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INZERT

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International Women's Day

International Women's Day (8 March) is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world. This date is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday.

When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.

International Women's Day is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men.

In ancient Greece, Lysistrata initiated a sexual strike against men in order to end war; during the French Revolution, Parisian women calling for "liberty, equality, fraternity" marched on Versailles to demand women's suffrage.

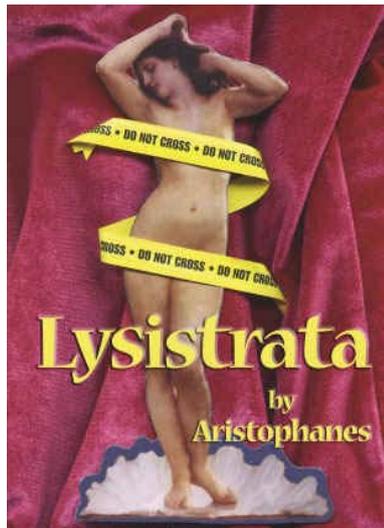
The idea of an International Women's Day first arose at the turn of the century, which in the industrialized world was a period of expansion and turbulence, booming population growth and radical ideologies. Following is a brief chronology of the most important events:

1909

In accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day was observed across the United States on 28 February. Women continued to celebrate it on the last Sunday of that month through 1913.

1910

The Socialist International, meeting in Copenhagen, established a Women's Day, interna-



Early example of women advocating for peace? Lysistrata is a play written by Aristophanes in 410BC during the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta and presents a pacifist theme in a comical manner: the women of the two states deprive their husbands of sex until they stop fighting.

tional in character, to honour the movement for women's rights and to assist in achieving universal suffrage for women. The proposal was greeted with unanimous approval by the conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, which included the first three women elected to the Finnish parliament. No fixed date was selected for the observance.

1911

As a result of the decision taken at Copenhagen the previous year, International Women's Day was marked for the first time (19 March) in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, where more than one million women and men attended rallies. In addition to the right to vote and to hold public office, they demanded the right to work, to vocational training and to an end to discrimination on the job.

Less than a week later, on 25 March, the tragic Triangle Fire in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working girls, most of them Italian and Jewish immigrants. This event had a significant impact on labour legislation in the United States, and the working conditions leading up to the disaster were invoked during subsequent observances of International Women's Day.

1913-1914

As part of the peace movement brewing on the eve of World War I, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1913. Elsewhere in Europe, on or around 8 March of the following year, women held rallies either to protest the war or to express solidarity with their sisters.

1917

With 2 million Russian soldiers dead in the war, Russian women again chose the last Sunday in February to strike for "bread and

peace". Political leaders opposed the timing of the strike, but the women went on anyway. The rest is history: Four days later the Czar was forced to abdicate and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote. That historic Sunday fell on 23 February on the Julian calendar then in use in Russia, but on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar in use elsewhere.

Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike. The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point for coordinated efforts to demand women's rights and participation in the political and economic process.

Increasingly, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.

The Role of the United Nations

Few causes promoted by the United Nations have generated more intense and widespread support than the campaign to promote and protect the equal rights of women. The Charter of the United Nations, signed in San Francisco in 1945, was the first international agreement to proclaim gender equality as a fundamental human right. Since then, the Organization has helped create a historic legacy of internationally agreed strategies, standards, programmes and goals to advance the status of women worldwide.

Over the years, United Nations action for the advancement of women has taken four clear directions:

- promotion of legal measures;
- mobilization of public opinion and international action;
- training and research, including the compilation of gender desegregated statistics; and
- direct assistance to disadvantaged groups.

Today a central organizing principle of the work of the United Nations is that no enduring solution to society's most

threatening social, economic and political problems can be found without the full participation, and the full empowerment, of the world's women.

Source: <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/>



Perth connection: Ethel Moorhead pictured above was an active suffragette and was the first in Scotland to be force fed in February 1914—in Perth prison, Scotland.

The origin and significance of the feminist colours

In 1904 the Women's Social and Political Union came into existence. The Union initiated a strategy of "trouble making" which attracted publicity and attention and inspired many women to support the movement.

Those campaigning for women's suffrage over the next 7 years displayed the colours of the Women's Social and Political Union. These colours were purple, green and white:

- **Purple for dignity and solidarity,**
- **Green for growth: and**
- **White for purity of purpose.**

Achievement of the vote for women

South Australia was the first Australian State to grant women the vote. This was in 1894. Victoria followed some 14 years later in 1908. The right to vote in Federal elections was granted under the Australian Con-

stitution (1901) to all people eligible to vote in the State elections.

Australian feminists also supported English women in their struggle for the right to vote.

On the 50th anniversary of International Women's Day in 1960, 729 delegates from 73 countries, including Australian women, met in Copenhagen and adopted a general declaration of support for the political and economic rights of women.

During International Women's Year, 1975, International Women's Day was given official recognition by the United Nations and was taken up by many governments throughout the world.

International Women's Day in Australia

The first Australian International Women's Day rally took place in Sydney on 25 March, 1928. The rally was organised by the Militant Women's Movement and called for equal pay for equal work, an 8 hour day for shop girls, no piece work, the basic wage for people who were unemployed and annual holidays on full pay.

The first International Women's Day marches in Melbourne and Sydney occurred in 1931. Approximately 150 women marched in the streets of Melbourne with a banner declaring "Long Live International Women's Day".

Since then, Australian women have participated in International Women's Day activities each year, including the years of the Second World War. The focus has broadened from employment rights to include issues such as child care, women's health and reproductive rights, housing, personal safety and security for women, and conservation of the environment.

Source: <http://www.women.vic.gov.au>

If you would like to send an ecard to brighten someone's IWD go to

http://www.123greetings.com/events/womens_day/



Good morning my special Zonta Friends! I say special as I have a proposition to put to you... but more about that in a minute.

Firstly, I would like to tell you about my other committee members.

Most of you will already know **Bridget Baker** from her PR Committee Chairmanship this last biennium. During her busy term Bridget and her team, amongst other things, produced a Public Relations Tool Kit. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate them for putting this together...I welcome the expertise that Bridget brings to the Committee.

The second member of my team is **Wilma Lagarrigue-de Bernardo** from the Paris 1 Club. Wilma has been a member of Zonta for 25 years and brings to my team a wealth of knowledge, especially in languages. She is fluent in a number of these and has a good knowledge of several others. Currently Wilma is a consultant to the UN and UNESCO and travels extensively to the five continents. I know she will be a very valuable member of my team.

A third member of the committee is **Dr Tin Chun Wong** from Hong Kong. Tin Chun is a specialist orthodontist and joined Zonta in the early '80s. She has been an Area Director and served with Kathleen Yip as District 17's Secretary during the 2000-2002 biennium. Tin Chun is currently a Board member of the National Dental Association in Hong Kong.

I am pleased also to have **Margaret Medcalf** from Western Australia take on the role of Archivist. Some of you may remember Margaret served as Co-chairman of the ZI Archives Committee in a previous biennium. She is a long-standing member of Zonta, a very experienced librarian and a member of the Historical Society.

Congratulations Margaret on being our local representative on this International committee—Ed.

PR&C COMMITTEE - INTRODUCTION – NEW YORK 2004 The Challenge: How can we Strengthen ZI's Identity and Member Base through Public Relations?

This is an abridged version of WA Zontian, Dawn Newman's presentation at the International Convention in 2004. Dawn is the Zonta International Chair for PR.

And, of course, there is myself. I hail from Perth, Western Australia and have been a member of the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs since 1985 during which time I have served in various roles, more recently as District 23 PR&C Chairman and newsletter editor.

One of the major challenges – and one that is dear to Mary Ellen's heart - is to **make Zonta the organisation that people choose to join because they want to give back to their communities by helping women.** The very reason you became Zontians!

Not only is this a PR matter, but it also involves a focus on membership. PR is like an octopus, its tentacles stretch out and embrace everything we do in our Zonta lives. **There are NO boundaries in public relations.**

This brings me to the proposition I mentioned earlier.

How many of you have been propositioned before – in the nicest possible way, of course! What I would like to do is recruit **all** of you – in fact, **every member of Zonta** – to my PR Team. Just imagine what we could do with 33,000 PR officers! Or 66,000 if we could double our numbers! Just think about that for a minute – if each of us could introduce a colleague before year end, what that would mean. Probably a big headache for HQ! Very simplistic I know, but not impossible.

Now you might say - how can I become part of the PR&C Committee? What do I know about marketing and public relations? Most members are

already doing some PR work by wearing their pins at every opportunity or using Zonta business cards or stationery. Simply expressing your own enthusiasm for Zonta can be a very powerful PR tool. **But we need to do more collectively to promote Zonta.**

I wonder how many members could comfortably talk to people about our organisation – apart from the fact that our main focus is to **advance the status of women worldwide through action and advocacy?** Things like :

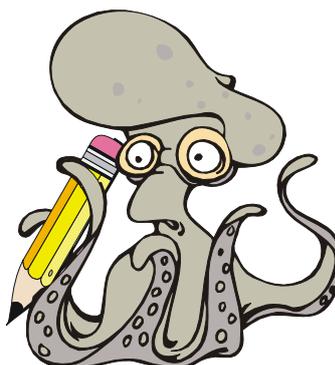
- how we were founded;
- the symbols behind our emblem and why our colours are mahogany and gold;
- the rose story;
- how Zonta is structured, ie. Districts, Areas and Regions;
- the purpose of the Zonta Foundation;
- details of our programs and projects;
- our role with the United Nations;
- our web site address;
- lines of communication;
- who our representatives are on the International Board;
- what Project Five-O is and its purpose;
- why Amelia Earhart is so important to us; and so on.

I believe that if each of us becomes more knowledgeable about Zonta International, then we should not have a problem promoting it to others.

How many windows of opportunity do we let slip by in our everyday lives to **not** mention Zonta?

Is it because of limited knowledge we don't feel confident enough to talk about our organisation?

In the next editions of Inzert we will provide feature articles on the items raised in Dawn's address—Editor.



"PR is like an octopus..."

End of Zonta year advice from the Club Archivist...

Margaret Medcalf

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS

The end of our Club bien-nium is approaching with the AGM in April.

Most Board members and Committee Chairmen will be finishing their term and new people taking over.

It is important therefore that your records are in order and that you will be ready to hand over a working file to the incoming incumbent and that non-current material of value is passed to the Club Archivist.

You should assess the records you hold for

- Material such as procedures, minutes for the past year and items concerning ongoing activities, which will be of use to the person taking over your office.

Have these ready to pass on to the new person.

- Records which are non-current and do not fall into the above categories but which may be of value for the purpose of administrative reference or historical research later on. For advice about this refer to the Zonta Club Manual Section 10.

Pass these to the Club Archivist. *Note.* If you are in any doubt pass everything on to me and I will sort it!

- Records of a repetitive nature, duplicates or items of no significance.

Destroy these.

With your help the incoming office bearers will have a smooth start and be able to move quickly into their new roles. AND the appropriate records will be saved for the Archives.

Diary Dates

10th March 2005— Dinner Meeting 6.30 for 7pm

This meeting to celebrate International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day will be held at The University Club, University of WA. (See mud map below).

2nd April 2005—Birthing Kit Workshop, 9-12, St Alban's Church Hall, Highgate.

Note date! We hope to prepare 1,000 kits. Remember one baby dies every minute of every day in childbirth—these kits can really make a difference.

9th April 2005—Area Workshop hosted by Zonta Club of Swan Hills

This event will be held at the Lily of the Valley, 78 John Street, Henley Brook.

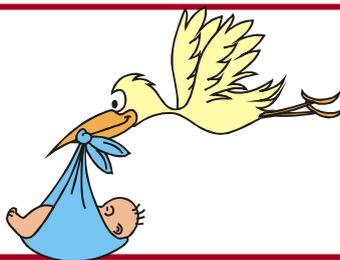
14th April 2005—Special AGM 2005 Changeover Dinner

The University Club at the University of Western Australia is the venue for this landmark occasion. Look out for your special invitation.

1st-3rd October 2005—District Conference, Glenelg South Australia.

The conference theme is Zonta Action through Partnership (ZAP). Conference will be held at the Stamford Grand Glenelg Hotel.

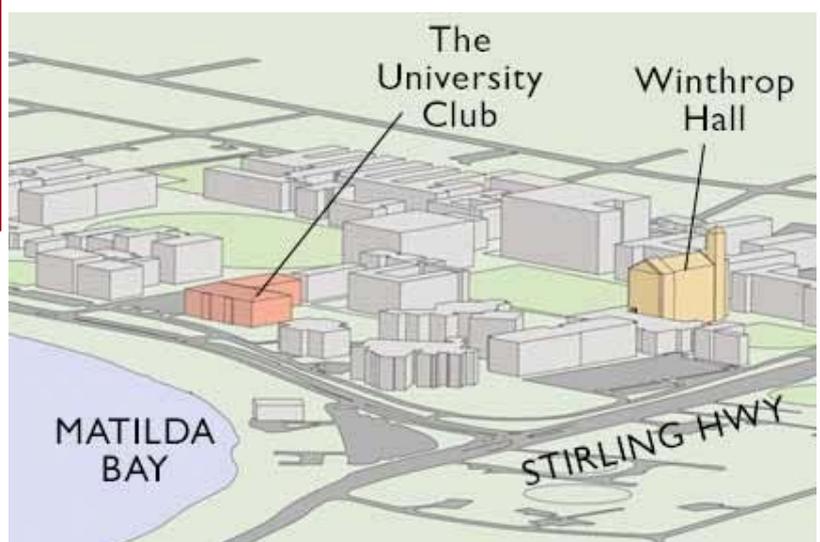
Congratulations to Joy Treasure on becoming a Grandma for the first time!!



How to get to ... The University Club of Western Australia.

This is located on the University of WA campus on Riley Oval overlooking the Swan River, Hackett Drive Crawley. A Visitors Board at the foyer/entrance of building will indicate the location for the Zonta Club of Perth meeting

Parking: Hackett Entrance 1, Follow Red Staff Parking Sign to University Car Park 3 adjacent to The University Club where parking after 5pm is free



WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLUB?
VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.zontaperth.org.au
Email: zontaperth@yahoo.com