

Zonta Club of Wynnum Redland  
Area 3, District 22.  
Charter Date 25 Sept, 1981



Zonta Club of  
Wynnum Redland Inc.  
*Member of Zonta International*

# April 2014

## **A note from our President—Philippa Fenwick**

Well April is now upon us, and of course Easter is coming up next week. I hope everyone has got something enjoyable planned for the Easter break.

Our Garage Sale is also then not far away—I hope everyone has started collecting!

As in the past, we will be setting up Friday afternoon in readiness for Saturday morning so volunteers will be needed!

The International conference is coming up in June in Orlando and of course our District Governor Elect—Judith Trevan-Hawke will be attending—both in her capacity of her new role and as the delegate for our club. It will be great to hear all about the conference from Judith when it is over.

See you all at the meeting.

Philippa

## **At our next meeting:**

Next dinner meeting is on tonight 10th March.

Please advise Gail Abbott of any apologies—phone 3849 3995. Failure to apologise if unable to attend will incur full cost of dinner.

Reminder of new cost is \$32.00

Also a reminder to all that membership fees are due in May—the fees are \$150

## World News of interest:

Below is a story about a lady named Claudine Umuhoza—Claudine is a survivor of the Rwandan Genocide.

Two decades after the massacre—during which almost one million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus lost their lives, most Rwandans are still coping with the trauma of the violence. Most affected are women who have children born of genocidal rape. It is estimated that between 100,000 and 250,000 women were raped in Rwanda during the genocide. Claudine, who lives in Gasabo district near the Rwandan capital, was only 23 when a plane carrying the Rwandan President was shot down over Rwanda's capital Kigali on April 6 1994. During the conflict that ensued, she was raped by seven men—one of whom stabbed her in the stomach with a machete. She was left to die, lying on the floor. Claudine survived only because a Hutu neighbour helped her escape to safety and gave her a fake Hutu identity card.

She lost 4 brothers and other family members in the massacre. Now 43, Claudine is infected with HIV and has not yet told her son of the origins of his birth —the child born as a result of the rape. "I have not been able to disclose to my son how he was born. My son does not know. I got married in September 1994, after the genocide ended. I was pregnant when I married and after giving birth my husband realised the child born was not his. He didn't accept this and as a result he left home." She has never remarried. Rape is a taboo subject in Rwanda's society.

According to the Director of Foundation Rwanda, an organisation who is providing educational assistance to children such as Claudine's son, " a disproportionate number of the women who were raped were also infected by HIV. The exact infection rate was not known but it is estimated that 25 percent of the country's women are living with HIV". According to the government, women comprise the majority, 51.8% of this country's population of 11.5 million. However, antiretroviral treatment only became widely available here 10 years ago and is accessible through the national healthcare system.

Twenty years after the genocide, the country has not been able to forget its past. There is still stigma and discrimination against Tutsis, particularly in rural and isolated areas where they are very much a minority. According to a national survey, at least 40% of Rwandans across the country say they still fear a new wave of genocide.

Claudine's son is now in secondary school, she hopes that one day he can go to university to fulfil his dreams of becoming a doctor. Claudine is now only able to perform light housework duties due to her ill health as a result of the machete wound.

### **Commission on the Status of Women:**

Zonta was well represented at the CSW at UN Headquarters in New York—overall 30 Zontians (including 3 Board Members, 4 Governors & 7 International Committee Chairmen) and Zonta staff joined thousands of women and men. This level of interest & participation, especially in the efforts to advance the status of women worldwide, is inspiring and brings us one step closer to that perfect world.

**Date Claimers:**

April 14—Monthly Dinner Meeting

April 28—Board Meeting

May 10—Garage Sale

June 27—ZI Convention, Orlando, Florida