

November 2008

Special Founders Day Dinner Edition

Issue No: 92

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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
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1. Founders' Day Dinner



L-R: MC for the evening, Agnes Vacca with Leah Helean (A3 Director, Judy Tennant's daughter!)

The Methodist Ladies' College (MLC) was decked out with an indigenous theme for the Area 3 Founders' Day Dinner hosted by our Club on 8th November. This date marked the 89th anniversary of the Founding of Zonta International and interestingly, there were 89 people gathered to celebrate the event. The MLC had been wonderful in its support of the event, donating the venue and doing everything it could to make the occasion run as smoothly as possible.

This year was the first that the four Area 3 Woman of Achievement finalists were to be acknowledged and the name of the overall Woman of Achievement was a secret until it was formally announced 'Oscar style' on the night.

The evening commenced with welcome drinks in the foyer and guests were rallied into the dining area to the sounds of didgeridoos and host Club President, Carole Theobald rounding up guests with clapping sticks. (The clapping sticks were made by Ngarinyin elders during the Club's visit to the Kimberley in 2004). We were very proud to have District 23 Governor, Alison Martin with us at the event.

The tables were set with black centre tablecloths upon which river stones and tea lights were arranged. In addition, a large display of wild flowers, earthy toned card circles and a mural painted by Wendy Atherden provided colourful displays for the event. Didgeridoos and clapping sticks also graced the stage.

Agnes Vacca was the MC for the evening and did a wonderful job of keeping everyone on track, diligently keeping all the toasts and speeches to Tricia Summerfield's carefully timed program. To reflect the Area nature of the event, the welcomes, toasts, invitation to next year's event and vote of thanks were presented by Club Presidents Audrey Clay (Peel Region), Sheila Watters (Swan Hills), Anastasia Maslij (Perth Northern Suburbs), Penelope Northcott (Bunbury), Wendy Atherden (formerly with the Zonta Club of Dunsborough Area but now with the Perth Club) and Carole Theobald (Perth).

Area 3 Director, Judy Tennant was magnificent as the host and the prior planning showed through on the night. The first award for the evening was the presentation of the Area 3 Jane M Klausman award to Saffron Sharp. Saffron received a certificate and a cheque for \$1500 towards her studies and gave a short speech of thanks for the award.

Judy then called up the first two finalists and read out their citations (shown below). Guests digested their achievements over the main course. The citations for the second two finalists were then announced. The tension began to mount in the room as it soon became evident that the four finalists were brilliant and it would be very difficult to choose between them – they were all winners. Some tables began to have side bets.....

Karen Groves passed Judy Tennant the envelope containing the name of the overall Woman of Achievement and this was a true 'Oscar' moment! Judy slowly opened the envelope and announced the name.... Eeve Knight.



Jane M Klausman Awardee, Saffron Sharp with Area 3 Director Judy Tennant



Woman of Achievement finalists L-R: Judith Fordham, Margot McAllister, Pat Kopusar and Eeve Knight with Area 3 Director, Judy Tennant.



L-R: Penelope Northcott (President Bunbury Club) with delighted Woman of Achievement 2008, Eeve Knight and Judy Tennant.



L-R: Penelope Northcott (President Bunbury Club) and Alison Martin (D23 Governor) display the Mayumarri brochure with Eeve Knight.

Eeve received the special pearl and gold brooch (crafted especially for the event by Linney's) and a certificate and recovered sufficiently to give a short thank you speech. All the finalists received certificates, citations and Zonta rose pins.

The event had been months in the planning with the organizational team of Marg Giles, Karen Groves, Tricia Summerfield, Deb Mason and Carole Theobald bringing together the efforts of a score of members for a magnificent evening. Many thanks to Lennie McCall for the great photos and to the setting up team that included all those mentioned previously as well as Gillian Palmer, Sciona Browne and Karina Moore. A HUGE thank you for a tremendous effort and tremendous night.

2. Eeve Knight – A3 Woman of Achievement 2008



Eeve Knight and proud husband Philip

With the nomination of **Eeve Knight**, the **Zonta Club of Bunbury** is proud to recognize her tireless and completely voluntary dedication to implementing programs to support victims of trauma and adult survivors of child abuse.

Eeve is responsible for establishing an organization called **Mayumarri** in Western Australia. This organization operates healing workshops for people whose lives are disabled by past traumas.

More memories of the night....



L-R: Ruth Thomas and Deb Hall from the Swan Hills Club

Eeve began this journey when she tried to help a family member who had been involved with a tragic accident and was not coping with life. Through this counselling experience, she realized that she had not dealt with all her own baggage, that she was facing enormous challenges and needed help. To address this situation, she attended a **Mayumarri Healing Week Retreat** in NSW in 2003.

Mayumarri was founded over 10 years ago by a Sydney woman, Liz Mullinar. She was named Australian Humanitarian of the Year in 2000 for her work. She established a retreat on a property in the Hunter Valley and offers programs to assist adult survivors of childhood trauma and abuse. The key to the success of Mayumarri is that the programs are run **by survivors for survivors**.



L-R: 2005 Woman of Achievement, Kath Mazella with Carole Theobald (Perth Club President)

Mayumarri is the only counselling organization which offers residential retreats and until it was established in WA, they were only available in NSW, Victoria and Queensland. The clientele are often those who have turned to substance abuse or are unemployed and who could not afford to travel to the eastern states for the treatment.

Eeve was determined to make this program available in Western Australia. To that end, she undertook intensive training in counselling in NSW in 2004 and began the challenging process that now has Mayumarri operating as an incorporated body in WA, offering Healing Weeks in a program that is supported by funds raised through her tireless efforts in raising awareness in the community and writing submissions for grants.

Her selfless commitment to achieve this has taken her on an inspirational but challenging journey of personal growth and development, changing her negative childhood into a positive by assisting others to reclaim their lives and potential and to become functioning adults.



L-R: Jean Oldham OAM, Wendy MacGibbon (front), Marg Giles (back) and Sciona Browne from the Perth Club.

Eeve is determined to raise awareness of the effects of child abuse. She wants to break the cycle of inter-generational abuse, of parents abusing their children just as they were abused. Victims need to become survivors. Her priority is to raise the profile of the work of Mayumarri with mental health organizations. Eeve has begun consultative programs with families, parents, teachers and health professionals. She has introduced innovations to improve the Healing Week programs in WA and has the ultimate dream of Mayumarri owning its own retreat in WA.



L-R: Gillian Palmer (Perth), Elaine Newman (Swan Hills) and Nancy Duxbury (Swan Hills)

Another goal is to extend the program in WA to have retreats for young female teenagers. At present, girls suffering from traumatic childhood situations and living in dysfunctional families or on the streets, who are eligible to undertake the course, are assisted with the cost of travel to attend specific courses in NSW.

Evee's efforts are entirely voluntary and have contributed immeasurably to strengthening individuals and making positive changes to them, their families and their communities.

Evee, members of Zonta International in Area 3 of District 23 have much pleasure in acknowledging your incredible contributions in your field of endeavour and are delighted to give you due recognition tonight at the 2008 Woman of Achievement Award presentation at this Founders' Day Dinner.

3. Judith Fordham – Woman of Achievement

With the nomination of **Judith Fordham**, the **Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs** is proud to give due recognition to her outstanding career in the practice of the law and her inspiring example for all women.

Today, Judith is one of Western Australia's few women criminal lawyers, with a passion for social justice, a prosperous life and a loving partner and children. Judith is renowned across Australia as a formidable **barrister** with a special interest in forensic and medical issues. As **associate professor** in forensic science at Murdoch University and a presenter on scientific evidence at international meetings, she is a rising star in the field of forensic science and law.

However, her path to her career today is unique and inspiring. A dysfunctional family life, a marriage in a violent relationship, a single parent of three children with a fourth child on the way and the realization of a life cycle of despair and hopelessness, were the catalysts for Judith to embark on **life-changing strategies**.

She began a **law degree** (to add to her science degree) as a mature age student and proceeded to gain her degree **with honours** while working part-time teaching swimming, cleaning houses and doing night shift at a nursing home. She moved to Perth from Canberra, established her own law firm and built it into a 12 person practice before selling her firm to become a barrister.

Her **PhD study into how juries make decisions** is considered landmark research. In taking on cases and representing criminals in court, no area of criminal law is off limits for Judith. It is said of her that she impresses with her wit, intellect and seriousness of purpose and can be a commanding presence. At the same time, she is charming, engaging and can have irreverent humour.

The **forensic science course** she developed at **Murdoch University** is the first of its type to be offered in Australia. Designed for practising lawyers, the course covers the fundamentals of forensic science such as crime scene investigation, toxicology, explosives and poisons as well as giving lawyers a better idea of how scientists think.

Judith is an **inspiring speaker** and has presented not only to international meetings, but also to groups such as Women of the West and Women of Vision, sharing her experiences, inspiring others to change their lives and to have the courage to achieve their dreams. She shares her story, not for pity, but to encourage others who have faced adversity, and she does so with dignity, humour and empathy.

Judith is also an **impressive lecturer or presenter in her professional field** and has taught expert evidence workshops around Australia. Her knowledge and handling of legal issues such as "battered child" evidence is exceptional. In



L-R: Palma Phipps (Perth NS) with Judith Fordham

More memories from the night....



L-R: Karen Groves (Perth), Dianne Bryant (Perth NS) and friends



L-R: Roslyn Budd (Perth) and Helen Margaria (Perth)



Marion Brown (Perth NS) and Anastasia Maslij (Perth NS President)



Mark Whittingham and Debra Mason
(Perth)

2006, she was honoured to be made a life member of “Angelhands”, a group formed to assist secondary victims of homicide.

Her publication of “**Life, law and not enough shoes**”, recounted with equal measures of laughter and tears, marked the culmination of 20 years of ‘crazy’ experiences in the practice of criminal law. It has been inspiring for anyone struggling to overcome social hierarchies and systemic prejudice and Judith’s example has taken the theory and put it into practice – with spectacular results.

Judith, members of Zonta International in Area 3 of District 23 have much pleasure in acknowledging your incredible contributions in your field of expertise and are delighted to give you due recognition tonight at the 2008 Woman of Achievement Award presentation at this Founders’ Day Dinner.

4. Pat Kopusar – Woman of Achievement

With the nomination of **Pat Kopusar**, the **Zonta Club of Perth** is proud to recognize her voluntary and working contributions to and leadership in the Western Australian Aboriginal community, particularly in the areas of women’s and children’s health and safety.

Pat is a Noongar woman and spent her early life in the Morawa area. As a young mother of six children, she worked in a number of voluntary and part-time positions in the children and family services area. However, in her early 30’s, she left her abusive husband and moved her family to Port Hedland. There she began what was to become her **life-long career in health and related sectors** with a job as a nursing assistant in an aboriginal nursing home.

In 1973, Pat graduated as a **State Enrolled Nurse** and worked for 12 years in the Pilbara region for Community Health Services, visiting Aboriginal reserves and providing community nursing services. At this time, she became involved with the work of Aboriginal committees, in particular the **Pilbara Aboriginal and Islander Women’s Taskforce**, travelling among the communities to meetings to discuss the issues of health, family violence, education of children, training and women’s rights and providing feedback to government departments.

In the 1980’s, Pat undertook further study and obtained an **Associate Diploma in Human Services and Administration**. In 1988, Pat took on the role of coordinating the **Mawarnkarra Health Services in Roebourne**. Pat was instrumental in the development of an Aboriginal-focussed drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. The service involved people speaking their own language and also had a preventative focus with work in local schools, the regional prison and community education activities. This service still operates today.

Further career changes saw Pat working back in **Port Hedland** with the Department for Community Development as the Department’s **first Aboriginal Services Officer** and also with the **Port Hedland Aboriginal Progress Association**. She was a member and chair of the **Pilbara Aboriginal Land Council**, a member of the Aboriginal Health Council of WA and the WA Aboriginal Health Information and Ethics Committee.

In recent years and now, Pat lives in Perth and has set up her own consultancy business, working with government and non-government agencies on programs to create life-improving opportunities for indigenous people. Worth particular mention is her contribution on the mental health and wellbeing section to the **Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey**, carried out by the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

She was a member of the **Women’s Advisory Council** for years and is now on the Department of Communities **Indigenous Women’s Congress** and the **Family and Domestic Violence Aboriginal Reference Group**.

Pat’s contributions, through paid employment and voluntary commitment, have provided much-needed support for Aboriginal families in WA. A highly regarded elder and an outstanding advocate for indigenous people, she has been committed to the



L-R: Pat Kopusar and Wendy
Gurgone (Perth)

More memories of the night...



L-R: Hal Finkelstein, Freda Jacob
(Perth), Pat Kopusar (WOA finalist),
Sandy McGregor (Perth) and Alan
McGregor



L-R: Rae Edwards, Carole Theobald
(Perth President) and Liz Woodgate
(ZI Nominating Committee)



L-R: Agnes Vacca (Perth), Robert
Vacca, Refat Murshed (Perth) and
Humayat Murshed.



L-R: Robert Vacca, David Theobald and Betty Finlay

principles of community development through consultation, relationship-building and understanding.

She has provided strong leadership, vision and creativity and influenced the development and practice of social justice principles such as child protection and community safety.

Pat, members of Zonta International in Area 3 of District 23 have much pleasure in acknowledging your incredible contributions in your field of expertise and are delighted to give you due recognition tonight at the 2008 Woman of Achievement Award presentation at this Founders' Day Dinner.



L-R: Margot McAllister receives a Zonta rose pin from Judy Tennant

5. Margot McAllister – Woman of Achievement

With the nomination of **Margot McAllister**, the **Zonta Club of Peel Region** is proud to acknowledge her dedication to providing compassion, support and services to those suffering from grief and trying to overcome personal loss or tragedy.

Margot's amazing journey began when she joined **The Compassionate Friends** after the death of her son Kevin by suicide in 1986. Margot committed her strong work ethic and organizational skills, together with her dedication and passion, to voluntary work for this organization. She became fully experienced and proficient in all facets of the organization – telephone counselling, organizing and conducting workshops, grief counselling, fund- raising (including negotiating with government ministers for grants) and participating on committees. She was State President of Compassionate Friends from September 1990 – March 1992 at which time she presided over the first national conference of the organization held in Perth in 1992.

In 1994, Margot became involved with the **Alzheimer's Association of WA** and committed her skills, passion and empathy with carers to benefit people with dementia. She was inspirational in her involvement with all levels of the organization, from the administration to the volunteers to the sufferers.

Her association with both organizations was sorely missed when the time came to retire and relocate to Mandurah in 1999. However, retirement was not to be as Margot soon set about establishing an office for the **Alzheimer's Association in Mandurah** on a voluntary basis and on a shoestring budget. So successful were her efforts that the office and volunteer structure grew quickly and gained sufficient recognition to enable the organization to obtain funding to appoint a full-time coordinator.

Satisfied with that outcome and encouraged by those who knew of her involvement with The Compassionate Friends organization, in 2001, Margot then turned her attention to the establishment of a **Mandurah branch of The Compassionate Friends** to provide support for bereaved families covering the area from Rockingham/Kwinana to Busselton. Initially, 34 families were supported in 2001, but by 2007, 190 families received this invaluable service. Apart from coordinating the drop-in centre, facilitating the meetings of two support groups every month, writing funding submissions and being the PR person, Margot continues to be the President of the organization.

In 2002, Margot extended her capacity to offer her skills and experience and commenced the only **Suicide Survivor Support group** in the region. In 2004, she attended an International Gathering of The Compassionate Friends in Sydney and in 2005, she attended a similar conference in Vancouver, where she presented a workshop on "The Grief of Grandparents" (made all the more pertinent by the loss of her own grandson in 2000 to AIDS.)

Margot's capacity to give is unending as in recent years she has instigated what are now annual "Walk to Remember" events and has arranged funding and expertise for annual weekend retreats for 20 bereaved parents.



Audrey Clay (President Peel Region) with Margot McAllister and Bev Jackson (Peel)



L-R: Peel Club members Bev Jackson, Dawn Simmonds and Lorraine Webb strike a pose



L-R: Lorraine Webb and Zonta International Nominating Committee member Liz Woodgate

Margot, members of Zonta International in Area 3 of District 23 have much pleasure in acknowledging your incredible contributions in your field of expertise and are delighted to give you due recognition tonight at the 2008 Woman of Achievement Award presentation at this Founders' Day Dinner.



The Zonta Club of Perth's standard rose in all its glory at the Independent Living Centre

6. Our Special Zonta Rose

At Founders Day Dinner, the organizers were presented with yellow roses that are a symbol of Zonta – but did you know that our Club has its own 'rose' at the Independent Living Centre?

Freda Jacob reports: *When the Independent Living Centre opened its new premises in 2002, the Zonta Club of Perth presented the Centre with a standard rose. It has never prospered for many reasons, one being the person looking after it would leave, and it would be left to try and thrive all by its self. We have turned things around, and at the AGM last week, it was in its glory, and was admired, and commented on. I thought it might be good to have a photo in Inzert, if someone could crop me out of it. (It's OK Freda, you have been cropped as requested – Ed!)*



7. International White Ribbon Day

Have you booked your ticket to the White Ribbon Day Celebration Breakfast? It's on Tuesday November 25th between 7am and 9am. The event will be held at the Burswood on Swan Function Centre, 1 Camfield Drive off Great Eastern Highway and tickets are \$30 each. Celebrity speaker will be Dixie Marshall. The event is organized by Project 5-0. Call Arlene on 0402 272 868 TODAY to book your ticket or email info@arlenequinn.com

Find out more at <http://www.whiteribbonday.org.au/>



8. A special thank you

This lovely email was received from 2007 Education Award recipient, Dawn Cullen....

Just letting you know that I have now completed my Degree (in October) and am working in a local Noongar School as a teacher in the education support class. It is a demanding, exhausting position but I am thoroughly enjoying it and believe I am providing a positive learning experience to the children I am teaching.

*I would just like to say thank you for assisting me financially to complete my degree. At the time the money provided me with much needed study equipment, books as well as allowing me to catch up with overdue bills. Thank you again for your supportAnd keep up the good work!!!
Dawn Cullen*



The beautiful wildflower arrangement at Founders' Day Dinner.

9. Diary

- **13^h November 2008 – Club Dinner meeting, St Catherine's College 6.15 for 6.45pm**, This evening will feature astrophysicist, Jackie Davidson a former Amelia Earhart Scholarship recipient and an Amelia Earhart Showcase by the first female in the RAAF, our own Penny Flett!
- **25th November International White Ribbon Day 7am to 9am**
At Burswood on Swan – tickets \$30 from Arlene 0402 272 868
- **11th December 2008 – Club Christmas Dinner**
This will be held at St Catherine's College and features the Perth Male Voice choir. Tickets \$53 from Marg Giles.
- **January 2009 – 10th Birthday Zonta Club of Swan Hills**
- **25-27 September 2009 – District 23 Conference, Ballarat.** Book your air tickets now as this is 2009 AFL grand final weekend!

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