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Club Meetings

Second Thursday of the
month, 6.15pm for
6.45pm at The University
Club, UWA.

Apologies by 12 noon

Previous Monday

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INZERT

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Convention Capers...

Carole Theobald

The World Zonta Convention 2006 was held 'locally' in Melbourne in June 2006. Eleven members from the Zonta Club of Perth braved the famous Victorian winter to experience the event that was attended by over 1600 members from around the world. Enjoy this 'taste' of the convention!..Ed

Zontians from Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australia descended on the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centres. Zontians could be identified easily – not just by the distinctive black and pink convention bag (complete with hot pink umbrella), but also by their ready smile, friendliness and willingness to talk to each other.

The convention opened with a formal Opening Ceremony. We first timers were not sure what this would involve – and, come to that, nor were some of the more experienced members! As it turned out, the event was rather special.

Past International President, Val Sarah was master of ceremonies and looked magnificent in her hot pink Liz Davenport jacket. The flags of Australia, New Zealand (host countries) and the United States of America (original home of Zonta) were marched in by three women from the defence forces of each country. The three national anthems were played and the scene was set for the entry of the flags from each of the member countries of Zonta.

The Melbourne Exhibition Centre function room was enormous and apart from a central screen, four other very large screens were suspended from the ceiling to provide all delegates with a good view of the event. Each flag was entered in the order in which the country joined Zonta (Australia was about number 32!).



International President, Mary Ellen Bittner thanks Perth Club member, Margaret Medcalf for her help during Convention.

Many of the flag bearers wore their national costumes and this added the colour and pageantry of the event.

The International President, Mary Ellen Bittner was introduced and she in turn introduced the keynote speaker for the ceremony, Dame Sylvia Cartwright, the Governor General of New Zealand.

Dame Sylvia, a former Zontian and International Honorary Zontian, has a very dignified countenance and outlined the social challenges that women have faced in the last few decades.

She provided many anecdotes from her own personal experience and also as a lawyer advocating on women's behalf.

Among the touching stories was one she related of a woman who had her teeth knocked out by her husband but she returned to him as she had no other skills to support herself. Dame Sylvia shared her joy when, many years later, the same woman (though unrecognisable) came into her office clutching her nursing degree and described how she could now support herself.



Convention Capers
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From her own experience she explained how she got her first break into a law firm because she had the 'best legs' of those interviewed (she was the only woman!) and how when she was married and a principal of her own law firm, she could only withdraw her earning from her bank account with the written permission of her husband!

Dame Sylvia rose to public prominence in New Zealand when she was called upon to lead an enquiry into the 'goings on' at a large hospital, where women with precancerous cervical lesions were not treated because the senior doctor did not believe the literature about their treatment. Many women died unnecessarily. She pointed out that women working together can achieve huge changes and education is the key to increasing the status of women.



Ronda Walker, Governor of District 23 formally welcomed delegates to Melbourne many wearing their colourful national dress.

The Australian Youth Choir of about 100 young people then sang three songs (though sadly not their theme song of 'I still call Australia home' of Qantas advert fame.) The songs 'A sunburnt country' (written by a Zontian), 'I am you are we are Australian' and 'Waltzing Matilda' were accompanied by beautiful photos of Australian scenery. It was all very well done...

After the formal ceremony, guests retired to another function room within the Exhibition Centre.

The Centre is huge and flat shoes are essential...you don't quite need a cut lunch and a water bag to get from place to place, but it helps!!

While delegates traipsed to the function room they were entertained by two local 'Australian' musical trios playing cheerful jazzy type music.

One group was dressed as traditional surf lifesavers complete with 'strop' hats and the second group were on horseback!!!!



The musicians were dressed in "driza-bone coats and were astride small stuffed horses!.

These 'strolling players' certainly broke the ice and it will take a long time before I can forget the spontaneous sing-a-long of many old time favourites and the dancing that accompanied it. What a laugh...



The next day it was down to business. All members had tasks to do during the convention...after all we were the host district!

Members helped out with the seating arrangements, handing out electronic voting machines, directing delegates, ensuring records of

meetings were accurate and of course, helping to sell our cards at the marketplace. In addition, Judy as our club delegate and Sciona as our club alternate, attended all the business meetings to hear the debates before casting a vote.



The plenary sessions were held in a very large room that accommodated all the delegates ie nearly 2,000 people. There was a large stage with the flags of all Zonta nations standing as a backdrop. Above the flags was a very large screen. Hanging above the auditorium were another four very large screens.

The officials for each business session sat on a long table in front of the flags. Their movements were filmed and recorded by a camera and this was projected on the five large screens. This meant that everyone had a very good view of everything. The sound system was also very good.

When it came to a vote, the proposal was typed on the large screens and delegates were given the multi choice answers. Delegates used hand held devices to record their votes e.g. 1 for yes or 2 for no.

Thinking music was provided while voting took place (put you in mind of 'Who wants to be a millionaire?', but without the call a friend option!). After a minute or two, the voting was closed and the result was immediately shown on the screen.

This system worked well, though there were a couple of minor hiccups at the beginning.

There was a booth at the back of the room in which a Japanese interpreter interpreted all the speeches. Japanese delegates wore headsets so they could follow the debates in their own language. Very impressive!

The Convention took place during the World Cup, so of course many Zontians made the trek to nearby Federation Square to cheer on the Socceroos at midnight!



For many delegates the highlight of the convention were the speeches by 2005 Jane M Klausman recipient, Rachael Germann who is investing her scholarship in a semester's study at the University of California Berkley. She has met inspirational executives from Macquarie Bank and world leaders such as Bill Clinton and Carly Fiorina. Rachael recalled advice from a special Zontian: "Long after people have forgotten what you have said, they will remember how you made them feel".

Rachael 'wowed' the audience when her husband quietly came on stage holding her two week old baby....

Dr Susan Anderson, a former Amelia Earhart Fellow, is a rocket scientist, inspired by her mother singing "Fly me to the Moon" when she was a child. Susan's worked on the Scram Jet project at Woomera— that is to say supersonic combustion ram jets... This work has the potential to facilitate extremely fast intercontinental flight. A film is being made about the HyShot lift off— a world first— that has put Australia at the leading edge of this technology.

Our stand at the Marketplace caused quite a stir—many delegates thought the Ngarinyin project was brilliant .



Towards the end of the Convention, Sciona Browne and Karen Groves had a half hour with Mary Ellen Bittner showing her how the friendship had developed and discussing ways that clubs could share their experiences to undertake similar friendships with indigenous women in their own communities.

There were some interesting talks from the International Committee... Glenne Harding is the International Membership Chair. Her quote to explain commitment involved an analogy to bacon and eggs for breakfast—the chicken is involved, but the pig is committed! She had some good ideas for membership retention.



In the evenings, it was good to return to the apartment to share our stories for the day.

Besides the formal business sessions involving the election of office bearers for the next biennium, the approval of future directions and amendments to by-laws, delegates also had the opportunity to attend a number of workshops with guest speakers.

At the Self Sufficiency Workshop, Dr Suzette Mitchell from the International Women's Development Agency provided an extremely

interesting talk. She pointed out that the poorest of the poor cannot access micro credit projects as they can't afford to pay it back. Therefore, most microcredit programs are aimed at the moderately poor. The very poor need grants and education to get them out of poverty.

Dr Maryanne Loughry is a Sister of Mercy and the Executive officer at Mercy Works. She described her current project that explores ways of partnering women in PNG to help them address the many pressing needs they confront on a daily basis such as HIV/AIDS, unemployment, adultery/polygamy, addictions, domestic violence, child abuse and a loss of a sense of belonging. She described the disturbing situation in PNG with the corruption and extreme poverty and how they had interviewed women to understand their problems so together they could plan some solutions to them.

The Convention was marked by the friendliness of the delegates—both in the Convention venues and on the streets of Melbourne.

One evening, we sat at a table in a food hall next to a table of Nigerian delegates. Some local lads took a shine to the African ladies' wonderful costumes and asked to take photographs. Somehow, this ended up with about 30 people, Zontians and passers-by in the photograph!



This just about summed up the Convention—something special could happen at any time....



June Meeting—A Warm Welcome to Three New Members



Photo L-R Michelle Jennings, Di Watts and Jan Pettorino are presented with induction satchels and yellow Zonta roses at the June meeting.

At the June Dinner Meeting, three new members were inducted into the club by President, Lori Grech.

Mrs Di Watts was introduced to members by Lennie McCall.

Di works part-time as an events manager and also does voluntary fundraising in this role with the Marketing Department of Australian Red Cross in WA.

With many years of experience in planning events for conferences, she has recently worked with the International Institute of Hospital Engineers Conference held in Fremantle, for over 250 clients which was all very challenging.

Di is married to David whom she met on her return trip from a working holiday in the UK. David was an officer in the British Navy and they are celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary in July back on a cruise ship where it all began.

They have three adult daughters now residing in Perth. Di is a former member of the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs .

In 2002 Di suffered a serious brain tumor which was successfully removed after a 19 hour operation but has left her blind in the right eye and deaf in the left ear. Di is courageous and has returned to public life enjoying what she does so well.

Mrs Jan Pettorino was introduced by Sharee Van den Berg.

Jan Pettorino, a professional Hairdresser, is married to Silvano with two adult children.

Jan was also a former member of the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs. She and Di Watts first met when Jan was completing her training in hairdressing and Jan moved to David Jones' 'Bond Street' salon .

After Jan was married she continued to work as a self employed mobile hairdresser which included working in the maternity section of St John of God Hospital, Subiaco. The nuns thought it was great for the moral of the new mothers. On two separate occasions she managed salons whilst the owners took extended overseas leave. On their return she continued her mobile business that she still does today.

Several years ago she renewed her friendship with Di at a David Jones reunion. Di invited Jan to join her in her new venture setting up an Events and Fundraising program for the Australian Red Cross in WA. Jan has found this voluntary work very rewarding and exciting.

Michelle Jennings was introduced to members by Sciona Browne.

Michelle moved to Australia nearly ten years ago and became an Australian citizen as quickly as was allowed. She obtained a Master's degree in Finance on the wind swept plains of Kansas City Missouri and had a number of business failures before settling into a quiet but exciting life as a financial bounty hunter of sorts.

She worked on contracts for some of the bigger retailers in North America, including Office Depot and Best Buy, as well as large hospitals.

Michelle really loved this sort of work, comparing it to the work of private investigators and it was frequently as fun as solving puzzles.

It did get stressful at times as heads had been known to roll as a result of her findings.

The decision was made to move to Australia as it is a better place to raise a family. Once the baby was born, the marriage split and Michelle is very happily single. Michelle is devoted to her 3½ year old daughter, Siobhan, and is very focused on achieving a better society for her daughter and all other young ladies.

She notes that an international child relief agency has announced plans to set up shop in Perth as the conditions for many indigenous children is reported to be quite perilous.

Michelle applauds the intentions but is deeply anguished that conditions in our own city and state are so dismal that outsiders will be coming to take care of our children.

Don't get Michelle started on this unless you want an earful on this topic and some of her other pet topics!

Michelle co-owns a number of property related businesses, including a finance brokerage, a real estate agency specialising in investors, rental management, and property development with her estranged husband and enjoys her work a great deal, particularly now that there are two offices.

Sciona Browne is not one to miss an opportunity and has already co-opted Di Watts, Jan Pettorino and Michelle Jennings to apply their valuable fundraising and marketing experience on the Finance and Fundraising Committee!

The new members all received a Zonta Rose and a satchel of useful Zonta information.

Welcome to the Zonta Club of Perth. We all look forward to working with you and getting to know you better—Ed..

Please Share your Knowledge ...

Do you know of any grants, awards and scholarships that could help advance the status of women? Do you know any potential sponsors? What about ideas for fund raising events?

The Finance and Fundraising Committee is creating a database to capture and store a variety of information that will help us raise and access funds more effectively.

Three co-ordinator roles have been created to achieve this:

- *Grants, Awards and Scholarships* - Coordinator: Anne-Marie McNaughton
- *Sponsorship* - Coordinator: Michelle Jennings
- *Events* - Coordinator: Di Watts and Jan Pettorino (21C)

With your help in providing information, ideas and contacts, the Club will be able to more effectively access resources and to respond quickly to requests from Committees and individuals for funds and assistance.

If you can help, please contact

- the appropriate co-ordinator directly or
- email it to the club email address at zontaperth@yahoo.com.au

Bar code reader for Bandyup Prison



Ross Warwick (Area 3 Breast Cushions Co-ordinator) presents the gift of a bar code reader to the prison officers at Bandyup Women's Prison shop. The scanner will help female prisoners complete their retail skills training. The gift is provided through contributions from all Zonta Clubs in Area 3. (The ladies in Bandyup Prison make up the Zonta breast cushions for our area—isn't this a lovely way of saying thank you!- Ed.)



Sandra Pressman (above) and Anne Marie McNaughton (below) at the June dinner meeting.



Getting to know you...

At the June meeting, two members provided very interesting, short profiles about themselves.

Sandra Pressman is a woman of many talents. Besides being a government project officer facilitating community group discussions on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure Network City project (see <http://www.dpi.wa.gov.au>), she also spends her weekends teaching migrant women English so they can have the confidence to attend formal language training! Sandra is also an intrepid traveller and is looking forward to her forthcoming long service leave with relish so she can once more explore the north of the state.

Anne Marie McNaughton provided a memorable PowerPoint presentation with photos of her childhood and her patients' teeth! Anne Marie is an enthusiastic dentist and has had some impressive results judging by the before and after shots shown! We all enjoyed our sticky date pudding afterwards!!

Question: Should I floss?
Anne Marie's reply: Only floss the teeth you want to keep!

Thank You Message from Karen

At the last meeting an urgent call was put out for clothing donations for our Ngarinyin friends in the Kimberley who were experiencing a very cold spell....

Dear Members,

Having returned from Melbourne and the Convention, I am catching up with the news of the great success of the clothes collection!!!

What can I say – but a HUGE THANKYOU to everyone for their generosity and to Jean and others for their efforts in collecting, storing and packing the clothes. It is a marvellous result.

More details will be available at next week's meeting and for publication in the next Inzert.

For now, thankyou all so very much,

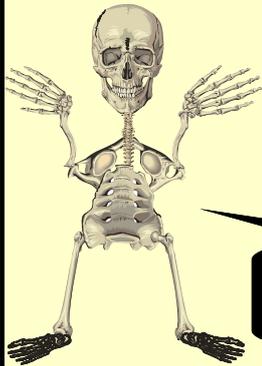
Karen Groves, Chair,
Ngarinyin Project Committee.



Fun and Bone Raising Event

19th July 6pm to 8pm

Oceanus on the Beach, 195
Challenger Parade, City Beach
Tickets \$35



Get your tickets before
Friday 14th July from
Katina Law mob 0418 194 887

Fiona Crowe, forensic archeologist, will unearth some of the secrets of those ancient hunky Romans!

Enjoy welcome wine on arrival and loads of sumptuous canapes throughout the evening. Further drinks may be purchased from the bar. Super raffle prizes!

Zontians, friends and partners are welcome.



**Your chance to meet
Australian of the Year,
Professor Ian Frazer
GAIN's cocktail fundraiser
10th August 2006**

Prof Frazer's ground breaking vaccine will revolutionise women's health across the globe. Ian and his research team have developed a vaccine to prevent HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) – the virus that can lead to cervical cancer. The vaccine based on his research has shown in worldwide trials to prevent HPV infection and reduce Pap smear abnormalities by 90%. It has the potential to virtually eradicate cervical cancer within a generation.

Professor Ian Frazer is Director of the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research, a research centre of the University of Queensland at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane. He is vice president of the Cancer Council Australia.

"It's a great privilege to be recognised by Australia as the 2006 Australian of the Year, but it's an even greater privilege to be able to do something tangible for the health of Australian women, and for women throughout the world," Professor Frazer said.

Support our 2005 Area 3, Woman of Achievement, Kath Mazzella, founder of the Gynaecological Awareness Information Network in its major fundraiser for the year.

Diary Dates

13 July 2006—Dinner meeting

The Convention is over and this meeting provides opportunity for the returnees to share their experiences! A behind the scenes account of what really happened....

19 July 2006-Fun and Bone Raising Event, Oceanus Restaurant, City Beach

This event promises to provide stimulation for the mind (Fiona's talk), body (beautiful canapés) and soul (laughter and fellowship!). Get your \$35 tickets from Katina Law before July 14th.

10 August 2006—GAIN Cocktail Party, UWA, 6-8.30pm

Ian Frazer 'Australian of the Year' will be the Guest Speaker at the elegant The University Club of Western Australia. Entertainment is by dynamic Latin dance group Kuerazo and capoeira specialists - Bantus. Tickets are \$75 each, which include canapés, Swan Valley wines, lagers and soft drinks. Bookings are through BOCS Ticketing 9484 1133 or www.bocsticketing.com.au

10 September 2006—The Great Gynae Day Out", Hyatt Regency, Perth, 10am to 4pm

A celebration and information day encouraging all women, men and their children to attend. Key message 'Beyond the Research', will involve information sessions with respected gynaecological and health providers, dance workshops, multicultural entertainment, cooking demonstrations, natural therapies. Tickets are \$20, (Conc/GAIN \$15, students \$10, children under 12 free). Contact BOCS Ticketing 9484 1133 or www.bocsticketing.com.au and entry includes a light lunch and refreshments.

14-16 September 2007—District 23 Conference, Tasmania

—make a note in your diary now! Tasmania will be beautiful at this time of year.

WANT TO KNOW
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR
CLUB?

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT
www.zontaperth.org.au

Email: zontaperth@yahoo.com.au