

**ZONTA CLUB OF BRISBANE INC, 40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER  
ADDRESS, UNITED SERVICES CLUB, WOMEN'S DAY, 5 OCTOBER 2011**

What an honour to address so many intelligent, good-hearted people, all members, friends and supporters of the Zonta Club of Brisbane. My brief tonight is to reflect Janus-like on the Club's achievements over the past 40 years and on the relevance of Zonta for the next 40 years.

Forty years is but a blink of the eye of the traditional owners of Me-an-jin (now known as Brisbane), the Turrbal and Jaggera people. For tens of thousands of years before European settlement, they held celebrations and discussions about how to better organise their community, in essence not so different from ours tonight. I acknowledge their Elders, past and present.

If clubs are about the people in them and what they collectively achieve, the Zonta Club of Brisbane has much to celebrate. Information about the Charter of the Club on October 21, 1971, nearly 40 years ago, is set out in your program notes, together with the names of the 28 Charter members. I will not repeat it and nor will I repeat the remarkable role of Charter member Dr Helen Row in organising 12 more Zonta Clubs in Queensland between 1977 and 1984. And I gratefully acknowledge Dina Browne's and Fran Morrison's wonderful publication for our 25th birthday celebrations<sup>1</sup> from which I have drawn information and inspiration.

Let me now take you on a 40 year journey through the history of the Zonta Club of Brisbane. It is also a slice of Brisbane's history. And if you are a member or former member, listen carefully: you may be in it! Speaking of former members, it is delightful to see so many here tonight, including Charter members Pauline McLaughlin, Alayne Peterson, June Petfield, Boni Robertson, Margaret Robinson and Collette Watson.

In 1971 when this Club was chartered, Senator Neville Bonner became the first Aboriginal to sit in federal parliament; Joh Bjelke-Petersen declared a state of emergency over demonstrations about the visiting Springboks; I was in my senior year at BGGS and our newest member, Elizabeth Clarson, was not even a twinkle in her father's eye.

In 1972, the Club, whose members included the incisive Courier-Mail feature writer, Sylvia da Costa-Roque, raised \$430 for a newly formed organisation to assist children with learning difficulties, SPELD.

In 1973, things cranked up a notch. A long tradition of Zonta art shows began. Member Barbara Stellmach became the first Australian woman to have a book of full length plays published by a major national press. And PhD student Christine Graham of Camp Hill was awarded a \$3,000 Amelia Earhart scholarship to study aerospace science at the University of California.

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<sup>1</sup> "Zonta Club of Brisbane, 1971 – 1996"

Like this year, 1974 was a year of Brisbane floods. Babette Stephens was President for her fourth year (in stark contravention of the by-laws). And member Ann Brabazon married the Anglican Bishop of Newcastle, Ian Shevill.

In 1975, the Club held a special dinner to celebrate the inaugural year of the United Nations Decade of Women with guests including Lady Cilento and honorary Zontian, Dame Annabel Rankin. And member Debbie Newell gained celebrity chef status, catering for Nureyev, Neil Diamond, Nana Mouskouri and Her Majesty, The Queen.

In 1976, Babette became the first member to represent the Club at an international convention. It was held for the first time outside north America in Wiesbaden, Germany. And we coined the term "Hon Zons" for members' significant others.

In 1977 the Club held the first of many "Zonta-dos", raising over \$4,000 by serving a rather nasty and very cheap sparkling wine at an otherwise perfect brunch in the gardens of Mary and Peter Magee's Corinda riverside home. Member Bartz Schultz, was honoured with the Florence Nightingale Medal and the distinguished Nursing Service Award. Our service project was Shelta, a women's refuge for victims of rape or domestic violence, staffed largely by volunteers and with only a small government grant. Zonta paid Shelta's rent and milk bill on an on-going basis. And the inaugural Dr Helen Row Zonta International Memorial Prize was awarded to psychiatrist in training, Dr Susan Wilson.

In 1978, Bartz received an OBE. The Club continued to support Shelta and took on Kalinga Lodge, a half-way house for homeless teenagers. We provided not just money and goods but also hands-on service. Six Brisbane Zontians attended the International Convention in Denver, Colorado, at which Leneen Forde carried Australia's flag and wore an exquisite gown, hand-printed with a wattle design; and made with love and skill by Club members. Leneen helped form the Women's Lawyers Association of Queensland and was its inaugural President. It was also the year she invited me to a club meeting "just to have a look". Come in spinner! Boy, was I shanghaied! I was presented with my badge, a bunch of Bernadette O'Shea's exquisite flowers, and here I am, 33 years later.

In 1979 we raised almost \$4,000 at a Zonta-do at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. And the tradition of bringing a small Christmas gift for elderly patients of St Luke's began.

In 1980 tragedy struck Club member Louise Martin. She was undergoing surgery for an aneurism after a minor car accident when her husband, prominent criminal law barrister, Basil Martin, died. Louise was to require permanent nursing care, leaving her two sons aged 8 and 9 effectively orphaned. Zontians visited Louise until her death in 1992 and on occasions

brought her to Zonta meetings. On a happier note, the Club raised a record \$4,400. Shirley King carried the Australian flag at a Washington Conference wearing the wattle dress. And Club member and leading feminist Dr Janet Irwin was a Queensland representative at the National Conference to mark the middle of the UN Decade for Women.

In 1981 the Club's 10th anniversary dinner was held at 29 Murray Street and our Women of Achievement Award was initiated.

In 1982 Leneen became the first Queensland District Governor of Zonta International. And Susan Davies' Hon Zon, writer-aviator husband, Terry Gwynne-Jones, spoke at the February meeting about renowned 83 year old aviator, Lores Bonney. In 1932 Mrs Bonney became the first women to circumnavigate Australia by air and to fly solo between Australia and England. And talk about show and tell. They brought Lores to the meeting, too!

In 1983 the Club raised a record \$7,000 to purchase a car for St Luke's. Member Beryce Nelson became Queensland's first female Parliamentary Whip. Our Joan Godfrey received an OBE and the inaugural Zonta Women of Achievement Award winner was Inara Svelbe, founder of the Australian Youth Ballet.

In 1984 Bernadette O'Shea won the Australian "Vin du Champagne" Award and a trip to France. For decades, Bernadette supported the Club by gratuitously providing gorgeous flower arrangements to guest speakers, visiting Zontians, and sick and new members. This award was the beginning of her morphing to serve the Club through her love and knowledge of wine. We were delighted to support Bernadette's favourite charity, Mamre, an organisation dedicated to supporting the families of the disabled and marginalised. St Lucia Boutique owner and Club stalwart, Heather Robinson, continued to provide fabulous clothes for raffles. Our first Trash and Treasure was conducted outside Heather's shop, as an alternative to our earlier involvement in Spring Hill Fairs. Heather's efforts recycled Zontian trash into others' treasure and raised \$22,000 over eight years.

In 1985 the Club catered for the opening night of the inaugural Wildlife Artists Exhibition. And we donated a tilting-turning bed to Royal Brisbane Hospital in memory of member Anne Sypher.

In 1986 we celebrated our 15th birthday with the Woman of Achievement Award dinner. The winner was the remarkable 92 year old artist, Caroline Barker, who had painted the portrait of Brisbane's first Lord Mayor, Alderman Jolly, 50 years before. She was then working on a portrait of the 1986 Lord Mayor, Sally Anne Atkinson, now a Club member. And member Audrey Lawrie was made a Fellow of the Australian College of Education.

In 1987 our Shirley became a director on the Zonta International Board and the Club sent its first \$1,000 contribution towards mortgage repayments for the newly purchased Zonta headquarters in Chicago.

In 1988 Leneen became International President-elect, the first Australian to lead Zonta International since it began in 1919. The Club supported the extraordinarily gifted child musicians, Tara, Robert and James Cuddeford by purchasing a \$2,300 cello for Tara.

In 1989 member Ruth Stonely won a Churchill Fellowship to study quilting overseas. And Delma Novak, a PHD student in Electrical Engineering, and former student of Zontian Marjorie Neal, the principal at St Aidan's, was awarded a \$6,000 Amelia Earhart Fellowship.

In 1990 our Veronica Kane, Queensland's first female police prosecutor, was promoted to Inspector. Sadly, energetic and dedicated President, pharmacist Kay Stewart, left us for Melbourne. Even more sadly, much loved member, psychologist Elaine Dignan, passed away. And the Club supported the Brown sisters; the Newcastle Earthquake Relief Fund and sponsored the Cuddeford children's studies at the Yehudi Menuhin School in England.

In 1991 Leneen was Queenslander of the Year. Our involvement in the Wildlife Art Exhibition raised \$12,000. And the Women of Achievement Award was presented to musician Mary Mageau.

In 1992 Pixie Annat MBE, OAM retired after 40 years at St Andrew's Hospital but, happily, not from Zonta. Leneen became the first woman Governor of Queensland. And the Club turned 21. Yes, another party! There does seem to be a recurring theme in this history!

In 1993 Leneen was awarded an AC; Dina an AO, Bartz an OAM and Joan an Honorary Doctorate from QUT for her outstanding contribution to nursing. On a sad note, the Club mourned Charter member Marie Watson-Blake AM. She was a leader in tourism, development, philanthropy and the arts, and was also known as the woman who led women into Queensland's boardrooms.

In 1994 we supported Cervical Cancer Research; the Women's Legal Service; the Marie Watson-Blake Memorial Scholarship; Windsor Meals on Wheels and the Royal Women's Hospital. Librarian Shirley McCorkindale was awarded the Medallion for Achievement within the Public Service. We raised \$5,000 at a gala Art Affair at the Jorgensen's Riverhouse Galleries with exhibits from our artist members Jan Jorgensen, Caterina Hampson (who can forget Caterina's womanly sculptures which have featured in our Women of Achievement awards) and Elizabeth Heber (whose hand-painted silk creations many of us are wearing tonight) all exhibited. And Bernadette was

made a Chevalier de l'ordre du Merit Agricole for her services to France through champagne.

In 1995 the Club supported the Skin Bank, as well as Rape Crisis and the Women's Legal Service, and furnished an oncology lounge at RBH for patients and families. Betty Byrne-Henderson raised \$3,000 with a tour of and cocktail party at the new international airport. Jill Pozzi and Beth Wilson held sublime fellowship days at their idyllic Currigee, South Stradbroke Island beach houses. And strictly no nasty Zonta bubbles there: only the good stuff!

In 1996 our Merryl Ducat was Area 3 Director. Members with 100 percent attendance at dinner meetings included the quiet achievers, Ailsa Gillies and Marilyn England. And speaking of quiet achievers, where would we be without the great and ongoing Zonta service over decades of Judy S Anderson. Under service committee chair, Sally Watson, the Club provided funding to QIMR research into ovarian cancer; and for Christmas presents for St Luke's patients and clients at Lucinda House and the Women's Shelter. We also decorated a patients' quiet room at the Queensland Radium Institute. And, yes, the Club celebrated its 25th birthday in grand style, with guests including past member Kathy Sullivan, then Federal Member for Moncrieff, formerly Senator Kathy Martin.

In 1997, at the instigation of Dina, the Club sponsored an international conference at QUT on children's rights. Topics included the elimination of child prostitution, domestic violence and the education of girls.

In 1997 Joy Vickerstaff was President and Chrissie Maclean continued as treasurer, a role she and Ann Shevill between them have filled with distinction for many of our forty years. The major recipients of service funds were the Hear and Say Deaf Centre; the Spinal Unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital; and Kids Helpline.

In 1998-99 Mary Magee was the Telstra Queensland Business Woman of the Year. Betty received the degree of Doctor of the University from QUT and was Queenslander of the Year. Leneen was appointed head of the Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions. Jan Delpratt became the first woman to have a personal chair for teaching and the first female professor in song and music in Australia. Kay Pearse was appointed Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister for Families, some unknown called Anna Bligh. Beth received a biennial national award from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects in the category "Building Context". Sally Chandler was a director and service committee chair. And the Club's status of women committee participated in an important partnership program with the federal government, launching "Business Against Domestic Violence".

In 1999-2000 under President Coralie Van Straaten-Peretz, in the spirit of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, the Club organised the Elanora poetry award and the publication of the anthology, "Moongalba". We began our long, still-continuing association with three Brisbane institutions - Windana, a short term supported accommodation centre for families escaping domestic violence; the Anglican Women's Hostel, New Farm, which provides crisis and short term accommodation for homeless women; and the Helena Jones Community Correction Centre for Women at Albion.

In 2000-2001 the Club celebrated its 30th birthday. Yes, another party! Shirley received an OAM and Bartz a Doctorate of the University from QUT. Plan International recognised the Club's 25 years of sponsorship under the foster parent plan. Service projects included the inaugural educational encouragement awards to students in disadvantaged schools, and refurbishing the outdoor area at the Anglican Women's Hostel. And gardener – broadcaster – writer - Zontian extraordinaire, Annette McFarlane's inaugural bulb sale raised \$5,000 for Club coffers.

In 2001-02 Mary Magee was International President, remarkably the second from this Club. Rhyl Row continued her fine work as chair of the Club's programme committee. Dr Diana Lange chaired the status of women committee. Valmai Pidgeon was awarded an AM. Dimity Dornan won the Woman of Achievement Award. And the Club made 50 personalised comfort bags for children at Windana.

In 2002-03 seven Club members attended Mary Magee's International Convention in Sweden where I was privileged to give a keynote address "The Local And Global Power Of The Woman Advocate 1945-2005: Zadvocating Zontians". The Club continued its fundraising through well-established methods. Wine sales, the salmon drive and the Trash and Treasure together raised almost \$25,000. Ann and Shirley became Fellows of Certified Public Accountants Australia. Physiotherapist, marathon runner and all-round marvellous member Angela Herde undertook a voluntary placement in Cambodia. The Club provided second-hand medical dictionaries and funds for construction of an all weather shelter for her patients. We also provided 50,000 information cards about emergency services for women escaping domestic violence, distributed through the Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Service Centre and the Northside Alliance Against Domestic Violence, and gave funds for drought relief through the Zonta Club of Roma. We set up the Cassandra Weddell Memorial Children's Library at the Women's Prison, managed by the Save the Children Fund, in memory of Club board member and QUT lecturer, Cassandra Weddell, who died in 2003 at the young age of 41.

In 2003-04 under Iris Scott's dazzling leadership, the finance and fundraising committee organised "All That Jazz", jointly with the Beaudesert club, at the historic Robin Dods designed "Nindooinbah". Fran's inaugural annual Gift

Fair at Forest Place, Albion, was also a big fundraiser. Amongst the Club members who received Centenary Medals were historian, Dr Kay Saunders AM for service to the Centenary of Federation celebrations, and Ann for services to Zonta International. Arts administrator Judith A Anderson was elected to the prestigious Royal Society of the Arts. And member Patrice Grealy-Ridley gave birth to beautiful baby Simone. Sadly, our Pat Avery passed away. Pat missed only two dinner meetings in her 32 years as a Zontian. During that time she gave outstanding service, not only to our Club but to the Girl Guides, the YWCA, the National Council of Women, UNIFEM, the RSL and the War Widow's Guild. Her daughter, Barbara Murray, proudly continues Pat's tradition as a member of this Zonta Club.

In 2003-04 the Club hosted a Trafficking of Women Forum under the auspices of the Brisbane Institute. In collaboration with the Brisbane Breakfast Club, we used the Jean Rialland Bequest, brought to the Club by Fran, to fund bursaries for Australian Indigenous women students. Fundraising included the second Gift Fair and the launch of the *Liz and Friends Art Exhibition* at South Brisbane's Art Factory Gallery. Our talented Rhonda Davidson-Irwin, whose musical and organisational talents often feature at Zonta functions, was commissioned by EMI to write music for the Athens Olympics! Ailsa received an Australia Day Award for her community and volunteer work. The lovely Sarah Comiskey welcomed baby Mary Kate. And the Club purchased for Earnshaw State College's program to give students a better understanding of parenting, a computerised crying baby, appropriately named by the students "Zon".

In 2004-2005 we rejoiced in the return to the Club after a short absence, our popular, hardworking Jennifer Thomson. How proud we all were of our courageous Kate Carney, who took leave of absence to travel to Afghanistan to train personnel and implement a taxation system. Joan featured in the book *Twelve Special Women in Nursing*. Kay launched her history of the Miss Australia quest, *A Crowning Achievement*. Lea Greenaway became a published author in the anthology, *The Devil in Brisbane*, launched at the 2005 Brisbane Writer's Festival. Gail Rienstra was elected President of the Australian College of Education (Queensland Division). The ever-generous Iris arranged for Avon to donate toiletries as Christmas presents for women in caravan parks. And the inaugural Babette Stephens Memorial Award was presented to actor Tanya Heywood.

In 2006-2007 Helen Chapman served as treasurer in a year in which the Club contributed over \$4,400 to the Zonta International Foundation and almost \$19,000 to local projects. Under the watch of the energetic, generous and in all ways wonderful Jennifer West, we purchased the contents for 1,600 birthing kits for developing countries.

The highlight of the 2007-2008 year was our Joie de Vivre evening. Under committee chair, Susan Plant, it raised \$90,000 to screen and treat Vanuatu women for cervical cancer; \$30,000 for the Zonta International Foundation

and \$60,000 for our local service funds. In combination with regular fundraisers, it was a new record: almost \$100,000! Proud board members that year included Amber Buckland and Barbara Murray. Honorary doctorates were awarded to Jan, Sally Anne and Mary, who also received an OAM. And Leneen was declared a Queensland Great. As if we didn't know!

In 2008-2009, with the encouragement of President Margaret Ferguson, Melanie Ho and Pat Hall coordinated the development and printing of culturally appropriate safety cards in collaboration with the Murri Sisters, as well as organising reprints and distribution of our standard safety cards.

In 2009-2010 new directors included the dynamic Joan Gottardo and savvy Cecily Tucker was board minutes secretary. Julie Mannion and Alison Tait represented the Club as delegates at the inaugural District 22 conference in Townsville. Bernadette published her award-winning *Champagne & Chandeliers: Grand Dining Celebrations*. Kay published her history *Queensland – 150 Years of Achievement*. Jan was awarded an AO. No surprise that energetic, newish Zontian, Barbara Kent, won a Vice-Chancellor's award for excellence. And the Club actor, Dr Caroline Heim, became the first person to complete a PhD in performance and research at UQ.

In 2010-2011 we raised \$13,000 with the successful *Wine and Roses* evening at Old Government House. The hard-working organising committee included Adrienne Irvine, Susan Scott and Lenore Wille. Lea, with support of others including Anne Landsberg, raised a further \$3,000 through wine sales. Karen Brady donated a large box of teddy bears, purchased by Hon Zon and long term Club supporter, Gail Austen OAM, for \$510. By March 2011, Susan Davies' Thursday Bunnings sausage sizzles raised over \$2,500 and are expected to raise over \$20,000 by the end of 2011. These funds supported Windana; students at disadvantaged schools; and the funding and assembling of birthing kits, this time for Afghanistan. Governor-General Quentin Bryce AC was made an honorary Zontian. And, as in 1974, we were all touched by the Brisbane floods. Four members were directly affected. Club friends organised a movie night to support our Sanghee Park and her mother. They are making steady progress in rebuilding their home and their lives. Happily, the devastation of the Brisbane floods has gradually given way to regeneration and renewal. How fitting, then, to welcome a post-flood Brisbane Zonta baby, Allison and David Williams' James.

But Janus is tired of looking backwards. It is time for her to now look forward to the Zonta Club of Brisbane's next 40 years.

With its proud history, the Club is well-placed to consolidate and thrive. We have a healthy mix of older (or should I say, wiser and experienced) members, and newer, younger members with fresh visions, ideas and energy, women like Club director Nerida Cooksley, and rookie members Pamela



Deakin, Professor Genevieve Gray and Kay Ker. All this promises an harmonious balance between continuity and change in the Club's membership as we enter the next 40 years.

Certainly, there will be challenges. Women in professional and executive roles from which Zontians come, are increasingly working longer hours, whilst also juggling the bearing and raising of children and the caring for ageing parents and relatives. Where is the time for community service?

But we Zontians have always known that if you want something done you ask a busy woman. Lateral thinking and flexibility can help overcome this challenge. For example, Sarah, as a busy young mum, was unable to participate in Club service or attend functions and dinner meetings. But this did not stop her making an invaluable contribution by preparing the Club's articles of association for incorporation and revising its by-laws. In our Club, we also understand that members may not always be able to actively participate in Zonta activities at all stages of their lives. With this in mind, we do not hesitate to give leave of absence to members when required.

It seems that the gap between rich and poor will continue to grow in Australia over the next 40 years. I fear this means there will be an expanding need to support local social justice projects. The shrinking global village and the instant communication revolution mean that we fortunate educated few, living in prosperous Australia are more acutely aware of the suffering and injustice in other parts of the world. And the suffering of and injustice to women and children is especially disturbing. This means that more and more, good-hearted, intelligent Brisbane professional and executive women will want to work to improve the status of women locally and world-wide. The Zonta Club of Brisbane has a great product to offer those women.

The Club has been at the coal face in achieving the remarkable gains we have seen locally in women's rights over the last 40 years. In Australia, women now fill the roles of Prime Minister, Governor-General, Premier, and comprise about one-third of Senators, Members of Parliament and judges, a far cry from when this Club was chartered in 1971. Despite these gains, Australian women on average still receive 17 per cent less pay than men for the same work.

I predict that, early in the next 40 years, this 30 per cent will become 50 per cent. I predict that early in the next 40 years Australian women will achieve true pay equality. I predict that, early in the next 40 years, this Club will smash its \$100,000 annual fundraising record! I predict that Brisbane women Zontians will work locally with men, in an equal partnership, to help remould the framework of public institutions and private businesses, so that they reflect the life experiences of women as well as men. And I predict Brisbane men and women will work together as truly equal partners to best meet the challenges of the 21st century.

I hope that in future years the Club will explore important local issues such as whether the rights of Brisbane women, especially those suffering disadvantage, would be better protected by an Australian Human Rights Act. I hope the Club, perhaps through recipients of our Indigenous bursaries, will work to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health and prosperity in Australia. I hope the Club will work on ways to ensure the latest wave of refugees, our newest Australians, are welcomed and supported, so that they can make their very best contribution to our diverse Australian community.

Internationally, the task is more daunting. But there is a strong movement afoot to bring serious change to the world's oppressed women, epitomised in the current best seller "Half the Sky".<sup>2</sup> Western women are concerned about their young sisters in developing nations who are locked in brothels or curled up on floors of isolated huts with fistulas, and without access to education or opportunities. There is an awakening that girls can help girls, something Zonta has known, talked about and acted on for almost 100 years. This Zonta club, through Zonta International and its close affiliation with UN Women, provides a perfect pathway for concerned Brisbane women of diverse ages, backgrounds and occupations, to work together to improve the status of women in developing countries. Let me remind you that Zonta International projects currently include the elimination of disabling birth and obstetric fistula injuries in Liberia, and empowering young fistula survivors through education to become advocates for other women.<sup>3</sup>

There are three things I think which will make the Zonta product offered by this Club even more attractive to these newly aware women. First, Zonta should emphasise that its fundraising is separated from administration costs. Donors want to know that all of their donation goes to the project for which the donation was given. The second matter has been often discussed by Zontians but no satisfactory solution has yet been found. In Australia and, I suspect, in other Western nations, tax deductibility is an important incentive in attracting the charity dollar. The more funds we raise, the more good we can do and the greater our influence. We must find a way to make donations to Zonta projects tax deductible. And third, I know that an international organisation like Zonta must have a tight framework, clear rules and a democratic process for the election of office bearers at all levels of governance and that those rules must be followed. But all this should be conducted professionally and seamlessly. The ordinary Club member and donors to Zonta projects do not want to see time-consuming, distressing tussles about by-laws interpretation or petty politics. Zontians and their supporters are interested in the big picture advocacy and action that Zonta does so well: improving the economic, political and social status of women, locally and globally.

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<sup>2</sup> Nicholas D Kristof and Cheryl Wu Dunn, First Vintage Books edition, June 2010.

<sup>3</sup> D K Curtis, "President's Message", January 2011, 2 The Zontian 4.

There will be much for the Zonta Club of Brisbane to do in the next 40 years. As Michelle Bachelet, executive director of UN Women, in the recently launched report "Progress of the World's Women: Pursuit of Justice" stated: "In every region, laws still discriminate against women". In that same report Unity Dow, the first woman appointed to the Botswana High Court, who spoke at this year's UN Women Brisbane breakfast, said: "We will know when we are attaining justice for women not when we count the number of women we put on the moon, but when we count the number of men who believe that raising the next generation is just as important as getting to the moon."

Be in no doubt. This Club, as part of Zonta International, is well-placed to meet the many future challenges faced by service clubs; to take advantage of its many future opportunities; and to realise my predictions. In no small measure, that is because of the fine leadership of President, Julie Mannion, ably assisted by Amber Buckland, and highly qualified newsletter editor, Susan Hocking, a former feature writer and now lecturer in creative writing. We are additionally blessed with the experienced guidance of Judith A Anderson as District Governor-elect. And I know from my time on the Club nominating committee, there is no shortage of dedicated, clever, talented women prepared to step up to leadership roles. We Brisbane Zontians realise that doing things for others does not just help those others. It also makes us feel good. And especially when, as tonight, we celebrate this club's 40th coming of age with friends, sharing food, wine, companionship, laughter and love. In the words of Louie Armstrong, frequently sung by Leneen's long departed but still missed lovely Angus: what a wonderful world! And over the next 40 years Zonta International and the Brisbane Club will make it even more wonderful.

My Zonta Club of Brisbane, congratulations on the past 40 wonderful years. You are in good hands. There are far more than 40 wonderful years ahead. And lots more parties! Happy Birthday!