



## DISTRICT 23

# NEWS FLASH !!



... .. December 2003

Dear Fellow Zontians,

*It was fabulous to meet with so many of you at the District Conference. As we shortly herald in 2004, it will be exciting to keep up the enthusiasm and motivation generated at Conference on projects already in hand and those we voted in for the 2004-2006 biennium – continuation of the Breast Care Cushions and inception of the Birthing Kit Project. We have lots of planning and work to be done to fulfil the commitments we made!*

Club Presidents and delegates will have received the *Conference Report. Please share this with members of your Club* as it consolidates information on decisions made, summarises workshop outputs, and presents papers by keynote and guest speakers.

We received a lovely letter (see p.2) from our Foundation President, Gerda Senkyr, acknowledging the contribution of US\$30,591 made at Conference – congratulations, again, to all Clubs for their support of our Foundation projects and programs.

The Convention 2006 Committee met in early November in Melbourne. All is progressing well with the planning. The main focus of this busy weekend meeting was to evaluate the role and appointment of a PCO (Professional Conference Organiser). *The appointments of Pauline Burton (Convention Treasurer) and Alison Martin (Convention Secretary), have been approved by Mary Ellen Bittner and the ZI Board.* Thank you to those Zontians who have already indicated their willingness to offer services. *Additional volunteer forms are available through Alison Martin* if you want to take up this rare opportunity to join one of the Convention teams. (alison.martin@telstra.com)

Exciting news – *District 23 PR Chairman Dawn Newman has been appointed Zonta International PR Chairman for the 2004–2006 Biennium* by Mary Ellen Bittner and the ZI Board. Congratulations Dawn – this is so well deserved!! Dawn is off to Chicago in February 2004 for training, along with District 23 Governor Elect Ronda Walker. I know you will join in congratulating Dawn on this significant recognition of her talents; we are only too well aware of the excellent contribution she has made to our District over the past 3.5 years.

Club Service & Advocacy Reports 2002–2004. *Club Presidents please remember this needs to be emailed in January/February 2004 to the District Governor, STWS Chairman Judy Tennant, and Carol Rainey, ZI Service Chairman.* You need to select ONE service/advocacy project from the current biennium that reflects Zonta's Objects to advance the Status of Women. Carol's emails are: [cgrainey@bigfoot.com](mailto:cgrainey@bigfoot.com), or [cgrainey@hotmail.com](mailto:cgrainey@hotmail.com). *Please ensure Judy and I receive a copy of your report.*

Highlights and recommendations of the Zonta International Board, who met in October, are:

### Financial matters

- The Board adopted the *2004-2006 budget with no dues increase; however, membership growth is fundamental to avoid a dues increase in the following biennium.*
- *It is most important for Club Treasurers to identify payments for membership dues and donations to the Foundation separately when transferring funds* if you send these moneys directly to International. Pauline Burton has a successful system in our District whereby clubs can send these moneys to her for transmitting on their behalf, thus saving individual transfer costs.

### Organisation, Membership and Classification matters

A new policy on naming new clubs and renaming existing clubs is being emailed to Club Presidents – please do not hesitate to contact District Governor Elect Ronda Walker or myself if you have any queries. *In summary, the terms “area” and “region” should not be used in official club names* and it was agreed that the names of clubs (new clubs and name changes) should be approved by the Governor in consultation with Mary Ellen Bittner (ZI Liaison) *before submission to Headquarters for processing.*

### Status of Women/Service

The YWPA program *needs additional money to fund the current five International Awards or they may need to be reduced to one award only!* For those who heard District 23 and 2002 International recipient Abigael Ogada-Osir speak of her vision at Conference, I know you will have been inspired. Isabel Robinson, our District 2003 winner, is also an amazing young woman – let's get behind this program with our donations to ensure its future.

### Public Relations, Communication

- The Board will be initiating a number of procedures that will result in *more information being made available through the web site and less through club mailings* For example, the biographies of candidates on the official slate have been made available on the web site. (Note: The biographies booklet also will be included in convention registration packets.) *These actions are in keeping with the objective to “use our assets more efficiently and modernize our working methods”* as stated in ‘A Course for the Future’.
- *All clubs as of 1 June 2005 will be expected to provide to Headquarters a valid email address* (updated as needed).

### Convention 2004 in New York

The Board is asking you to *consider staying in the Convention Hotel “The Marriott Marquis” and booking through ZI which will impact on the credit the hotel gives Zonta for the cost of meeting space.* A registration fee has been approved at \$US 300.

As we fast approach Christmas, I wish District 23 Zontians and their families a *Joyful Festive Season. Let us hope for world peace especially at this time.*

Warm personal regards,

Liz Woodgate

District 23 Governor

I would also like to wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas. Let us all look at how, through Zonta service, we can make 2004 and, indeed, the world a much better place!

*Ronda Walker*

Lt Governor

## INFORMATION FOR CLUB TREASURERS

This information is sent electronically to all club treasurers. If I do not have an email address for the treasurer it has been sent to the president or secretary to be passed on.

We are now about to enter the half-year cycle for district and international fees. For members inducted between 1 December 2003 and 31 May 2004 these will be –

International Joining Fee	US\$15	AU\$22
International Half-year dues	US\$25	AU\$36
District Half-year dues		AU\$12.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>AU\$70.50</b>

Please note the **cut-off date for sending me half-year fees will be 30 April, 2004**. This gives me time to process new members and forward international fees to reach HQ before 31 May. **So if you induct members after 30 April, hold these back and include with your annual fees in May. Also, don't forget to deduct any international credits I am holding** from the international joining fees and dues. I sent details with my June information sheet. If in doubt, contact me.

**Member Report Forms** (repeated from September newsletter). Several clubs are still using outdated Member Report Forms. I posted every club a copy of the current form with their fees accounts. It is also available from the ZI web site. **There are some significant differences, so please make sure you send the correct form when forwarding me new member details, etc.** The new classification system is now operating, so please refer to that when inserting classification codes and occupation descriptions on the form.

Several clubs omit details of their club number on the form. If unsure, the district/area/club numbers can be found on the right-hand side of your club name in the District Directory.

### Bylaws Books

I am awaiting delivery of the bylaws books recently ordered by clubs. As soon as they arrive I will forward them with an invoice for payment.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2004.

*Pauline Burton*

District 23 Treasurer

## ACCESSING THE ZI WEB SITE

To access the Member Resource Centre you will need your **ZI Identification Number**. This 5 or 6-digit number can be found on the wrapper of 'The Zontian' magazine. It is also listed on HQ's international fees invoice. It might be useful to include this number in your club database and the member address list circulated to members.

## SUPPORTING OUR ZI FOUNDATION

*(Extracts from a letter from Girda Senkyr, President)*

"On behalf of all women served by the Zonta International Foundation, thank you for the special contribution of US\$30591.39.....separate letters have been sent to each Club acknowledging their generous gifts. We deeply appreciate your District's interest in women around the world and are honoured by the trust you have placed in our Foundation through your District's exceptional support.

Zontians are generous philanthropists. Over the years .....we have aided an estimated 2 million women and girls.....we have provided millions of dollars in scholarship support .....and funded projects to prevent violent behaviour.....

Improving the opportunities and circumstances of women and girls enriches families, communities, institutions and societies.....As Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." "

## HEIDE TAYLOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This year the Combined Clubs Service Committee took the UN theme - the 'Year of Freshwater' for their award in honour of Heide. Fifteen applications arrived, six of them nominated by Zonta clubs (a first time record) and the amazing winner, plus three worthy runners up, were all Zonta nominations!

Dr Barbara Hardy, notable environmentalist, presented a cheque for \$1000 plus a beautiful plaque to Anne Jensen, nominated by the Zonta Club of The Riverland Area. Anne, an expert on river management and wetland rehabilitation, is endeavouring to save the Murray River almost single-handedly. Anne instigated a wetlands care not-for-profit organisation and her work has now been adopted overseas. Read more about Anne on the web: [www.zontad23.org.au](http://www.zontad23.org.au)



Heide presented the three Highly Commended Certificates to nominees from the Flinders, Torrens and Noarlunga Southern Vales clubs. The committee works hard on the awards, and finds great satisfaction in the public awareness of Zonta that results. This year over sixty nomination forms, along with Zonta information, were sent out into the community. All applicants were then invited to the luncheon.

## IMPORTANT DATES!

A reminder that January is the deadline for your **Service Committee Report to ZI Service Chairman Carol Rainey**. If you are unsure about what is required please contact Judy Tennant ([jtennant@upnaway.com.au](mailto:jtennant@upnaway.com.au)) or Elizabeth Davis ([elizdavis@bigpond.com](mailto:elizdavis@bigpond.com)).

Another closing date is **19 January for entries in the ZI PR Contest**. If you still want to enter all the details are on the ZI web site: [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org).

*What's after Melbourne? ROTTERDAM 2008! What an exciting prospect. District 29 will be our hosts.*



*Since winning the District 23 web page Award in Bunbury, the Zonta Club of Swan Hills' web page has also been entered in the GOLDEN WEB AWARDS 2003-2004 by their web page designer, Gary Blackman. These Awards are presented by the International Association of Web Masters and Designers.*

Let's hope they win another gong!

## NEW SUPPORT FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

*(from a recent Media Release)*

Trafficking is a fundamental abuse of human rights and will not be tolerated by the Australian Government. To this end a \$5.6 million victim support program has been developed to assist victims of trafficking.

The victim support program will fund and contract case managers to deliver a comprehensive suite of support measures for trafficking victims. Case managers will provide individualised care and support which will include: income support for living expenses; secure accommodation; access to medical treatment including through Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme; training such as English language and skills development courses; access to legal services; and social support.

*"Most trafficking victims are in intensely vulnerable situations: they come from very disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, may not speak English, may be illiterate, have been subjected to severe forms of violence and abuse and suffer from ill-health. Some victims have also been forced into drug addiction and face long term health problems such as Hepatitis – as a direct result of being forced into trafficking,"* the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women, Senator Kay Patterson, said.

*"This initiative will help the recovery and rehabilitation of this highly vulnerable group of victims of trafficking – most of whom are women. It will also contribute to the apprehension and conviction of traffickers. Trafficking is an abominable practice. This new victim support program puts Australia at the forefront of international best practice in supporting trafficked persons.*

*Victims who agree to stay in Australia to assist authorities with trafficking investigations will receive a comprehensive range of support services under this new, four year, program,"* Senator Patterson said.

Overseas research shows that the provision of support for victims significantly increases victims' willingness to act as witnesses against their traffickers – by up to 50 per cent.

The victim support package forms part of a \$20 million Government initiative that will significantly enhance the detection, investigation and prosecution of traffickers.

*(Do you think our wonderful Conference Keynote Speaker, Georgina Costella, had a hand in this? I'm sure she'll be over the moon at this announcement. Ed.)*

**Read more about this subject on our web site.**

See Executive Director of UNIFEM - Noeleen Heyzer's November message for the International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women.

## REMEMBER, January is Amelia Earhart Month!

Many of our clubs celebrate Amelia's achievements during January. ZI 2003 Award Recipient, Caroline Rickards, also has plenty to celebrate with the awarding of her "Wings" at Conference!



## WANGARATTA GET INTO THE XMAS SPIRIT!

Members of the ZC of Wangaratta have raised funds and the spirits of bushfire victims in their district by supplying pamper packs.

*"When I delivered the packs, the women were so excited. They all attend a support group in the area for women that have been affected by the fires and were overwhelmed by both the packs and the sentiments behind the packs. Each pack is different so that everyone can be seen to be treated as an individual",* said Anita Smith from the Wangaratta Club.

**Contact Anita for further information about these packs.**



L-R Janet Picken (President, ZC of Wangaratta) receiving the baskets from Kym of the 'Soapbox' assisted by Anita Smith (Status of Women Committee)

## DISTRICT DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS

- p.6 Margaret Rowland's temporary address:  
&7 PO Box 619, Greenacres, SA 5086  
Tel. (08) 8367 6268, Fax. (08) 8367 6258  
Mob. 0419 837 466
- p.10 Jan Julian (Mornington) has an email address –  
elsvic@alphalink.com.au

## *'Tis the season to be merry!*

*Let us take a break over the Festive Season and renew our energies for 2004! It's been a very busy year for us all.*



*I'll catch up again in March, but in the meantime, does anyone have any thermal underwear? I might need it in Chicago!*

*Merry Christmas everyone!*

*Editor Dawn*