

Rockhampton – Twentieth Anniversary.
(from Berenice Payne – President Zonta Club of Rockhampton)

A wonderful weekend of fellowship was enjoyed for the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the presentation of the Charter to the Zonta Club of Rockhampton.

As President of the Rockhampton Club and on behalf of the members of the club, I would like to thank Past International President Mary Magee, District Governor Robyn Gaspari, Lieutenant Governor Ros Kinder, Zonta International ZISVAW sub-committee member Jane O'Brien and Charter President Enid O'Toole for their attendance. Eleven Charter members enjoyed meeting up again. Five charter members, Norma West, Margaret Anderton, Wendy Christie, Anna Tempest and Mary Lawrie are current members of the Rockhampton Club. As well as Charter President Enid, we enjoyed the attendance of Charter members Adele Freeman, Jean Clark, Sandra March, Kay Smith, Pam White and Glenys Baynton. Thanks also to Gail Sellers, Pauline Dunn, Zaiga Stephenson, and Helen Johnson of the Gladstone Club and Di Nicol, Meredith Sutherland and Lesley McAteer of the Emerald Club who all travelled to attend the weekend celebrations. About forty guests enjoyed the weekend events.

The weekend celebrations began with a lunch at Shangri La Restaurant. Past members enjoyed catching up with present members and there were trips down memory lane as members perused archival material documenting the history of the club. Photos, Club Newsletters, cuttings from Newspapers and a Potted History of the Club told the story of the past twenty years in detail. Some entertaining stories were told about some of the early fundraising activities. Following lunch, all enjoyed a very interesting visit to the Rockhampton Art Gallery. The exhibition displayed artwork by secondary students who had entered the Education Minister's Awards for Excellence and also a Photographic Exhibition.

At the Celebration Dinner at Shangri La Restaurant on Saturday night President Berenice Payne welcomed guests and thanked all for attending. Past International President Mary Magee addressed the guests. Her address was titled 'International Anecdotes and Zonta in Times of Change' and Mary told some very interesting stories, which gave us an insight into her work at International level. District Governor Robyn Gaspari updated guests on District affairs. It was interesting also to hear Charter President Enid O'Toole read her President's Report, which had been presented at the first Annual General Meeting in 1984. It was a delightful evening with fine food, enjoyable company and lots of fellowship.

Sunday morning began with a Heritage walk along Quay Street and the weather was made to order with blue skies and cool fresh air. Our guide talked of the history of the beautiful buildings, which stretch along four blocks of Quay Street with the view across to the Fitzroy River and its beautifully landscaped walkways. The leisurely walk was a great vehicle for fellowship and ended with a very enjoyable brunch at the heritage listed Criterion Hotel.

All agreed the weekend had been most successful and enjoyable and the club enjoyed publicity in the local newspapers during the period before and after the event. The club has a great photographic record of the event.

Thanks again to all who attended and made the weekend a most successful one. We have some wonderful memories of the weekend and we hope you do too.



