



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year fellow Zontians & Friends

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Club Meetings

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

**Club Meetings commence
8th February 2007**

**Apologies to Lennie McCall
Tel: 9384 3235**

InZert

Please send any articles or
photos for InZert to:
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News of the *White Angel*...

Its hard to believe that its now over a year since the Zonta Mob supported Kimberley Ngarinyin law woman Yvonne Burgu to purchase her community a 4WD fishing and shopping vehicle through the sale of Yvonne's magnificent artwork, so its only fitting that members and our supporters deserve some first hand news of their successful partnership with their Ngarinyin friends.

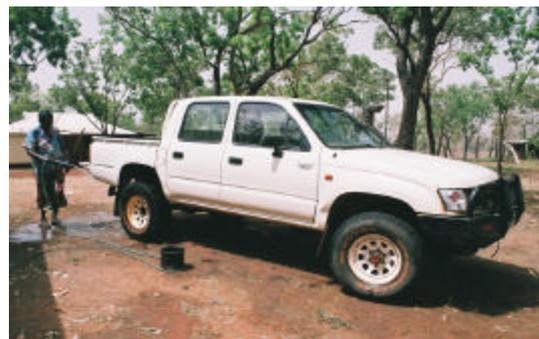
Kathy Charlesworth reports.....

Arriving back at Gibb River Station in the North Kimberley, almost a year after we delivered 'White Angel' to the community as part of the Ngarinyin/Zonta partnership was a ceremonial welcome to be savoured.

Old Maudie (88yrs) gave me the true traditional Aboriginal welcome, which entails a bear hug accompanied by a heart-rending wail with real tears that seems to go on forever - translated as 'daughter has come home' according to Yvonne.

My new found daughter status has largely come out of working beside both groups, the Ngarinyin Women and Zonta Mob. The Ngarinyin women have been kept fully informed as to all the good work happening behind the scenes, including the successful profiling of the Ngarinyin/Zonta partnership at the Zonta International Convention in Melbourne earlier this year.

When the Ngarinyin women heard that Zonta Perth were also teaching other



Yvonne washing the 'White Angel', Gibb River WA, October 2006.

Zonta groups in the Eastern States how to set up meaningful partnerships with other Indigenous women, they were very impressed.

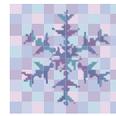
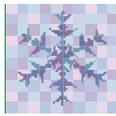
In addition, to reinforce the tenure of the partnership between the Zonta/Ngarinyin women, Carole Theobald kindly put her incredible IT skills to work producing a CD of the Zonta PowerPoint presentation shown in Melbourne. Therefore, during my recent visit, we were able put the CD up on the TV screen for everyone up on the Gibb River Road to see - this type of presentation works well and is hugely beneficial in keeping the lines of communication alive and active.

The White Angel

The presence of White Angel on the Gibb River Road has had an enormous impact on the quality of life especially for the women and children.

From a housekeeping point of view, despite all the negative projections coming out of the Kimberley that the 'White Angel' would be trashed within 6





White Angel....continued

months, and apart from a few relatively minor mechanical mishaps (i.e. normal wear and tear) which were largely sorted out by Sciona and myself over the phone, (sometimes only needing a few words of support to give Yvonne the language to strong-talk the garage people on repair quotes), the problems were soon sorted out and the car back on the community, much to the delight of all the little kids.

Fortunately to cover those sort of circumstance and under the watchful eye of 'number one mentor' Sciona, Yvonne left a cache of paintings in Perth to cover such ongoing running costs and repairs and given the state of the Gibb River Road after a record amount of tourist's travelling in the area during this years dry season, I was quite surprised to see how well the 'White Angel' had stood up to those treacherous road conditions.

Also, knowing full well that the Gibb River Mob are quite adept at criss-crossing their own lands and gorges in constant search of the seasonal bush tucker – a short trip down to the wooded area for some cooking firewood can often lead to a full on wild chase through the bush tracking down the prized goanna or bush turkey this time of year.

The women tell me that it is the fat in bush tucker that they most like – its good fat that contains all the nutrients when the animals go into hibernation during the dry season.

On one of those recent hunting expeditions, we pulled into Mt Barnett Roadhouse to buy the kids an ice cream after a very successful days hunting and fishing. Seeing our bounty of fish, turtle and crocodile in the back of the Hillux, a nosy tourist tried to find out the location of our fishing gorge, "which road do you take?" he asked... Becky-Boo replied conspiratorially, "we don't use roads, we make our own, they are our secrets" - which just about sums up the workload expected of the White Angel!

Since the White Angel left Perth back in November 2005, some 30,000 km have been clocked up and when living within the community, it is easy to understand just how these sorts of mileages come about – fishing, shopping and funerals are frequent events and at the slightest hint that the W/A is about to make a journey, everyone seems to appear from nowhere.

The basic rules of thumb are, women and little kids in the front, boys on the back.

On one trip we made over to Kununurra for the women to do some shopping and have some repairs done to the White Angel. The day before we had noticed all the street trees, especially outside the public buildings, were laden with ripe mangoes, so the W/A's bonnet and cab quickly became a cherry-picker (by torchlight) harvesting the women three boxes of juicy ripe mangoes to take home for the kids.

Later on the same day on our way back home to Gibb, we were planning to catch a few barramundi to make a change from the usual fare of black brim. However, as usual, we were late leaving town and by the time we got to the Pentecost River it was full darkness and very unnerving driving through this high-tide river.

This was one time I personally said a little prayer of thanks for the 'snorkel' Zonta-mob had fitted to the White Angel.

Having made it through the Pentecost, we then realise that we were short of drinking water, so Yvonne in her resourceful way said "don't worry, we can stop at the Durack and get some more".

As Yvonne never travels without a handmaiden in tow, when we reached the next river, young Lorretto was instructed to walk into the river crossing and fill the water bottles. Whilst flashing the lights on to high beam, we then spotted a huge set of red-eyes peering out of the darkness just near where Lorretto was crouching.

Given I was wearing bush boots and able to leap across the river stones in one hell of a hurry, my warning to the young woman came out in a very rapid and near hysterical whitefella



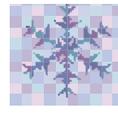
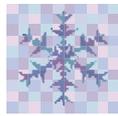
Ngarinyin Bush Turkey!!!



Going Fishing, women and little kids in the front, boys on the back!!

No one seems too bothered as to how many are onboard, how long the trip will take, just so long as there is the possibility of a good feed at the other end.





White Angel... Alive and Well!

whisper "Crocodile"!

Lorretto wasn't the slightest bit perturbed by this warning "till she completed her task "I'm alright, I can see them, two over there." After beating a hasty retreat and now safely back in the Hillux cab Yvonne by this time was doubled up with laughter "hey come on, not two, there were four, but it's alright, night-time they are not hungry, they just get frightened when we torch them".

Mmmm Yvonne's answer to everything sometimes defies logic... fly spray for snakes, torches for crocodiles.....!!!!!!!

On a serious note

In retrospect, having spent the last two months living up on the communities with the women and children totally enmeshed in their daily lives, it soon became very obvious to me just how much of a difference the White Angel has made to the quality of the women's lives on a daily basis. In saying this, I feel very qualified to report to Zonta Mob that their groundbreaking initiative is working for the following reasons.

Firstly, we were unable to find a suitable sharing-system had the fishing-car been 'gifted' to all of the Ngarinyin women via a *strings attached* charitable organization. Had we gone down this pathway, it would have been very difficult to sort out the levels of responsibilities and possible squabbles, which in the past has brought down this type of support on Aboriginal communities – not to mention the gender issues.

By working in strictly 'Women's Business' and empowering the 'leadership potential' of one of the woman within the group, it has unleashed a powerful set of dynamics that has set a benchmark for all of the traditional women to follow.

Yvonne Burgu was the perfect candidate to support this type of venture and she is acutely aware that without the help of Zonta Mob her pathway would have been a lot more difficult, if not impossible, to achieve her dream of obtaining a women's fishing car especially in the bleak circumstance that were facing Gibb River community at that particular time.

With Yvonne's strong sense of community and cultural responsibility, there was never any doubt that she would not walk away from all that was expected of her under these circumstances. Despite the fact she is the registered owner of the White Angel, she was fully aware that there was a moral obligation to share with her people her good fortune and hard work.

This is role modelling at its best, and my admiration goes out to everyone who put their faith into this type of individual empowerment, through individual entrepreneurial endeavours regardless of what form of capital.

Yvonne's social capital has gone back into her community and has now been carefully noted by the doomsayers.

To watch that beautiful dignified woman in her earlier fifties, in the knowledge that she has birthed five kids and fostered another nine children through to adulthood – it was a joy to watch her wash down her car after yet another successful days fishing.

And yes, 'White Angel' is very much alive and well, and yes, there has also been a huge positive energy shift on Gibb River community and the message has rippled out to other communities.

Thank you Zonta Mob!
Kathy Charlesworth.

Our Carole... Advancing the Status of Women World Wide!

Carole Theobald in Indonesia Reports.....

I thought I would share with you some of my experiences from my recent visit to Indonesia....

As Zontians we are all about advancing the status of women worldwide and as a food safety consultant I am committed to helping food businesses improve their food safety. So it was a lovely feeling in the last weeks to visit two small factories where both my Zontian and personal objectives had been achieved.

In Indonesia there is a whole subculture of 'home factories'. These are mostly run by women who start off doing a bit of extra cooking from home... Over the years the businesses may grow to such an extent that the living areas of the houses are dwarfed by the factory within.



Carole Theobald (caped and gowned— a.k.a. "superwoman") advising on food safety.....

One lovely young lady (29), I met in Jogjakarta started her cookie making business with 700,000 rupiah (about \$100) when her husband lost his job during the economic meltdown in 1998. She set her business up in the family home and slowly employed a couple of people.





Our Carole....continued.

About two years ago she participated in the Food Stars Program that our team has been working on in Indonesia. She trained all her food handlers in food safety and the local food inspectors mentored her through the process.

As a result of her Food Stars Award her business improved enormously, she now employs over 20 people and has outgrown her premises. Next year she intends to move into a purpose built factory. Most of the people she employs are women who live in the local community.....

In Lambang near Bandung, I met another lady who makes small pastries. She lives in a small house in a quaint little street of this pretty mountain resort.

We were introduced in the small lounge room and then taken into the 'factory'. The back patio was full of ovens, sinks and preparation benches. The garage had been converted to a 'rolling out' room where about 10 girls wearing hats, aprons, masks and gloves sat rolling out tiny pastries. The business achieved the One Star Award just over a year ago and again its business improved. So much so, the lady was able to purchase the house across the road.



The business just moved into this newly renovated building. It contains purpose built food processing rooms

(where another dozen women were working on pastry production) and a shop with a gallery showcasing local handicrafts. The owner's daughter is the next generation for the business - a well educated young woman who impressed me with her vision for the company.

In both businesses, the workers seemed happy and relaxed. They employ men and women, but the women far outnumber the men. Small scale businesses by definition are not allowed to use mass production equipment, so have to employ people to do the jobs manually and women are more nimble fingered than the men - hence more women in the businesses.

The Star Award for Food Safety initiative was launched in May 2004 and there are now over 600 premises in 30 provinces who have achieved One Star - the first award level. The businesses range from these small home scale businesses to some international companies employing hundreds of people. It obviously gives me great personal satisfaction to know that the AusAID work I have been involved with is bearing fruit for the local people, creating jobs, clean working environments and a happy workforce.....

See you in December!!!!!!
Carole.

**WANT TO KNOW
WHAT IS
HAPPENING IN OUR
CLUB?
Visit our web site at
www.zontaperth.org.au**

New Club Members In the spotlight...

At the recent Club dinner meeting on 9th November we welcomed three lovely new club members to the Zonta Club of Perth.....



New Members to Zonta Club of Perth—L to R, Diana Kaiser and Agnes Vacca at their Induction on 9 November 2006.

Agnes Vacca

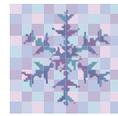
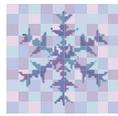
Agnes Vacca is a Principal within the tax & business services team at PKF, and has approximately thirteen years experience in providing specific business advisory services. Agnes has extensive experience in consulting to business owners and managers in a variety of industries and specialises in providing advisory services relating to wealth creation, asset protection, business planning, cash flow, business and trend analysis and succession planning.

Agnes came to Perth as a 9 year old from Poland in Feb 1982, and was educated in Perth.

Agnes holds a Bachelor of Business degree from Curtin University, has completed the Chartered Accountants postgraduate accounting program with the Institute of Chartered Accountants and also holds the Securities Institute Graduate Diploma of Financial Planning.

Agnes is involved with Radio Lollipop in the capacity of Honorary Treasurer and Financial Adviser to the Board of Radio Lollipop. Last





year Agnes co-ordinated fundraising for Radio Lollipop's 25th Anniversary Ball on behalf of PKF and Business Networking International of which she is also a member. Agnes also serves on the Institute of Chartered Accountants Business Forum Taskforce Committee and is also a Speaker for the Institute.

Agnes's professional goal is to reach the position of Partner at PKF, and this in particular as PKF had never appointed a female Partner in the Perth Office.

Diane Kaiser

Diana Kaiser was born in Moscow, Russia 45 years ago in a family of prominent Barristers.

Aged 23 she became a Barrister herself and as her first job assumed a position of a Legal Council of one of the major scientific institutes in Russia. 3 years later she became a practising QC and specialised in civil and criminal law. At 27 she was granted a scholarship to study international law in Paris.

Diana migrated to Australia in 1992 aged 31 with her then 5 years old son. At that stage she resumed her legal studies and completed her Bachelor and Master of Laws Degrees from the University of Queensland. She was the first student ever permitted and able to complete Bachelor and Master Degrees simultaneously. During her course she gained 2 scholarships – one in Sydney with the Institute of Liberty and Society and another one in the US to research the influence of philosophy on the modern society. After the graduation she worked as a research assistant to the Dean of the Law School at the University of Queensland and later as a legal advisor for Queensland Government.

Now Diana is residing in Perth with her son and works as a legal coordinator for an Oil and Gas Company.

But what made Diana as a person that she is today were not her achievements but challenges and hardship she had endured throughout her life.

She faced the most of her challenges after coming to Australia. She had her 5 years old son in her left hand and all her savings in her right hand when she hopped on a Trans Siberian train, crossing all of Russia in seven days and then crossed the ocean in another 21. The journey was anything but glamorous, but little did she know that she would forget what glamorous was for very many years. She endured many imaginable and sometimes not imaginable hardship, experiencing anything from the humiliation of being unable to verbally express her self in a language she never learnt before, to the despair of not being able to pay for her son's lunch. From the glamour of the courtroom and the privileges of the elite life and excess back in Moscow, she found herself completely isolated, financially, lingually and culturally impaired for many years. One does not need much imagination to guess what kind of life experiences a vulnerable single mother without a network of support from friends or family, or knowledge of local customs and culture, might face.

Many many years later she has a prestigious job on the Terrace with her very own office with a view and a house by the river with 2 dogs and 2 cats. Her son, 20, is just about to publish his first book and doing a double degree at the University of Notre Dame. What a ride!

Debra Walker

Debra is a single mother of 3 children aged 21, 20, and 16 and she has solely supported them for the last 8 years. They are all very close as a family and even though her two boys are older, they still find plenty of time for Monique and Debra.

In the past she has fostered around 27 children (which started by accident!!!) and at one stage managed to have 8 children at

home, while working full time and dealing with completing her Visual Arts degree and Business law Major. She managed to be nominated twice for the Gwynne Lamb award, which was a huge honour.

In working life Debra is currently contracted full time to Clough Engineering's Oil and Gas division as a Contract Engineer. At present she is being trained in Contract Administration to specialise in vessel charter parties.

She has worked as an accountant in the past and has an accounting degree with a sub major in public accounting.

Debra's other membership is with Mensa, which she became involved with 8 years ago. She has been Chairman of WA for the last 4 years and she has just been voted in for another 2 years. She has made some good friends through Mensa over the years and enjoys meeting up with such an assorted mix of people.

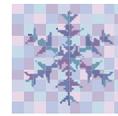
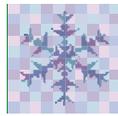
Now to Zonta –Debra's reason for wanting to join Zonta is quite simple, she has always been interested in women's issues and rights, one because she is a woman and two because she believes in fairness. She is passionate about giving back to society and helping out those that are not as fortunate.

Welcome Ladies!

News Flash.....

Katina Law became the proud mother of Lucy Ellen who was born on 24th November at St John of God Hospital in Subiaco! Lucy weighed 4lbs (1810g) at birth and was 44cm long. Both Mum and baby are healthy and well. What fabulous news..... Congratulations to Katina and hubby from the Zonta Club of Perth.



Christmas Shopping With a Difference.....

Order your Wandjina cards, 2007 Zonta diary or Zonta shoe bags today—Download an order form from our club website www.zontaperth.org.au



Christmas Dinner Reminder Zonta Club of Perth

Please join us to celebrate Christmas 2006

Venue: Home of Karen and Bill Groves

Date: Thursday 14th December, Time: 6.30 pm

Cost: \$50 per person (includes drinks)

Members are welcome to bring a guest
RSVP, payment and name of guest to Lennie McCall

Please Help.....

Please tell ten friends to tell ten today! 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. Click on "donating a mammogram" for free (the pink window in the middle). This doesn't cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors/advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate mammograms in exchange for advertising. Here's the web site. Pass it along to people you know.
<http://www.thebreastcancersite.com>

Diary Dates

14th December 2006—Christmas Party, Zonta Club of Perth

Book your place now for the sumptuous Christmas dinner at Karen Grove's House. Enjoy the Christmas Party and be there for the raffle draw! RSVP to Lennie McCall ph 9384 3235.

8th February 2007—Dinner meeting, 6.15pm

The first meeting for 2007 will be held at The University Club with pre-dinner drinks from 6.15pm. We hope all members can join us for the first meeting of the year!

16th February 2007—Fremantle Tram Ghost Tour around Fremantle

Come and enjoy a summer social activity ghostly tram tour around Fremantle's oldest buildings with a fish and chips supper. Commencing at 6.45pm at the Fremantle Town Hall, cost is \$42 pp, for tickets. Visit: www.fremantletrams.com.au

18th February 2007—Peel Region Golf and Auction Day 8am shotgun start!

This will be the 14th Annual event. It is an Ambrose competition (so non golfers can enjoy it too!) with teams of 6. All proceeds go to breast cancer research. \$25 per person includes golf and light lunch. Nomination forms available from Lorraine Webb ph 0416 255 293 or Wendy Kirkby ph 9537 2029.

8th March—International Women's Day

31st March—2nd April Area Workshop

This event will be hosted by Perth Northern Suburbs, more details tbc in early 2007 so make a note of the date!

14-16 September 2007—District 23 Conference, Tasmania

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

