



ZONTA

CLUB OF
BRISBANE METRO
BREAKFAST INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

December 2015



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER BRISBANE METRO BREAKFAST CLUB

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Board members
2015-2016

Michelle Baran
President

Leida Pirts
Vice-President

Julie Blair
Secretary

Tricia Walker
Treasurer

Ruth McKeown
Correspondence

Directors
Leanne O'Shea
Ruth Wildin
Isabelle Torralba
Glenda Alexander

At the end of a busy year, it is a good opportunity to reflect on the activities of the year. Thanks to our newsletter coordinator, Glenda, who has reinvigorated our newsletters. Looking back, we have had a very busy 2015 with events and / or fundraising activities nearly every month. We should all congratulate ourselves for what we have achieved over the year. We have disbursed almost \$17,000 to needy causes which is a great effort from such a small club. It is only with the support from members that we are able to achieve all that we do.

Since our last newsletter, we have been busy with:

- . District Conference attended by Leida, Trish, and Elaine (noting Elaine was elected as Area 3 Director)
- . Zonta on a Stick organised by Ruth McKeon and sold at the District Conference by Leida and Trish
- . OctoBRAzaar – again, well organised by Ruth McKeown
- . November Sewing Bee held at Karen's place
- . Zonta Says NO Walk organised by Leida
- . Christmas Breakfast organised by Ruth, Glenda, and Jo

There was also a fellowship event attended by many of our members to see the musical Ladies in Black. It looked like a fun night. We plan to hold another one or two of these fellowship-type events again next year. A special thanks to Ruth. As seen above, Ruth organised many of this year's events.

We have struggled this year, on occasions, to achieve a quorum at meetings. This has hampered our ability to make decisions in a timely manner due largely to a number of members on "Leave of Absence". We resolved at our planning meeting to review the club's constitution in the New year, hopefully to alleviate some of this pain.

I would also like to mention that two of our long-term club members, Elaine and Amena, and two of our newer members, Chris and Leigh, will be leaving us to join the almost chartered Zonta Club of Brisbane City Heart. It will be sad to see them go, but we should look forward to the exciting opportunities to collaborate with the new club on our activities in the future. The new club has been visioned with the ideal of maintaining a close relationship with our club. I look forward to seeing what this might deliver in the coming year.

Finally, in closing, I'd like to send out the club's best wishes to Alana as she continues with her treatment for breast cancer. Knowing someone close to the club who is affected really puts into perspective just how valuable and appreciated the Zonta breast cushions are to women in the same situation. We successfully increased our output of breast cushions this year by holding sewing bees every two months.

I hope everyone has a good Christmas and New Year break and comes back invigorated for a busy 2016!

Postal Address: PO Box 15524 City East QLD 4002

Charter Number: 1624





ADVOCACY

Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Walk

On Sunday, 6 December, during Zonta International's 16 days of Activism, club members, friends, and canine companions walked 5 km from Southbank Parklands and back via the Victoria Bridge, Women's Suffrage sites in the CBD, Botanical Gardens, and the Goodwill Bridge. Club members wore the distinctive "Zonta says NO" shirts.



District 22 Conference. Airlie Beach, 9-11 October 2015

Leida officially represented the club at the District Conference. The conference theme was "Empowering Women with Conviction, Commitment, Courage". The club's "Zonta on a Stick" memory cards were popular and sold well - Leanne's great idea and Ruth's realisation of that idea.

The sober issue of an ageing and declining membership was one of the conference's topics. This was balanced by inspirational stories and messages from women of all ages.

Elaine Harrington successfully nominated for the position of Area 3 Director. Congratulations Elaine.



FELLOWSHIP

Ladies in Black theatre night, 2 December

Club members attended Tim Finn's musical "Ladies in Black" at QPAC where they were given an informative pre-show backstage tour.

Club members can now be heard singing the show's signature song: "He's a bastard, a bastard, a standard issue bastard, a bastard coming home half plastered, I don't know how it's lasted..." Yes, you had to be there.





FELLOWSHIP



December Breakfast Meeting, 2 December

The club's December breakfast meeting is used as an opportunity to enjoy a relaxed meal and to celebrate the year. This year's meeting was held at the beautiful Inchcolm Hotel. Business matters were quickly dispatched to make way for good food and fellowship - as well as Secret Santa, the lucky "chair" prize, and an opportunity for everyone to anonymously share the things for which we are thankful.

SERVICE

Breast Cushion Sewing Bee



Karen hosted the November breast cushion sewing bee in her home at Sherwood. Almost 30 beautiful, pink cushions were completed for women receiving treatment for breast cancer.

From time to time, we receive lovely emails from grateful recipients who take the time to write to us during their often arduous treatment. The following is a recent example:

"...thank you for the lovely pillow I received following my mastectomy...I wanted you to know that both the gesture and the practicality of the pillow have made a great difference".





FUNDRAISING



Are those bras on that fence?



Cheers

OctoBRAzaar, 31 October

Ruth again hosted the annual event that focuses on raising funds for organisations that support women with breast cancer.

This year's OctoBRAzaar was suitably crazy with a couple of new treats. There was the usual "donate a bra" and fence decorating, Bra Pong where no talent or skill is required, and the highly competitive Bra fascinator making competition. As well as these usual suspects, there was the BOOBoir Bazaar where attendees could buy classy clothes and accessories for a song, and the Cocktail BRA where the daring could purchase one of Ruth's lethal cocktails.

Funds raised, leftover clothes from the BOOBoir Bazaar, and donated bras were given to Be Uplifted, a small organisation that punches above its weight in terms of improving the lives of women and families experiencing difficulty or disadvantage as a consequence of breast cancer.



Ruth presenting Wendy Paterson of Be Uplifted with a cheque for \$1,330.00.

Postscript:
 Judy, Be Uplifted's Secretary, wore the Bra fascinator that she made to her work's Melbourne Cup function. She won a \$50.00 gift voucher for wearing the "most absurd" hat. Congratulations Judy!





FUNDRAISING



Wine Dozens

Thanks go to Isobelle for organising wine dozens in time for Christmas. The wines included a lovely sparkling French wine. A total of 19 dozen bottles of wine were purchased for an approximate net profit of \$800.00.



Young Parents Program

In October the club donated \$1,000.00 to the Young Parents Program (Encircle). Anne Castles, Young Parents Worker, wrote to thank the members and to let us know exactly how these funds will be spent - to purchase 30 pamper packs for new mothers. These young mothers are aged between 14 and 21 when they have their first baby and many don't have much family support. Our funds will help the organisation to provide a simple, heart felt gift at a vulnerable time. The packs contain new baby items and pamper items for the new mothers. Information about support services is also included as well as any other new, donated items such as baby books.

DATE CLAIMER

The club's first breakfast meeting for 2016 will be held at 7.00 am on Wednesday, 3 February at the United Services Club.

