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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**

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Inzert

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A thousand birthing kits in one hour!



Many hands make light work as the students from St Catherine's College, members of the Zonta Club of Perth, family and friends get together to assemble birthing kits that will be sent to developing countries.

Every minute a person dies as a result of infections obtained from giving birth in an unclean environment. By using a simple birthing kit, birthing assistants in developing countries are able to reduce this risk considerably.

The small kits consist of a sheet of plastic, a pair of gloves, a scalpel, two clamps, pieces of gauze and a bar of soap. The contents work out to about 80 cents each— simple but cost effective tools to save lives.

A birthing kit assembly day was held at St Catherine's College and it only took an hour for students from the College, members of the Zonta Club of Perth and their families and friends, to make up one thousand kits.

Where will the kits go?

900 of the kits are going to Mission World in Belair, South Australia. From there, they will be placed in a container and shipped to the Impact Ministries in Uganda.

The remaining 100 kits are being sent to the Victory Life Centre in Western

Australia and a representative from that organisation will be taking them to Bougainville in Papua New Guinea later this month.

The Birthing Kit Project is an initiative of Districts 23 and 24 of Zonta International—an area that covers all of Australia.

The project relies on donations and contributions of time and labour from Zonta members and is co-funded by a \$200,000 grant from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

The project has seen the development of the Birthing Kit Foundation to ensure ongoing sustainability of the project.

The Foundation membership has now reached the magic 100 that means it has achieved Tax Concession Charity status and now the process to obtain tax deductible donations can be started!

If you haven't joined the Foundation as a personal member already, just email info@birthingkitfoundation.org.au for an application form—and be confident that your \$25 annual membership will be put to good use.



Barbara Etter and glass ceilings...

At the July meeting, the Club was pleased to welcome guest speaker, Barbara Etter, Assistant Commissioner of Corruption Prevention and Investigation with the WA Police.

In October 2006, Barbara won the WA Telstra Businesswoman of the Year, after having also won the Hudson Community and Government category of the Award.

Barbara provided us with valuable insights into how she 'smashed through the glass ceiling in policing', and explained that she had to 'learn how to walk on broken glass for a number of years'.

It's often said that if you want something done, you ask a busy person—and on this measure Barbara is busier than most.

Barbara has followed a non traditional career path, holding a pharmacy degree, an honours law degree, a Master of Business Administration in International Management and a Master of Laws in Comparative Law.



L-R: Club member Dr Penny Flett, (who was also a previous Telstra Businesswoman of the Year) presents Barbara Etter with a small gift after her fascinating talk.

She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Australasian College of Biomedical Scientists and an Associate Fellow of the Australian

Institute of Management. She has been admitted as a barrister and legal practitioner in NSW and the NT respectively. She is also an Adjunct Associate Professor within the School of Law and Justice at Edith Cowan University and has been a member of several Boards. She recently became the Patron for the WA Division of the Australian Institute of Office Professionals. She is currently the President of the WA Police Sports Federation and is a keen sportswoman, competing in ocean swims, fun runs and triathlons.

With her keen sense of humour, finely tuned antennae to bullshit, a back of rhinoceros skin, the adaptability of a chameleon, the memory of an elephant (helped along with ginkgo) and the temperament of a golden retriever, it was no surprise to know that she is currently on the Board of the RSPCA.

It was fascinating to hear of her varied experiences both within and beyond policing and we thank Barbara for her entertaining and insightful presentation.

Young Women in Public Affairs Award

Congratulations go to Belinda Huynh from Melville SHS who was selected as the Zonta Club of Perth winner.

Belinda will receive a certificate and a cheque for \$200.

In addition, her application will be forwarded to District 23 for consideration for the US\$500 District award.

If successful there she could have a chance at one of 5 US\$1000 International Awards.

Good Luck Belinda...!

Financial Assistance

At the July meeting members agreed to support two valuable initiatives that are both in line with the objects of Zonta International.

Firstly, following the impressive talk by Martha Tashome about Female Genital Mutilation, the Service Status of Women committee has explored several ways in which our Club might assist including funding support and advocacy.

Martha Tashome and her husband Dr Girma Molla, from The Unity of Ethiopians in WA (UEWA) explained that a community radio program was in danger of being cancelled due to a funding shortfall. The program provides an important medium for women to hear about many issues in their own language, including many interventions aimed at reducing female genital mutilation. The Club agreed to donate \$2,000 to give time

to investigate other funding sources.

The second request came from Di Annear who has a long association with the Zonta House refuge. Di requested that \$2,000 be donated to the Women's Legal Referral Service that assists women leaving domestic violence relationships to obtain fair property settlements. The funding can be used to pay for lodgement of documents with Landgate or a variety of other legal fees.

After a short discussion, both requests were passed by the membership.

Deli Chicchi

Over a dozen members enjoyed the morning tea and lunch at the Deli Chicchi in Mount Claremont. This fellowship event gave mentors and older members opportunity to get to know new members better. Let's do it again soon!

Welcome to new members

Helen Rowe



Helen grew up in country Victoria before moving to Melbourne where she lived until 2005. Her career path has been a diverse one, including:

- Seven years in the travel industry as a senior consultant to commercial clients;
- Event Management for the Royal Melbourne Show for eight years;
- Project Manager for the National Heart Foundation for several years;
- Business Broking as a major component of her family business, involving business divestments in the \$500,000 - \$12M range.

Helen was appointed Director of Development at Lions Eye Institute in December 2005 after moving from Melbourne to Perth with her family as part of a planned 'sea change'.

She was formerly executive director of a boutique investment and corporate advisory firm assisting clients with strategic planning and expansion capital needs. Helen also ran her own event management and marketing company and has had several years experience in the not-for-profit sector.

As Director of Development at LEI Helen is responsible for all fundraising programs and events and the development of collaborative relationships with corporate, state and federal government sectors.

Helen holds a real estate licence and lists her interests as her family, reading, walking her dog, music, yoga, cooking, going to the movies and live theatre. She also has a strong interest in politics and world affairs.

She describes herself as compassionate, tolerant and fair-minded and places significant emphasis on honesty, integrity and hard work.

Refat Murshed



Refat is currently working at the Education Research and Academic Planning Office at the School of Education, Murdoch University, Australia. She holds an MBA (Masters in Business Administration) from the Deakin University, Australia. Previously she worked in a number of countries including:

United Kingdom:

- Skill Development Officer, Manchester City Council Project, geared towards skill development for ethnic women
- Wage Clerk in a mid-tier accounting firm

Brunei Darussalam:

- Teaching Cambridge A Level Accounting at the college

Bangladesh:

- Teaching BBA and MBA courses at the university

During the period 2004 to 2006, Refat was the Secretary of Zonta Club of Dhaka III. She participated in the New York and Melbourne Convention of Zonta International.

She is also a member of the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh. She has a great passion for the community and social work, and she likes travelling, art, and understanding different cultures.

Welcome to you both. A special 'thank you' goes to Refat for agreeing to take on the role of Treasurer (with mentorship and support from other members). It is a privilege to welcome an experienced Zontian to the Club—Ed.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations
to
Rachel Thomson
who has been selected as
the
District 23 winner
of the
Jane M Klausman
Scholarship.

Rachel receives a
certificate
and a
cheque for \$1,000.

Her nomination
goes for selection
to the
Zonta International level.



Forgotten victims of domestic violence

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News

Forgotten victims of domestic violence

JENNIFER CURTIS

Paula's nerves are shot to pieces but she is thankful she is alive after a terrifying ordeal last year during which her abusive partner almost throttled her to death when she refused to have sex with him.

Like many violent men he threatened to torture her pets, two young cats, as blackmail to keep her in the destructive relationship which ultimately very nearly cost her her life.

Her story prompted the Cat Haven in Perth to take in women's cats free for an unlimited time so they can leave a partner who is beating them.

Paula, 37, is a slim, attractive woman but it is clearly apparent seven months after her ordeal that she is a long way away from being the confident, happy, relaxed woman she was.

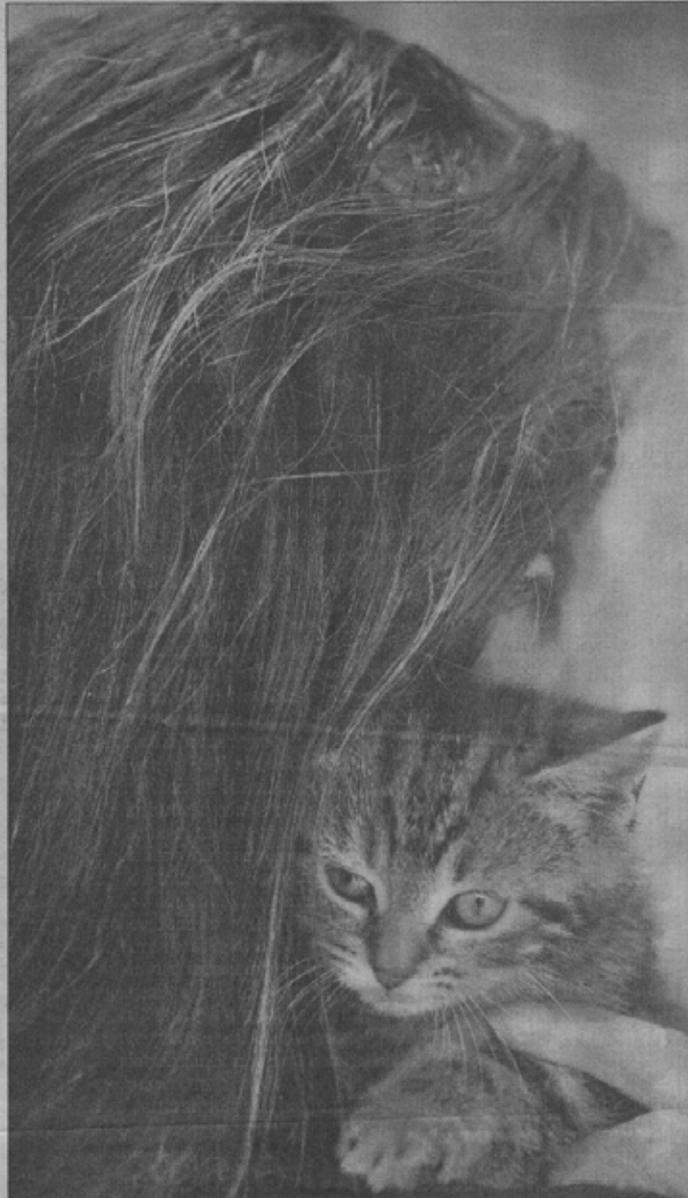
Her former boyfriend beat her to the extent she lost consciousness on many occasions. The horrific ordeal began when he was evicted from his rented property and moved in with her for what was supposed to be a very short time but transpired to be almost two years.

Paula initially was attracted to his charm, good sense of humour and easy going nature but slowly realised he was the opposite — a man with a very fragile ego and low self-esteem who had to use violent and controlling behaviour to gain any sense of worth.

Like many abusers he slowly cut Paula off from her friends and family, so she sank deeper and deeper into his control, leaving her with little support and no obvious path of escape.

"I used to look at people in other situations and wonder how people stood for it but at the time I got sucked into the predicament and as my self-esteem became lower and lower I couldn't see a way out," she said.

The situation deteriorated over the months as her partner got increasingly violent. He forced himself upon her sexually, which put her off sleeping with him even further — but eventually his anger peaked. "On the final occasion he tried to strangle me over a period of about 40 minutes and I was literally fighting for my life," she said.



Refuge: Paula with kitten Booty at the Cat Haven in Shenton Park. It is caring for pets of women struggling to leave abusive relationships. Picture: Ian Ferguson

When Paula finally escaped she contacted police and a restraining order was served. Officers said her life was still in danger and advised her to go into a women's refuge. Her ex had repeatedly threatened to harm her cats and in desperation she took them to the Cat Haven for help.

"When Paula arrived late last year and told me her story I had a lump in my throat and realised there were probably many more women out there trapped in the same predicament,"

Cat Haven community relations manager Roz Robinson said.

Since early this year, the haven has encouraged all women struggling to leave abusive relationships because of ties such as a cat, to bring the animal to the centre for temporary or long-term care. "The partner's threat to torture the animal is an aspect of domestic violence people don't consider and we've since been working hard to get the message out that there is a means of escape," Ms Robinson said.

This article appeared in the West Australian on Saturday 14 July 2007 and is a strong reminder that victims of domestic violence are not limited to humans...Ed

Birthing Kit Assembly day—in pictures!

About 50 Zontians, students from St Catherine's College, family and friends gathered in the Dining Room at St Catherine's to assemble the kits. The energy in the room was amazing and it only took one hour to make 1,000 kits—no time at all. Afterwards, volunteers relaxed over a lovely selection of sandwiches, cakes, muffins and cookies that went with a very welcome cup of tea. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to make a difference in other people's lives....



1. The dining room at St Catherine's College was a hive of activity with approximately 50 students, Zontians, friends and family, contributing to the event.



2. The kits included specially folded sheets of black plastic...two clamps... (St Catherine's students did a great job folding the plastic)



3. ...Three gauze pads....(L-R Lorraine, Lennie, Gillian and Tricia patiently count the gauze pads..)



4. ...a pair of gloves, scalpel and bar of soap (Everyone soon got the knack of rolling the ingredients so they could be stuffed easily into the bags)



5. Anne Marie, Marilyn and John get stuck into assembling kits while Sciona keeps them fed with ingredients..



6. Event organizer, Debbie Mason, rests on her laurels—in this case 1,000 birthing kits that will help birthing assistants around the world to create a clean birthing environment, reduce infection, and save lives.



September Club Meeting

Please note that this has
been brought forward to
6th SEPTEMBER 2007
So that members may attend the District 23
Conference in Tasmania.

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

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



Introduction Evening

The next Introduction Evening will take place on Tuesday October 16th at St Catherine's College.

These evenings give potential members opportunity to learn about Zonta in an informal setting over a glass of wine and a selection of cheeses. If you know of any potential members, please give their details to Sandy McGregor.

Diary Dates

- 9th August 2007—Dinner Meeting 6.00pm**
Includes a special look at the history of our Club from some of our charter members...
- 17th August 2007—Closing date for Pride of Australia medals** Visit www.prideofaustralia.com.au for nomination forms and more details.
- 6th September 2007—Dinner Meeting 6.00pm**
Guest speaker will be Professor Lesley Parker, Chancellor of Curtin University and also a special presentation will be made to Rachel Thomson the District 23 Jane M Klausman Award winner.
- 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!
- 7th December, Education Award**
Closing date for Education Award entries.
- 28th June-3rd —Zonta International Convention 2008, Rotterdam**
Have you made plans to go yet?

Opportunity to promote the Amelia Earhart Fellowships!

National Science Week

Sat 18 - Sun 26 August
www.scienceweek.info.au

Go to the website at www.scienceweek.info.au and send off for the Brain Break pack including posters, bookmarks, quiz questions, activity suggestions...



morning tea for
national
science
week

This is a National Science Week
WA Coordinating Committee initiative

**Does your organisation employ
scientists, science teachers or lecturers,
or rely on scientific knowledge for its
projects and products?**

Then get involved in National Science Week 2007 by holding a Brain Break morning tea for your staff.