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Club Meetings

Second Thursday of the month.

Apologies by 8pm

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Women in high places—Eileen Collins, Commander, Space Shuttle STS 114

Zonta encourages women to pursue careers in aerospace, so it is timely that, while world attention is on the current Space Shuttle flight, that we look at its Mission Commander, Eileen Collins. Ed.

As a child, Collins had fantasized about flight for as long as she could remember. It was at summer camp one year in Elmira, NY as she gazed upward at the nearby sailplanes taking off and overriding the blue, when she determined that her dream to fly would one day become her reality.

Elmira, dubbed the 'soaring capital of America,' is known for its rich history in flight and collection of period planes, dating from the late 1890s to the late 20th century.

"My family never had the money to pay for flying lessons or...even a ride in an airplane," she said. "My desire to fly just continued to build."

Collins turned to books on vintage gliders built by the winged Wright brothers to fighter planes in Vietnam, World War I and II, which fueled her aviation passion but also sharpened her knowledge of flight. At age 16, she began working and saving her earnings, which would – three years later – help establish her piloting future. "I had saved up \$1,000, and I took that to my local airport, at age 19," Collins said. "I asked them to teach me how to fly."

Although shy and timid, she pursued flight training and dismissed the premise that flying "was a guy thing" at the time. Collins began military pilot training for the Air Force in 1978, the same year that NASA opened the Shuttle program to women.



Image: Eileen Collins waves while suiting up on launch day. Credit NASA/KSC

The elite first class of women pilots who joined the ranks of NASA's Mission Specialist Astronauts inspired Collins to dream bigger. She knew then that her natural love of history, astronomy and geology coupled with her devotion to flight made America's space program the perfect fit for a would-be astronaut such as herself.

More than the desire to soar the skies, though, challenge is what charges Collins' drive most.

Hard work over fate brought her to NASA. She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics from Syracuse University in 1978, a master's in operations research from Stanford University in 1986 and a master's in space systems management from Webster University in 1989.

NASA selected Collins to join America's Astronaut Corps in 1990, deeming her an official astronaut the following year.

Casting new light on the term 'frequent flyer,' she has logged more than 6,280 hours in 30 different types of aircraft. More than 537 of those hours were logged in space.

A veteran of three spaceflights, she be-

came the first woman pilot of a Space Shuttle on the first flight of the joint Russian-American Shuttle-Mir program, and later the first woman to command a Shuttle mission.

STS-114's objective on its Return to Flight mission is two-fold. It will deliver supplies and science equipment and prepare the International Space Station for future building as well as pioneer new ways to protect future orbiters and their crews.

"I have a fantastic crew," Collins said. "The seven Shuttle crewmembers have been so professional in the work that we have done up to this point."

By returning the Shuttle fleet to flight, NASA will take a monumental step toward future exploration. Discovery and her crew will lead the way.

Interviews with Eileen...

On becoming an astronaut:

"When I was very young and first started reading about astronauts, there were no women astronauts."

However, she was inspired while she was a child by the Mercury astronauts, and by the time she was in high school and college, new opportunities were opening up for women in aviation.

"My timing was really great," she said. Collins joined the Air Force, and during her first month of training, her base was visited by the newest astronaut class--the first to include women--and her path was set.

"I wanted to be part of our nation's space program. It's the greatest adventure on this planet--or off the planet, for that matter. I wanted to fly the Space Shuttle."

On being the first and only female Shuttle commander:

"Hopefully not for long!" While the distinction of being the first is an honor, Collins said she's looking forward to losing the part about being the "only" female commander. She said she hopes current astronaut Pam Melroy will soon join her, and that more will follow. "I'm really pulling for her."

Collins said that she encourages young women to become test pilots so that they can someday become Shuttle commanders

The International Space Station



S113E05448

STS113-E-05448 (2 December 2002) --- Backdropped by the blackness of space, this full view of the International Space Station (ISS) was photographed by a crewmember on board the Space Shuttle Endeavour following the undocking of the two spacecraft. Endeavour pulled away from the complex at 2:05 p.m. (CST) on December 2, 2002 as the two spacecraft flew over northwestern Australia. The newly installed Port One (P1) truss now complements the Starboard One (S1) truss in center frame.



Eileen began dreaming of flying as a child—little realising that in future years her dreams would take her into space. Pre-flight interview at NASA http://www.nasa.gov/vision/space/preparingtravel/rtf_interview_collins.html



as well. "The young people are going to be the ones to take us on to more exciting adventures."

On the future of spaceflight:

"I would like to see more people traveling to space someday. I would like to see space tourism blossom. It's such an incredible experience."

Collins said that during her spaceflights, there is so much she has to do that there is little time to just enjoy

being in space. "Someday I would like to go into space as a tourist, and have the time to have fun."

She's very interested in developments in the field of civilian spaceflight, such as the X Prize competition. "I just think that's really exciting. That's an experience that more people ought to have."

I think we'd have a better community on Earth if more people traveled in space."



Meet the crew of STS 114



Left: From left, STS-114 astronauts Steve Roberson, Jim Kelly, Andy Thomas, Wendy Lawrence, Charlie Camarda, Eileen Collins and Soichi Noguchi. Photo credit: NASA.

Discovery's crew of seven astronauts is led by Commander Eileen Collins (Col, USAF, Retd). Joining her are Pilot James Kelly (Lt Col, USAF) and Mission Specialists Soichi Noguchi, representing the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Stephen Roberson and Andrew Thomas, both civilian

mechanical engineers, Wendy Lawrence (Captain, USN) and Charles Camarda a civilian aerospace engineer.

This will be the most photographed mission in history and serve as the foundation for every Shuttle mission to follow, especially after the con-

cerns raised following the destruction of the Columbia on re-entry on February 1st 2003.

It will debut and test new designs to eliminate possible damage to the shuttle during take off and re-entry and a repair kit module is included so any damaged heat shield tiles can be repaired in space if necessary. The shuttle did a flip as it approached the Space Station so its underside could be photographed from the Station for any damage.

The Shuttle docked with the International Space Station and the rest of the mission involved repairing equipment, retrieving experiments, installing new equipment and delivering a pressurized cargo container with several tonnes of supplies.

The three spacewalks were undertaken by Noguchi and Roberson. Lawrence was responsible for transferring supplies and equipment to the Station.

Australian born Thomas is the primary operator for the Shuttle's robotic arm.

Keep informed on the vast array of NASA activities at:

www.nasa.gov

New home for our club...

In the last year, the Zonta Club of Perth has trialled a number of new venues for our meetings.

At the end of the trial, the Membership and Support Committee sought feedback from members on their preferred venue. The majority of members voted for The University Club at the University of Western Australia to be our new home.

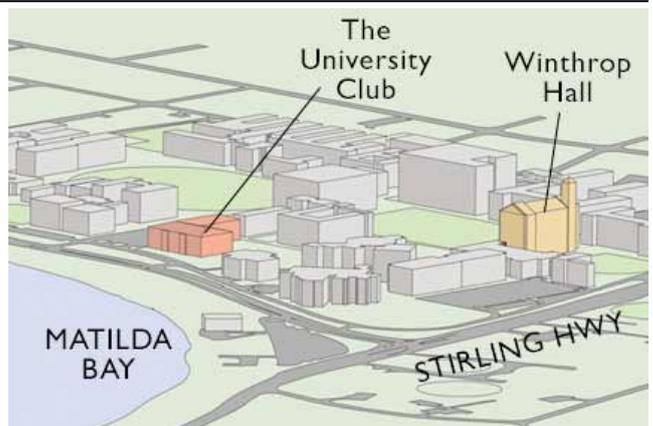
This modern venue is central for most members, has tasty meals and excellent parking facilities.

Pre-dinner drinks are served in the conference foyer on the ground floor and

dinner is served in an adjacent seminar room.

The University Club has a range of rooms, that can accommodate small or large groups. All are equipped with computer projectors.

Parking is available in the under-cover car park (which has a lift to the conference foyer) or the adjacent number 3 car park.



Parking is free after 5pm.

Congratulations to the Membership and Support Committee for their efforts in arranging our new home.

Freda's story

Thanks Freda for sharing your wonderful life with us at the July meeting—and for forwarding your talk. You are an inspiration to us all! Ed.

I am a Westralian born and bred. Born in Toodyay, I moved to Shackleton in the Bruce Rock Area at the age of three, to a farm to be near my mother's relatives.

I went to the Shackelton school when I was eleven, and in the same class was a young man named Hal Finkelstein. We both went off to Perth to school the next year.

I was a boarder at Methodist Ladies' College for five years, then went home to the farm, as girls always did in those days, to have fun, play a lot of sport and marry a farmer from the area. The war intervened, my two elder brothers joined up. My youngest brother left Hale, and he and I with my mother ran the farm with no tractor, only horses, which with the milking cows were the bane of my life!

Eventually, I joined the Air Force and went to Melbourne to be a wireless operator. Fortunately the war ended, and I was discharged home.

I was by then homeless. My brothers were home and married. I found that I was qualified to do a course in Occupational Therapy under the Rehabilitation Scheme.

I did a 3 year course in Sydney. When I came back

to Perth, I started the department at Princess Margaret Hospital half time, and spent the another half of the day developing a department at Crippled Children at Ventnor St West Perth.

There were only 3 occupational

Therapists in Perth. There was no Association, no Registration Board and no School. We had to entice therapists from the East to WA—then we had to start an Association.

In time we developed the Registration Act, got it through Parliament, and named a Board. The Registration Act stipulated that we had to develop a school and we started the school in 1961.

I went overseas in 1953 to see the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, and see my English family.

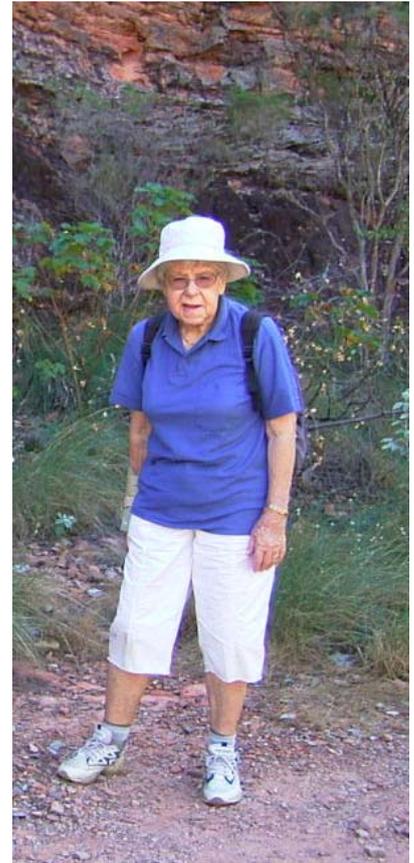
I did locums around England, hitched-hiked around Europe, then managed to get a scholarship to America. This was enhanced by having my best friend in America as a war bride.

I promised to open a department in Lexington Kentucky for the new Shriner's Children's Hospital. This was near where my friend and her husband were living, and I could use their house and car as they were visiting Perth on sabbatical leave. All great experience.

We drove across America—first Lexington, Kentucky to San Francisco on the Southern route for them to get the boat to Australia. To bring the car back to Kentucky along the Northern Route, I put a notice on the Board of the local university advertising for two students to share the

driving. Two young men answered the advert. Almost our first stop was Las Vegas—they lost all their money, so I decided we would have to drive the rest of the way non stop.

I returned to Western Australia in 1955 and was at the Spastic Centre for two years and then Royal Perth Hospital for the next 23 years. These



were the golden years!

Fortune smiled on the brave and we were brave.

In 1954, the first World Congress for Occupational Therapy was held in Edinburgh, along with the inaugural Council Meeting.

I was there, and it had a tremendous influence on the rest of my professional life. I became the delegate for Australia and I managed most of the Council meetings, held every two years, and Congresses every four years.

I was able to introduce many innovative and beneficial treatment ideas that I heard about at the Congresses, so Royal Perth were happy to let me go.

Those meetings were always held in a different country and so I visited most of the world in that time. I was able to take my annual leave to coincide with the meetings.

In 1961, after the school was opened,

*Fortune smiled on the brave
and we were brave...*



Freda's story continued...



Photo: Disability Services Commission:
http://www.dsc.wa.gov.au/cproot/732/1/freda_jacob.jpg

I went off to Liverpool, England for two years to do my Teacher's Diploma. I did do some teaching at the school, but I soon realized that teaching in the practical situation was a much better option both for the students and for me.

In the 1970 World Federation of Occupational Therapy meeting in Switzerland, Barbara Stow from England outlined her vision of a centre of excellence giving out information, and professional advice on aids and equipment to help disadvantaged and aged people.

These centres were to be established in every country and be able to interchange information so that processes were not duplicated.

In other words, every country would not have to reinvent the wheel and be able to spend their time on the clients.

This really struck me as good plain common sense. I came home talked to Sir George Bedbrook, to the professional group both here, and to the national organisation, and we set up the necessary public meetings, and we were away.

By 1977, we had an Independent Living Centre in Havelock St, West Perth, a little money, two part time staff, and a government interested and involved.

Melbourne opened its ILC in 1977, and the remainder of the States

over the next few years.

The ILC moved to the Rehabilitation Hospital at Shenton Park, and in 2002 to the present lovely home at the Niche in Hospital Avenue, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

So the dream has become a reality with a strong national Organisation, national catalogue, and a national web site with connections to other web sites around the world.

I retired at the end of 1980, wondering what I would do with myself. Sir George Bedbrook had other ideas!

He thought we should do an exhibition at the Show grounds for the Year of the Disabled. Older Zontians will remember that they actually helped to man the exhibition.

Then in June, I heard that I had been awarded the AM—a member of the General Division of the Order of Australia for service to Disabled people and Occupational Therapy.

In the same week I left to go to Saudi Arabia for Dr Neville Rees to write a programme to start occupational therapy in his group of hospitals in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia.

I knew of this project for some months before I left, and was able to get a whole lot of material together on the many aspects of occupational therapy, that the hospital in Riyadh was hoping to cover.

It was a fantastic opportunity for me, I knew the Rees' quite well from their time at Royal Perth Hospital and enjoyed my brief visits to the souk, and to the desert, as well as getting a glimpse of life in Saudi Arabia. The service did get under way within the next year.

I got home in time to receive the AM from the Queen who happened to be visiting Perth at that time.

Retirement meant bowls, bridge, traveling, ILC, Zonta, bird watching.

Then in 1999, my sister's husband died and at the funeral was Hal Finkelstein.

He had seen Hugh only once in the last 64 years, but we had seen another by chance as our paths crossed from time to time.

We started to see one another, and in December 2001 we had a "ring fast" with 60 members of both our families present, and we pledged to one another. It was quite lovely. And it is still quite lovely.



Freda left with fish she caught for dinner on a trip to the north west and right with Hal Finkelstein at the Cicerello's lunch we had with Yvonne Burgu. Hal is a great supporter of Zonta and attends many of our functions.

Plant trees to offset planet damage by cars



Have you looked at the 'Carbon Neutral' program run by the 'Men of the Trees'? The aim of the program is to offset greenhouse gas emissions produced by cars by planting trees.

Use the calculator at <http://www.carbonneutral.com.au/> to work out just how many kilograms of carbon dioxide are produced by your car each year.

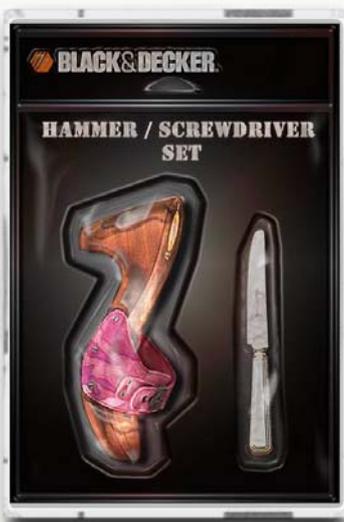
For example, a small petrol car, driven 200 km a week emits approximately **1504** kilograms of carbon dioxide into the environment each year.

This means **10 trees** growing for 30 years are required to absorb the carbon dioxide produced in twelve months!

For just \$ 30.00 the Men of the Trees will plant and take care of 10 trees for you to offset 12 months' emissions. (There is a minimum charge of \$30.00)

So how about neutralising your CO₂ emissions for the next twelve months—you'll also get a vehicle sticker stating you drive a *Carbon Neutral Vehicle!*

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



Chuckle Corner...

This is supposedly the ideal toolkit for women.

However, it's not complete—where is the nail file?

If you have a 'chuckle' you'd like to share with members, just forward it to the editor!

Diary Dates

Register on Zonta International Website at www.zonta.org

Your membership number is in the 2005/2006 Membership List booklet. If you want a hand, let the PR committee know at the July meeting.

7th August—Morning Tea Fundraiser

Sit on the banks of the Avon River and watch the paddlers on the Avon Descent. Tickets \$7.50. Contact Elaine Newman elainenewman@westnet.com.au

10th August—National Council of Women of WA Wise Women

Wednesday—All you need to know about human papilloma virus at NCWWA's Office 1st Floor, 10 Victoria Avenue, Perth. 12.30pm to 2pm. Bring your own lunch. Contact Kath Mazzella mazzella@bigpond.com

11th August—Dinner Meeting 6.15pm for 6.45pm.

The August dinner meeting will be held at The University Club, UWA. Meal \$30 plus drinks at \$3.50 each. Karen Groves will run through the Ngarinyin presentation for the District Conference in Adelaide. New member inductions!

10th September 2005-Great Gynae Day Out

International Gynaecological Awareness Day. Make a note in your diaries.

27th September—New Members Night

This will be held at 35 Brewer St, East Perth. Please give Linley Buchanan the names of people that you would like to invite to this informative Zonta evening.

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.

8th December 2005—Christmas Party

Following last year's successful event, the Club Christmas Party will again be held at Mt Eliza, in King's Park.

24-29 June 2006—International Convention, Melbourne

Georgina Costello will be among the speakers for this not-to-be-missed event.