



Zonta Club  
of Perth Inc

Member of Zonta International

in-zert

January 2013

Issue No: 118

#### In this issue

1. Vale Margaret Giles
2. Marg's memories
3. November Visit Singapore
4. Kings Park 3 January 2013
5. Christmas Dinner 12 December 2012

#### 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 [zontaperth@yahoo.com.au](mailto:zontaperth@yahoo.com.au)

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## 1. Vale Margaret Giles

Lorraine McLean – President of ZCP

Marg Giles, a charter member of our club, died on 21st December 2012. She was a member of the Zonta Club of Perth for forty years during which she was a reliable and conscientious contributor to club and international projects and activities.

As Marg had arranged for a private funeral, twenty current and past members of the Zonta Club of Perth gathered at the Pioneer Women's Memorial in Kings Park on Thursday 3rd January 2013 to remember Marg and celebrate her life. Many members shared their memories of Marg. In particular, several referred to Marg's commitment and contribution to Zonta with the statement that 'she was always there' which is a worthy tribute that encapsulates Marg's efforts on behalf of Zonta. Marg was held in high esteem by many as is evidenced by the following tributes made to her by club members.

*Many of you will have known Marg and all the great work she did for Zonta, in particular with the Perth Club. I have forwarded a card to Marg's family in Nedlands and also to the ZC Perth. Ann Horrocks ZI D23 Governor 2012-2014*

Thank you for letting us know about Marg. She will be a real loss to Zonta, and we'll be thinking of all her friends in the District who knew her well.

Val Sarah PIPVal ( Past International President of Zonta International )

*I, too, am having difficulty coming to terms with the sad sad news of the sudden loss of Marg. She has been a mentor and support from my first days with Zonta. Such a steady intellect – warm, insightful and calm with a lovely dry wit. I will miss her immensely. Jill Anderson*

We all share the **devastating loss of Marg** a founding member of our club. We will remember Marg for her commitment to Zonta and its values and the wonderful and tireless work in the interests of Zonta over a very, very long period of time. Marg was a woman of knowledge and integrity, who was a valued team player, who mentored and supported many of us in her and our Zontian journey. We were very much valued for our work in Zonta and guided and encouraged to grow within the Zonta "family".

Marg was always the first to check on the "welfare" of Zontians and followed up with cards and phone calls. She was **selfless** in the support that she provided and she was extremely other aware. **That is a rare gift that she offered all of us** and she was always willing to consider others needs before her own.

A woman of strength who was very quiet about her achievements, but nevertheless a woman of determination who worked extremely well within Zonta teams. Marg had the love and respect of us all and she will be sadly and greatly missed.

Some of us had the privilege of sharing her last holiday recently in Singapore.

Marg's dry wit was certainly manifest and we enjoyed her company and will hold those memories very dear.

It is with extreme sadness Marg that I pay this tribute to you. You were a very



Marg at the club's charter dinner in April 1972



2004 Marg Giles and Anita Sutton (Perth NS) check out the new houses at the Refuge



Birthing Kit Assembly Day October 2012  
L-R Chrissie Hodges, Margaret Giles and Janet Fitchat



*Birthing Kit Assembly Day Oct 2012  
L-R Marg Giles, Chris Hodges, Helen Margaria, Student, Vera Riley and Janet Fitchat*

valued mentor and friend - one in a million !!! **Rest peacefully Marg with Jean and the angels** - I just wish it wasn't so soon!!! Deepest sympathy to Marg's family and to you all as I know we will all be feeling Marg's loss. Roslyn Budd

*Marg was such a very special person it is hard to comprehend that she is no longer with us. Her wisdom and practical approach will be much missed. Lois Joll*

We salute Margaret for so many things:

- For her constant work for Zonta over 40 years. She generously shared her knowledge, was meticulous in all her many tasks, and brought a huge amount of organizational skills and good common sense and good humour to the club.
- She was also very caring and compassionate - if someone was sick or in trouble Marg was always there with the cards, casseroles and telephone calls

On a personal level I have many fond memories of Margaret: of a chance meeting of our boats at Rottneest and a lovely day spent at Salmon Bay in France when Marg travelled many kilometres to lunch with us in Provence one Sunday, the odd concert we went to and the cups of coffee.....So many good things. Wendy Atherden

*I am very saddened to hear of Marg's passing. Margaret was one of the first ladies to welcome me into the Zonta Club of Perth. I enjoyed her company, her passion and compassion and her wicked sense of humour. What a shock. Sincere sympathy to her family and fellow Zontians. Margaret has left her mark and will never be forgotten. Sharron Hickey*



*Marg singing with gusto at the club's 2008 Christmas Party*

I can't begin to describe how I feel; I'm numb with shock! I was inspired to go onto the Refuge Board by Marg who had contributed for many years, so tirelessly before me. No doubt we can salute her by honouring and continuing the good things she did. Mary Gurgone

*Such a great loss to society let alone Zonta with the passing of our cherished Marg. I still can't believe it and feel so terribly sad, bereft & numb. This news makes you think about enjoying every moment of your life. Helen Margaria*



*Pansy Nulgit painting Marg's face during Kimberley visit in 2004*

How do I start to say how much Marg was such a wonderful friend who I may never have met except perhaps as a patient at the Mount Hospital if it wasn't for the fellowship and service we all shared in Zonta and as a charter member for over 40 years. It has been indeed a very sad shock to lose such a good friend as dear Marg and so suddenly too. Lennie McCall

*An inspirational Zontian for over forty years. It is still quite unbelievable that our lovely Marg is no longer with us. Personally I'll sorely miss her quick wit, lovely laugh and the odd 'rolling eyes' at significant moments! Mentor, friend and advocate for women in need. Her wit, sense and compassion will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by the Zonta Club of Perth.*



*Eah Umbagai (Yarri Wada Project Manager) shows Marg her paintings in 2008*

*During our camping trip in the Kimberley we shared a tent and were so cold we wore ALL the clothes we had brought for the Ngarinyin women!! We camped on the top of the hill and were nicknamed the 'mountain women'....such lovely times are fondly remembered. Marg worked for years with the Zonta House Refuge and the strength of the refuge today is partly testament to her commitment to it... Miss you Marg. Carole Theobald*



*Marg at Club Christmas Party in 2008*

On first meeting Marg merely four years ago I immediately warmed to her. She was sincere, considerate and fun to be with. I always felt comfortable in her presence. Marg felt deeply and thought clearly so it didn't surprise me to learn later that she had trained as a nurse. Unfortunately we live in a fast-paced time when it seems that kindness and care are rare. Marg had these qualities in abundance. I feel honoured that I knew her and feel lucky that I had the pleasure of her company in my home just a few days before her passing. A great loss to many. RIP Marg Lesley Meaney

*As a relatively new member of the Zonta Club of Perth, my most precious memories of Marg were her special ways of making me feel welcome and important. She would always take time to say hello and show interest in the happenings in my life.*



Marg on refreshment duties at the 2004 9 x 5 Art Show at Kidogo Gallery in Fremantle



Charter Members received their 40 years certificates in October 2012 L-R Margaret Giles, Margaret Medcalf and Lennie McCall



Marg presenting a cheque to the RFDS on a blustery day in 1972



Marg in Singapore

Marg was also one of the special ladies who came to help on this year's 'Birthing Kit Assembly Day'. She was one of the first to arrive and one of the last to leave. Her efforts helped make my first fundraising event for the club a success. I feel very privileged to have known Marg and still find it hard to believe I will not see her again at the Zonta Club. My sincere condolences to the family. Vera Riley

What a shock! I will remember Marg for her wicked sense of humour that made being with her so much fun. Her mimicking of members' way of moving their lips, whilst speaking, had me in stitches, as we both shared the problem of poor hearing. On becoming a member of ZCP, I had the pleasure of being placed on Marg's 'committee' and she immediately got me involved by becoming its secretary. I also had the misfortune to have a brace then, which made eating anything, other than mushy food, an unpleasant experience. She immediately suggested I had steamed fish and each month made sure that I was comfortable with my meal before enjoying her own. A sad loss. Gill Palmer

Like us all, I am very saddened at the loss of our friend Marg Giles. She was such a fine example to follow as a member of Zonta International. She welcomed new members graciously and warmly, she valued her old friendships within the club and she cared about the welfare of all members. Her special gift to the club was her overseeing and maintaining the high calibre of club functions, making sure protocols were attended to and adding the special touches. She always took on responsibilities willingly and in the process, mentored less experienced members so that they felt included and valued. I was very pleased to be Marg's driver to Mandurah for the Founders' Day Dinner in November 2012 and so enjoyed her company and hearing her enthusiasm for the upcoming trip to Singapore with other club members. I am so pleased we had that time to chat, little dreaming that it would be the last good time together. I will miss you Marg. Karen Groves

## 2. Marg 's memories of her first contact with Zonta...

From Inzert September, 2007

I was very curious on receiving an invitation to lunch at the Karrakatta Club. What was this all about?

At the lunch I was introduced to Canadian Zonta member, Dorothy Thompson, who had approached many executives and professional women in Perth to talk about Zonta.

At the end she handed over a Manual of procedures and several references and then disappeared back to Canada. I became one of twenty nine interested ladies who met for cocktails, on December 27<sup>th</sup> 1971 in the Executive Suite in the Parmelia Hotel. I was in awe of some of this diverse group which covered all walks of life and with different interests and experiences but all focused on community service and with incredible ease.

## 3. November 2012 Visit to Singapore

Wendy Atherton

Early in the morning, on November 13<sup>th</sup>, seven Zontians boarded a Singapore Airlines flight. The members were Margaret Giles, Judy Tennant, Margaret Medcalf, Lennie McCall, Lorraine McLean, Roslyn Budd and Wendy Atherton. His trip was the culmination of months of email contact with the Zonta Club of Singapore, who were very excited about the concept.

The Goodwood Park Hotel was our choice of a hotel and it was a delightful, gracious place, with excellent service and well appointed rooms.

The Zonta Club of Singapore put on a special evening, held at the elite Tanglin Club. There were other guests as well, including the Lt. Governor of District 17. As it was the week of the Indian Festival of Deepavalli [Festival of Lights], many of the women wore beautiful saris. It was a real night of celebration, with magnificent food, speeches, hilarity, exchanging of gifts and a wonderful happy atmosphere.



Marg in Singapore Nov 2012



Roslyn Budd, Margaret Medcalf, Wendy Atherden, Judy Tennant, Selina Goh (Zonta Club of Singapore), Lorraine McLean, Lennie McCall and Marg Giles

On the second day, we visited the Singapore Council of Women centre. Judy knew Selina Gan, the delightful ex. Zontian, in charge of this inspiring place, so we were given a tour. The work they are doing with women in great need of help is wonderful. To raise money they have a very successful "Op Shop", run by volunteers, plus a Cafe run by an excellent Chef. Children are also welcomed in the Centre. The women prepare their own food, have direct access to legal advice, keep the place spotless and have courses eg.computer work to improve their employment skills.



Wendy Atherden and Val Gandossini

For the remaining time in Singapore, our activities converged and diverged, as we investigated the delights of Arab St. Marina Bay Sands Hotel and gardens etc. One evening we all went by taxi to Clarke Quay, had a spectacular boat cruise and enjoyed a Thai meal. At the end of the most days, we caught up on our day's activities, sharing a Gin and tonic and nibbles in Marg's and Wendy's room.

The Raffles Hotel was also on our list of "to do" so we delighted in exploring the boutique shops and having a large Singapore Sling.



L-R Penny Flett, Margaret Medcalf, Lennie McCall and Helen Margaria

Early evening on November 16<sup>th</sup>, saw us all in a maxi-taxi and back to the airport for our flight home. Little did we realise it was the end of an extended time event with our wonderful Zontian, Margaret Giles. She so enjoyed our 4 days together and her sudden death, just 1 month later, has left the Zonta club of Perth bereft. We feel so privileged to have shared the Singapore trip with Marg.

#### 4. Celebration of the Life and Work of Marg Giles

This celebration to Marg, held at the Pioneer Women's Memorial in King's Park, was a low-key event, in keeping with Marg's wishes, and attended by 20 members of The Zonta Club of Perth. It was a perfect evening and no one could believe that Marg was no longer with us. Several members shared their thoughts and memories of this lovely lady and these have been recorded below.

*All of those that knew Marg would remember her as an exemplary Zontian – her years of commitment to the Zonta House refuge were inspiration to us all. She also worked tirelessly behind the scenes with the membership and support team to nurture and welcome members. She always had a ready smile, kind words and that knack of making people feel special. She will be sadly missed.... Carole Theobald*



Lennie McCall and Lyn McArthur

I will greatly mourn Marg's absence. We have had many experiences and laughs together particularly through our early and continuing years in Zonta which have cemented a friendship forged on the golf course. She did not like the limelight but still became a leader for us all. Her strong organisational skills, her common sense, gentle advice and sense of humour have been of great value to many. She will be remembered for her positive and generous contribution to the nursing profession, to her friends and the general community. Margaret Medcalf



L-R Wendy Atherden, Lesley Meaney and Tricia Summerfield

*I remember Marg mostly for her dignity. She conducted herself in a dignified manner at all occasions. Even when she was being a bit naughty or cheeky she did it with such dignity.*



L-R Wendy Atherden, Margaret Medcalf, Sciona Browne and Fiona Crowe

*I'll always remember her wise words of advice when directing me on how to convene the monthly club meetings or greet prospective new members. On a personal level she gave me very sound advice on matters related to health care. Unlike many of her peers this was done with gentle persuasion and sisterly encouragement leaving the recipient of the advice confident they could maybe 'one-day' deliver the same high level of care as that delivered by Marg.*

*Marg's unequivocal care for all extended beyond her professional role, spilling over onto all of us who had the pleasure of meeting, working and socialising with her at Zonta. Bless you Marg for your selflessness and dignity. Karina Moore*



L-R Val Gandossini, Judy Tennant and Jill Anderson

*I remember Marg as a reliable and dedicated team member, always ready with background information and practical advice; always taking more than her share of the workload. She was a kind and caring Zontian who always showed concern for members' health issues and hospital visits. Marg recognized and encouraged the strengths of other members; leading quietly from behind, she managed to "decline" the office of president whilst filling many other roles over her 40 years in the club. Vale Marg. Tricia Summerfield*

*Marg was such an unassuming person who gave so much to society – generous of her time, heart, spirit and certainly was a "doer". She started her career at RPH and did very well in the Nursing world. I think of her in the terms of the RPH hospital motto "SERVIO" Marg was an exemplary example of these S (service above self), E (excellence), R (respect), V ( valuing staff/others ), I (integrity) and O (organisational learning). i.e. service above self. She exhibited these values and qualities all her life for her patients, the hospitals she worked in, her family, friends and society, particularly those who needed help or support such as the Zonta refuge.*



L-R Jill Anderson, Lesley Meaney, Roslyn Budd, Carole Theobald and Karina Moore

*Marg did everything with skill and aplomb, was highly organised and paid attention to detail. She cared very much about all those she met and concerned about others welfare – such as a follow up with a note or card or call, and took much interest in fellow Zontian's lives and family. She took on roles often others didn't do and also supported all events and fund raising. As a person she had style, wit and a great sense of humour and this made her a delight to be with. Her uncanny knack of really engaging with you as you were the most important person was amazing and you really felt valued and appreciated by her.*

*I shall miss her in a multitude of ways and only feel privileged to have met her and worked with her in Zonta for the past 20 years. She was a person who really made a difference to the world. Such a loss to her family and Zonta and all those who knew her. Rest in peace Marg. Helen Margaria*



"Tricia Summerfield and Judy Tennant

## 5. Christmas Dinner 13 December 2012

This was Marg's last Zonta function and members were so pleased that they had been able to see Marg enjoying herself as their last memory of her. The edible displays put together by each committee were magnificent and were all sold out raising \$267. The table displays were made by Margaret Medcalf and really gave the dinner a very Christmas feel. Everyone enjoyed the splendid buffet meal.

*Many thanks to Margaret for the table displays and to all members who contributed to the gift displays and who brought a Christmas Gift for the Women's Refuge.*



L-R Wendy Alford, Penny Flett, Sciona Browne and Wendy Atherden



Christmas Dinner December 2012  
L-R Marg Giles, Judy Tennant, Freda Jacob and Sue Jarvis

