



Reef Talk



OCTOBER 2016

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am writing this report before I go on holidays so it will be ready for the Reef Talk before I return.

Of course, that means, I will not have much up to date Club news to discuss.

What I would like to talk about is the importance of taking time out. Which is very timely as that is exactly what I am doing at the moment. We as a club have very active members who work hard on their projects and positions within the club when they are here. At any given time up to 1/3 of our Club Members can be away and miss one or meetings throughout the year. One of the most important items that makes our club such a success is our lenience of members being away for extended periods or frequent absences due to work, family and holiday commitments.



The following is some quotes and comments that I have read online which I find very apt.

"Taking time out can allow people to regain focus in life and help them to make the most of the time that they do have. When you allocate time out to relax and recharge your mind, you'll find that you are rejuvenated when it comes to dealing with issues and life in general.

If you are looking to maximise the benefits of your time, making sure that your mind is fresh and open to new ideas is crucial.

Other benefits that come from taking time out include:

- **The chance to create space for improved results**
- **The chance to give yourself space to work on improving or developing relationships**

You will give yourself the platform to prosper

It can be easy to convince yourself that you don't have the time to stop or take a rest but in reality, it may be that you don't have the time to continually keep working. Learning the importance of taking a time out and of the benefits on offer will help you to feel more comfortable and confident in life."

-Benjamin Bonetti

I am sure our policy if one of the reasons our club and its members are so successful. So, when something is on and we are complaining a lot of our members are away, just say to yourself – that's ok – they are off recharging and will come back happier and more relaxed and ready to give everyone else the break that they deserve.

I am looking forward to returning refreshed and relaxed myself and ready to catch up with all the latest things that have taken place in my absence. See you at the October Home Visit meeting at Christina's. I am sure it will be a fantastic meeting venue and I am so looking forward to attending and catching up with all of you again.

Connie Riley, President



ADVOCACY



As Advocacy Director of ZONTA this year I am blessed to have committee members who come up with wonderful ideas and Cath Fernbach, our Media Guru has come up with the perfect way to get ZONTA's message across regarding Domestic Violence during the 16 days of Activism. This year, marks the 25th year it has been proudly held and this year the theme is "Peace in the Home to Peace in the World". It kicks off on the 25th November and goes through until December 10th. Tragically, each year between 80 and 100 women are killed in domestic violence situations in Australia and on average 23 of those deaths occur in QLD!!!

To maximise the impact of those senseless deaths, the Zonta Club of the Whitsundays will collect 23 pairs of shoes, spray paint them orange and display them prominently in front of our "Orange Stall" at the markets on November 26th surrounded by our "Orange Ladies". Vinnies and Salvo's are currently saving suitable old but feminine shoes, passed their "use by date". AS well as spreading the ZONTA says NO message on that day, will be giving our community an opportunity to fund a \$3 Birthing Kit. This will raise money for Whitsunday ZONTA to further fund the Birthing Kit project in our local area and on Hamilton Is and Wendy Downes has all those details. I have already discussed our plan with Sharon Smallwood at the Whitsunday Times and she will give us maximum publicity for this event.

Wendy has done a brilliant job of organising the Birthing Kit days at St. Catherine's and Proserpine High School and I congratulate all those who have volunteered to help. It's a brilliant project on so many levels.

As I mentioned last month, Connie sent me on an email from Therese Smith President of Townsville Metro ZONTA CLUB letting us know that the Townsville City Council began taking the first steps towards becoming a "White Ribbon Workplace" <http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/workplaces>

White Ribbon is Australia's campaign to prevent men's violence against women and the world's largest movement of men and boys working to end men's violence against women and girls. As reported at the last meeting, I met with councillor Jan Clifford and the Director of Community and Environment Julie Wright and the wheels have now been set in motion for THE WHITSUNDAY COUNCIL to also do the 18 month accreditation program to become a White ribbon workplace. What a fabulous outcome and certainly something to celebrate on White Ribbon Day on November 25th.

Pammie Harrison, Director

SERVICE

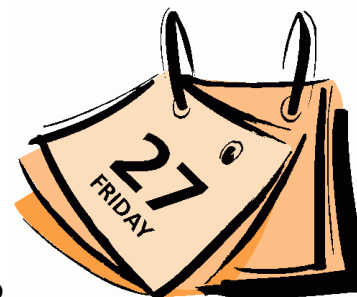
Knitting Group: This will be held on the 31st October. This is the last meeting until after Easter next year. Christmas theme. Will donate to the Nursing home & Christmas parcels.



Sewing group: No further dates at this stage

Entertainment Books: Kim to report

The Calendar: We have all 12 sponsors. 9 of the 12 paid so far & chasing others. Last photos have been taken & just waiting on receiving the last ones & a few details at the moment. All slogans except one have been done. Cath & PJ have written the Zonta details & Peter Jennings taking photo the new Heart entrance for front cover photo. Hope to have it all finished by the end of the month if not before.



IWDB: Speaker's tickets have been paid for & sent to her. Cath has done a submission to council for a grant as we are wanting to involve high school girls with wearable art, music etc. Waiting on hearing back from Council.

Christmas Party: TAFE College - 2nd December - Theme "All White Christmas" Carol Bolton & committee working on this & further details will be supplied.



Carole Brauner, Director

From the Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia)



Zonta Club of the Whitsundays hold Assembly Day in memory of dear friend



An Assembly Day at which 400 Birthing Kits were packed was recently held on Hamilton Island in memory of Janet Keppke, who passed away suddenly earlier this year. Janet had been passionate about getting the community of Hamilton Island involved in BKFA and had encouraged fundraising for an Assembly Day. In her honour, Kit Coordinator Wendy Downes, planned and organised the event along with the Zonta Club of the Whitsundays. 23 ladies and a few of their beautiful daughters attended the glorious day. Hosts, Wendy Downes and Pam Harrison shared the history of BKFA and its Zonta heritage and also explained the importance of the Birthing Kits in a third world country. Pictures included one of Ezelle Schimper, founder of the Lirhanzo Children's Village, Zimbabwe, after delivering a baby on the side of a dusty track, with the help of a Birthing Kit which she just happened to have in her vehicle. The father was trying to get his young wife to hospital in a donkey cart but was still an hour away. Thankfully Ezelle just happened to be passing as the baby started crowning.



The ladies say, "after learning how to pack the kits we had an hilarious 40 minutes of packing and fun, prior to some fabulous food and wine to celebrate the occasion. It was decided that the day would be held again in Janet's honour next year".



Birthing Kit Day at St Catherine's

"Year 9 of the Birthing Kit Assembly Day in the Whitsundays"

Another very successful 2 days of assembling birthing kits was completed in the Whitsundays, working with students from Proserpine State High School and St Catherine's Catholic College. The students are from yrs 10, 11 and 12 and for all of those attending, this project is part of their school curriculum. Proserpine State High School attends an elective class for "Early Childhood Studies" and St Catherine's offers Pastoral Care and Social Justice. There are always a number of students who have participated in this project previously but always some new students who are quick to learn and thoroughly enjoy the exercise in the knowledge that that are helping others far less fortunate.



With a few hours on each day at the 2 campuses a total of 800 kits were assembled and thanks goes to the staff at the school for encouraging the inclusion of the project into their school curriculum; but also to the 12 Zonta members who assisted. Much pre-event preparation is necessary to ensure that the assembly time fits into the students busy timetable and this was thanks to another 6 Zonta members and my husband John, who is a treasurer when it comes the time to "get things done".

The kits are now being despatched to the Birthing Kit Foundation's store and will be despatched to the next requested destination in need. Once that is completed we are advised the destination and can then rest assured that our work is done and be rewarded by the fact that we may have saved the lives of a few more mothers and babies.

Wendy Birthing Kits Assembly Co-ordinator



Judy with Principal of St Catherine's

Birthing Kits Day at Proserpine High School



Birthdays

October:

Joan Watson — 6th
Sharon Rudinski — 12th
Judy Brown — 17th
Kim Britton — 19th
Maxine Thiele — 30th

Drumbeat Report from September: Kalila and I have basically finished DRUMBEAT for this term at Proserpine State High School. We did our performance yesterday with the group performing in front of their classmates. We've got one more session but it's just a fun chill out reflective session, and we will be presenting the students with their certificates of participation next week at parade. Overall we think it went well, especially given that it was our first time! Just sending you through some photos :)

Regards, Keisha McEwan



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

At the meeting last month, I spoke of the 'Let Us Learn Madagascar' – an integrated program for adolescent girls - one of two new International projects this year. To recap (and for those of you who missed out!): Currently, about 90% of Madagascar's population lives on less than US\$2 day. Certainly, no funds for education! Our goal is to create opportunities for vulnerable and excluded girls to realize their rights to an education in a secure and protective environment.

Beneficiaries of the 2016-2018 funding of \$1,000,000 will be:

1,000 girls will be supported over a two-year period.

1,042 post-primary teachers will be supported over a two-year period.

Junior secondary school students will benefit from the four rehabilitated classrooms.

Other goals are to see 600 students receive catch-up classes, to disseminate messages on child marriage, early pregnancy and gender-based violence and to ensure that families and communities are aware of child protection laws, services and harmful practices against children. Lofty goals, certainly, but the core reason for our Zonta clubs existence. To learn more about this and other Zonta projects see: <https://foundation.zonta.org/> NO PASSWORD OR LOG IN NEEDED! Share this link with your friends and family so they may learn what this and all our programs are about and why YOU work so hard to raise funds for Zonta – they may be a bit more generous when next you approach them.



HAKUNA MATATA "NO WORRIES"

"Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great. YOU can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom." NELSON MANDELA

House of Happiness, Aid For Africa Down Under (AFADU) and Himalayan Health And Hearing are 3 fantastic charities run by 3 local women who are living their lives in accordance with those principles. COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THEM!



MOVIE NIGHT AT THE WACC

MORGAN FREEMAN AND MATT DAMON

"INVICTUS"

6PM SAT 29TH OCTOBER



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- Suite 4 Conway House, Island Drive Cannonvale.

Emma Watson shines spotlight on child marriage

By MiNDFOOD | October 11, 2016



Pictured: In the district of Dedza, Emma Watson arrives in to meet with Senior Chief Inkosi Kachindamoto, (right) and UN Women Country representative Clara Anyangwe (left) in the fight to stop child marriage. The Chief has annulled nearly 1,500 such marriages among her constituents, and suspended village heads who have consented to the practice. Together with other traditional leaders, she has also developed a model bylaw that is aligned to the national law and applies to child marriages. It seeks to outlaw all child marriages, harmful cultural practices and gender-related abuses. Photo: UN Women/Karin Schermbrucker

UN Goodwill Ambassador, Emma Watson, has travelled to Malawi to meet with those fighting against child marriage.

Emma Watson shines spotlight on child marriage

On the eve of International Day of the Girl Child, UN Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson visited Malawi to shine a light on the ongoing need to end child marriage. Speaking with local chiefs and girls who had their marriages successfully annulled, and were back in their rightful place – school, Watson heard stories from those who were happy to be spared the frightening and dangerous life of a child bride.

In a landmark case, Malawi passed the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act in late 2015, stipulating that the legal age for marriage be lifted to 18.

HeForShe Impact Champion and President of Malawi, Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, has since set upon the path of fully enacting the law within five years, registering and personally selecting a task force that serves the sole purpose of bringing this barbaric practice to an end.

Photo: UN Women/Karin Schermbrucker

“Spending the day in the beautiful country of Malawi has been a moving and inspiring experience for me. Meeting with young girls, who like many in their country, are struggling with poverty and were pressured into early marriage, depriving them of their education in the process, made me realise just how important it is for women to be able to make their own choices” said Emma Watson.



“I applaud and thank our HeForShe Impact Champion President Mutharika for making this issue a priority in his Government, as well as all the traditional leaders—especially Chief Kachindamoto (so formidable, she has been nicknamed “The Terminator”!). She has implemented the annulment of so many child marriages and restored the futures of these girls. With the help and collaboration of her local chiefs, mothers’ groups and religious leaders, she has managed to annul almost 1500 child marriages, sending the girls back to school.

“President Mutharika has committed to make child marriage a thing of the past in Malawi within the next five years. Because of bold and brave leadership like this things may start to change. It was amazing to be on the ground with UN Women to witness their work!”

Child marriage isn’t a practice that’s contained to Malawi however, globally, one-third of girls in developing countries, excluding China, are married before the age of 18. This act is not only carried out against the wishes of the child, but its institution denies them their right to an education, exposes them to physical and sexual abuse as well as early pregnancy.

Pregnancy in early teens is the cause of 20-30 percent of maternal deaths in Malawi alone.

“Progress is not possible without investing in women and girls. They are our future and constitute half of any society’s promise and resources,” stated UN Women Country Representative Clara Anyangwe. “The Sustainable Development Goals won’t be achieved without the contribution of women and girls. We want a Planet 50-50 by 2030 and we need to step it up for gender equality. This is why UN Women in Malawi has made ending child marriage a top priority for change.”

Emma Watson visits Mtakataka Secondary School in the District of Dedza where she hears from Stella Kalilombe and Cecilia Banda whose marriages were annulled and they returned to school.

Photo: UN Women/Karin Schermbrucker

Watson met with Senior Chief Kachindamoto, a prominent figurehead in the fight against child marriage at the ground level. Together with other traditional leaders, she has been able to annul nearly 1500 marriages, compelling village heads and members of the community to follow suit. The UN acknowledges the importance of bringing community leaders on board, as it is the traditional leaders who regulate customary marriages within the community.

Chief Kachindamoto also shared with Watson, the harrowing tale of two girls, who had already given birth to two children by the age of 14, which compelled her to enact change and fight for an end to the practice.

“It’s so encouraging to see how such a harmful practice can be stopped when communities work together to pass laws, and then turn those laws into reality,” said Watson.



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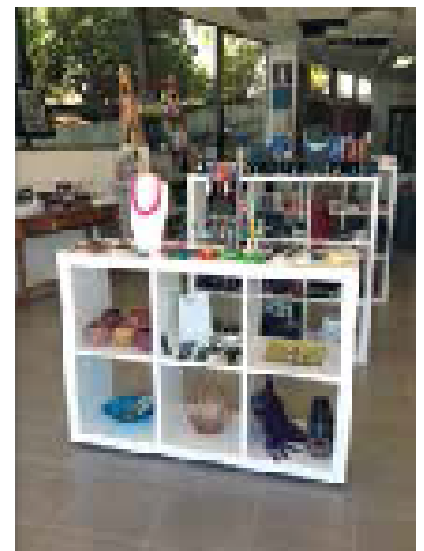
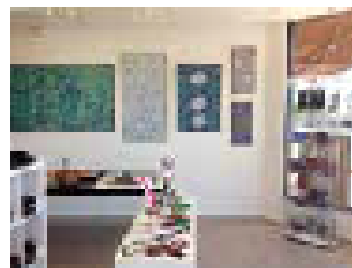
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Date Claimers



October:

20th - General Meeting – Christina's Farm – 6.00 for 6.30 start

26th - Book Club – 5.00 - Contact Kerry Kenyon

31st - Knitting Group: Contact Carole Brauner

November:

2nd: Board Meeting

17th – General Meeting – 6.00 for 6.30 start

25th – White Ribbon Day

26th - “ Orange Stall” at the Market

Book Club: Last Wednesday of Each Month – Contact Kerry Kenyon

December:

2nd - Christmas Party – TAFE College – details next month

Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Contact Details

President: Connie Riley: lesterandconnie@bigpond.com

President Elect: Kerrie Adam: kerrieandken@gmail.com

Vice President: Sandii Hansen: sandii52@gmail.com

Past President: Roz Jennings: peteandroz@bigpond.com

Secretary: Lesley Pratchett: secretaryzontawhitsundays@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Dawn Green:wwdmg@optusnet.com

ReefTalk Editors: Laura Morrison, PJ Halter

www.facebook.com/WhitsundayZonta

zontaclub7@hotmail.com

Address - PO BOX 427, Cannonvale, Queensland 4802