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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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photos for Inzert to:
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The inspirational early days...

Marg Giles, Yvonne Roberts, Freda Jacob, Jean Oldham and Karen Groves



Area 3 Director Karen Groves (standing) congratulates club pioneers (left to right) Marg Giles, Jean Oldham, Yvonne Roberts and Freda Jacob on their wonderful presentation.

Inspirational Early Days **Margaret Giles**

You have probably all read our history in the *Welcome to the Zonta Club of Perth* booklet compiled by Carole and the committee but, as one of the oldies it gives me pleasure to commence this evening's presentation with a personal perspective of some of my experiences.

My curiosity was aroused when I received an invitation to lunch at the Karrakatta Club with Dorothy Thompson. Dorothy was a quietly spoken, persuasive Canadian Zontian in her early 70's, who had approached many executive and professional women in Perth to talk about Zonta.

After meeting her target, she handed over the Manual of Procedures and several references and then disappeared – returned to Canada – never to be seen again.

On 27th December 1971, 29 interested ladies met for cocktails in the Executive

Suite of the Parmelia Hotel – very exclusive in those days. We duly elected Sue Fletcher as our President and from then we were in full flight. Sue was the only one of the group that I had known before this meeting. She trained as a nurse at RPH but had later been a Channel 9 TV personality. She was a most attractive red head with flawless porcelain skin. She spoke beautifully and dressed with style. She was a great ambassadress with incredible vision and drive.

Sue Glynn (now Jarvis and my footy mate) was our first secretary and had her own Cookery School and Catering business. Our minutes came out in purple – copied on a Gestetner machine. How times have changed – there were no computers and emails then.

I was in my late 30's, the Deputy Matron of the Mount Hospital and in awe of some of this diverse group. We covered many walks of life and with different interests and experiences – but all focused on community service and we melded with incredible ease.



The inspirational early days, continued...

It was very early days when we were plunged into a fund raising and publicity project for the WA Branch of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. We entered two of our members in the Women's Transcontinental Air Race to raise the profile of RFDS in Perth, WA and the USA.

Our two wonderful aviators were pilot Rosemary de Pierre and navigator Robin Miller.

What a rude introduction to a service club when I was put into the Special Committee to organize this project!

After my 'day job' I would race down to Jack Fletcher's office at the foot of Hill St, where we used all his office facilities. Jack (our President's husband) was a most generous American who owned the Australian Cattle Company in the North West.

Lennie was the Publicity Officer and she produced an information kit. We wrote a myriad of letters requesting donations and, with the aid of the International Directory, the faxes were flying back and forth from the States. (Faxes were very new technology).

By appointment we met with corporate business executives. I'll never forget going with Robin to request support from the General Manager of the Bank of New South Wales, Richard Diggins – who also happened to be the Mayor of Subiaco. We really had such gall.

Apart from raising substantial funds we were successful in getting the loan of a single engine 1964 Beech Bonanza plane and fuel from an American oil pipeline company in Texas (a contact of Jack Fletcher's).

The Australian Wool Board made special uniforms for our pilots as well as formal gowns for the End of Race Banquet.

The Race, known as the Powder Puff Derby, was a 2,500 mile jaunt from

California to New York – the toughest women's air race in the world requiring great navigational skills. It was an obstacle race – and an endurance test – as much as a speed race. The conditions were perilous and whilst many of the contestants were professional racers, neither of our two had flown any of this route.

There were 108 aircraft in the Race and our team won one of the legs, were 6th across the finishing line and 36th on handicap. A great achievement.

There were two overnight stops and eight refuelling points and many members of Zonta clubs en route met our girls.

The Race took place between the 13th and 16th July 1973.

This project put the Club on the map – both locally and internationally. The two pilots certainly took risks – the Club also took chances – we were a newly formed group and new in the Zonta world. We certainly made an impression.

I would like to now hand over to Yvonne and Freda to tell you of some of their experiences...

Forming new clubs Yvonne Roberts

Our Perth Zonta Club was chartered on 5th April 1972, but it was 7 years before we were encouraged to launch out and form a second Zonta Club in WA.

With Barbara Hale as Chairman, we formed a committee to explore the prospect of a second Club South of the River.

We were duly inundated with paperwork from World headquarters advising us how to go about it, plus adhering to the Rules.

Remember in those days, there were no modern day computers, emails etc, just slow mail to America and back.

We followed very diligently and, in 1979, the South of Perth Club was duly chartered. It flourished for many years establishing the Zonta House Refuge in 1984, that is still operating today ...plus a variety of Outreach and counseling centres.

Sadly, through decreasing membership, the Club closed with some members moving to the Perth and Perth Northern Suburbs clubs. The written history of the Zonta House Refuge is well worth reading, plus a visit, and your support for any of their functions.

In 1981, we explored the Northern Suburbs and I took over the Chairmanship from Barbara Hale. Northern Suburbs was chartered in 1981 and has continued to flourish.

In 1983, we chartered the Darling Ranges Club that functioned well for several years before disbanding.

A comment: when you join Zonta you join an International movement and understanding and accepting the requirements is not always easy for some members.

However, we are back in the Hills area again when, in more recent years, the Northern Suburbs Club chartered the Swan Hills Club.

Before handing over to Freda to tell you about the great fun we had chartering the Bunbury, Dunsborough and Peel Clubs, I would like to impress on you all that we belong to a wonderful and much needed world movement and it is important that we not only attend our meetings but try and find time to visit other Clubs if we are traveling locally, interstate or overseas and of course, make a special effort to attend, area, District and International meetings.

...to request support from the General Manager of the Bank of New South Wales...
"...We really had such gall."

"..we all belong to a wonderful and much needed world movement...."

The inspirational early days, continued...

Expanding through the south west region

Freda Jacob

The Organisation and Mentoring Committee continued as a working committee and it was decided to investigate the growing population of Bunbury and Dunsborough. We actually wondered if we could combine the two areas, but Dunsborough would have none of that at all.

I had a fellow Occupational Therapist living in Bunbury, and she was extremely helpful in getting names and addresses of the Bunbury ladies.

“Little did we dream of Mandurah as it is today...”

The Bunbury Club was chartered in 1989. Pat Turner was our chairman, and Yvonne and I were buzzing around, as Pat was a fairly new Zontian.

We used to have our meetings in the evening and then have to drive home after the meeting, as Pat was a working girl.

One night as we were leaving I popped into the toilet at the last minute, and the girls thought everyone was out, and slammed the door to the Hall shut. We had no keys, and we did not even know who owned the Hall. They eventually got a key and I was released. It was a very late night.

As we had already been to Dunsborough, we knew the potential there, so it was decided that that was the area to be developed next. Jean Oldham was persuaded to take the chair, Yvonne and I were still involved, and we added Jude Sommerville and Carolyn Unsworth to the committee.

As it happened Carolyn had a house in Dunsborough, and that enabled us to go to Dunsborough and stay the night and that was good fun. With Jean at the helm need I say anything

more? The Club was chartered in 1991 at the Dunsborough Hotel with a grand flourish and with the most wonderful display of Protea.

In 1993, we began looking at Mandurah and Rockingham as it seemed to be a potential area for growth. Little did we dream of Mandurah as it is today. The Peel Club was chartered in May 1994.

Each Club had its little crises. Jean was still our chairman, and we added Linley Adam (later Linley Buchanan) to the committee. Peel was a little easier because the distance was better, but we had to work extremely hard there,

as it did not have a good cohesive community group. We eventually got ready for Charter, everything was organized and the appointed Chairman rang Jean up and said 'I can't do it, and I am going to resign'. We were able to get a wonderful person to take the reins, so it all ended happily...

We then looked at Rockingham and Joondalup and were considering an area west of our club, possibly Fremantle, Cottesloe or Swanbourne, but life was getting a little tougher. The work climate was changing and it was realized that our Club was having difficulties and we should concentrate on our own Club. So the Extension and Mentoring Committee was disbanded, and the only Club that has been started since that time is the Swan Hills Club sponsored by Perth Northern Suburbs.

The development of new clubs gave our Club quite a challenge. It was an exciting project meeting new people, talking to them about the objectives and aims of Zonta and gauging their interests and suitability for Zonta teamwork etc. The excitement and difficulty of getting the group together, then to pick their first chairman, and to organize the charter dinner is a tremendous challenge to everyone.

We loved art and discovered Zonta Club members did also...

There will always be hiccups, and it is a matter of sorting out the problems, and living through them and supporting and mentoring the new club for at least a year. I do believe that it would be easier to start a new club under the new classification systems.

Yvonne has been on the committee for the development of five of the six clubs. She has been the Chariman for three: South Perth, Northern Suburbs and the Darling Range. Perth Northern Suburbs regard her as the 'mother' of their Club. Jean Oldham was Chairman of both the Dunsborough and Peel Clubs.

Perhaps one of our members will see it as an exciting thing to do and want to start a new club. It is a very worthwhile venture...

The Art Show Era – 1980 - 2004
Jean Oldham

I am going to talk about our Club Art Shows between 1980 and 2004, which were to raise funds for our Club awards etc. I have not included the Yvonne Burgu exhibition so successfully organized two years ago by Sciona and Carole, as that was held specifically to help Yvonne raise money to buy a vehicle for the Ngarinyin community. In my story there is not a Wandjina in sight...!

The idea of having Art Shows as a fund raiser for our Club evolved in 1980. John and I had had alterations to our house which I though could make it a suitable venue for an Art

Show. We loved art and I discovered Zonta Club members did also.

A small committee was formed and with the guidance of Mae O'Halloran, an established artist, we began.

We approached artists who were already recognized in the WA Art World including Wim Boissevan, Robert Juniper, Allan Baker and



The inspirational early days, continued...

Elizabeth Durack who all agreed to participate.

We asked 20% commission.

In the following years we invited many other artists, also potters including Joan Campbell and Jo Reid, glass craftsmen including Alan Fox, who was commissioned by the State Government to create a gift for the Queen on her last visit to Perth, screen printers and jewellers. The best known of these is probably Alan Linney.

Having asked all the artists we maintained regular contact with them up to the Art Show. In this time there

were the usual jobs to be done, e.g. organize insurance, catering (done by the members) drinks and printing of flyers, tickets, catalogues (no Carole Theobald then).

We received wonderful support from our husbands, partners and our friends.

During the week prior to the Show, John and I transferred all our art and ornaments to an upstairs room.

We were open only on the Sunday, as on the Saturday a small group of members came and transformed our house into a Zonta Art show. Sue Jarvis provided our lunch.

Admission was by \$5.00 ticket only and the doors opened about 10.30 am till every one went home that evening.

Elizabeth and Ian Constable were among our first buyers, invited by Zena Webster. Freda had compiled a roster so every available member worked in some way – either welcoming guests, taking the money, acting as a spotter, waitressing, re-organising the paintings and most importantly being a salesman. Freda excelled at both of these last two.

It was a day of great fellowship. Four more Art Shows were held in our home – in 1981, 1983, 1985 and

1987.

In 1989 the venue was the Bay Gallery of Fine Art in Claremont and a new format was devised under the capable leadership of Wendy Alford. A public gallery meant more art could be displayed, it was open for the whole weekend and the general public could walk off the street. Later we had formal openings on the Friday night.

Succeeding art shows in the 1990s were held mostly at the Old Moore's building in Fremantle and also one in

1993 at the Fremantle Prison TAFE.

These were all given tremendous support by Wendy MacGibbon.

The Old Moore's Building was a popular venue and we were told by one of our delightful artists that she knew it had a resident ghost who was happy with our show!

One year, Carole Theobald surpassed all previous catering efforts by organizing a Zonta Café, with appropriate signage.

Wendy Alford instigated an Emerging Artist Award at one Show and at another an Emerging Jeweller Award, the work coming mainly from TAFE students. We had external judges, well known in their particular field of expertise.

One year we gave every Club member a medium-size flower pot, or more if they wanted more, for them to decorate themselves or they could ask a more talented friend.

John Colwill (the gardening guru), was one contributor who printed a list of instructions on the pot of 'how to plant your plant'. Number one instruction read 'put the green stuff at the top!'

Marlena Jeffrey, wife of our current Governor General, painted one with a beautiful Jacobean floral design. We had a wide variety of styles. The

show was a great success.

A number of more intimate Art Shows were also organized by Linley Buchanan at her office premises. She and Les made a great contribution assisted as always by willing Club members.

By the beginning of 2000, there were numerous Art Shows being organized throughout the metropolitan area and the competition meant much less chance for us to have a good financial result. Also we had run out of friends who had all run out of wall space!

However in 2004, Wendy MacGibbon organized an interesting weekend exhibition at Kidogo Art Centre of 9x5's. Wendy put a tremendous amount of work into this, assisted as always, by Club members and of course Dudley whose office space was filled by piles of 9 x 5s for many preceding weeks.

This was our last Zonta Art Show. Over the years the format varied, but always it was very popular and encouraged great Club fellowship.

You have heard about the Club's we chartered and now we would like Karen Groves, our Area Director to bring us up to date on where the other WA Clubs are now.

Clubs in Area 3 today Karen Groves

Charter years of clubs in Area 3:
1972 – Perth
1979 – South of Perth
1984 - Refuge
1981 – Perth Northern Suburbs
1983 – Darling Ranges
1989 – Bunbury
1991 – Dunsborough Area
1994 – Peel Region
1998 – Swan Hills

Zonta International, as an organization, has stood the test of time – the ideals and goals of its early days are still the central focus of the organization today – albeit in a very different era.

“..a resident ghost who was happy with our show!”

The inspirational early days, continued...

These ladies we know and love as “Yvonne, Freda, Jean and Marg” were presented with such challenges years ago when they started Zonta in WA.

In listening to them, I have been thinking –

- What vision they had! – but perhaps they saw it more as a challenge.
- What courage they had! – but perhaps they saw taking risks as “nothing ventured, nothing gained”.
- What commitment they had! – but perhaps they persevered because they believed in the ideals and efforts of Zonta.
- What time they devoted! – but perhaps the establishment of Zonta was a priority in their lives. Or simply – they had fun!

Today we have six vibrant clubs in Area 3 – all at various ages and

“Today we have six vibrant clubs in Area 3...all still have charter members involved”

stages but all still have charter members involved and all are now addressing the intergenerational mix of members.

It’s a bit like having our grandmothers living with their granddaughters – their role is to keep us “honest and trustworthy”, as far as the purpose of Zonta is concerned, while encouraging us to change to be relevant now and into the future. It is most worthwhile that clubs are currently viewing their worth in decades of projects for display at District Conference – it will be most revealing.

Today we face different issues:

- coping with the demands of belonging to a worldwide organization – in a time of computer technology – with information on websites and communication by emails
- attracting and engaging members – so they are happy, involved and

- committed
- achieving the balance between mission or goal directed projects and local endeavours that feel good and are popular
- finding leaders to commit the time, skills and energy – to administration and management, advocacy and public relations, human resources
- planning for the future – with new styles of clubs and new ways of contributing to Zonta

I would like to propose a vote of thanks – and to go back to a previous analogy – to you our inspirational “mothers” or “grandmothers” – thankyou for your courage and commitment in the early days and for your inspiration and encouragement these days.

We value you greatly and very much appreciate the time that it has taken for you to make this presentation tonight.”

Great News—\$40,000 from EON Foundation for Puppet Project!

Karen Groves

As a result of superb advocacy and excellent presentation – Sciona and Fiona have secured significant financial backing for the Yarli Wada: Strong for Country Puppet Project. The EON Foundation has committed \$40,000 to the project, to be available in 2 stages of \$20,000, to advance the project through its various stages of development. In addition, the Spare Parts Puppet Theatre has promised \$15,000 for the project.

Confirmation of the funding from the EON Foundation was received by Sciona and Fiona on Tuesday and was celebrated with HUGE excitement by the Ngarinyin Project Committee last night at its meeting. That is not to say that some of you may already be aware of this news as we have been “whooping it up” since Fiona received the call on Tuesday!

This puts us in a very strong position to seek the involvement of the clubs of District 23 at Conference when we propose that they “adopt a puppet” for \$500 in committing to this project as a District 23 Project.

I am so proud of Fiona and Sciona in their advocacy on

behalf of the Zonta Club of Perth and so pleased for them that their passion and enormous hours of diligent work have reaped such wonderful results.

Congratulations to them both!

NB: just to be quite clear, this funding is for the Puppet Project in the Kimberley, whereas the submission for a “Living in Harmony” Grant (we are in the second stage of consideration for that) is for the Mentoring Project with the indigenous students studying at UWA. We are hopeful of a \$48,000 grant for that.

Reason for celebration!

Cheers, Karen Groves
Chair, Ngarinyin Project Committee
(See also <http://www.unima2008.com/go/unima-2008>)



L-R—Fiona and Sciona pictured during the recent Gibb River visit

Scuttlebutt.. Foundation donation



Our Club has received a thank you letter from ZI Headquarters in appreciation of our 'exceptional contribution to the Zonta International Foundation.'

Our donation? ... US\$3,225! Well done everyone.

SAFE Project

Lori Grech is our Club's representative on the Zonta House Refuge Association Inc Board. Last year Annette Chivers, the manager of the Refuge, addressed our Club about the proposed SAFE project. This project brings together the Refuge Association, government and community representatives with the aim of providing safe accommodation alternatives for young women who currently live on the streets of WA.

Recent government reorganisations have meant that the project has been on hold for many months. The delays may soon be over as, in September, the Refuge Association's project team has a meeting with Sue Ellery, the Minister for Child Protection, Communities, Women's Interests, Seniors and Volunteers.

The project is still in its very early, conceptual stages, but when it has shape, Lori hopes to be able to formally introduce it to Club members.

Just in the nick of time!

Fiona and Sciona our Club's intrepid proposal writers, like to make the most of every available minute...

Would you believe that they submitted their 'Living in Harmony' grant proposal at 4.56pm—the closing time was 5.00pm?

"If I'd known there was so much time left I'd have tweaked it a bit more!," said Fiona....

(I think Sciona was just glad to press that button! Well done girls for doing it and getting it in—on time!....Ed)

Diary Dates

6th September 2007—Dinner Meeting 6.00pm

This special meeting will celebrate the presentation to the District 23 Jane M Klausman Award winner, Rachel Thomson.

7th September, Vagina Monologues, Hackett Hall, Floreat, 6.30pm.

This event is to celebrate Gynaecological Awareness Day—get your \$35 tickets from www.bocsticketing.com.au or tel 9484 1133.

14-16 September 2007—District 23 Conference, Tasmania

We hope all members attending have a wonderful time. Good luck with the Yarri Wadda presentation!

11th October 2007—Dinner Meeting 6.00pm

Guest speaker will be Professor Lesley Parker, Chancellor of Curtin University .

26th October 2007—Introduction Evening

Please let Sandy McGregor know if you have a friend or colleague who would be interested in learning more about Zonta.

24th October 2007—Fellowship Breakfast

Keep this date in your diaryvenue being finalised.

28th October—Perth Northern Suburbs Celebrity Platter exhibition

Karrinyup Community Centre, Davenport Street, Karrinyup, 2.30pm to 5pm.

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.

2nd to 12th April 2008, 20th UNIMA Congress and World Puppetry Festival.

This is the World Event for puppeteers and it is being hosted in Fremantle—what an opportunity for exposure of the puppet project on the world stage...

<http://www.unima2008.com/go/unima-2008>

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

Have you made plans to go yet?

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.