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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 to**

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InZert

Please send any articles or
photos for InZert to:
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Birthing Kit Workshop Success

The Zonta Club of Perth held its third Birthing Kit Workshop on Sunday 24th September 2006, at the FJ Clarke Building, QEII Medical Centre.

The day was a huge success due to the Club's partnership with the 'Students Helping Others' group from the University of Western Australia. The group consists of students, from all years, studying medicine at UWA.

The aim of the 'Students Helping Others' is to help in the development of adequate health in developing countries, a theme that blends well with the Zonta birthing kit workshops.



New Zontian Debbie Mason shows how to assemble a birthing kit

communitynews

Page 48, POST, October 7, 2006

Zonta birth kits set to save many lives

Fewer women in Vietnam will die in childbirth thanks to the women of the Zonta Club of Perth and a group of UWA medical students.

Together they have packed 1000 Zonta birthing kits for distribution to Vietnam, one of 26 countries now being supplied with the kits.

The birthing kit packers got together recently at the FJ Clarke Building at QEII Medical Centre to pack the kits, which include a plastic sheet, soap, rubber gloves, gauze squares, cord ties and a sterile scalpel blade.

The kits have been created in response to the United Nations 1996 estimate that 585,000 women die each year in childbirth and that developing countries account for 99% of these deaths.

Providing for clean births to decrease the risk of infection is a priority.

In 1999, Zonta sent 100 birthing kits to Fergusson Island, Papua New Guinea, to be trialled in rural villages, where there was a one in seven mortality rate in childbirth from infection.

The number of kits distributed to PNG rose to 13,000, with more countries joining the queue.

In 2004 the project received an AusAID dollar-for-dollar grant, allowing Zonta to put into place a plan to produce 260,000 kits in the period 2004-2006.

Zonta is a worldwide service organisation committed to improving the status of women.

The local Zonta Club meets at The University Club.

For more information, ring Sharee van den Berg on 9457 7591.

The students actively participated in the workshop by organising the venue, afternoon refreshments, and, most importantly, rounding up plenty of extra volunteers to assemble kits with Zonta members.

Sharee van den Berg from the Zonta Club of Perth's Public Relations committee commented, "it was great catching up with all the students. Many had a genuine interest in Zonta and asked many questions that stretched my Zonta knowledge..."

About 1,000 birthing kits were assembled during the workshop and they have been sent to assist women in Vietnam.

Since July 2004, over 19,000 birthing kits have been assembled by the six Zonta Clubs in Western Australia. The kits have been sent to many countries including Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Timor, Myanmar.

Many thanks to all students, Zonta Club of Perth members and friends who helped make the workshop both worthwhile and enjoyable.

See D23 Birthing Kit Project News page 5



New Zonta Members in the Spotlight...

Three lovely new members, pictured below, were recently inducted into the club at the September Dinner Meeting.

Marilyn Rainier

Marilyn was born in England into an eccentric, patriarchal family where females, no matter their age, had no voice. The injustices she witnessed, and experienced, during childhood gave her great empathy for women and continue to have a profound effect on her attitude to women, women's rights, and the status of women.

Marilyn left England in her teens and went to live in America, then married and spent 13 years in South Africa. During this time she worked as a court reporter and brought up two daughters. She began university studies on a part-time basis in her thirties, then moved to Australia and completed her Bachelor of Arts in English and Comparative Literature at Murdoch in her forties, receiving the Vice Chancellor's Award for Academic Excellence on completion of this degree. She then took a Teaching Diploma in English, Media, and English as a Second Language at Edith Cowan University and was given an Outstanding Teacher award for this part of her academic instruction.

As a Secondary English teacher, she sees her role as mentor to female students in particular to be a very important one. She has worked at her present school, John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School, for seven and a half years, during which time she has persuaded the school to change its policy regarding allowing girls into the remedial groups - once reserved strictly for boys, thus allowing girls to drop through the educational net - and she has also been influential in instigating a now very successful girls' soccer team.

The school does not have a formal ESL (English as a Second Language) course, and Marilyn soon realised that students, particularly refugees with little or no English, were being disadvantaged by this. With the school's blessing, she then re-enrolled at Edith Cowan University part-time and is at present studying for her Masters Degree in Applied Linguistics. This is proving to be of immense benefit to both the school and to the foreign language students she teaches part-time.

Amongst Marilyn's hobbies, writing has always been a priority, and she has written and read stories for the radio for both children and adults. Marilyn also belongs to and works for Amnesty International, writing letters to different political bodies, particularly on matters pertaining to women.

Glen Wilson

Since 1959 having graduated from Royal Perth Hospital Glen has worked in a fulltime capacity in many diverse areas of Nursing both metropolitan and country settings including, domiciliary, acute hospitals, nursing homes, community and child health, school health, general practice, education and research.

In 1991 she was awarded a Churchill Scholarship and travelled over a 3 month period to Sweden and the United Kingdom to study Continence Services and Product distribution in those Communities.

In 1992 Glen established the first Continence Helpline in Australia here in WA and then went on to establish the first of many Continence Services in both the private and public health system.



New members L-R: Marilyn Rainier, Glen Wilson and Debbie Mason

She is a past Board member of the Continence Foundation of Australia, President of the Australasian Urological Nurses Society, co-ordinator of the Post Graduate Nurses programmes in continence, and has extensive world wide affiliations concerning the subject of urinary and faecal incontinence, presenting many Papers at International level.

Glen is currently the Australian Nurse representative to the National Continence Management Advisory committee for the Aust. Govt.-Dept of Health and Aging.

Apart from completing her PhD thesis on the 'Population and Personal Burden of Adult Nocturnal Enuresis in Society' Glen loves:

- Cats – Matilda Glenice latest addition to her family (named after Glen as she is tired of waiting for her 2 offspring to give her grandies!!)
- Family functions
- Reading only biographies or autobiographies
- Gardening
- All sports – go the Dockers!!!!!!!!!!!!

Debbie Mason

Debbie Mason was born in Ballarat, Victoria, the daughter of an Australian mum and a Hungarian dad and has two sisters and one brother.

New members continued...

One of her first loves in life was rowing, although she would reach 37 years old before actually getting to take up the sport that now dominates much of her life. As a small child she was restricted to watching rowers on Lake Wendouree and following the sporting careers of various Australian Rowing role models through the media, one of whom later became her coach and mentor.

Debbie moved to Melbourne at the age of 5 and to WA a week before turning 17. She tells everyone that she came for 8 weeks holiday and just hasn't gone back yet.

She is an accountant for a gold mining company, Mines & Resources Australia and has been working mainly in the mining industry for over 20 years. She also has a contract bookkeeping business part time and has another recently

developed business delivering personalised bottles of bubbly. A fabulous alternative to flowers.

Debbie has been involved in the administration of the Heritage listed WA Rowing Club for the last 7 years, 4 years as treasurer and 6 years as head of their fundraising committee. She is also involved in organising the launch event for the Champion Lakes recreational water park in Armadale next April and developing a future international rowing event to be held there annually on behalf of Rowing WA.

Debbie's family have always been involved in charity work and community development through the churches they have attended over the years and she still supports the Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child programme which her mother was a regional co-ordinator for in Albany.

Through her work she is promoting equality in employment through initiatives with the Chamber of Mineral & Energy and has had significant input into the initial awareness of various pieces of government legislation relating to the mining industry.

Her partner, Richard, is a protein scientist who has a biotech company, Proteomics International.

He originally arrived in Perth 10 years ago from the UK and of course, now that he has Debbie, he's not going to leave again (or so we hope).

So to finalise this lengthy biography, her greatest love, after Richard, is gliding across the water, pre-dawn, in a rowing pair with her best friend and just the sound of the oars cutting through the water and the bubbles running under the boat.

Kimberley Women's Art Exhibition

Recently, Indigenart, The Mossenson Galleries presented an exhibition of new works by four of Australia's most senior and compelling emerging artists. *Kimberley Women* showcased the work of Loongkoonan, Peggy Wassi and our Ngarinyin friends, Lucy Ward and Gilgi.

The exhibition was opened by Dr Jack Vercoe, Vice President of the Kimberley Society and a number of Zontians and friends took the opportunity to catch up with Lucy Ward who had come down to Perth for the event. The exhibition was wonderful with strong colours and large canvasses.

In their long lives, these inspirational artists have seen the Kimberley change dramatically around them. They have recently begun to commit their knowledge to canvas for future generations, recording a vast store of cultural information on Kimberley life, Law and Country.

Walking their country with the Mananambarra (Elders), they learnt

the traditional ways of their people, along with the ceremonies and stories of the Ngarranggarni, or Dreaming.

Now Elders in their own right, their paintings offer a privileged insight into their profound understanding of the country of their ancestors.

Collectively, these women have been represented in many of the most prestigious art prizes in Australia, and their works have been seen throughout Australia and internationally, as well as being held in major public and private collections.

Lucy Ward and Loongkoonan have recently returned to WA after highly successful exhibitions in Melbourne and Sydney, and along with Gilgi and Peggy Wassi are in the process of preparing works for an exhibition in Paris later this year.. For more information contact Indigenart at gallery@indigenart.com.au

Lucy's works were also displayed in Jakarta in May/June! - Editor



L-R: Sandra Pressman, Lucy Ward, Kathy Charlesworth, and Carole Theobald in front of one of Lucy's paintings.



L-R: Marg Giles, Lennie McCall and Kathy Charlesworth at the Kimberley Women exhibition



District News Roundup...

Thanks from D23 Governor

"Thank you to all members of the District who contributed to make the 58th ZI Convention one of, if not, the best, convention ever! Messages of congratulation, and extremely positive evaluation comments, have been received from ZI and ZIF Board members, headquarters staff, and Zontians from all around the world...."

District 23 Zontians on International Committees

Congratulations to the following 'local Zontians' on their new international positions...

- Naomi Arnold—ZI Nominating committee. At its first meeting, the committee determined she should chair their meetings.
- Liz Woodgate—member of the newly created Leadership Development Committee.
- Ronda Walker (our immediate Past District Governor)—member of the International Jane M Klausman Committee, so she will be in a good position to support our District JMK Coordinator, Rosalie Lake.

District 23 Conference 2007

Have you marked September 14-16th in your diary? The Conference committee under the leadership of Jill Taylor has already had some organisational success! The Governor of Tasmania has agreed to host a reception at Government House and the Tasmanian Government may subsidise the event. Local TAFE Graphic Design students are competing to have their design selected for the conference logo...sounds like things are moving in Tasmania.

**District Conference 2007
Hobart, Tasmania
14-16th September
(Tasmanians are famous for
hosting great conferences!)**

Zonta Breast Cushions

This District 23 Project has been going from strength to strength and with October being breast cancer awareness month, it has been an ideal time to promote the breast cushions.

The other day Ros Warwick, our area 3 Breast Cushion Co-ordinator gave a splendid interview with Eoin Cameron on the ABC breakfast program, not only promoting the cushions, but also other local Zonta events. Well done Ros.

Did you know that the first breast cushions were produced by the Zonta Club of Botany Bay. Ann Selle, a Sydney Zontian perfected the design and a standard pattern is now used. It is a crescent shaped washable pillow with attached strap and elastic loop, designed to be worn under the arm (with strap over the shoulder) for protection and

comfort after breast surgery. Cushions are made by members and friends of Zonta clubs, and distributed to breast care nurses, direct to surgical wards, the Cancer Council (for country hospitals), and on direct request.

The Zonta cushion is also listed in the "My Journey" booklet (Breast Cancer Network Australia), and the cushion can be posted direct to areas of Australia not covered by the Zonta club distribution network.

Over 7000 cushions have been supplied to women in NSW and Queensland (Zonta District 24), and over 10,000 in the rest of Australia (District 23)-6000 in SA alone!

Currently, 1 in 11 Australian women will develop breast cancer in their life, and with diagnosis increasing Zonta aims to provide all these women with a free cushion.

ZONTA BREAST CUSHIONS

Zonta Breast Cushions are provided as a community service, for women, after breast surgery.

The cushion is used for support while sleeping, protection while shopping or from pressure of a seat belt, and for comfort.

They are made by members and friends of Zonta Clubs in Australia.

Need more information? www.zonta.org
or visit our District site
www.zontadistrict23.org.au

Zonta International
District 23
Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Your local contact person is:

Telephone: _____



Zonta International is a global service organisation of executives in business and the professions pooling their life experiences, career expertise and energy to enrich community life, enhance personal and professional skills and advance the status of women worldwide through action and advocacy.

With clubs in 69 countries and geographic areas, membership approximates 33,000.

District 23 roundup continued...

Birthing Kits

The Zonta Birthing Kit Project has grown so rapidly that the Birthing Kit Committee has recently formed The Birthing Kit Foundation to administer the project.

A Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered under the Australian Corporations Act. The current committee will continue as unpaid directors of the Board of the Foundation.

Zonta International could not permit the name Zonta to appear in the name of the Foundation as it was felt it would be too confusing for the 1200 other clubs to have any more Foundations with the name Zonta!

With 101 clubs in Australia involved in funding and making birthing kits there is strong support for this combined District 23 and District 24 project.

The list of countries the kits are distributed to is growing fast with kits going to:

- Afghanistan through the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan and the Australian Afghan Volunteers Association.
- Sichuan Province in Tibet and the
- Salavan Province in Laos.

The Foundation Board is now applying for grants from philanthropic organisations.

AusAID are still to finalise our level of funding—they have been so supportive of the project and impressed with its administration.

(From Zonta Birthing Kit Project Newsletter Issue 2. Full newsletter may be viewed at www.zontaadelaidehills.org.au)



Birthing kits make it possible for women to give birth in a clean birthing environment—so simple, yet so effective at saving lives.

Benefits of a Foundation

1. An incorporated company Limited by Guarantee is a legal entity and can negotiate contracts and own property in its own right.
2. The Foundation will have to comply with the provisions of the Australian Corporations Act and its constitution, which provide for members to receive audited annual reports and elect a Board at Annual General Meetings.
3. Members liability in the event of dissolution is limited to the annual membership fee (\$25) and board members are protected from litigation if they comply with the ethical provisions of the legislation.
4. Easier to get tax deductibility for donations.
5. Sustainability of the project past the immediate membership of the Birthing Kit Committee.
6. The Foundation Board will have time to explore the future direction of the project.
7. Credibility to apply for large financial grants from philanthropic organisations.

260,000 kits
will have
been made in
28 months,
being sent to
26 countries,
through 30 organisations
—a HUGE achievement!

Thousands of women's lives
and children's lives
have been saved...

Zonta diaries

The Zonta Club of Waverley is now taking orders for 2007 diaries.

These feature practical leather wallet with gold Zonta logo, personal directory, week at a glance, public holidays, school terms and much more.

Order form available on our club web site
www.zontaperth.org.au

A bit of fun

Many of you would have seen this puzzle at one time or another, but it is always fun having another go, even if you do know the answer....Ed

Count every " F" in the following text:
FINISHED FILES ARE THE
RESULT OF YEARS OF
SCIENTIFIC STUDY
COMBINED WITH THE
EXPERIENCE OF YEARS...

Count again—there are 6 'F's!

Win a \$2,000 wine cellar raffle! If you need more tickets for our club's fundraising raffle—just contact Sciona Browne or email zontaperth@yahoo.com.au



What is the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign?

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates, November 25, International Day

Against Violence Against Women and December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by:

- raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels
- strengthening local work around violence against women
- establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women
- providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share new and effective strategies
- demonstrating the solidarity of women around the world organizing against violence against women
- creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women

*Since 1991, approximately 1,700 organizations in 130 countries have participated in the 16 Days Campaign!
Visit www.cwgl.rutgers.edu*

Quick Club News Quiz!

- Q:** Guess who recently became a very happy Grandma to a little boy named Aiden James?
A: Judy Tennant!
- Q:** Guess who recently got married?
A: Joy (Treasure) Merigan and Virginia (Shotter) Edman
- Q:** Who is collecting/storing your donated bottles of wine for the Zonta Club Wine Raffle?
A: Anne Marie McNaughton

Order a Zonta diary today—download an order form from our club website www.zontaperth.org.au

Diary Dates

28 October 2006—Membership and Support—New members Coffee Morning

New members and their mentors are invited to join Sandy and her team get to know each other better over a cuppa! The event will be held at the Emerald Hotel. Contact Sandy McGregor for more information.

9th November—Club Dinner Meeting

The University Club, UWA 6.15 for 6.45pm.

11 November 2006—Founders Day Dinner, 6.30 for 7pm.

This event will be hosted by Zonta Club of Swan Hills and held at Guildford Grammar. RSVP to: dee.saunders@mainroads.wa.gov.au.

25th November to 10th December—16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.

This year's theme is "Celebrate 16 Years of 16 Days: Advance Human Rights (←) End Violence Against Women". See www.cwgl.rutgers.edu for more information

14th December—Christmas Party

Book your place now for the Christmas Party and be there for the raffle draw!

31st March—2nd April Area Workshop

This event will be hosted by Perth Northern Suburbs— make a note of the dates.

14-16 September 2007—District 23 Conference, Tasmania

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

Getting clicking!

The Breast Cancer site is having trouble getting enough people to click on their site daily to meet their quota of donating at least one free mammogram a day to an underprivileged woman...It takes less than a minute to go to the site and click on "donating a mammogram" for free. Sponsors use the number of visitors to the site to donate mammograms... www.thebreastcancersite.com

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR CLUB?
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email zontaperth@yahoo.com.au