

President's Report**Maria Zaluski**

The month of May was a hive of activity at the Zonta Club of Geelong. The Annual General Meeting was held, the slate of board candidates was approved and Board changeover took effect. New committees were nominated and 3 new members inducted.

We have made excellent progress to ensure we are well positioned to continue our service and advocacy work. And there is much to be done both in the regional, national and international arena.

A World Bank report shows the crisis of violence against women is global. According to the report, survey evidence suggests about one in 10 women across the planet have suffered severe physical violence from their intimate partner—attempts at strangulation, burnings, threats of or actual violence using a weapon. That adds up to about 350 million people. A similar percentage reports sexual violence. At the same time, there's reason for hope, it appears the trend in violence toward women may be downward—thanks in part to greater levels of overall security and changing attitudes worldwide. Identified effective strategies to reduce violence against women globally:

- Higher average incomes are associated with somewhat lower rates of domestic violence but are in no way a sufficient remedy.
- Relative poverty within a community also plays a partial role—in Australia, indigenous women are 10 times more likely to die from assault than non-indigenous women.
- Programs that give cash to women can reduce rates of violence. A study of Mexico's *Oportunidades* program, which gives money to mothers who keep their kids in school and attend health clinics, found those women were 40% less likely to experience physical abuse as a result.
- Being married before the age of 18 is associated with an increased risk; staying in school through secondary education is associated with a one-third reduction in risk. Across developing countries, girls' secondary school enrolment has climbed from around one-third in 1990 to about two-thirds today.
- Across countries, the percentage of women who believe that wife beating is acceptable has been falling, in some cases rapidly. In Burkina Faso the proportion who felt husbands could beat wives for arguing with them fell from around one-half to less than a third from 2003 to 2010.
- Only three countries worldwide had legislation against domestic violence in 1989; today the number is 76.
- Each additional year that a country has domestic violence legislation in place is associated with a reduced prevalence of about 2%.

For further information visit: <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-06-02/the-global-crisis-of-domestic-violence-can-be-stopped>

Membership/Fellowship Committee Report

Phillipa Challis

As Convenor of this Committee, I am very pleased to welcome our new members, newly published Author, Delwyn Jenkins, Dr, Alicia Kennedy and Robin Turner. These three ladies were inducted at our May Club Meeting.

This month we also welcome and induct Robyn Cameron into the Zonta Club of Geelong. Robyn attended the opening of our Art Show back in February of this year, and it was there that she says she saw how people entered into the spirit of the event, saw the way members spoke warmly to all the guests, and the professional way the club ran our annual fundraiser.

Robyn attended our March meeting and thought the way we distributed awards in the local community was excellent, as was the warm and friendly fellowship during the evening. After our May business meeting Robyn commented that hearing the talk our Area 4 Director Jane gave us about Zonta, especially at the international level, was most informative and inspiring and it was then that she decided she would like to be part of Zonta International.

I commend all members for the role they have played in recruiting our newest member.

The Membership/Fellowship Committee has successfully run a *Zonta Awareness Hour* twice over the past year which has resulted not only in the recruitment of members, but been a way to evoke retention of members. Each committee member brought their own uniqueness to the Awareness Hours (and indeed this committee) through the activity of organising, speaking to the gathering, and running both nights.

As this is my last report as Convenor I want to thank Joy, Joanne, Lisa and Meg for the camaraderie we shared during the year, and I go so far as to say that the uniqueness I've already mentioned bonded us together. It occurs to me that we have an opportunity to uncover the wealth of talent within our own membership as committees move into a new configuration of members for the coming twelve months.

If you want to see your club growth continue and to have the club you really want, remember to wear a Zonta lapel pin at all times, ask people to join, and above all keep in mind the words – *If it is to be then it is up to me.*



Area Director 4 Jane Adornetto inducting 3 new members



President Maria Zaluski presenting Robin Turner with her name badge



Maria presenting Dr Alicia Kennedy with her Membership Badges



Delwyn Jenkins, being presented with Membership badges by Maria

Finance/Fundraising Committee Report New Convenor: Anna Milner

Plans for our 35th Anniversary Gala Fundraising Ball are taking shape. The flyers and posters have been printed. Megan will now spread the word that we are holding our Gala dinner at **Dromoland House, 258 Pakington Street, Geelong from 7:00pm on Saturday, 6 September 2014**. The flyer will be emailed to all members, other Zonta Clubs and local businesses inviting them to show their support and share in the celebrations.

Sassy Soul Sisters will entertain us on the night. Tickets may be purchased online at Trybooking.com/87611 for \$120.00 per person or if booking a table of 10, ticket prices will be \$100.00.

Hayeswinckle Real Estate have received a copy of our flyer and will show their support and sponsorship by having several of their sales boards made up advertising our event. These boards will be located in prominent locations. We ask members to let us know if you or someone you know lives on a busy and prominent street and would assist us in having a board erected out the front of your home. Also if you think of any prominent location where we can increase the profile and publicity of the event please let Anna know as soon as possible.

Service & Advocacy Report Cheryl Gibbons

I am looking forward to working with my new committee. The 2014/2015 committee consists of Christine Denmead, Kirsty Tweddle, Raema Ash, Alicia Kennedy, Sharon Parker and Meg Gillies. The first item we will discuss will be the arrangements for our annual Birthing Kit Assembly Day. This is planned to be held in early August.

We will also start discussing the 2015 Art Exhibition, Awards and all new initiatives that fit within the role of the Zonta Advocacy objectives.

PR, Marketing Committee New Convenor: Robin Turner

The new PR Committee have met and pleased that Robin Turner will be our convenor. Robin will be assisted by Maria Zaluski, Megan Blair and Shani Cain. Maria will look after general media, newspaper and magazine publications, Shani will take care of enhancing our facebook profile, Robin will manage and update our Website and Megan will wear several hats of social secretary for the club, zontalong editor and will also arrange guest speakers for our meetings.

We would like to ask members to pass on any names or newspaper/ magazine clippings of influential and local women who we may approach to be a guest speaker at a club meeting or consider for as a recipient for our Zonta Awards.



Our New Club signs. Maria has kindly had them replaced on the service sign posts at both the Waurm Ponds and North Geelong Entrances to Geelong. This is Maria at the North Geelong site.

THE **Z** CLUB

Growth Through Service

Convenor: Joanne Metzger

The Z Club members and community team have been overwhelmed with school fundraising events recently for The Leukemia Foundation (World’s Greatest Shave), The Salvation Army - Homelessness in Winter (student sleep over in the school hall) and the Forty Hour Famine. The team of executive members works extremely hard to encourage student involvement in these events and they all take a great deal of planning.

A new project the Z Club will be involved with over the next semester is **“DAYS FOR GIRLS”**; an International project which aims to create a more dignified humane and sustainable world for girls in 3rd world countries through reproductive health awareness, education and feminine hygiene. The kit enables girls to manage their menstrual cycle and still continue their schooling right through every month. Commercial items are not an option for girls and women in impoverished countries, so this project aims to offer them normal daily activities like attending school and other family activities while experiencing a normal female bodily function. Hand sewn fabric shields and pads are washable and are planned to be sustainable & last for 3 years.

STRING BAG CONTENTS : a pair of briefs, a moisture barrier shield to hold pads, 8 washable flannelette pads, washer, soap and Ziploc bags. Some cotton fabric has already been purchased and bag patterns organized. Sewing will be underway soon.



String Bag Contents

CALENDER OF EVENTS

4 June 2014	June Club Meeting - Dromoland House 6:00pm for 6:30pm start
17 June 2014	Board Meeting – 5:30pm, 24 Lunan Avenue, Drumcondra
26 June 2014 - 1st July 2014	Convention in Orlando, Florida, United States
2 July 2014	July Club Meeting - Dromoland House 6:00pm for 6:30pm start
6 September 2014	Zonta Club of Geelong celebrates – 35 th Anniversary Gala Fundraising Ball at Dromoland House at 7:00pm to late