

Presidents Report Maria Zaluski

I am pleased to report that Chris Denmead, Joy Herman and I attended the International Women's Day Breakfast at Northern Bay Senior College. We were given the opportunity to interact with teachers and students and were well received by all. The attendance provided us with an opportunity to speak about Zonta and the potential for a partnership arrangement. At the end of the presentation, several of the teachers approached us with requests to work in partnership. They were keen for students to participate in the Birthing Kit Assembly day as this aligns to several learning areas within their curriculum. Also there was discussion for mentoring the adult young mothers returning to school. This is an area Joy is interested in and will seek to pursue. The Principal Ken Massari is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding, and I will continue to engage with him to ensure we progress with this partnership.

A group of Zontians attended the fundraiser organised by our 2014 YWPA recipient Jane Kennedy. The showing of the documentary 'Girl Raising' at GPAC was well attended and it is fair to say that Jane is a deserving recipient. At the Zonta Award evening Jane mentioned that she is repeating the fundraiser at Deakin University Burwood. If we could assist her to connect with the local Zonta clubs in the region to engage their support she would be most appreciative. It is anticipated that we can assist with this request.

The Area meeting was held at Melton and attended by Geelong Members Kirsty Tweedle, Joanne Metzger and myself. The guest speaker Donna Zander was powerful in her presentation. The remunerations she received for her presentation will be used to assist the refuge centre for women affected by violence in Fiji. Although I left at lunch time the comradeship was evident. The partnership with the Royal Women's Hospital to supply marketing material in relation to Female Genital Mutilation was discussed. The funds received to date are just over \$6,000 and until \$10,000 is raised the marketing material will be on hold. Zontians in attendance were keen to see this progress and Debbie Schmidt will be in contact with clubs to discuss further.

Now that the major annual events have drawn to a close I would suggest we take it easy for a month or two. I recommend in the interim we direct our focus on membership. I would like us to consider any hard discussion that needs to be had as to why our membership is falling. This may be a topic for club. The timing to address membership is perfect as membership has arranged an Awareness Hour. It is critical that we promote the awareness hour and not only encourage attendance, but consider the appropriate message to be delivered on the night. It would be appreciated if a few members could attend the evening and support the membership committee.

A reminder to conveners to start on their annual reports as these will be due for the AGM in May.

SERVICE & ADVOCACY REPORT

AWARDS DINNER International Women's Day

This was a successful and rewarding evening, which we held on 5 March 2014. We had the opportunity to present an Award and recognise the marvellous efforts of Jane Kennedy our Club Recipient of the Young Women in Public Affairs Award. Jane is a well travelled young lady and well deserving of this Award. Jane also took the opportunity on the evening to invite members to attend her special documentary screening, 'Girl Rising' held at the Geelong Performing Arts Centre on 13 March 2014.

The recipient of our Marianne Zandren Memorial scholarship Theresa Bangoura, a wonderful recipient who was able to attend at the dinner with her young son and her mother, shared with the members and other award recipients her journey, and gave us a brief insight into their lives.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to our Guest Speaker Rose Hodges who delighted us with her journey to becoming a Counsellor of the Surf Coast Shire, but also her life as a working mother and the changes she has been able to make to others lives. I am sure we all took some think away with us from her address.

The Service & Advocacy Committee will now turns its focus to organising the next KidSafe Day program in local schools. Kirsty is currently in discussion with a couple of our local primary schools aiming to hold the next day during Term 2 of the School Year.

Cheryl Gibbons



It has become an annual feature of our International Women's Day Dinner Program to induct the new Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College Z Club President for the following year. So on 5th March 2014 we had the pleasure of witnessing Maddison Pearson take her pledge and receive her Z Club badge. The new Principal of the school, Michelle Crofts, also attended and was congratulated for being successfully appointed to her new role as a leader in Girls' education in Geelong. Maddie gave a short speech relating how enthusiastic the new Z Club team is to be involved in community work and other projects in partnership with the Zonta Club. The Principal 'threw' out a challenge to all students at the IWD school assembly "to change another person's life for the better" so the Z Club certainly has the stage set for an inspiring year ahead. In the photo we see Maddie after her induction and presentation of a Zonta rose by the Z Club liaison member.

Joanne Metzger - Z Club Convenor

Membership and Fellowship Report

Congratulations to the organising Committee for our delightful Awards Night last month. The program was well planned to give us all an opportunity to share fellowship throughout the evening, and members and guests enjoyed the opportunity to network.

Our Awareness Hour held on 26th March 2014 successfully followed the format of our previous one. Those who attended expressed interest in Zonta and this evening we welcome Dr Alicia Kennedy, who is the mother of our YWPA award for 2014.

While our information evenings are a great way to disseminate the information about Zonta, members who personally invite women with similar interests, reap the best rewards.

Phillipa Challis

CALENDER OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
15 April 2014	Board Meeting 5:30pm 25 Lunan Avenue, Drumcondra
7 May 2014	Club Meeting - Dromoland House 6:00pm for 6:30pm Start
26 June 2014 - 1st July 2014	Convention in Orlando, Florida, United States

Reminder: Items for Kardinia Womens' Service

If you have an excess of any of the following items please consider donating them to the Kardinia Women's Service:

- Nursing pads
- Tampons & Sanitary Pads
- Tooth brush and toothpaste
- Hand cream
- Hair Brush & combs
- Mirrors for make up
- Make up wipes
- Tissues
- Lipsticks
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Underwear in all sizes
- Nappies all sizes
- Deodorant
- Body Lotions

Please give any items you wish to donate to Raema Ash at the next meeting, or contact her to arrange collection.