

# East-Enders



**November 2019**

## **Presidents Patter**



The month began on a sad note. Jo Diessel received a phone call from Mater Private Breast Clinic. A patient (Maree Catsoulis) had passed away from breast cancer. At the request of her family, donations from her family and friends were made to Zonta Club of Brisbane East -Breast Cushion Project. Maree often spoke of how the breast cushion provided great comfort and support to her during her battle with breast cancer. To know the cushions are of assistance to women like Maree is very gratifying. We received \$2270 in donations. We are so grateful to the Catsoulis family.

Jacinta and I attended a breakfast on Friday October 18<sup>th</sup> – a fundraiser for Zonta Club of Brisbane River. Debbie Kilroy from *Sisters Inside* spoke on women in the criminal justice system. It was well attended – very nice to see several tables of school students.

We held a fellowship event on Sunday, October 20 at the Museum of Brisbane located at City Hall. We visited the *New Women* Exhibition followed by afternoon tea. *New Women* recognises the lives of Brisbane women artists over the past 100 years. Zonta received a mention on the wall in the exhibition room -listed three women's clubs established to build systems of social support for women.

At our club Meeting on October 21, 2019 we celebrated United Nations Day. District Governor Sandra Venn-Brown spoke about Zonta's International project in Jordan called *Hand in Hand*. It was wonderful to hear how ZI is working with UN Women to improve Syrian refugee and Jordanian women's access to sustainable and decent employment, coupled with protection services and community leadership/engagement, to enable greater equality and reduced violence against women.

Beulah Castan and Kerstin Liebchen (club members) also did presentations on their personal projects overseas in Greece and India. It was inspiring to hear what a little drop of goodness can do to make the world a better place.

We also met our Women in Technology club winner Gabriella Behr. She attended our meeting along with her mother from Warwick. Gabriella gave a short presentation on her work. Very impressive young woman!

Until next month.

## Loris

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

## **Busy Monthly Meeting**

A very busy October Meeting where we not only celebrated Zonta’s collaborative status with the United Nations but also welcomed our District Governor Sandy Venn Brown who updated us on the Zonta International Service Projects and particularly the ZIF project in Jordan. The ZI President recently paid a site visit to this project and you can find the reports from this at <https://foundation.zonta.org/Eid-bi-Eid>. Club members, Beulah and Kerstin also talked about their recent visits and special projects in Greece and India – a very international meeting in recognition of United Nations Day on 24 October.



## **Women in Technology Award Winner**

Our October meeting was also the opportunity for Club members to welcome and congratulate our Club Women in Technology Scholarship winner, Gabriella Behr, and present Gabriella with her cheque and Club certificate. We wish Gabriella all the best as her application is now considered at the District level.

## **Zonta Fellowship**

Club members and HonZons enjoyed a very pleasant visit to the “A Century of Women in Art” exhibition at the Museum of Brisbane in City Hall. Social fellowship activities such as this enable us to get to know each other that little better outside of our formal meetings and fundraising.




## Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

We now have dates for the remainder of the year for our Sausage Sizzles (see Date Claimer below). Our sizzle on 28 October was again a good fundraiser for the Club and we thank members and HonZons who worked on the day. If you can help with the November (Sunday) or December dates please let Jo know so she can include you on the roster.



## Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign



**ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**ZONTA 100 YEARS**

All the bridges and buildings labelled in orange will be lit up orange in support of Zonta, courtesy of Brisbane City Council and Treasury Casino to whom we are very grateful for supporting our cause

Start/Finish City Hall /King George Square

Zonta Club of Brisbane Metro Breakfast invites Zontians and friends to join us on our annual "Zonta Says No" Advocacy / Fellowship Walk as part of the Zonta International 16 Days of Activism to support the Zonta Says No to Violence against Women and to Child /Forced Marriage campaign.

WHEN: Monday 18th November. 5:45pm assembly for 6pm walk  
WHERE: King George Square.  
WEAR: Your orange ZSN Shirts or anything orange  
DURATION: 4.6km approx. Allow 1.5 - 2 hours leisurely walk  
FINISH: Pig & Whistle, King George Square for refreshments

To register click on link below  
<https://events.humanitix.com/au/zonta-says-no-advocacy-walk>  
or call Ruth on 0438 335 760

Note: \$5.00 Parking after 4:30pm at King George Square Car park  
<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/traffic-transport/parking-permits/car-parks/king-george-square-car-park>

The 16 Days of Activism formally commences on 25 November and runs through until 10 December but our Brisbane City building will be lit orange prior to that. As in previous years everyone (four-footeds on leashes included) are invited to join Zontians from Brisbane and nearby Clubs for the Brisbane City Walk

organized by the Zonta Club of Brisbane Metro Breakfast Inc. It is a gentle stroll around the city to view the lights and raise awareness followed by Fellowship at the Pig and Whistle, King George Square. Details on photo attached but those participating are asked to gather at 5.45pm on 18 November in King George Square.

We again will have our orange women silhouettes out and about. If you can sponsor one (ie know a suitable location for their placement) please contact either Jo or Ros to arrange collection etc.

## Member Profile – Divya Viswanathan

I was born in South India, but moved at age 4 to Canada where I was first exposed to snow, my now favorite food - pizza and learning English as a second language. During high school, I was an avid member of the Zonta club which my French teacher, Madame Walpole, had





commenced as a Zontian within the school. We organised a variety of fundraising events, and often did Christmas Hampers, and hygiene kits for women in need. I was also the recipient upon graduation from high school of the "Young Women in Public Affairs" award. I grew to love my hometown of Guelph, Ontario and went on to University there, completing a degree in Microbiology Hons, and a Masters in Biomedical Sciences.

After working for a year as a Public Health Planner for the government, I decided I needed an adventure which came in the form of medical school at University of Queensland in Brisbane! I packed my bags and re-located and spent the next five years growing to love the weather here, medicine and making a new group of friends and family. I was always activity involved in student government and volunteer work, and had a strong interest in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, a specialty which promotes, supports and advocates for women's health. I decided to stay in Australia and pursue training in this area and am currently in my third year in a six year training program.

I met my Kiwi husband in Vietnam and we have both bought and made a beautiful home in Carina Heights.

Joining the Zonta Club in Toowoomba in 2017, I decided to transfer my membership to the Brisbane East club and am so thankful for the amazing women I've met in the club, their enthusiasm and the opportunity to provide service to the community. This feels full circle, being a Zonta high school member, to being a Zontian as an adult, and I'm excited to be involved with the Club for the future!

**Editors Note:** We are very happy to welcome Divya to our Club and congratulate her and Donavan on their recent marriage and wish them all the best for the years ahead.

### *Diary Dates*



- 1-30 November 2019 – Display at the Bulimba Library
- 11 November 2019 – Monthly Meeting – Meeting Room under Bulimba Library (**NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE**)
- 11 November 2019 – Zonta's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- 17 November 2019 – Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, Rocklea
- 18 November 2019 – Zonta Says No City Walk (Combined Zonta Clubs) – see above information
- 24 November 2019 – Walk Against Violence, Love Street Park, Bulimba

25 November 2019 – “Paint the Bayside Orange Breakfast”, Wynnum Manly Leagues Club  
25 November 2019 UN Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women  
25 November – 10 December 2019 – 16 Days of Activism  
3 December 2019 – Breakfast Launch of the LoveBites Facilitator training (Zonta Centennial Grant)  
10 December 2019 – UN Day for Human Rights  
16 December 2019 - Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, Rocklea  
16 December 2019 – Club Christmas function/meeting

Check out the District 22 website (<http://zontadistrict22.org/what-we-do/zonta-says-no-to-violence-against-women-campaign/>) to find out what is happening across the State during the 16 Days of Activism

