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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

- o By 12 noon previous Monday
- o To Val Gandossini via zontaperth@yahoo.com.au

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1. Christmas Dinner Function at Lionel Samson's Cellar

Wendy Atherden

This year, the Service and Advocacy and Program and Membership Committees combined to organise the Christmas dinner evening.

Planning began in August and we, once again, accepted the offer of using the historical Samson Cellars in Cliff St, Fremantle. Many thanks to Jill Anderson, who facilitated this venue through the family company.

As the function was a fund raising event, we decided to do the catering ourselves. Donella Caspersz volunteered to organise a raffle to raise additional money. Wendy Atherden organised the structure of the evening and nominated women to help in the preparation, set-up, cooking and final cleanup. The enthusiasm and co-operation of everyone involved was fantastic, making the whole evening enjoyable and successful. Thursday morning, Debbie, Karen, Jill, Marlene and Wendy met at the cellars and the venue was transformed into a Christmas scene.

Committees were asked to each decorate a table with an applicable theme. Vera made up beautiful gifts for the members of the winning Committee. The winning centre-piece, made by Leslie Meaney from Program and Membership, featured a 'Zonta boat' that she had crafted that carried gifts to Australia of courage, love, hope and a host of other qualities – a beautiful piece.

The happy, vibrant mood of the evening made it such an enjoyable event. Wendy had made Lemon Butter and Marmalade for all the members as a Christmas gift and Karen turned humble jars into a work of art. Gerry Atherden, once again, volunteered to wash the dishes and barely lifted his head for 4 hours so he was much appreciated.

The event and associated major raffle (which members had been selling tickets for over a number of weeks) raised over \$6000 including \$2,500 donation from the Tong Foundation – the latter being a direct result of Agnes Vacca's enthusiastic promotion of the Zonta ideals and results achieved by the Zonta Club of Perth.

Many thanks to all who helped to make this a great evening. The lemon butter and marmalade gifts were very appreciated.



Lesley Meaney's winning table decoration



Deb Mason and Donella Caspersz calling out the winning raffle tickets



A huge thank you to Gerry Atherden!

2. Club BBQ at St Catherine's

The first meeting of the year was the traditional BBQ held on the lawns of St Catherine's College. It was a lovely balmy evening and members were in full voice catching up on activities over the long summer break.

A special thank you to Val Gandossini for bringing her delightful friend Janet Fichet and to Karina Moore for persevering over a number of years to get Cath Stoddart to attend to a meeting! It was also lovely to meet Christina Stuke who found our club via the internet and has recently arrived in Perth from Germany. In particular, members were very interested to meet three young women from St Catherine's who are looking to establish a Golden Z Club at the college. Katie Parsons, Dean of Residents told members about the wide range of service activities that the students already participate in and Rebecca Adamson and Nikki Dumbrell shared their service experiences with members. We will look forward to getting to know them better in coming months.



It's summer – so the first meeting of the year is traditionally a BBQ held on the lawns at St Catherine's.



St Catherine's "Golden Z Club" team.
L-R: Rebecca Adamson, Nikki Dumbrell and Katie Parsons (Dean of Residents, St Catherine's College)

After the BBQ –

- Denise Hamilton and Judy Tennant shared informative presentations that had been delivered at the District 23 Conference in Melbourne. The first discussed membership in the context of marketing and pointed out that members are the 'Zonta brand'. The second showed the results of a workshop that identified strategies to recruit and retain members as well as 'red alert' signs to indicate when action is required – very useful information!
- Roslyn Budd gave an update on the Quiz Night on May 5 and asked members to find sponsors, bring items for hamper prizes and source items for the silent auction.
- Wendy Atherden advised that another mammoth collection of clothes has been sorted for our Ngarinyin friends with 42 boxes ready to be freighted to the Kimberley by Regal Transport, once the roads re-open at the end of the wet season. Sincere thanks to members for working in 40 degree heat in the squash courts to sort and pack the clothes. *(They deserve a medal – Ed!)*



L-R: Club Treasurer Karina Moore, collates comments from the group aided by facilitator Anne Butorac.

3. 40th Anniversary activities

Members are busy planning the Club's 40th anniversary-of-chartering celebrations this year with three events in the pipeline!

- The Lord Mayor, Lisa Scaffidi, will be hosting a *civic reception* for the Club at the City of Perth on 19th April.
- In later months there will be a *seminar* to launch the findings of the Club's Lotterywest funded research into how funds have been raised and used in the last 40 years. This will provide guidance to Zontians, and other service clubs, on those methods that are most likely to be most effective today – a workshop facilitated by consultant, Anne Butorac, was held with members recently to 'tease out' the initial research findings.
- The Club is planning a *celebratory dinner* to round out this special year when hopefully, the book of the club's history will be launched. Will keep you posted!



Zontians and friends enjoy a sumptuous buffet meal watching the aeroplanes!

4. Amelia Earhart Celebration

On Sunday 22nd January, the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs hosted their annual Amelia Earhart dinner at the Royal Aero Club at Jandakot Airport. As usual this was a casual affair with Zonta members from Northern Suburbs, Swan Hills and Perth clubs mixing with the regular clients of the restaurant. Great food, plenty of it, in a quiet atmosphere made this a very pleasant evening.

Marion Brown and her team did an excellent job coordinating the raffle, with many Aero Club members joining in the fun to win a bottle of wine or two!

All proceeds from this function go to the Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program named after our most famous Zontian and aviatrix, Amelia Earhart. Since the award began in 1938, there have been 1,333 fellowships awarded to 929 women from 65 countries with a value of over US\$7.5 million. Through the Fellowships, the spirit of Amelia Earhart lives on!

The Fellowships, valued at US\$10,000 each, support women pursuing PhD/doctoral degrees in aerospace-related sciences and engineering. Today, women still make up less than 10% of the professionals in these fields. In 2011, 36 fellowships were awarded to women from 16 countries, though sadly none from District 23 – though we are hopeful that we may have a local fellow in 2012 – fingers crossed!



Carole Theobald, D23 Amelia Earhart Coordinator, chatting to event organiser, Marion Brown

5. Hot February Night

Carole Theobald

The Zonta Club of Swan Hills again hosted an excellent Hot February Night at the alpaca farm on the banks of the Swan River. Everyone brings a picnic and chair and sets up on the lawns.

Over a couple of glasses of wine we made bids on the silent auction and as the sun set got ready to kick up our heels to the rock and roll band! This has become a regular event on our family's calendar – the only thing is that we usually ache a bit the next day from the dancing!

Well done to the Swan Hills team for hosting this super evening of frolics and fun – we're already looking forward to next year's event!



Picnics on the lawn at sunset and, as the sun goes down and it gets a bit cooler, the dancing begins.





Agnes Vacca, 40 under 40 nominee, with her other job - promoting Zonta!



Lois Joll, Zontian and Perth Modern School Principal delighted with WACE results



Unique treatment: Brightwater chief Penny Flett. Picture: Steve Ferrier
Penny Flett, former member, continues to work wonders ...



Frances receiving her YWPA award from Zonta Club of Perth



Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

6. Zontians in the News

• Agnes Vacca - 40 under 40 People's Choice Award

Congratulations to Agnes Vacca for being nominated for the 40 under 40 People's Choice Award and choosing her Zonta photo for the award website! Nominations have closed for this award but can still be viewed at:

<http://www.40under40.com.au/Nominations/PeoplesChoiceAwards.aspx>

40 under 40 Gala Awards Dinner will be on 22nd February at the Perth Convention Centre.

• Lois Joll - Exceptional Results for Perth Modern School

Zonta member, Lois Joll, is Principal of Perth Modern School and she was particularly pleased with the results her students recently achieved. The WACE results and Curriculum Council awards revealed that the Perth Modern School students had the highest number of award-winning students with 73 students obtaining 91 awards. Two of the school's students have been accepted into the prestigious Oxbridge universities in the UK. However, the school regards education as not just being about the academic side of things – it also wants students to have fun as well as develop as individuals. (Congratulations to your students and staff, Lois!– Ed.)

• Penny Flett – Restoring hope

(Former member Penny Flett featured in an article about the pioneering work of her organizations in the West Australian on 28-29 January, page 20-21. An excerpt from the article by Joseph Catanzaro is shown below.)

Brightwater Oats Street is a place where patients relearn to talk, swallow and perform all the day-to-day functions healthy people take for granted. Run by Brightwater Care Group, the program is a world-first, that has attracted international attention because of the hope it represents for many people with acquired brain injuries in WA, Australia and the rest of the world.

The woman behind Oats Street is Brightwater chief executive, Penny Flett. She said that the impetus began 23 years ago when she was working in nursing homes, ostensibly the end of the line for brain-damaged youngsters. She noticed some patients regarded as "basket cases" showed slight improvements which led her to believe that rehabilitation conducted over years could bear fruit. She actually started to discharge a few patients that had come in in a comatose state and left walking after 12 or 14 years, showing that 'slow stream rehab' could work.

Funded by the WA Health Department, over 20 years Oats Street has evolved from an old hospital to three, eight bedroom group houses. The concept was to give patients a chance to recover over an average of three years where the rehabilitation was targeted at giving people practical life skills.

7. Frances Gamble – Junior Volunteer Award 2011

Frances Gamble, our winner of the Zonta Club of Perth's Young Women in Public Affairs Award for 2011, has been awarded the Junior Volunteer Award announced during National Volunteer Week.

This new award recognizes individuals who make an outstanding contribution to their communities through volunteering. The campaign involves the presentation of 10 special awards by participating MPs from their own electorate. Julie Bishop, MP for Curtin, chose and presented these awards.

8. Three Women Share Nobel Peace Prize

Three women who have campaigned for peace and democracy in Liberia and Yemen have been jointly awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace prize.

The Liberian president, *Ellen Johnson Sirleaf*, and *Leyma Gbwee*, a social worker turned peace campaigner from the same country, will share the 10 million kroner prize (about AUS\$1.4 million) with *Tawakkul Karman*, a journalist and pro-democracy activist in Yemen who has been a leading figure in the protests against President Ali Abdullah Saleh since January 2011.

They are the first women to be awarded the prize since 2004 when the committee



Leyma Gbowee Liberian social worker, turned peace activist



Tawakkul Karman of Yemen

honoured Wangarr Muta Maathai, the Kenyan environmentalist who died recently, and bring the tally of female winners to 15, compared with 86 men.

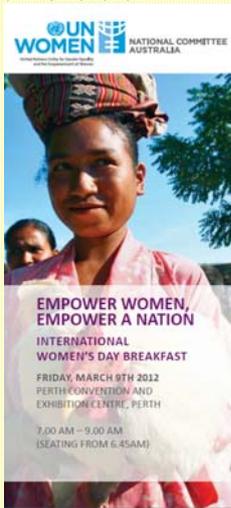
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, 72, a Harvard trained economist who became Africa's first democratically elected female president in 2005, two years after the country achieved fragile peace after decades of civil war. The committee said she had "contributed to securing peace in Liberia, to promoting economic and social development, and to strengthening the position of women".

Leyma Gbwee, 39, was instrumental in helping bring Liberia to peace in the early 2000s, leading a movement of women who dressed in white to protest against the use of rape and child soldiers in the war. During the 2003 peace talks, she and hundreds of women surrounded the hall where the discussions were being held, refusing to let delegates leave until they had signed the treaty. The committee said she had "mobilized and organized women across ethnic and religious dividing lines to bring an end to the long war in Liberia, and to ensure women's participation in elections".

Tawakkul Karmen has played a leading part in the struggle for women's rights and for democracy and peace in Yemen. This was achieved in the most trying circumstances, both before and during the Arab spring. She called her award "a victory for the Yemini people, for the Yemini revolution and all the Arab revolutions".

The IWD Breakfast and WA Women's Hall of Fame are organized by the WA IWD Collaboration that consists of eight women's service organizations:

- Australian Local Government Women's Association;
- Business and Professional Women WA;
- Country Women's Association; Graduate Women WA;
- Soroptimists International;
- UN Women Perth Chapter (including Young UN Women);
- Women's Health and Family Services; and
- Zonta International.



9. How will YOU celebrate International Women's Day?

Carole Theobald, Convenor, UN Women Australia IWD Breakfast Perth

UN Women has a host of WA events on its website including its peak event - the UN Women International Women's Day Breakfast.

• UN Women Australia, IWD Breakfast

The breakfast will be held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on Friday 9 March 2012 from 7am to 9am. The guest speaker is the inspirational Sally Sara, the ABC Afghanistan Correspondent and the MC is the entertaining Babs McHugh, ABC Resources Reporter. Tickets are \$60 and \$45 concession. Why not donate a seat - the organizing committee will arrange for a disadvantaged person to attend!

Proceeds will go to UN Women projects to make market places safe for women in the Pacific.

You can book on line or find out more about other IWD events at

<http://internationalwomensday.org.au/iwd/Events/wa>

Just indicate on the manual form, or in the box provided if you book on line, that you would like to be on the Zonta Club of Perth tables – the organizing committee will place you all together!

• WA Women's Hall of Fame

The IWD Collaboration is also organizing the WA Women's Hall of Fame and it is with much delight that we see our charter member Freda Jacob has been short-listed for an award. The 10 inductees for 2012 will be inducted at a special ceremony at Government House by His Excellency Malcolm McCusker, Governor of Western Australia, Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC, Minister for Women's Interests and The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi .

10. Diary Dates

- **Thursday 8 March – Club Dinner Meeting, St Catherine's College**, 6.15 for 6.45pm. This is also International Women's Day and the WA Women's Hall of Fame inductees will be announced.
- **Friday 9 March – UN Women Australia IWD Breakfast**, 7-9am Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. Flyer on club website. (See article above). **BOOK NOW!**
- **Thursday 19 April – 40th Anniversary Civic Reception** hosted by the City of Perth
- **Saturday 5 May – Quiz Night** – St Catherine's College.



Download flyers from the club's website!

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