

JANET

I have such fond memories of Janet, in her enviably high heels, striding with energy and purpose into committee and general meetings, often late, often wearing her trademark little perky hat, always with a smile, always welcoming. Janet really embodied the empowered Zonta business woman having had many successful years in business and still heavily involved in her organic food business. She always attended the women in business events and organized a couple of women's business lunches for Zonta and was very well known in Airlie's business community.

Her innate kindness and desire to help others led her to join our Zonta club in 2008. She was involved in advocacy, her special interest, for many years and was a director for a couple of years. She was forthright in discussion with definite ideas and an inquiring mind. Always innovative, she was not fond of following rules or process but always keen to get involved. She introduced the idea of birthing kits into Hamilton Island working closely with Wendy to make it happen. In her latest email to me, she was keen to get Zonta acquainted with the "safe night bus service" implemented by a couple of Airlie business women. Her interest in domestic violence was demonstrated by her connections with WCCS with whom she often worked on events such as Reclaim the Night and DV month, suggesting ideas and strategies. She initiated Zonta's involvement with a hugely successful WCCS info night at AB Hotel last May to teach local business owners how to create safe work places and recognize and address domestic violence issues with staff.

The day before Janet was airlifted to Townsville with a massive heart attack, Janet and Wolfgang joined many of us at Capers having a coffee together. Janet was smiling and happy and thoroughly enjoying herself. I will remember her that way.

Janet, we will miss you. Rest in Peace.

Roz Jennings, President



YOU WILL BE MISSED JANET



Reef Talk



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2016

Janet was absolutely passionate about advocacy and I know she would want us to continue the good work our club is doing showcasing our international programs and our overseas "sisters" as this was a special interest of hers.

Wasn't last month's meeting fantastic? Not only did we have a heartfelt invocation from Carole and a delightful toast to The Zonta Club of Aix of Provence St Victoire, presented by our very own French expat, Catherine, but also five inspirational, persuasive speeches on our ZI international programs presented by Connie, Maxine, Pammie, Sandii and Noelene. After those five speeches, we all left the meeting with a much better knowledge of our international programs, and proud that we, as Zontians, have contributed to their success.

We are going to have an entertaining follow up in February with a special activity happening in our showcase time, where we share our thoughts on the international projects and discuss where we would most like our fundraising contribution to be spent. It will be an ideas night and you will find it loads of fun so stay tuned for further information.

I suggest you do some prep before next meeting, if you can find about 25 mins of "spare" time. No, there will not be a quiz but it will be good for you to be even further equipped with knowledge before the meeting. So here is your prep!! Go to the Zonta International Website and click on International Programs and then ZISVWA. Watch the U tube on Niger and check out the "look" on the wife's face as her husband talks about their daughter's impending marriage (3.37 mins). Next, click on International Service Programs and watch the U tubes on Obstetric Fistula Liberia (9.44 mins), Rwanda (3.31 mins) and Vietnam (2.27 mins). Enjoy!!

A big thank you to Debbie Friend who also contributed to making the January meeting so interesting and informative. Debbie is a true professional whose talk about writing a persuasive and exciting media release was both inspirational and engaging. We all learnt much valuable information and many of us purchased her book.

Kerrie and her IWD committee are working hard to organize a fabulous international women's day lunch. It is going to be a day packed with entertainment and interest, so please start organizing tables for yourselves and your friends. You are going to just love the guest speaker and the fashion parade not to mention lots of other entertaining moments as well. It is one of our iconic events and a great fund raiser.

Also, the A and A committee is wanting to receive applicants from the three local secondary schools for our various awards, particularly YWPA and also our special assistance awards. Please think about this. Lesley could also use some help on her committee so please contact her if you want to be more involved.

Our club has had an interesting and busy month but with the passing of Janet, it is also one of the saddest months I can remember. She will be in our thoughts and we will miss her terribly.

Roz Jennings, President



ADVOCACY

What great speeches we heard at our last General meeting! As Advocacy Director, I was so inspired and so excited that as ZI members we are a part of the wonderful support being given to these programs around the world. Something that not many of us could do on our own but as a group, we can be a part of this support.

I would like to elaborate a little on my speech, re: The elimination of Obstetric Fistula in Liberia. Many of you will be very aware of what Obstetric Fistula is but some may not. It is a terribly debilitating condition that has no need to be a part of life. It is my personal belief that as ZI members, we must continue the support of this program. The first birth that I witnessed (as a trainee nurse) was a "Ventouse" assisted birth. A suction cap is placed on the baby's head and it is virtually dragged out. It can leave the baby with quite a haematoma on its head. I was 36yrs old and the mother of three children. I can tell you all that if I had seen that before I had children-- there wouldn't have been any!! So, with that in my mind, I have a very soft spot for this program.

I have also included a survivor's story. (Not mine!!!)

What is a Fistula?

Simply a hole.

What is an Obstetric Fistula?

Mainly it is a child birth injury. It is a hole allowing urine and/or faeces to pass into the vagina. Fistula can also be caused by such things as traumatic rape and female genital mutilation

So, how does Obstetric Fistula occur?

It is caused by prolonged, traumatic, obstructed labour. During this type of labour, the baby's head puts sustained pressure on the pelvic bone damaging the soft tissue and pelvic nerves. This pressure prevents the flow of blood to the tissue which will eventually die, peel away and create a fistula: a hole between the vagina and bladder or bowel (or both) and cause the leaking of urine and/or faecal matter through the vagina. In most cases the baby is still born and in some cases the mother can become paralysed.

Consequences for the unfortunate woman:

While the effects of obstetric fistula vary, nearly every fistula starts with the tragic loss of a baby. She will be feeling pain from the traumatic and prolonged labour and birth. She will be "torn to pieces" so to speak. And then she will notice that she is constantly wet. The acid from the constant flow of urine might cause her skin to become inflamed, crack and become infected. If she curtails her intake of fluids, she faces the likelihood of dehydration and kidney failure. Because fistula commonly happens in remote areas of poverty and minimal education, she will have no idea why she is leaking and neither will anyone else in her community. So begin the whispers of a curse, infidelity, etc, etc and slowly, the woman is abandoned within her family and village. Because of the leaking of urine and/or faeces, a woman with fistula smells-- badly. People don't want to be near her. Her husband is disgusted by her. He may send her back to her family if she is young enough. Eventually they may tire of her as well. She will often find herself alone, afraid and with no hope

likelihood of dehydration and kidney failure. Because fistula commonly happens in remote areas of poverty and minimal education, she will have no idea why she is leaking and neither will anyone else in her community. So begin the whispers of a curse, infidelity, etc, etc and slowly, the woman is abandoned within her family and village. Because of the leaking of urine and/or faeces, a woman with fistula smells-- badly. People don't want to be near her. Her husband is disgusted by her. He may send her back to her family if she is young enough. Eventually they may tire of her as well. She will often find herself alone, afraid and with no hope.

(If the fistula has been the result of traumatic rape, this adds to the psychological trauma, fear and stigma. The young woman has to deal with the trauma of the rape, the condition she has been left in, the abandonment of her family and village, the fear of unwanted pregnancy, HIV or other STI's, her decreased chances of marriage, work and being a part of the wider community. She is really left on her own. (A modern day leper.)

Obstetric Fistula can be treated. In the 1840's, Dr. James Marion Sims developed a surgical repair technique that is still more than 90% effective today. So, 9 out of 10 women can be saved the trauma of obstetric fistula with this 170-year-old procedure that takes about 45mins to perform. However, for this to occur in developing countries much has to be done with educating both males and females about the causes; that this is a medical condition-- not a curse; reassuring them that doctors outside their own "witchcraft" are safe.

And then there is the need for these trained surgeons. Great inroads to eliminating the trauma have been made. During the 2012-14 Biennium this program moved from a project based treatment to treatment integrated into the Govt's national health program and will be expanded to include support for women who have had unsuccessful surgeries or have inoperable fistulas. Since 2008, ZI has been the major funder for this program in Liberia. With ZI help, the project has strengthened and equipped two fistula centres in Liberia, trained 6 doctors and more than 170 nurses, midwives and physician assistants who have in turn treated 875 fistula patients; trained 20 fistula survivors, 16 journalists and 10 students to act as fistula advocates-- getting the right information about causes and preventions out to the population. 186 survivors have been trained in income generating activities, getting them back into their communities. The project is sustainable because it has been integrated into the Govt's health system but there is still a lot of work to be done. One fistula patient is one too many. Especially when it is so preventable.

Maxine Thiele, Director



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL AND UNFPA CONTINUE TO BRING SMILES TO FISTULA SURVIVORS IN LIBERIA

Project Update: Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality in Liberia

In cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Zonta International has supported the Liberia Fistula Project since 2008, and has remained a key partner. From prevention to treatment and rehabilitation of fistula survivors, the project has remained engaged with the community and policymakers in restoring the health and dignity of women and girls suffering from fistula.

Sarah Shamue is among the women and girls whose dignity and health have been restored through the Liberia Fistula Project. Sarah lived in a remote village in central Liberia, and became a fistula survivor at the age of 17 as the result of a pregnancy that ended with complications.

Below is Sarah's testimony:

"It was my first pregnancy. My mother, who is a Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA), decided to help me deliver my baby at home. She sent for another TBA in the village to come and assist her. For two days, I could not deliver. In the process, my mother and her friend forced me to deliver by several ways. At one point, my mother's friend asked me to confess (insinuating that the baby was delayed in coming out because I had had many sexual partners during the pregnancy). I grew so tired of their torture until I had to lie and say I was in a sexual relationship with her husband. That was when they decided to give up on me and referred me to the nearby clinic.

Before arriving at the nearby health center, the baby was already halfway out. I was at the health center for another day and a half with no end to my suffering. I was transferred to Phebe Hospital in Suacoco, where I received a cesarean section to deliver my baby. At that point the baby was already dead.

I spent about two weeks at the hospital. I noticed that I was wetting the bed.

Following my discharge, I returned to the village with paralyzed lower limbs. After eight months in the village, I learned that the condition I was suffering from is called fistula and help was available.

I was successfully treated by the Liberia Fistula Program, which also provided me with the opportunity to turn my life around. I took that opportunity to learn soap-making, cosmetology, hair plaiting and embroidery.

I am now free from fistula and empowered to earn my own money."

WWW.ZONTA.ORG



SERVICE

It's all about International Women's Day.

Venue: Reef Gateway Hotel

Date: Sunday 13th March 2016 at 10am

Tickets: \$50 per person

We need your help to make this a successful day. Spread the word, start organising your tables and don't forget to bring your Rolling Raffle donations to the next General meeting, 18th February.

Our guest speaker Debra Howe has sent us the following profile.

Cheers All, Kerrie Adams, Director

Profile

Debra Howe

Manager Economic Development

Mackay Regional Council



Debra Howe has worked in local government in Queensland (Brisbane, Toowoomba and Mackay) for 16 years in total and in Victoria (Cities of Port Phillip and Moreland) for 3 years, primarily in tourism and economic development and investment attraction. Debra has also worked in the private sector for just over 21 years.

Debra moved to Mackay in May 2014 and commenced with Mackay Region Council as Manager Economic Development responsible for economic development, place management and major project and investment facilitation.

In September 2010, Debra won the 2010 Queensland Telstra Business Women's White Pages Community and Government Award and went on to compete in the 2010 Australian Telstra Business Women's Award. Debra was also nominated in the 2009 awards and was a finalist in the same category in the year 2000.

Debra attributes her experience with the Awards and surviving breast cancer (diagnosed in 2006 and a secondary cancer in 2008) as the key drivers for striving to achieve a healthier work life balance.



2010 QUEENSLAND WINNER



MEMBERSHIP

What is the key to success for being a really great Mentor?

Mentoring activities generally occur outside the club's regular meetings in a variety of ways but the true essence of mentoring is face to face communication. Of course, this is may not always possible but we can always pick up the telephone and say "hello" especially prior to a general meeting to see if your new Zontian is coming along.

For special events outside normal meetings, what about a quick phone call to arrange or share transportation to the event and make sure your new Zontian actually knows where to go.

Does your new Zontian really know all about us and what we do?

Our Club number is 1633; we are in Area 5; which is part of District 22 within Zonta International.

We have a Board of management; Service Directorship; Advocacy Directorship; Membership Directorship.

Committees under the Directorships include: Awards & Assistance; International Women's Day; Membership; AFADU; Books from Birth; Birthing Kits; Z Clubs; Pamper Packs; Adopt a family: Fund raisers; Trivia; Young Women in Public Affairs; Aqua; Book Club; Knock Knock dinners; Advocacy raising awareness and supporting women's rights being recognised as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential.



We support International Service Projects along with Zonta Club's worldwide pledging a minimum of 1/3rd of funds raised through the year to be remitted to Zonta International to support these International Service programs.

We support local projects; Whitsunday Crisis & Counselling; Nursing Home; Hospital; the youth in our area with Education bursaries; assistance grants; Young Women in Public Affairs; Jane M Klausman award.

So how about it "mentors", why not pick up the phone today! J Let's check in to see how your new Zontian is travelling along. Let's do what we do so well and have a "chat" to discover shared interests and help her identify which committee or activity that they may be interested in being part of.

Knock Knock who is there? Anyone for dinner? What is for dinner? Where is dinner? Would you like to be the hostess? Would you like to be a guest?

We are calling for potential hostesses to start off our "Knock Knock" dinners for 2016 after the amazing success of the 2015 of different dining experiences. If you are interested in holding a dinner, please contact Sandii sandiih52@gmail.com to get the ball rolling.

Hostesses responsibilities: the meal, the theme, the number of guests, setting the date and the cover costing is up to you!

Guests responsibilities: Great fellowship, wonderful evening of wining and dining!

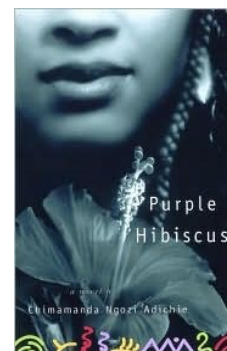
Looking forward to a very exciting year of Zonta in 2016!

Cheers, Sandii Hansen, Director



BOOK CLUB

This month, Zonta Last Wednesday Book Club members are reading Purple Hibiscus by Nigerian author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. This book is of particular interest to all Zonta members as it deals with issues on which a good part of our ZISVAW funds are spent through our project: “Respecting the Rights and Responding to the Needs of Adolescent Girls in Niger”. It also deals with the very current issues of Domestic Violence and other parts of the Zonta code such as promoting justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Adichie writes about Nigeria, a country that has known little else but coup and corruption since independence. But while the setting is sombre and the issues serious, the novel is also charming, funny and smart. I found it a real page turner with delicious insights into African customs, life-styles and wonderful characters.



Fifteen-year-old Kambili's world is limited to the high walls of the family compound and the chauffeur driven ride to school, both symbolic of her life controlled by her wealthy Catholic father who is generous and politically active in the community but repressive and fanatically religious at home. While he is a champion of human rights and publisher of a newspaper that defies the military junta, he is also a sadist who beats his wife senseless and uses his religious bigotry to cower his children with a bewildering mix of love and punishment.

Then, when the military coup arrives and Nigeria begins to fall apart, Kambili and her brother go to stay with their Auntie Ifeoma. A university teacher, Ifeoma is outspoken and sane and is bringing up her children with love and freedom, radically different in a despotic society. It is only then that Kambili begins to understand another way of thinking and living. The purple hibiscus that blooms in Auntie Ifeoma's garden, delicate and precious, becomes a symbol of everything the merciless father and violent regime try to trample.

Adichie addresses a "feminism beyond race or class. Her definition is the equality of the sexes as it pertains to human rights, equal pay and sexuality." This "is not a comfortable subject, particularly to an African audience" she says, but her talks have been used in classes and argued about in workplaces and schools. "My family says, 'Oh, you're such a man!' But I don't see why I shouldn't speak my mind".

I hope there are many more women like her in Africa.

Kerry Kenyon, Chair

Other books by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie:

* Half of a Yellow Sun, set during the Biafran conflict in Nigeria, a decade before she was born, has been made into a film.

* Americanah, looks at modern attitudes towards race and touching on identity, love and loneliness in the U.K. and America.



Our Keisha won the “Young Citizen of the Year Award” on Australia Day, we are so proud of you Keisha



At our last meeting Deborah Friend spoke to us about preparing media releases & her new book “Write Away Whitsunday”

MEMBER PROFILE

KIM BRITTON



Ormonde Britton stood on the verandah in Atherton looking up into the night sky searching for Sputnik. It was October 1957 and the Russians had launched their first satellite into space only 15 days earlier, marking the start of the space age and the USA – USSR space race.

He was missing his darling daughter who was only 20 months old. She was the one and only until early that morning when his beautiful young wife Valerie had their second child, another daughter. Their first daughter had dark hair and Valerie had named her Deborah after the movie star Deborah Kerr. Their second daughter had fair hair and Ormonde said it was his turn and he named her Kim after another movie star Kim Novak.

After living in Sydney where Deborah was born, Valerie wanted to move back to North Queensland to be closer to her family. Ormonde was proud of his family when he brought them up to the Atherton Tablelands where he was a foreman on the new Tinaroo Dam. Fortunately Valerie's parents were only an hour away in Mt Garnet where her father Charlie Prior was the foreman on the tin dredge and her mother Daphne happily took Deborah home with her to look after whilst Valerie was in the Atherton hospital.

The Britton family lived in Tinaroo for a couple of years before moving to Machans Beach where Ormonde who was a registered builder built a beach house for Valerie's parents in Prior Street. They then moved into their new house in Cairns that Ormonde had also built and just after Kim's fifth birthday, Valerie gave birth to a son. Deborah was at school the day that Ormonde and Kim drove to the hospital to pick them up and when Valerie walked to the car with her new son, Kim did not understand why her brother was wearing a dress.

Valerie could not believe the deep love that she felt for her son and was undecided as to what to name him. She asked her second daughter Kim "Shall we call him Charles Ormonde, after my father or Ormonde Charles after Ormonde's father." Kim was not fussed on the name Charles and preferred the name Ormonde and so consequently he was named Ormonde III.

Kim started primary school at Balaclava State School and in grade one she fell in love with Michael who was the barber's son. Kim loved going with her father when he was having his hair cut by Ron Dixon and Kim would get excited when Ormonde (most people referred to him by his nickname of Sonnie) pulled up outside the barber shop with the two twisted red and white striped poles. Although Kim was only five, she sat on the front steps and couldn't decide whether to be called Kim Dixon or Kim Britton when Michael and she married.

Three years later Kim's family moved to Mackay and she lost contact with her first love. Mackay was a very friendly town and she enjoyed playing sport with her friends. She especially loved Vigoro and every Saturday morning her father, Sonnie would drive her to the sports ground and every Saturday morning Kim would buy a packet of white chocolate buttons before her game of Vigoro.

Her parents loved playing tennis and therefore enrolled Deb and Kim in tennis coaching lessons every Saturday morning. They would stay at the tennis courts for lunch and then play in the tennis competition in the afternoon. Kim loved movies and would much prefer staying home to watch the

Saturday afternoon movie on the new black and white television. On their way home from tennis, Sonnie would park the car out the front of a church where there was a wedding, and the family would sit and watch the bridal party. Quite often they would know many of the friends attending the wedding.

Their weekly treat was to drive into the city of Mackay on a Saturday night and after parking the car, they would window shop on their way to the movies at the Civic Cinema regardless of which movies were playing. After standing for God Save the Queen, then sitting and watching the newsreel, Kim loved watching the cartoons before the showing of the first movie. At interval Kim would always ask her father for a packet of jaffas, Deborah would always get a cherry ripe and Valerie would always get a box of scorched almonds to eat during the second movie.

After seeing Elvis Presley in the movies, Kim fell in love with him and would always daydream about him. Whenever there was an Elvis movie at the cinemas on a Saturday night, Sonnie would go to the record shop the following week and buy the Elvis record from the movie for Kim.

When Kim was ten, Sonnie started a partnership business of building concrete water tanks called Permacrete. Two years later he decided to separate from his partner and established Duracrete Concrete Tanks in the Whitsundays. During the school Christmas holidays in 1969 he moved his family from Mackay to Conway Beach before holidaying in Townsville where Deborah was enrolled in a ballet school. Whilst they were in Townsville, Cyclone Ada hit the Whitsundays and they lost the roof off their house and also their belongings that were damaged by the rain following the cyclone.

After the flood waters receded, they eventually arrived back at Conway Beach where their new, damaged home did not have water or electricity following the cyclone. Each afternoon Sonnie would take his family to Cedar Creek falls where they would have their daily bath. During the evening they would sit around the dining table by candle light and whilst eating dinner, they would discuss what they had done during the day with the battery operated transistor radio playing in the background. Later that year Sonnie moved his family to a house beside the concrete tank factory on the highway north of Proserpine.

After five years at Proserpine State High School, Kim commenced work at the Commonwealth Bank in the main street of Proserpine. She worked for eighteen straight months before she took her annual leave along with a couple of months leave without pay and ventured to Europe and England with her sister for three months. Upon her return to Proserpine, the Commonwealth Bank offered her a position on relief staff where she continued travelling around north Queensland. Kim had always loved the brightly coloured night lights of a city and was eventually transferred to Brisbane where she worked in the bank at Toowong which was across the road from the timber mill (where the Toowong Shopping Centre is now built) and then at Indooroopilly.

Kim had always wanted to own a newsagency and one night she sat down and flicked through magazines to give her inspiration. She decided that she would like to be a Beauty Therapist and resigned from the bank after enrolling in a beauty course with Madam Korner in Sydney. It was only when she returned to Proserpine upon leaving Brisbane and before venturing to Sydney that she and her sister Deborah discovered that they had both enrolled in the same beauty school at the same time. Talk about synchronicity!

After receiving her Beauty Therapy Diploma, Kim returned to Proserpine and started her own business called 'Kim's Beauty Salon' in a new building in Proserpine. The majority of her clients were girls who worked on the Whitsunday Islands and they would spend their day off work venturing into Proserpine to visit Kim's salon. After months of requests, Kim opened her second salon at Airlie Beach called 'Airlie Let's Face It' in another new building. She eventually sold her Proserpine salon to her sister and worked full time at Airlie Beach. After five years of beauty therapy Kim decided that she would like to work in an office in a high rise building in the city. She sold her Airlie Beach salon which is still operating today with a change of name to Airlie Day Spa .

She returned to Brisbane and obtained a Legal Secretarial Diploma at the Lorraine Martin Business College.

Kim returned to Proserpine for a holiday before starting work and cruised from Brisbane to Hamilton Island on a 120' cruising motor boat owned by Ray White Real Estate. On the way to the Whitsundays, the boat picked up Ray White and his family for a week of fishing near Lady Elliot Island. Upon arrival at Hamilton Island, Kim was offered a position on Dulcinea, a 90' cruising motor boat that had been built in Sydney and was being delivered to Perth. The boat was designed by Ben Lexcen who was now famous for designing Australia II, the boat that won the America's Cup for Australia.

After a month of cruising around the top end of Australia, Kim arrived in Perth and was immediately offered a position at the Mosman Park Tea Rooms that had recently been built on the Swan River. Much to Kim's surprise she met many Airlie Beach acquaintances that were living in Perth. After six months in the beautiful city of Perth she returned to Queensland for the 1988 World Expo in Brisbane. Her parents had recently sold Duracrete Concrete Tanks after twenty years in Proserpine (Valerie originally said that she would move from Mackay to Proserpine for twelve months) and they had moved up to north Queensland and were living in Cairns. Kim enjoyed three wonderful years in Cairns and made many new friends whilst attending the annual Cairns Amateur Horse Race, the monthly business women's breakfasts and luncheons and the monthly wine makers club (even though she did not drink wine).

Before leaving Cairns and moving to the Gold Coast, she had booked a holiday in the USA which happened to coincide with the opening round of the IndyCar Grand Prix on the Gold Coast and therefore had to watch it on TV in Hawaii. Upon returning to the Gold Coast she was offered the position of managing the Queensland Young Achiever of the Year Awards and co-ordinating the Young Australian of the Year Awards. This position involved travelling to the capital cities of Australia three times a year for the Young Achiever of each state and territory; originally with the Launch of the Awards, followed six months later with the judging and then a month later with the Awards Presentation Dinner. This was followed with the judging of the Young Australian of the Year and then in January, on Australia Day with the Presentation Awards Dinner. A special memory of Kim's was looking after Hazel Hawke who was one of the judges for the Young Australian of the Year Awards.

After living on the Gold Coast for five years she moved to Sydney for twelve months with her work and her favourite day was Saturday when she went shopping in Sydney and its surrounding suburbs. Kim was then offered the position of Personal Assistant to the Queensland State Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Vaughan Johnson MLA and she moved back to Brisbane. By this stage Valerie had learnt to write Kim's address and phone numbers in pencil in her address book. Kim enjoyed the world of politics even though she was employed by the Government of the Day. Following the elections, the Government of the Day lost to the opposition and Kim along with hundreds of other private employees were retrenched.

She was offered a fabulous position in Melbourne for twelve months before being sent to Auckland to establish a new business in New Zealand. Whilst working in New Zealand, Vaughan Johnson MP was elected as Deputy Leader of the Opposition at Parliament House in Brisbane and he asked Kim to come back and work for him again. After working at Parliament House, Kim was offered a position as Personal Assistant to Bruce Lynton at BMW on the Gold Coast.

After working with Bruce Lynton BMW on the Gold Coast for three years she was offered a position with Sunland in Dubai who were building their second Palazzo Versace resort along with D1, a building similar to the 80 storey residential Q1 in Surfers Paradise. Kim moved to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates for three fabulous years before the Global Financial Crisis. Due to Dubai's close proximity to Europe, Kim would often spend her holidays visiting the different European countries and travelling around Great Britain although she did return to Australia each year to visit her family. Before the GFC, Kim flew to New York to watch her favourite tennis player, Roger

Federer play in the Grand Final of the USA Open. Whilst in New York, she was standing outside the infamous Lehman Brothers headquarters when she learnt of their bankruptcy, with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac following soon after and then consequently the GFC. Kim returned to the Gold Coast where she was offered the position of Personal Assistant to the founder and CEO of Bartercard International. This was a very interesting position in a business with card holders who would barter-trade world wide.

A couple of years ago Kim was offered the position of Electorate Officer in the Whitsundays with the State Member of Parliament, Jason Costigan MP. She has now returned to Proserpine and Airlie Beach where she loves the variety of the country life with the beach lifestyle whilst catching up with her friends from years past, along with making many wonderful new friends at Zonta!

Date Claimers

February

18th: General Meeting—Reef Gateway - 6.15 for 6.30 start

24th: Last Wednesday Book Club—5pm—Pam Graham's - Contact Kerry Kenyon

March



13th: International Women's Day Brunch – Reef Gateway - 10am

17th: General Meeting—Reef Gateway - 6.15 for 6.30 start

30th: Last Wednesday Book Club—5pm—Contact Kerry Kenyon

April

Presidents Breakfast: 17th April - 9 am to 12 noon at Roz's place. Details to follow

May

21-22nd: Area 5 Conference, Townsville



Rain or shine...nothing stops the aqua ladies!



Marlene Reiffel—9th February

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