

# Zontact

 **Zonta Club of  
Bunbury Inc.**  
*Member of Zonta International*



## President's Pen

I see our Club as one with a big heart, that gives to a very big cause and that is, to improve the status of women across the world. Every project we are involved in and every new idea revolves around the premise that we are working to improve the lives of woman.

Like many in today's society, I am connected and linked to the world with Facebook, emails, the web and all forms of technology. At least once a day there is a story I read, or that a friend sends me, that reflects the hardships across the world we live in. There is tragedy, but there is hope.

The first step is that we are more aware than ever about the **realities of other people's lives.** Furthermore with the press of a button we can raise the awareness amongst family, friends and within society. The world is definitely more connected. It is through this information and knowledge that we can start to make a difference and influence the unjust laws and traditions. Here are a couple of recent examples of local and international stories of women who have been dealing with violence in their lives on a daily basis.

Roia Atmar's scars around her neck remind her how lucky she is to be alive. One night her husband poured turpentine on her while she was holding her month old daughter in her arms and tending her son. Her then husband came into the bathroom and set her alight. He was jailed and she now has a violence restraining order on him and has a duress button as part of a program sponsored by Telstra. Roia lives in Australia and considers herself lucky to have been able to get the support needed to get away.

NAIROBI Kenya - For a window into the rape

culture in some countries consider an 11 year old girl named Flevian who says that her grandfather has been raping her almost daily since she was in first grade. **Flevian's fate is common. Yet her family and the authorities don't take a stand or take this issue seriously.**

Did you know that the World Health Organisation reports that 35 percent of women world wide have been sexually assaulted or subjected to domestic violence? An Anglicare survey in WA showed lack of community understanding of the dynamics and causes of domestic violence which kills one women a week.



L-R: Tyril Houghton, Naomi Smith, Susan Unwin, & President Sue Kerr after our new members were inducted. More on page 2.

Amazing stories, sad but true, but our work and membership goes some way to improve the lives of women like these. It is an exciting time in the life of our club for with so many new members, we have the opportunity to take on a number of new projects, as well as build on the work we do with our more established projects. We have reached an all time membership high with 42 financial members. With new members come new energy and new ideas. It was so exciting reading the many positive suggestions that came from our September strategic planning session and club survey. The results indicate that our members are very keen and eager to implement new ideas. It through this work we can support those women who have so much hardship in their lives.

A special thank you to club members who coordinated, **organised and/or supported the club's most recent** activities: Literacy Week, the High Tea and those who are presently organising our forthcoming Quiz morning, birthing kit assembly day and White Ribbon Day.

Through our work in Zonta and our projects, we demonstrate to the next generation the importance of giving, of serving a purpose and of supporting justice. The world needs people like you, our members, who selflessly give. I applaud each and everyone of you who make the time to be a member while juggling children, family, friends, careers and all the daily routines of life.

*Susan Kerr, President*



# Membership & Program Committee

*Jill Lynn - Chairman*

## Welcome to New Members

We are delighted to welcome new club members, Naomi Smith and Susan Unwin, who were introduced to Zonta by Tyril Houghton and inducted by past club president Jan Greive at our August meeting. Naomi and Susan will join the Service, Advocacy & UN Committee.



*Naomi Smith*

**Naomi** was born in George Town, Tasmania and she and husband Brenton have three children: Jordan, Darcy and Lachlan. Brenton and Naomi own Trimview Ceramics, a local Bunbury business and Naomi also is a part-time English and Literature teacher at Bunbury SHS.

Naomi spent most of her childhood in mining

towns in the North West, completed her secondary education in Bunbury and studied English and Anthropology at UWA. She is passionate about education, in particular, the education of indigenous students and girls.

She has recently joined the **Bunbury Runners' Club** and completing a half marathon in February this year is an achievement she is very proud of!

**Susan** was born in Sydney where she gained her Diploma of Teaching and subsequently a graduate Diploma of Education. She has been teaching since 1974 and currently teaches English at Bunbury SHS.



*Susan Unwin*

In the past she has been involved in training women in establishing a small business in grooming and deportment and has also been a Cub Scout Leader.

Susan and her husband Peter have two sons: Luke, who is married and lives in Perth, and James, in his third year at Curtin University studying Engineering

Susan considers herself very lucky to be living in Australia and wants the chance to help others who have not had the opportunities she has had.

*Welcome to Zonta, Naomi and Sue!*

## Guest Speakers: August

Local author **Linda Moore**, who writes under her birth name Linda Bettenay, was our guest speaker in August. Linda shared how the stimulus to write her first novel, **'Secrets Mothers Keep'** came from the discovery of a true story of an event **in her husband's family**, which has only recently been uncovered. Other **'Secret Series' books are planned.**



*L-R: Club member Clare Freeman thanks Linda.*



*Club planning in September.*

## September

**Aseel Tayah**, (pictured right) is a non-traditional Arab Muslim girl raised in Palestine and living in Bunbury since July last year. She is an artist and art teacher and art installations are her passion. Aseel shared some of her works through a visual presentation.



**Tyril Houghton** (below), club Zontian and 2014-16 D23 Advocacy Committee member also



spoke at our September meeting, outlining her district role as well as advocacy plans for this biennium.

## Club Planning & Membership Survey

**As mentioned in President Sue's report on page one**, members spent time at the September meeting, looking at how we thought our club was doing and suggesting improvements. (Pictured - centre of page.)

The Membership Quiz also completed will be collated **and discussed. If you haven't completed the quiz yet**, please do so and hand in at the October meeting, so the views of all members are represented.



## Service, Advocacy & United Nations Committee

*Kimberley Robbins, Chairman*

### Literacy Week

*Coordinated by Amanda Whittle*

The 8th of September is celebrated every year as the United Nations International Literacy Day.

To recognise this event the Zonta Club of Bunbury has distributed books to mothers and their new-born babies at Bunbury hospitals since 1995.

This year the club also distributed books at the Bridgetown Rhyme Time Play Group. The suggestion that Bridgetown mums and bubs be included too is a new initiative suggested by Josephine Spauil, charter

Literacy helps reduce poverty and enables people to find jobs and obtain higher salaries. It is one of the most efficient ways of improving the health of mothers **and children, understanding doctors' prescriptions** and gaining access to healthcare. The lives of more than two million children under the age of five were saved between 1990 and 2009 thanks to improvements in the education of women of reproductive age. Literacy facilitates access to knowledge and triggers a process of empowerment and self-esteem that benefits everyone. This energy, multiplied by millions of people, is essential to the future of societies.

Today, 781 million adults worldwide cannot read, write or count. Two thirds of



*Twins get their first books!*

member of the club, as well as a Bridgetown resident.

The aim of giving books during literacy day is to promote the importance of education for all and to encourage mothers to read to their babies and children. It is also a club advocacy project through which we highlight the plight of millions of people worldwide (two thirds of them women) who are illiterate.

**This year's literacy day theme was "Literacy and sustainable development".**

Following is the message by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of International Literacy Day 8 September 2014:

**"International Literacy Day, devoted this year to the connection between literacy and sustainable development, provides us with an opportunity to remember a simple truth: literacy not only changes lives, it saves them.**



*Amanda & Donna on their way to the wards.*



*President Sue with a proud Mum.*



*Josephine (left) & Kimberley (right) distribute books in Bridgetown for the first time.*

them are women. More than 250 million children are unable to read a single sentence, even though half of them have spent four years in school. What kind of societies do we expect to build with an illiterate youth? This is not the kind of world we wish to live in. We want a world where everyone can participate in the destiny of their societies, gain access to knowledge and enrich it in turn. To succeed, we must also

change the traditional approach of literacy programmes to encompass, beyond reading and writing in the narrower sense, broader skills with regard to consumption and sustainable lifestyles, the conservation of biodiversity, poverty reduction, disaster risk reduction as well as civic participation. In these ways, literacy programmes can unlock their full **transformative potential.**" *Irina Bokova*

Thank you to Amanda for coordinating this project, Kimberley for making the trip to Bridgetown and club members (and Summer Stewart) who participated.

## Service, Advocacy & United Nations Committee - continued

*Coordinated by Kimberley Robbins*

### Bali Scholarship

Reminder - Birthing Kit Assembly Day: Saturday 25th October



*Kimberley, Putri & Kate*

Members are aware that our club has been supporting Putri, a Bali student, who without assistance, would not have been able to even complete her secondary education. Putri is nearing the end of her tertiary studies and this will be our last year of support.

We were delighted to receive these photos from Kimberley Robbins, who visited Bali with her daughter Kate and took time out to go and meet Putri and the other students who are living in the hostel built by our **2010 Woman of Achievement, Susanne Hunter, and her 'Strong Angels' team. Club member Dale Gardiner has also met Putri on one of her Bali trips. Who's going over to see Putri graduate?**



## Area 3 Update

**For the benefit of new members... 'Intercity Meetings' are Area meetings organised and chaired by our Area Director and held twice a year for club presidents in our Area. There are five Areas in District 23 and the six clubs in WA belong to Area 3.**

### Intercity Meeting

*Report by Susan Kerr*

On September 6th the first intercity meeting with the new Area Director Jane Moulden was held at the home of Bunbury President Sue Kerr. It was an intimate affair as due to illness and unforeseen circumstances a number of presidents couldn't attend. However, the meeting was very fruitful and provided us with some clear directions from the Governor, Erica Majba.

We began the meeting by sharing information about ourselves and then Area Director Jane Moulden gave us an overview of the District 23 priorities.

We spoke about the **Founders' Day dinner in November** which will be the in Swan Valley at the Mallard Duck restaurant. It looks like it is going to be a great event and we would like to

encourage all Bunbury members to register. Perhaps we could even get a group together and make it a **girls' weekend. It is important that we are there to support our Woman of Achievement nominee Betty McCleary.** Further information and the registration form has been emailed to all members, and is also available on our website - [www.zontabunbury.org](http://www.zontabunbury.org)

### under 'Events & Flyers'.

Also discussed were the initial plans for the 2015 Area Workshop which will be held in Bunbury, on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

We are very excited as the venue will be the Bunbury Senior High School Library and thanks to their generosity we will be able to enjoy lunch with sweeping views of the city and ocean. We have a small Bunbury Area Workshop coordinating committee consisting of Sue Kerr, Susanne Vaughan, Amanda Whittle, Di Tate and Jo Wittorff. The committee will be asking all club members to contribute in some way to helping make the day a success.

Tyrl Houghton, District Advocacy Committee representative, presented some very useful information about her role

on the district committee and the importance of advocacy within Zonta.

I would like to thank Jo Wittorff who agreed to do the minutes for the Intercity meeting.

At the close of the meeting those present enjoyed a delicious lunch and a glass of wine.



*L-R: Club Presidents Faith O'Brien - Swan Hills, Sue Kerr - Bunbury & Linley Scott - Dunsborough with Tyrl Houghton - D23 Advocacy Committee Member  
Seated: Area Director Jane Moulden.*



## Finance & Fundraising Committee

*Sue Footner & Lesley Morgan, Joint Chairmen*

**Reminder: Don't forget your quiz morning tea on Thursday 16 Oct!**

### High Tea Fundraiser

Although attendance at our High Tea fundraiser at The Wardrobe on the 20th September was disappointing, it was still a successful fundraising event. The follow up feature and photos in the South Western Times was a real bonus! We received great support from several members of the Zonta Club of Peel and we thank them very much for making the trip to Bunbury for our event.

Many thanks to the Finance and Fundraising Committee members for organising this activity and our appreciation to Wardrobe Fashion for hosting it and members who attended.

**As always, photos tell a story better than words.....thank you to Lesley and Irene for the pics.**



Schedule of Events

- Thurs. 16 Oct: **Club's Quiz** Fundraiser, 9.30am, Bowling Club.
  - Tues. 21 Oct: Club meeting 6.30 for 7.00 pm at Highway Hotel.
  - Sat. 25 Oct: Birthing Kit Assembly Day, 1.00-3.00pm at Newton Moore SHS.
  - Sat. 8 Nov: **Founders' Day** Dinner & Woman of **Achievement at 'The Mallard Duck', Henley Brook.**
  - Tues. 18 Nov: Club meeting 6.30 for 7.00 pm at Highway Hotel.
- 2015
- 16-18 Oct 2015: 13th Biennial District 23 Conference, Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hindley St, Adelaide.

## Remember when.....

*Contributed by Tyril Houghton - PR&C Committee*

### BUNBURY ZONTIANS DIG IN TO REVEGETATE THE BIG SWAMP



*Getting to the 'Island'.*



*All in a day's work....*

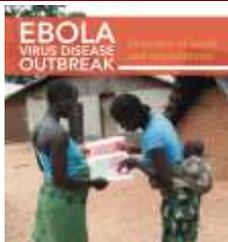
The 1994-1996 Biennium had environmental issues as a focus. This **linked beautifully with the Bunbury City Council's 'ADOPT-AN-ISLAND' program.** Bunbury Zontians established ZONTA island within the Big Swamp and got down and dirty, planting selected indigenous varieties at a community tree planting day in July, 1995.

*'Over the years, Big Swamp has been slowly engulfed by dense banks of introduced bulrush and grasses. 40% of the wetland was affected by excavation work designed to create water depths of 1.5 metres within which the bulrush cannot grow'*, (Excerpt from a letter to President Ellen Cox, from Bernie Masters, Environmental Coordinator, Big Swamp Development Project.)

Members were transported to our designated island in the swamp by groups such as the Bunbury Naval cadets. A great fellowship day resulted with many club members participating. Imagine our delight when we made it to the International magazine the ZONTIAN! Little Bunbury was on the map.

## Zonta International President - Ebola Outbreak

### Letter shared with clubs



Dear Zonta International Board, International Committee Chairmen and Governors,

We are reminded daily via the news media of the magnitude of the Ebola outbreak and its devastating effects in West Africa, particularly in Liberia – the site of the Zonta-supported Liberia Fistula Project. Like you, I am concerned about the fistula survivors we are committed to helping, the medical staff caring for them, and all Liberians who are threatened by this deadly disease.

In situations like this one, our first instinct is to ask how we can help; however, we need to be mindful of our mission and limitations. Zonta International is not a relief agency. As an organization, we do not have the human or financial resources to take action when humanitarian or natural disasters occur.

For that purpose, we do have an [Emergency and Disaster Funds Policy](#), which is available for you on the Zonta International website.

We remain committed to sharing any updates on the project in Liberia as we receive them. UNFPA, our partner in Liberia shared the attached report – **"Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak: Overview of needs and requirements"**. **On pages 24 and 25**, you will find information specifically on Liberia. I am scheduled to speak to our contacts at UNFPA this Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> of September, and will share any additional information I receive after that call.

Warm regards,

( NOTE: The above Ebola report is available from our club website - [www.zontabunbury.org](http://www.zontabunbury.org) )

Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard, President, Zonta International Foundation