

President's Report – Maria Zaluski

The month of November has been extremely busy for the Service and Advocacy committee. The Rosie Batty Dinner, proved to be one of the most successful events the club has held, and one of the highest profile events in the Month of Action Calendar. Sincere thanks to the Service and Advocacy Committee, for their planning and coordination of the event.

Publicity of the event has extended across Australia with requests from Sydney and Mildura for Rosie Batty's details. It is timely to state that it is inappropriate for members to forward Rosie's details to anyone. We can however take the enquirers details and forward these to Rosie.

Following the dinner an Awareness Hour was held for interested community members. This was well received with approximately 12-15 new potential members in attendance. Well done to the Membership and Fellowship committee for following up with Expressions of interest.

Northern Bay College has forwarded \$200 towards the cost of the birthing kits that they assembled. They have also sent us a list of activities we could work on together in 2015. These will be further discussion in the New Year.

Minerva Community Services have identified a need for a local Geelong Resource booklet for women experiencing family violence. Robyn Cameron and Sharon Parker have expressed interest in working directly with Minerva.

I facilitated a Planning meeting prior to our Christmas Dinner. All members were invited to attend and participate. We now have a list of events for 2015.

I look forward to seeing all at the Christmas Party at which we will celebrate our many achievements for the year.

Membership/Fellowship Committee Report - Lisa Savage

The Membership/Fellowship Committee held an Awareness Hour on the 12th of November at the Mercure Hotel. This event was well attended. After coffee and cake Zontians presented information on the Zonta Club Geelong, District 23 and Zonta International. A number of attendees have requested information on Zonta and will attend the Christmas Dinner.

Our next Fellowship event **Under the Tuscan Sun** will be held Sunday 18th January. Put the date in your diaries for a beautiful lunch at Robin Turner's place in Lovely Banks. Details will be sent as soon as we confirm all the arrangements.

Surely the highlight of the month, the year, and even the decade, was an Evening with Rosie Batty. The Membership/Fellowship Committee congratulates all those involved for a truly professional and inspiring evening.

As a spinoff from the evening, were able to collect in excess of 50 names of men and women who wanted to have regular contact with the Zonta Club of Geelong to receive particular information in the future.

The Awareness Hour was held at the Mercure Hotel on November 12th. Of the nine women in attendance, all expressed interest in becoming members, and have received an invitation to the Christmas December Dinner Meeting. The format for the Awareness Hour, along with its time slot of 6pm-7pm appears to be a winner.

Thanks are extended to Joy Herman for her 'History of Zonta', including the Logo and the Zonta Rose. To Sharon Parker for her personal account of Zonta, including the initial invitation to come along to a meeting as well as her experience within the club to date. Also to Chris Denmead who shared the relationship with White Ribbon Day as well as the Month of Action. Not forgetting the attendance of our President Maria Zaluski, and other members who made it a welcoming gathering.

Finance/Fundraising Committee Report - Anna Milner

After the Gala Ball the Finance/Fundraising Committee has been having a breather but we met recently to plan for events in 2015. We would like to signal that the Trivia Night will be held in August 2015. Please start to think about items for the auction and we will send out information as soon as it is available.

Congratulations to the Service and Advocacy Committee on the organization of the Rosie Batty event. It was a wonderful night and a great achievement.

Service & Advocacy Report - Cheryl Gibbons

Our November Dinner was a highlight for the Geelong Club where 230 guests attended a wonderful evening. Rosie Batty was a delight to have as guest speaker and certainly captured the hearts of all those present. Rosie was introduced by Kevin Godfrey from the Geelong Police Family Violence Unit. The committee was delighted with the event; response from organisations and individuals was fantastic. The Club gave a \$2,000.00 donation to the Luke Batty Foundation.

The Mercure did a great job leading up to the event and on the night were highly organised and efficient. The room was impressively set up with yellow flower centrepieces provided by the Geelong Flower Farm and The Gordon Floristry Dept. Overall the community support was wonderful with the committee getting all marketing, printing etc. free of charge. Club members were also very supportive in inviting friends and family as well as sourcing wonderful raffle prizes.

The event was promoted through: Media, Pulse Radio, Bay FM, 3 AW Radio, Geelong Advertiser, What's On Geelong, COGG – Events Calendar, Month of Action – Website, Facebook, Twitter and Posters, Zonta Club Geelong – Facebook and Website. Mercure – Facebook and Boards and Posters located around Geelong

These are some comment from people & Rosie who attended the dinner:

- ***Lisa and I had an amazing evening and were totally blown away by the professional and efficient way that you organised everything. Your attention to detail was incredible and most definitely did not get overlooked by us. It was lovely to share breakfast with you and Kirsty and to have time to chat without interruption. I think we could have been there all day!!! – Rosie***
- ***Was a great night, you must all be feeling proud of how it came together. I am sure we would challenge the thought that there might have been someone in the room who did not feel anything during Rosie's presentation ... amazing. Heidi Waterman – COGG***

- *Just wanted to say what a fantastic night Zonta put on last night. You had all obviously put in heaps of planning and work – well done.*
- *Kevin presented well. As for Rosie – well she did not disappoint! Incredible thought, passion and commitment given the horrific situation she has endured. You can relax now – at least until you start thinking about next year. It will be difficult to top last night!*

Peter Kelly _ Barwon Heath

- *Well done on last night's dinner, it was great.*
Nick Hudson – Executive Officer Barwon Community Legal Service
- *I too thought it was a fantastic night! Great job –*
Renee Fiolett - Minerva Board member

Members of the committee have also been working on the Awards Dinner to be held in March 2015. Watch this space for upcoming exciting guest speaker.....



Rosie Batty with Maria Zaluski



Guests at the Rosie Batty Dinner

PR Communications Report – Robin Turner

What a fantastic evening had by all listening to Rosie Batty a very brave and compassionate person. The PR Communications Committee congratulates members involved in putting the event together. Our committee has been working on the '**Under the Tuscan Sun**' event to be held on the 18th January. Put this date in your calendar and further details will be forwarded ASAP.

Z Club Report – Joanne Metzger

During November I attended the handover meeting between past Z Club President, Maddie Pearson and the new President for 2015, Monique Corbett. Monique's support team is being chosen at the end of this week. The early handover will create better planning and a more strategic approach for 2015. Some suggestions for the coming year were discussed as follows:-

- More connection with the SRC student group.
- Form Captains could take on the role of supporting the Community Team & Z Club. This could help define their role and give added purpose.
- A calendar of activities planned for 2015 include : International Women's Day speakers, Girl Rising Documentary, World's Greatest Shave, Sleep -Out for the Homeless, 40 Hour famine, Food Bank & White Ribbon Day.



- The Daily Bulletin is to be read out each morning next year which will assist with promoting Z Club meetings & events.
- New strategies need to be found to get students involved.
- The idea of creating an International sister Z Club with France or China could be an exciting possibility. Monique is studying VCE French.

W.R.D - An informative Bulletin notice was placed for White Ribbon Day on the 25th November and posters have been displayed around the school. The new Z Club President, Monique Corbett was photographed in front of some posters. The outgoing President, Maddie Pearson was thanked for her leadership and good suggestions to help improve the running of the Z Club in the future.

Travel with Shani Cain

While Shani is travelling she is writing a blog. I thought you might be interested to hear how she is getting on. Shani told me that she is interning for **LIFE Argentina and it stands for "bringing children a childhood of hope and happiness"**.

Shani has fallen in love with Buenos Aires because it "has allowed her the much needed time and space to focus on her own personal growth and development as well as incorporating her deepest passions; travelling and humanitarian work.

She stated that: "the work. I am one of the very few blessed people in the world who absolutely love and adore their work. South America and this internship has been my dream for what seems like a life time and I am finally getting to experience it. What I am doing over here is everything I wanted and so much more. Having the ability to work with these children in attempt to change someone's life is absolutely indescribable and for once I am not even going to try. I am so fortunate to have to know what I want to do with my life. It also helps that I get to do what I love and see the world at the same time. I am blissfully aware that I am truly one of the luckiest people in the world. My time in the villa's here is unmatched by anything else this city or country has to offer and by anything I have done in my life thus far.



Gracias por leer!

Hasta la próxima- ciao amigos,

Shani x x x

Thank-you Megan Blair

I think at this point it is fitting to thank Megan for producing the Zontalong for club members and the wider community over the past 2 years. Megan was a new member to the club when she took this task on and I am sure she has learnt much about members, the club and Zonta. When the AGM comes around in May we will be calling for expressions of interest for a new Zonta Editor. If you are interested don't hesitate to let us know.

Bereavement: During November, fellow Zontian Megan Blair, had a sudden death in her family which has caused her much shock. We extend our condolences to Megan and her family at this difficult time.

Raffle Tickets – Fiona MacDowell

Could members who still have Rotary Club of Ballarat South community raffle tickets and monies, please bring them to the meeting on Wednesday night.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

03 December	President's Christmas Dinner Meeting
18 January	Under the Tuscan Sun – Fellowship Lunch
20 January	Board Meeting
04 February	Club Meeting - Administration
4 March	Club Meeting - Awards Night/IWD Dinner