



Reef Talk



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MARCH 2016

March is a very busy month for Zonta International and for our club.

International Women's Day is being celebrated globally on 8th March with the 2016 international theme being Pledge for Parity. Worldwide, women continue to contribute to social, economic, cultural and political achievement and we have much to celebrate today. But progress towards gender parity has slowed in many places. The World Economic Forum predicted in 2014 that it would take until 2095 to achieve global gender parity. Then one year later in 2015, they estimated that a slowdown in the already glacial pace of progress meant the gender gap wouldn't close entirely until 2133.

Everyone - men and women - can pledge to take a concrete step to help achieve gender parity more quickly - whether to help women and girls achieve their ambitions, call for gender-balanced leadership, respect and value difference, develop more inclusive and flexible cultures or root out workplace bias. Each of us can be a leader within our own spheres of influence and commit to take pragmatic action to accelerate gender parity. Our club is using the Pledge for Parity theme for our IWDB on the 13th March and our guest speaker, Debra Howe, is an inspirational example of a woman who truly stands for empowerment and gender parity.

March 8th is also Zonta International Rose Day with a special campaign to promote a donation to Zonta Rose Fund running from early February to early March. I am so pleased to say that our club took advantage of this by donating \$200.00 from our fundraising account as a special tribute gift to Janet. Janet's family will receive email acknowledgment of this with a yellow rose and special certificate in her honour.

March is the month our annual dues are to be paid. Please make sure you have paid your fees by the March general meeting.

Everyone is talking about our iconic International Women's Day Brunch on 13th March. Every year this event is a huge success and this year will be no exception with a fantastic guest speaker, exciting fashion parade, lots of superb raffle prizes and a deliciously healthy lunch with of course champagne. It is a terrific opportunity to dress up and look fabulous in your black and white so dig out that gorgeous little black dress or the stunning white linen., get ready to look amazing. A huge thank you to Kerrie and her IWD committee who have worked so hard to make this event a great success.

Lots happening at the March general meeting with a very interesting toast in store for you as well as Debbie Farlow coming to talk to us about the drumbeat program for indigenous youth in Proserpine.

End of March is Easter break so Happy Easter everyone. **Roz Jennings, President**



ADVOCACY

In recent weeks, ZI has released three new Position Papers. They are:

- 1) Position Paper on Migration
- 2) Position Paper on Prostitution
- 3) Position Paper on Trafficking in Persons.

These are all very significant papers and I would encourage you all to read through them. However, I would like to look more deeply into Trafficking of Persons.

What is trafficking of persons? How does it differ from people smuggling?

Trafficking in persons or Human Trafficking is the physical movement of people across and within borders through deceptive means, force or coercion. Whereas, people smuggling is a crime involving the procurement for financial or other material benefit for illegal entry of a person into a state or country of which that person is not a national or resident.

The difference between the two can be a subtle one. However, people smuggling comes with consent and when the people reach their destination, they are free of the smugglers influence. The smuggler's profit is in the monies paid to them for transportation. People traffickers may have the initial consent of the person but it is rendered useless by these coercive, deceptive and abusive traffickers. Their profit comes by exploitation. People electing to be smuggled usually want to get to another country: persons being trafficked can be within a country, state or outside of their country of residence. They are usually persons who are vulnerable-- lured into the belief of a better life.

The 2014 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons revealed that 49% of persons trafficked are adult women and 21% are girls under 18. 79% of these women and girls are exploited for sexual purposes and 14% for forced labour. Today, trafficking in persons is a serious problem for the Global Community.

So, should we be worried in Australia?

Australia is a destination for people traffickers from Asia, mainly the Philippines, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and from Eastern Europe. It is estimated that 1000 victims are under debt bondage in Australia but there is no real number. Why is Australia a destination? The website; humantrafficking.org, states that some reasons are that there is a lack of Australian women wanting to work in the sex industry; that there is a misconception that Asian women are more compliant sexually, that they will tolerate a higher level of violence and that men think they CAN be violent toward these women.

However, we do have a high level of prosecutions in Australia; the government runs an awareness campaign and has a protection policy for those who have been trafficked. The government has Anti- Human Trafficking agreements with Cambodia, Burma, Laos and Thailand to coordinate investigations and improve cooperation. They are the co-chair and co-founders of the Bali Process on People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons which creates regional projects, builds awareness and coordinates law enforcement and victim support. Of course, it is hard for most of these trafficked women to seek help. Mostly they don't speak English and they are no doubt extremely traumatised by their situation.

There is another victim of person trafficking that is probably not always seen as such: the young girls and women who are forced into marriage, often by their own families. It is happening in Australia even though it is illegal.

The humantrafficking.org site also lists our 457 visa worker program as being linked to human trafficking with allegations of labour trafficking. This affects both women and men.

Trafficking in Persons is a lucrative business and without robust criminal justice responses, it will remain a low-risk, high profit activity. Zonta International reinforces its position regarding trafficking in persons and calls on governments to:

- 1) Adopt and adhere to the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish traffickers and to the Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings.
- 2) Bring national legislation in line with the Protocol and the Convention. No crime should be committed with impunity.
- 3) Implement adequate and consistently applied criminal justice responses that result in the identification and protection of the victims and in the prosecution and conviction of traffickers and smugglers.
- 4) Monitor and involve like-minded NGOs and civil society actors in monitoring both efforts and results to effectively implement the relevant resolutions and protocols.
- 5) Train police and criminal justice personnel on the proper procedures to guarantee the safety of victims, protect their privacy and make it safe for them to testify.

In Australia, we have covered all of these recommendations and our government continues to work toward elimination of human trafficking. For further reading on this issue, the AFP website has links to several sites that give a good overview of the issues in Australia with several case studies.

Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women:

Just a reminder of the chance to be part of the Zonta Says No presence at the Cowboys v Broncos match in Townsville on Friday, 20th May for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence month. Zonta will be sharing the night with NQ Women's Legal Service, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Legal Services (NQ) and Relationships Australia (QLD). Pencil it in your diary.

You should all have received the email from Townsville Metro's President Therese Smith regarding this event. There is to be a teleconference with the Area5 presidents on Monday, 7th March. Hopefully there will be more information after that. I will keep you posted.

Maxine Thiele, Director



MEMBERSHIP



Presidents Breakfast with Roz

Sunday 17th April 2016

9am until around 12 noon.

232 Mandalay Road, Airlie Beach

Members and partners are invited – limited numbers



MENU FOR PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST ON 17TH APRIL.2016

Orange juice

Fresh Fruit platters

bowls of yoghurt

cereal

cold cuts and cheeses

frittata, zucchini salmon slice, various egg dishes

cheese and bacon scrolls

homemade muffins

croissants

toast and freshly baked rolls jam and butter

Tea and coffee

byo champagne

MEMBERSHIP



Do Volunteers need a Blue Card if you have involvement with Z Clubs; Birthing Kit Assembly Days?

The Answer is “YES”.

Did you know we can all acquire one “**Free of Charge**” as a “**volunteer**” under the banner of our Zonta Club?

What to do to get your “Blue Card” application:

Google: “Blue Card Application forms and choose the link below”:

[Blue Cards Application form:](https://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/applications/need-to-apply-for-card.html)

<https://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/applications/need-to-apply-for-card.html>

Click on Blue Card application forms and choose from drop list:

A [Blue card application \(BC\) form](#) (PDF, 251KB) should be lodged by paid employees, **volunteers** and trainee students proposing to start or continue in child-related employment.

There will be some blank forms available at the next General Meeting as well.

Completed forms to be handed to Secretary Lesley.

Blue Cards must be renewed every three years.

Sandii Hansen Membership Director

JUST CO-INCIDENTALLY, THREE REPORTS ARRIVED ABOUT THREE SPECIAL LADIES THAT WE HAVE ASSISTED WITH THEIR IMPORTANT WORK:

(Makes us remember what all our hard work is for!)

Update on Xinyan Dunlop By Pam Harrison:

I had the absolute pleasure of having lunch with Jane Richardson last week who I found out was closely involved with Xinyan, the lass sponsored by ZONTA at the end of 2014, who came to Australia from China when she was 4. She wanted to relate her story and at the end Xinyan herself, who is doing so well at University, with our support has added her thanks.

I first met Xinyan when she was 9 years old. Her mother had come to the Baptist Church one Sunday morning seeking help. The family were homeless so we took them in for 6 weeks until other accommodation was secured. During this time I could see that Xinyan's life was very difficult and that her relationship with her mother was dysfunctional. Xinyan informed me – at this tender age – that this was OK. She knew girls were not valued in her culture, and that many were drowned at birth!

In the following 4 years, I supported Xinyan in the best way I could. She became another 'granddaughter' and joined in on sleepovers at my home, camping trips and any fun times we were having. I was forbidden to see Xinyan for a 12-18 month period following this time. I had become increasingly concerned about obvious signs of abuse towards her from her mother, so therefore was shut out of her life. Due to my concern for her, we still managed to maintain contact during this time. By the time Xinyan was 13 years of age, the Christian College where she attended school, and the Department of Child Safety, had had several reports (including my own) expressing concern about her welfare. Xinyan finally ran away from home about the time of her 14th birthday. Life had become more than she could bear. Thankfully she came to us!

Xinyan lived at our home throughout her high school years and is just part of our family. She considers us her grandparents, despite calling us Paul and Jane. When introducing us to anyone else – we are her Nan and Pop! She is the oldest of our 11 grandchildren and we have pledged to be her family always.

Xinyan is the most resilient young person I have ever met. Despite much hardship from a very early age, and very little support in a new and very different culture, she has risen above all she has endured with her beautiful spirit still intact. We love her like our own and will stand by her always. I am just so sorry we were not able to support her career endeavours better. During the years Xinyan lived with us, my husband was studying a 4 year University degree full time – so we were living on an Austudy allowance ourselves.

We knew what Xinyan wanted for her future and could not see how we ourselves could ever make her dream a reality. So ladies, without the wonderful support you have given Xinyan she may never have had the chance to enter University and pursue her chosen career.

I want to thank you all for supporting Xinyan and championing her the way you have. She is deserving of all the love we can give her. She is a precious little soul indeed. Jane Richardson

Dear Zonta,

I did my first year at uni and stayed on campus at college so your money went into the helping with the cost. College was an amazing experience and I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity. I made so many friends there and it was a much easier transition into university. This year I've moved out into a share house with 5 mostly random other students as it's much cheaper. It's only down the road from my college and walking distance to university. Text books cost a lot of money but I've been just buying the ones I need as my most expensive one cost almost \$300 and I only used a couple of chapters from it. So basically the money was awesome. It covered the cost of my laptop and all my textbooks for first year.

I have joined the UQ dance club this year and have applied to be a student ambassador of the university. I don't find out if I got that job until the 4th of March but I'm hoping I get it. I've been using my money wisely but can't wait to get a job again so I can feel more secure.

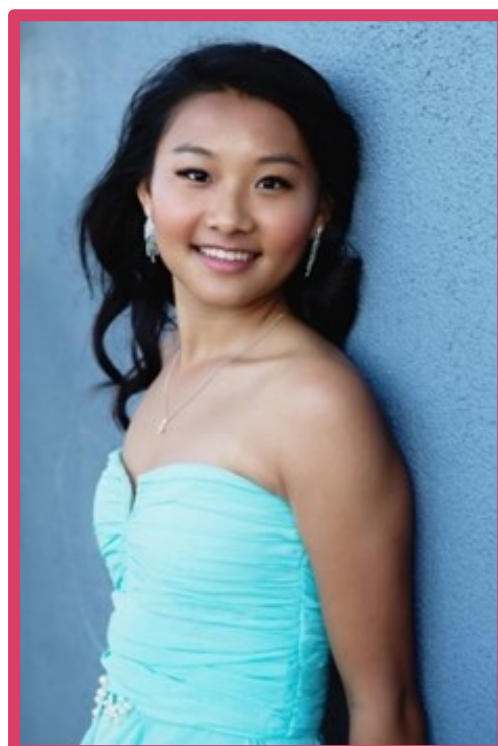
This year I'm studying biomechanics, exercise physiology, psychology of exercise sport, a more intense anatomy than the one I did last year called human musculoskeletal anatomy, motor control and learning, exercise prescription, critical analysis of sport issues and exercise science and technical skills. I have to be in the top 40 of all the students who want to get into the stream I want which is clinical exercise physiology. They only have 40 spots a year but there are over 600 people studying my degree so I'm planning on studying super hard this year to make sure I make it. Last year I had some personal struggles and that did take a toll on my studies, although I still finished with a GPA of 5.75 which is just below a distinction overall. 6 is a distinction and 5 is a credit. But I know I could've done better so I'm aiming for high distinctions this year which is the best you can get.☺

I want to thank you so very much for your wonderful support. If it was not for the generosity and sponsorship I received during 2014, I would never have had the opportunity to go on to University and to pursue my chosen career.

Thank you again,

Xinyan.

Xinyan before her High School end of year formal
2014 in her Vinnies dress.





Thank you Whitsunday Zonta Club

You have done so much for me,
So much that you cannot see,
You have made me laugh, and made me cry
But never once did you say goodbye.

You helped me see what's right from wrong,
Showed me that I do belong,
Made me see things more clearly
So that I can live freely,

Physical and sexual abuse,
Took over my sense of putting my heart to use,
Until you walked into my life,
And showed me the bright side to my strife.

Giving up has always been on my mind,
But you've helped me to be kind,
To myself and to others,
Something I never got taught by my mother.

You've seen me at my worst,
But still believe I'm worth,
The fight to see the light,
Still want to help make things right.

Thank you for never giving up on me,
When I had given up on any chance to be free.

By Keisha McEwan



UPDATE ON CLUB MEMBER JOANNE RICHARDSON, WHO LIVES “SERVICE & ADVOCACY”:



I am in Kathmandu after a very successful dental field trip to remote parts of Nepal and with this sort of enthusiasm from teachers, how could we fail to pass on the message of brushing for dental health!

I led a team of three dentists, one from France, and three assistants, two of them Nepalese. Despite earthquake ravaged buildings (we worked outdoors and on muddy floors) and lack of electricity (we hired generators), and with two day long queues for fuel (we bought on the black market for \$3 a litre), we still managed to reach over 500 children with toothbrushes, dental education and preventive treatment in basic conditions. We also, more importantly, trained our two local operators, Chhepal and Tenzin, both in clinical treatments and dental health education. And made lots of new friends and renewed many old friendships!

www.tibetandentalproject.com new report coming soon...

Joanne Richardson, joanne123richardson@gmail.com



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

MAE SECOMB - 6TH
CATH FERNBACH - 13TH
LAUREN HAACK - 12TH

FEBRUARY MEETING



TRIBUTE TO JANET: YOU ARE MISSED



WORKSHOP AT MEETING



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARLENE

Date Claimers

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

22nd Changeover

21-22nd: Area 5 Conference, Townsville

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