

**The Zonta Club of Mackay—  
a member of Zonta International**

*Conviction=Commitment=Courage*



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MACKAY INC  
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

# The Zonta Club of Mackay Newsletter

**February to April 2016**

## President's Report

Hello everyone

Well here we are in April 2016 already! Not quite sure where the first quarter of the year has gone.

We have started the year off very strongly, with our annual International Women's Day event a sell-out success. Many thanks to all of the wonderful women involved in making the day so enjoyable. The feedback I've heard from everyone was positive, and I think we just continue to go from strength to strength with this event.

Next up on our Advocacy events calendar is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, coming up in May. Zonta members will be invited to attend the official candle-lighting service – date and time to be advised shortly.

Our annual Area Meeting is also coming up in May, from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>. The weekend will begin with a presence at a major rugby league game – Cowboys vs Broncos in Townsville. This is shaping up to be a great event, and I would strongly encourage all members to consider attending. The Area Meeting will follow on Saturday and Sunday, and is a great way to learn more about Zonta. If you haven't already registered, it's not too late.

Planning is also underway for other events, including the Reclaim the Night March, scheduled for Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October. Please put this date in your calendar.

And it's almost time for our AGM, and I'd ask you all to consider an executive or Board position. Our Club depends on our members nominating for these important positions, and you will always have the support of other members. Please see Gail or Bridget if you are interested in one of these roles.

Until next time,

Yours in Zonta

Belinda Hassan (**President**)

Recent breast cushion packing day -  
President Belinda with Marj Burston  
President CWA & Z Club members



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## International Womens Day Event 2016

The Zonta Club of Mackay once again partnered with the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC) to celebrate International Womens Day on Sunday 6th March with a live simul-cast from the Sydney Opera House following a scrumptious brunch.

Multi-talented artist **Miranda July**, *Orange is the New Black* Memoirist **Piper Kerman**, and Washington power-house **Anne-Marie Slaughter** headlined a program of influential thinkers when the All About Women festival took over the Opera House Concert Hall to celebrate IWD.



President Belinda with Mayor Deidre Comerford, Zontians Lynne, Deb and Kerryn celebrating IWD with guest Chris Evangelou

Apart from being an important recognised community event, the IWD continues to grow as a successful major fundraiser for the Mackay club.

## Mackay North HOWW Z Club Service Award

Each year the Zonta Club of Mackay awards a Service award to an exemplary Z club member who meets the set criteria of service to their school, community and international projects. This award is for a student/s who makes a real difference in their community, and gives them the opportunity to be rewarded and recognised for their important contribution.

Two students, **Taneesha Counsell** and **Johnzel Babijes** from the Mackay North Z Club (HoWW Z Club) recently received awards for their involvement with the 'Days for Girls Project'.

This organisation provides girls in rural and under developed areas of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand with hygiene kits. These kits include; special-made cloth menstruation pads, underwear and soap. Female hygiene items are not readily available to girls in many areas, and if they are, they are very expensive and can be hard to get. There is a lot of shame related to female hygiene as well, which is why educating young girls in these areas and then providing them with easy solutions is extremely important.

### Thankyou letter from Days for Girls

I've just received a huge parcel from the Z Club at North Mackay State High School.

Quality of sewing was exceptional. They sent 60 shields and a couple of hundred liners and maybe 60 bags, also plastic bags, washers, and undies.

It was a delight to unwrap. Gosh I love this job!

That's a lovely early Christmas present for our team as we have ongoing requests throughout this month it seems which are stretching our resources'.



Taneesha Counsell, Johnzel Babijes & teacher Jill Weiss

## Young Women in Public Affairs 2016

The presentation of the **2016 Young Women in Public Affairs** (YWPA award) was held at the International Women's Day event at the MECC. The 2016 judging panel was Zontian Deb Green, Leanne Williams from CQU and Daily Mercury editor Meredith Papavasilou. All judges were very impressed with the applicants and their achievements, and felt privileged to be involved, and be aware of these amazing and inspiring group of young women.

This year there were twelve applicants across five secondary schools, and it was the first time we had representation from CQUni, with two applicants. The judging was very close.



Claire Kelly Winner of 2016 Young Women In Public Affairs Award (second Left) . Claire was presented with her award at the 2016 IWD event.

Runner up was Holy Spirit School Captain and past Z club President **Grace Emmert**. Grace was instrumental in organising the very successful Dresses for Drought project, which involved forty beautiful formal dresses being collected and sent to girls in drought ravaged western Queensland, where the students weren't able to afford these luxury items.

The 2016 YWPA recipient was CQUniversity nursing student **Claire Kelly**. Claire has a long list of achievements which include YWPA 2015 recipient, 2016 Mackay Regional Council Young Citizen of the Year, four years of Z club commitment with two years as president, several volunteering placements overseas, volunteer leadership achievements, youth parliament placements, and 2016 Mackay Z club ambassador.

## Mackay North State High School Z Club



The **MNSHS Z club HOWW**, have been very busy with a toiletries drive which involved the whole school.

They raised five baskets full of toiletries to be delivered to Youth Information Referral Service YIRS (a one stop youth support agency), Kalyan House (youth emergency accommodation) and The domestic violence resource centre (DVRS)



## Women Who Make Us Proud Awards—Viv Hanrahan

As part of the celebrations of International women's Day and Queensland Women's Week, the Mackay Regional Council partnered with a number of local organisations to deliver the **Women Who Make Us Proud Awards (#Mackaypride)**.

The awards were an opportunity to showcase the achievements and hard work of local women across the region. The awards were intended to recognise the extraordinary achievements of everyday women in our community. Women who make us proud of our community and those quietly achieving women who work hard for our community behind the scenes.

It was a wonderful opportunity to recognise the work and community spirit of our very own Zontian **Vivien Hanrahan** who works tirelessly not only for Zonta but as an Inclusion and diversity Advocate within our community. Utilising her own personal past experiences of settling in Mackay from the Philippines, Vivien welcomes and supports new community members who arrive from overseas countries, particularly those with limited English language skills to settle and feel they are part of the Mackay community. Through her own actions, Vivien demonstrates that we all can make worthwhile contributions to the community in which we live and work. **Viv you are a Woman Who Makes Us Proud (#Mackaypride)!**



Zontian Vivien Hanrahan receiving her community 'Women Who Make Us Proud Award (#Mackaypride)' from Mayor Deidre Comerford as part of the International Women's Day and Queensland Women's Week

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**Violence against women and girls happens everywhere.**

Join District 22 Zonta clubs in advocating to prevent and end violence against women in our local community and internationally.

### Happy birthdays !

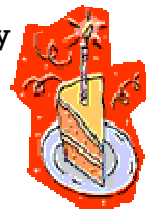
Vassie 4th January

Jill 12th January

Sue 26th February

Marissa 4th March

Samantha 28th March



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