



Reef

Talk



February Newsletter 2008: Issue 26

DIARY DATES

- DINNER MEETING
6.30pm Thursday 21st February
- WELCOME DINNER
7pm, Wednesday 5th March
- BOARD MEETING
6pm, Thursday 6th March
- IWDB BREAKFAST/
ZONTA ROSE DAY,
8.30am, Saturday, 8th March, Nauti-
lus Room, Coral Sea Resort.

WORLD NEWS

- INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY, 8th March
- WORLD HEALTH DAY, 7th
April
- 58th ZONTA INTERNA-
TIONAL CONVENTION in
ROTTERDAM, June 27, 2008

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Branch of Zonta International
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Official Newsletter of **ZONTA**

The Zonta Club of the Whitsundays Inc

PO Box 427 Cannonvale Qld 4802

Club 1633, Area 5, District 24

Chartered 16th April 1999



INTERNATIONAL

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.

From the President's Desk

Firstly I must thank and congratulate Eunice Shearer on becoming our new Reef Talk editor. I'm sure she'll do a marvellous job with her IT skills—and we know she'll correct our spelling mistakes too! We will miss our lovely Luella but hope to read extracts of her travels as she sends them to us. Please remember to report any little titbits to Eunice. Whatever happened to our gossip column anyway?

We certainly should be called the “Wetsundays” at the moment, shouldn't we? I viewed the boat carnage and realised that a lot of people haven't actually seen a wet season here before. It was like Bourke Street, Melbourne, along our Boardwalk at 5pm today. It was even hard to get a car park at the VMR, can you imagine?

Our commiserations go out to our members Linda Wilkinson and to Julie Boss for the loss of their boats in these dreadful storms.

Pj and Steve Halter have managed to make it to Mackay where they have settled in to watch many movies until the weather abates.

We have a number of inductees at the next General Meeting and I'm sure they will all become valuable members. We will also have a number of Guests who may be members in the wings.

The IWDB committee is doing a mighty job and brochures will be out around town and advertisements in the papers soon. Remember to keep selling those tickets girls.

The AFADU group had a non-working lunch at Sue's this week which was a great social day.

A few of us attended a Psychotherapy Workshop with Marie Anderson from Sydney last week. Watch out, as we have learnt how to use BOTH sides of the brain now (that is, if we can remember).

Unfortunately I will not be at the next General Meeting, owing to prior commitments, but our trusty Vice President, Robyn, will be taking the reins in her very capable hands.

I look forward to catching up with everyone at the IWDB, if not before though. *Love, Carole*

WELL GIRLS, AN ANNUAL EXCITING EVENT IS AGAIN ON THE HORIZON!

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GET READY FOR THE

International Women's Day Breakfast

AT CORAL SEA RESORT ON

Saturday, 8th March , 2008.

“Now in its 97th year, International Women's Day is a global day connecting women all over the world and celebrating the collective power of women and their united action for global equality and change”.

It promises to be a great event!

WE HAVE FANTASTIC SPEAKERS:

World-leading breast surgeon, **Dr Jane O'Brien**, who has a practice at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute and is founder of the Epworth Breast Service, in Melbourne. This year's theme is 'Survive and Thrive' and Dr Jane O'Brien will talk about surviving breast cancer and all the positive steps women can take to get through it.



Our very own Whitsundays Zonta member, **Dr Joanne Richardson**, who will speak about her dental projects overseas.



Jessica Buckley, winner of the 2007-2008 Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award.

Survive & Thrive

Zonta International Women's Day Breakfast



At Coral Sea Resort on Saturday 8 March 2008
Nautilus Room - 8.30 am for 9.00 am start - 11.30 finish
Supporting the U.N.'s International Year of the Potato
\$35.00 Ticket required for entry / lucky door prize

Ticket venues:

CPQ Real Estate,
400 Shute Harbour Rd, Airlie Beach
Raine & Horne Real Estate,
Whitsunday Shopping Centre
Adele's Beauty Spot Fitness Centre,
173 Shute Harbour Rd, Airlie Beach



VENUE

To be held in CSR's Nautilus Room, the event includes a gourmet two-course breakfast and coffee, as well as live music, raffles, auctions and a lucky door prize.



TIME

Doors will open at 8.30am for a 9 o'clock start.

COST

Tickets are \$35, and are available from:

- ✦ CPQ Real Estate Airlie Beach;
- ✦ Raine & Horne Cannonvale; and
- ✦ Adele's Beauty Spot at the Fitness Venue, Cannonvale.

Don't leave it too late, as the event will probably sell out beforehand.

PROCEEDS

Proceeds go to Zonta International projects and to the Whitsunday Crisis and Counselling Service.

You can support this great Zonta project by:

Coming along, and bringing friends & family with you. (as mentioned above, buy your **tickets** early as the event will probably sell out beforehand). We will be practicing the Theme Song “We will Survive” at the February monthly dinner meeting (so that we will *rock* on the day).

Lending us your plants. No we haven’t gone mad, but we do need to borrow your pot plants, particularly **palms**, to decorate the venue “survival”-style. Plain pots (black preferable) with bases, and could you please clean the leaves. Ph or email (see below) to let us know, & to tell us how many pots you have. If you are not going to be here for the event, but want to lend your palms, or if you have plants too big for your car, please advise a week before so that we can arrange collection/delivery.

If you have a **van** or a **ute**, and can help with delivery of plants, please let us know.

Donating a \$5 - \$10 gift for the raffles / door prizes.

Please bring along to the **February dinner meeting**. If you can't be there, or at the event, and you would like to donate you can drop them off to **Julie Boss at Whitsunday Law (Cumberland House, 2 Island Drive, opp. Banjo's pub, Cannonvale), during office hours, or to Melody Cross at Beachside Optics (4/400 Shute Harbour Road, Airlie Beach), office hours + Sat morning.**

If you have a **business** and you would like to donate gifts for a door prize, or for the auction, that would be wonderful. Your business name and logo will then be displayed on the sponsors list at the event. Please contact us (see below).

Donating your **time**, particularly to helping set up the venue on Friday March 7th, when we will be arranging the floral decorations, and general setup of the venue (no doubt having a bit of fun while we do it!). Contact us in February to volunteer, and we'll call you back a day or two beforehand to let you know what time we will start.

Donating your time and **ironing** skills. We have 150 chair covers, which need to be ironed for the event. If we have 8 volunteers it will be 20 or so covers each, but if we have 16 volunteers that's only 10 covers each, and so on, so the more volunteers the better: “many hands make light work”.

Ladies, together we can make this event great!

For more info phone Julie Boss (a/h) 4946 5289, or Melody Cross (wk) 4948 1022.

Or email julieboss76@yahoo.com.au or melody@beachsideoptics.com.au.

(Or see us at the February dinner meeting).

Dr O'Brien's itinerary

Dr O'Brien will be visiting the Whitsundays together with 3 of her staff, comprising her secretary and 2 of her breast care nurses. Dr. O'Brien is using this visit not only to speak at our Breakfast, but also as a short holiday break in the Whitsundays for her and her staff. While they are here they will be staying at Water's Edge Resort (with many thanks to our Zontian, Rayleen Watson, who helped make this lovely accommodation possible).

Wednesday, 5th March: Group arrives (flying Jetstar) at Hamilton Island. They will probably spend some time on Hamilton Island before being met at Shute Harbour later that day. In the evening a **Welcome Dinner** for the group will be held at Cath Fernbach's house, 5 Nara Ave., Airlie Beach, at 7pm. **Could members who are coming please contact Cath as soon as possible, who will then allocate a sweet or a savoury dish to bring.** (Lots of good ideas in our two “Simply Whitsunday” recipe books, by the way!)

Thursday, 6th March & Friday, 7th March: Group free for their own activities in the Whitsundays. If any Zontians know of any **discounted tours** the group could use I'm sure this would be appreciated.

Saturday, 8th March: Group to attend IWDB function with Dr O'Brien as guest speaker.

Sunday, 9th March: Group departs for Hamilton Is/Melbourne, Jetstar flight.

Eunice Shearer (0403448248) and Kerry Kenyon (0407654538) are coordinating Dr O'Brien's itinerary. Please contact either with any general queries, and Cath Fernbach (49482778) about the Welcome Dinner.



STATUS OF WOMEN SERVICE COMMITTEE
Feb 08- Report
Summary of 2007-Calendar Year
COMMITTEES

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Health Advocacy Committee – Noelene, Chair (Robyn, Angela, Janine, Julie)

The aim of this Project was to advocate for improved number of Breast Care Nurses in the Whitsunday Region. This committee put an enormous amount of work into this project, attending a Cabinet Meeting in Bowen and meeting with the Minister for Health's Parliamentary Secretary. The project was completed on time and although they did not reach the ultimate goal of getting more funding for Breast Care Nurses in the Area, they were definitely very successful in their project by raising the awareness of the situation at all levels of Government and making the cause known. In summary, they would do the project again, but would request more involvement from the Club members. They felt there was not enough support at the time from the members as the Club was involved in other things such as the Boat show and selling cook books.

Prevention of Violence against Women: PJ, Chair (Linda, Marie, Suzie)

The Rock and Water Program aims to apply a physical/social approach to assist boys and girls in their development to adulthood by increasing their self-realization, self-confidence, self-respect, boundary awareness, self-awareness and intuition. A specific goal for the course is teaching boys and girls to deal with power, strength and powerlessness. The program originally designed for boys only has proved to be also very beneficial for girls. The ultimate goal, of course, is to teach skills to deal with self defense, bullying & the prevention of domestic violence in later life for these children.

The goal for 2007 was to find & financially support the training of a trainer outside of the school program, as the schools will often fund teachers. They put out feelers within the community with the police, the PCYC, the Whitsunday Crisis & Counseling Service and spoke to others we thought might be interested. They received approval from the Board to fund such a candidate. However, they were not successful in finding someone. The Trainer would most likely be required to do a lot of 'volunteer' time in order to achieve her goals with this program, even if it is part of her job. The committee will continue to search for such person. The long term goal, when this committee investigated this program last year, was to assist in Training a Trainer. This means that someone with one year experience teaching the program can then go on to an advanced 3 day course to enable them to train others. It would be ideal to have someone in this new, larger Shire to have this ability: To be able to spread the training to all areas of the Shire, both physically & in various situations. This advanced training is only held once a year. We are still hoping Stan Larkin, Behaviour Management Teacher –

Proserpine High School – will take this course when his year of experience is finished & it is next available. Funding has been approved to assist him.

Education and Training - Committee deferred til a later date

This project did not receive full support and was deferred to be reviewed at a later date

Young Women in Public Affairs Wendy, Chair (Joanne, Kerry, Sharon)

The 2007/08 YWPA program got off to a good start after a presentation to the Year 11 and 12 girls in July, resulting in 6-8 interested girls from Proserpine HS. Articles in Whitsunday Times and The Guardian received no responses. The Whitsunday Christian College declined but will assess their involvement in 2008. In August a series of 3 presentations were held at the school to provide the applicants with more information and tools with which to complete their applications. However by the end of September it appeared that only 2 would be continuing with the application, one in Yr 11 and one in yr 12 who had commenced in the previous yr but had been sick for some time. Both girls were tardy in sending their applications and had to be chased repeatedly. The winner, Jessica Buckley (yr 12) was outstanding and, in Wendy's opinion would have beaten any others that applied. After a presentation lunch in December, Jessica left to travel overseas but has now returned and will be a guest speaker at the International Women's Day Breakfast on 8th March. Her application has now been forwarded to District for the next round of judging.

Pamper packs/hampers – Adele & Kay –Co-Chairs (Catherine, Connie, Jill, Jan)

The Pamper pack and hamper committee did a fabulous job of getting together 12 pamper packs for the Women's Crisis Centre and hampers for 2 local families. A large amount of donations were obtained with lots of goodies left over for next year or to be utilised in raffles.

AFADU - Sue, Chair (Connie, Carole, Sandii)

The blanket sewing sessions were finished for the year in November. A total of 19 Blankets were completed and 9 sets of gloves were also donated. Jules (the AFADU) contact has moved overseas, but she is still involved in this project. The Brisbane Depot has closed down and they have requested we have the blankets shipped to Sydney. Connie is still in the process of co-ordinating with Ian Routledge to make arrangements for the shipping. Sue is organising a thank-you luncheon for the Ladies who participate in this project that are not currently members of Zonta.

Rotary Boat Show- 2007 - Sheryn, Chair (PJ)

Obviously, the 2007 Boat Show Project was a big success and the project is continuing for 2008. Sheryn is remaining as the chair despite moving to Port Douglas. Sheryn is planning to be in Airlie Beach this Month so a more in depth report will be ensuing in the following months.

Binoculars - Robyn, Chair (Sue, Carole, Janine)

The Binocular Project has been very successful for the Club, lots of gain with very little work. From April 2007-Dec 31st the Binoculars have collected \$1456.00 of which \$740.00 is profit.

The roster of 4 weeks has not been maintained and the committee feels that it may not be necessary to clear the binoculars that frequently. Robin plans to discuss suggested alterations of the roster with the committee. As part of the Board Planning this year, the question of whether we have a second set of binoculars at the upper car park at Shute Harbour should be reviewed.

Cookbook Sales - Narelle, Chair (Connie. PR Committee-marketing suggestions)

For a kick off, the PR/Communications Committee did an excellent job in coming up with new ideas and suggested sale dates for the Cookbook Project. These recommendations were passed on to Narelle who has put a mammoth amount of energy and time into this project. Narelle became cookbook coordinator after attending the River to Reef festival in Mackay with PJ and Eunice in October 2007. Since then we have had a successful roster selling the books at the Airlie & and Proserpine Markets. Books have also been left at a number of businesses in and around Airlie & Proserpine. This is proving to be successful. Narelle has contacted Whitsunday Shire Council and the Port of Airlie to try and get permission to sell the books at the bus depot to the tourists that come in off the cruise ships. Unfortunately we were not granted permission to do so. So it's all thinking caps on to come up with ideas on how to push book sales for 2008. Stock on hand - approx. 906 - Total Books Sales from April 07-Dec 31 7 is \$3151.00. Narelle would like to give a very big Thank You to everyone who helped selling books throughout the year.

Quilt Raffle - Sue, Chair

The raffle tickets have been being sold at the markets when Zonta has had a stall. Sales are slow. Members were issued with tickets before Christmas and as yet very few have been returned. A general e-mail will be sent out requesting the return of ticket stubs and money at the next meeting. It is

being organized that the tickets be sold on two Saturdays prior to the International Women's Day at Centro, and volunteers will be needed.

Financial Assistance toward the Development of an Exercise Area for a Local Women In Need -

Update on Loretta:

- The Hutchinson group developers were contacted almost immediately after the November meeting.
 - A request came in for a design of actually they wanted.
 - Kirsten Moriarty husband Greg, went out to the property and drew up the design. Greg works for GTS plumbing, who contract to Hutchinson builders.
 - From this meeting the following was initiated:
 - Removal of the existing slab.
 - Replacement of all storm water drainage and pipes along the back of the house.
 - New pipes put in and around the back porch where the slab was going.
 - A new slab of concrete now stands, with all drainage and pipes connected.
 - Up to 10 - 12 men donated their time to complete this project over two Saturdays, Greg, has been out several times.
 - Loretta and George have stated that this is the equivalent to Gold Tattsлото!!
 - To costing would be between \$5,000 and \$10,000.
 - The Zonta cheque for \$1,000 will now be able to go towards the exercise equipment, viva 2000.
- Loretta tried out the equipment on Sunday, a very expensive \$10,000, but it was the first time she was able to exercise her legs and arms safely!

Film Night to raise awareness of Women's Issues

This event introduced our status (advocacy) for the year with a focus on one of the international status of women's issues of most interest to the club- the sexual exploitation of women on a global level. The film addressed the problem that widows (some as young as 8) face in India and examines their status and exposure to sexual exploitation. This project took a total of 6 hours with minimal cost. The committee felt it was enjoyed by all and would like plan a similar event again. It was well attended with about 25 members/guests. Improvements to be considered were better allocation of food and drinks.

Connie Riley



“WATER” *All of the Zontians who attended the film evening on the 24th January found the movie, "Water", to be compelling, informative and incredibly moving. I doubt if there was a dry eye in the house at the end of the film as the tissue boxes rapidly depleted!!! The movie really brought home to us the vulnerability of widows in India as, without family and community support, they fight for survival. The widows are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation as a means of survival. The film really reinforced the advocacy issues we are discussing in the club at the moment. As usual we Zontians excelled ourselves with to die for gourmet nibbles and excellent wine in abundance. A big thankyou to Connie and Lester for providing such a superb venue for us all. Roz*



Part 3 Forming the Whitsunday Branch of Zonta International



As promised in the September and October newsletter, I wish to record the most interesting steps taken until our Final Organization Meeting 29th January 1999.

For those of you who like dates, 15th March 1999 was Our Charter date. We became an Incorporated Club 25th May 2002.

To reiterate, the Whitsunday Women's Action Group of 1998 wanted to form a Club which would meet the needs of the "thinking women living in the Whitsundays."

I recorded that the majority wanted to help fundraise for the newly established Women's Refuge Center, and all of us were hoping to maintain longer lasting friendships with like-minded women as our friends who often left this area after two years.

Most women had chosen to live here because of its beauty and boating interests, ready to inject new business acumen into this developing area. But many found that Paradise had a flaw.

In Parts 1&2 of "Reef Talk", I neglected to add that a few women wanted this new Club, to help represent women's views to the rural and cane dominated Proserpine Council. We found that the women in this Shire were often equal partners with their husbands, but they were rarely admitted to official meetings which concerned their business and their ultimate livelihood.

It was clear that Women needed a higher profile if we were to be successful in establishing a better shire in which we lived. It was important that our new Club was attractive for others to join. We knew that we needed to plan answers for the critics as some people would regard any new group as suspicious. A new woman's Club which did not have lamington drives or male directors, might be very bad indeed! And what an odd name!

Well, Lineke put us on to the Zonta Club of Townsville. May McPhail, Chair of their Area 7 Organization and Extension Committee, first drove from Townsville in March 1998. She addressed a group of about 18 people at the Community Services building in Altman Avenue. We needed twenty to form a Zonta Club but we did not expect it to be another year before we reached that figure.

We invited business/professional women to several hotel venues, mostly on a Friday evening, when our Townsville and later our Mackay and Bowen Clubs could lead us in forming our Club, but it was The Bayside Restaurant with its good food and ambience which finally drew our numbers.

Next newsletter will tell how close we came to not forming a club at all. We found that some locals ridiculed us with names which had to be put to rest. More later.

Joan Watson, a founding member of the Whitsunday Club. 3rd February, 2008

From the editor

It's been fun putting together Reef Talk for the first time. You'll notice the "look" is a bit different (partly because our ex-editor, Luella, is currently keeping some of the fonts she was using a closely guarded secret, grrr!) but I guess I have editor's privileges of making a few style changes too. Be that as it may, I'll maintain most of the types of information in previous Reef Talks, both for communication of necessities and for a bit of fun. I'll continue, too, the member profiles (although we ran out of time for one this month) and articles of general interest, especially those about wonderful wonder women.

However, I'd also love to know what YOU want to read about in our monthly rag, so please tell me your suggestions. Gossip? Reviews? Travel anecdotes? What do you think?

Eunice Shearer, 13th February, 2008.

ZONTA DATE CLAIMERS

THE ZONTA CLUB OF CHARTERS TOWERS

Invites you to the
AREA 7 WORKSHOP

Commencing Saturday 12TH April at 11.00
am
until 13th April at 1.00pm

*To be held at the Charters Towers Civic
Club*

Ryan Street, Charters Towers Qld 4820.

*A great weekend is guaranteed, with in-
formation shared by our DG, Patricia
Lawson, Lt G, Vicki Varthas, Dist Sec.,
Margaret Bateman, and others.*

*Have a fun time catching up with old
friends and making new ones.*

*Come and join us. We look forward to of-
fering you the hospitality of our Club &
Heritage City.*



Zonta Club of Charters Towers Inc
Member of Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Registration information to follow soon

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ROTTERDAM 2008

DATE:
June 27—July 2, 2008



LOCATION:
Rotterdam,
The Netherlands

Click here to download: [Call to Convention 2008](#)

Convention website: <http://www.zonta2008.com>



**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

Professor Akua Kuenyehia

*First Vice-President International Criminal Court, The
Hague*

Professor Kuenyehia was elected to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, the Netherlands in 2003. Before her election she was a Professor of Law and taught Public International Law, International Human Rights Law, Criminal Law and Gender and the Law in the University of Ghana. In addition she worked extensively on international human rights issues in relation to women. Judge Kuenyehia is a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Ghana.

Judge/Professor Kuenyehia is First Vice-President of the International Criminal Court (ICC) The ICC is an independent, permanent court that tries persons accused of the most serious crimes of international concern, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Mrs. Akua Kuenyehia is a member of the [Zonta Club of Accra \(Ghana\)](#). She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Women in Law and Development in Africa. In 1993 she was actively involved, along with representatives of other NGOs, at the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria, in ensuring that the final document adopted recognised women's rights as human rights. Professor Kuenyehia has written many books and numerous academic publications on gender and the law, family law and international human rights.

**OUR WONDER WOMAN, WENDY!
AWARDED WHITSUNDAYS SENIOR
SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR, 2008**



Wendy's achievements in sport over the years have been outstanding and 2007 was no exception. She trains daily with the Whitsunday Triathlon Club members and this year, after a 10 year absence, competed in her 21st marathon.

Her achievements in 2007 have been:

- In April – the **Hamilton Island Hilly Half Marathon** where she was the third woman over the line
- In July – the **Gold Coast Marathon**, which is the largest marathon in Australia, where there were 27 competitors in her age group (60-65). Wendy came second in this age group being beaten by only 60 seconds!
- In August – the **Townsville Running Festival Half Marathon** where she won her age group.
- In September - the **Whitsunday Great Walk**, where again she was first in her age group.

In addition Wendy puts a lot back into the community by organizing and promoting sporting events. In 2007 she was the Event Coordinator for:

Whitsunday Relay for Life – which raised \$66,500 for the Cancer Council of QLD

Run for a Cure – also for the Cancer Council of QLD
Airlie Beach Triathlon Festival – where competitor numbers increased by 28% over 2 events.

Wendy also regularly visits local schools to talk about sporting events and encourage young people to get involved in sport.

Nominated by Robyn Mitchell

ANNIE

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Our wonderful Annie has requested leave of absence from attending regular Zonta meetings for 2008 which of course has been granted. In typically Annie style of giving all she has got to an area of need, she has other priorities this year and we will miss her incredible warmth and vitality at our meetings. As a past president, invaluable supporter of Zonta committees and frequent MC (again this year) at our International Women's Day Breakfast, Annie truly represents what Zonta is all about. We wish her well and will welcome her back with arms wide open in 2009.

Roz Jennings, Membership

SHOES YOU NEED IN THE WET



But seriously ...

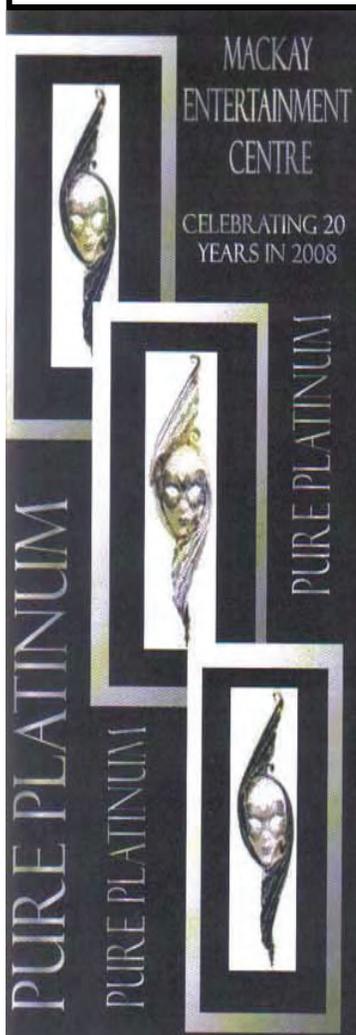
Our thoughts are very much with those of you who have suffered damage or loss during our wet and stormy summer season, including Julie & Tony Boss and Linda & Peter Wilkinson. We hope your damage will swiftly and painlessly be repaired and that what will *never* be damaged will be your bright and optimistic spirits. **Editor**

*Dear Carole,
Our thoughts will be with
you on Wednesday 20th Feb-
ruary wishing you a favour-
able outcome to very important
court hearing. Editor*

TO OUR HAPPY WANDERERS
LUELLA & IAN MACKAY to Mel-
bourne, eventually, **ANN CLEGHORN**
& **IAN** somewhere between here and
London, **PJ & CAPT. STEVE HAL-**
TER out into the Blue Yonder,
WE EXPECT REGULAR
UPDATES ON YOUR WHEREABOUTS, OKAY?



It's all happening in Mackay (at the Entertainment Centre)



Stringmansassy (guitar & voice duo)	Friday, 14th March
San Lazaro (Latin Funk Band)	Friday, 28th March
Harry Lynn Quartet (Jazz Quartet)	Friday 11th April
Kiev Ballet—Swan Lake	Sunday, 13th April
David Campbell—Swing Sessions 2	Friday, 16th May
Ben Winkelman Trio (Jazz piano trio)	Sunday 18th May
Sirocco (Australian multicultural music)	Friday, 13th June
Carmen -Queensland Ballet	Sunday 15th June
The Magic Flute—Opera Queensland	Saturday, 16th August
A Pocket Full of Blues (Jazz & vocals)	Friday, 22nd August
David Williamson's Travelling North	Friday, 12th September
TaikOz (taiko drum ensemble)	Saturday, 8th Novem- ber

The above is just a selection (for weekend nights) of the large number of performances by diverse artists and genres at the Mackay Entertainment Centre throughout 2008.

Why not plan ahead and make up a Whitsundays group for some of these shows?

See Noelene Hellman for performance details.



February 2008 Birthday Babes No-one!

So ... let's talk about another February celebration this year. Nope, not ...

Valentine's Day



BUT

CHINESE NEW YEAR!

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later.

This year Chinese New Year began on 7th February.

THE 15-DAY CELEBRATION OF CHINESE NEW YEAR

The **first** day of the Lunar New Year is "the welcoming of the gods of the heavens and earth." Many people abstain from meat on the first day of the new year because it is believed that this will ensure long and happy lives for them.

On the **second** day, the Chinese pray to their ancestors as well as to all the gods. They are extra kind to dogs and feed them well as it is believed that the second day is the birthday of all dogs.

The **third** and **fourth** days are for the sons-in-laws to pay respect to their parents-in-law.

The **fifth** day is called Po Woo. On that day people stay home to welcome the God of Wealth. No one visits families and friends on the fifth day because it will bring both parties bad luck.

On the **sixth** to the 10th day, the Chinese visit their relatives and friends freely. They also visit the temples to pray for good fortune and health.

The **seventh** day of the New Year is the day for farmers to display their produce. These farmers make a drink from seven types of vegetables to celebrate the occasion. The seventh day is also considered the

birthday of human beings. Noodles are eaten¹⁰ to promote longevity and raw fish for success.

On the **eighth** day there is another family reunion dinner, and at midnight they pray to Tian Gong, the God of Heaven.

The **ninth** day is to make offerings to the Jade Emperor.

The **10th** to the **12th** are days that friends and relatives should be invited for dinner.

After so much rich food, on the **13th** day you should have simple rice congee and mustard greens (choi sum) to cleanse the system.

The **14th** day should be for preparations to celebrate the Lantern Festival which is to be held on the 15th night.

The **15th** day of the new year is called the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade.



(Adapted from: http://www.educ.uvic.ca/faculty/mroth/438/CHINA/chinese_new_year.html)

The Chinese name this year:

THE YEAR OF THE RAT

According to the Chinese Zodiac, the Year of 2008 is a Year of the Rat (Earth), which begins on February 7, 2008 and ends on January 25, 2009. First in the cycle of 12 Animal signs, Rat Year begins the sequence and recurs every twelfth year.

A **Rat Year** is a time of hard work, activity, and renewal. This is a good year to begin a new job, get married, launch a product or make a fresh start. People born in the Year of Rat are clever and bright, sociable and family-minded. Are you a rat?



(Adapted from: <http://www.springsgreetingcards.com/catalogs/store.asp?pid=232024>)