

**In this issue**

1. IWD 2, W. Australian of Year 2009
3. Lotterywest Workshop
4. New Member:- Joy Zec
5. February's International Dinner
6. New Grandmothers
7. Garage Sale
8. 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**

- o By 12 noon previous Monday
- o To Karina Moore via [zontaperth@yahoo.com.au](mailto:zontaperth@yahoo.com.au)

**Contact us**

- o [zontaperth@yahoo.com.au](mailto:zontaperth@yahoo.com.au)
- o [www.zontaperth.org.au](http://www.zontaperth.org.au)
- o PO Box 237
- o Nedlands WA 6909

## 1. UNIFEM 2010 International Women's Day Breakfast

*Carole Theobald*

Over 550 women and 5 brave men, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Stephen Smith, attended the UNIFEM International Women's Day breakfast at the Hyatt Hotel. The event was the realization of six months' hard work by a committee of dedicated representatives from UNIFEM, Young UNIFEM, BPW, Soroptimists, Federation of University Women, Local Government Women's Association, National Council of Women and Zonta. In fact, 27 Zontians attended from the three metro clubs! The logos of all organizations featured in pre-event publicity, programs and PowerPoints.

Convenor of the event, Anne Banks-McAllister from UNIFEM, welcomed special guests, acknowledged sponsors and reminded everyone of the fund raising nature of the event. The MC was Verity James who stood in at short notice as Babs McHugh could not get back from the Winter Olympics in time for the event. Monies raised were to go to help migrant women workers in Indonesia. There were some great raffle prizes and also a prize of a trip to Singapore if you joined UNIFEM on the day. The event was formally opened by the Hon Robyn McSweeney, Minister for Women's Interests, who acknowledged the participation of all the groups that had shared the event organization and set the scene for the morning. She was followed by Stephen Smith whose speech included reference to some AusAID projects in Indonesia that involved the repair and construction of thousands of primary schools. It is good to be reminded of the great work that AusAID does in the region.

Beth Shaw then gave an inspiring talk that included some of her anecdotes from her time as the Australian Youth Ambassador to the United Nations, that she had shared with our club last year. Beth is a very passionate, young, vibrant woman who in her 'spare time' established a Young UNIFEM group in Perth! Beth is certainly a young woman of the future to look out for.

The audience however was awed by Dr Hamidah Marican. Hamidah is the Director of the Sisters in Islam – an NGO in Malaysia that works to advance the status of women from within Islam by seeking 'alternative options' to the interpretation of the Koran. Hamidah is an exceedingly brave woman. When a Sharia Court recently caned four women for adultery, Hamidah publicly pointed out that the Malaysian Constitution expressly forbade the beating of women. She is now having to prove that her comments were not putting her much loved religion, Islam, in dispute – and if her defence is not successful the penalty may be as much as three years in jail.

I had the privilege of co-hosting Hamidah the day before the breakfast with Ellen May Eaton from UNIFEM. Hamidah is a very warm, down to earth lady, who is exceedingly well educated. She did her undergraduate degree in Scotland, her Masters in Malaysia through the University of Sydney and her PhD via an American University. She is a single mother of a 17 year old daughter who was awaiting her 'O' level results at home. Hamidah is so easy to be with and she thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Cottesloe Beach to admire the sculptures and a visit to King's Park (including the Pioneer Women's Memorial). That evening the three of us visited a lovely halal Indian Restaurant in Leederville with Anne Banks-McAllister, Anne's mother and Tracey Hirst (UNIFEM Treasurer).

As much as \$15,000 may have been raised for the morning! Just think how many women that amount of money will be able to help!



*Part of the Hyatt Ballroom showing one of the side projection screens*



*R-L: Dr Hamidah Marican, Minister McSweeney, Beth Shaw and Stephen Smith with Young UNIFEM members*



*Dr Hamidah Marican on the big screen*



*Dr Hamidah Marican and Carole Theobald in King's Park*



Penny Flett, West Australian of the Year 2009



Pat Dodson, Senior West Australian of the Year 2009



David Wirrpanda, Young West Australian of the Year 2009

## 2. West Australian of the Year 2009

*Penny Flett*

Becoming WA Australian of the Year for 2009 was an extraordinary honour and privilege.

To rub shoulders, even very briefly, with David Wirrpanda – the WA Young Australian of the Year - was magic. To be associated with Pat Dodson – WA Senior Australian of the Year - already a hero of mine, was amazing. And to have the great pleasure of getting to know Graham Drewe, who went on to be the National Local Hero, has been an experience worth bottling – he’s a remarkable man, an ordinary bloke, saving rock fishermen’s lives.

We went to Canberra for the big event for Australia Day announcements.....morning tea with the Prime Minister at The Lodge, lunch at Government House....this in a huge marquee in the beautiful grounds by Lake Burley Griffin. That was very special. *And* I chatted for ages with Glen McGrath and Adam Gilchrist – eat your hearts out, everyone!!

Coming back to earth, the year seemed to get busier and busier – many speaking engagements – some of them a lot of fun, especially the Breast Screening Awareness launch, with everyone decked out in very bright pink. I’ve opened conferences, made speeches, shared the platform with Mick Dodson, listened and learned.

But the best was a grand finish to my year. I went as Australia Day Ambassador for Australia Day 2010 – to – Newman – hot as hot, friendly as anything, and made me feel truly Australian. I mixed it with miners, aboriginal kids, Shire officials, the local GP, shopkeepers, entrepreneurs, business people. I learned a lot in a short time about East Pilbara, it’s the biggest shire in the world! I felt very humble, and very proud.

It’s been a remarkable year, and proves again, women can do more than one thing at once,.....*and* keep the ‘day job’ going !!

## 3. Lotterywest Workshop:- Women Working Together

*Mary Gurgone*

Sharing ideas and energy with other women’s organizations, in order to access funding, was a key aim of the Zonta Club of Perth Lotterywest Workshop on 7th November 2009. The workshop was an overwhelming success. It showed the extent of the need and desire for opportunities to chat and make strategic links amongst women’s organisations.

About 30 women attended, representing a wide array of women’s groups. We were delighted to have representatives of Aboriginal women from Broome, as well as Perth based Aboriginal women. Richness of the discussion was partly due to the women’s groups, including representation of women from Universities, health, refuges, business, sport, multicultural, gynaecology, welfare and place based, to mention a few.

The kind of feedback from the day came spontaneously via email. Large international organisations as well as small unincorporated groups advised that they found the day “useful, excellent for networking and a great opportunity to find ways of collaborating with other like-minded women’s groups to apply for Lotterywest grants”.

The workshop coincided with the Foundation Day dinner and provided Zonta Clubs from non-metropolitan areas with the opportunity to attend. There was a strong Zonta presence, both from the Service and Advocacy members present and the generous contribution made by Service and Advocacy member, Fiona Crowe, who secured the venue, morning tea and lunch at St Catherine’s at no cost. Lucy Reynolds joined her colleague, Fiona, in the afternoon as a speaker.

The workshop has resulted in about half a dozen applications to Lotterywest already and some of them are joint ones that were borne at the workshop. Furthermore a number of organisations have started collaborating as a result of meeting at the workshop.

All in all, a successful day that demonstrated the power of women working together!



Mary Gurgone outlining the involvement of the Zonta Club of Perth and Lotterywest



Zonta members at the Workshop



Zonta members at the workshop

## 4. Introduction of new member:- Joy Zec



Carole welcomes Joy Zec to Zonta Club of Perth.



Joy's favourite holiday photo.

It was with great pleasure that the club welcomed Joy Zec at the February meeting. Joy has transferred from the Zonta Club of Swan Hills. She is married to Zoran, a bus driver and they have two beautiful daughters, Cassandra and Christine, both of whom are at university.

Joy had a few false starts with tertiary education and finally completed her first degree in public relations in 2002 after six years. She found it difficult to find employment in this field so did casual work instead with events management, conference organising, and limousine driving including funeral work, electrical safety presentations, temporary work and as a daycare worker.

Still searching for her passion at the age of 40, Joy found it in 2006 when she completed a graduate diploma in primary school teaching and hasn't looked back. She has always combined "paid" work with "unpaid" work. She is proud of her achievements as a Zontian, netball coach, calisthenics president, tree planter, red cross door-knocker, student mentor, ECU Ambassador, with the FINA 8<sup>th</sup> World Swimming Championships, photographic exhibition minder and young originals curator.

A friend asked Joy recently how she would like to be remembered. Her response was, "In my failings I was humble enough to listen to advice given and have the determination to continue with the path I had set. I also wanted to be remembered as having altruistic qualities."

Joy's favourite hobbies include everything associated with cooking and eating, tennis, bush-walking, going to the movies and coffee. Recently, she has taken up travelling, reading and joining the *Word Witches* Book Club, boxing and yoga. Joy has a bucket list but that's another story... Welcome Joy!

## 5. February's International Dinner Meeting



The many different international dishes displayed in Karen's kitchen



Sparklers lit in remembrance of Yvonne Roberts  
Not surprisingly the fire alarms went off a second later!



Members pose with the street banner

The weather was perfect for our International Dinner Meeting, at Karen's on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Karen and her helpers had been busy all day with the many and varied preparations needed, including adorning the tables with flags and maps, before everyone began arriving soon after 6pm.

Each committee prepared and displayed the following foods:-

- **Service and Advocacy:** Italian/Greek
- **Membership and Program:** Indian food
- **Awards and Holidays:** Curry Thai with side dishes and platter of Indian finger food with condiments.
- **PR and Archives:** Best of British – Ploughman's lunch
- **Events and Fellowship:** Middle Eastern

After much fellowship, including a group photo of the street marching banner for the archives, we all enjoyed our feast! A short business meeting followed where we were able to welcome Joy Zec as a new member, acknowledge Fiona Crowe and Diana Rigg being nominated as finalists in the WA Business News 40 under 40 awards and congratulate new grandmothers, Gillian Palmer and Sharron Hickey!

Sadly, charter member, Yvonne Roberts had passed away during the summer break and members took great delight in sharing anecdotes of Yvonne's 39 active years with the Club. Everyone lit a sparkler in remembrance of her, setting off the fire alarms in the process!

Many thanks to Karen and Bill for opening their home for the event and donating the wine consumed, to Mary and Aldo for moving all the chairs and tables and everyone who helped to make the evening a very pleasant occasion. In total, about \$1400 was raised for Zonta projects – a great start to the year!

**ASSISTANCE  
MAY BE REQUIRED**



**GRANDMAS  
IN TRAINING**



Sharron Hickey and Gill Palmer

## 6. Two New Grandmothers

Sharron Hickey and Gillian Palmer both became first time grandmothers within a few weeks of each other. Congratulations to both families!

Sharron became a proud grandmother to future Zontian, Eryn Eshana Macfarlane Hickey on 15th January 2010.  
Weight - 5lbs 12ozs (2.27kg)



Eryn Eshana MacFarlane Hickey

Gill became the proud grandmother to Callum Stewart Palmer on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Do I detect a Scottish connection here???

Weight – 3.4kg. (7lbs 7oz)



Callum Stewart Palmer

## 7. Monster Garage Sale – March 14<sup>th</sup>

An absolutely huge thank you to Deb Mason for bearing the brunt of the organization of this event. There were too many items to fit in a garage so the carpark at St Catherine's had to be used!

Special thanks to Fiona Crowe for allowing the use of the squash courts to store the items, to Sciona Browne, Wendy MacGibbon, Lyn McArthur, Lois Joll, Lennie McCall and Karina Moore for their help in pricing, setting up and selling. Over \$700 was raised! In addition, four more boxes of clothing were gathered for the communities in the Kimberley, one box of shoes will go to the refuge and there is enough left over to sell at a car boot sale – for at last we have got the amount down to a manageable size to transport!

If you would like to join Carole on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March between 6am and noon, at the Broadway car park to sell the remaining items, please email her at [zontaperth@yahoo.com.au](mailto:zontaperth@yahoo.com.au). If you have a ute or van or trailer, you will be especially welcome!!

**When is it?**  
Sunday 14 March 2010 9am to 3pm

**Donors**  
Take your household goods to the Squash Courts at St Catherine's College, UWA before 12pm Saturday 13 March 2010

**Questions**  
Contact Deb 0418 953 415  
Email [zontaperth@yahoo.com.au](mailto:zontaperth@yahoo.com.au)

**Zonta Club of Perth Inc**  
Member of Zonta International  
[www.zontaperth.org.au](http://www.zontaperth.org.au)

Proceeds to Zonta service projects that include health-life skills education for indigenous youth in the Kimberley region, breast care education to help women recovering from breast surgery, knitting kits for developing countries, support of women's college education and community service awards, inspire holidays for needy families. Membership projects aimed at reducing violence against women and child abuse.

## 10. Diary Dates

### March 19<sup>th</sup> Zonta Quiz Night 7pm for 730pm start

Cambridge Bowling Club, Cnr. Howtree Place and Chandler Ave. Floreat (opp. Floreat Forum). Have you given all your prizes to Sharron and ticket numbers to Bec?

### March 28<sup>th</sup> Boot sale – Broadway 6am to noon.

Contact Carole if you would like to help out.

### April 8<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting at St Catherine's College, UWA

This will be a special planning meeting, so bring your thinking caps!

### May 13<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting with special guest speaker, Janet Holmes à Court

This will be a night to remember, so bring your friends to this special event.

### June 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Zonta International Convention, San Antonio, Texas.

Convention Website :- [www.zonta2010.org/CalltoConvention.html](http://www.zonta2010.org/CalltoConvention.html)



Janet Holmes à Court – Guest Speaker for May Meeting

Want to know what is happening in your club? Visit [www.zontaperth.org.au](http://www.zontaperth.org.au)