



### Next Dinner Meeting

**Monday**

**13 March**

Pre-Dinner nibbles 6pm  
 Committee Meetings 6.15pm  
 Dinner 7.30pm –9.30pm  
 At

### Good Earth Hotel

Wickham Tce  
 (Ground Floor)

**Cost \$35.00 each**

\$5 Meeting only

**Apologies to**

**Jill Hedley**

**Phone 3279 2096**

**after hours**

**Friday 10 March**

*In absence on an apology an invoice for \$27.50 will be sent to all non-attending members.*

## PRESIDENT'S PATTTER

Welcome back everyone to to 2006 and a very busy year for Zonta. We were sorry to lose Kate Hutchings as a member through her obtaining an excellent academic position with the Monash University in Melbourne. We wish her all the best and are sure she will add some glitz and pizzazz to that dreary city. We look forward to catching up with her at the International Convention in June.

### Breast Cushions

Our stock of 40 breast cushions were distributed to the Mater Private Hospital who were urgently needing stocks. We had a small working bee on Sunday 29 January 2 at Lyn Papa's home. We only completed a couple of cushions but were able (with the help of Patricia Nemeth—HonZon) cut out and sewed quite a few cushions. We were able to buy some pale blue satin very cheaply and Pat brought her cutting equipment and board—made

a huge difference. Our next working bee is on Sunday 26 February

And there are cushions to be filled and hand sewn—if you can't make the working bee perhaps you can do some at home.

### Media

Ros Kinder alerted us to two articles on Zonta in the New Idea and Notebook which have created some interest in membership. We hope it also puts the Zonta International name in the public eye.

### Area Workshop

It is scheduled for Sunday 12 March (the day before our March meeting). It is always an interesting day and I encourage as many members as possible to attend and meet other clubs and members. RSVP's need to be in by 6th March and cost is \$38 and includes lunch etc. Please get a form during the meeting.

*Lynn C*

### Remember 8th March is Zonta Rose Day—Some ideas:

- Plant a yellow rose bush, buy one for yourself or buy and hand out to other women at work.
- Distribute Zonta Rose cards ( in your D24 conference bag) to female colleagues
- Write a personal note or letter to a woman who inspired/mentored you and thank them for being a role model
- Donate to the Rose Fund
- Hartanna** is the registered international name for the Zonta Rose , however, there are some lovely varieties that don't mind our humid climate.



### International Women's Day Events

**Zonta Club Southern Gold Coast Tweed Clubs Tuesday 8 March—Breakfast 6.45am** the Radisson Resort Palm Meadows Cost \$35pp Guest Speaker Jennifer Jeffries—author of "Seven Steps to Sanity" RSVP 24th February.

Details of other functions will be available at the February meeting.

### March Meeting;

Special guest will be Skye Olley—the Balmoral State High School Scholarship winner—hope you will make her welcome as usual.

**Brisbane South Club** are having a Birthing Kit morning and are looking for volunteers for 26 March which is our breast cushion working bee—however, if there is anyone interested in going along to see what happens please ask for the information and contact details.

## UN report on Female Genital Mutilation

Contributed by Margaret Casey

### UNICEF HAILS PROGRESS TOWARD ENDING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

New York, Feb 6 2006 12:00PM

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) today praised efforts made by governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to outlaw female genital mutilation, a gruesome and debilitating practice that affects millions of girls every year on the African continent.

Marking the fourth annual International Day of Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation, the head of the UN children's agency said girls have the right to grow to womanhood without harm to their bodies. She said ending the practice was "essential" to improving maternal health, promoting gender equality and reducing child mortality.

"We know what has to be done to abandon this harmful practice," said UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman. "Strong support from governments encouraging communities and individuals to make the healthiest choice possible for girls will save lives and greatly benefit families and communities."

"We stand at a pivotal moment in history as we work toward a truly positive collective change," she added. "The most effective approaches to this issue have been found not by punishing perpetrators but through encouraging and supporting healthy choices.

"Some 3 million girls in 28 countries on the African continent are subjected to genital mutilation each year, as are thousands of girls in immigrant communities in Europe, North America and Australia, according to UNICEF, which describes this as one of the most "silently endured human rights violations." Globally, between 100 and 140 million girls and women have been cut or mutilated.

Most girls are cut between infancy and their 14th birthday. Many communities still hold firmly to the age-old tradition, which though not always stated outright is considered a prerequisite for marriage.

UNICEF is supporting programmes to end female genital mutilation in 18 countries and conducting initial activities in four. They use a variety of approaches centred around mass education campaigns and working closely with local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs such as Zonta International), religious and other leaders.

For example in Senegal, largely thanks to the work of TOSTAN, an NGO that focuses on educating communities about human rights and human dignity, tens of thousands of people have declared their abandonment of the practice.

Legislation to outlaw mutilation has also been put in place. In particular, this includes the Maputo Protocol, which was ratified by 15 African countries and entered into force in November 2005. A month later, 100 African parliamentarians adopted the groundbreaking "Dakar Declaration," which underscores the importance of community involvement as well as legislation to end the practice.

UNICEF also said that a regional conference will be held in Mali later this month, where discussions will centre on using legislation to enforce the Maputo Protocol resolutions. The practice of female genital mutilation will also be addressed in the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children, to be published in October this year.



## Fellowship Evening

Eight members found the time after a busy Christmas schedule to come to the fellowship dinner at the Yum Yum Peking Duck at Darra in January.

We were all hoping that it would be a farewell for Kate before she left for Melbourne, but her new job and accommodation worries were a priority and so we all enjoyed the food in her honour.

It was an interesting evening especially hearing about Lyn Papa's family holiday in northern Japan. The family were on board the last bus out of the snow resort before a horrific blizzard snowed in the area.

Highlight of the evening was the discussion between some of our jet setters who were comparing the toileting facilities around the world. For the non-jet setters there were some countries that have been crossed off the list of destinations to consider before the kids inheritance runs out.

There was plenty of food including toffee coated bananas and of course Peking duck.

The fellowship dinner is always an enjoyable event and one many of us look forward to. Present were Lyn P, Sandra, Margaret C, Denise, Heather, Lynn C, Claire, Ros and Jill.

## 2nd Annual Antique & Collectibles Fair 2006

**Sunday 9 July  
At Jindalee Sate  
School**

**10am to 2pm  
Everyone Welcome  
Spread the word....**

## DATE CLAIMERS

**Friday 24 February—Amelia Earhart Cocktail Party at Science Centre (Museum) RSVP 17 February Cost \$35 pp everyone welcome**

**Monday 27 February—Board Meeting at Karen's home**

**Sunday 26 February—Breast Cushion morning—at Lyn Papa's Home**

**Tuesday 8 March—International Women's Day & Zonta Rose Day**

**Sunday 12 March—Area 3/5 Workshop at Kedron /Wavell**

**Monday 13 March—Brisbane East's 17th Birthday Meeting**