



ZONTA

CLUB OF
BRISBANE METRO
BREAKFAST INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

August and September 2015

NEWSLETTER

BRISBANE METRO BREAKFAST CLUB

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2015 - 2016

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Message from the President

Since the last newsletter, we have kept busy. We've held our annual (and sadly, last) Trash and Treasure day. A special thanks must go to Elaine who has coordinated this event successfully year on year. We also held another of our sewing bees, keeping up supplies to meet the apparent growing demand from Brisbane hospitals.

In August, Julie and I attended the Zonta Club of Brisbane Breakfast's annual Birthing Kit Assembly Day at Somerville House. In three and half hours, 15,000 kits were prepared - a record for the event. With a refined and highly efficient production line, our group of four prepared just over 500 kits. When we stopped briefly for morning tea, as we overlooked the new children's hospital with its architecture and facilities, we remarked on just how different conditions are in less developed countries. The birthing kits we prepared consisted of just a piece of plastic, 4 pieces of gauze, some string, a scalpel, and a piece of soap - it definitely puts things into perspective.

In August, Julie and I also visited the Sexual Assault Unit at the Royal Brisbane Hospital to find out what items they need. Hundreds of girls are assisted at the facility each year. It is therefore alarming to realise how much the unit relies on donations to survive. The basic personal care kits that we will be providing will go some way to make a woman's experience better at such a difficult time.

We have had a busy year to date. This year, we have disbursed just over \$16,000 in fundraising efforts to worthy causes. We are still to complete two other committed donations of \$1,000 and \$500 (goods) to the Young Parents' Program and the Sexual Assault Unit at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and have a further \$3,500 pending for Zonta International. We should feel very proud of our efforts knowing that we have continued to support the needs of women both locally and internationally.

We are now coming into the part of the year where we begin planning for next year. We will hold our annual planning meeting in early November, so we can start 2016 with a bang. I encourage all members to think about potential fundraising activities and beneficiaries we may support throughout the year.

Glad rags sold at Boudoir Bazaar and Flora's Pop Up Store



The club hosted a stall at the Boudoir Bazaar on Sunday, 9 August at the Broncos Leagues Club, Red Hill. We sold pre-loved, but high quality clothes, bags, and shoes. Despite being allocated the worst stall spot with a large pillar taking up space and reducing traffic and display options, the stall fared well. With Flora hosting a spontaneous Pop Up Store in her garage on the following Ekka holiday, our net takings exceeded \$1,000. Being a glutton for punishment, Flora continues to accept cast-offs from her glamorous friends and continues to sell them to hapless visitors. Many of these items will be sold to club members at the OctoBRAzaar function on 31 October.

Advocacy Update

In September and October, the Advocacy Committee wrote to the following women to congratulate them on recent achievements.

Courtney Kelly

In July 2015, Courtney Kelly became the first female Indigenous student to graduate from the University of Queensland's mining engineering program. Courtney received a scholarship to support her studies and now works for Woodside Petroleum in Perth.

Yasmin Khan

In August 2015, Yasmin Khan was awarded the Multicultural Ambassador award in this year's Queensland Multicultural Awards. Yasmin has worked in Brisbane's multicultural community for over 25 years, and started Eidfest, a celebration at the end of Ramadan. She is currently a Director of the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland.

Associate Professor Molly Dragiewicz

In August 2015, Associate Professor Molly Dragiewicz launched Australia's first ever Graduate Certificate in Domestic Violence. The course was created after extensive consultation and will commence in February 2016. It aims to make an important difference in the skill and training for those who work with victims and perpetrators of abuse.

Dr Abigail Allwood, Carmee Lim, Carolyn Dawkins, Leigh Sales and Karni Liddell are winners in this year's QUT Outstanding Alumni Awards, announced in August 2015.

- Dr Allwood is a geologist, astrobiologist, and research scientist for NASA and is the first Australian and first female principal investigator on a NASA Mars Mission.
- Carmee Lim is a respected and visionary educator, an advocate for music and gymnastics in early childhood, and founder of several businesses which support these goals.
- Carolyn Dawkins heads Google's BrandLab New York City branch, and works on connecting consumers on digital platforms.
- Leigh Sales is a well-known journalist, Walkley Award winner, and author of two books.
- Karni Liddell is a Paralympian (including captaining Australia's 2000 Paralympic swimming team), businesswoman, counsellor, media presenter, professional speaker, and champion and advocate for people with a disability.

Birthing Kit Assembly Day, August, Somerville House



The annual Birthing Kit Assembly Day was organized by the Zonta Brisbane Breakfast club and held at Somerville House. A large group of volunteers achieved the goal of assembling 15,000 kits. Our club was pleased to participate and to assemble 500 of these kits at our table. We know that the effort on the day means that thousands of women's lives will be saved.

Zonta on a Stick - Buy one at the District 22 Conference



Club member, Leanne O'Shea, had the bright idea of loading USB sticks with useful Zonta information and selling them at the October District 22 Conference. Fellow club member, Ruth McKeown, quickly turned this bright idea into a reality. We now have 100 very smart credit card lookalike USB sticks that we expect to sell like hot cakes. These sexy little things slip into a wallet and have enough data space left over to hold other club specific information.

Salvation Army says "Thank You"



The Salvation Army has presented the club with this beautiful art work by Mandy Ridley to recognise the role that the club played in raising funds for their addiction recovery centre, Moonyah, at Red Hill. These funds were raised at the 2013 Fashion Showcase.

Amena was invited to attend a ceremony at Moonyah to see the plaque that has been installed to celebrate this collaborative fundraising activity called Project Now.

Breast Cushion Sewing Bee



The club held a breast cushion sewing bee on Sunday, 20 September at Michelle's lovely renovated Queenslander home in Newmarket. A variety of free-range chooks, with suitable chicken names like Henrietta and Spotty Dotty, had the run of the yard and their own watermelon to eat.

Elaine and Michelle commandeered the dining room table with their sewing machines, while Flora, Kate, Julie, Karen, and Leida variously pinned, ironed ribbons and cushions, cut out material, turned the awkward long bits inside out with knitting needles, and stuffed. Flora facilitated a master class on good wrapping technique. Afternoon tea included handmade pizza (thanks to Flora's mum), cakes, sausage rolls (Karen's specialty), and tarts.

Twenty-three cushions were made and they will find their way to patients at various local hospitals.

A big thank you to Michelle for hosting, and Flora, Kate, Julie, Elaine, Karen, and Leida.

The next sewing bee will be held on Sunday, 15 November at Karen's home.

Farewell to our Annual Trash & Treasure, Boundary Street, West End



Elaine Harrington on left presiding over her very last Trash and Treasure

There's treasure here - you just need to know where to look.

In September, Elaine Harrington again spearheaded our annual Trash & Treasure for the 14th and last year. Because the Absoe site has been sold for redevelopment, we will no longer have a venue.

As usual, donations seemed to appear from nowhere and the large space made available to us was soon covered with a pretty mixed bag of stuff. But, as they say, one man's trash...

The site buzzed from about 7 am until 3 pm with a last major surge of bargain hunters converging on us as we tried to pack up the leftovers.

Useful unsold items went to the Salvos Op Shop in Red Hill and we gave the leftover clothes to a man from a pop up shop at Absoe. He and his wife send clothes to a slum area in the Philippines each year.

The event raised more than \$2,000.

What have club members been doing?

Venice



Dubrovnik



Ruth McKeown and her partner, Joe, spent August in Italy, beginning with a relaxing week in an old villa in Verona, where the highlight was a very memorable night at the opera - Aida at the Arena de Verona. This was followed by a wonderful 7 day Mediterranean cruise visiting Greece, Turkey, and Croatia. They then spent a few days in Venice before driving south along the east coast to the very tip of the heel, visiting Flora's friends in the lovely Abruzzo Region on the way. Despite the European heat wave, where the temperatures were between 30 degrees and 40 degrees every day, Ruth and Joe managed to keep their cool on the narrow Italian roads. Joe's fluent Italian came in very handy when they were pulled over by the Polizia who couldn't speak a word of English! Editor's question: Why was Joe pulled over?

Meanwhile, back in the real world, **Emma Turner** is now the new owner of Dixie Ann Middleton and Associates, Family Law and Estate Administration. Congratulations Emma on this great career milestone.

Date Claimers

9 to 11 October - District 22 Conference, Airlie Beach

Saturday, 31 October - OctoBRAzaar, 9 Adamson Street, Woolloowin, 1.30 - 5.00 pm.

Sunday, 15 November - Sewing Bee, Karen's place

18 November - Club's annual planning day - SMEC, Level 1, 154 Melbourne Street, South Brisbane

Wednesday, 25 November - start of 16 days of Advocacy

Wednesday, 2 December - Club's Christmas breakfast at venue TBA

Wednesday, 2 December - Ladies in Black - Queensland Theatre Company, from 7.30 pm