



# East-enders

Newsletter of  
Zonta Club of Brisbane East Inc

GPO Box 3060 Brisbane 4001

Charter Number 1235

March 2008

## Next Dinner Meeting

☺ **Monday**  
**14 April**

Pre-Dinner nibbles 6pm  
Committee Meetings 6.15pm  
Dinner 7.30pm –9.30pm  
At

### Terraces

Wickham Tce  
(Ground Floor)

**Cost \$32.00 each**

\$5 Meeting only  
(This includes one raffle ticket)

**Apologies to**

**Margaret Casey**

**Phone 3907 0845**

**After hours**

*In absence on an apology  
an invoice for \$27.50 will be  
sent to all non-attending*

## PRESIDENT'S PATTTER...

### Breast Cushions

The Breast Cushions were well received and we have had a couple of months off. Time to now prepare for the next working bee. It is scheduled for the last Sunday in March at the Mt Gravatt workplace of Jo Diesel. It is always a fun morning, especially with the members of the Logan Club and everyone is welcome to come along. All volunteers very welcome.

### Convention 2008

Lovely to know that some of our members, Roz, Denise, Jill will be heading overseas to attend the Convention in Rotterdam—we are all envious.

### Happy Birthday to us....

Another year has passed and we are celebrating our 19th birthday. It is such a privilege to still have a founding member in Bev Farley and almost founding

members in Denise and Bev Purcell. There continued presence in our club brings a well of knowledge about Zonta and a steadying influence on our new members. We are now entering our 20th year—How will we celebrate our birthday next year... all suggestions are welcome and valued.

### Bronwyn



Happy  
19th  
Birthday

## Presidents IWD Lunch

On Friday, I attended the Office for Women International Women's Day Luncheon at the Stamford Plaza.

The pre dinner (eat your bread roll) entertainment was a women's circus group of three, who were acrobats. They didn't use any props other than each other, and were able to stand and balance on each other's shoulders, sides, backs and legs. They were very strong, supple and agile, and we women in the audience felt most inadequate, thus prompting a huge ovation.

After chicken tenderloins with wild mushrooms and coriander, the Minister for the Office of Women Margaret

Keech, welcomed us to the celebration of International Women's Day. I was at a table of young media types – all twenty somethings. They were the lovely new weather person Amanda from Channel 10, Dennis the twenty year old Quest reporter from Stafford, Mandy from B105 and the Minister's (young) media adviser Matthew. All were very polite, had never heard of Zonta, and were well mannered enough to be fascinated about what we do. (Dennis and Matthew want to find out more and gave me their cards.) A little later, I was joined by Kay McGrath, who was also a delightful luncheon companion.

The guest speaker, after beef medallion on potato gratin buttered zucchini ribbons, was Dr Karen Brooks from USQ. She talked entertainingly about the nature of beauty, and how it is often in the hands of the tabloids.

Role models are out and models (of the super variety) are in. Girls as young as seven are having treatment for eating disorders, and the beauty that "gives intense satisfaction to the mind" is giving way to "body anxiety" as exemplified by Barbie, who cannot stand on her own two feet.

Dr Brooks gave us all a lot to think about, as coffee and a selection of Australian cheese with fresh fruit arrived. Soon afterwards, I caught up with a few friends (the only other Zontian I saw there was Margie McMurdo) and on returning to the table, a couple of the media folk had to go and do media things for the night's news. It was an enjoyable day and some important messages were given. It's now up to us to make a difference about it, in each of our spheres of influence.

Contributions to this newsletter can be sent to Lynn Callander ; email: [lyncall44@optusnet.com.au](mailto:lyncall44@optusnet.com.au) or phoned to 3200 5942

## SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLS FOR INVESTMENT IN WOMEN FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

Greater investment in women and girls will help further economic growth and advance development, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has told the audience at the Commemoration at United Nations Headquarters of International Women's Day.

"I am deeply convinced that, in women, the world has at its disposal the most significant and yet largely untapped potential for development and peace," Mr. Ban said at the event held in New York to mark the Day, observed annually on 8 March.

He stressed that achieving gender equality is not only a goal in itself, but a prerequisite for reaching all the other development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals—the global pledges to slash poverty, hunger, maternal and infant mortality, and other social ills, all by 2015.

In recent years, agreements at major UN summits – including the Beijing Platform for Action, the Monterrey Consensus and the 2005 World Summit Outcome – have highlighted women's empowerment as a key factor in economic development and called for the provision of sufficient resources to that end. "And yet, we still have a long way to go," Mr. Ban stated. "Women are still severely hampered by discrimination, lack of resources and economic opportunities, by limited access to decision-making and by gender-based violence."

He called on everyone in the international community governments, multilateral organizations, bilateral institutions and the private sector – to "dramatically" increase investments in women and girls, stressing that "investing in women is not only the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do."

For his part, the Secretary-General pledged to work to strengthen the gender machinery within the UN Secretariat. He has proposed almost doubling the staffing of the Office of his Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, and increasing the resources of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

In addition, he supported the creation of one "dynamic and strengthened gender entity" that would consolidate existing UN structures, to advance the cause of women's empowerment and realize gender equality worldwide.

In his message to mark the Day, General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim said the importance of investing in women and girls cannot be overstated given that women make up more than half of the world's population.

"However, women will only be truly empowered, when globally we muster the necessary political will to fully implement exiting commitments and make available the appropriate human, financial and educational resources that have been promised," he stated. "But more fundamentally than these efforts, it is increasingly clear that we need to change our attitudes towards the role and status of women in society."

Also marking the Day, the Director-General of the UN World Health Organization (WHO) stressed the importance of investing in women and girls as an investment in health development.

"Abundant evidence shows that when women are given an opportunity to express their potential, health indicators rapidly improve for themselves, for households and for communities," Margaret Chan said in a statement issued today. "But while the potential of women is recognized at the international level, this potential will not be realized until conditions improve – often dramatically – in countries and communities," she added, noting that many factors, often rooted in social and cultural norms, continue to hinder the ability of women and girls to achieve their potential.

Meanwhile, the UN refugee agency today launched a handbook on the protection of women and girls, outlining strategies, international legal standards and responsibilities.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) António Guterres highlighted the importance of raising awareness on gender-based issues and described the handbook as "an important new tool... [that] describes the protection challenges faced by refugee women and ways of resolving them."

He added that the agency would be directing \$1.5 million this year to special projects aimed at countering and raising awareness about sexual and gender-based violence in 14 countries.

## UN Agencies rally to end FGM within a generation

**Ten United Nations agencies have banded together to help eliminate the harmful practice of female genital mutilation within a generation, stressing the need for strong leadership and greater resources to protect the health and lives of millions of women and girls.**

An estimated 3 million girls are at risk of undergoing the procedure and some 140 million women, mostly in Asia, the Middle East and in Africa, have already endured.

In a statement from the UN, the agencies pledged to support governments and communities to abandon female genital mutilation, which remains widespread in many parts of the world, highlighting the damaging effects of the practice on the health of women, girls and newborn babies.

The agencies expressed their concern about the "medicalization" of the practice, whereby it is performed by health professionals in health facilities, and the belief that it enhances a girl's chastity and chances of marriage by controlling her sexuality.

"We recognize that traditions are often stronger than law, and legal action by itself is not enough," they said. "Change must also come from within. This is why it is critical for us to join hands and work closely with communities and their leaders so that they can bring about sustainable social change."

The aim is to have a major reduction in female genital mutilation in many countries by 2015, the target date for the achievement of the global anti-poverty objectives known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

"If we can come together for a sustained push, female genital mutilation can vanish within a generation," said Deputy Secretary General Asha-Rose Migiros, adding her voice to the pledge made today. "But this goal demands both increased resources and strengthened coordination and cooperation among all of us."

She called on countries to join the UN as full partners in the fight against female genital mutilation, which "clashes with our core universal values and constitutes a challenge to human dignity and health."

### Did you remember Zonta Rose Day 8th March



**Sunday 30 March—Breast Cushions Working Bee** at Mt Gravatt

**Sunday 16th March—Areas 3 & 5 Workshop** Noosa, the cost is \$45.

**Monday 14 April—Dinner Meeting—**