

ZONTA ON THE ROCKS

ZONTA CLUB OF ROCKHAMPTON INC.

P O Box 323 Rockhampton 4700.

Club No. 1054 - Charter 05.08.83.

Email: rockhampton@zontadistrict24.org

Rockhampton Web page: www.rockhampton.zontadistrict24.org

District 24 Website: www.zontadistrict24.org

Zonta International Website: www.zonta.org

ABN. 51 605 623 392

AREA 4 - DISTRICT 24.

ISSUE 11 - NOVEMBER 2005.

NOTICES.

If you are
unable to attend
the dinner meeting,
please advise
Anna Tempest
Ph 4928 7880 (W)
Ph 4928 7125 (H)
by 10 am
on the Monday
before the meeting.

**Failure to
apologize will
incur payment
of \$25.00.**



Area 4 Workshop:
20-21 May 2006
Emerald

**International
Convention:**
24 – 29 June
2006
Melbourne



President's Message:

It is great to have good news. Berenice again brought home two awards from District Conference. Congratulations Berenice!

Many compliments have been received from guests who attended our Christmas High Tea. A very pleasant evening seems to have been had by all. Congratulations to the members of the Finance and Fundraising Committee (who worked so hard), and those other members and models who helped to make the evening so successful. Wasn't the Signational Signing Choir sensational? This performance brought tears to more than one pair of eyes at Table 1, and to others, I believe.

Margaret has kindly offered to have members at her home again on

Saturday 12 November from 2pm. Please come and help with cushions and pamper packs.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our dinner meeting (Rockhampton Plaza Hotel) on Tuesday 15 November 2005. As a reminder, the Board meeting for December will precede our dinner meeting (13.12.05), and there will be no committee meetings for December.

Yours in Zonta,

Glenys



President: Glenys Conrade
glenysconrade@optusnet.com.au

Phone: 07 4928 0807 (H)
07 4920 6914 (W)



**Zonta members
from Area 4
get together
during Supper
following the
Friday night
Opening Ceremony
at the
District Conference
at the
Gold Coast.**

Zonta on the Rocks – Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

MEETINGS.

Board:

6.30pm:
2nd Tuesday
of the month
Venue:
Rockhampton Plaza
Hotel.

Dinner:

6.00 pm for 6.30pm
3rd Tuesday
of the month
Venue:
Rockhampton Plaza
Hotel.

Committee Meetings.

OMC/PR/UN

Program:

Venue:
Rockhampton Plaza
Hotel
5.30 pm—
2nd Tuesday
of the month.

Finance and Fundraising:

Venue:
Rockhampton Plaza
Hotel.
5.30 pm—
2nd Tuesday
of the month.

Status of Women:

Venue:
Rockhampton Plaza
Hotel.
5.30pm—
2nd Tuesday
of the month.

Calendar:



NOVEMBER:

- 02 High Tea
08 Committee Meetings/
Board Meeting
15 Dinner Meeting

DECEMBER:

- 13 Dinner Meeting
Christmas Function –
R'ton Plaza Hotel

Special United Nations Observances and Other Significant Days.

November:

- 08 Z I Birthday
11 International Week of
Science and Peace
25 International Day for
Elimination of Violence
against Women

**"Courage is the art of being the only
one who knows you're scared to
death." Harold Wilson**

Dinner Raffle.

The supply of gifts for the
Dinner Raffle follows the listing
in the Members Directory.

November	Robyn D
December	Valda F
January	Diane H
February	Marie K

Please give your
raffle prize to
Elizabeth to co-ordinate.



If you would like to contribute to your Newsletter
please forward articles to Berenice Payne
either by
Fax: 4921 3441 or Email to
berenice.a.payne@bigpond.com

Deadline: First Tuesday of the month.



*Area Director
Trish Collins
carries the
Australian Flag
in the Opening Ceremony
Procession of Flags*



*District Governor Ros
with Conference Guest Speakers
Jennifer Graham. -
YWPA Award
Bianca Capra -
Amelia Earhart Scholarship
And
Zara Launder -
JM Klausman Award*

*Happy Birthday
and
Best Wishes*

04 Diane W



Mark Your Calendar.

2005 District 24 Conference
07 – 09 October: Gold Coast

2006 International Convention.
24 – 29 June: Melbourne.

District 24 Conference – Gold Coast – 07 – 09 October 2005.

Six members of the Rockhampton club, Trish (Area Director), Norma, Elizabeth, Margaret, Valda and Berenice attended the District 24 Conference at the Gold Coast in early October. They enjoyed catching up with Zontian friends and also made new friends during the breaks. International Representative Dandy Gomez delighted all Zontians with her very easy manner and willingness to learn about the activities of clubs. District 23 representatives were ready with information about the coming Convention in Melbourne.

District Governor Ros Kinder welcomed all to the Conference on Friday night at the Opening Ceremony. Trish carried the Australian Flag in the Flag Parade and Berenice, with the Area 4 Banner, led the representatives of the Area 4 Clubs (Margaret for Rockhampton) with their respective Banners. Her Excellency the Governor Ms Quentin Bryce delivered the address at the Opening Ceremony and all enjoyed a buffet supper after the formalities.

Business Sessions went well with Margaret as our Delegate. Speakers at the Business Sessions were most informative and it was an experience to learn the real story of FGM. A member of the Red Cross updated members on developments in the recovery after the recent Tsunami in Asia.

The Club Showcase was well received with Berenice delivering a PowerPoint Presentation on the Zonta Amelia Earhart Young Pilot's Award which is offered by Rockhampton, Emerald and Longreach Clubs. It was interesting to hear the other presentations.

The Conference Dinner was most enjoyable with a departure from the usual After Dinner Speaker which was replaced by a very entertaining quiz, conducted by former Rockhampton Zontian Judith Anderson. The Governors of District 23 and 24 were great contestants. They were aided and abetted with their answers by International heavyweights Mary Magee, Jane O'Brien and Patricia Logan. Entertainment by three very talented young ladies added to the night.

Members attended the Memorial Service on Sunday morning at which late member Clair Martin was remembered. Norma placed a Zonta rose in remembrance of Clair.

The Rockhampton Club was very happy to receive two Awards namely the Service/Status of Women Award and the Webpage Award.

Congratulations to Rockhampton member Berenice Payne who was elected Area Director for 2006-2008.

Rockhampton Club availed themselves of the opportunity to sell Zonta Coasters and Eco Bags at the Zonta Shop and the result was very pleasing.

What a great Conference. We congratulate District Governor Ros and the Organizing Committee on the successful weekend.

This article was published in
The Australian Newspaper
on Wednesday 09 November 2005.
It is written by
JANET ALBRECHTSEN

I raped her, Sir, but my culture made me do it

Why do feminists continue to turn a blind eye to their sexually abused sisters?

EACH time Germaine Greer visits Australia - such as last week when she turned up at the University of Sydney to receive her honorary doctorate - one is reminded how Western feminists have dropped the ball on what really matters on the feminist front.

Greer's feminism is the worst example of Western indulgence.

It's not so much what she says that matters - for it's all rather farcical these days - but what she and other so-called feminists do not say that betrays how feminism has lost its way.

On Friday Greer told her audience: "The intellect is a little bit like sexual ability: use it or you lose it." True enough and nice work if you can get it. But hardly cutting-edge feminism at work there.

Back in late 2002, Greer was back on the soapbox in Australia lambasting the medical profession for imposing unnecessary medical tests on women, such as pap smears and mammograms.

When asked about the impending war in Iraq, Greer suggested that women protest by dressing up in burkas. Go girl! Don the preferred garb of Islamic oppression to protest against what exactly? The continued oppression of women in countries such as Iraq?

Last Friday while Greer was preaching about the importance of knowledge for knowledge's sake, in New York another feminist was delivering a more sobering message. Last week Mukhtaran Mai, a 33-year-old Pakistani woman, collected an award for "her incredible courage and optimism in the face of terrible violence".

Mai was gang-raped by five men on the order of a Pakistani tribal council in 2002 as punishment for her brother's alleged love affair with a woman from another tribe. This illiterate and working-class young woman then did the unthinkable. She took her grievance to court.

A near impossible task in Pakistan where Hudood laws - a series of Islamic decrees applied in conjunction with the country's secular laws - mean that if a woman is raped, a conviction requires four adult male witnesses or the rapist confessing. If sex is held to be consensual, the woman can be charged with zina - extramarital sex - illegal under Hudood laws. In Mai's case, the five rapists were duly acquitted. While the Pakistan Supreme Court has suspended those acquittals, it remains to be seen whether the perpetrators will be punished.

When Mai received \$US2500 (\$3400) in compensation from the Government for her ordeal, she immediately used that money to build a school for young girls. Through a translator this shy young woman, dressed in a headscarf and flowing robes, told her glittering New York audience that her goal was to end oppression through education. Spot the feminist. Mai or Greer?

Women such as Uzma Saeed, a legal activist in Lahore, are campaigning for a repeal of the Hudood laws in Pakistan. Saeed told BBC News: "About 60 per cent of women in our jails have been imprisoned as a result of Hudood laws. I know many cases where a husband has wanted to marry again and so accused his wife of illicit relations with another man." Spot the feminist. Saeed or Greer?

Back in Australia, the silence of the feminists and others on egregious cultural issues is having devastating consequences for women. Australian feminism has been hijacked by a soft Left loathing of Western culture, a romanticisation of other (especially indigenous) cultures and a trend towards cultural relativism where it is just fine to use culture as an excuse. But criticise another culture? No way.

Indeed, the "culture made me do it" defence is now an essential part of any defence lawyer's armoury. Recently, the lawyer for one of three Pakistani brothers convicted of gang-raping two teenage girls in Sydney in 2002 argued that his client's sentence should be reduced because this 27-year-old man was a "cultural time bomb". The lawyer pointed to the defendant's "cultural conditioning"; he grew up in Pakistan, "a society with very traditional views about women".

Where was the feminist outcry? At least the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal, to its credit, treated that defence with the contempt it deserved. Last Friday Justice Michael Grove said those comments were inappropriate and the court refused to reduce the sentence given to the three Pakistani brothers.

But you can hardly blame a bloke for trying it on. After all, our persisting cultural cringe about imposing our values on those who do not share them is such that these claims are often successful.

Who can forget the footage of the Chief Justice from the Northern Territory descending on the Yarralin community. He took his courtroom to the indigenous community to sentence a 55-year-old Yarralin man for bashing and raping a 14-year-old girl.

The anal rape of a crying, screaming child saw the man go to prison for just one month because the girl was promised to the man under customary indigenous law. And who were the leading critics of this case? Chris Ellison (a white man), Warren Mundine (a black man) and a few indigenous women. But where was the white feminist outcry?

These are just the most recent examples of how liberal loathing of Western culture has become an instrument of oppression. And while feminists such as Greer are harping about the irrelevant, a new wave of real feminists is emerging where it counts. In places where it is most dangerous to speak out. Such as Pakistan. Elsewhere, Islamic feminists from countries such as Malaysia, Mali, Egypt and Iran are marching to launch a "gender jihad" in support of women's rights. This is real-life feminism at work.

If we think Western feminists had it tough, being shut out of the workplace in the 1950s, spare a thought for those women in Islamic countries who are victims of "honour killings" for bringing shame on their families, or the millions of women across western and southern Asia, the Middle East and large swaths of Africa who are mutilated by female circumcision.

These women need our support, not our silence.

JANET ALBRECHTSEN