

East-Enders



February 2020

Presidents Patter



Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope that everyone had a nice long break. Unfortunately, 2020, for many Australians, has not started well. The bushfire emergency experienced throughout Australia, is hitting communities very hard, and obviously will continue for many months. We have been asked if Zonta clubs could work in conjunction with other organisations to assist or donate funds to bushfire appeals although these organisations and charities are not specifically focused on women. This is a discussion for our next meeting.

The club had a wonderful Christmas dinner at Thai Boat Restaurant in Manly on December 15 and many Hon Zons attended as well. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend but by all reports, everyone had a good evening. Thanks to Jacinta for organising this.

Jacinta and Rob delivered the club's gifts to Madonna House the following week. They were very pleased to receive the huge baskets of food and gifts for the children. Many thanks to Jacinta and Rob for shopping for food and Kerstin for helping wrap the gifts. Jill and her daughter shopped for the children's' gifts at Aldi and have a wonderful story of a generous stranger paying for the children's gifts – about \$200!!! Such generosity!

Drink and Draw fellowship social on January 19 was a roaring success! – thanks to Sarah for organising this. I hope everyone saw the great photos on Facebook. We will definitely do this again. We have some budding artists in our club (not me)! The venue was perfect as well – looking out to the ocean.

Hopefully I will see everyone at our next meeting- February 17 to which our Scholarship winners have been invited..

Loris

*“The way we experience the world around us is a direct reflection of the world within us.”
Gabrielle Bernstein*

Area Meeting

Area 1 and 3 Clubs will come together for our 2020 Area Meeting. It is on 22 February at the SouthBank TAFE. The program includes time for interaction and fellowship as well as some great speakers. Details can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Zonta-Brisbane-Metro-Breakfast-259850364690535/> Payment and bookings can be made via <https://events.humanitix.com.au/zonta-district-22-area-1-and-3-meeting-2020>

Fellowship

To celebrate the end of another successful year for the Club our December gathering was a festive occasion at the Thai Boat Restaurant in Manly attended by a number of members and our HonZons. We also took the opportunity to present Marg Kelly with her HonZon pin and Certificate to thank her for the support she gives our Club particularly with our High Tea fundraiser.



With no scheduled meeting in January Sarah organised another great fellowship activity of drawing, sipping wine and nibbling on cheese at Old Bill's at Wellington Point. Members and Hon Zons had great fun and hidden talents surfaced from many of those attending. Thank you Sarah.

Service

Thanks to Jacinta, Kerstin and Jill who shopped and wrapped and delivered our Christmas Hampers and gifts for the women and children to Madonna House. As usual they were very happily received.



Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

As always many thanks to the members and HonZons who assisted with our November & January Sausage Sizzles. We now also have dates for the last Monday in both February and March and as usual we need to fill the roster for these. If you can give a couple of hours of your time to help please let Jo know.



Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign 2019



The 2019 campaign was very successful with all D22 Clubs participating in some way. Many Clubs received great media coverage and there was much sharing of posts through social media. Planning is now well underway for the 2020 campaign with bookings already confirmed for the hanging of the banner on the Story Bridge and the lighting of the Story and, Victoria Bridges and City Hall. Any ideas to take this

campaign to the next level would be more than welcome.

Updated photos (collages) of the District activities can be found on our District website page. (<http://zontadistrict22.org/what-we-do/zonta-says-no-to-violence-against-women-campaign/>)



Launch of Love Bites Training

Using funds from the Zonta International Centennial Grant received by the Club we launched the first of our training programs in early December. The Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Hon Di Farmer MP launched the program at a breakfast kindly hosted by Balmoral State High School. Our District 22 Governor, Sandy Venn Brown spoke at the launch as did Mel Priden a trainer from NAPCAN and Ms Helen Kenworthy, Regional Director, Metropolitan Region, Department of Education. We were also pleased to have Councillor Kara Cook, Area 3 Director Anne Beulah and Mr

Rick Staveley from EPIC Assist attend along with senior representatives from the Department of Education. Many thanks to Ms Linda Galloway Principal of Balmoral State High School and her staff for the wonderful breakfast and also to our Club member, Barbara Bolton-Hall for all the work she has and is putting into organizing participants for the training programs.

Member Profile – Dr Beulah Castan



Beulah joined the Zonta Club of Brisbane East in February 1993 and as you can see from this report on Visit to Ark of the Aegean has wide experiences she is willing to share. She writes:

"Last year, 2019 and the year before, I had extraordinary experiences working as a Registered Volunteer Abroad. I will now give you a brief glimpse of those experiences.

Ark of the World Aegean. This is a non-profit organisation for the Special Care of children and their families and was founded by Father Antonious and his colleagues in 1998. The hub is on Chios (The fifth largest Island in the Aegean Sea, Greece). This shelter is set amongst trees in a village on Mount Aipos. It is a peaceful haven providing care and support, security, stability, protection and love as well as educational, social and career programs for children in need whether it is due to a court order or because they have been abandoned, or for many other reasons, including poverty, domestic violence, or coming from War zones, or being "minor" refugees. Father Antonious was given the European Citizen's Prize in 2018 at the European Parliament in Brussels for displaying exceptional achievements in philanthropy, and human rights.

Children range in age from 5 years to 17 years. They receive additional support as well as programs in the creative areas, sport and personal development areas from local volunteers and volunteers from abroad. I had written programs to share with the teachers and In-house psychologists that I presented while I was there and left them as a resource for professionals to use according to identified needs. It was a deeply moving experience for me to see how everyone valued this input.

In 2018 while discussing the Wildlife and Plants, History and Geography of Australia to groups of fascinated children, my heartstrings were pulled by the children that I saw and particularly with one child who attached herself to me and followed me everywhere. It was hard for me not to demonstrate extra feelings towards her as it would have made it harder for the separation when I had to leave to return back to Australia. So fast track to the next year,

2019 and as I was going to revisit the Ark of the World, I thought of taking a little gift to give to her so she could remember that someone always thought of her and had a special place in her heart for her. However, on reflection I realised that there were other little girls there and I could not discriminate. Sadly, I could not afford gifts for all. When telling this story to a friend she said she would teach me how to make bracelets and necklaces so that I could in turn teach the girls and at the same time gave me bags of bracelets and necklaces for all the girls to choose from and have them as gifts. This wonderful act of bags of beads as well as completed bags of bracelets and necklaces were given to me as donations. I had the pleasure of demonstrating to the girls how to make their own bracelets and necklaces while at the same time selecting completed bracelets and necklaces as personal gifts. While they were selecting their gifts I was able to slip my gift to this now little girl who had grown to be a beautiful young lady so that when she looked at her bracelet, she could remember that someone thought she was special.

This has been at a personal level a very rewarding and humbling experience being able to give a little kindness and to help in some small way to make a difference. If we all gave little drops of caring kindness this would create a great ocean of love that would make this world a better place for all.

In conclusion, let me thank the Zontians of this club for inviting me to present and share this experience at one of our meetings and to share it in their newsletter.

My Blessings and thanks to all”.

Diary Dates



2 February 2020 – Amelia Earhart Brunch, Brisbane Golf Club (ZC Brisbane South event)
17 February 2020 – Monthly Meeting, Bulimba Library
22 February 2020 – Combined Area1 and Area 3 Meeting – 66 on Ernest, SouthBank TAFE
24 February 2020 – Sausage Sizzle, Bunning Rocklea
5 March 2020 – IWD Dinner (ZC Wynnum Redland event)
8 March 2020 – International Women’s Day – Theme “*I am Generation Equality: Realising Women’s Rights*”
9-20 March 2020 – UN 64th Commission on the Status of Women, New York

16 March 2020 – Monthly Meeting, Bulimba Library
30 March 2020 – Sausage Sizzle, Bunnings Rocklea
4-8 July 2020 – Zonta International Convention, Chicago

