



In This Issue

Claudia's words p1
AGM p2
Yvonne's toast p3
New member p3
Ask the archivist p4
What is Five-O?p4
Astrofest p5
Area Workshop p5

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INZERT

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Claudia's words of wisdom

Claudia Rosario is the 2005 recipient of our Club's Young Woman in Public Affairs nomination.

Claudia presented this beautifully crafted speech when she accepted the award. Her speech is reproduced here so members can have time to reflect on her words.—Ed.

My name is Claudia Rosario and I am currently a Year 12 student at Iona Presentation College.

Firstly I would just like to thank you all for this award. I am truly honoured.

In my life, I have never experienced war, poverty, disease or famine. I have never woken up knowing that I may not make it through the day, or face the world without the support of my family and friends. I've never known what its like not to have a home, or fresh water, or a comfortable bed.

But, the fact that I have these things does not mean that I deserve them.

Nor does it mean that I have the right to overlook those who are not as fortunate as I. This is why I believe that serving others is something that I can do, something we can all do. No matter how bad we believe our situation is, there is always someone who is worse off—someone that we can help.

I am very passionate about speaking out against discrimination because many people in our society do not have a voice that enables them to challenge the stereotypes and prejudices that they are forced to conform to. Just last year at Iona, we set up group called STARS that was established in an effort to break down the barriers which prevent the acceptance of the many religions and cultural traditions within our society. I believe

"No matter how bad we believe our situation is, there is always someone who is worse off—someone that we can help"



Maria Francina presents Claudia Rosario with her Young Woman in Public Affairs Award certificate

that this is such an important cause because it is only through acknowledging the cultural and religious values of others, that we can truly accept each person as an individual.

At school, I am the student president of Vision Generation, which is the youth branch of World Vision. Our work is closely linked to the various appeals and causes which are taken on by World Vision. For example, this year we have raised funds for the Tsunami Appeal and are currently running our annual chocolate drive for Shoba, our Sponsor Child in India.

Prior to my involvement in World Vision, I had never before experienced the profound effect that my actions can have on just one other person. Over the past few years, through our monetary donations and letters, I believe

we have been able to bring some hope and love into Shoba's life. It is this love and hope that I can identify in every letter she writes to us, and the smiling face which lights up every one of her photos.

Continued on page 2.



Dawn Newman inducts the Zonta Club of Perth board of directors for 2005-6. L-R, Mary Gurgone, Barbara-Dene Jones, Marilyn Piper, Maria Francina, Lyn McArthur (President), Lori Grech, Sandra Pressman (behind Dawn) and Sharee Simm.

Inset right: Lyn McArthur presents outgoing President, Karen Groves with a beautiful bouquet to acknowledge the marvellous job she did in her two year term.



Continued from page 1

As a woman, I can count myself among the lucky ones. I was born in a country that embraces gender equality and accepts an individual for who they are and what they have to offer. However some women are constantly faced with the fear of persecution, ridicule and even death. A fear that will become a reality if they contradict their cultural traditions, challenge their husbands or simply refuse to conform to an ideal- which dictates every aspect of their life. Other women must endure lives of domestic violence or battle against the demons without a face- poverty, depression, famine, disease. The status of women around the world is an issue that I believe must be addressed on an international scale. I feel that education is the most important key to achieving a shift in society's perception of women and that each

individual is important in contributing to this change.

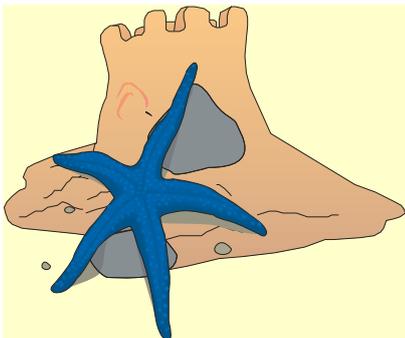
Before I finish, I would like to share a story that I believe epitomises what I want to achieve in serving others. A young man was throwing starfish that had washed up on a beach, back into the ocean, when another man approached him and asked, "Why in the world are you throwing starfish into the water."

"If the starfish are still on the beach when the tide goes out, they will die" The man replied as he continued tossing them out to sea.

At this, the other man said "That's ridiculous! There are thousands of miles of beach and millions of starfish. You can't really believe that what you are doing could possibly make a difference."

The young man picked up another starfish, paused thoughtfully and remarked as he tossed it out into the waves, "It makes a difference to that one."

As I stand at a changing point in my life it is sometimes hard to contemplate the future. I hope that I can use all the experiences and opportunities that I have gained through my years at school to be able to continue the work of other women- women who have spoken out for those without a voice. I would again like to thank you for this award and for the opportunity to address you all tonight..



Claudia works to make a difference to the 'human' starfish of the world—see story.



Sandra Pressman receives her Zonta Membership certificate.



Caroline Rosario and her daughter YWIPA nominee, Claudia, enjoy the Special AGM dinner evening



A Toast to the Zonta Club of Perth by Yvonne Roberts, Charter Member...

Thirty four years ago the Zonta Club of Perth was formed by Canadian, Dorothy Thompson on 20th December 1971. It was chartered on the 5th April 1972, by the International President Elect, Harriet Yeckel, and sponsored by the Zonta Club of Omaha, Nebraska, USA.

Of the 27 charter members, five of us are still in the Club. (Yvonne Roberts, Margaret Medcalf, Freda Jacob, Margaret Giles and Lennie McCall).

Harriet stressed the need to be aware of the International aspect of Zonta and not concentrate solely on local matters. Initially, we were still getting to know each other and what Zonta was all about. We had monthly dinner meetings in members' homes and in 1972, the charge was \$3 each. \$2 per head given to the hostess and \$1 per head profit for the Club.

How things have changed.

Membership grew from 27 to 56 in 1989, but has sadly slipped back to the 30s.

Our Club is proud to have been the organiser and sponsor for seven further clubs in WA (5 still operating). Our current 6th Club was organised and sponsored by our Northern Suburbs Club. There are 113 clubs in Australia.

The community has changed and we must change with it.

I believe with our modern technology, that the time is right and we have a golden opportunity to make ourselves and Zonta International better known.

WA is expanding rapidly. We need to increase not only our own Club membership, but to consider the development of new clubs.

We need more hands, heads and creative enthusiasm to spread the word and serve the community.

If my little city of origin, Adelaide SA,



Yvonne Roberts, one of our club Charter members, provided a great toast to Zonta at the AGM

can have 11 clubs, so could we and I am delighted to see the younger members taking responsibility and injecting new ideas.

It has been a privilege to be involved in the formation of the other clubs and to attend local, area district and world wide meetings. A stimulating and rewarding experience!

Please join me in drinking a toast to the Zonta Club of Perth.

...Welcome to newest member, Anne Marie Farley

I was born in South Wales in a small village on top of a mountain where it wasn't uncommon to be snowed-in for up to six weeks each winter.

I moved to London aged 17 to further my studies in Ballroom Dancing – London is the epicentre and at that time **the** place to train.

After many strained muscles, broken toes and long airport transfers I became British and World Champion in 1985 and 1986. My training was supported by my costume-making business which later became my main occupation, also branching into wedding dress design.

My dancing partner was Australian and wanted to return here for family reasons. We decided that we could base ourselves in Sydney and still



Area Director Dianne Bryant, carefully pins the Zonta name badge to newest member, Anne Marie Farley

continue to compete internationally.

I met Roger, my husband, on my first day in Perth and am still here.

After running a Dance Studio in Perth I decided that my dancing days were over and made a complete change in occupation.

I worked for various Government Departments as an Executive Assistant including Transperth and the Water Corporation where I met Linley Buchanan. After leaving the Water Corporation I worked for a year with Linley at Impact Communications until my little girl Morgan was born.

I am now a Manager with Tupperware and love the flexibility and social contact of my new career. I especially enjoy helping people return to the workforce and see them become more independent and self-confident.

Welcome Anne Marie—and thanks for sharing your story! - Ed

Footnote to International Women's Day, 8th March 2005

Margaret Medcalf

Members of the Zonta Club of Perth joined with members of the Australian Federation of University of Women (WA Branch) to make up a table for breakfast at the Novotel Langley Hotel on Tuesday 8 March to celebrate International Women's Day. The function was organized by Soroptomists International (WA) and was well attended. It was especially pleasing to see many school students taking part.

While the excellent breakfast was being consumed there were two main speakers. Dr Sue Boyd, the International Adviser for Unifem Australia told of the wonderful work being carried out by Unifem in improving the lives of women in developing countries. The other speaker was Pru Hawkins, a sufferer

from osteo genesis imperfecta, who talked frankly about her life at home, school and university, including her specially adapted car and coping with her disability. Her humour and practicality under such difficult conditions was an outstanding example of great courage.

This annual breakfast event on International Women's Day is an inspiring tribute to women and well worth attending.

Ask the Archivist...

*When did women get the vote in WA?
What is the Roll of Honour?*

In Western Australia women were given the right to vote in 1899. Members may remember that in 1999 the State Government made a feature of the WA Centenary of Women's Suffrage by encouraging a number of activities throughout the year.

One of these was the compilation and publication of a Roll of Honour of women who had contributed to the development of Western Australia.

The Zonta Club of Perth put forward the names of 22 prominent Western Australian Zontians together with biographical information about them and they were included in the list.

Visit the Roll of Honour on the Department of Community Development's website at:

<http://php.highway1.com.au/wpo/index.html>

Many thanks to Margaret Medcalf for answering these questions! If you would like to 'ask the archivist' just email your question to zontaperth@yahoo.com.au



What is Project Five-O?

Carole Theobald

International PR Chair, Dawn Newman recently challenged members to be more knowledgeable about Zonta International. Among the list of Zonta activities, she mentioned one I had never heard of.. So what is Project Five-O?

Interestingly, this project is not well covered on the ZI web site so I went to partners' websites to find out more!

Project Five-O is concerned with vocational training and other educational projects for women and girls in developing countries and countries in transition. It is a cooperative project undertaken jointly by Business and Professional Women International, International Council of Women, International Federation of University Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International.

The purpose of Project Five-O is to use the skills and expertise of the members of the participating organisations to provide training

courses in income-generating skills, including employment and working skills, marketing and small business operations, accompanied by training in health, nutrition, hygiene, child care and literacy.

Projects are initiated in developing countries where at least two of the organisations have established clubs. Three of the organisations must approve any proposal. There must be:

- a real need for training of underprivileged women to allow them to earn a living
- an available centre for training
- the availability of suitable tutors

The name 'Five-O' stands for five organisations. The project was first mooted in 1975 at the International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City and Zonta International joined in 1991 after one of the original members Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) had withdrawn.

In 1982 UNESCO agreed to include Project Five-O in its Co-operative Action Programme. Project Five-O continues to be run by an International Committee consisting of the International Presidents of the five participating women's organisations.



Astrofest 2005

Astrofest 2005 was held at Trinity College on a wet and blustery Saturday afternoon! However, the weather did not deter a few hundred participants from enjoying a day dedicated to understanding things beyond the planet Earth.

The static displays, rocket launches, films and great program of speakers more than made up for the lack of celestial viewing on the day.

The Zonta display was set up with two aims:

- To increase awareness of Zonta
- To advertise the Amelia Earhart Fellowships.

The display stand was well received and just about every visitor stopped to read about some of the famous women astronomers through the ages: Hypatia, Caroline Herschel, Carolyn Shoemaker and Jill Tarter.

Children were kept occupied with learning how to build astrolabes. With the husbands and children occupied, the women were able to learn more about Zonta International.



Zonta Club of Perth display for AstroFest.

It was amazing how many people knew of women studying aero-space related subjects. They were all provided with small cards advertising the award and the Zonta International web site. Perhaps we will get a WA Fellow soon!

All-in-all a very successful day for promoting Zonta.

Area 3 Workshop

The Area 3 Workshop this year was hosted by the Zonta Club of Swan Hills. Members can read about the workshop in the report contained in the District 23 newsletter.

The workshop was held in a conservatory in the magnificent gardens of Lily in the Valley.

The following photographs set the scene



The conservatory was packed with attendees and our club's Zonta banner provided a great backdrop for the speakers.



Left: Leanne Sultan (PNS) and Lyn McArthur enjoy the Devonshire tea!

Right: Our club's Ngarinyin Project display stand supported the PowerPoint presentation

Below: A perfect day for a garden party!



Perth members L-R Judy Tennant, Lyn McArthur, Marilyn Piper, Joy Treasure and Karen Groves get busy with the paper and scissors to create their personality keys!





Joy Treasure holds the light of her life—her first grandchild Thomas Bailey born on 16th January! Congratulations!

Diary Dates

12th May 2005—Dinner Meeting

The next dinner meeting will be held at The University Club, UWA. 6.30 for 7pm start. Apologies to Lori by Monday 9th May 2005.

14th May 2005—Champagne and Oyster Night, 48 Hutchinson Ave (East), Mosman Park 5 to 7.30pm

Jerry Fraser, Perth's favourite oyster shucker will be strutting his stuff at this special fundraiser being held at B-D's new luxurious riverside home. Sip champagne and enjoy the million dollar views and feast on the freshest oysters! Tickets \$50 from 'Tricia Summerfield, trisum@iinet.net.au

24th May 2005—Bridge Day, Melville Bridge Club, Cnr Canning Hwy & Simpson St, Applecross, 10am.

Proceeds to the Zonta House Refuge Association. PRIZES NEEDED e.g. pot plants, wine, vouchers, beauty treatments—anything appreciated! Concurrent session of duplicate or social bridge. Book tables before 13th May. Contact Marg Giles on 9383 1083. Tickets \$20.

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.

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