



APRIL 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Who would have thought what April would bring. We were almost out of the woods with the Cyclone season finishing when up popped Debbie.

April was to be a month of happy enjoyable activities for our club, but what is the saying

“The Best Laid Plans of Mice and Men often go astray”

We have many many blessing through.

* None of our members were injured nor any of their family members.



* Although we have all had damage, as far as I know we are all able to live in our homes

* And I know I have found strengths that I never knew I had and I am sure you have as well.



Yes, we are tired, and Yes we have been stressed but it could have been so much worse.

Now is the time to get back to normal and look forward to what April was going to bring.

Firstly, we did go ahead with the planned Sausage Sizzles thanks to Carol Bolton and her hard working team. Lots of money raised and a Board decision was made that we give the sausages away for a donation to Cyclone Relief. This was a very successful decision with lots of money raised and as a Club I think it help to make us feel as though we were doing something to give back to the community who desperately need it. You will hear more about the sausage sizzle in the Director's reports. Good on ya Carol and team.

Easter holidays are coming around and I know that all of you as I am are looking forward to things more normal and a bit more fun than the last few weeks. What a great time it will be for us to enjoy family and friends and forget about the hard work and clean up that we have endured.

We have the AGM coming up very soon. Luckily we are still able to hold this. What a great opportunity it will be for all the members to get together again and share our friendship that goes right throughout the club.

Lastly, the end of April is the President's Breakfast. I am looking forward to hosting this event and to sharing breakfast with all of you. Get your appetites ready and come and join us in the feast.

President, Connie Riley

ADVOCACY



Advocacy is the process of supporting an individual so that their voice is heard and ZONTA International do this so very well.

We as ZONTIANS, are in a perfect position to help others, however, one of my wise and much loved mentors reminded me, that we must look after ourselves before we can help others, so please make sure Number One is sorted first and call out if help is needed.

Being involved in such a fantastic women's support network we can support each other, listen to each other and share our heartbreaks. This will give us the courage to go on and be in a better position to help to tackle so many other community issues that will be felt for months after Cyclone Debbie.

Support for elderly women, for the disabled, for women with mental health issues, single mums or just ordinary people who have been hammered over the last couple of weeks, we should start thinking of how we can help. With everyone in such a fragile state, there will sadly be many more anger issues and violence in the home situations than before. WE have to continue to get our "SAY NO TO VIOLENCE" message across.

We may have been wet and winds swept BUT it won't daunt us. We are wonderful, Whitsunday Women! **Pammie Harrison, Director**

MEMBERSHIP

We had six guests and one guest speaker at our last General Meeting. Two of our guests attended IWD. We look forward to seeing them again at our meetings. Unfortunately, we have several members not renewing their membership this year; we wish them all the best for their futures.

We will be continuing with our badge draw each month so remember to wear your badge so that you can be in the draw.

Anyone interested in holding a Knock Knock dinner please let me know so that we can recommence these fun evenings. **Judy Brown, Director**

"Our" Keisha: I see in the Times that our lovely Keisha McEwan, whom we help support for her education, is one of the many that put her hands up to help Cyclone Debbie Ergon workers. She was up at 4am Saturday making sandwiches! She usually gets paid for this work by the Westend Cash Store, but volunteered her time in gratitude for what Ergon is doing! Goodonya, Keisha! Once again, we are proud of you! PJ Halter, Editor



INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

Submitted by Annie Lloyd-Lewis

'This is wizard!' 100-year-old woman who flew spitfires during the Second World War celebrates her centenary by getting behind the controls again.

Mary Ellis was in a select gang of female pilots who flew during World War II. She has now celebrated her 100th birthday by flying a plane over West Sussex. Mrs Ellis flew next to one of the Spitfires she was in more than 70 years ago

By [Sarah Oliver For The Mail On Sunday](#)



Mary Ellis (pictured during her time as an Air Transport Auxiliary pilot in WW2) has celebrated her 100th birthday. Tearing through the skies above the South Coast, two Spitfires evoke powerful memories of Britain's wartime resilience.

But this stirring image holds a further poignancy – for in the cockpit of the lead aircraft sits Mary Ellis, celebrating her 100th birthday by recreating her time as one of the 'Ata-girls', the select gang of female pilots who flew Britain's fighters during the war. And over her shoulder is one of the actual Spitfires she flew during her 1,000 flights as a First Officer with the Air Transport Auxiliary.

'Wizard, this is wizard!' yelled the delighted centenarian through her intercom. Mary was handed the controls of the 275mph twin-seater as it swooped over West Sussex. After about 15 minutes, she turned for home, and told her co-pilot Matt Jones: 'Goodwood on the nose, you have control...'. Then she settled back to enjoy the ride back to base.

Earlier, Mary watched in delight as Spitfire MV154 took its place beside her in an extraordinary airborne tribute. It was a plane she had delivered to RAF Brize Norton from Southampton on September 15, 1944, and it hides a sentimental secret. For at the end of the 25-minute wartime flight, she signed the cockpit, scrawling her maiden name Wilkins and the initials ATA.



Mary Ellis was handed the controls of the 275mph twin-seater as it swooped over West Sussex. She hoped her tag might be spotted by a handsome pilot and lead to a wartime romance – although the impulsive act, a career one-off, didn't bag her a boyfriend. Mary, originally from Oxfordshire, had her first flying lesson in 1938, and flew for pleasure until 1941 when she heard a BBC radio appeal for women pilots to join the auxiliary service and so release male pilots for combat duty.

Speaking at a surprise birthday party on Thursday, Mary said: 'The war was a challenge and one had to do something about it. I went on and on until I flew everything. I love the Spitfire – it's my favourite aircraft, it's everyone's favourite, it's the symbol of freedom.'

For four years she ferried warplanes from factories to frontline squadrons. The 166 women of the ATA – about one in eight of the total – have been dubbed 'The Female Few', echoing Winston Churchill's description of the RAF airmen who fought in the Battle of Britain.

Mary – who to this day needs no spectacles, nor a walking stick – was one of the last six women serving in the ATA when it disbanded after the war. She remained a private pilot and then became managing director of Sandown Airport on the Isle of Wight. She married Don Ellis, a fellow pilot, in 1961, but was widowed in 2009. Matt Jones, who flies Spitfires for Goodwood-based Boulton Flight Academy, reunited Mary with MV154 after first meeting her in 2015. He conspired with the plane's current owner, pilot Maxi Gainza, to bring it to the UK from its base in Bremgarten, Germany.

Amelia Earhart disappeared in July, 1937. Mary Ellis started her career in 1938.

Date Claimers

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LESLEY—the only lucky one this month on the 21st!

April:

20th: Annual General Meeting—6.00 for 6.30 start—Reef Gateway
Book Club: Last Wednesday of Each Month – Contact Kerry Kenyon
30th: President's Breakfast – see below

May: 20-21st Area Conference – Cairns – put this on your calendar/wish list!

27th: hangeover—Bowls Club
Book Club: Last Wednesday of Each Month – Contact Kerry Kenyon

Presidents Breakfast Event: 30th April Venue: Azure Sea Resort, poolside. (Apartment 26- Connie's in case of rain) Time: 9:00 am til ? Selected members to bring food or Champagne. Balance of Membership to pay \$10.00 pp.

Connie to provide: Bacon and Sausage to cook on BBQ, Coffee, Tea, Orange Juice. Members to bring: a plate, cutlery and a glass (as if you are attending a picnic). Partners are welcome. Activities: Swimming available for those who wish, otherwise, fun, companionship and chats as well as enjoying great food. Any funds obtained will be donated to the Zonta General Fund.

Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WhitsundayZonta>



District 22 Facebook: There is now a District 22 Facebook page also.

<https://www.facebook.com/District-22-Zonta-International-1224453047645795/>

Our photos from IWD 2017 (in case you haven't looked already!)

<https://pjhalter.smugmug.com/Edited-photos/> as well as our Facebook.

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