



ZONTA

CLUB OF
BOWEN INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Newsletter

June 2016

District 22 Area 5 Club No. 1476

CHANGE OVER DINNER

Saturday 28 May saw members and guests gathered at the Bowen Bowls Club to induct and celebrate the Club's incoming executive for the 2016-17 period. The Program committee, aided by other members, worked hard to ensure the night would be enjoyable and a success. And with those goals achieved, members left the evening well satisfied with the Club's achievements and future aspirations. Highlight of the evening was the induction of Kerry Moloney as President. Kerry is a past President and so well versed in the protocols of Zonta. In taking on the role, members were delighted with her decision and extended well wishes in her future leadership of the Club. Others to be inducted included: Bon Wharley as Vice President, Ruby Illmer as Secretary, and Jennifer Finn as Treasurer while Cath Morgan and Laraine Smith took up roles as Board members. The inductions were carried out by Lynette Klukas in her final role as acting President. The Club is indebted to Lynette who bravely stepped into the role in 2015 following the resignation of the President. Lynette was presented with a small gift from members as recognition of her commitment and service during this time.

Another major highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Club's Bursary. This annual Bursary is awarded to a young, local woman in the field of either education, sport or culture. The Club decided to award the bursary to an outstanding young lady in the sporting field this year. So it was with great pleasure that the Club handed over a cheque to 16 year old Skye Robson who is the current Australian Cycling Champion in her age group. Having very limited training facilities in Bowen, Skye travels to Townsville most weekends to train on the nearest velodrome. Skye also has to travel long distances to compete and hence progress to championship competitions. Skye's achievements, commitment and aspirations were outlined in a delightful speech she delivered to the Change Over gathering. With many community leaders present, although some may have been unfamiliar with Skye's achievements, it became apparent why Skye was a worthy recipient from our Club. Accompanied by family members, Skye displayed the attributes of a humble, articulate and

mature, young woman who made both family and Zonta members proud of our Club's choice. The evening also welcomed Zonta members from our neighbouring Club at Airlie Beach, Whitsunday Regional Council's mayor (Andrew Wilcox), fellow Councillors along with representatives from Lions, Rotary, Blue Care and the Bowen Community Council. The latter organization was also presented with a cheque from our Club to assist with emergency housing for those in need be it as a result of escaping domestic violence or brief respite as a result of an accident or house fire etc. As our Club presents such a cheque twice a year to the Bowen Community Council, members took pride in our efforts to continue this practice.

The night also contained an Australian Geography Trivia Quiz which surprisingly engaged attendees from the moment they were seated at the beautifully but subtly decorated tables. With a hearty roast smorgasbord followed by an array of sweets, the evening ended with votes of thanks and the knowledge that Bowen Zonta Club Inc transitions into the coming year in safe hands.



President Kerry Moloney and Skye Robson Bursary winner



Executive for 2016-17; Ruby, Cath, Laraine, Von, Kerry & Jennifer

THE CONTINUING CAMPAIGN

Have you noticed in the newspapers lately that the Federal Government has begun the “Violence Against Women” advertising campaign? (There has also been an electronic version but this article’s focus is on the printed media.) The key message is ‘Let’s stop it at the start’. With this at the forefront, the advertisements explain that such violence doesn’t just start but in fact grows.

Why is this? It is here that the advertisements give some hard hitting facts to demonstrate that we, as a society, have long been remiss in how we have dealt with the issue. Apart from facts such as: ‘one in three women has been a victim of physical violence or sexual violence since the age of 15 from someone known to them’, the advertisement points to some moral lessons in guilt, excuse making and shamefulness which are pertinent to us all and which have enable domestic violence to ‘grow’.

Disrespect is the key to why violence – especially towards women – begins. As parents, friends, and relatives it is a safe bet that some of us have been guilty at some stage of making excuses for any disrespect shown towards girls and women. By making the excuse that ‘boys will be boys’ when being disrespectful to young girls, we are guilty of reinforcing that it is tolerable and acceptable to carry on this disrespectful behaviour. And by fobbing off any disrespect displayed by a young male towards a young woman because ‘he’s only doing it because he likes you’ is to also both excuse and reinforce unacceptable behaviour. It is shameful that society has accepted these excuses for behaviours which are totally unacceptable. That it has taken so long for our society to acknowledge this is confounding. Have we tried to sidestep the truth and in the bargain blamed others for the growing problem of violence towards women?

As parents, friends and relatives of young males we have a moral duty to call any behaviours for what they are – bullying, disrespectful, infringements of personal rights and to state these are totally unacceptable. We have a duty to ensure that advertisements and educational programs by governments are not the lone campaigners in educating our young men and boys about disrespect and violence towards females. What begins at a young age more often than not will become the norm for boys as they grow into manhood. The campaign to stop any violence must start and be continually reinforced in our homes. It is everyone’s responsibility to ensure our boys are properly educated in the meaning of respect at both the broad level and especially at the focused level of females. If we want the problem of violence towards women to stop, we must become part of the solution and not part of the problem. It is time to be honest as to why we have this growing problem so that the

excuses for it are stopped and we begin a conversation about respect between the sexes. As the advertisements state, “let’s stop it at the start.”



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A Mugging By David Axton

When my guard was down they attacked from behind
With a blow to the head - now I wake up to find
There's a sort of red mist in front of one eye
And my tongue's gone all rubbery and my mouth is so dry.

There's a part of my head that floats on its own
And a pain when I move that just makes me groan.
My stomach and its contents have ceased to be friends
And are now parting company via both ends.

I ought to get up but I'm frightened to try,
I just want to lie here and hope that I'll die.
I can't understand how I came to be caught
By those two nasty muggers - red wine and port.



Heather Williams (left) guest speaker March Dinner meeting



OUR SISTERS AT WORK IN EUROPE

It is always interesting to learn about the work and projects other Zontians are conducting throughout the world and to realize the impact our organization can have. The Zontians of many European countries are involved in a range of activities to support Zonta's objectives and the following is one such example. On 25 September 2015, many UN member nations adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Thus the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals were unveiled. Each of the goals has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

Zonta International, through our Clubs and committed members in Europe has joined with the Council of Europe and the United Nations to focus on one of the 17 Goals – namely the 5th Goal which is 'Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' and directly in line with Zonta International's stated objectives. The targets for this 5th goal are:

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Zonta International is able to exert influence in these areas because it is closely associated with and given a voice at meetings and conferences with the Council of Europe as well as with the United Nations, its agencies and other Independent Non-Government

Organizations. The Council of Europe is not part of the European Union but rather a separate organization which focuses on human rights, promoting democracy and economic development. The Council of Europe has 47 member states and represents 820 million citizens of which more than 400 million are women and girls. As Zontians in Bowen and indeed throughout this part of the planet, we too can assist our sisters in Europe to achieve Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development agenda through our ongoing support of ZI.

A few things we can do on a daily basis to help achieve Goal 5: Speak out about: - sexism, violence towards females, disrespectful treatment of the elderly, any underpaid females; Flag bullies on line and notify others about their behaviour; Encourage girls to learn and become high achievers; Encourage our boys and young men to have respect towards all females; Encourage our males to cooperate and assist females as equal partners at home and at work. Such little steps will help achieve a huge goal.



MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT

Members have recently participated in several events. The Candle Lighting Ceremony held in Bowen recently placed, once again, a focus on domestic violence. The Club appreciates those members who made the time to partake in this event.



Several members also travelled to Townsville to attend the Area 5 meeting and afterwards to attend a Cowboys V Broncos NRL game.



Lynette, Nan, Cath and Hortense at the Area 5 meeting



Zontians and other group representatives at the Cowboys game

2016 Area 5 Meeting:

It was all action and orange for the *Zonta Says No to Violence* campaign at the NRL Cowboys versus Broncos football game at the 1300 Smiles stadium in Townsville on the Friday evening. Members from all clubs wore orange T-shirts and were very vocal in supporting their favourite team from the “orange” corner of the southern grandstand.

With support from both football teams, Zonta joined with the NQ Women’s Legal Service, Indigenous Woman’s Legal Service and Relationships Australia, in the ‘Tackling Domestic Violence’ initiative which was aired on national TV and brought to the attention of the crowd at the start of the game. Members also participated by handing out orange wrist bands and informing patrons about the work of Zonta.

The official meeting held at Quest Townsville on Eyre, began with District Governor Judith Treven-Hawk delivering an interesting address on the Council of Europe which is Europe’s leading human rights organization.

Guest Speaker, Remy Collier taught us a few things about using Facebook and social media and, in particular, why hashtags are useful. Hashtags are the search engines of Facebook. Social media is now the most common way to interact with other people and Remy’s hints for using Facebook in a professional manner were useful.

Keynote speaker Deb Rae of Deb Rae Solutions spoke about her personal transformation and then invited members to participate in a workshop on exploring

their personal power. She also spoke about the release of her book *Getting There: Grief to Peace for Young Widows*.

Ans Van Erp, our incoming District governor, led a workshop titled *Stepping up to Leadership* in which the question of why so few women step up to positions of leadership was explored. Ans stated, “If you really want to make a difference in the world then you need to step up.”

Clubs recognised Marie Cameron’s work as Area 5 director by presenting her with a gift.

There were three speakers on Sunday. Renee White informed us about the events at the UN Conference on the Status of Women held in New York and which she had attended as part of a youth delegation.

Leizel Gordon held a workshop titled *Strategies for the Empowered Woman*. She emphasised: *Be a girl, be a woman and be proud of it.*

Kirsten Seymour from Headspace explained Headspace is an initiative of the National Youth Mental Health foundation and assists young people aged between 12 and 25 who experience mental health issues.

The meeting drew to a close at lunch time on Sunday after various clubs spoke about their latest projects.

The ‘Love Bites Program’ has been supported by a number of clubs and has the support of Zonta District 22.

Bowen Zontians thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and rated the meeting, its organization and speakers very highly.



Quote: *The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have. (Vincent Lombardi)*