



# East-enders

Newsletter of  
Zonta Club of Brisbane East Inc

GPO Box 3060 Brisbane 4001

Charter Number 1235

April 2008

## Next Dinner Meeting

**Monday  
12 May**

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

### Terraces

Wickham Tce  
(Ground Floor)

**Cost \$32.00 each**

\$5 Meeting only  
(This includes one raffle ticket)

### Apologies to

**Margaret Casey**

**Phone 3907 0845**

### After hours

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

## PRESIDENT'S PATTERR...

### Breast Cushions

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the breast cushion working bee on Sunday 30 March.

Six club members plus four from Logan and Michelle (Jo's sister and HonZon) managed to make 59 cushions for distribution.

Well done to everyone....

### Membership

Membership fees are due now and ideally should be paid asap to ensure that we take advantage of the Aussie dollar almost on par with the US dollar. Remember the days when the A\$ only fetched 65 cents in the US?.

### Entertainment Books

Entertainment book have now arrived and are available. Anyone needing a book or two should

contact Jill or Bronwyn. Remember Jill will be away at Convention for two months.

### Governor-General

How wonderful to see that our Queensland Governor Quentin Bryce will be the first female Governor-General of Australia. Her career as a lawyer, academic, human rights advocate, Sex Discrimination Commissioner and mother of five provides her with an excellent background to represent all Australians.

*Bronwyn*



### Dusting...

Remember...a layer of dust protects the wood beneath it. 'A house becomes a home when you can write 'I love you' on the furniture ....'  
I used to spend at least 8 hours every week end making sure things were just perfect - 'in case someone came over'. Finally I realized one day that no-one came over; they were all out living life and having fun!

NOW, when people visit I don't have to explain the 'condition' of my home .. They are more interested in hearing about the things I've been doing while I was away living life and having fun. If you haven't figured this out yet, please heed this advice. Life is short?? Enjoy it!  
Dust if you must ... but wouldn't it be better to paint a picture or write a letter, bake a cake and lick the spoon or plant a seed, ponder the difference between want and need?!

Dust if you must, but there's not much time . . . With wine to drink , rivers to swim and mountains to climb, music to hear and books to read, friends to cherish and a life to lead ?  
Dust if you must, but remember this day will not come around, again... Dust if you must, but bear in mind, old age will come and it's not very kind. ... And when you go - and go you must - you, yourself will make more dust!

Judy Scotney has been taking in the sounds of Nashville during her trip to the US.

Can we expect some yee...haa and hoedown music in the near future????



*Welkom*

Good luck also to Denise, Ros and Jill as they head to Europe for Convention 2008. They will be away for the next couple of meetings.

They will be representing our Club at this International get together in June.

## BANGLADESHI WOMEN RECEIVE FISTULA SURGERY AT UN-RUN MEDICAL TRAINING SESSION

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has helped 29 Bangladeshi women suffering from obstetric fistula, a debilitating injury resulting from giving birth, to undergo successful repair surgery as part of a marathon training session for medical staff from four Asian countries.

UNFPA said the three-day session held at a hospital in the Bangladeshi city of Sylhet, was part of a wider national effort to boost the number of doctors and nurses skilled in treating fistulae.

This programme brought together teams of experienced surgeons, nurses and anaesthetists from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Timor-Leste to conduct the surgeries and to share knowledge on fistula repair, while other local medical staff and students observed.

The operations took between two and five hours, depending on the extent of the injuries, <http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=1116> UNFPA .

It will take several weeks to determine the overall outcome, but Bangladeshi doctors report there is usually a 70 per cent success rate in repairing fistulae.

About 1,200 Bangladeshi women have undergone fistula surgery since 2003, when the UNFPA-led Global Campaign to End Fistula started providing medical

equipment and financial support for both training efforts and patient rehabilitation.

Obstetric fistula is a hole in the birth canal caused by prolonged labour without prompt medical intervention, usually a Caesarean section. The woman is left with chronic incontinence and, in most cases, a stillborn baby

## Human Trafficking

**At the Area 3/5 Workshop Zontians heard from Sr Pauline Coll, the Chair of the Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans. According to Brisbane Club's Judith Anderson, it was one of the best workshop presentations heard – packed with information and with concrete suggestions as to what we can do as individuals and as clubs to make a difference.**

Co-presenter Sally Cameron (Noosa Club) has worked and done extensive research into trafficking and labour-related exploitation in the ASEAN network of 10 countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam, and Brunei) and described the 'industry' as 'fishing in the stream of migration', taking advantage of the desire of people to find a better life - "they will put up with a lot in order to get it", she said.

While domestic workers are often isolated, locked in and denied a wide range of rights (57,000 left Malaysia in one year because of abuse!) the immigration centres remain full of people waiting to migrate to work in industries as varied as fisheries, factories, and farming, as well as the more familiar domestic service and sex industries.

While media reports have been responsible for equating trafficking with the sex industry and with criminals in the public mind in Australia, Sally stressed that the vast majority of trafficking is for labour exploitation, often with the complicity of governments, because both source and receiving nations benefit.

She cited the traffic from the poorer ASEAN nations (Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines) into the wealthier countries (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei) where workers are often kept in conditions of near-slavery.

The recruitment and training of workers is a huge business in the Philippines, worth

US\$12.8 billion – 13% of the country's GDP. And that's only the formal sector – if the informal sector is included, the value is estimated at a staggering US\$14 billion!

Similarly, Indonesia currently has 450,000 migrant workers in Malaysia. They are worth US\$2.5 billion in remittances to Indonesia and their conditions are appalling: they are kept in holding or training centres before departure; debt bondage is the norm; they suffer harassment and assault; their freedom of movement is severely restricted – and in the last 12 month period, 560 of them returned to Indonesia with injuries severe enough to warrant their repatriation.

The financial benefit to the receiving countries is enormous because the workers are given no holidays, work 16 to 18 hour days, and their wage rates are determined by their race. Singapore has migrant workers as part of its economic plan and one in seven households have migrant workers as servants. Sally described Thailand as a 'magnet' for the surrounding countries, migrant workers being employed for everything from street begging to the garment industry and the sex industry.

What can we do? For one thing, be aware that trafficking is not just about women and girls being sold into prostitution – and that not every woman in this situation necessarily wants to be 'rescued'. (The Australian sex industry is regulated and safe so the vast majority actually want to continue in this work).

Most importantly, we should make sure we are informed and that we tell others – community awareness is the greatest weapon. In addition, Sr Coll advocated sitting in on trials, writing letters to politicians about the proposed new visa category, **working against racism and poverty, and patronising Fair Trade outlets. As she said, one of the worst areas of labour exploration is in cocoa plantations – something as simple as buying Free Trade chocolate can help.**

*Thanks to newsletter Brisbane Club*

## Monday 12 May —Next Dinner Meeting

**25 to 27 SEPT., 2009** **INAUGURAL DISTRICT 22 CONFERENCE** Venue TBA, but put the date in your diaries *now* to be part of this historic Zonta event.