



Zonta Club of Brisbane Inc.

Member of Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Club No. 680, Area 1, District 22 – Charter Date 01.10.1971 – ABN 47 885 713610
GPO Box 1768, Brisbane Q 4001

Newsletter – SEPTEMBER 2012

President – Pamela Deakin; 1st Vice-President – Christine Stewart;
Secretary – Adrienne Irvine; Treasurer – Christine Maclean; Directors – Amber Buckland, Patrice Grealy-Ridley, Anna Herbert, Belle Pinnow; Newsletter Editor – Susan Hocking.

DATE CLAIMERS, REMINDERS, & EVENT INFORMATION

- WED., OCT. 3** **CLUB DINNER MEETING** 6.30pm fellowship for 7pm meeting. Guest speaker will be Ansmarie Van Erp, our District 22 Advocacy Committee Chairman. Ans will speak about her goals for the Biennium and her role in ensuring that Zonta clubs have legislative awareness and advocacy as the focus of their service activities.
- TUES., OCT. 9** **BABETTE STEPHENS MEMORIAL THEATRE EVENING** Following a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, to be directed by Jennifer Flowers and held at the QUT Gardens Point campus at 7.30pm, there will be the presentation of the Babette Stephens Memorial Award. Tickets are priced at \$25 and all funds go to support the Award. Tickets will be available at the October dinner meeting or contact Julie Mannion on 0414284013 or juliemannion@bigpond.com
- THURS., OCT. 18** **ANNUAL NCWQ MORNING TEA AND FASHION PARADE** To be held at Tattersall's Club, 215 Queen St, Brisbane, from 9.45am (for 10.00am), this is an opportunity to gather friends to see members of the National Council of Women in Queensland modeling the latest Spring fashions from Cosmopolitan Boutique in Alderley. It will also feature an Indian dance performance and a soloist. This event supports the NCWQ Bursaries awarded to young Queensland women to assist with their educational expenses. For tickets or more information contact Noela O'Donnell on 3846-4418 or 0414771736
- FRI., OCT. 26** **PINK COCKTAIL NIGHT** The Zonta Club of Redcliffe is holding a Cocktail/Mocktail night at the Belvedere Hotel, Cnr of Oxley Ave and Woodcliffe Cres, Woody Point, from 7pm until 11.30pm to support the distribution of its "Side By Side" DVD. Each guest will receive a glass of pink champagne on arrival. For more information and ticket purchases contact Heather on 3883-1300.
- WED., NOV. 7** **CLUB DINNER MEETING** 6.30pm fellowship for 7pm meeting. Guest speaker will be Cecilia Barassi-Rubio, Director of the Immigrant Women's Support Service to speak about the work of the service. She will be joined by colleague Carla de Simone.
- SAT., DEC. 1** **WORKING BEE FOR CHRISTMAS WINE ORDERS** Lea Greenaway, co-ordinator of the Club's annual Christmas Wine Drive, is looking for able bodied members and Hon Zons to help sort wine orders for distribution/collection. Details to be advised but register your availability NOW by contacting Lea on 3371-3829
- WED., DEC. 5** **CLUB DINNER MEETING** 6.30pm fellowship for 7pm meeting. No guest speaker as this is the club's Christmas celebration.

The United Service Club has a strict deadline for finalising meals. As it is assumed you will be attending all meetings of the Club unless an apology is received, it is critical that you let Christine Maclean know by telephoning 0407574404 or on email christinemac@gmail.com **by noon on Monday, October 1**, if you will not be attending the meeting. Christine must also be advised by that deadline of any guests. Any member from whom an apology is not received in time is automatically invoiced for the meal ordered for her (\$41.00)



Susan Davies, our Windana contact, is asking members to bring donations of unwanted cutlery this month

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Club Members

I am looking forward to our dinner meeting on 3 October which celebrates the Club's 41st birthday.

Our guest speaker is Ansmarie Van Erp who is the Zonta District 22 Advocacy Committee Chairman. Zonta International's vision of the 2012-14 Biennium is to be the leading advocate for the rights of women and to be the organization of choice to achieve that goal. A major goal for the Biennium is visibility and credibility through advocacy, service, membership, fundraising and awards.

The dinner meeting in September had a service theme and I think highlighted the Club's great success in providing service locally and through international service projects. Through the efforts of our hardworking sausage sizzlers and many others who have organized major fundraising events over the years, the Club has a proud tradition of serious quality fundraising. It is timely to consider advocacy and what we can achieve towards this aspect of Zonta's vision and goals. Ansmarie is an inspirational speaker who is passionate to assist Clubs to make legislative awareness and advocacy the focus of service activities.

The Board is currently considering the Club's draft strategic plan for the Biennium and proposes to circulate the draft out-of-session shortly after the October dinner, for finalization at the November dinner. Ansmarie's presentation and the Club's discussion with her will be reflected in the strategic plan's coverage of advocacy goals and strategies.

I would also like the strategic plan to contain some activities that commence preparation for Zonta International's centenary in 2019. Working on our website and some activity concerning our history come to mind. I do not have preconceived ideas about what is appropriate (other than as mentioned in a previous message that I want to go through the material held in John Oxley). I have had some initial phone conversations with Shirley McCorkindale, Ann Shevill and Ailsa Gillies about library and history matters. I will seek your views on the history or other activities you feel appropriate.

Yours in Zonta

Pamela Deakin



President Pamela and Susan Davies at Hamlin Fistula Breakfast – see story below

BLOSSOMING YOUNG WOMEN MAKE IMPRESSIVE GUESTS



The Club's September dinner meeting was a wonderful opportunity to see the type of young woman our fundraising efforts are helping to support – and who could help but be impressed?

We welcomed three of the Yalari students we assist this year and heard each of them speak honestly and quite poignantly about leaving their home communities to attend boarding school in Brisbane, the challenges and the triumphs that have resulted.

We also heard from the recipient of our Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship, the talented, emerging young businesswoman Haddie McMicking, pictured left with Julie Mannion and President Pamela following the

presentation of her certificate. And what an incredible coincidence that Haddie had only recently learned that one of her first clients with her new employer Investa will be none other than Yalari!

INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS MAKE EARLY MORNINGS WORTHWHILE

The club was well represented at at least two breakfast functions during the past month, and the calibre of the speakers and the causes they espoused made the early morning start well worth the effort.

One of those functions saw hundreds gather on September 13 at the Sofitel to hear Dr Catherine Hamlin, founder and resident director of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia and a Zonta International Honorary Zontian.

Catherine, now in her late 80s, told the story of the establishment of the hospital back in the 1950s, the work that it continues to do on behalf of some of the world's most impoverished and vulnerable women, and most shockingly, she spoke of the current financial concerns caused by a schism between her and the former board of the hospital. Dr Hamlin made it clear that although she is a devout Christian, it was never her intention that donors or patients be required to follow Christianity.

Over at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on September 26, over a thousand more gathered for the Project NOW breakfast at which Julie Mannion hosted a table of club members. Guests at this breakfast, which a group of Brisbane-based Zonta Clubs – including our own – was supporting in partnership with Rotary Brisbane Planetarium, heard another inspirational woman speak, Cynthia Morton. Cynthia spoke of her background of generational addiction, violence and trauma. Proceeds were to aid the construction of a much-needed 20-bed residence for women recovering from addiction at the Salvation Army's Moonyah recovery Centre at Red Hill.

530 of those in attendance at the breakfast were there through links with Zonta – a fabulous result! And \$150,000 was raised, with more pledged, which it is hoped will enable the sod to be turned for the new centre before the end of 2012.



Barbara Murray with Dr Hamlin

CHRISTMAS WINE DRIVE IS AN ANNUAL CORKER – CAN YOU HELP OUT?

Lea Greenaway is looking for helpers to take and distribute orders for the annual Christmas Wine Drive between now and Christmas and also for members to help sort the Wine orders at a Wine Working Bee on Saturday December 1. This is not only a fun way to join other members in a club fundraising venture, it is to be part of an undertaking that has proven to be a very nice money-spinner. Last year the Wine Drive raised \$3,882. Each year the Club sells boxes of six assorted white, red, or mixed wines for \$60 a box. (Lea will soon be circulating the list of the selection for this year from Premium Wines.) Last year, although members of course bought boxes themselves, more than 50% of the wine was sold at members' place of work. So, start thinking about how many boxes you might buy or could sell to friends, family and colleagues – they make great Christmas gifts.



A member to help Lea Greenaway take and distribute Wine Drive orders (September-December)

Able bodied members to help sort Wine orders at the Wine Working Bee Sat 1 Dec

Ring Lea Greenaway on 3371 3829 if you can help!

A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN THE BABETTE STEPHENS MEMORIAL PRIZE

Following, is a report from club member Dianne Eden which gives an in-depth and very interesting look into the process of selecting this year's recipient of the Babette Stephens Memorial Prize, to be presented after the performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream on Tuesday, October 9. Thank you, Dianne.

As many of you are coming to see *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and because we are looking to find a deserving young woman for the Babette Stephens Award, as contributors you also deserve to put your toe deeper into these magic waters. We have a small committee of Zontian judges from the profession who make the final decision. We also ask the advice of the director of the production.

First of all I should tell you that the actors in the production are halfway through their actor training. Their first play was a Chekhov, this is their second. Before their auditions I spend a month with them in an intensive learning experience called 'Falling In Love With Shakespeare', a program which is in memory of my friend and mentor, Jennifer Blocksidge. (I know many of you remember Jennifer as a friend also. Jennifer and Babette were close and worked together many times – nice synergy there.)

I love the moment when the young actors realise that Shakespeare's iambic pentameter is user-friendly. 'To be' is the same as 'G'day', and so they don't have to use a false poetry voice. Then I pass them over to the Director, Jennifer Flowers, who drives them mercilessly ever closer to being able to call themselves employable professional actors by this



time next year.

When/if you come (and who could resist this play?) keep in mind some of the following student secrets I'd like to share with you – hoping you are not related to any of them!

SASHA DYER (Helena): Is developing into a nicely centred and intelligent young actress. She is charming and has no stars in her eyes. She is using this production to extend her range which tends to be a bit filmic. I think she is a contender for the prize.

ELENA FORMAN (Peter Quince, Cobweb): Is seriously funny. Not everybody loves everything she does but whatever she does it's her own. She is also a high achiever academically. She worries that she's too tall for the business and certainly some of the boys don't measure up which, sadly, affects how she might be cast on stage when she leaves QUT. However, in film it doesn't matter. Also a contender.

KYLA NICHOLE (Snug, Philostrate and Peaseblossom): Is our Canadian student who is learning all she can before she unleashes herself on the world. She is an accomplished artist; surreal and creative.

CHLOE INGALL (Hermia): Has a quality of irresistibility that she doesn't believe she has yet! She is shy, and concerned always about giving value to the group. In this lead role she has to throw away her self-limiting beliefs and allow herself to be in love, joyous, funny, angry.

EMILY GRUHL (Titania): Is working well on being all woman and leaving the schoolgirl behind. She has loads of potential and all through this rehearsal has worked to find a strong vocal presence so that she is not vocally dominated by the naturally booming tones of Oberon.

MELINDA VIDLER (Hippolyta, Mustardseed): Is like a puppy, full of energy, charm. She is learning to speak language without stressing every word. She is very self-conscious but doing well. She is finding grace and rhythm with Shakespeare.

All of the actors are learning something specific as well as working on the play. I think the production is going to be stunning. Jennifer Flowers is magic herself. This is a play for every age. I am bringing five of my grandchildren. I think every young person should begin their Shakespeare love affair with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Also, you may like to see last year's winner, Isabella Tannock, perform in her final Showcase. It is Tuesday, October 23 at Gardens Point Theatre at 4-5pm. Let me know if you would like to join. It is very exciting to see them off!

MICHELLE BACHELET RECEIVES AUSTRALIAN HONOUR

In case you missed the newsletter sent from the United Nations Committee of Zonta International District 22, it reported that Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, current Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women and the keynote speaker at the recent Zonta International Convention in Torino, was appointed as an Honorary Companion of the Order of Australia by Governor-General Quentin Bryce during her official visit to Australia in August.

The Award recognises Ms Bachelet's outstanding global leadership in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and her eminent service to Australia-Chile bilateral relations.

At a press conference during her visit, Ms Bachelet thanked the Government and the people of Australia for their strong support to UN Women, and leadership for gender equality and women's empowerment at home and abroad. During her visit, the Foreign Minister, Senator Bob Carr, announced that Australia will contribute \$6.7million to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women.



PEACE LECTURE – LENEEN FORDE DELIVERS INAUGURAL PEACE ADDRESS



Club member Ann Shevill has kindly provided a report from the inaugural UN International Day of Peace Annual Brisbane Lecture, held recently at St John's Cathedral, the highlight of the celebration of the International Day of Peace.

Ann tells us that, in what was an inspiring and memorable occasion, our own Leneen Forde AC, Chancellor of Griffith University and the first woman Governor of Queensland, was a brilliant and moving guest speaker. Indeed, Ann commented that "it is not very often that an address in a Cathedral culminates with a spontaneous standing ovation" as was the case when Leneen finished her address.

Ann writes: "Leneen Forde has been a pacesetter advocate for women's

and children's rights in Australia and her presentation provided a great opportunity to share her insights for the role of women and peace on the International Day of Peace. It is intended that the annual Peace Lecture will enable Brisbane citizens to join with people worldwide to support the struggle for justice and peace and the joyful celebration of life."

Ann said that the introduction of the guest speaker by another of our Club's members, the Hon. Justice Margaret McMurdo AC, was a moving and fitting tribute to Ms Forde. She also reports that members will not be surprised to learn that Zonta International was often mentioned by both Leneen and Margaret!

There were other tributes to women, including choral and other musical performances and women such as Emma Miller and Jessie Street were recognised for their activism in women's rights, social justice and peace.

FINAL TICKET AVAILABLE FOR THE YALARI DINNER

One free ticket remains to fill the Zonta Table at the annual Yalari Dinner on Friday night, October 26, at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre, cnr of Merivale and Glenelg Streets, at South Bank.

The table has been donated for our members and there is no better way to see the Yalari success story in action than to be present at this gala event.

Our club is assisting four Yalari students, all young women, with their educational expenses this year. If you would like to fill this final seat at the table contact susanhockmack@hotmail.com – first-in, first-served!

