



Ne a Club of the Riverland Inc Club N^o. 23 – 02 – 1116

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December 2018

Meeting: 1st Tuesday of each month, Berri Resort Hotel, 6:15 pm for 6:30 pm

Tonight's Meeting:

Tues, December 4th 2018

Objects: Nita Thom

Raffle: -

Guest Speaker -

Next Meeting: Tues, February 5th 2019

Christmas Celebratory Dinner

President's Report for December

Welcome to the festive season! I'm sure, like me, your various celebrations and end of year functions are well underway. However this time of year is also the time we give consideration to all those women and children who live under fear of violence. Our "Zonta says no to violence, do you?" banner is on display in Berri near the netball courts and pool. There are also many stories, advertisements and features in the media at this time as part of the 16 Days of Activism to combat violence against women and children. As well as displaying our banner, we featured a small video clip on our FaceBook page containing some statistics from the White Ribbon Website. The data really is quite shocking and it's hard to believe the facts, but sadly this is the case.

Sunday 25th November saw the launch of the Zahra Foundation Project, which we supported financially. It was held at the City of Charles Sturt Civic Centre and there were several high profile guests including Vickie Chapman (Deputy Premier and Attorney General), His Honour the Mayor of Charles Sturt, Carolyn Power (Member for Elder and Assistant Minister for Domestic and Family

Violence Prevention), Natasha Stott-Despoja (Our watch Chair AM), Arman Abrahamzadeh (Our Watch Ambassador, Zahra Foundation Australia Board Director OAM).

I recently heard from the President of Fleurieu about something European Zonta Clubs do to mark this period. They illuminate buildings with an orange light to "shine a spotlight ." on the campaign, because it is very "press effective" eg in Hildesheim and Göttingen the theatre is illuminated, in Hannover an old station clock, plus one of the most famous churches in Hamburg St. Michaelis) and in Dijon (France) the town hall. Certainly an interesting idea to explore for Australian clubs.

On behalf of the Zonta Club of the Riverland I'd like to extend our sympathies to Dianna on the loss of her mother. We all know what a special bond we have with our mums and it is never easy to lose someone we care for. Helen also lost her mum a few months ago and we keep her in our thoughts also.

You might know that webcasts are quite popular these days. Well Zonta International has been exploring the concept too. I wasn't able to participate but ZI held its second "Zonta Talks" on the topic of Retaining Members. The Talk will be recorded and posted shortly after the live event on <https://www.zonta.org/Media-News/Zonta-Talks>.

Kay has continued to work with Karbec on the development of our new and upgraded website. We only have a short time to run on our old domain and look forward to having an up to date and, more importantly, functioning website! Thank you to Kay for her efforts in

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researching options and obtaining quotes on our behalf.

Each year at this time we donate two prizes to each of the four high schools in the Riverland. One to a student in year 11 and one to a student in year 12. The timeline can be a little hectic, so I would like to acknowledge the work of Desiree in organising the certificates for these awards and working out how to get them to the various presenters along with the cash to be given to the awardees. With three of the presentations taking place the same night as our Christmas Dinner, we are grateful to three of our former members, who will represent us at these events. Thank you also to Jenny Boyd, who will travel to Waikerie for their presentations.

Nita has once again organised the Zonta Christmas tree for the display at Loxton and some Zontians are volunteering their time at the exhibition along with Nita. Nita also represented the club at Remembrance Day Commemorations in Loxton.

Next Year's Energy Alive Day will be held in the New Pavilion at the Riverland Field Days Site. It is a measure of the success of the inaugural event that the organisers have had to move to a larger venue. We will need to consider what our catering offerings will be as we went into the first event with no real idea of what to expect and we can now learn from that first experience. Please mark the date in your diaries: 3rd March 2019, 12-7pm.

Plans are well in hand for next year's International Women's Day Event. As we decided at our last meeting we are going to trial obtaining advance payment for tickets this time and are trialling using Eventbrite, which Jenny is going to set up. However you are still able to collect cash from your friends.

Arunika and Julie, Helen had a meeting with Andrew Haigh of the Berri Barmera Council re next year's Walk, run Ride. At Board we considered a possible slogan: Walk, Run, Ride for Domestic Harmony. We can still use Zonta says No as a subtitle, but thought it much better to have a positive phrase than a negative one. The talks are beginning now as there is a lot to discuss eg involvement of other service clubs to assist with food,

marshalling etc. Then there is the route to consider, distances and many other issues.

As we come to the end of our year, I believe we have an exciting year ahead with lots on the agenda. I thank you all for your amazing efforts and the extra time you put aside for our Zonta Club and wish you all the best for the festive season and the new year ahead!

Margot Kranich

Arunika represented Zonta at a ceremony organised by the The Riverland Domestic Violence Action Group. It was there we learnt about the origins and history of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the remarkable and inspiring story of the Mirabal sisters.

Speakers included Inspector Peter Kennedy from SAPOL, and Indigenous Elder Reggie, both White Ribbon Ambassadors, spoke about the need for cultural and attitudinal change towards violence against women and for the importance of the "good men" in our communities to be role models, and to "speak out" and to "take a stand" against violence towards women and children and to promote family harmony. All agreed there is a long way to go.

Background history of the establishment of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Previously, 25 November was observed in Latin America and a growing number of other countries around the world as "International Day Against Violence Against Women". With no standard title, it was also referred to as "No Violence Against Women Day" and the "Day to End Violence Against Women". It was first declared by the first Feminist Encuentro for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Bogota, Colombia (18 to 21 July 1981). At that Encuentro women systematically denounced gender violence from domestic battery, to rape and sexual harassment, to state violence including torture and abuses of women political prisoners. The date was chosen to commemorate the lives of the Mirabal sisters. It originally marked the day that the three Mirabal sisters from the Dominican Republic were violently assassinated in 1960 during the Trujillo dictatorship (Rafael Trujillo 1930-1961). The day was used to pay tribute to the Mirabal sisters, as well as global recognition of gender violence.

The Mirabal Sisters

The three sisters, Patria, Minerva, and Maria Teresa were born to Enrique Mirabal and Maria Mercedes Reyes (Chea) in 1924, 1927 and 1935 respectively in the Cibas region of the Dominican Republic. All three were educated in the Dominican Republic, Minerva and Maria Teresa going on to achieve university degrees.

All three sisters and their husbands became involved in activities against the Trujillo regime. The Mirabal sisters were political activists and highly visible symbols of resistance to Trujillo's dictatorship. As a result, the sisters and their families were constantly persecuted for their outspoken as well as clandestine activities against the State. Over the course of their political activity, the women and their husbands were repeatedly imprisoned at different stages. Minerva herself was imprisoned on four occasions. Despite Trujillo's persecution, the sisters still continued to actively participate in political activities against the leadership. In January 1960, Patria took charge of a meeting that eventually established the Clandestine Movement of 14 June 1960 of which all the sisters participated. When this plot against the tyranny failed, the sisters and their comrades in the Clandestine Resistance Movement were persecuted throughout the country.

In early November 1960, Trujillo declared that his two problems were the Church and the Mirabal sisters. On 25 November 1960, the sisters were assassinated in an "accident" as they were being driven to visit their husbands who were in prison. The accident caused much public outcry, and shocked and enraged the nation. The brutal assassination of the Mirabal sisters was one of the events that helped propel the anti-Trujillo movement, and within a year, the Trujillo dictatorship came to an end.

The sisters, referred to as the "Inolvidables Mariposas", the "Unforgettable Butterflies" have become a symbol against victimization of women. They have become the symbol of both popular and feminist resistance. They have been commemorated in poems, songs and books. Their execution inspired a fictional account "In the Time of the Butterflies" on the young lives of the sisters written by Julia Alvarez. It describes their

suffering and martyrdom in the last days of the Trujillo dictatorship. The memory of the Mirabal sisters and their struggle for freedom and respect for human rights for all has transformed them into symbols of dignity and inspiration. They are symbols against prejudice and stereotypes, and their lives raised the spirits of all those they encountered and later, after their death, not only those in the Dominican Republic but others around the world.

White Ribbon Day 23rd November

Out of respect for the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November), we are moving White Ribbon Day to the Friday before.

White Ribbon Australia continues to support this day, the United Nations UNITE to End Violence against Women campaign and the 16 Days of Activism campaign which is held internationally from 25 November – 10 December each year.

<https://www.whiteribbon.org.au/>



Zonta's partnership with White Ribbon Australia.

“At the ZI Board Meeting in May several amendments were adopted. The process included discussion about Districts 22, 23, and 24 working with White Ribbon Australia, with particular reference to their policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health

Our Zonta Liaison Ute Scholz in consultation with ZI President Sonja Honig Schough has now confirmed that working with White Ribbon in Australia is in line with our Advocacy goals and

that ZI supports our continuing co-operation with White Ribbon Australia". Cintra Amos

Prevalence

These statistics on domestic violence, emotional abuse and murder demonstrate the prevalence and severity of violence against women in Australia.

- On average, one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner.
- 1 in 4 women have experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner since the age of 15.
- 1 in 5 women have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15.
- 85% of Australian women have been sexually harassed.
- Almost 40% of women continued to experience violence from their partner while temporarily separated.
- 1 in 6 women have experienced stalking since the age of 15.
- Statistics indicate that domestic violence rates are higher in rural and regional NSW.
- Intimate partner violence is a leading contributor to illness, disability and premature death for women aged 18-44.
- 1 in 6 women experienced abuse before the age of fifteen.
- Children of mothers experiencing domestic violence have higher rates of social and emotional problems than other children.
- 1 in 4 young people think it's pretty normal for guys to pressure girls into sex.
- 1 in 5 students have been sexually harassed in a university setting.
- 1 in 3 women aged 18-24 have experienced sexual harassment.
- 1 in 3 young people don't think controlling someone is a form of violence.
- 1 in 4 young people don't think it's serious when guys insult or verbally harass girls in the street.
- 1 in 3 young people presenting alone to homelessness services have experienced domestic violence.
- Violence against women is estimated to cost the Australian economy \$22 billion a year.
- Indigenous women are 32x more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence than non-indigenous women.
- 92% of women who identify as LGBTQIA+ have experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime.
- 9 out of 10 women with a disability have been sexually harassed.
- 1 in 2 women with a disability have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace in the last 5 years.

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- Domestic and family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and their children.
- Most women leaving a violent relationship move out of their home.

Statistics from White Ribbon website

3 ways to prepare for the 16 Days of Activism

NOVEMBER 24, 2018

LEAVE A COMMENT

Spread the word and say NO! Like, share and comment! Tomorrow starts the #16Days of Activism.

Here are three things that you can do to take part in the 2018 Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign:

3 actions you can take to prepare for the 16 Days of Activism

25 NOVEMBER - 10 DECEMBER

- 1 Follow Zonta International on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram - and **like, comment and share** the messages already being posted.
- 2 Visit and bookmark www.ZontaSaysNO.com.
- 3 Focus on **ending child marriage**, the 2018 campaign issue for Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women.

#ZontaSaysNo
#EndChildMarriage
#16Days



Happy Birthday



Elma Mason January 2nd 2019



Wishing you a
Joyous and peaceful
Christmas
&
Happy New Year

Z to A Editor & Club Vice President

Arunika Hamden
arunika62@gmail.com

Check out our club webpage:

<http://zontariverland.org.au/>

Please email any photos of Zonta events to our Facebook Page manager, Kay Sando, and/or to Arunika for the newsletter. When sending photos please ensure they are over 1 Megabyte. Thank you.

16 Days of Activism—wear a touch of Orange