

## In This Issue

Female genital mutilation, p1  
District 23 showcase projects,  
p2-4  
Position vacant, p4  
New members, p5  
Installation of Board p5  
July speaker, p6  
Diary of Events, p6

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D23 History/Archives Chair  
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D23 Public Relations Chair  
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### Club Meetings

Second Thursday of the  
month, 6.00pm for 6.30pm at  
St Catherine's College, UWA.

**Apologies by 12 noon  
previous Monday to**

**Marg Giles  
Tel: 9383 1083**

### Inzert

Please send any articles or  
photos for Inzert to:  
Carole Theobald  
**zontaperth@yahoo.com.au**

## Female Genital Mutilation—what can we do to reduce it in Australia?

Martha Teshome from the  
Department of Health, provided a  
fascinating, though sad, insight into  
female genital mutilation.

It surprised many members to hear  
that the practices that we have so  
often thought of as being limited to  
African countries such as Somalia,  
Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia can  
happen to women living here in  
Western Australia.

Martha explained that when people  
migrate to Australia they usually  
bring their culture with them. If  
female genital mutilation (FGM) was  
practised in their home community  
then it is seen by some as being a  
necessary 'rite of passage' to  
adulthood. The culture of FGM often  
pre-dates religion. It can occur when  
a girl is as young as 6 months, or  
between the ages of 4 and 10 years  
or on marriage.

Overall, there are between 80  
and 130 million women who have  
had FGM and the a further 2 million  
undergo the procedure each year.

She showed pictures of other  
cultural practices that 'mutilated'  
women such as foot binding  
practised by the Chinese culture—or  
even the practice of wearing  
extremely tight rib-breaking corsets  
in early Western cultures.

In some cultures, FGM is seen as a  
sign of purity and beauty,  
representing an achievement of  
status and the cause for community  
celebration.



*Lois Joll(Left) and Helen Margaria (right), present  
Martha Teshome with a gift after her information  
session about female genital mutilation.*

However, Martha related painful tales of infection,  
brutal opening of stitches on wedding nights and  
severe urine retention that the sewing up of the labia  
can cause.

She explained that she had heard stories of girls  
being taken by parents to Singapore 'on holiday' only  
to find out that they were to undergo FGM—and of  
cries in the suburbs when circumcisors perform the  
acts at home.

The WHO in 1981 stated that health professionals  
were not permitted to perform FGM and described it  
as a human rights issue reaffirming that  
*'..because the girl child has no voice, government  
should take all measures to guarantee protection to  
the girl child ...'*

Activities to reduce it have focussed on training  
circumcisors in countries where the practice is  
common, to stop the practise and take new  
employment as educators.

In Australia, there is no mandatory reporting of FGM  
and health professionals are not able to check  
children at risk. After discussion, the Club members  
agreed that this important issue needs to be handled  
sensitively. There may be opportunities to help by  
raising awareness of the issue and investigating  
ways to advocate for legal reform to help women at  
risk.



# District Conference Zonta Perth's Showcase

Lennie McCall is the Chair of the District 23 History and Archives Committee. The committee has been asked to organise a display to 'showcase' Zonta activities at the District Conference in Tasmania.

All Clubs are being asked to submit one poster for each decade of its operation. As our club was formed in 1971, we are entitled to have four posters.

But which projects should we choose to best represent our club's history?

To help the club select the 'final four' projects, Lennie McCall, Margaret Medcalf (club archivist) and Carole Theobald searched the archives to find suitable materials from which posters could be made. A PowerPoint presentation was put together and members provided with voting slips at the May meeting...

Carole explained that as no one picture was able to tell the story... she had made up montages for each project where possible.

Our Club has had an amazing history and members had an enjoyable half hour reliving some of the more historic (hysterical?) moments ...

Here is a summary of the projects...



ZONTA club secretary Margaret Johnson, pilot Rosemary de Pierres, navigator Robin Miller and club publicity officer Lennie McCall discuss the flight plan.



In 1973, the club arranged sponsorship for two of its members, Robin Miller and Rosemary de Pierres, to follow in Amelia Earhart's footsteps and enter the USA Transcontinental Air Race (also called the Powder Puff Derby). The intrepid pair used the event to promote and raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The 2,500 mile race took three days and our team came 6th overall—a superb achievement.

Throughout the 1980's and 1990's our Club became famous for its annual fundraising Art Shows, featuring the work of local artists and a special Emerging Artist Award. Initially these were held in Jean Oldham's home, but eventually became too large and were moved to local Art Galleries.



1979 was the International Year of the Child and the Club participated in a special "Knee High" exhibition held at the Claremont Showgrounds that gave a childlike look a the adult world, in the home, hospital, on transport, at school and at play—with all exhibits being two and half times life size! Our Club supplied \$1,000 in sponsorship to the event.

In 1983, the Club became involved in the establishment of the Zonta Dairy Farm Project in Chombung, Thailand. This project brought together the Zonta Club of Bangkok, Zonta Club of Perth as well as New Zealand Clubs, to arrange for a Thai trained vet to come to Australia to learn about dairy farming and run the farm in Thailand.



Between 1984 and 1993, the Club held annual Anne Dreske Somoff Zonta Fashion Shows. Anne was a member of the Zonta Club of Perth and her famous leather fashions featured in many national magazines. These were major events in the Perth social calendar.

In 1990, a special Fashion Show was held in the WA Art Gallery alongside the amazing Art of Frida Kahlo exhibition. Some of the clothes were designed to match the paintings. Another night to remember!

*This beautiful letter was received from the foster parents of four children (aged 12 to 13) who benefited from a Zonta Club of Perth holiday.*

We thank you so much for giving us the most wonderful week's holiday in Albany WA in "Friendship House".

This is the first holiday we have had since the foster children and we met four years ago. How exciting for us all.

Everyone fished everyday and on the last afternoon one of the boys caught 2 whiting, which he cleaned, helped cook and shared.

We went to the Whaling Station which was educational, whale watching (where we saw a mother and calf in Middleton Bay), to the valley of the trees—the kids had not seen tall trees ever!

Thank you from us all for a magic time, really words are not enough to express our thanks.



Like many Zonta Clubs in Area 3, the Zonta Club of Perth has always provided financial support to the Zonta House Refuge. During the 1990's, many club members utilised their professional skills by helping out on 'outreach days'.

Since 1980, the Club has provided holidays to disadvantaged families through the Holiday Relief Scheme. For privacy reasons it is not possible to advertise photos from the holidays, but the thank you letters show they are appreciated...



1983 saw the establishment of the Guides WA Zonta Leadership Award. This award is still presented annually to an inspirational guide leader.

**Jennifer takes Zonta award**

JENNIFER Berry has proved that effort and determination can pay off.

The 59-year-old Zonta Club member was awarded the Zonta Club's Leadership Award, which includes a scholarship that will enable her to complete her first degree in any area of study.

The single mother of three children, who is also a volunteer at the Zonta Club of Perth, is currently studying for her first degree at the University of Western Australia.

"The award has not made such a difference," Jennifer says. "I have not yet thought about the award. It is more like to do my own thing, but I have made a decision to do it."

The International Zonta Club, which was founded in 1929, is a non-profit organization that promotes the status of women in the workplace and in society.

**ZONTA CLUB OF PERTH University Education Award**

ACQUILONE Award Open to a Mature Aged Woman in the Second Year of Undergraduate Study

The Zonta Club of Perth's University Education Award encourages a mature aged woman to complete her first degree in any area of study.

The \$2,000 grant is awarded to a woman who has been a resident in Western Australia for two years or more and who does not hold a scholarship, other award or receive financial assistance under bond or an equivalent.

The applicant must be 25 years of age or over, have satisfactorily completed at least the five year of a degree course, be awarded for the following academic year and be able to demonstrate the need for financial assistance.

Previous academic achievement, extra-curricular activities and community contribution will also be taken into consideration by the selection panel.

Application forms are available from your local Zonta Club.

University Education Award Co-ordinator:  
Zonta Club of Perth  
PO Box 117  
NEDLANDS WA 6107

1991 saw the launch of the Zonta Club of Perth University Education Award to encourage a mature aged woman to complete her first degree. The \$2,000 Award is advertised at all local universities and on the web. Many awardees have described the difference the Award made to reducing financial stress during their study years.



## District Conference Zonta Showcase continued...



In the 1980's the Perth community was behind the establishment of the Sail Training Ship Leeuwin. Our Club was no exception! Besides fundraising the club also held a special meeting on board the sailing ship.

**ZONTA CLUB OF PERTH  
TAFE Education Awards**

The \$500 Annual Grants to Women  
Encourage Certificate IV Course to Community Services

The Zonta Club of Perth's TAFE Education Award encourages two women to complete their studies towards a Certificate IV in Community Services.

The new \$500 grants are awarded to women who have been nominated in Women Awards for two years or more and who do not hold a scholarship, other award or receive financial assistance under bond for an employee.

**Zonta award**  
**LORETTA Hynes has won the \$500 Zonta TAFE Education Award.**

The Zonta Club of Perth offers the award to women studying community service certificates at TAFE.

Ms Hynes hopes to complete a psychology degree after her TAFE studies.

The applicants must have held a fully completed Certificate IV in Community Services and demonstrate the need for financial assistance.

Women such as gardeners, artists, writers, etc. participate actively and committed themselves with a certificate in line recognition by the respective grant.

Application forms are available from your local Zonta Club.

TAFE Education Awards Co-ordinator  
Zonta Club of Perth  
PO Box 237  
MIDLANDS WA 6100

This distribution is a public notice regarding a nomination process and is not intended to be a recruitment tool. Adjoining the Values of Women.

Since 2003, the Club has offered two annual \$500 TAFE Education Awards to encourage women to continue their studies in Certificate IV Community Services at Perth College of TAFE.



In 1994, the club provided physical as well as financial support to the newly established Perth City Farm. The farm was located in East Perth near the East Perth General Offices.



In 2004, eleven club members made friends with Senior Ngarinyin Law women when they camped together and shared their cultures on the Gibb River Road in the Kimberley region of WA. The friendship continues and through it communities have been clothed, women empowered, a vehicle has been purchased, students have been mentored and projects inspired.

### WANTED—WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT NOMINATIONS

Do you know a woman who has excelled professionally or voluntarily in the community? If so, check that she:

- Would agree to being nominated for the Area 3 Woman of Achievement Award
- Has not previously been recognised and
- Intends to continue to serve the community...

Then let 'Tricia Summerfield know today!



### WANTED—HELPING HAND AREA 3 SECRETARY

Would you like to give the Area 3 Director a helping hand?

Area 3 Secretary's duties consist mostly of taking minutes at Intercity meetings. This is a great opportunity to not only learn more about the workings of Zonta but also to make friends (and share the odd wine) with members from other clubs. If you can help out, please contact Karen Groves.



## New Members— Gillian Palmer and Lorraine McLean

The Club was delighted to welcome two new members at the May meeting. Gillian Palmer has transferred from the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs and Lorraine is new to Zonta.

**Gillian Palmer** was born in Felixstowe, Suffolk, a rural town in the east of England and she spent her whole childhood there. She trained as a primary school teacher in London, when Carnaby Street, Hair and the Beatles were all the rage. She met her husband at a student hall's party in South Kensington when she stood on his food on a crowded dance floor. The first word she ever said to him was 'sorry'!

They began their married life in Bradford (England) but life there seemed all work and no play...

Exactly 30 years ago, they left England forever, enjoying four years in Zambia before arriving in Mount Isa, with their baby son in 1981. Their second son was born in Mount Isa, but after three years, the isolation and heat became too much and they moved on to Melbourne. From there they came to Bunbury in 1986, a place Gillian had never heard of, until her husband was offered a job there. She completed a Graduate Diploma and returned to teaching.

Her husband's redundancy from Iluka, after 17 years, forced them to look elsewhere. After looking at job vacancies from all over the world, a job in Perth was offered. They have now been here nearly three years and love it. Both sons are still here, having completed degrees at local universities. Renovations are now complete on the home that we hope will take us into a comfortable retirement in WA..

**Lorraine McLean** is a Clinical Psychologist who trained in her home city of Perth Western Australia obtaining post-graduate degrees from both Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia. She is a member of the Australian Psychological Society, a registered Clinical Psychologist in Western Australia and a member of the College of Clinical Psychologists. Sixteen years ago she opened the first private clinic in Western Australia to deal with psycho-social issues and learning difficulties across the life-span. This venture was the culmination of a long interest in these areas and filled a gap in the delivery of psychological/educational services in this state. During this time Lorraine also contributed to her profession by holding executive positions on several committees. She has deputised to the Psychologists' Registration Board (WA), served as the Secretary for the College of Educational and Developmental Psychologists and as the treasurer for the Division of Independently Practicing Psychologists' and continues to be a member of the Professional Advisory Board for Learning and Attention Difficulties in WA.

**In more recent times** her attention has turned to more socially oriented pursuits. She is currently a committee member of the Australian Federation of University Women (WA) and represents them on the committee of the United Nations Association of Australia (WA). Her long term interest in the status of women and the education of women and children has now lead her to Zonta. Although Lorraine has

been aware of Zonta and the work that it does for many years and has previously attended several fundraising events by invitation from Wendy Alford, a long term member of Zonta, it was through contact with Karen Groves that she was invited to dinner with the Zonta group and eventual membership.

That Lorraine is a lover of diversity is evident in her broad spectrum of interests. She is an avid reader and a member of two book clubs - she has wisely declined a kind invitation to join a third! She is a keen knitter, embroiderer and seamstress and she also enjoys researching the history of the development of such handcrafts. Lorraine appreciates good design in all things and she especially likes to collect pieces from the Art Deco period and the work of Tapio Wirkkala, a Finnish designer of the 60's and 70's. She is also an intrepid traveller who has included Morocco, Spain, India, Indonesia and Nepal in her itineraries. Two treks into the depths of Nepal have left fond memories of and sadness for a way of life that must be now dramatically different. She has also enjoyed more sedate travels in Europe, Scandinavia and America. She is interested in 'slow food' and enjoys sampling the menus of the countries that she visits as well as those of the many fine restaurants in Perth and other parts of Australia.

Although Time is and will no doubt will remain an issue Lorraine looks forward to contributing her efforts to that of other Zontians in their goal to make a difference for women around the world.



*New members are presented with induction packs and roses by President, Lori Grech  
Above: Lorraine McLean  
Below: Gillian Palmer*



## Installation of Office Bearers 2007-2008



*Installation of 2007-2008 Office Bearers by Lennie McCalla t  
May meeting: L-R: Fiona Crowe, Mary Gurgone, Diana Kaiser,  
Katina Law (front), Anne- Marie McNaughton, Lori Grech and  
Lennie.*

### July Meeting—Guest Speaker Barbara Etter



The Club is delighted that Barbara Etter has agreed to be the guest speaker at the July meeting.

Ms Etter is the **2006 Telstra Western Australian Business Woman of the Year Hudson Community and Government Award Winner** (for employees of government departments, statutory bodies and not-for-profit organisations)

Barbara Etter is the Assistant Commissioner of WA Police. In charge of Corruption Prevention and Investigation, Barbara is one of Australia's most senior policewomen and played a key role in implementing the reforms of the 2004 Kennedy Royal Commission into police corruption.

Barbara has a legal and science background in addition to her extensive work with the Police Force, which she has operated at on both a national and Australasian level.

Barbara also won a gold medal in the Toughest Competitor Alive event at the Australian and New Zealand Police Games in 2004.  
(from <http://www.businesswomensawards.telstra.com/Default.aspx?PageID=102>)

### A big thank you

Many thanks to all members and friends for their kind donations of clothing and Manchester for the Ngarinyin communities. Special thanks to the members and friends that helped sort them out and arranged transport... You have helped make those very cold Kimberley nights more bearable...



### Fishing lines

When Fiona, Sciona, Mary, Glen and Carole go up North at the end of June they would like to take some fishing lines for the Ngarinyin women to teach their children to fish.... If you have any spare—could you please bring them to the June meeting...?

## Diary Dates

**6th June, Board Meeting**

**10th June, Closing the Leadership Gap, Presbyterian Ladies College, 5pm**

Presentation by Marie Wilson, founder of the White House Project to build a truly representative democracy in the USA—where women lead alongside men in all spheres. Tickets \$15 from [communityrelations@plc.wa.edu.au](mailto:communityrelations@plc.wa.edu.au).

**14th June, Dinner meeting, St Catherine's College, 6.00pm for 6.30pm**

**30th June, Closing date for Area 3 Woman of Achievement Award**

**30th June, Closing date for Club TAFE Awards**

**10th July, Dinner meeting, St Catherine's College 6.00pm for 6.30pm.** Guest Speaker Barbara Etter—Assistant Commissioner of WA Police. (See advert.)

**10th September, Gynaecological Awareness Day**

**14-16 September 2007—District 23 Conference, Tasmania**

Have you booked your flight yet? Tasmania will be beautiful at this time of year. Treat yourself to that famous Tasmanian hospitality!

**28 October—Perth Northern Suburbs Celebrity Platter exhibition**

Karrinyup Community Centre, Davenport Street, Karrinyup, 2.30pm to 5pm. If you know a celebrity who could paint a platter before August 31st, please contact Leanne Sultan on (H) 9445 2859 or email [Leanne.Sultan@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Leanne.Sultan@health.wa.gov.au)

**10th November—Founders Day Dinner**

This year's event is hosted by the Zonta Club of Bunbury. Accommodation will be at a premium so don't forget to book it now! (See page 3)

**7th December, Education Award**

Closing date for Education Award entries.

**28th June-3rd —Zonta International Convention 2008, Rotterdam**

## WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR CLUB?

Visit our web site at [www.zontaperth.org.au](http://www.zontaperth.org.au) or email [zontaperth@yahoo.com.au](mailto:zontaperth@yahoo.com.au)