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Second Thursday of the
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**Apologies by 12 noon
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Return to Gibb River

Carole Theobald

In mid June, seven members of the Zonta Club of Perth made a 'return' visit to the Kimberley to visit our Ngarinyin friends. Five travelled into Ngarinyin country and two met the group at Derby for the Mowanjum Festival. This is Carole's story of their Kimberley 'adventure'.

For Glen, Carole and Mary, it was an early start to catch the 5.30am OzJet flight to Derby. Great flight, lovely leather seats, good breakfast and loads of legroom. Definitely a flight for large, hungry mine workers!

At Derby we were met by Sciona and Fiona who had spent 3 days driving up from Perth. They had hired a four wheel drive Landcruiser (brand new only 34km on the clock) and camper trailer in Broome and camped at the Curtin Airport gates so they were all ready to meet our flight at 8am!

We stopped off to see the amazing boab prison tree where prisoners were held within its trunk—a stark reminder of the frontier history of the region.

Our next stop was the supermarket. How do you cater for an unknown number for a week with only a tiny Engel fridge? Carole had worked out a shopping list and handed sheets to Glen and Mary so three overfilled trolleys of shelf stable food, root vegetables and sturdy fruits met at the checkout!

Somehow, we managed to fit the food into the trailer and car—there was not an inch to spare! The car was very comfortable with loads of room for the five of us.

We decided not to stay at Birdwood Downs Station near Derby that night, but to press



Camping with friends on the Gibb River with the White Angel ute behind us...

on to Gibb River. This would give us an extra day with our Ngarinyin friends.

Arrangements were made to meet up with Yvonne Burgu and Kathy Charlesworth at Mt Barnett at 4pm—a journey of 355km over unsealed roads and through rivers without bridges.

The Gibb River Road had been closed during the previous week as the weather had been unseasonally wet (and cold). Luckily, the rain had stopped, the sun was shining, the roads were drying out and we were among the first vehicles to make the journey when the roads were opened.

There was evidence of the recent rains with foot deep furrows of mud in places. Sciona, who did all the driving, made a superb job of weaving her way around the muddy obstacles, around stray cattle and through the flowing rivers, negotiating the river banks with care.

It was reassuring to have an 'Australian Survivor, test pilot' as the chauffeur. Needless to say, we put Sciona in charge of engineering and for most of the trip she had a wrench in one hand!

The Kimberley scenery is magnificent and at the 'jump ups' we could see for miles.

At Imitji we treated ourselves to an ice cream and admired the health posters on the door as they had simple messages and were adorned with Aboriginal art work.



Gibb River continued...

Outside Mt Barnett, we met up with the White Angel (the Toyota Hilux ute,



purchased from the proceeds of Yvonne's Art Exhibition in 2005 that our Club helped to stage). Yvonne and Kathy got out and gave us a very warm welcome. They were out collecting wood and we arranged to top up with fuel at Mt Barnett and meet them at a nearby river crossing.

After topping up with fuel (\$1.96/litre) we went to the river and waited.. We gathered some wood and waited some more... In the end we decided to press on and met the White Angel coming the other way—they were waiting on the other side of the river around the bend!

It is about 60km from Mt Barnett to Gibb River Station and we pulled into Yvonne's garden just as the sun was setting...

Yvonne lit a fire outside her house and we sat down to a tea of toasted sandwiches (jaffles) cooked on jaffle irons in the coals that we shared with Yvonne, Kathy, Rachel (Yvonne's daughter) and the grandchildren Becky Boo, Daniel, Jacob and Kimicha.

We were so tired, but luckily the camper trailer was easy to open. Mary, Carole and Glen settled into their sleeping bags inside the trailer, while Sciona and Fiona decided to sleep out in their swags.

Yvonne has three small chihuahuas: Lobo, Narny and Tidder that follow her



around like shadows. They are very sweet dogs and Narny looks like an Ewok. It turns out that Fiona is a bit of a 'dog magnet' and was always surrounded by dogs and looking after their welfare.

There are many other dogs in the Gibb River community and in the night we could hear them yowling and sniffing around the new smells of the trailer and car! We had very little sleep that night...

We emerged from the trailer (Glen and Carole still in their sleeping bags) to the smell of porridge and jaffles. Sciona and Fiona soon became the breakfast specialists, feeding all the children before we emerged from the trailer!

In the daylight, we took the opportunity of reloading the trailer, in the hope that we would be able to find things more easily...we all got bruises during the week from climbing over the towball, gas bottles and jerry can holders to delve into the food locker!

In the daylight, we could take stock of the Gibb River community. It consists of about twenty houses, all made of tin. It is quite pretty and green after the recent rains. The houses are built in a loop around the nursing post, community store and child care centre.

Yvonne's house has traditional Kimberley



breezeways, with the walls of bedroom and store folding back to close off the breezeways in bad weather. However, there is very little privacy, with only one closeable room that is used as a bedroom.

Everyone sleeps on the floor on their mattresses with doonas over them. The kitchen is very dark, has only one cold tap, and a wood burning stove. However, the stove is rarely used as the family prefers to gather round the outside fire, in the sun. The 'wet areas' are behind the house with the well used washing machine taking

pride of place in the laundry area. The solar hot water system is waiting repair, so we washed in cold water—good practice for the days ahead in the bush!

Sciona had sourced 100 fishing lines from Eric Gladston the owner of Gus Veness Fishing and Sport in Sydney who gave us a great deal, paid for their transport to Perth and threw in extra hooks!

The fishing lines were paid for by Pat Johnson, a kind American Zontian from California, who we met at the International Convention in Melbourne last year.

If only she could have seen the excitement on the children's faces as we opened the box at the Wanalirri Catholic Primary School, a lovely small school, located at the entrance to the community.



There are 23 children in the school. Usually, the children are lucky to get a few minutes fishing with their parents' lines, so to have their own lines was a big event. Each child chose their preferred colour



Gibb River continued...

and we carefully wrote their name on the lines using a permanent marker pen. The Principal, Steve and teacher Jeanette showed us around the school building. It is very well equipped with internet access and a library.

The school office has a couple of computers in it that they have used to teach local community members how to do their internet banking. Remember, it is a 600km round trip to the nearest bank!

Jeanette came to a recent meeting at our Club. She has taught in many remote communities, as well as in China, so it was lovely to meet up with her again.

The children were on their morning break and it was great to see them all playing cricket and basketball.

We returned to Yvonne's house and loaded up the vehicles and drove about 40km to Munggaray—a lovely fishing spot that Yvonne had taken some of us to on our last visit to the Kimberley in 2004.



The river is crystal clear and has a sandy shore. There are two small waterfalls nearby that create a natural swimming hole and washing area.

The site can only be accessed using a 4x4, so before the White Angel, Yvonne's family could not access it easily.

When you set up camp in the Kimberley, the first job is to collect wood. There were 12 of us camping at this time including Maudie, Yvonne's octogenarian mother. There was no way that Maudie was going to miss out on this adventure!

The camper trailer had a pull out double gas burner and sink that was nicknamed the 'dolly kitchen' as it was like cooking in a doll's house.

The 'kitchen quartet' consisting of Fiona, Glen, Mary and Carole, soon got into



action in the kitchen and produced a pasta based meal that we ate around the campfire with baked potatoes. Darkness descends quickly in the Kimberley and we soon learned that when the sun sets, everyone goes to bed! So we were all in bed by 7pm.

In the morning Kathy and Rachel left in the White Angel to collect the older children from school, so they could join the camp. In addition, Yvonne's brother Alfie and his wife Nancy joined us with the children they were currently 'growing-up'.

Alfie and Nancy are an amazing couple. They had a load of children with them, many of whom came from Kalumburu. The children were wonderful—full of beans and big smiles.

The party had now grown to about 30 people! (We hoped the food supplies would last!)

Alfie and Yvonne needed to talk to the owners of the nearby Drysdale Station, so we packed up the camp and drove the 40km up the track. Drysdale has a small shop, fuel station, bar and camping site.

At Drysdale, we tried to keep the children entertained, so the adults could have peace for their talks. We tried to think of games where the children could run around and ended up having an amazing relay race with two teams moving a pile of wood from one end of the lawn to the other. Of course, this did not tire the children—just us!



We also took the opportunity to get the bumper bar fixed on the White Angel—it had come loose when we were collecting wood on the rough tracks near Munggaray. It was apparently welded with Maudie refusing to move out of the vehicle!

Alfie suggested we spend the night at the nearby Miner's pool—a campsite only about 5km from Drysdale. On the way there was great excitement as Alfie shot and wounded a bush turkey. The children jumped out of the cars to retrieve it! It's neck was wrung and it travelled among the children in Alfie's car.

Miner's Pool is sited among trees next to a body of water that can only be accessed through the biggest mud patch you have ever seen. There is no tapped water on site, so you have to collect water from the waterhole.

We sent the children with buckets and bowls to collect the water and it was the funniest sight to see. The children were up to their knees in white mud carrying buckets that were half their size. The grim determination on their faces meant that they got as much as they could. A couple fell on the return journey, emptying out some of the water—they tried so hard.

Carole watched Nancy prepare the bush turkey, taking special note of how it was plucked, singed and gutted. Nancy used



young branches as a plate and Carole was very impressed how she turned the branches over so that the cooked meat would not touch raw meat residue.

While Carole watched the turkey cooking, the rest of the Zonta mob set to in the dolly kitchen and produced a magnificent stew for 30. The children were so polite, with plenty of 'pleases' and 'thank yous'. We had bought some plastic plates, bowls and cutlery in our shopping expedition, and were grateful we had put the extra pack of teaspoons in. Everyone had a spoon or a fork to eat with—and strict instructions not to lose them!



Gibb River continued...

It was a cold night, so we erected Carole's tent for Maudie to use. Of course, many others went into the tent with Maudie, to help keep her warm!

We had a slight problem with the camper trailer. One of the screws to tighten the roof sheared that meant we would not be able to lower the roof in the morning. Our engineer, Sciona, slept on the problem....

There was a wild bull roaming round the camp site. That night, when Carole, Mary and Glen went to use one of the drop toilets, the smell emanating from it was so foul, they decided to use bushes instead. Under the full moon, we discussed actions to take should the bull be attracted by our luminescent behinds!

There was little sleep that night, what with the bull bellowing and the children excitedly chatting.

The following morning, Fiona made her famous porridge with raisins and the children lined up with their bowls like something out of *Oliver Twist*!



Sciona had figured out a way of chiselling out the errant screw so we were able to dismantle the trailer tent...For a while, we thought we may have to stay for ever!

We packed up the camp and popped back to Drysdale Station to fill up the water tank on the camper trailer. Fuel at Drysdale is \$2/litre. We also dropped off the rubbish at the Drysdale rubbish dump.



We followed Alfie to the turn off to Donkey Creek. There had been problems about access to this site and these had been resolved with the owner of Drysdale Station. Nancy was quite emotional as we approached the gate to Donkey Creek as, for the first time, she could have unrestricted access to her traditional lands.

Nancy and Yvonne led us through the long grass to the Donkey Creek rocks where Yvonne called up the spirits and Nancy talked to them. They explained that the spirits need to know who is coming and reassured that the visitors mean no harm. They collected special leaves for the important smoking ceremony that cleansed us of spirits



before leaving the site. At Donkey Creek there is an amazing collection of Wandjina painted on the side of the rock. The ochre paintings are estimated to be over 10,000 years old with some older Gwion Gwion paintings among them possibly being twice this age. We took many photos of Nancy and her family by the Wandjina.

We drove back to Munggaray and set up camp. We erected the tent near the fire and named it the 'Maudie House'.

We spent a lovely afternoon walking by the river, fishing with the children (untying lines) and watching the birds.



In the evening the kitchen quartet started to make tuna patties and soon the 'sea of hands' appeared to help. Glen became the TV chef explaining each step of preparation. There were potatoes and sweet potatoes boiling together, that were mashed with spoons in the Dutch oven. Tinned tuna and beaten egg were mixed in, handfuls moulded into shape and dipped in flour before frying. The young mothers and children were mesmerised!

Meanwhile, Yvonne and Kathy made an enormous damper using a Dutch oven buried in the campfire. We spent a lovely time talking into the night (well 7.30pm) before retiring with tummies full of fresh damper.

On the first of July, Carole and Glen were treated to porridge, damper and tea in bed by Mary and Fiona. What a treat!

Bathing at the site was undertaken in the river and we would go upstream, away from the children, with our bars of natural soap in hand. There is nothing quite like that feeling of swimming 'au naturel' in pristine waters. The only problem is the soap gets slippery and has to be retrieved from the silty river floor. Carole made a soap on a rope to overcome this problem.

There was a constant stream of minor injuries that Nurse Glen dealt with during each day.



In the mornings, Sciona would sort out the hot water, keeping the 'dolly kitchen' supplied with billies of water heated on the camp fire. To save our drinking water, she collected water from the river for

Gibb River continued...

making tea and washing up. It was one continuous round.

The pace of life at Munggaray was tranquil. The women washed themselves and their clothes in the waterhole—the



children knowing to keep away until it was their turn! Even the dogs were washed. Seeing Fiona wash Nancy's back was a sign of the trust and closeness that developed between us all.

Clothes soon dried on the rocks near the site.—the Kimberley laundry!

After lunch the Zontians and Kathy were deserted as Alfie and Nancy and Yvonne's families returned to Gibb River. The next day was a school day, so they needed to get the children back home.

Yvonne had given us permission to walk to Crocodile Rock that was a couple of kms away. Sciona and Carole had been before and were very pleased when they found the rock! Luckily it is located near the river so we only had to follow the river to opposite the campsite we stayed at in 2004 to find it. The walk by the river was beautiful and shady.



Crocodile Rock is crocodile shaped and houses a number of crocodile paintings. A nearby rock has paintings of Wandjina and owls on it—representative of the story of Dhumbi the Owl that is a famous Ngarinyin story.

It was quite hot, so we were happy to plunge into the pools near our campsite and sit under the waterfalls to cool down a la 'Calendar Girls'.

Under the moonlight we returned to the campfire (that Kathy had lit) and spent a lovely evening nibbling on cheese, crackers, nuts and smoked oysters accompanied sharing stories by the camp fire.

On the Monday morning (2nd July) we struck camp slowly and went to the river for a final swim. It was so sad to leave this beautiful site. We took special care to replace the 'no entry' sign over the track so that this private place could not be used by tourists.



We returned to Gibb River about lunch time. Today was a very special day as Nancy and Yvonne had decided to take us to see Ngallangunda—the rocks and paintings that form the inspiration for Yvonne's paintings. The paintings are on the station and not easily accessible. We drove as close as we could and walked the rest of the way.

It was a warm, sunny day and we followed Nancy and Yvonne through streams and over rocks. We kept saying 'is it much further' and Yvonne kept saying, 'not far' and we would walk another kilometre. I would hate to go on a long journey with Yvonne!

The journey was worth the effort. We



were awed by the paintings and they brought back memories of Yvonne's Art Exhibition. There were hundreds of snake heads painted on the rock and the lovely snake curled around the child. Among them were Wandjina and frogs that seemed to crawl into the rock.

We just sat together, absorbed the atmosphere and contemplated the people from long ago who had created these images.



Time was getting on and we needed to get back to Gibb River for a meeting with John Pearson, the station's amiable Project Officer.

We reluctantly left the paintings and started the long walk home. We rested half way under some trees and watched a light plane fly overhead on its way to Gibb River.



The Gibb River station is in the middle of its muster—a time when all the stray cattle are rounded up on horseback and taken in trucks to Wyndham. The muster was held up because of the bad weather and now it is a race against time to complete it. We had been asked to count any cattle we saw as well as any donkeys. We counted 24 cattle and 1 donkey!

We all crammed into one car for the return journey to the community, driving very slowly and carefully to John's house.

The meeting was to see what we could do to help Nancy retrieve her dead brother's



Gibb River continued...

paintings from an art dealer. This was advocacy at its best. We were able to read through various letters and help develop a simple course of action for Nancy to take with support from John. We were impressed by the commitment shown by John, Alfie, Nancy and Yvonne to get the community off welfare and be self sufficient.



It was dark by time we left John's house and we made an easy quick tea of beans and chipolatas followed by bread and jam. That night the 5 of us squeezed into the camper trailer as it was so cold and damp outside.

We spent the next morning catching up with Mary Jane who showed us around the nursing post and with John in the store.



John explained that stocks were low as the recent rains had blocked the roads.



He was hopeful that a truck would arrive later that day. The nursing post and store are under the same roof and both have computers and internet connections.



There is a lovely playgroup building near the nursing post. We discussed ways that we could help build up the playgroup and provide training to the workers in it. Currently they are all volunteers, but there may be an opportunity to do on line child care training here, perhaps with the incentive of future paid employment.

Sadly, we had to pack up once more, and leave this community where we had been accepted as friends and 'aunties'.

We started our long trip back to Derby with a stop at Kupangarri Primary School at Mt Barnett. The Principal, Jarrad, received us well and arranged all the children on the school steps to receive their fishing lines.



We introduced ourselves with the children saying 'good morning' and repeating our names. The school was preparing for an International day the next day and they were learning about Italian and Indonesian food and languages for the event. One young girl diligently counted to ten in Italian. Mary spoke a few words of Italian to the group and Carole a few words of Indonesian.

On the way out, Sciona stopped at the elders office for a chat. These are closed



communities with entry closely monitored. During her chat with the elders they said that the children also love to get basketballs and Aussie rules footballs.

We went to Mt Barnett roadhouse for an ice cream and noted 23 rigs were in the car park (caravans, trailers, cars, trucks). The Gibb River Road was busy again! On the drive out to Gibb River we had counted less than 20 cars coming the other way—on the journey back there were hundreds!

Apart from the traffic, the drive back was lovely. The weather was fine and we could watch the landscape change from cattle country, through ranges, rocky country and flat lands. We stopped for lunch at a picnic site next to a stream and sat under the trees reflecting on our experiences so far.



In Derby we stopped at the IGA supermarket to get some fruit but the locks had seized on the trailer locker due to the build up of dust in them. Sciona, the engineer, went to get lubricants for the locks, while Fiona went to get lubricant for our throats.

We drove out to Birdwood Downs station and were met by Brad and Robin. We pitched the trailer just before dark near the BBQ and tap...luxury. There was even a warm shower!

As it was our last night with Glen, we made a slap-up meal of cheeseboard and dips followed by cauliflower cheese, braised steak and onions and steamed potatoes accompanied by wine.

Gibb River continued...

Our mobile phones were working so we got in touch with our families and friends to let them know we were OK.



As we went to sleep in the trailer that night we could hear the sounds of the horses galloping in the adjacent paddock...

Over breakfast the following morning, Robin Tredwell (station manager) came and chatted with us. Robin has lived in the Kimberley for years and is a horse specialist lecturing at TAFE. We shared about our experience at Gibb and she was most interested to hear about the mustering on horseback.

Glen had a plane to catch, but on the way we dropped in to see Angela Fisher who is a community nurse in Derby.

Glen chatted to her about a project that would enable people to access funds for incontinence pads. Angela was delighted to hear about it (as Mary Jane had been in Gibb River).



On our return from the airport we stopped off at Diamonds and Pearls, a rather upmarket café in Derby for a real coffee.

We had arranged to meet Lennie and Margaret at the Mowanjum Art Centre a few kilometres out of Derby. When we saw them there were big hugs all round. They had apparently been out to the

airport and waved to Glen as she caught her flight. We had not stayed to see the plane off as Glen was quite sad and insisted we leave!



Mowanjum is a modern art centre, currently surrounded by bright red dirt. It will be wonderful when the gardens are built. Preparations were underway for the opening of the festival that night. We spent quite a long time looking around the art gallery that is famous for its Wandjina images. We also saw boab nut carvings for a competition to be judged by Mary Anne Jebb later that day.

While we were at Mowanjum, Kathy and Yvonne collected 38 boxes of clothes that had been freighted up from St Catherine's, by Peter Zee and the super team from Pacific Transport. It took two deliveries to get them all to Birdwood Downs in the White Angel.



We unloaded the boxes and had a leisurely lunch under the boab trees, watching lorikeets playing in the boughs above us.

Meanwhile, the Birdwood mob were busy preparing costumes and practising songs for a Solomon Island head hunter dance...

Brad took a break from rehearsals to show us around the succulent eco-garden that has been built between the septic tanks and leach drain. This helps reduce the bacterial load on the leach drains and also

makes a wonderful garden. We could see many benefits of such a system at Gibb River.

Late in the afternoon we returned to Mowanjum. Yvonne had to stay in the car as, since the death of her brother-in-law last year, she was not allowed to be seen by some Mowanjum-based family members until 'sorry business' had been completed.

Fiona and Carole took Becky Boo and JJ around the small fairground that was next to the festival. This is their equivalent of the Royal Show, so the children were highly excited as they went on the Super Trooper whirligig and giant blow up slides. They met up with their cousins and had a wonderful time.



On the main stage, there was a full program of traditional dancing, singing and bands. The first night of the festival is a family night, so many performers were the young people from the various tribes. It was great to see the young people in traditional costume and the old people sitting behind providing the songs and music.



The team from Birdwood Downs performed magnificently, with Eddie the head-hunter. Afterwards they brought out the eskies that contained our dinner and we felt like queens eating our meal off china in the middle of the audience!

We all returned to Birdwood Downs, including Yvonne, Kathy, BeckyBoo and JJ and went straight to bed.



Gibb River continued...

In the morning we got up slowly and Kathy showed us the photos she had taken to date on her new (white) Macintosh notebook computer!



Sciona then got out the scissors and cut off all of Yvonne's hair and we went through some of the boxes of clothes to sort out items that would be needed for the 'sorry business' ceremony later that day.

We all returned to Derby, where Yvonne and Kathy went to organise the 'sorry business', while Lennie and Margaret went to catch up with Angela Fisher and the rest of us went for lunch at Diamond and Pearls. Lennie and Margaret caught up with us for lunch before they left for Broome as they had to get their hire car back that afternoon.

After lunch Sciona, Fiona, Mary and Carole were privileged to support Yvonne through the 'sorry business'. We met Yvonne's sister Pauline in Mowanjum community and watched as Becky Boo cut off her great aunt Pauline's hair. We placed tarpaulins out the front of the house and arranged a variety of clothes on them. There was also a box full of bread and half a dozen bags of flour. Lucy Ward (a famous Ngarinyin artist who we met on our last visit) showed us where to put everything.



Kathy and Mary went off to get particular leaves for a smoking ceremony.

We helped Yvonne and Pauline get ready for the ceremony and we waited with Penny Bidd (Yvonne's niece) for other family members to arrive.

Penny explained that the ceremony is designed to bring Pauline and Yvonne from darkness of grief back to the light. It was an extremely moving ceremony.

Visitors collected items of clothing and food, renewed their relationship with Yvonne and went home. Yvonne was visibly lifted after this emotional experience, that had been hanging over her for many months.

During the ceremony we noticed that Pauline had a cut on her foot that had gone septic. We took her to the hospital to get it sorted out. It was fascinating to see all the snakes in jars in the treatment room... We took Pauline home to put her feet up and then went on to the Mowanjum Festival.



It was lovely to see Yvonne actually being able to attend the festival and she thoroughly enjoyed seeing the dances and listening to the traditional music.

That night, we all returned to Birdwood Downs and collapsed into bed—it had been a physically and emotionally tiring day.

On our last morning together we packed up our camp and cleaned out the trailer and car. It was quite a task to transfer all the equipment into Fiona's small car!

We had a meeting in Diamonds and Pearls about the puppet project with Angela and Maya (from Kimberley TAFE). The meeting was very productive. Carole helped Kathy program her mobile phone and Sciona filled up with fuel.

The time had come to say goodbye to Yvonne and JJ. During this visit we had been welcomed as family and accepted in



the fold. Yvonne helped us to understand what it is like to live in a culture where many people are trying to maintain social standards and traditions, but where so many are wracked with alcoholism, poverty and co-dependency.

We will always remember the differences in the living conditions between Gibb River, where the community has hope and strives for sustainability, to those at Mowanjum where, in spite of an alcohol ban, alcohol problems are rife.

Some issues are too big for us to handle. However, through our friendship we can 'make ladders, not holes', and support those who are doing their best to make a future for their communities.

After we had wiped away the tears, we drove the 180km to Broome to return the vehicles. We had lunch in town and went out to Cable Beach. Sciona and Fiona started their long drive home while Carole and Mary watched the camels on the beach by the setting sun, before they went to the airport.

At the airport they caught up with Jeanette from the school at Gibb River and talked all the way home about 'ladder building' and reflected on our experiences.

- Handing out the fishing lines
- Daniel and Patrick stirring the boiled eggs in the 'dolly kitchen'
- Yvonne with her three dog shadows
- Glen's 'Jamie Oliver' impersonations
- Washing clothes with Nancy
- Mary retrieving items from under the bed (she was the only one that could fit in the small space)
- Walking through the bush with Nancy and Yvonne and listening to stories
- Sciona trying to lure the whistling kites
- Glen's motto of going to the loo 'just in time, not just in case'
- Children stuck in the mud
- Being called 'auntie' by a host of new young friends...

In the pink with Kath Mazzella

On 23rd June Kath Mazzella (Zonta Area 3 Woman of Achievement 2005) held an afternoon tea at her home to celebrate the launch of her new business called Gyn Forward that specialises in public speaking and advocating for gynaecological and sexual health.

Marg Giles and Carole Theobald represented the Club at the event that was attended by members of the Gynaecological Awareness Information Network (GAIN), Senator Ruth Webber, Stirling Councillor Elizabeth Re and many other friends, medical professionals and family that have helped Kath on her journey.

The afternoon was great fun. Kath themed the afternoon in pink and silver with guests being encouraged to wear these colours.



We gave Kath a bottle of pink bubbly and a congratulatory card to help launch her new business.

The colour was a good choice as nearly everything was pink in the 'tea room'. Kath had even painted the walls pink especially for the event. A large table was covered with an amazing variety of tasty treats – many of them pink too!

Kath is committed to 'viva la vulva' and it was no surprise to see her famous 'floral vulva' on the sideboard and her 'designer' uterus and ovary on display. Marg and I joked that Kath would make an interesting TV program on her vulval collectables!



She certainly brings the topic out into the open and in such a fun, entertaining way, that you could not take offence. After a while we began to notice that the platters were labia shaped, the tea candle holder looked like uteruses (uteri?) and there were even 'glitter', (glittery clitoris crystals) around the room!

Kath's impressive scrapbook of the activities she has undertaken to raise gynaecological awareness was on display. It contains a large collection of her awareness-raising activities including photos, letters and programs.

While we ate and chatted, two young cellists entertained us with a variety of classical pieces.



The formal activities included a short speech by Federal Senator, Ruth Webber, a half minute silence to contemplate women affected by gynaecological cancers, cutting the tape and lighting sparklers to launch Kath's new advocacy business.

It was a family affair, with Kath's mother taking to the piano to lead a lively rendition of the 'hokey kokey' which everyone actively joined in!

All in all, it was a special afternoon of acknowledgement and reflection – and a delightful way to network with women, to discuss ways that we can all help each other to improve the lives of women.

Kath at World Congress...

Members may be interested to know that the Club recently helped fund Kath's traveling expenses to attend the 1st World Congress for Sexual Health: Achieving Health, Pleasure and Respect that was held in Sydney in April 2007.

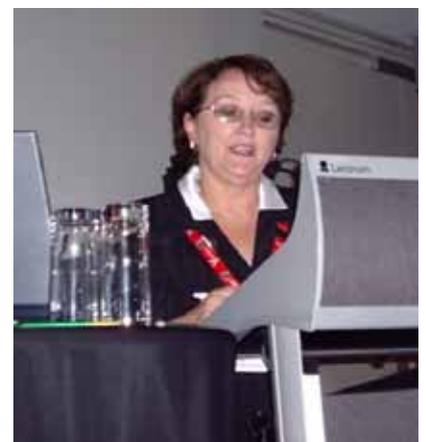
Kath reports:

It was a wonderful opportunity to present my abstract "A women's personal perspective and experience of what is missing and inadequate in sexual health and society. I found it interesting to see the wealth of information and knowledge – if only the

public could be given a quarter of the information that was there.

I must admit it was very daunting taking it all in with so many aspects of sexual health that being covered. I wish I could have attended all sessions. My abstract was to highlight the stigmas misconceptions and taboos that surround educator's, health professionals and society, to break the barriers to move to a healthy and accurate knowledge of gynaecological-sexual health.

Well done Kath!



Kath takes to the podium at the World Congress for Sexual Health in Sydney.



Area 3 Jane M Klausman Awardee announced *Karen Groves*

Rachel Thomson has recently been announced as the Jane M Klausman Awardee for Area 3 for 2007.

Rachel is incidentally known to our club as we sponsored her to go to the USA for an internship in Washington DC a year or so ago. She spoke at one of our meetings last year about her exciting times there.

She is 27 years of age and while she was born in and did her secondary education and early stages of her tertiary education in Tasmania, she is now a WA resident living in Leederville.

She has undertaken various courses of undergraduate study and is currently in the 3rd year of a Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Arts Degree. Her main field of study is economics and political science.

She has excelled in her studies to date and applied for this Award to enable her to continue her studies

and achieve the results she desires to enter the business world. Her "overarching objective is to contribute to the economic and social well-being of others throughout (her) career."

She is looking forward to a career in business management and has a particular interest in organizations which provide services previously delivered by the public sector.

Rachel is the recipient of the Area 3 (WA) Jane M Klausman Women in Business Award for 2007. She will be presented with \$1500 in due course.

Her application has been forwarded to District 23 for adjudication at that level. The District 23 Awardee's nomination is forwarded to Zonta International for selection at that level.

Area 3 congratulates Rachel on this achievement and we look forward to following her career with great interest.



Rachel Thomson and Judy Tennant at the October 2006 Club meeting.

Area 3 Jane M Klausman Award Committee:

- Karen Groves (Area Director),
- Danielle Gallegos (PNS Club) and
- Debbie Mason (Perth Club).

*The Presidents of the Australian Federation of University Women (WA)
and the Karrakatta Club*

Hilary Silbert and Roberta Holland

have much pleasure in inviting
you

**to the Western Australian launch of
Volume 2 of the Collected Verse of Dame Mary Gilmore
by Dr Jenny Strauss
National President
Australian Federation of University Women**

**Thursday 19th July
6 - 8pm**

**\$27.00 for drinks and canapés
at the Karrakatta Club, 4 Sherwood Court, Perth**

RSVP directly to the Karrakatta Club on 9325 8111 or email: karrakattaclub@netunltd.com.au
by **Friday 13th July**. Payment can be made by credit card or cheque.

Masters Swimming WA Service Award

Presented on 9 June to Tricia Summerfield for her contribution to Masters Swimming during 13 years membership of Stadium Snappers Masters Swimming club as

- President (1998-9),
- Coach (1998 - present),
- Captain (1997 and 2003-04),
- Secretary (1995-96),
- Liaison officer with Challenge Stadium (forever); and
- on the State Board of Masters Swimming WA as Director of Development (2005-2006),
- Director of Swimming (current),
- WA representative on National Membership and Promotion Committee (2006 - present).

Congratulations Tricia!—well deserved. Ed.



State President Jack Busch presenting the award. Bit of airbrushing would be good!! Hair-brushing would have been good but too late. It was a total surprise so I hadn't had a makeover.

pride of australia medal 2007

The **prideofaustralia**TM medal honours everyday Australians who do extraordinary things in our communities.

They are our unsung heroes whose contribution to the Australian way of life is not widely known or recognised by the general public. Through their achievements, these remarkable Australians inspire us to help make Australia a better place to live.

These people are not high-profile Australians. They might be a friend, workmate, neighbour, your child's teacher, the local police officer or fire fighter or simply

someone who has made your community a better place to live - you can even nominate yourself.

There are 10 categories in the **prideofaustralia**TM medal program: Bravery, Courage, Community Spirit, Young Aussie, Mateship, Fair Go, Environment, Peace, True Blue and Role Model.

A unique **prideofaustralia**TM medal will be awarded to the winner of each category at a special ceremony event held in NSW (& ACT), VIC, SA, QLD, WA, TAS and NT in October 2007.

Entering its third year, the **prideofaustralia**TM medal has grown from strength to strength and has uncovered heart-warming, courageous stories about everyday people whose extraordinary actions make you proud to be Australian.

Nominate someone today by visiting www.prideofaustralia.com.au.

Nominations close on August 17th.

D23 Project Display

The votes are in and counted and the projects to represent each decade of our Club will be:

- 1970s—Air Race
- 1980s—Thailand Dairy Farm
- 1990s—Education Award
- 2000s—Ngarinyin Friendship



Sincere thanks to Pat Johnson, Californian Zontian extraordinaire, for donating money to purchase the fishing lines. Many thanks also go to Eric Gladston the owner of Gus Veness Fishing and Sport in Sydney for giving us a great deal on the purchase of the fishing lines, throwing in extra hooks and paying all the freight to Perth.



Peter Zee from Pacific Transport yet again donated the freight of the two pallets (38 boxes) of clothes from Perth to Derby. Many thanks for your terrific ongoing support.

You have made many people very happy and very warm. THANK YOU!

Australian Federation of University Women (WA) Inc. Education Trust 2007 Bursaries

Do you know someone who could benefit from these bursaries?

- **AFUW(WA) Foundation Bursary \$5,000 and Mary Walters Bursary \$3,500.** The purpose of these bursaries is to meet a special need which will assist women in the completion of a higher degree by research.
- **Jill Bradshaw Bursary \$3,000.** The purpose of this bursary is to meet a special need which will either assist a woman who has completed a higher degree by research but, at the time of the application, does not have access to academic support for her further writing and research; or assist a woman to complete a higher degree by research
- **Mary and Elsie Stevens Bursary \$3,000.** The purpose of this bursary is to meet a special need which will assist a woman in the completion of a higher degree by research in mathematics or science.
- **Joyce Riley Bursary \$3,000.** The purpose of this bursary is to meet a special need which will assist a woman in the completion of a higher degree by research or coursework in the humanities or social sciences.



Application forms available from:

Bursary Liaison Officer
AFUW(WA) Inc
P O Box 48
NEDLANDS WA 6909

Closing Date For Applications:

5pm Tuesday 31 July 2007

No late applications will be considered.



Have you ever participated in a UN online discussion? Why not have your say and get involved on the world stage?

This online discussion, which will be conducted in English, will run for four weeks from 18 June to 15 July 2007.

Find out more about through 'UNIFEM Currents' – the UNIFEM electronic newsletter that has links to many stories and discussions at:

<http://www.unifem.org/>

Diary Dates

12th July, Dinner meeting, St Catherine's College 6.00pm for 6.30pm. Guest Speaker Barbara Etter—Assistant Commissioner of WA Police.

28th July, Morning Tea/Lunch, Deli Chicchi, 29 Strickland St, Mount Claremont. Opportunity for new members and their mentors to meet from 11 am and other members to join them from midday. RSVP to Sandy McGregor by July 13th.

19th July, AFUW launch of volume 2 of the Collected Verse of Dame Mary Gilmore at Karrakatta Club 6-8pm. Tickets \$27 available from Karrakatta Club on 9325 8111 or email karrakattaclub@netunltd.com.au. RSVP before Friday 13th July.

17th August 2007—Closing date for Pride of Australia medals Visit www.prideofaustralia.com.au for nomination forms. See page 11 for more details.

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

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

Birthing Kit News: The big news is the signing of a new AusAID contract with the Birthing Kit Project receiving a further \$200,000. This will provide the basis for a truly exciting 12 months in which we can not only commit to making and distributing over 100,000 kits but we can build on our community development programmes which have evolved as part of our distribution plan. *Read the latest Birthing Kit Foundation Newsletter downloadable from our Club's website.*

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR CLUB?

Visit our web site at www.zontaperth.org.au or email zontaperth@yahoo.com.au