



ZONTA

CLUB OF
BOWEN INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Newsletter

November 2015

District 22 Area 5 Club No. 1476

RECENT INDUCTION

Cheryl Cranston, who joined our club in September, had wanted for some time to be a Zontian but circumstances had prevented this occurring. So with warm hearts Cheryl was finally welcomed by President Raynee and members who wished her well in her future endeavours.



FUND RAISING

While fine, sunny weather prevailed for our Club's activities at the Bowen Fishing Classic, the wind did not favour the fishers who were mostly confined to inshore and estuaries to secure their catches. The Front Beach was again the beautiful backdrop for Club members to work in conjunction with Bowen Rotary Club to provide a food option for the public at this event. Apart from the food options we assisted with, our Club provided fun for the children through face painting, temporary tattoos and glow sticks all of which proved popular with the youngsters. Our raffle was a great money spinner being won by a family from Charters Towers who had come to Bowen especially for the Fishing Classic. To members who participated in any way in this two day event, a very big thanks. Much needed equipment, in the form of knives and other useful catering items that will assist fund raising events in the future, were acquired prior to the Fishing Classic. The Club's newly purchased trailer to house and transport our essential but often cumbersome and/or heavy gear was given its first outing at the Fishing Classic; how handy and

labour-saving this trailer proved to be. So to those who thought of a trailer as an item to purchase from our special government grant and who have been involved in getting the trailer functional, Club members say 'a job very well done and very much appreciated'.



ADVOCACY

It is often challenging to familiarise one's self with the concept of 'advocacy' especially if new to the Zonta family. Put simply, advocacy means that someone or some group will actively speak out in support of an issue or cause; to promote, to support, to back, to recommend, to champion issues or causes about which injustice is apparent. Thus Zonta is very supportive of the issues surrounding domestic violence as an example and advocates for reforms to take place in this area. But Zonta also advocates in many other ways and on the international scene taking some strong stands on difficult issues with the objective of

improving the lives of women and girls. An example of this international advocacy work involves Zonta International spending funds in support of its general program Strategies to End Violence Against Women (ZISVAW). In particular ZI operates a program of “Respecting the Rights and Responding to the Needs of Adolescent Girls in Niger” which focuses on delaying early marriage in that country. In a short YouTube video this issue of child or forced marriage is highlighted when 12 year old Fatima, who belongs to the Turegs (nomadic pastoralists of NW and SW areas of Niger in Africa), states ‘marriage disgusts me’ when all she wants to do is attend school. Her father however, says ‘school spoils girls’ and that the marriage of Fatima to a man of 30 is ‘an ancient practice’ which is ‘better religiously’. Meanwhile Fatima’s mother – also a ‘forced’ bride – stated ‘her father has decided her fate...I must accept it...I cannot say anything’. The mother though, understands the problems involved in this situation when she says, ‘I want her to grow up and be physically ready for marriage and childbirth’ even if as a mother she is powerless to enforce her wishes. However, the father, in upholding cultural tradition is dismissive of any other views stating that ‘even if he marries her and divorces her later, she will get another husband. I prefer this than school’. This video – linked to the District 22 web site – illustrates the problems that ZI advocacy faces. The cultural, social and religious values inherent in this story are just the beginning of the barriers that have to be overcome to assist girls subjected to ‘forced’ marriage; educational and economic values are also underscored in this example. In advocating for the delay of marriage for girls such as Fatima, ZI’s programs are huge undertakings which require not only funding but strong and determined advocates. The story of Fatima in Niger shows Zontains why we are endeavouring to empower women and girls so they can have improved lives. It is for this reason that we need to continue to advocate for the many millions of ‘Fatimas’ in our world and to help ZI achieve its aims. Advocacy is therefore one vital way of highlighting issues and offering support for those who have silenced voices.

A single twig breaks, but the bundle of twigs is strong. (Tecumseh)

REFLECTION TIME – upholding the Zonta Pledge
“I pledge myself to uphold and practice the ideals of Zonta”. These are the words spoken when each new member is inducted into Zonta. But before this takes place, the President or Membership Committee Chairperson conducting the induction, will have reminded both the inductee and the audience of fellow members of their responsibilities as Zontians. These are: ‘regular attendance, participation in club service projects and support for international programs’. As well there is an expectation to ‘serve enthusiastically if called upon for leadership’ and to uphold the ‘ideal of equality for all as expressed in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights’. So what does this involve? Simply put, each member pledges to be committed and involved through active participation in our club’s meetings and events. We are not just uttering a string of words through our pledge, but rather implying ‘I will, I can, I want to and I mean what I say’. By upholding our pledge and actively working with others there is so much we can achieve to empower the women and girls in both our community and throughout the international arena.

SOME PLANTS OF INTEREST

Many of us are interested in both gardening and the environment in general. But have you ever realized the ‘danger of succulents’ – yes, members of the cactus family. The Prickly Pear is a cactus which was discarded in the 1920s spreading through Queensland and other states’ farm lands. This pest was finally brought to heel through the introduction of the Cochineal insect from South Africa. The Harrisia cactus was spread throughout Queensland when a pot plant was allegedly thrown over a back fence in 1890s. This cactus was particularly horrific in the grasslands around Collinsville and Mt Coolon. Scientists eventually found a biological control for Harrisia firstly through a stem-boring beetle and later a mealy bug. Once a plant is infected with the bug, infected cuttings of this extremely prickly cactus can be placed in other Harrisia plants. This control method is still in use in the grazing industry. (I have many memories of using long tongs to spread cuttings containing the bugs!) Currently in the western and central Queensland rangelands, land holders and other agencies are fighting infestations of Coral cactus and Snake cactus. In central

Queensland north east of Clermont, there is an infestation of the plant commonly called 'mother-in-law's tongue' (*Sansevieria trifasciata*). Not a shoe can be placed between plants which cover about 1000 acres and have to be chemically sprayed to try to control it. It too came from a plant belonging to a household of early gold prospectors. While these may be interesting and sculptural plants in a garden setting, they are horrendous if allowed to escape into the natural environment. As if drought is not enough for farmers at present, then the cactus and other weed invaders are adding to their woes. The message is clear – beware of allowing your cacti and other exotic plants to stray!



Mother in law's tongue



Coral cactus



Prickly pear



Harrisia cactus

RESOLVING RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS

A couple attended a marriage counsellor. The counsellor asked the wife what the problems were she was having in her marriage. She complained of a lack of communication, affection and attention. She felt her partner had lost interest in her and he seldom kissed her anymore.

The counsellor then asked the husband what problems he had. The husband replied that he was quite happy and content.

The counsellor then thought for a while about their problem. Finally he rose and walked around his desk, took the wife's hand and helped her to stand. Then he took her in his arms and gave her a long passionate kiss. To the husband he said, "Sir, this is what your wife needs three times a week."

The husband thought about this for a minute or so and then replied, "Well I can bring her in on Mondays and Wednesdays but on Fridays I go fishing!"

The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits. (Albert Einstein)

NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT 22 CONFERENCE

Twelve Bowen Zontians attended the Conference held 9-11 October at the Coral Sea Resort, Airlie Beach. Unfortunately one member, although registered had to withdraw at the last minute due to illness. Below are some interesting points gleaned at the Conference. Members will be able to read, at a later date, a detailed published report from the District 22 Board.

- ✚ District 22 consists of 43 clubs; 31 clubs attended with 12 of these carrying proxy votes.
- ✚ 187 ladies consisting of 164 Zontians and 23 guests attended the Conference.
- ✚ Bowen club members acted as tellers of voting when required and wore orange scarves to indicate this status. [We couldn't keep the scarves although we would have liked to have done just that!]
- ✚ Ans Marie Van Erp (from the Toowoomba club) will become the next Lt Governor taking over from Judith Trevan-Hawke.
- ✚ The silent auction, held at the Conference Dinner, and to which our club donated wood turned (mango) bowls and a platter, raised \$6110. This money goes to ZI Foundation.
- ✚ The motion to have District 22 'transition to a company limited by guarantee' was carried 51 to 7 against. The District 22 Board will in future have very necessary legal liability cover. The structure of operations for the newly incorporated District 22

will see changes as a result. This overall change will in turn have implications at the club level with our constitution needing adjustment in the future.

- ✦ With 2019 being Zonta's 100th Anniversary, the conference carried a motion to have an Inter-District Conference of Zonta Districts 16, 22, 23 and 24 in 2019. This will take place in Brisbane. [What a celebration that will be! Hopefully our club will be well represented there.]
- ✦ Nan was lucky to win one of the items from the Whitsunday Club's raffle.
- ✦ Some clubs brought items to sell via stalls set up at the venue. Items on sale and as fund raisers for these clubs included:- chopping boards, Z brooches, pens, small torches, caps, cook books, signage, reusable bags and scarves. [Bowen Zontians proved to be capable shoppers!]
- ✦ A motion seeking ZI to target service programs relating to domestic violence specifically for women and girls in Papua New Guinea was passed unanimously. A related workshop about UN work currently under way in Port Moresby through the Safe Cities Program highlighted how a close neighbour would greatly benefit from more Zonta support. This was an excellent workshop and made us aware of something our Club could support to achieve international advocacy objectives. Hopefully, ZI will take this further and allow clubs future involvement.
- ✦ Many thanks to all members who attended over the three days. It was an opportunity for members to learn more about Zonta, as well as enjoy the fellowship of other Zontians.



SADLY MISSED

It is disappointing our President Raynee Bidgood has chosen to resign from the Club. Raynee has been a wonderful advocate for Zonta and its values as well as a hard working stalwart of club activities. Raynee however, on a personal level, has no doubt benefited from her time in Zonta as she rose to be the club's leader. For her work and commitment we cannot thank her enough. We wish her well in the future and assure her that she will be sadly missed. As per our Constitution, the first Vice President will take over the leadership of the club. To this position we welcome Lynette Klukas and also wish her success during her tenure.

That Raynee saw fit to resign rather than take the LOA offered is sad because her resignation email indicated some underlying issues she experienced within the club. For this to have happened, it is time that members gave serious thought to their treatment of and/or behaviour towards others.

Our protection of and consideration for others must take into account their personal health status, their work commitments, their family ties, their other interests etc, as we interact with each other. We should work harmoniously together to achieve the goals and objectives of both Zonta and our club. We must share the work load and work as a cohesive body rather than have some do more than others. Above all we have to be loyal to our club and to each other. We are honour bound to carry out the majority's decisions which is how 'democracy in action' operates at the club level. There is no place in our club for either personal agenda or for undermining the leadership or for not following procedures and protocols. Nor is there a place for gossiping about club matters outside of meetings to cause division. It is through unity, cooperation and respect for each other that we will achieve and survive as a club. Please remember your pledge and engage with others openly and respectfully.

Live so your friends can defend you but never have to. (Arnold H Glasgow)

RECLAIM THE NIGHT



ANOTHER VIEW

The Weekend Australian (Nov 14-15 2015) contained an interesting article by Bettina Arndt on the 'silent victims' of domestic violence – men. Arndt put forward the view that 'our culture assumes domestic violence is almost invariably committed by men ...but the data reveals a surprising high number of women are abusers'.

In a whole page (23) spread, Arndt argues there exists an 'anti-male bias which reaches its zenith in the witch-hunt over domestic violence. She claims the feminist movement have been 'controlling public debate' on the issue of domestic violence and is 'absolutely determined to allow no muddying of the waters' around their position. Furthermore, Arndt stated that for these 'zealots ... violence by women is dismissed as irrelevant'.

To support her views, Arndt cited examples of recent violent acts committed by women which gained little media attention in Australia. She also quoted the research of academics and gave statistics about the

findings of recent research in to domestic violence. While statistics are notoriously manipulated by groups and individuals for the purposes of social and political gain about an issue, one statistic in the article stood out. An Australian Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey in 2012 found '33 percent of people who had experienced violence by a current partner were male'. It is this data that gave rise to the One in Three Campaign 'which seeks to present an accurate picture of violence in the home' as opposed to the White Ribbon campaign which, detractors claim, operates upon questionable data.

For Arndt there is 'nonsense about domestic violence being the leading cause of death in young women' because the 'Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows the top five causes of death for Australian women aged 15 to 44 as: anxiety and depression, type 2 diabetes, asthma and schizophrenia. Violence did not make this list.' Arndt quotes Erin Pizzey an academic and the first woman to set up a refuge for women who believes the issue of domestic violence has 'become a huge feminist industry... a girl's own empire building' which is 'highly lucrative' and only wants to focus on the idea that women alone are the sole victims of domestic violence and therein gain the largest share of any available funding.

The article also states that the Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk recently called for 'campaigns against domestic violence to include male victims.' However, Palaszczuk's comment 'was met by a barrage of complaints from domestic violence services'. Thus Arndt reinforces her argument that there are operatives who have very set agendas about domestic violence which in turn are ignoring the issues of men as victims of domestic violence.

Arndt quotes Pizzey on the main cause of domestic violence who considers the main cause of DV lies in 'the roots of our parenting. Both mothers and fathers can be violent. If we educate parents about the dangers of behaving violently ... we will change the course of those children's lives.'

Arndt's article concludes with a call on males in prominent media roles and in other powerful positions to start 'asking the hard questions about the one-sided conversation that leaves so many men missing out'. She also makes a call for 'women who care about their brothers, sons, fathers and male friends ... to join in.' While Arndt acknowledged the current valuable work of domestic violence advocates, she argued more widely in her article. It was this that made the article interesting and thought provoking.

[Bettina Arndt is an Australian clinical psychologist, author, journalist and sex therapist]

As a child my family's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it. - Anon.

END OF A YEAR

- After members' hard work and commitment to fund raising in partnership with the Rotary Club of Bowen, Rotary presented Acting President Lynette with a handsome cheque. This took place at the Rotary Club's Christmas party held at Hansen Park recently. With this money added to our coffers it was a delightful way for members to realize all effort was well worth the labour and organization involved with the local Show and the Fishing Classic. All agreed it had been an enjoyable experience for both parties and which the Zonta Club of Bowen was proud to be involved in 2015.
- A final cake stall for the year was held at IGA on Saturday 14 November. A Christmas theme prevailed on the stall which proved to be eye catching and very successful. Many Christmas related 'goodies' were on sale and proved popular. With the mango season at hand, members wisely took advantage of this to make chutney and jam from the 'fruit of the gods' which also attracted buyers many of whom do not have access to the fruit. A Christmas raffle was also on display and will be drawn at our December Christmas party on Thursday 10 December at Bowen Bowls Club. Well done to all the members involved and a positive manner in which to end the year for the Service Committee.
- With several positions vacant on the executive due to the President's resignation, members have been asked to please 'step up' and consider taking on a role until the elections in April 2016. Many thanks to Von Hickmott for offering to take on Program Chair and to Laraine who will assist her. However, the Club urgently needs a member to take on the role of Secretary because Lynette has her 'plate well and truly full'. There is also a need for some member/s to help with the Membership committee – due to only two people having this responsibility at present. Remember that our pledge seeks this cooperation for leadership roles. There is no better time to 'learn the ropes' than in this short period until the forthcoming elections. Experienced members are willing to mentor others – just ask.
- The next meeting will be our Christmas dinner where members can invite family and friends to accompany them. However, please ensure that RSVP with numbers is to be given to Lynette by Tuesday 8 December. The venue will be decorated appropriately to add atmosphere and some entertainment will also be provided. Roger has been asked to provide some Christmas fare for the dinner – two courses as usual and \$25 each. Those who indicated they would help with the decorations, need to be at the Bowen Bowls Club at 5:30pm on Wednesday 9 December.

- **A Workshop for all members is to be held on Saturday 30 January 2016 commencing at 1:30pm.** The venue is Blue Care. All members – even if on Leave of Absence – are strongly encouraged to attend. The basic topic will be 'the future direction of our Club'. All members are invited to bring:- a vision for the club's future; what the priorities of both the Service and Advocacy Committees might be for 2016 and into the future; ideas as to how our Club can remain sustainable. All issues related to these and other issues are 'on the table' for discussion. Please remember that if members identify any problems they wish to voice, they also need to come with proposed solutions. It is anticipated the Workshop will finish around 5:30pm. Members are asked to please bring a plate of eats for afternoon tea. If you have any questions regarding the Workshop or wish to put in an apology, please contact Lynette or Laraine.



Celebrating Zonta's 98th Birthday



Cake stall laden with Christmas delights



WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. From - Zonta Club of Bowen Inc.