



# East-enders

**NEWSLETTER**  
Zonta Club of Brisbane East Inc

GPO Box 3060 Brisbane 4001

Charter Number 1235

October 2005

## Next Dinner Meeting

**Monday**  
**14 November**

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

**Good Earth Hotel**  
Wickham Tce  
(Ground Floor)

**Cost \$32.00 each**  
\$5 Meeting only  
(This includes one raffle ticket)

**Apologies to**  
**Jill Hedley**

**Phone 3279 2096**  
**After hours**

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

## PRESIDENT'S PATTERN

### District Conference

Thanks to the eight club members who made the time to support Governor Ros at the District 24 Conference at the Gold Coast last weekend. The Conference was a great success although we were all over worked, sleep deprived and exhausted by Sunday afternoon. Our tropical shirts made an impact and were easy to spot across a crowded conference room.

### Breast Cushions

District Conference endorsed the continuation of the Breast Cushion project in the District. Our next Breast Cushion working bee is scheduled for **Sunday 30 October** at the home of Lyn Papa. We have plenty of sewn cushions so will need help to fill, hand sew and wrap.

### Christmas Function

Bronwyn Campbell has kindly offered her home as the venue for our Christmas Function, so we will be having a BBQ style

meeting/dinner on Monday 12 December starting at 7pm. Bronwyn suggested the slightly later start to allow free street parking in the city near her apartment.

We will also be asking members to bring along personal care items for women in safe houses. We will be making contact with one of the refugees to be the recipients of these items.

### November meeting

Our committee Chairs will be seeking input from all members regarding some goals for the rest of this Zonta year and we are planning to look ahead as to fund raising opportunities in the future. Already plans are underway for our Antique Fair to be held in July but we will need other opportunities, such as film evenings or perhaps another Crazy Whist evening. It is important that all members participate in this planning session.

We also hope to have a guest speaker at the meeting.

Thanks everyone for their support.

*Lynn C*

## DISTRICT 24 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- 315 people, including guests came to the D24 Conference—a record attendance.
- The Opening Ceremony where banners from more than 70 D24 clubs were paraded.
- The opening address by Her Excellency, Quentin Bryce AC - (What a stunning dress—and so thin)
- The Light Supper served on the opening night
- The view from the 11th floor of Crowne Plaza Hotel
- Breakfast in the Revolving Restaurant on 26th floor—an even better view
- The obliging staff at the venue as nothing was too hard
- Our shirts—great impression
- Marisa Vecchio's address on how we can make Zonta SEXY  
*We all want to work for a boss like her or be a boss like her.*
- The great fundraising projects being undertaken by some Clubs. Especially the *Shine Project* by the Noosa Club—*from little things big things grow.*
- Lunch boxes
- The impact of FMG in Australia & the Waris Dirie Foundation
- The talented young women supported by Zonta & the value
- of aerothermodynamics
- The glitz and glamour of the Conference Dinner—*plenty of diamonds & sparkles.*
- The wonderful voices of the entertainment trio—that included Ellen Casey, her cousin and friend.
- Raising \$2,500 on the raffle
- Having a preview of the next big thing on TV—The Earhart Effect Game Show
- Relaxing around the pool at the end of the conference with good Zonta friends.

Down Light!!!!

- Not winning the black pearl earrings or the David Jones gift voucher...

Contributions to this newsletter can be sent to Lynn Callander by Fax 3388 5942; email: [lyncall@powerup.com.au](mailto:lyncall@powerup.com.au) or phoned to 3200 5942

## HIGH MORTALITY AND MALNUTRITION AFFECT MUSLIM CHILDREN MOST— Says UN Children's Agency

Islamic States account for the world's highest child mortality rates, where 60 per cent of children who die from disease and malnutrition never make it to their first birthday.

Active partnerships among members to solve the problems affecting children in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) States, and help from the wealthier members "coming to the aid of the poorer," are therefore desperately needed, it said.

"We are extremely encouraged by the vision and leadership being shown by the OIC and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in mobilizing Islamic countries to accelerate progress for children," said Executive Director Anne M. Veneman. "UNICEF shares their commitment and stands ready to work with them to ensure that their actions have practical impact and generate concrete results for children," she added.

Over 4.3 million Muslim children worldwide under the age of five die every year, many will never attend primary school, and over one third suffer from persistent malnutrition, said the report, which will serve as a basis for discussions in the upcoming Ministerial meetings regarding Muslim children to be held in Morocco in November. In all, OIC Member States account for a quarter of the world's 2.3 billion children, in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Children who live in Islamic sub-

Saharan Africa suffer from the most severe deprivations, and child mortality rates in the region are more than double the world average. Many OIC countries have some of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world: in Afghanistan, one in six pregnancies results in death. In African OIC Member States, there is one death for every 15 pregnancies, though globally the average is one in 74.

Primary school attendance is very low in OIC nations, with more than half the adult population illiterate, and sometimes 70 per cent of women unable to read and write.

"Much progress has been made," said Director-General of ISESCO, Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri. "Investing in children and putting them at the centre of development strategies are the most effective ways to eliminate poverty and meet global development targets," he added.

*From UN Chair Margaret Casey*

## Zonta Birthing Kit Project

**A major issue confronting the status of women's health internationally is the continued high level of women dying while giving birth and/or the death of their babies during birth.**

Of the deaths of women occurring during childbirth, 99% of the mothers are in developing countries with poor sanitation during birth being a major cause of mortality. An important initiative being undertaken by Zonta internationally is the birthing project which aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality during birth.

It has been calculated that over 525, 000 women die each year in childbirth and approximately 40% of all these maternal deaths are caused by infection and hemorrhage, which in many cases can be prevented simply by improving sanitation. Moreover, for every woman who dies in childbirth about 30 more (around 15 million) suffer injury, infection or disease which can leave them with embarrassing and debilitating lifelong problems. The

Zonta birthing kit is designed to reduce the likelihood of mother and child contracting infection during childbirth by providing supplies for a clean birth.

The birthing kit contains 6 simple and cost effective products to reduce infection, including: a plastic sheet for the mother to lie on; soap and gloves to ensure that the midwife has clean hands; cord for clean tying of the umbilical cord; a scalpel blade for a clean cut of the umbilical cord; and gauze to wipe secretions from the baby's eyes and the mother's perineum. These basic supplies cost only 70c per kit to produce and yet make a real difference in providing clean and safe childbirth.

The Zonta birthing kit was accepted as a District 23 service project at the 2003 conference and with the support of District 24 became a National Service Project and received Ausaid support in 2004. To-date 100,000 kits have been sent to 26 countries through 17 international organisations. The Zonta Birthing Kit project is supported by an AUSAID grant which matches dollar-for-dollar the contribution which are made by Zonta on a half-cash, half-labour donation.

The birthing kits are made at assembly days by Zonta Clubs nationwide. The Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills works with national and international organisations to sponsor and distribute kits throughout the world. The Adelaide Hills Club is requesting support of other Zonta Clubs nationwide in the form of a tax-deductible donation, an \$800 club contribution, or the running of an assembly day to make 1600 birthing kits.

As the time and costs involved are relatively minor compared to the overall benefits of such a project, it would be very worthwhile for Zonta Club of Brisbane East to consider gathering together friends and family (or joining with another club) to give one day a year for an assembly day to make birthing kits that can help improve the status of women's health internationally.

*Contributed by Kate Hutchings  
Chairman, Status of Women*

*The District 24 Conference has endorsed the Birthing Kit Project as a District 24 Project. A DVD of the project is available if anyone would like to investigate further.*

### Functions from other Zonta Clubs

- **25 years Celebration** of Southern Gold Coast Tweed Club—Monday 21 November at Coolangatta—\$25pp.
- **Pru Goward**—special guest at Gold Coast Club UN Breakfast—24 October at Gold Coast Arts Centre.

*Full fliers and/or invitations are available if you would like to attend either function.*

## DATE CLAIMERS

**Monday 24 October— Next Board Meeting**

Wednesday 26 October—UNIFEM Reception —BCC Dr Eileen Pittaway guest

Thursday 27 October—Janet Irwin Dinner—at Parliament House with Speaker Di Fingleton

Tuesday 8 November—Zonta's 86th Birthday - Find out more on [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

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