

BeauZontian



Issue: **301**

Date: **June 2014**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Fellow Beaudesert Zontians,

Firstly I would like to thank everyone for a most enjoyable Changeover dinner.

I especially like that it is a relaxing and informal evening that we can all enjoy while performing the necessary formalities of the occasion.

It was a pleasure to have Denise Conroy from the Zonta Club of Brisbane East with us to induct the new Committee members. Thank you Denise.

A big thankyou, also, to Ann Beulah for the wonderful job she did as M.C. for the night.

Last weekend my two daughters, Kate and Sally, and I took part in the "Chopper walk" from Byron Bay to Ballina! Thirty five kilometres! It is a charity walk for the Surf Life Saving helicopter. Kate and I had to pull out at Lennox Head, 25 kilometres was enough for us but Sally soldiered on and finished the 35 kms in 7 hours! Good effort! We were so lucky with the perfect weather we are having. Great for beach walking.....just not quite so far! Next year we plan to do the Coffs Harbour walk, its only 14 kms!

I am really enjoying the warm start to winter. The cold may be just around the corner.

I am looking forward to working with you all this year and hearing about all the wonderful new ideas you will be tabling for discussion!

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 17th June.

Yours in Zonta

Robin Powell

President- Zonta Club of Beaudesert Inc

District 22 Governor: Judith Anderson
Area 3 Director: Amena Reza
District 22 Website: <http://www.zontadistrict22.org>



JUNE Dinner Meeting

17th June 2014

Beaudesert R.S.L @ 6:30pm

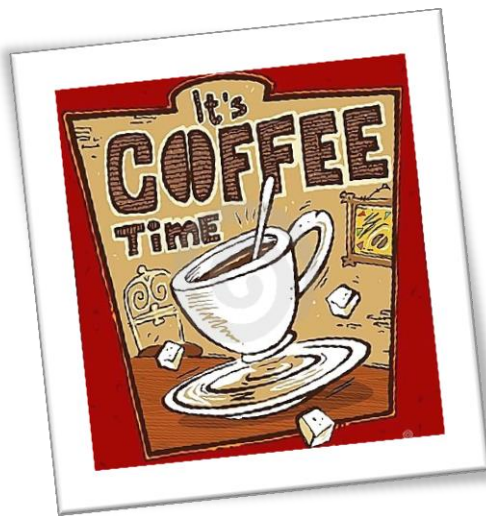
Don't forget to let Pam know by 8 am on Tuesday if you are unable to make Dinner on Tuesday.

Pam can be contacted either by

Phone: 5546 9863 or 0419348466

Or

Email: prograss@bigpond.com



**COFFEE & CHAT
MORNING**
*Thursday 26th
June 2014 10am*
At
Everyday's Café
(Brisbane Street)



New Yaraka pub owner hopes to draw tourists to tiny Queensland town

A retired school principal has taken over an outback pub, saying she has plans to revitalise a tiny western Queensland town and double its population of 16.

Gerry Gimblett and her husband, Chris, are the new owners of the Yaraka Hotel, south of Longreach.

It has been a homecoming of sorts for the Gimbletts, who lived in Yaraka decades ago.

Mr Gimblett worked as the principal of Yaraka School when it was still open, but left in 1993.

Most recently, Mrs Gimblett was the principal at Beaudesert State School, south of Brisbane. She was officially farewelled there last week.

She says she has always had a great love for the Yaraka community, but was shocked when she saw how it was described on one internet site.

"It said: 'Yaraka is one of those vanishing outback towns', and my husband and I looked at each other and we said, over our dead bodies.

"We thought, no, we just can't allow that to happen.

"There is something very unique and very special about this community. There some beautiful, unexplored country; there's lots to be seen."

The Gimbletts moved back to the town earlier this year with their son Nicholas and granddaughter.



PHOTO

The view from Mount Slowcombe: The Gimbletts believe Yaraka has tourist potential because of the natural environment.

The arrival of the family caused Yaraka's population to swell from 12 to 16 - an increase of 33 per cent.

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Mrs Gimblett says that while there is no longer a school or a rail line to the town, it does have tourist potential because of the natural environment.

"Our five-year plan is to get the population up to 30. That is what we'd like to do," she said.

"We are really hoping to get to the grey nomads and to tourists in general.

"The fact that we are only less than an hour's drive from Michael Magee's shanty, where Banjo Paterson wrote the Bush Christening - there is history, it is unique."

Chris Gimblett is also working to promote the region's natural beauty and says among the major drawcards is Mount Slowcombe.

"We have got a mesa hill, with a bitumen road and power at the top, and 360-degree views," he said.

"We have got ranges, the Yan Yang Ranges, with the most spectacular wild, rugged features - a photographer's dream.

"We believe it has got the potential, this area, to become as well known as Kakadu."

While there are only 16 residents in the community, the Gimbletts say they also hope to create employment to encourage more people to Yaraka.



PHOTO Nicholas, Gerry and Chris Gimblett behind the bar at the Yaraka Hotel.

Former publican Les Thomas spent more than a quarter of a century behind the bar before he retired earlier this year.

"I spend most of my time on the other side of the bar now, so it is a different feeling," he said.

"The sheep have gone out of the district, most places are cattle now and that has made a big difference.

"It is actually like a lot of country towns, it has become quiet compared to what it used to be."

But Mrs Gimblett says it is also the local people who are part of the attraction.

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"It is a combination of the beauty, the expanse of Mitchell plains, but also the people here," he added.

"There is an authenticity about the people here, it is something very wholesome," she said.



Zonta Club of Beaudesert Area Inc. Club # 1197
Po Box 174 Beaudesert QLD 4285

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Some thoughts of course...

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