



Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide
ZONTA CLUB OF BRISBANE NORTH INC.
NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2005
P.O. Box 368, Spring Hill, Qld 4004

REMEMBER ZONTA ON THE WEB!!!! www.zontadistrict24.org AND www.zonta.org

Editorial

It will be a long time before the word Tsunami fades from everyday conversation. And it is likely that Zonta, like all other service groups will be involved in the gigantic rescue and restoration activities for a long time to come even if this is just in contributing funds and possibly goods of some kind. The financial contributions from our District 24 alone are "huge" – and still counting - our District Governor Ros Kinder says. Ros. was speaking at the Amelia Earhart breakfast at the Brisbane Golf Club on January 16 where two budding space engineers received their Zonta International Amelia Earhart 2004/2005 Fellowship Awards. Brisbane North was represented by Chris Christensen, Lorna Webber and Jean Sinclair.

It will be remembered that at our November Dinner meeting when the club entertained all our wonderful Hon Zons to demonstrate our gratitude to them for their cheerful assistance at our Fair and other functions our guest speaker and long-time Zontian of Brisbane Club was Ann Shevill. Ann read a memorable piece I Am A Volunteer. President Glenda asked that this piece be placed in our December newsletter. Chris and I thought it might be better to place on hold for the New Year when members would be back in serious mode after holiday festivities. Little did we know how prescient we were for soon afterwards the Boxing Day Tsunami created a need for volunteers as never before. So read this morale-boosting piece which was composed by Sallie Davis of the Volunteer Centre of Western Australia and with permission had been extracted from the June 1994 issue of Guiding in Australia.

As I was writing the Interesting Woman for this issue, the winner of the 2005 Australian of the Year was announced as Dr Fiona Woods, the Royal Perth Hospital burns specialist who invented the "spray-on skin" treatment that healed the burns of victims of the Bali bombing disaster. Just imagine if the male prejudice against which this month's IW - another pioneering Australian medico, Dame Kate Campbell - had to battle had still persisted into this day and age there might have been a different outcome for the Bali victims. The fact that last year Dr Woods was overlooked for the title in favour of a cricketer and that this year a pretty actress was one of the major contenders for her title makes one really wonder at the immaturity of judgment (male?) in some quarters.

Jean Sinclair

President's Letter

Hello everyone. Welcome to the 2005 Zonta year.

I hope you all had the best of Christmas cheer, not too much New Year cheer and that 2005 is shaping up well for you already. It was good to note a few Zontians in the newspapers over the holidays, not the least being our own Heather Mohay, who as Brisbane Mater Hospital psychologist is doing wonderful work in monitoring child development and mental health of very low birth weight babies as they grow to adulthood (CM, Nov. 04).

The Boxing Day Asian tsunami was a terrible disaster for so many families. It was wonderful to see our Zonta organisation grab the reins, both locally and internationally, to send aid to help the victims, their families, villages and towns. The generosity of Zontians has been noted both by our District Governor and also the International president.

Something that all members should know about is that Zonta International is again looking at strategic planning for the organisation, and they have set up a web site for us all to have a say (more at the dinner meeting). The whole strategic planning idea makes me a bit nervous, but inevitably something good comes about. The strategic plan will help us as we look ahead to our 100th anniversary in the year 2019 and answer questions about the kind of organization we want to be in the future, what we want to achieve as members and as donors, and what kind of world do we envision for women and girls?

We as a club are off to a good start in answering some those questions in 2005. We will give out two Advancement Grants and the Club Orienteering award to young women at the February meeting on Valentine's Day. We also have the District UN Chairperson (Margaret Casey) coming to talk to us about our role as Zontians in the UN.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 14th February.

Glenda Gobe

INTERESTING WOMEN – DAME KATE CAMPBELL

Two young doctors, one male, one female, had had a high-pressure day in a hospital labour ward when the young male doctor became faint with exhaustion. His female medical partner suggested he lie down and she would fetch him a brandy.

Stung to the quick the male doctor sat bolt upright. "You'll not get me brandy" he shouted, "you look like three ha'porth of God help us and you're as tough as an old boot!"

The female doctor of this story became Dame Kate Campbell who in the 1950's made the important discovery of the link between the use of high levels of oxygen in childbirth and blindness in low-weight premature babies

A Plain Jane she may have been as her photograph indicates, and she never married, but her achievement in the happiness stakes was enviable enough. At the end of her career she told her interviewer: "I am always grateful that it has been my good fortune to spend my life in the satisfying, rewarding and fascinating field of pediatrics. Such fulfilment is the lot of few people."

Nevertheless, Kate Campbell, born in 1899 had to face all kinds of prejudice when she began medical studies in 1917. She said that in those days, while doctors had a very high status, a girl taking up medicine was considered a curiosity. Kate was one of 26 girl students in a class of 160. The large number of girls was probably due to the fact that World War I was raging and women were filling up the gaps left by men doing war service.

Nevertheless the male students did not approve of women studying medicine and thought they must be strange, said Dame Kate. There was no open hostility or outright nastiness but sometimes a lecturer would embarrass them with coarse jokes. For clinical work the male students were assigned to the best clinicians and the women to clinicians who mostly were not top flight. Moreover when the women went to the Melbourne outpatients for their first clinic (as a very unsophisticated group), they were given the male VD clinic.

After graduation, discrimination became much more serious. One hospital refused to take women doctors using the excuse that it could not provide toilet facilities for females! Kate, one of the top graduates of her year was accepted by the Melbourne Hospital where she and female colleagues were given all the dirty work. Kate said, "We didn't protest about it, we simply expected it. We were at last in, glad to be there and grateful – we knew our place."

A very serious area of discrimination was that the women were not allowed to do casualty duty where doctors see every case that comes into the hospital and thus are provided with great overall experience. Kate said, "Even though we were barred because casualty wasn't nice for girls, there were no qualms about placing us in Ward 32, where the refractory or mentally ill patients were treated."

Moreover the male doctors at Casualty saw to it that their friends got a variety of cases to treat, whereas Kate at first had a ward full of fractured femurs. A senior doctor saw Kate's plight and roared at her to get down to Casualty and make herself "damned offensive" about such treatment.

For financial reasons Kate knew she would have to be a general practitioner but to qualify for this she needed experience at the Melbourne Children's Hospital and again her path seemed blocked because that hospital did not take women doctors. But a senior physician at the Melbourne (and an honorary at the Children's) had been very impressed by the work of Kate and another woman doctor and through him both were taken on at the Children's. Afterwards he used to boast that he had earned his place in Heaven by this one good deed alone! It was at the Children's that Kate had the flash of inspiration that determined her future. While tending a sick little two-year old she described as "the dearest little thing" the conviction came to Kate that she must specialise in child health.

Thus inspired and after 10 years in general practice Kate went into private practice. She expected to starve, but her reputation in the field of neonatal pediatrics grew so that she was appointed as lecturer in neonatal pediatrics – the first such appointment in Australia – and possibly the world. Medical students who attended her lectures, when they became doctors themselves sent their cases to her and her reputation grew so that she was awarded the C.B.E and later created a Dame.

In reviewing her life Dame Kate stated that the inferiority of women in her younger days was due to three "M"s – muscle, maternity and money. When women were solely dependent on their husbands for money they had no power. Some of her women colleagues had to give up medicine on the order of a husband lest his male colleagues asked "can't he keep her?" Dame Kate said that she had learned three things in her life: firstly you can't have everything; secondly, nothing for nothing; you - or somebody else - has to pay for everything; thirdly, everything has a good and a bad side.

From The Half Open Door (Editors: Patricia Grimshaw and Lynne Strahan)

Here is the article about Volunteering read by Ann Shevill at our November HonZons Dinner Meeting:

I AM A VOLUNTEER

Some say I am eccentric, others assume I am rich. I know that I am free. My freedom lies in the opportunities I can create and in the way I feel about myself. I am a volunteer.

I can dream, I can help to make that dream a reality. I cannot always do it alone. I can search for others with that dream and we can together create a vision. I am a volunteer

Some say I am a fool doing unpaid work in an unappreciative society. I value the unpaid work I do, and to others it can be untold wealth. I am free. And in my freedom I am rich in friendships, satisfaction and fulfillment. I am a volunteer.

I need help and support, guidance and training. I need protection, consideration and appreciation from myself and from others. I need to learn and to grow in my volunteering. I need to know the feelings of others, to understand their expectations. I need flexible, clear and understanding direction. The work I am doing is free, but it does not come free of charge. I am a volunteer.

I have responsibilities to stand up for myself, to listen and to learn, to be reliable, honest and understanding, to be considerate of others, to allow others to have an opinion, and to accept the agreed boundaries of my commitment. I am a volunteer.

Some say I am cost-effective, others demand the service I deliver. I know that I am willing to help, I care, and it feels right. I know that I am committed, and that means I might be abused, taken for granted or forgotten. I try to understand. Responsibility works both ways.

(This was composed by Sallie Davis of the Volunteer Centre of Western Australia and with permission, had been extracted from the June 1994 issue of Guiding in Australia.)

Don't forget!!

Your payment (for dinner and UNIFEM Breakfast, if booking) in an envelope marked with name, amount, & chq. or cash.

Don't forget to wear your *Name Badges*



Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide
ZONTA CLUB OF BRISBANE NORTH INC.
NEWSLETTER MARCH 2005
P.O. Box 368, Spring Hill, Qld 4004

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Editorial

Hopefully by our March meeting we will have shaken off that awful summertime lethargy. If there is any Zontian in our club who actually enjoyed being gently boiled just about every day this summer the Editorial desk does not want to hear about it.

Meanwhile as you can see your Editors have not been idle. You should find plenty of information inside that will come up for discussion at our March dinner. Your Production Editor (Chris) will be hard put to it to get everything into our normal four-page newsletter.

Your News Editor is looking forward very much to the touch of Culture in our March program meaning the talk to be given by Deborah Eddy the creator of conducted bus tours around Brisbane and SE Queensland commercial and public galleries.

Perhaps we could do with some more Culture in our meeting programs. It would be interesting to know what our members' cultural pursuits are wouldn't it? A few years ago we had famous Brisbane sculptor Rhyl Hinwood to address the club. There was even talk that we might have a fund-raising day out at her studio. Do we have some members who are hiding their talents - talents like pianoforte performances, violin playing, dramatic talents etc? Do any of our members know theatrical personalities who might be persuaded to help our club set up the great dramatic evenings we used to have? These were hard work, but a lot of fun and financially well worthwhile.

The Programme Committee on whom the main burden of such bright ideas falls possibly will have something to say about these suggestions at our March meeting.

Jean Sinclair

President's Letter

Dear Brisbane Northers

By the next dinner meeting, we will have had a couple of fellowship functions: the welcome morning tea for all 2004 new members at Lynette's on Sunday 6th March; and the first of the Fair meetings at Joan's on Saturday 12th March. These are always very enjoyable occasions and I recommend members to attend both. The Fair meeting means that we have started our plans for this year's Fair in earnest and we will all be expected to do as much as we can.

Each year our District 24 has a conference and this year we are lucky as it is at our own Gold Coast. The theme is "Zonta - Making A Difference". This is another chance for the club members to work together and also work with other Zontians. The advertising for the conference has been circulated to all members and I hope we can get a group together. The conferences are a great learning experience on how Zonta works. The club supports payment for registration for one member representative, so please indicate if you are interested in being that person.

Remember our discussion on the assembly day for the birthing kits. I have tentatively suggested the 7th May to the Adelaide Hills club and they have no problems with that late date. This is a Saturday and I'm hoping many of you will come along, even if only for an hour or two that day. We will finalise the venue later but have two excellent suggestions in Maggie William's board room or the church hall associated with Joan's church.

Monday 14th March's dinner meeting looks interesting, with a talk on Women in Art by guest speaker Deborah Eddy and presentation of the club's YWPA award.

Glenda

Notices

Status of Women: Awards Task Group

We had two excellent candidates for the YWPA Award this year – SALWA MARSH and LYDIA ELSWORTHY - both Captains of their schools, Brigidine College and Brisbane Girls Grammar respectively. The YWPA selection panel - Jocelyn Grant-Taylor, Rita Fraser and Narelle Sommerfeld - after careful deliberation have chosen SALWA, who has her sights set on a career in Law or Journalism and ultimately some area of politics. Her special interests include Debating, Public Speaking and participating in musicals. She will receive \$350 as our Club prize at our March dinner meeting and goes on to District level, where the prize is US\$500.

❖ **We look forward to the induction of new member Pauline Guthrie at our March dinner meeting. This will bring our numbers to 46. We are enjoying the influx of new lively members – not to cast any aspersions on the liveliness of the existing membership!!**



DISTRICT 24 CONFERENCE – 7-9 OCTOBER 2005

CROWNE PLAZA, SURFERS' PARADISE

“ZONTA - MAKING A DIFFERENCE”

Full registration:	\$270 by 30 June;	\$280 by 15 August;	\$295 full rate
Daily rate – Saturday	\$140 “ “	\$145 “ “	\$155 “ “
- Sunday	\$135 “ “	\$140 “ “	\$150 “ “
Individual tickets:			
Opening ceremony (inc.supper)	\$35	\$35	\$35
Saturday night banquet	\$75	\$75	\$75

There are Registration and Accommodation Booking forms with the Conference brochure.

We hope to have as many members of Zonta Club of Brisbane North attending as possible.



DINNER MEETING DATES – 2005 : *United Service Club - 6.30pm for 7.00pm*
 14 March 11 April 9 May **6 June (NB 1st Monday)**
 11 July 8 August 12 September 10 October 14 November
 12 December (Christmas venue to be announced)

YOUR BOARD:

President: Glenda Gobe **Vice-President:** Jennie Watt **Minutes Secretary:** Liz Mellish
Correspondence Secretary: Narelle Sommerfeld **Treasurer:** Chris Christensen
2-year Directors: Ann Jones, Christine Stewart **1-year Directors:** Lynette Liddle, Patricia Régo

INTERESTING WOMEN – JOYCE NICHOLSON

“For most of my life I have been dominated by men, often to my ultimate advantage and the cause of much happiness, but probably the reason why I am now a committed feminist”.

So begins Joyce Nicholson in her contribution to the Half-Open Door, the book wherein a group of women academics at the Melbourne University describe how they achieved success in their careers in spite of all kinds of stumbling blocks placed in their path either deliberately or unconsciously.

Joyce explains “First there were my father and elder brother, then my husband, then a managing director of the family business.” (Joyce entered her father’s publishing business instead of going to University full-time like her brother. Both her parents thought marriage was the only proper course for a girl. However Joyce later went to Uni on a part-time basis. Working at the same time enabled her to help the family budget. Years later she became the firm’s Managing Director but her struggles to reach that position provide the bulk of her story.

Her father she describes as a wonderful companion. From the age of 12 she joined him in his small publishing business at week-ends and school holidays. Joyce describes this as the beginning of a long and unofficial apprenticeship eventually enabling her to hold the top position in the business “an equal to which for satisfaction and enjoyment it would be difficult to find” Joyce writes.

Between the lows and highs of this progress however there was marriage. Joyce writes that she had imagined she was entering a life that would keep her fulfilled and happily occupied forever. She made a private resolution to be the perfect wife.

Joyce comments: “It was not a very good way to start a marriage. Marriage should be undertaken by young women well aware of the realities involved, and with the rights and obligations, financial and otherwise, of both partners defined and understood. True love is unselfish, undemanding, sacrificial and easily exploitable.”

Joyce happily gave birth to two children and two more eventually came along to make what her husband considered a proper family. Joyce writes she never realised what she describes as “the true awfulness of rearing four small children” until she was pregnant with the fourth. “One is continually trying to train, feed or direct delightful, sweet, heart-stopping and lovable small beings who either do not know what is expected of them, or do not want to do what they ought or cannot. All this is done in isolation and amid criticism. Mothers are always at fault.” (Joyce was writing in the 1980’s and the expanding child-care industry has provided some sharing of child-rearing burdens.) Joyce writes that during the years of “home incarceration” she had been a director of the family publishing business and when her father retired he asked her to “keep an eye on things” and this led to rows with the managing director her father had appointed if Joyce complained about deadlines not met and changes she suggested were ignored. Joyce writes “To my utter dismay my father would then come into the business, closet himself with the MD and take his side. This was my first experience of how men stick together.” She determined to turn her back on the family business forever. She gained the academic qualifications of M.A. which she would have won earlier had it not been for working in the family business.

But in spite of herself Joyce eventually returned to the firm. She made a business trip to Britain where she was surprised at the courteous welcome she received. She returned to the family publishing firm with improved confidence so that eventually another blazing row with the MD finally convinced her father to appoint her at last as the MD which enabled her to make the necessary improvements she had been longing to put in place. Joyce wrote more than 24 books, she was early involved with the Women’s Electoral Lobby and at the inception of Sisters Publishing Ltd.

With acknowledgments to Editors of The Half-Open Door, Patricia Grimshaw and Lynne Strahan

MARCH DINNER GUEST SPEAKER – DEBORAH EDDY

In 1999 Deborah launched ARTOURS which conducts guided day bus tours around Brisbane and SE Queensland to commercial and public galleries where tour participants can enjoy a mixture of indigenous, contemporary and traditional art.

ARTOURS has won several awards: Finalist in the Brisbane Tourism Awards 2001 in the Heritage and Cultural Tourism category and a winner in the Yellow Pages Direction Award for Professionalism in the Tourism Queensland 2001 Awards, and in 2004 Quest Newspapers Business Achievers Award for Innovation.

In November 2002 ARTOURS opened a gallery in Oxford St., Bulimba with the aim of supporting Queensland arts and crafts people. In 2004 a secondhand book store was merged with the gallery. Other services provided are curating and hanging art work for businesses and individuals and art consultancy and a weekly e-newsletter provides a what's on calendar of visual arts events.

Prior to becoming self-employed Deborah worked in the financial services industry. Deborah is also a very active community worker, volunteering for Meals on Wheels, a board member for Vulcano Women's Circus and a volunteer radio announcer on Planet Radio bringing to air an arts programme called ARTICULATE. Deborah is a member of the selection panel for Churchill Fellowships; and a Curator for the annual Abused Child Trust Charity Art Exhibition.

Deborah holds a Diploma of Graphic Design from Randwick Technical College; and is studying painting and drawing at QUT, Kelvin Grove

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Some Snippets from "Montreal Communique No 2" from Janine Schmidt, on leave of absence, working as the Trenholme Director of Libraries, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Picture Janine finding her way around snowy Montreal. Her first lesson was "walk", don't run. She has learned that melting snow becomes treacherous. Even so, she says, it is really quite beautiful when it is snowing, and she enjoys crunching along in the fresh snow.

At the time of writing, it was a Sunday morning, and minus 12 degrees, later rising to minus 9, and a minus 6 to look forward to later in the afternoon. Yet the Montrealers were all discussing Spring. She has found a stunning shop – Ogilvys (somewhat like Georges in Melbourne) – and has taken advantage of the end of winter bargains. Janine was hoping to find a "down coat" (like being wrapped in a doona?) at the sales.

She describes an experience of responding to a fire alarm at 3am one morning. So she found herself standing in the street for half an hour in minus 15 degrees (she doesn't describe what she was wearing!! – maybe this was the trigger for the "down coat"?).

Apart from various adventures, Janine says she is still familiarising herself with the job. [That, no doubt, will be a forerunner to changes, improvements, upgrades, similar to those that have lifted the U of Q Library into world class.]

INFORMATION ON SOME (POSSIBLY) CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES FROM THE STATUS OF WOMEN SERVICE AND LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Parliamentarians for Women's Reproductive Rights – This is a group initiated by Greens Senator Kerry Nettle that seeks to educate parliamentarians in relation to the medical and societal benefits that current abortion laws deliver and to challenge the unfounded claim that there is a crisis in regard to the number or nature of abortions conducted in Australia. Email Senator Nettle to get involved or show your support. (senator.nettle@aph.gov.au)

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) is the major policy response of state and federal governments in Australia to homelessness. Women and children escaping domestic violence constitute one of the largest groups of Australians who rely on SAAP-funded services. State and federal governments are currently re-negotiating SAAP funding for the next 5 years. The federal government's offer to the states includes a requirement for a greater contribution by the states. The QLD government is reluctant to agree to this, which could result in a reduction of \$4.9m per annum to SAAP services in the state. Shelter QLD is arguing that both the state and Commonwealth governments need to provide more funding to allow QLD to redress historic under-funding and enable the SAAP system to better address the high level of unmet need. Resources to help with lobbying can be downloaded from the AFHO web site http://www.afho.org.au/3_news/nowhere_to_go_campaign/index.htm

Campaign to Protect DV Clearing House - <http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/> The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse has provided many important resources to the women's sector over its history. These have been critical for supporting the development of better government policies, more effective advocacy by activists, a higher public profile to the issues of violence against women and children, and more efficacious interventions by practitioners. The Clearinghouse is funded under the PADV program which will cease to operate after June 30, 2005. Unless women lobby hard for the continued existence of the Clearinghouse, this vital resource may be lost. The Clearinghouse urges women and their service networks to write urgent letters and emails to Senator Kay Patterson supporting the continued funding of the service. It also asks that women lobby for funding on at least a 4 year basis; for the Clearinghouse to remain auspiced by the Centre for Gender-Related Violence Studies with UNSW; and for there to be an increase of funding provided to accommodate expanding demands on Clearinghouse staff. (senator.kcpatterson@aph.gov.au)

Disability Services Review - The Queensland government is reviewing the provision of disability services in Qld and is calling for public submissions regarding how the delivery of disability services can be improved. This is an important opportunity for women in the sector and in the community to raise awareness of the needs of women with disabilities and the ways in which these are inadequately met at present. It is also an important opportunity to raise the profile of women-specific services and highlight their value for meeting women's specific needs. **To find out more about the Review and to download a consultation paper go to** <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au>



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Editorial

First the dreadful Boxing Day tsunami and now a devastating earthquake. Indonesia once more needs international aid for its people in dire distress. Some idea of the dreadful consequences of the tsunami are revealed in the results published on a Sisters of Mercy world-wide website and picked up by Chris Christensen who has passed a print-out to Newsletter.

This reports that four times as many women as men perished in the tsunami disaster. The reason for that disproportion lies in the social conditioning of culture. For instance women have been socially conditioned not to swim or climb trees; severe punishment being their lot if caught in such activities. Many men and boys survived because they could swim and climb trees.

The force of the water ripped clothes off women. Their culture forbade them to appear naked and they stayed in their houses paralysed by fear and custom. Those women remaining clothed in sari dresses were hobbled by their clinging floor-length gowns. Men were well able to run freely in shorts or pants. Women lagged behind trying to help the aged, disabled and children while men according to culture and custom ran unhindered expecting women to follow them as a matter of course.

Relief workers report that now the men are dealing with their grief that their wives, girl children, sisters and mothers have perished because of the cultural restrictions induced by male law and imposed on the feminine gender.

Possibly the effects of the earthquake will be different from those which followed the tsunami and more equable between the sexes as regards loss of life. Whether there will be a resultant cultural change of any sort remains to be seen.

The issues of land ownership and reconstruction are primary concerns. A widowed woman has little to no chance of claiming land without a husband's presence and legal signature.

In the matter of home-building the reconstructionists are being urged to consider the need for better kitchens, more friendly to women than former ones that consisted of just a camp fire at the rear of the house with no place for a woman to sit, forcing her to squat for hours on end. One wonders what effect that would have on a cook's back. Let us hope that in this area at least the women of Indonesia win the day!!

Jean Sinclair

President's Letter

Dear Zonta Club of Brisbane North members

We are often asked what Zonta does and new members may be finding this happening. It is always worth knowing that, as well as our local support, fees we send to Zonta International (one third of our hard-earned funds, mainly through The Zonta Fair) address some of the most crucial and pressing issues affecting women, like HIV/AIDS, trafficking for sexual exploitation, maternal and neonatal tetanus, and female genital circumcision. There are several awards and scholarships, both locally and internationally, all helping women. For example, currently we are advertising for the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship. This one supports women who are studying degrees in business management and helps overcome gender barriers. Jane M Klausman was a member of a New York club who understood the importance of helping women become business leaders, and she generously set up this bequest. And so we help each other.

This coming month (May), we as members can do our bit for women less fortunate than us by building "birthing kits". This is a project initiated by the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills and the kits are sent to Third World countries to make birthing safer. The date set aside is Saturday 7th May, venue will be the St Thomas Aquinas Church in St Lucia, and even if you can come and help for one or two hours that day, it will be appreciated.

See you on the 11th April. Our guest speaker will be Professor Helen Bartlett, speaking on "Women in an Ageing Society" – it promises to be an interesting talk.

Glenda Gobe

Guest speaker

Professor Helen Bartlett is Foundation Director at the Australasian Centre on Ageing, University of Queensland. She has held research and lecturing positions in social policy and health care in UK, Western Australia and Hong Kong. Her research has focused on quality and policy issues in community and aged care. Her publications include three books on nursing homes and continuing care and numerous papers on ageing and aged care in refereed journals. She is also on the Editorial Board of several key journals on ageing issues.

Notices

ANNUAL REPORTS!!!!

Don't forget that your annual reports on Committee activities are due. Please get them to the President as soon as possible, and no later than 15 April 2005.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL *IS MORE THAN JUST ZONTA CLUB OF BRISBANE NORTH*

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET? ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT IT?

**FIRST: AREA 3 – 5 WORKSHOP FOR 2005: SUNDAY 10 APRIL 2005 - \$38 per person
9.00am to 4.00pm at the Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside
There is still time to register – till 4th April 2005 – with Sue Droughton 5496 8909**

SECOND:

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INTERESTING WOMEN - KATHLEEN FITZPATRICK

Kathleen Fitzpatrick was an outstanding lecturer in history at the University of Melbourne as well as being a notable writer of historic Australian figures and events.

She was born in 1905 in Omeo, Victoria.

"Like most girls of my generation I was dumped into the twentieth century already so intellectually crippled that I could not comprehend the world I was to live in", Kathleen wrote in her contribution to *The Half-Open Door* (the collection of memoirs that women academics of Melbourne wrote to record their notable achievements). Her schooling she did not regard as a formative influence save for one outstanding figure, Mother Aloysius of the Presentation Convent, Windsor in Melbourne whose teaching gave Kathleen the key to a life-long love of English literature.

For Kathleen home influence was more formative than school. While her father was attached to liberal principles such as freedom of speech and thought, her mother was in a state of permanent revolt against women's lot in life and was confirmed in her view that men had a better time than women because of their financial independence. "The idea of being like a man presented itself to me in a favourable light while I was still a child" writes Kathleen. She writes that the University of Melbourne was her Alma Mater in every sense for it was there that the life of the mind first dawned on her and where she discovered she was capable of and could really enjoy hard work in a place so congenial to her that the happiest years of her life were spent there first as a student and later as a member of academic staff from part-time tutor to associate professor.

Like a good many people Kathleen entered University with a fixed idea about what she wanted to do. She wanted to concentrate on English - her favourite subject. She thought she would combine it with history which she thought would be easy since at school she had found the subject as taught there only required literacy and a good memory. Experience at the University reversed her preferences. Whereas she found the English lectures uninspiring she discovered through a brilliant history professor that history was so much more than a prosaic recital of dates and events. It was full of romance with its study of the people behind those dates and events. So was born the future historian through her initial love of English and acquired fascination in the romance of history. However at this stage she still had a lot of growing up to do. She set sail for Oxford with as she says "a head full of dreams"

Oxford proved to be a culture shock of staggering proportions. Kathleen deeply appreciated all the wonderful advantages of being in a place not merely dedicated to learning but abundantly endowed for its pursuit with magnificent libraries and populated by a host of distinguished scholars among whom she worked. But in other respects the difference between her girlish dreams and stark reality was to disorient her and make her unhappy. Accustomed to thinking of England as "home" as many Australian families did years ago she quickly and painfully learned that although most English people of the day liked having an Empire they regarded "the colonials" such as herself as dreary provincials whom they would prefer not to know.

Another disillusionment was encounters with sexual discrimination, which she had not known at home. Oxford had actually admitted women to degrees only three years before Kathleen entered there. This emancipation had been won against strong opposition. This opposition, although defeated, was still making itself strongly felt. Some dons refused to admit women to lectures. Others, more subtly, had admitted them but then deliberately embarrassed and humiliated them. This prejudice was widely shared by the men students. Kathleen's description of the homosexual social atmosphere among the men is strongly reminiscent of scenes from the TV series *Brideshead Revisited* which is set in the same period as Kathleen's Oxford studies. Kathleen writes that she felt really degraded by all this and did not at all relish being regarded as socially impossible and deprived of the society of young men which she had taken for granted at home. But all this disillusionment was serving a useful purpose. It informed Kathleen of her true identity as an Australian and a member of a new nation in the making.

Returning home Kathleen held University posts in Sydney and Melbourne until she married which required her to resign her academic post. The marriage lasted three years before a divorce, leaving her without a job and no prospect of one so she took up a commercial course which she likened to a University of Hard Knocks. She eventually became a teacher there and found teaching Commercial English an excruciating experience because, she writes, of the prostitution of "our sweet English tongue" to the alleged needs of commerce. But again Kathleen was grateful for this painful experience because it taught her to see life from a completely different angle. Nevertheless she was relieved to be eventually rescued by the University of Melbourne offering back her old job of tutor. She became part of a team which achieved the flowering of the noted Melbourne History School eventually becoming Associate Professor. She also achieved fame as the author of two important books: notably *Australian Explorers* and the biography, *Sir John Franklin in Tasmania*.

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Don't forget!! – April Dinner Meeting

Your \$30 payment for dinner and/or your \$135 subscription should be in an envelope marked with name, amount, & whether the payment is by cheque or cash.