



# Zonta International District 16 Newsletter

*Advancing the status of women worldwide*

**Dates of Interest**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY  
AND ZONTA ROSE DAY**

**8th March 2008**

**FORUMS 2009**

**DIARY THESE IMPORTANT DATES NOW**

- Area 1 29 March Auckland
- Area 2 17 May Palmerston North
- Area 3 24 May Marlborough
- Area 4 3 May Hamilton
- Area 5 19 April Timaru

- **ZONTA D16**
- **CONFERENCE**  
Wellington  
2nd—5th October 2009



**Inside this issue:**

- IWD Message from Ines Alberdi 2  
Executive Director, UNIFEM
- March 8th—Zonta Rose Day 2
- Zonta International D16 Cherry Raymond Award 3
- Media release Human Rights Commission on 8th March 2009 3
- Items of interest 4
- Conference Update 4



**Endometriosis Awareness Month**

## Governor's message



March is always an important month for Zonta International. On March 8th we celebrated **International Women's Day (IWD)** and **Zonta Rose Day** throughout the Zonta world, and across New Zealand. IWD have an important meaning for all of us, and I was so pleased to see many Clubs working in conjunction with UNIFEM, NCW and other like-minded organisations to hosting events to mark this important date in the women's history.

I was honoured to be able to join the **Zonta Club of Wellington** at their UNIFEM breakfast, hosted in the Banquet Hall of Parliament by the **Hon, Pansy Wong, Minister of Women's Affairs**, and with guest speaker **Beverley Wakem, Chief**

Ombudsman. The event was attended by 270 women, ranging in age from high school senior girls, to our honoured and respected seniors. It was a wonderful and superbly run event. As each women left Zonta members of Wellington Club presented each women with a yellow Zonta rose to commemorate the day.

The following day, I was fortunate to be able to join the **Hawkes Bay Zontians** at their IWD breakfast in Napier, which was co-hosted with the Federation of Graduate Women.

It is also fitting that at this time of year, we are also celebrating the appointment of the **Hon. Helen Clark** to one the most senior UN posts available.

On a more regional note, the

2009 autumn Zonta Forums are now in 'full swing'. Forums commenced in late March. The first was in Auckland (Area 1) where more than 70 registered to attend. Forums in other areas are in detailed planning stages, and each Area Director is preparing a unique and interesting programme for attendees.

**Zonta's service and advocacy work is now more important than ever.** 2009 will be extremely challenging for many in our society, as we comes to terms with global economic changes and the profound and far reaching effects these changes will have on the lives of us all. Zonta must be alert to issues facing women during the time, so we can act and advocate.

*Anne Walker*

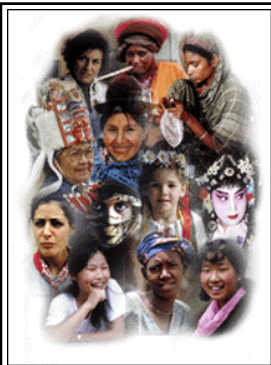
Governor 2008-2010

## March was Endometriosis Awareness Month

*March was Endometriosis Awareness month worldwide, and it was appropriate that we preceded this on the 14th February, with a **High Tea at the Heritage Hotel** in Auckland, hosted by the combined **Auckland Zonta Clubs**. The High Tea was served in the beautiful Tea Room, with stunning Auckland harbour views. On the 7th March, the combined **Christchurch Zonta Clubs** held a dinner event at the Chateau on the Park, with music and entertainment. Both events raised a generous sum for ENZ, and raised awareness of endometriosis. The generosity of the Zonta Club of District 16 continues to support this worthy project.*



Deb Bush (CEO Endometriosis NZ), with Maureen Heine, Area 1 Director who organized the "all about me' High Tea, and ZI Governor, Anne Walker



### International Women's Day 2009

#### Women and men united to end violence against women and girls

**"All of us – men and women, soldiers and peacekeepers, citizens and leaders – have a responsibility to help end violence against women. States must honour their commitments to prevent violence, bring perpetrators to justice and provide redress to victims. And each of us must speak out in our families, workplaces and communities, so that acts of violence against women cease."**

Secretary-General  
United Nations  
Ban Ki-moon

## International Women's Day—8th March

*The following message was received from Ines Alberdi, Executive Director, UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) to mark International Women's Day 2009*

"International Women's Day is an occasion to reflect on where we are in our struggle for equality, peace and development. It is a chance to unite and mobilize for meaningful change. This year there is much to celebrate. People everywhere believe that lives of men and women can be different, and governments have the fundamental obligation to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights.

For over two decades, women's rights advocates have lobbied, campaigned, and marched to put gender equality on the public policy agenda. They demanded recognition that women's rights are human rights, and that violence against women and girls be addressed within the human rights framework.

Why? Because violence against women undermines poverty reduction and development efforts. It hampers women's productivity and destroys their health. It pre-

vents girls from attending school and being safe. And violence has been a silent driver of the rapid feminization of HIV and AIDS.

What's been accomplished? The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted in 1979. It recognized gender discrimination as the root of violence against women. In 1993, at the World Conference on Human Rights, governments recognized women's rights as human rights, and that violence against women is an abuse of those rights.

A total of 185 states have ratified the CEDAW Convention. Most states have adopted laws and policies to eliminate gender discrimination in health, education, employment and political life. Rape is now a crime in almost all states, and marital rape can be prosecuted in at least 104 states.

Today it is vital to sustain this momentum. Gains can be reversed as we witness every day. While the implementation gap narrows, new threats arise, including climate change, widespread food

insecurity and a global financial crisis that is expected to push 46 million more people into extreme poverty. The crisis has intensified the struggle for resources both across and within countries fueling the resurgence of fear and armed conflicts and endangering progress on women's rights. Despite more commitments, including at the highest levels, the gaps on the ground are vast: violence against women continues, and impunity remains the norm rather than the exception.

This year on International Women's Day, the UN system is mobilizing to sustain the momentum of the Secretary-General's Campaign -- "Women and men united to end violence against women and girls." They are mobilizing by focusing on global advocacy, national and regional partnerships, and UN leadership. This year is also the 30th anniversary of CEDAW and we need a renewed push for universal ratification without reservations if the international community is to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals and put an end to violence against women and girls."

### 8th March Zonta Rose Day

This is the new Zonta Plus rose, launched at Rotterdam Convention last year



Zonta International District 16 has formed an association with the Heart Foundation on this important health advocacy issue for New Zealand women.

Go Red for Women is a stylish new campaign promoting improved heart health for women. The New Zealand Heart Foundation announced the launch of this campaign



Women are holding a series of breakfasts around the regions commencing in early May. These events are fun, and informative.

Take time to visit the website and download an invitation.

Gather a group of friends and colleagues, wear something red, and join other women for a Go Red for Women break-

### Did you know that Heart Disease is the biggest killer of women in New Zealand?

Last year. Go Red for

Breakfasts will be held in;  
Christchurch 5 May,  
Wellington 6 May,  
Tauranga 7 May,  
Auckland 8 May.

For ticket details and information visit

[www.goredforwomen.org.nz](http://www.goredforwomen.org.nz)



**Cherry Raymond QSM.**

**Charter President of the  
Zonta Club of Auckland**

**Regional Representative  
1972-1974**

**District Governor 1990-  
1992**

*Alison Martin,  
Governor of D23,  
Australia, thanks  
members of D16 for  
our messages of support,  
following the devastating  
**Victorian Bushfires**  
in February.  
Thankfully,  
All Zonta members  
were safe and  
unharmed., and  
members are now  
looking to ways of  
supporting women and  
families affected by the  
tragedy.*

*If D16 members wish  
to assist, Alison  
recommends we do  
through NZ Red Cross.*

## Zonta International D16 Cherry Raymond Award launched

District 16 is proud to announce a new Award. The Zonta International District 16 Cherry Raymond Award has been established to honour the memory of Cherry Raymond QSO, the first Governor of D16, and a dynamic and committed advocate for women's rights.

Many will remember Cherry Raymond as a broadcaster, journalist and editor.

Cherry Raymond's contribution to Zonta International was enormous. As the first Regional Representative in 1972-1974, and subsequently as District Governor in 1990-1992, Cherry led the formation of many of the Zonta Clubs in New Zealand and Australia.

Cherry Raymond has a special place in the history of the Zonta Club of Auckland, where she was the Charter President. It was the Auckland Club who proposed a

remit at the District 16 Conference in 2007, aimed at establishing this award.

The Award will recognize a Zonta Club whose service or advocacy project has epitomized the mission of Zonta—advancing the status of women.

Clubs will be invited shortly to apply for this very important District 16 award. The winner will be announced at the District 16 Conference 2nd-4th October.

Cherry Raymond passed away in 2006.

## CEDAW—the Convention on all forms of Discrimination against women

New Zealand will be reporting to CEDAW in 2011, and preparations are beginning to prepare an NGO report. Zonta International will be actively involved in the consultation meetings which will be held around the country, and Club Status of Women Chairs will need to put this topic on the top of their work agendas.

**What is CEDAW?** CEDAW is the Convention on all forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, that is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

The Convention defines discrimination against women as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

By accepting the Convention, States commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms, including:

- to incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women;
- to establish tribunals and other public institutions to ensure the effective protection of women against discrimination; and

to ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations or enterprises

Currently 185 countries—over 90% of the members of the United Nations—are party to the Convention. New Zealand signed the Convention in 1980. Every four years the Government reports to the Committee on the Status of Women, and the NGO report that complements the Government report is our opportunity to offer our views on the effectiveness of policy changes.

The National Council of Women (NCW) will be co-ordinating the consultation process later in 2009.

For more information see [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#)



**Zonta International**  
**District 16**

*Advancing the status of  
women worldwide*

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*'Empowerment and Equality for all women'*

We're on the Web

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[www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

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Above: Members and Guests enjoying High Tea at the Endometriosis NZ Fundraiser at the heritage Hotel, Auckland.

### **Congratulations and A Bouquet of Zonta Roses**

**Lynn Mckenzie** (ZI International Vice President) who organized another successful pre-loved clothing sale to benefit New Horizons for Women Trust in Wellington on March 21st—more that \$14,000 was raised to support scholarships for women pursuing second-chance educational opportunities.

**Marion Jones**, and members of the Zonta Club of **East Auckland** for hosting a fantastic Area One Forum on 28th March 2009, at the Howick Historic Village.



**Not long now..**

**Zonta International District 16 Conference**  
**—2nd—4th October 2009, Duxton Hotel, Wellington.**



**Pre-conference Leadership Development workshop planned for 1st October 2009**

**Call to Conference and registration forms will be available by 31st May 2009. In order to reduce costs (and save trees!) Call to Conference and registration forms will be emailed to Presidents for passing on to the Club members, and will be placed on the D16 website for downloading.**

**Did you miss out on booking your WoW ticket available in conjunction with Conference?**

Contact the Zonta Club of Wellington and enquiry about a ticket to their annual fundraiser in conjunction with WoW on 3rd October 2009. These tickets include a pre-WoW cocktail party, and premium seat at WoW. Cost \$160 Email—[WOWfundraiser@windowslive.com](mailto:WOWfundraiser@windowslive.com) for bookings