

# the Zonta Club of Mackay Newsletter

March 2013



## President's Report

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The last few weeks have been extremely busy for our Club members as we diligently prepared for our 2013 Zonta IWD luncheon which was held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at the Northern Beaches Bowls Club. On the day, the function room was a rainbow of colours, with many thanks to Lynne and Viv, our 'dynamic duo' with support from many of our other members, and Lynne's wonderful daughter Taylor. The room looked amazing!

With over two hundred women and female secondary school students, the function room was bulging at the seams. Many thanks to Judy and Vassie who very capably handled a huge last minute rush of ticket sales in the few days prior to the event.

Past Mayor, Julie Boyd did an excellent job as MC and managing a large room of very talkative women! Our two guest speakers were also very well received. Dr Sally Rodrigues, an infertility, obstetrics, laparoscopy surgery and urogynaecology specialist explained the implications of obstetric fistula which is a childbirth injury that affects many women in developing countries including Liberia. The Liberian Fistula program is currently one of our Zonta International programs.

Our second guest speaker was Sarah Newman, who was the Zonta District 22 Young Women in Public Affairs Award (YWPA) winner in 2012. Sarah went onto being one of five International YWPA award winners worldwide. Sarah was an excellent young speaker who spoke passionately of the opportunities that being involved with the YWPA awards has provided to her, and the importance and benefits of being involved and supporting community activities.

With a record number of YWPA entrants this year (20), and a huge representation of secondary school students and teachers across the Mackay region, the room was 'abuzz' and inspired by Sarah's heartfelt words. It was difficult to remember that Sarah was only seventeen years of age, except, when on the journey back to the airport, she excitedly exclaimed that she loved Mackay, it had been one of the best days of her life, and she was so happy 'she could have cried'.

A very sincere thank you to Leanne, supported by Bridget with co-ordinating the YWPA awards this year, and to Bridget, Deb Rae and Meredith Papavasiliou for undertaking the very difficult task of judging the twenty applications. During the afternoon we were very fortunate to have Tara Hanrahan and Jessica Klause provide musical entertainment with their beautiful voices. Jessica also was the 2003 winner of the YWPA award for the Mackay region.

*A worldwide service organization of executives in business and the professions working to improve the legal, political, economic and professional status of women.*



*President's Report (continued)*

...continued from page 1

**F**unds of over \$7,000 were raised during the afternoon, and it was wonderful to present a cheque of \$3,000 to Jenni Gilbank from Suicide Awareness Mackay to support the implementation of the 'Real Me' programme in Mackay, Pioneer and Mirani State Secondary schools. This programme is a specialised program to support young female secondary school students to understand how they work, think and behave and to assist with discovering their identity and self belief.

**S**pecial thanks must go to our major sponsors: Mackay Regional Council, Rio Tinto Hail Creek Mine, BB Print, Infocus Money Management, Sunsuper and CQUniversity and our school sponsors – PC Cominos & Sons, Pioneer Podiatry, Marvic Uniforms, Style n Size, Soroptimist Club of Mackay, Uniforms Solutions and the Sarina Community Bank.

**W**e also had many generous businesses and individuals who provided gifts, items for our goodies bags, table decorations, lucky door and chair prizes, raffle prizes and gifts for the cent sale. It was wonderful to have such outstanding support.

**F**inally, a very sincere **thank you** to all of our members for your contribution and hard work which ensured a successful, enjoyable and significant event in our community.

Yours in service

**Thank you!**

**Marie Cameron**

The Mackay Regional Council was a major sponsor of the event. Also supporting the lunch from the Council was Mayor Deidre Comerford, and Crs. Alison Jones and Theresa Morgan along with other senior female Council staff.



MC for the event, Past Mayor Julie Boyd, Helen Singer, Rio Tinto Hail Creek Mine and Guest Speaker District 22 2012 YWPA winner Sarah Newman. Hail Creek Mine has been a long term major sponsor of the event.



Carmen Abad and Kathleen Rogers from Infocus Money Management. Infocus Money Management has been a long term sponsor of the event.



*International Women's Day*



*“In this world there is no force equal to the strength of a determined woman”*



Zonta Mackay celebrates 20 years of the Young Women in Public affairs Award in 2013.

Joined by the 2012 District 22 and International recipient of the YWPA award Sarah Newman from Brisbane, our focus on YWPA as we celebrate 20 years was always going to be a wonderful event, however, the judging panel was overwhelmed and delighted with 20 applications from 7 Mackay High Schools.

Most applicants were able to join us, along with school peers, teachers and family, to hear Sarah's inspiring talk and enjoy our IWD event.

The judges eventually decided on the finalists, and announced the winner as Amanda Dreger from Mirani SHS with Runner up Emma Tait from Whitsunday Anglican School.

A special guest was YWPA Winner for 2003, Jessica Krause who presented the certificates to applicants and also closed our luncheon with a beautiful performance of 'Defying Gravity'.



*Sarah Newman with representatives from Pioneer State High School.*

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



**Celebrating 20 Years  
Young Women in Public Affairs Award  
for 2013**

*Presented to*

*Amanda Dreger*



*Finalists in the YWPA Award 2013.*

## International Women's Day



Our beautiful goody bags included individually wrapped yellow roses kindly provided by Starcut Flowers and delectable bite size home made chocolate cakes created by Roz Mahy of Exclusive Cakes 4 You.



Guest speaker, Dr Sally Rodrigues talking about Obstetric Fistula.



Our luncheon tables were a rainbow of colours!



Tara Hanrahan, one of our wonderful musical entertainers and also the daughter of Viv!



President Marie Cameron presenting a cheque of \$3,000 to Jenni Gilbank, from Suicide Awareness Mackay to support the 'Real Me' Programme

International Women's Day

## International Women's Day

*Cent Sale time!*



*Adding the finishing touches*



*Adding the finishing touches!*



## International Women's Day-Other Events

In support of our Club's relationship with the World Cafe, Viv and Marie attended a IWD morning tea on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March at the George Street Neighbourhood Centre. The morning tea was sponsored by Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres and the George Street Neighbourhood Centre. It was wonderful to see so many carers have an opportunity to get out and have some fun and socialise with others. With around 60 women attending, it is important that these ladies are given recognition through celebrations such as IWD of the vital and often difficult role they are playing in our community of personally caring for others in their lives. Guest speaker, Teresa Raj, who is the Manager of the George Street Neighbourhood Centre was very inspiring, talking about her life growing up in India and the challenges she faced in the workplace, particularly as a female.



*L-R Blanche Sutherland – Welcome to Country opening, Teresa Raj, Guest speaker and Manager of the George Street Neighbourhood Centre, Viv Hanrahan, our wonderful Zonta member and our dear friend, Lyn Gargano from the World Café.*

## Finance and Fundraising Committee Report



### International Women's Day 2013:

What a fantastic culmination of our all hard work and efforts in the period leading up to our IWD Lunch – 207 attendees and over \$7200 profit from the event! Congratulations to all the Club members for the blood, sweat and tears as we pulled off another great day!

It was so welcoming to have more hands on deck this year to make the day as successful as it was, and certainly reduced the stress levels I felt.

Please let me know if there is anything else you feel could be improved upon for next year; all feedback welcome and appreciated.

Our lunches have become a standout event and we received some great coverage on WIN News and also in the Daily Mercury website (with photos) and Monday's paper.

### Social Events 2013:

**Pinnacle Playhouse** – 17-18<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – anyone interested in a social evening for this weekend?

**G&S Supper Club** – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2013 – this would be another great social opportunity for us and our partners to get together and enjoy some lovely food and great entertainment.

*Lynne Bailey*



## Membership Committee Report

In February we welcomed Fiona Kruger and Leanne Ferris to our club. It has been very pleasing to see our numbers now reach 24.

Within the club, you will meet ladies from various backgrounds, many of whom you would not have known otherwise, but who share the Zonta cause.

If you enjoy the Zonta fellowship, and want to learn more about Zonta also, please give consideration to attending the Area 5 Meeting in Bowen on 20-21 April. The members of all ten clubs in Area 5 are invited, and it is a fantastic opportunity to meet lots of wonderful Zontians. Speakers will include District Governor Judith Anderson and Lieutenant Governor Judith Trevan-Hawke, who relay information on current Zonta issues and the areas on which clubs need to focus.

We share what we have done with the other clubs – and steal their good ideas also. But most of all, you will have a very enjoyable weekend.

*Vassie Comino*

What we're doing

## Advocacy Committee Report

**Zonta says NO!** – a campaign to end violence against women and girls.

The Advocacy committee proposes to support local community, national as well as international events that align with this campaign.

Our presence and involvement in these events also helps in our aim to increase our CREDIBILITY AND VISIBILITY.

Plans are under way for Zonta's walk (not officially named as yet) in July 2013. Thanks to Fiona Kruger for accepting the role as coordinator.

We would like to participate in some community events in May as this month is assigned to "Stop Domestic Violence". We have made a request to Mackay Regional Council to change the colour of the water fountain to ORANGE. We will advise you on the exact dates.

September 8 – International Literacy Day – We are inviting suggestions from everyone, including the Z Clubs, for event, possibly an entertainment? Please put on your thinking caps.

October 24 – United Nations Day, I have had initial talks with World Cafe coordinator regarding an event involving the multicultural women of Mackay... A FEAST of DELICACIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD?

Sunday Nov 24 is calendared for White Ribbon Day. Officially White Ribbon Day is 25<sup>th</sup> of November. This is also the start of THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM which ends on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Dec.

I am currently looking at a program for education and empowerment of young girls through the White Ribbon Foundation. I will provide you with more information once I have it.

Finally, we will continue our support of the Samaritan House, either by cash or in kind donation.

*Viv Hanrahan*

### For your support

**Your \$3 donation will support one of our Zonta International programs, the Liberian Fistula Program.**

Obstetric Fistula is a hole in the birth canal caused by prolonged obstructed labour without prompt medical intervention.

Fistula results in chronic incontinence and usually a stillborn baby. Fistula is almost entirely preventable: however, 2 million women in Asia, Africa and the Arab region live with the condition, with 50,000 to 1000,000 new cases per year.

In Liberia four women die **every day** in pregnancy or childbirth. The life expectancy at birth for women is 59 years.

There are only three obstetricians and gynaecologists in the entire country. Each year there are 600 to 1,000 new cases of obstetric fistula in Liberia.

Funds raised by selling these packs will be used to support the two fistula centres in Liberia, support the training of doctors, nurses and midwives who treat the patients, and to support the patients themselves through education programs.

What we're doing

## Z Clubs Report

### HOWWZ Club

The 2013 induction was held on February 27, with all new executive and members off to a flying start with their service projects.



First up they packed over 100 bags of 'Brown Babies' to support Zonta International's Liberian Fistula Program, these sold for \$3 each at our International Women's Day Luncheon.

The students are now busy participating in Care Australia's Walk in Her Shoes challenge to walk 10,000 steps a day helping women and girls spend more time in school, earning an income and helping their community to overcome poverty. In developing countries, women and girls walk for hours every day to collect food, water and firewood. The hours spent walking prevents them from attending school or earning an income.

Imagine if you could walk in the shoes of these women and girls, and every step you took empowered them to lift themselves out of poverty.

*Leanne Shepherd*

### MEGZ Club

6 students from Mirani High Z Club attended IWD. Students packed over 100 Jelly baby Packs which were sold at IWD luncheon.

The club is meeting on a weekly basis and the next meeting students will be learning to knit and possibly will do some knitting of articles to donate to a new project.

This club is very active with approx 30 members. Jennifer Pel is doing a great job with this club.

An induction was planned for last week but due to wet weather it had to be delayed. Induction of executive will be held 26<sup>th</sup> March.



*Gail Clark with students from Mirani State High School*

## Service Committee Report

### MWIB

20 ladies attended March lunch which was reported by the Daily Mercury including photos of attendees.

### Breast Cushion assembly day – 14<sup>th</sup> April

Please join us at Marvic Uniforms and Embroidery 17A Evans Ave Nth Mackay. Recently 10 cushions and 20 drain bags were delivered to the Mater Surgical Unit.

I have made contact with the Brisbane Club to purchase stuffing for cushions at \$7 per 1kg bag (very good price), however, we need transport from Brisbane to Mackay. Can anyone help please?

### Mothers Day Cards -

Artwork is underway for our Mother's Day Cards. Thank you Autumn.

*Gail Clark*





## Annie Mansfield Sullivan Macy

### Editor's note:

As a teacher of students with disabilities, this story is close to my heart. Every day I have the privilege of experiencing how others perceive the world so differently from the way most of us do.

Marie Cameron, quoting Helen Keller at our recent IWD luncheon, captured the essence of Zonta with the words, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

### ANNIE MANSFIELD SULLIVAN MACY

Adapted from an article retrieved from [www.myhero.com](http://www.myhero.com)

Annie Mansfield Sullivan Macy was a woman who accomplished a great deal, especially as the outstanding teacher of Helen Keller. She is sometimes overlooked, however, as people only remember the student and think nothing of the amazing teacher who opened the door to Keller's life. If not for Sullivan, Keller's life would have never truly started.

Sullivan was born on April 14, 1866, to a poor family. Her father had a bad temper and her mother was dying from tuberculosis. She had two siblings--Mary, a healthy baby, and Jimmie, who had a tubercular hip. Sadly, when her mother died, her two siblings were sent away to relatives and Annie stayed home to care for her father. After a while, those relatives could not handle Jimmie, and Annie could no longer take care of her father. The two children were sent to the county poorhouse in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. There, her brother Jimmie died. This loss would linger with Sullivan until she met Helen Keller.

Sullivan had contracted a disease called trachoma, which impaired her eyesight. She travelled to Perkins School for the Blind in Boston where she received many operations to treat her disease. Her sight improved and she became a model student, eventually graduating as valedictorian.

In order to help other blind children, Annie learned the manual alphabet and worked closely with a blind and deaf girl named Laura Bridgman. This experience would serve her well in the future.

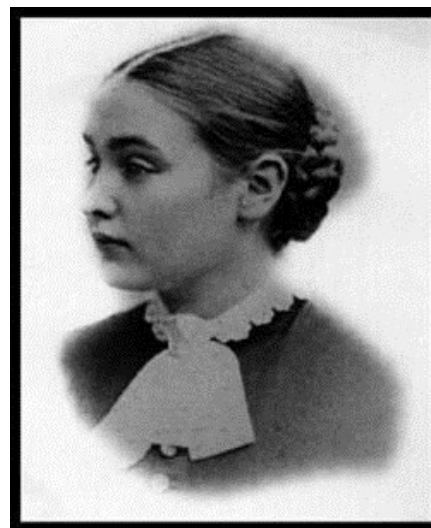
Sullivan took a train to Tuscumbia, Alabama, where she met her new employers, the Kellers, and her new pupil, Helen. She went straight to work teaching Helen how to read, write, speak, and most importantly, how to understand the world around her. For a short time, teacher and student moved to a cottage on the family property so that Helen could be separated from her overly protective parents. Sullivan would let Helen touch things and then she would spell what the object was into Helen's hand. Touching raised letters was Helen's way of reading. In order to learn how to write, Sullivan got her student a specially-designed board, grooved so that a pencil could form letters on the paper placed over it.

Learning to speak was the next step. To teach diction, Sullivan would place Helen's hand on her throat so that she could feel the vibrations created while speaking. Then Annie would have Helen try to form these same vibrations. This procedure was used to teach Helen to speak as a teenager. Her speech, however, was still unclear. It wasn't until years later that, with the aid of a voice teacher's technique and Annie's support, Helen was finally able to speak clearly.

Eventually, Annie Sullivan's pupil, Helen Keller, went to Radcliffe College and graduated cum laude, fulfilling a dream shared by herself and Sullivan. Helen Keller published her first book in 1902 entitled, *The Story of My Life*, which was edited by John Macy.

Macy later married Annie Sullivan. Unfortunately, the marriage did not last. Money was a concern, so both Sullivan and Keller travelled to Hollywood to film a movie loosely based on their lives. The movie, called *Deliverance*, was a flop. This did not discourage them from trying to make a living in the entertainment field. They found that they were natural "hams" and even performed in vaudeville shows! Through their work, they raised two million dollars for the blind through the Helen Keller Endowment Fund. Sullivan did start to receive recognition for her amazing instructional skills and, at long last (in 1993), a writer named Nella Braddy published a biography about her entitled *Anne Sullivan Macy: The Story Behind Helen Keller*.

On October 20, 1936, at the age of seventy, Sullivan died in Forest Hills, New York, with Helen at her side. Arrangements were made for another woman to assist and accompany Helen, who lived many more years and continued to meet many famous and influential people. For Helen, however, no one could ever begin to take the place of "Teacher."



## March: Suzanne Proud

**Birthday:** 10 March 1964

**Joined Zonta Mackay:** 2012

**How I heard about Zonta:**

I was fortunate to meet Marie Cameron during 2011 through our school's successful application for a grant from Rio Tinto. Marie was taken by our pretty tea set (we negotiated in style) and we were quite taken with Marie's enthusiasm for Zonta. Marie kindly invited me to attend a dinner meeting and I was engrossed by the speakers and the professionalism of the group.

**Reason for joining Zonta:**

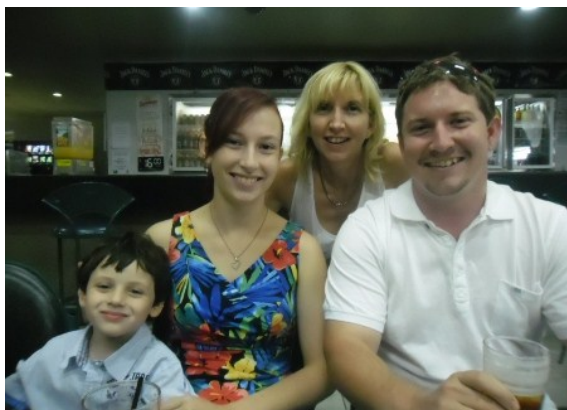
I love attending each dinner meeting to listen and learn about what is happening in our community and each evening I walk away inspired and happy that I'm part of this organisation. I also enjoy the opportunity to mix with other women from different professions. I've also had great fun assisting at some of the recent Zonta events and fundraisers.

**Positions held in Mackay Zonta Club:**

This is my first position with Zonta as Newsletter Editor.

**Family:**

I am now a single mum and I am very blessed to have three amazing children. Reece, my eldest son age 24, is a mechanical engineer and has his own business in town with 11 employees. My daughter Natasha is 16 and is completing Year 12 at St Patrick's College. Natasha loves Taekwon-Do and delights in telling me that she will soon have her black belt (and driver's license). My youngest son Alexander has just turned 5 and began Prep at Mackay West State School this year. He is at that perfect age where he still thinks Mummy knows everything!



We also have two cats: Ruby, a very loyal tabby, and Saffy a three legged kitten we saved from the pound about 6 weeks ago.

**Career highlights:**

Currently I am the Head of Special Education Services (HOSES) based at Sarina State School and I manage a cluster of 5 schools within the Sarina region. Prior to this position I was acting Deputy Principal at the Mackay District Special School. I have worked as a special education teacher at many schools throughout the Mackay district. Before my venture into education I worked as Sue Rowlinson's (Zonta member) secretary at Canegrowers District Executive and spent many years in administration at Charles Porter and Sons. I have a Master of Learning Management (Special Education), Graduate Certificate in Mental Health (Monash), Bachelor of Learning Management, Cert IV in Business and am a qualified Justice of the Peace. I began my second Master's degree last year, however, have deferred this year and instead am keen to transfer my study to a Doctorate of Education.

**Resources and skills available to Zonta**

Hmm, I'd like to offer to do whatever I can to assist Zonta, although after our efforts at coordinating tissue colours at the IWD luncheon I don't know that I'll be first choice next time! However, I'll endeavour to do my best with the newsletter.

**Hobbies and interests:**

I'm so lucky to have many lovely friends and my family all living in Mackay. I do enjoy cooking and hope to do a lot more now that we have moved into our new house. I absolutely love reading and often have 2 or 3 different books that I dip into each night. I also love going to the theatre to see live performances.

**Future goals:**

Wow! Where to start? I intend to gain my Doctorate, travel more (Antarctica and the Mediterranean are on my 'to visit' list), love and care for my children, enjoy life and simply be happy. Of course, if a tall, dark, handsome, rich man comes along... well, he'll just have to realise that "in this world there is no force equal to the strength of a determined woman" and be content to wait at home alone every third Tuesday evening!

*Sue*



## Zonta Rose Day

### Zonta Rose Day - 8 March Send a rose to someone who has made a difference in your life

Coinciding with International Women's Day on 8 March, Zonta Rose Day is a day to reflect on the voluntary work done by Zontians all over the world to improve the status of women.

This year, we invite you to celebrate Zonta Rose Day by sending a yellow rose tribute to someone who has made a difference in your life. Just make a donation to the Rose Fund, and we will email a virtual rose bouquet to the recipient or recipients of your choice. Your donation to the Rose Fund will enable Zonta to continue to support international service projects and educational awards that advance the status of women worldwide.

#### CALENDAR DATE CLAIMERS

- \* Tuesday 19 March: Zonta Dinner Meeting, Reef Resort Motel, 6.30pm
- \* Sunday 14 April: Breast Cushion Packing Day, at Marvic, Evans Avenue North Mackay
- \* Tuesday 16 April: Zonta Dinner Meeting, Reef Resort Motel, 6.30pm
- \* Saturday 20—Sunday 21 April: Zonta Area Meeting, Bowen
- \* Sunday 28 July: Zonta Walk
- \* Saturday 21—Sunday 22 Sept: Zonta District Conference, Noosa



*Happy Birthday*

*Sue Proud*

*10 March*





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