

ZONTA BRISBANE METRO BREAKFAST CLUB INC NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2014



A Note from the President

Our club has got under way with a new start. Due to my current ill-health, Michelle Baran, our Vice President has stepped into the Presidents shoes. I sincerely thank Michelle for her assistance with this.

During February, members had an enjoyable afternoon sewing breast cushions at Ruth's home. I was able to call in for a short while and all seemed to be having a good time. About 30 breast cushions were finished. It was also wonderful to catch up with our former member Terri Creagh who attends just about every sewing day and function that we have. Thank you Terri for your continued support.

From reading my Zonta correspondence it seems that the Fashion Parade is well under way for later in the year.

Our Annual General Meeting will be on the 7 May, at our usual breakfast meeting. I note that there is still one place spare on the Board. All candidates for the Board should read their positions obligations on the Zonta International Website. It is important that you understand the formalities of a Board position and know what is going to be expected of you. You will find the link to the material under Member Resources and then Club Manuals.

Best to everyone and have a happy and safe Easter.

Leanne



ZONTA AREA 1 & 3 MEETING

The biennial Area 3 meeting (again convened jointly with Area 1) was held at Norths Leagues Club, Kallanger, on 22 March. Amena, Elaine, Flora and Leida joined Zontians from Maleny to the Gold Coast and Toowoomba to learn how to 'lift the cloak of invisibility' (the meeting theme). It was an energetic and productive day filled with informative and inspiring speakers from the Zonta family as well as special guests.

D22 Governor, Judith Anderson, opened the day with a review of the district's progress on advocacy, membership and service activities, grading our

progress as A+ in all fields. She noted that although the district was able to secure new members, some clubs had difficulty in retaining members.

Elaine guided members on the finer details of insurance and financial reporting, and Amena discussed club collaboration and Zonta Says No initiatives. Other topics included strategic planning, fundraising ideas, driving membership, club histories, and two club showcase (including the 2013 Fashion Showcase).

And no Zonta function would be complete without Flora winning a raffle!

ZONTA SEWING BEE BREAST CUSHIONS

In early March, several members assembled at Ruth's home for our first sewing bee of the year. It was an enjoyable afternoon of sewing, stuffing, ironing and eating, and we managed to produce around 30 cushions.

The cushions will provide comfort to women in a difficult time.



PHOTOS BY RUTH

ZONTA MANINGRIDA

BY RUTH

'the place where the dreaming changed shape'



When my beloved asked me if I could join him up north, my response was a resounding yes. My family already knew I had itchy feet and often talked about arrangements should I ever make a decision to leave for a few months. I looked forward to the change not knowing what lay ahead of me.

So my journey commenced Feb 1, 2013 to live in an Aboriginal community, the first time in my life. I figured I grew up in a village in Sumatra, Indonesia with no fridge, electricity that was not constant, water that came from a well, no sewerage pipes etc., one television station that started in the afternoon and eating staple food. I wondered how it would compare. Maningrida, NT, the community I ended up living in is situated in the heart of Arnhem land situated 500 km east of Darwin. It is fairly isolated with roads cut off during the wet season about six months of the year.

agents, convenient stores, hairdressers, movie theaters etc we had to come up with activities. Fishing and visiting peoples homes were a couple of activities as was our hosting a nightclub cum venue of soirées. Later I got involved with the youth hip hop dance comps.



It is a beautiful country and I fell in love with it.

We were blessed with a town house by the seashore. Before anyone gets any ideas of taking strolls on the beach or a dip in the ocean, living by the Liverpool River estuary meant crocodiles would regularly visit. However, it also meant plenty of fresh fish (barramundi, trout, etc.) and mud crabs in plentiful supply. It also gave us a great vantage point to incredible sunsets.

I never knew adjusting to the culture would make me tired by the end of the day. There were several clans represented here with 16 languages. I even



recognized some Indonesian words.

I didn't have to wait long for a job. I started off packing fruit at one of the supermarkets run by Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation then babysat for a family for two weeks as the local crèche was closed due to health and safety reasons. Seeing a toddler live her life in a community really taught me lessons on adjustments. She did not distinguish colour of skin and embraced the wildlife around her (maybe because her father was the head ranger and taught her about crocodiles by keeping a couple of baby pets at home).

Shortly after this I was head hunted for a job working in Aged Care as a manager. This opened my eyes even more and softened my heart towards the difficulties faced by the aged (aged 50 up in Aboriginal communities) and those with disabilities. Often times the aged would play down their illnesses as any complications would mean transporting them off site to Darwin. There was no room for handling complications. Pregnant mothers were sent to Darwin at 36 weeks of pregnancy and could not return until a week later.

With no shopping malls, news



This becomes culturally difficult as family cannot go with the informed or pregnant mother unless they can afford a fare on the only airline serving the community (no discounts) and accommodation etc. Sometimes pregnant mothers would go bush to 'escape' this.

I worked with all indigenous staff and clients for the first time.

I had to learn to distinguish cultural values and what was 'pulling my leg'.

I also was reminded of their practice of black magic which was seen to affect their health and wellbeing. Coupled up with this was their belief in Christianity and my staff would often work to the sounds of hymns and choruses in English and language.

I was blessed by a worker who was my right hand person. She taught me of their ways and helped me to communicate with the people. She called me 'jela' (sister). She had seen many managers come and go.

I really enjoyed the job but felt the company (under administration) was going to review the necessity of the service, so I made an exit and was successful in obtaining a job in health promotion.

I must say it has been my best job ever.

I coordinated and managed a program in tobacco cessation and healthy lifestyle. Malabam Health Board Aboriginal Corporation grew in leaps and bounds due to a wonderful CEO committed to the people and his role. Most of the pictures I have included were from these days.

Survival meant getting involved but having clear boundaries.

Being young at heart and enjoying music and dance helped in so many ways. I embraced the people and they me. Even though I fell in love with the people and community I had to be guarded in some way. Practicing here in a healthy manner was to recognize that you can make a difference but you are not to be a 'saviour'. I saw many jaded people and those leaving due to 'breakdowns'. I saw many 'balandas' (people other than Aboriginal) become ashen in a matter of weeks.

I've left Maningrida but a piece of my heart lies with the community. I certainly would go back there should the opportunity present itself.



AN EVENING WITH EDNA ADAN

One hundred lucky Zontians joined Edna Adan for an exclusive evening hosted by BDO in Brisbane's CBD with all proceeds raised donated to the Edna Adan University Hospital.

Edna Adan was the first girl in Somaliland to learn to read, the first Somali woman to drive a car, the country's first certified nurse-midwife, and as wife of President Ibrahim Egal, the First Lady of Somalia.

Raised in an educated and wealthy family, Edna worked as a student teacher when a girls' school first opened in Somaliland, going on to become the first Somali girl awarded a scholarship to study nursing, midwifery and hospital management in Britain. Returning to Somaliland after seven years, she worked for the World Health Organisation in various key positions, advocating for the abolition of traditional practices such as female genital cutting. On

retirement, she sold all of her possessions and returned to Somaliland to realise her life-long dream of building the country's first maternity hospital.

The only available land in the capital had been used as a rubbish dump, but as it was in the poor area of town, near those who needed the hospital the most, she obtained the land for her hospital and completed the project in 2002 with assistance from the Friends of Edna's Hospital and in-kind donations from local merchants. Edna has since focused her efforts on a new goal: training and dispatching 1,000 qualified midwives through Somaliland.

At 75, Edna continues to work as the hospital's director and is an inspiring advocate for improving the lives and health of women and girls throughout her country.



PHOTOS BY RUTH



UPCOMING DATES

24 APRIL

Board Meeting, Spring Restaurant

7 MAY

Breakfast Meeting & AGM
United Services Club

29 MAY

Board Meeting, Spring Restaurant

4 JUNE

Breakfast Meeting, United Services Club

26 JUNE

Board Meeting, Spring Restaurant

12 OCTOBER

Fashion Showcase, Brisbane City Hall



Y O U A R E I N V I T E D

FASHION SHOWCASE

JOIN ZONTA FOR OUR FABULOUS ANNUAL FASHION
SHOWCASE AT BRISBANE'S NEWEST EVENT VENUE

3 OF AUSTRALIA'S LEADING FEMALE DESIGNERS

BRISBANE CITY HALL 1.30PM - 4.30PM
SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER 2014



SUPPORTING THE BIRTHING KIT FOUNDATION

The Zonta District 22 has been a major supporter of the Birthing Kit Foundation through hands-on birthing kit projects. We had the opportunity to understand first hand the impact and benefits delivered by the volunteer project. On Wednesday, 19th February, some of our members joined The Zonta Brisbane Breakfast Club for a special presentation by Dr Luc Mulimbalimba Masururu from Democratic Republic of the Congo, who is not only an agent for the Birthing Kit Foundation but is also the youngest parliamentarian in the newly elected democratic parliament of DR Congo. He has also led missions to train and aid women in the birthing process worldwide.