



**The yellow rose,
Zonta's symbol**

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**International Day in
Support of Victims of
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Date Claimers

**June 3, 7pm USC
Dinner Meeting**

**Apologies to Noreen Gor-
man on 3371-5752 by
9am on Friday, 31st May.**

**Please let Noreen know
beforehand if you:**

- are bringing a guest
- have special dietary needs
- are returning after an absence

**June 26. 6pm Ashgrove
Library: Board Meeting**

**June 6, 13, 20, 27
Sausage Sizzle**

**Volunteers needed,
please**

**Zonta Fashion
Showcase
for Project Now
15 June, 2pm
City Hall**

Tickets for this exciting
and worthy event are sell-
ing fast so make your
booking soon from:

www.zontafashionshowcase.com.au

Please be sure to nom-
inate ZCBN as your
referring club

President's Report

It was a pleasure to welcome District Governor Judith Anderson to the May dinner meeting and AGM. Before installation of the new Board, Judith spoke of changes that have occurred in Zonta over the last few years. The electronic age has made communication so much easier, and our Club's printing and postage costs have been reduced substantially through the use of emails.



Some of the new Board and Judith Anderson

This coming year, the club will be looking at ways to raise funds in order to continue support of a local service project. The new fundraising committee is planning a variety of events, something to look forward to that will help achieve our goals by working together. I urge members to consider requests to assist the different working committees that will be set up for each event.

It was pleasing to hear from the Zonta International Membership Services Manager that District 22 had exceeded the goal for membership for 2012-14 in the first year of the biennium – what a great result. Our club has contributed to this great outcome with the induction of five new members, and I hope we can continue to work on increasing our numbers in the year ahead.

Following on from the presentation from District Archivist and Historian, Ailsa Gilles, at the April dinner meeting... We need to continue working on our Club archives and to prepare a short history of ZCBN, which is required by April 2014. A lot of records have been sorted, but there is still a way to go. Members will be advised when another sorting day can be organized. A great example of a club history can be found on http://www.zontamilwaukee.org/club_history.htm. If any members have any item of interest please contact me. For further information on Centennial Anniversary, see <http://www.zonta.org/MemberResources/Tools/CentennialAnniversaryTools.aspx>

I remind all members that the District 22 Conference to be held 27-29 September at Noosa, is just 4 months away. I hope members will consider attending because it is a great chance to meet fellow Zontians from around the State. Our YWPA District 22 nominee, Chloe Yap, has been invited and she will be presented with her award at one of the sessions.

Anne

Want to contribute to Zonta at another level?

Nominations are currently being called by District 22 for membership of the 2014-2016 biennium Board. Nominations must be received by Trish Collins by **14 June**.

News Flash

Please note that the deadline for recording your intended absence from the dinner meeting is now 10am on the Friday before. Failure to notify Noreen in time will mean you will still have to pay the cost of the dinner (\$41), since the Club will be charged for it regardless.

Notices

Entertainment Books

There are only 12 Entertainment Books left, and they must be sold before the end of June. Please see Anne at the dinner meeting.

Fund-Raising Event 1

Event: Trivia Night
Date: Saturday 21st September
Where: Little Flower Church, Kedron
Who to invite: Friends, family, public, other Zontians. Get a table organised for a fun evening !

Fund-Raising Event 2

Event: Croquet Afternoon and Gourmet BBQ dinner
Date: Sunday 17th November, 3pm to 8pm
Where: Merthyr Croquet Club, New Farm Park

Fund-Raising Event 2

Those who attended the croquet event last year will remember that it was a fun afternoon and then we shared a very enjoyable dinner with fellow members. This year a BBQ and gourmet salads are planned. This event will raise funds but it is an event for the club to have some fun and enjoy each other's company, so bring along husbands, partners, friends – all are welcome. If some members aren't interested in playing come along for the afternoon and enjoy dinner

Newsletter Items

Please email any items of interest or notices of proposed activities directly to patricia.rego@uqconnect.edu.au. Contributions are particularly sought from Chairs of Committees who might like to advertise what they are doing, and to seek assistance from members.

Guest Speaker, June

The guest speaker at the June meeting will be Deb Jones whose talk is titled, *Emotional Intelligence: Why Life is Sometimes Like Driving a Car.*

United Nations Advocacy Days, June

- 5th:** World Environment Day
- 12th:** Day Against Child Labour
- 20th:** World Refugee Day
- 23th:** International Widows' Day: gives special recognition to the plight of widows and their children in order to restore their human rights and alleviate poverty through empowerment.
- 26th:** International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

"Every day, women, men and children are tortured or ill-treated with the intention of destroying their sense of dignity and human worth. [...] By concretely supporting victims of torture, the international community will prove its unequivocal determination and commitment to fight torture and impunity."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

The UN declared June 26th as the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture with a view to "the total eradication of torture and the effective functioning of *The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment*".



Torture is defined by Article 1 of *The Convention* as "any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person ... by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity." More than 700,000 survivors of torture have settled in Australia since the 1950s. In our lifetime, we have welcomed people seeking refuge from the Nazi holocaust, and those fleeing from the Pinochet regime in Chile in the 1970s, the hard-line communist government in Burma, and of course from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Africa (the photo is of a torture victim from Congo Brazzaville). On our doorstep in Papua New Guinea, women are still being tortured and even killed after being accused of 'sorcery'

Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture which provides a mechanism for review of detention facilities in Australia as a safeguard to torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. Whilst we are all aware of crude torture techniques such as solitary confinement, sensory and

sleep deprivation respectively, physical violence and sexual abuse, democratic countries where human rights monitoring and media coverage are high, commonly use "clean" methods of torture that do not leave physical evidence. Indeed, Australia has been accused by Amnesty of failing to protect asylum seekers who are some of the world's most vulnerable men, women and children. Many have been the victims of torture and trauma, and are re-traumatised by being forced to languish "in limbo in remote islands living the 'out of sight out of mind' nightmare that the current government has introduced, re-enacting the devastating policies of the past". Long-term detention damages the physical and mental health of asylum seekers and leading mental health advocates in Australia have called for the rapid processing of those seeking asylum, and for the release of all children in detention (currently more than 1,000).

As the name suggests, the Qld Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma provides services for those who have "undergone, witnessed or experienced torture or trauma, in or during flight from their homes and countries, or have experienced political, ethnic or religious victimisation or war". Anyone may refer such a person living in Queensland by contacting QPASTT on (07) 3391-6677 or the web address following immediately.

- Sources:** http://www.qpastt.org.au/howtorefer_index.html
<http://www.amnesty.org.au/hrs/comments/21210/>
<http://www.un.org/en/events/torturevictimsday/>
<http://staging.refugeecouncil.org.au/r/isub/2009-10-IntakeSub.pdf>
<http://romerocentre.org.au/media-and-resources/service-support-community-groups>
<http://reliefweb.int/report/australia/australia-send-children-asylum-seekers-remote-detention-camp>