychological, or emotional neglect or abuse. While the statistics and images were alarming, it was encouraging to hear of the early intervention programs and strategies that have been put in place in Queensland. The Club's thanks go to Julie Mannion for continuing to act as liaison with QUT to ensure that members are kept aware of this important commemorative event.

### **Southside Education Centre**

Margaret McMurdo, Leneen Forde, Gail Rienstra, Jennifer Thomson and Judith A. Anderson attended a dinner at Parliament House on June 14 to help raise funds to enable *Search Light Inc.* (the community support organisation for Southside Education) to continue to provide a crèche for the young mothers at Southside Education Centre. Margaret is the School's Patron, and the school is one of those which we support through our Education Encouragement Awards. The highlights of the evening were the speeches presented by past and present students and a play devised and presented by the students about their own experience.

## **District 24 and Area 3 Events**

### **District Conference**

The final Conference for District 24 was held from September 7 to 9 at the Gold Coast and was attended by eight Brisbane club members - Jennifer West, Julie Mannion, Ann Trezise, Rhyl Row, Judith S. Anderson, Jan Delpratt, Leneen Forde, and Mary Magee.

The most important of the motions put to the conference was "that District 24 be divided into two Districts at the Queensland/New South Wales border and that the division take effect from the 2008-2010 Biennium (i.e., immediately post Convention 2008) and that the funds of the District be divided on a pro rata basis based on membership as at 31 January 2008".

The motion needed to be put to the members again because the dates specified in the original motion passed via the April 2006 postal ballot could no longer apply. The motion was put forward to Conference by the District Board with the full *in principle* support of the International Board.

Club Delegates to the conference were Ann Trezise and Rhyl Row, and Alternates were Jennifer West and Julie Mannion. The Club's thanks is due to them for their commitment to attending all business sessions and ensuring the Club's voice was heard, particularly on this important matter which affects the future growth and development of Zonta in Australia.

Amber Buckland prepared an excellent display on the Safety Cards project for Conference and the Club operated a stall where celebration calendars, PNG billums, and Liz Heber's silk art were available for sale or order.



Ann Trezise, Jan Delpratt and Judith S. Anderson at District Conference

### **Area Workshops**

The 2007 Combined Area 3/5 Workshop on April 1, 2007, narrowly squeaked into the 2007-2008 reporting period, as did the 2008 Workshop hosted by the Noosa Club at the other end of the year on March 17, 2008.

*Working Together in 2007* was held at Brookwater Golf Club, just west of Brisbane, with the theme of developing relationships within and between clubs. *Zonta Hot Topics!* at Noosa included excellent presentations on Human Trafficking. Allison Tait, Ann Shevill, Rhyl Row, Susan Plant and Judith A. Anderson were privileged to be there to hear Sally Cameron from the Zonta Club of Noosa and Sr Pauline Coll, the Chair of the Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans.

The 2008 workshop also provided an excellent opportunity for members to be fully briefed by District Governor-elect, Vicki Varthas, on the forthcoming establishment of District 22.

## **Newsletter and Public Relations**

Produced by President Judith A. Anderson, the newsletter is distributed to all but four Club members electronically. Beth Wilson continues to provide a vital link to those members not contactable by e-mail by printing out and posting the newsletter and other material to them each month.

The newsletter is also distributed by e-mail to all clubs in Areas 3 and 5 as well as Area Director, Janet Mitchell, and District Governor, Patricia Lawson.

## **Member Honours**

The special Griffith University ceremony on June 21 to award Honorary Doctorates to three distinguished musicians associated with The Queensland Conservatorium turned out to be a very Zonta Club of Brisbane affair, with one member (Leneen Forde AC, as University Chancellor) presenting another member (Prof. **Jan Delpratt**) with an Honorary Doctorate in the presence of a third member (Justice Margaret McMurdo, in the official party as a member of the Griffith University Council) and 14 other members of the Club in the audience.

**Sallyanne Atkinson AO**, received a Doctor of the University *honoris causa* from her *alma mater*, The University of Queensland, on July 20, 2007.

**Mary Magee** was also awarded an honorary doctorate by her original university, QUT, at QUT's Science graduation ceremony on February 5, 2008, in recognition of her contribution to the community and the pharmacy profession, and her work in helping to establish the pharmacy degree at QUT. Mary was also awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday honours list on June 11, 2007 for "service to pharmacy, and to the community, particularly through roles supporting the advancement of women".



Justice **Margaret McMurdo** was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in the Queen's Birthday honours list on June 11, 2007 "for service to the law and judicial administration in Queensland, particularly in the areas of legal education and women's issues, to the support of a range of legal organisations, and to the community".

Then Premier, Peter Beattie, presented **Leneen Forde AC** with her award as a Queensland Great on June 1 in a ceremony in Brisbane's Roma Street Parklands. Leneen was joined by four other prominent Queenslanders - former tennis champion Ashley Cooper (a winner of eight grand slam titles in the 1950s), Doug Hall (the outgoing director of the Queensland Art Gallery), Sir Leo Hielscher (Under-Treasurer in the Queensland government and chair of the Queensland Treasury Corporation Commission during a public service career spanning more than 40 years), and University of Queensland Vice Chancellor, Professor John Hay. Previous "greats" named since the accolade was launched seven years ago include golfer Greg Norman, Broncos rugby league team coach Wayne Bennett, actor Geoffrey Rush, and Professor Ian Frazer.

## The Zonta Club of Brisbane Inc.

Charter date: 1 October, 1971  
Club Number: 24-03-0680 (District 24, Area 3, Club No 680)  
ABN: 47 885 713610

### History

The Zonta Club of Brisbane was sponsored by the Zonta Club of Toronto One when Canadian Zontian Dorothy Thompson came to Brisbane to form the first Zonta Club in Queensland.

The Charter Dinner was held at the old Lennons Hotel in Brisbane on October 21, 1971, with 28 charter members. The International President-elect at the time, Harriette Yeckel of Missouri, USA, presented the charter.

### Postal address

GPO Box 1768, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia 4001

### Meetings

*Board* Last Wednesday every month, except December.  
*Club* First Wednesday every month, except January  
Venue: United Service Club, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane  
Time: 6:30pm for 7:00pm  
*AGM* May each year

## **Appendix A**

### **Zonta Club of Brisbane Awards and Projects**

The Zonta Club of Brisbane conducts community service primarily through a series of well-established awards and projects, many of them established in the memory of former Club members to acknowledge their passion for and commitment to particular causes during their lifetime.

#### **The Cassandra Weddell Memorial Children's Library**

Cassandra Weddell was inducted as a Zontian in February 2002 and immediately demonstrated her commitment to Zonta's ideals through her energy and hard work. She was elected to the Board in her first year of membership and in her brief time with the Club, charmed everyone with her humour and zest for life. She died in February 2003, aged 41.

Cassandra was an educator and passionate advocate for the rights of children. To honour her memory and commitment, the Club created the Cassandra Weddell Memorial Children's Library. The Library collection is housed at the Women's Prison where children up to school age are permitted to remain with their mothers.

Managed by Save the Children (Queensland), the collection is funded for on-going expansion and maintenance through a dedicated investment account. An original amount of over \$10,000 was donated from Cassandra's estate by Michael Drum and from donations collected in lieu of flowers at the time of Cassandra's death. The account is supplemented from time to time by further donations and by service funds raised by the Club.

Several publishers and book retailers have donated books to the collection and the books are covered to ensure that their condition is preserved.

Book plates acknowledging Cassandra's work for children are pasted on the inside front covers of the books.

The collection currently holds over 1000 titles.

#### **Dr Helen Row Zonta International Memorial Prize**

Dr Helen Row was a Charter Member of the Zonta Club of Brisbane and a pioneer in the field of child psychiatry in Queensland. Her name is known and respected throughout the Zonta world for her practical contribution to the growth of the organisation.

After Helen retired, she committed herself to Zonta by organising new clubs. From 1977 until her death on December 24, 1987, she was instrumental in the formation of 12 Queensland clubs, from Cairns to Coolangatta.

A memorial fund was established in 1992 by the Zonta Club of Brisbane in conjunction with the University of Queensland to commemorate her contribution to child psychiatry.

The prize is maintained from the original \$30,000 fund subscribed by her former colleagues and friends to honour her name and further the objectives to which she was personally committed.

Recipients are selected by the Head of the School of Medicine after consultation with the Heads of Department of Paediatrics and Child Health and Psychiatry and the President of the Zonta Club of Brisbane. The Prize is open to people affiliated with UQ in a research role or as a student or staff member.

The prize is awarded for the best essay, published work, proposed research plan or outline of another activity which promotes the treatment or prevention of mental health problems including psychiatric and behavioural problems, in childhood and adolescence.

Recipients outline their work at a presentation to the Zonta Club of Brisbane at a Club meeting. This is followed by presentation of the Prize and a certificate.

The inaugural Prize was awarded in 1997 to Dr Susan Wilson, a psychiatry student. Subsequent winners include: Dr Gwen Roberts of the Trauma Stress and Loss Group; Karen Turner for her work in developing the Positive Parenting Program for preventive interventions in families with problems; Dr Margaret (Jane) Turner for her research into the impact on adolescent children when cancer occurs/recurs in a parent; Dr James Scott for his research into the causes of hallucinations, specifically hearing voices, in adolescents; Dr Robert King for research into the effectiveness of assistance measures such as *Kids Helpline* in the prevention of adolescent suicide; and Professor Sue Spence and Dr Jeanie Sheffield for their research paper *Preventing Adolescent Depression: An Evaluation of the Problem Solving for Life Program*.

The winner in 2005 was Erminia Colucci for her comparative research into suicide in Australia, Italy, and India. No award was made in 2006 or 2007.

The rules were changed in 2007 to preclude the same candidate from winning the award more than once.

## **Educational Encouragement Awards**

Statistical data indicate that the employment prospects of young women are affected by (a) their level of schooling, (b) their level of literacy, (c) the subjects studied, and (d) access to university education. They also indicate that if a university education is gained it is more likely to be in a traditional female field (arts, humanities, social work), and that, once a university education has been gained, women are still likely to earn less than men, regardless of the occupation (OESR 1999).

To address these trends and the impact they have on the status of women in our society, the Zonta Club of Brisbane in 2000 introduced Educational Encouragement Awards. These awards are for selected female students in schools identified by Education Queensland as disadvantaged.

The Awards aim to provide encouragement to financially disadvantaged young women in years 10 and 11; encourage young women to enter atypical professions (e.g. biology, archaeology, environmental sciences); improve the status of younger women in educational institutions and in society at large; and introduce young women and the wider community to the aims and goals of Zonta.

The Awards consist of a voucher valued at \$200 for one Year 11 student in each school, and \$150 for one Year 10 student in each school. The voucher is redeemable at their school book supplier/ book exchange or equipment supplier for the hire or purchase of text books or equipment required for study in the following academic year. On the recommendation of a cross-section of school Principals, no cash prizes are to be given directly to the students.

A certificate of recognition and information about Zonta is presented at their school awards ceremonies, and a representative of the Zonta Club of Brisbane is customarily invited to present the Awards to the winners.

Selection is made by the School principal or his/her nominee/s in accordance with criteria determined by the Club, viz. the students must be enrolled in Year 10 or Year 11 at a designated disadvantaged secondary school or other accredited program (e.g. Albert Park Flexi-School) within the Brisbane metropolitan region; must demonstrate sound academic progress in the view of the school Principal or his/her nominee/s; and must demonstrate participation in cultural and / or community activities.

By the end of the 2006 Zonta year, a total of 65 awards had been presented since the project commenced, assisting girls in nine different schools (Bundamba SHS, Glenala SHS, Mabel Park SHS, Shailer Park SHS, Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre, Aboriginal and Islander Independent Community School, Southside Education Centre, Earnshaw College, and Kingston College Adult Education Centre).

During 2007, the scheme was extended to two primary schools (St Brendan's at Moorooka and Grovely State Primary) to assist disadvantaged girls in making the transition to secondary school. The scheme was also extended to making smaller payments for four students at the Kingston College Adult Education Centre.

By the end of the 2007-2008 Zonta year, the total number of awards over the life of the project had reached 83 and the total number of schools which have benefited had reached 11.

## **The Babette Stephens Memorial Award**

This Award honours the memory of charter member and inaugural Club President, Babette Stephens AM MBE, who was a distinguished actress and Brisbane theatre personality. She joined the Brisbane Repertory Theatre in 1930, launching a 40-year career as performer, director, and administrator. During her career, she appeared in or directed numerous performances, hosted talkback radio, and appeared regularly in film and television. She died in 2000 at the age of 90.

In 2002, charter member Ann Shevill gave a personal donation of \$5,000 in Babette's memory and this was added initially to the Woman of Achievement funds so that the 2003 recipients of that award ('Pink Twins' Moyia and Dorothy O'Brien) were called the Babette Stephens Women of Achievement.

However, in 2004, the Club decided to establish the Babette Stephens Memorial Award. Also in that year, a painting by Liz Heber, donated by her in Babette's memory, raised \$500 for the Club at the *Liz and Friends* art show. The \$5,000 donated by Ann Shevill and the \$500 raised through Liz Heber's donation formed the basis of the funds for the Award. Set up as an annual award, it is administered for the Zonta Club of Brisbane by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Alumni and Development Services under guidelines set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Under this MOU, the Club is committed to funding the Award for at least five years to commemorate Babette's legacy to the performing arts and to further the objectives to which she was personally committed. The Award acknowledges and rewards a talented, second-year acting student at QUT. The criteria for selection are that the winner will have demonstrated a professional attitude and exemplary work ethic in classes, rehearsals, and performances during second year productions, as well as a consistently high standard of performance skills.

The selection panel consists of three staff from QUT's Creative Industries Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting), and a representative of the Zonta Club of Brisbane. The winning candidate is presented with the Award at a QUT Alumni Theatre evening to which members of the Zonta Club of Brisbane are offered special ticket prices so that the evening raises funds for the Award.

Each Award winner receives a certificate and a cheque for \$1,000 drawn from the funds held by QUT. The balance is held in trust by QUT in the QUT Gift Fund, and interest earned (\$496.82 in the year to March 31, 2007) rolls back into the Award fund. The fund was further boosted in 2006 by a donation of \$5,000 from Shirley King with the result that retained funds at March 31, 2007 were \$11,037.20.

The inaugural recipient of the Award in 2004 was Tanya Heywood, followed in 2005 by Danielle Jackson, Miyuki Lotz in 2006, and Gemma Yates-Round in 2007.

### ***The Zonta Women of Achievement Award (W.O.A)***

The award was established in 1981 to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Zonta Club of Brisbane. Its aim was to improve the status of women by recognising excellence and endeavour by women in a diversity of fields. The award is open to all women (18+) who demonstrate significant achievement and/or potential for further achievement. Zontians and their immediate families are excluded.

Initially presented annually, the award has been presented approximately every two years since 1987. A total of 14 awards has now been presented: Prof. Marilyn McMenamin (2007), Hetty Johnson, founder of *Bravehearts* (2005), Moyia and Dorothy O'Brien of the Sunshine Welfare and Remedial Association (2003); speech pathologist and founder of *Hear & Say*, Dimity Dornan (2001); Opera Queensland CEO, Suzannah Conway (1998); disability rights advocate, Penny Harland (1996); composer Mary Mageau (1991); Fay Cottrell of the Spastic Welfare League (1989); investment advisor Virginia Dowd (1987); artist Caroline Barker (1986); fashion designer Keri Craig (1985); architect Patrice Derrington (1984); and Inara Svalbe, founder of the Australian Youth Ballet (1983).

In addition to the major award, one or more Encouragement Awards have also been presented in most years. In 2007, Encouragement Awards were presented to Alissa Philipps and Jean Madden.

During the Presidency of Leneen Forde, the Club devoted one year of their fundraising to this project, and the interest on the \$10,000 collected has funded the award since. At the conclusion of the 2007 awards, W.O.A funds stood at c. \$ 12,689.07.

In 1987, the Club asked their past presidents to act as a committee to look after the organisation of the Women of Achievement Award. This involves publicity, shortlisting of candidates, and deciding the winner/s. All members are encouraged to nominate applicants for the award.

The awards (\$1000 for the winner and \$500 for each Encouragement Award) are presented on an appropriate occasion during the Zonta year. Since 1996, winners have also received a statuette created by former member, sculptor Catharina Hampson, valued at \$800.

### **The Zonta Bursary for Australian Indigenous Women Students**

Established in 2004 as a joint initiative of the Brisbane and Brisbane Breakfast Clubs, this project was extended in 2006 to include Brisbane South.

Each year, it provides \$2,000 in financial support to each of three female indigenous students at the University of Queensland (UQ).

The bursaries grew out of collaboration between the Brisbane and Brisbane Breakfast clubs, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit at UQ.

Applicants must have successfully completed at least one year of study towards a degree course in their chosen field, and representatives from the Unit shortlist candidates for interview.

The three clubs have committed themselves to funding three bursaries each year for a period of five years from 2005 to 2009 (incl.). The funds committed to the project by the Brisbane Club are drawn from the Club's Jean Rialland Fund which was established through a bequest donated to the Club by Fran Morrison in memory of her late relative, Jean Rialland. The Brisbane Breakfast and Brisbane South clubs commit funds from their fundraising activities.

Jackie Huggins (Deputy Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies at UQ) together with Zontians Fran Morrison and Jennifer West (Brisbane Club) and Lisa Lombardi (Brisbane Breakfast Club) formed the first award selection panel. Erin Bethel and Tanya Baskerville were selected as the inaugural winners in 2005, and were presented with their awards at a joint meeting of the two Clubs held at the United Service Club in March 2005.

In August, 2005, Brisbane Breakfast hosted a Champagne Breakfast at the Polo Club to present the second tranche of the bursary to Erin and Tanya. Members of the Brisbane club were invited to attend.

In September 2005, meetings were held with Michael Williams (Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies at UQ) to discuss the format for selection of the 2006 winners. As a result, a panel of members of both Clubs was set up, to be chaired by either Michael or Jackie Huggins.

In November that year, the panel selected Carol Christopherson and Katherine Williams as the winners of the 2006 awards and members of the Brisbane club joined Brisbane Breakfast at their March meeting in 2006 for the award presentation.

Interviews for the 2007 awards were held in November 2006. Jennifer West represented the Brisbane club, Nerolie Wallace represented Brisbane Breakfast, and Maureen Ward represented Brisbane South whose involvement was welcomed for the first time. Chaired by Jackie Huggins, the panel chose Karina Hall (Bachelor of Social Work, commenced 2004), Lorena Spangen (Bachelor of Environmental Management, commenced 2006), and Sarah Bligh (Bachelor of Psychological Science, commenced 2006) as the 2007 winners.

The three winners, representatives of the ATSI unit, and representatives of the Brisbane Breakfast and Brisbane South clubs were invited to the December meeting of the Brisbane club for the award presentation. In addition, Brisbane Breakfast and Brisbane South held a combined meeting at the Polo Club on March 2 to introduce the students to their members.

Of the three candidates chosen for the 2008 awards, one was later ineligible because of transfer to QUT. The presentation of the 2008 awards was hosted by Brisbane South on November 14, 2007.

#### LIST OF WINNERS

2005	Erin Bethel, Tanya Baskerville
2006	Carol Christopherson, Katherine Williams
2007	Karina Hall, Lorena Spangen, Sarah Bligh
2008	Rhiann Sue See, Mareshah Bowie

## Safety Cards

26% of the Australian population under the age of 18 (46% in indigenous communities) has experienced family violence; there were 14, 200 applications for protection orders under the act in the 2001-2002 financial year; in 1998-1999, a survey of 5000 young people indicated that 12% had witnessed assault.

In response to these statistics, the Zonta Club of Brisbane in 2001 embarked on a long-term project to help reduce the incidence of family violence in the greater Brisbane area.

The project involved designing and printing credit-card sized cards listing emergency numbers and services for women escaping domestic violence, and distributing the cards through relevant agencies. The card is a discreet tangible resource which is both empowering and reassuring as a source of information and a link to safety for women and children escaping domestic violence.

The cards were first produced in 2001 for distribution through the Northside Alliance Against Domestic Violence (NAADV) which works out of the Nundah Community Centre in close collaboration with local police.

A second edition of the Safety Card was produced for NAADV in 2003 and launched during Domestic Violence Prevention Week.

In the same year, using the same template and production process which had been refined through the two NAADV editions, the Club produced a specific edition for BRISSC (Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors' Support Centre) which serves Brisbane's southern suburbs.

With northern and southern districts of Brisbane covered, the Club in 2006 set about identifying an agency in the eastern suburbs with which it could work to develop an edition specific to those suburbs. *Maybanke Accommodation and Crisis Support Services* was chosen and the cards were launched in late 2006.

In December 2006, the Club agreed to fund production of an edition of the card to be developed in collaboration with the Ipswich Women's Shelter, in order to extend the cards to the Western suburbs. This project was finalised in 2007.

In 2007, this was followed by developing an edition of the card specifically for indigenous women through Murri Sisters Inc. This project was finalised in 2008.

Support for NAADV has continued throughout this time with the Club agreeing to fund a third edition in late 2006. Payment was made to NAADV for this edition during the 2007-2008 Zonta year.

The project has also produced a number of valuable spin-offs. First, the police service, recognising the value of the cards, has contributed significantly to the reprints for NAADV. Second, the obvious value of the cards led to the Club producing 10,000 leaflets in English and a further 10,000 in Tok Pisin for distribution in PNG in 2004 to combat domestic violence. Third, the southside safety card project grew into support for BRISSC's CRUISE project (Creative Resources for Understanding Issues of Self Harm) in 2006.

Eventually it is hoped that, having been established by the Brisbane club, the individual projects will become self-supporting as the agencies are able to demonstrate the effectiveness of the resource when making approaches to various sources for funding. Indeed the burden on the Northside Alliance has been reduced significantly by the production of cards by an agency in Caboolture, and the Brisbane Club hopes that other Zonta clubs in the Greater Brisbane Area will take up support of the projects begun by the Brisbane club.

The Safety Cards fulfil one of the core objectives of Zonta and have proven to be one of the Club's most worthwhile and far-reaching projects in recent years, with the benefit being felt by, quite literally, thousands of women and at least one known instance of a life being saved directly by the card.

## **Z-TOPs**

The Z-TOPs concept was first developed in March 2006 by member Ann Trezise as a partnership between the Zonta Club of Brisbane and the Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre, to enhance young women's opportunities to access TAFE and other courses.

The rationale behind the project was that many young women identify TAFE or other short courses that will increase their employment opportunities or support their career pathways, but are unable to access these programs because of the financial costs associated with up-front registration fees.

The partnership aims to support young women's access to these courses by assisting with the financial costs of courses. The program may be used to support a young woman's transition from the Albert Park community into tertiary education, or to enhance the young woman's current study load, or to increase the incentive for young women to complete yrs 11 and 12.

The process of preparing an application, addressing selection criteria and interview was designed to develop life-long skills in these areas. Young women are required to identify how the TAFE course, or other short course, fits with her career and work plans, and to be eligible, must face financial barriers to accessing the course. The young women then provide a plan, outlining how they intend to contribute towards the cost of the course and evidence of how they will accommodate the course into her study and life schedule. Applications are initially screened and provisionally ranked by one of the workers from the Centre. An interview panel consisting of one or two Zonta members and two representatives from the Centre is then convened for one afternoon to conduct 15 minute interviews/conversations with each short-listed applicant to discuss her plans and application. The Interview Panel ranks the short-listed applications in order of merit and applications are funded in rank order until the available budget is allocated.

The Zonta Club of Brisbane allocates a budget of \$2000 per annum to the project. Funds are paid to the Centre and kept as the Zonta-TOPs fund to support the scheme. When a young woman's application has been approved, a cheque is made out to the relevant institution by the Centre from the Zonta-TOPs fund.

Awards are presented as part of the Centre's annual awards ceremony and, at the end of each year, the Centre provides a report to the Zonta Club of Brisbane, identifying which students were supported, the value of each award, and the TAFE or other short course funded.

In November 2007, the scheme was extended to the Kingston College Adult Education Centre and the inaugural awards were made to Chantelle Marie Young and Jenna Bartlem. No awards had been made at the Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre by the end of the 2007-2008 Zonta year, but contact had been renewed and the program reinvigorated.



*Barbara Murray and Lea Greenaway test their newly assembled 'Wonder Woman' bench*