

In this issue

1. Fashion Show
2. Jean OAM
3. Wendy Atherden
4. New Biennium
5. Diary Dates

Club Meetings

- o Second Thursday of the month (except January)
- o 6.15pm for 6.45pm
- o St Catherine's College, UWA

Apologies

By 12 noon previous Monday to zontaperth@yahoo.com.au

Contact us

- o zontaperth@yahoo.com.au
- o www.zontaperth.org.au
- o PO Box 237
Nedlands WA 6909



A warm welcome from Agnes



The models strut their stuff



The raffles being drawn by Debbie

1. Fashion show lunch

Over 100 Zontians, their families and friends recently enjoyed a very successful Fashion Show Lunch held in the historic WA Rowing Club located on the banks of the Swan River. The event went off beautifully, mainly due to the organizational skills of Debbie Mason who co-ordinated volunteers to prepare food, model clothes, provide raffle and silent auction prizes and clear up afterwards!

Guests were warmly welcomed by Agnes Vacca and given a voucher for a complimentary drink which was served with a smile by the WA Rowing Club staff. Debbie formally opened the event and Carole Theobald, President, provided an overview into what Zonta is all about. Di Annear from the Women's Legal Referral Service, the major recipient of proceeds for the day, outlined the legal services it provides to women victims of violence. Guests were then treated to a delicious smorgasbord including soups, chicken dishes, cannelloni, lasagna and a range of salads followed by homemade fruit pies. The meal was supplemented by surprise giant Freddo Frogs taped under the chairs! Between courses, guests were shown a range of fashions from the Wardrobe, beautifully modeled by members of the WA Rowing Club. The fashions included day wear, formal mother-of-the bride outfits and evening wear.

During the event, guests were encouraged to participate in the silent auctions with a wide range of gifts and services to choose from including framed photos of the rowing club, a hand crafted bedspread, crystal glasses and professional services such as massage and teeth whitening. There were a few tussles as guests 'outbid' each other for some items. There was not one raffle, but 10 and the prizes included a range of gift packs of food, household items and bathroom products. A huge amount of praise goes to all the 'support staff' that did so much behind the scenes. The cooks did a tremendous job – they managed to cater for the large number very well and successfully kept control of the food and service arrangements. No one went away hungry and the food was delicious. The fashion 'models' displayed the clothes to perfection – they were a very good advertisement for rowing – wonderful figures! The Wardrobe provided a great range of clothes for all occasions and the discount cards will be much appreciated by many attendees. The bar staff were great, greeting everyone with a smile and setting a tone of friendliness and fun for the afternoon.

Together, we raised over \$3,800 – this is a truly magnificent effort and Di Annear, from the Women's Legal Referral Service, will be delighted with the outcome.

2 Jean OAM

On 12 June, at the Zonta Club of Perth committee meeting, Jean Oldham had every opportunity to have her cake and eat it, too. However, it was typical of Jean that all she wanted was to share the culinary masterpiece created and donated by St Catherine's College kitchen staff to celebrate her award in the Queen's Birthday Honours list - and to take some home for her family. Sharing and caring has been Jean's modus operandi throughout her adult life, so it was no surprise to her fellow Zontians to hear that she had been awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her service work.



Kitchen staff at St Catherine's College donated a beautiful cake to celebrate Jean's OAM

Among her many community contributions, Jean was associated with the Reverend Edwin White and the Good Neighbour Council, helping new migrants when they first arrived in Western Australia. She has also worked on various management boards, including Princess Margaret Hospital and Brightwater (formerly Home of Peace). In addition, Jean was Associates' President of the Lake Karrinyup Golf Club and contributed to various committees there.



Jean was delighted with her special card for "our amazing member".

However, Jean's real claim to fame has been as the founder of the PMH volunteers. She was on the Board of PMH from 1974-84 and saw the need to have trained volunteers to be a bridge between medical staff and patients' families especially in the Emergency Department. In 1975 she founded the PMH Volunteers that now has over 220 volunteers working in all different areas of the hospital.

Jean was also involved in the Perth Children's Court from 1978-83, working voluntarily as a Lady Member assisting the magistrate in courts in Midland, East Perth and Fremantle. During this time, a Lady Member was regarded as a valuable asset as she was able to soften the impact of the court process on the very young children appearing before the magistrate.

Between 1994-97, Jean was also on the Board of Royal Perth Hospital and a member of several committees including chairing the RPH Art Gallery Committee.

Jean's work with Zonta International began in 1979, when she joined the Zonta Club of Perth. Since then, she has held a number of offices, including Vice-President in 1983-85, President in 1985-87, Director in 1992 and Centurion in 1994-1995. She has served on every committee in the Club, in some years as Chairman. One of her outstanding contributions to Zonta was when, on five separate occasions, she made her home available as the venue for a fundraising Art Show. Aided by a small committee, she sought out and negotiated with the State's foremost artists and organized the hanging of paintings, the catering, and the many other necessary arrangements. The Club benefited greatly financially from sales and other money raised at these Art Shows. Some of this money was invested to provide an income to be used to send families in need on a holiday. This was particularly where a parent was a carer for a disabled or sick child.



Jean cuts her cake for dessert.

Another major contribution she made to the organisation was in starting new Zonta Clubs. The Perth Club was the first Zonta Club in Western Australia and was responsible for organizing and mentoring further clubs. In 1990, Jean became the Chairman of the committee responsible for this work and continued with the committee until 1996. During this time, Zonta Clubs were started in Dunsborough (1991) and the Peel Region (1993).

Jean has been an enthusiastic and practical participant in all the undertakings of the Zonta Club of Perth and her advice and activities have contributed greatly to its community service.

3. Welcome to Wendy Atherden

At the Club meeting on Thursday 12 July, we were delighted to welcome Wendy Atherden to join the fold. Wendy, now living in Perth, transferred to the Zonta Club of Perth from the Dunsborough branch, where she has been an active Zontian for a number of years.

Wendy was born into a teaching family and spent 32 happy years teaching in High Schools in both Australia and Canada. Her proudest career moment was when she was chosen as one of the most professional and innovative teachers in Western Australia. She describes herself as a 'hands-on' person and certainly proved this when, with her late first husband, she built three homes from scratch, two in Canada and one in Australia. They also ran a sheep and cattle property, where they built a stone lodge and operated a 5-chalet tourist resort for 20 people – and all of this while still teaching full-time!

In 1985, Wendy found herself alone. Not content with being the Head of a Home Economics Department, by the end of that year she had planted a 2-hectare vineyard. In 1990 she married Gerry, increased the vineyard to 10 hectares, and



L-R President Carole welcoming new member Wendy Atherden at June meeting

began producing wine. The natural flow-on from this was a 72-seat restaurant, so Wendy retired from teaching and became a restaurateur. However, despite the fact that the restaurant was open 364 days a year, she still found time to organize and sell three subdivisions in seven years. As she says, a woman can do anything providing there is commitment and good health.

In 1997, the decision was made to reap the rewards of all this hard work. A move was made to South Perth and Wendy enrolled in Environmental Studies at Murdoch University. Of course she never does one thing at a time, so a beachside home was then built at Quindalup for family down time. Wendy also spent some of her week as a volunteer for the Busselton Health Survey; an Environmental group; and, of course, Zonta.

Wendy, a mother of three and now grandmother of eight, is now enjoying what she and Gerry regard as their golden time. They spend it commuting between their homes in Perth and Rockingham and travelling extensively.

Welcome to Perth Club, Wendy!

4. New Biennium

July 1st marks the start of the Zonta International's new biennium and the time for District officers to take on their new roles. Judy Tennant will be the new Area 3 Director taking over from Karen Groves who has performed wonderfully in the role – Judy will have big shoes to fill!

This is also the time for the launch of the District 23 Project – our own Yarri Wada Puppet Project. This project is the dream of Senior Indigenous Law-women, from the Kimberley region of Western Australia. It aims to give communities pride in their culture, good health, good education, employment and a safe living environment. Presentation packs are being circulated to all clubs in District 23 and businesses in WA to encourage them to adopt a puppet! Puppets may have more than one parent and the aim is to have enough money to keep the puppets out of the cupboard and on the road where they can deliver health, culture and education messages to communities via the Yarri Wada Puppet Troupe. See the Yarri Wada Web page on our Club website at www.zontaperth.org.au.

The Zonta International service projects for the new biennium include one to reduce obstetric fistula in Liberia. If you are unsure about what obstetric fistula is and the type of work involved to reduce it, go along to the Astor Cinema in Mt Lawley on Friday 12th September.

The Gynaecological Awareness Information Network (GAIN) is holding a special viewing of the award winning film, "A Walk to Beautiful" to raise funds for the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital and also celebrate International Gynaecological Awareness Day.

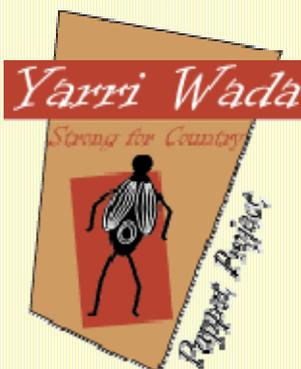
'A Walk to Beautiful' tells the stories of five Ethiopian women who suffer from devastating childbirth injuries and embark on a journey to reclaim their lost dignity. Rejected by their husbands and ostracised by their communities, these women are left to spend the rest of their lives in loneliness and shame. The trials they endure – and their attempts to rebuild their lives – tell a universal story of hope, courage, and transformation. In 1974, Australian couple Reginald and Catherine Hamlin, opened a hospital in Addis Ababa to treat these women free of charge. More than 30 years later Dr Catherine Hamlin AC, now a widow and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, continues to oversee this hospital, which has restored the health and dignity of so many women who once considered death to be the only escape from their suffering.

Tickets are \$15 each and will be available for purchase after 1st August from Lyn Oliver. Telephone 9242 1500 or email wbslaw@bigpond.com or via www.gain.org.au. Further information about obstetric fistula can be found at the following websites:

Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund: www.fistultrust.org

A Walk to Beautiful: www.walktobeautiful.com

Information and support for Australian women who suffer obstetric fistula: www.rvfsupportnetwork.org.au

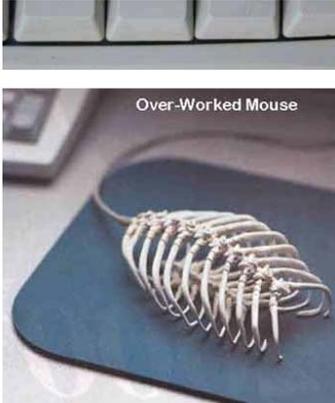


The Yarri Wad logo is very distinctive



The film A Walk to Beautiful will raise funds for the Addis Ababa Hamlin Fistula Relief fund

5. Diary Dates



- **10th July 2008 – Club Bring a Friend dinner meeting**, 6.15 for 6.45pm, St Catherine's College. This will be a guest speaker evening and will also be our opportunity to meet this year's Education Award recipient. Apologies by email only please to zontaperth@yahoo.com.au before 12 noon on Monday 7th July.
- **23rd July 2008 – Fellowship Breakfast, Zamia Café, May Drive, King's Park, 7.30am.** The café will only open at 7.30am if we have a minimum of 15 people attending....so put the date in your diary now and book your place by emailing zontaperth@yahoo.com.au.
- **26th July 2008 – Meet the 2008-2010 D23 Board, 42 Sydenham Road, Doubleview, 6.30pm for 7.00pm.**
The new District board is meeting in Perth on this weekend. This will be the only opportunity to welcome our D23 Board to WA during this biennium. RSVP to Jo Wittorff 9721 1037 or wittorff@bigpond.net.au by 18 July.
- **14th August 2008 – Dinner Meeting St Catherine's College.**
- **31st August 2008 – Birthing kit assembly day, St Catherine's College.**
Details to be confirmed...
- **10th September 2008 – International Gynaecological Awareness Day (IGAD)**
Well, it's not been promulgated yet, but we hope it will be one day!!!
- **12th September 2008 – A Walk to Beautiful – IGAD event**
Astor Cinema, Mt Lawley 7.30pm Tickets are \$15 each and will be available for purchase after 1st August from Lyn Oliver. Telephone 9242 1500 or email wbsshaw@bigpond.com or via www.gain.org.au
- **8th November 2008 – Founder's Day Dinner.** Our Club is hosting this event.
- **25-27 September 2009 – District 23 Conference, Ballarat.**

Want to know what is happening in your club? Visit www.zontaperth.org.au