



In this issue

- 1. Zontaring on 2. IWD
- 3. Tricia – Life Member of Stadium Snappers Master Swimming Club
- 4. ZCP Holiday Relief Scheme
- 5. Dr Sue Gordon
- 6. Fiona Crowe – Volunteer Fire Fighter
- 7. 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 zontaperth@yahoo.com.au

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Lorraine McLean,
President

1. Zontaring on....

Lorraine McLean, President

Since the Inzert in November 2012 we have lost and achieved a great deal!

We have suffered the loss of and saluted the efforts of **Marg Giles**. We held a wake in her honour at the Pioneers Memorial Garden in Kings Park; sent condolence letters and cards to her family; placed a notice in the West Australian Newspaper and produced a special edition of Inzert to commemorate her efforts.

Marg was with us at our **Christmas event in December**. I sat at the same table as Marg and she seemed to be enjoying the fellowship and fun around her. Marg, as always, participated in the Christmas Bring and Buy which was a huge success. Delicious Christmas fare was supplied by members that was quickly bought by other members, friends and guests. It is consoling that Marg's last time with us seemed to be such a positive event for her.

In January we heard of the death of **Harriette Yeckel**. Harriette was especially important to our club as, when International President of Zonta International, she presented the charter to the Zonta Club of Perth on 5 April 1972 at a dinner at the West Australian Club. Harriette Yeckel was remembered to have been a good friend to our new club and guided it in many ways. She will be missed by all who knew her! I sent a message of condolence on behalf of the Zonta Club of Perth to Elizabeth Woodgate, Director, Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation Board.

The Zonta Club of Perth calendar year opened in February with members gathering for a delicious barbecue at St Catherine's College. This meal was followed by a brief meeting after which the members enjoyed socialisation until nine o'clock.

The International Women's Day Breakfast has been the highlight of the year so far. Speakers recounted the extreme difficulties faced by women in other parts of the world especially our near neighbour to the north, PNG. Rosie Johnson recounted her own story and those of others related to the abuse that women have suffered and continue to suffer in her country. She pleaded for assistance from Australia and other countries that do not tolerate such indignities. As it is important that young women and men are aware of the concerns besetting women, with the assistance of Cara Webling, I issued an invitation for a student to accompany me to the breakfast. Lauren Rosher, a student from St Catherine's College accepted the invitation. She was very pleased to have the opportunity to attend and was very affected by the stories presented. A DVD of the morning was made and I have a copy that is available for all members to borrow. Many thanks to Carole Theobald for supplying this DVD!

Say NO to Stilettoes!! After being 'stilettoed' at our meeting in March this is now my catch-cry. Fortunately **the presentation by Dr Sue Gordon** was so captivating that I did not notice the discomfort during the evening. I found Sue's positive attitude to be very refreshing. Especially that regarding her families! As she has reunited with her birth family she believes that she has three families to embrace: her birth family; her Sister Kate's family and her own family of two sons. What a wonderful outcome from a very difficult beginning!! Sue's life has been one of demonstrating what women can



The main entrance St Catherine's College. The garden is now the main car park.



These gates now block the entrance to what was the car park at the back of St Catherine's College in Park Rd.



This is where Fiona's home used to be



This was the car park in Park Rd



A very redundant notice!



BHP Billiton has partnered with St Catherine College to provide a support program for Indigenous students living on campus



How the finished students' quarter extension will look



New Administration and Visitors Accommodation

do if they look outwards with awareness and a strong desire to assist others. As Sue has taken this position throughout her life opportunities have abounded. More about Sue's story can be found on YouTube. Many thanks to Roz Budd for arranging this presentation.

It was delightful to have so **many students from St Catherine's attending** Sue Gordon's presentation together with a lone young man. Having so many young people present greatly increased the energy in the room which became more palpable as the evening progressed. The **Book Bring and Buy** was wonderfully managed by the students from St Catherine's College. Many thanks to Cara Webling and the other students for their valued assistance with this event. The remaining books were donated to The Zonta House Women's Refuge and delivered to them by Mary Gurgone.

Mary had previously reported that The Zonta House Refuge has been granted \$250,000 to assist them to employ staff to assist with the implementation of future programmes. Well done Mary!!

The Club meeting that followed Dr Sue Gordon's presentation was by necessity very brief. However, a vote indicted a positive outcome of the trial of 'special meals' for guest speaker evenings. A formal proposal for this will be presented at the meeting in April. I am hopeful that the suggestion made by the Board of having two meetings of unallocated seating per year, one of which will be the first meeting of the calendar year with seating at the other meetings to be allocated, will be accepted. This will allow all members to share a meal with all others at some time during the year and for the long-term members of the club to share their Zonta experience with newer members. Although I know that there has been some difficulty over the years with allocating seating I have received a suggestion that might reduce this difficulty and make the desired outcome more easily achieved. This to be discussed at later time.

As the **Area Meeting in Bunbury** was fast approaching and my foot was ballooning and turning black I visited my GP. She took one look wrote a prescription for antibiotics and hurried me down the corridor for a Tetanus injection! These interventions enable me to hobble to the area meeting. I was certainly glad that I did! It was very interesting and stimulating with many suggestions discussed that addressed my concerns such as: facilitating change, streamlining procedures and reducing the workload for individuals within the club! It seems that concerns such as these are more widespread than I had thought. I am and will be very happy to discuss these ideas with anyone interested and will table them at a later time for consideration by members if desired. Many thanks to Nan Martella for arranging the venue for this meeting.

Zontians have been invited to share their work and achievements:

Members have been invited to submit pieces to '**Tell Your Story**'. I have discussed with Wendy Atherden whether she might consider submitting her report of the Cultural Awareness Day for this project.

The **Service Recognition Award** is a new award to be made by Zonta International. Submissions are to be made at a District or Individual Club level. The Zonta Club of Perth has always been very active in providing advocacy and service. I have suggested to **Wendy Atherden** that she consider extending her plan for the **Cultural Awareness** that she has promoted and submitting this as a Service and Advocacy project on behalf of the Club. Also I have had some discussions with **Mary Gurgone** about the possibility of submitting the work with **The Zonta House Women's Refuge** on behalf of the three metropolitan Zonta Clubs that contribute to the project. When this is done these submissions will be presented to the Club members for consideration and opinion before submission. If these projects are successful they will be recognised at the Convention in Orlando.

I can hardly believe that only three months of the calendar year has passed and so much has been done. Although I frequently hear about Zontians who are 'time poor' they still rise to every occasion and achieve excellent results!

2. International Women's Day – UN Women Breakfast

Did you know that eight women's service organisations in WA get together as the IWD WA Collaboration to organize two special events to celebrate International Women's Day: the UN Women IWD Breakfast and the WA Women's Hall of Fame? Carole Theobald is the Zonta representative on the WA Collaboration Committee and is also the Chair of the IWD Breakfast Team. Here is her insider's view of what happens! – Ed.

UN Women Breakfast

Six months in the planning for a two hour event – but the effort was worth it - with 1,000 people attending the UN Women Breakfast at the Perth Convention Exhibition and Convention Centre and over \$58,000 being raised for the UN Women Critical Services Initiative in Papua New Guinea.

The IWD Breakfast Team has three ZC Perth Zontians on it: Wendy Atherden, Kate Ellson and me. Wendy and Kate specialize in sourcing prizes for the raffle and draws, gifts for the speakers, organizing bag stuffing days and of course being busy volunteers on the day, hosting guests, overseeing the raffle and making sure everyone has a good time. As I am in the 'hot seat' I have a busy time making sure that all the elements are covered and come together on the day. Over the years we have developed a How to Host an IWD Breakfast book – that contains step by step guides on everything from organizing the raffles, to preparing the running sheet (in 30 second blocks) for the MC, updating the risk management plan, and that includes details on speakers, couriers, flyers, brochures, sponsors, donors, corporate tables, show bags, hand signers, AV, photographers, banners, displays, volunteers, balloons and lots more! It is quite an experience being on the team and what is so lovely is that we get to meet and work with women from other organisations such as UN Women, Young UN Women, Graduate Women and Soroptimists.

This year's International speaker Rosie Johnson, a senior magistrate from PNG, comes from a culture where 67% of women are beaten by their husbands (nearly 100% in the Highlands) and where if a woman reports a beating or rape she runs the risk of being beaten and raped by the police... Rosie herself described how she had been identified as a 'bride prize' to an illiterate farmer in a nearby village, but managed to marry someone while she was at university. She also described how her own grandmother was accused of being a witch, was taken in the night from a hut next to Rosie, beheaded, hacked into pieces and thrown into the river. This is a country where only a few weeks ago a 20 year old woman was accused as a witch and burned alive by her community in front of a police station. It is no wonder that Rosie dare not visit her village. Violence is a cultural reality for women in PNG – right on our doorstep.

It was especially pleasing to know that all the funds raised from the UN Women events around Australia were going to the Critical Services Initiative that pays for telephone hotlines, medical help and emergency accommodation for victims of violence in PNG.

Other speakers included Julie McKay, the Executive Director of UN Women Australia, Minister Robyn McSweeney and Prof Colleen Hayward. The ABC's Babs McHugh was the MC and Musette a quartet of beautiful voices entertained us all. Many thanks to the Zontians and friends that supported the breakfast.

WA Women's Hall of Fame

This year the Hall of Fame acknowledged the contribution of women's groups to the WA Community. At a special ceremony at Government House Ballroom, Zonta International was presented with a certificate by the Governor Malcolm McCusker and Minister Robyn McSweeney. This event included entertainment by the Italian Joys of the Women choir, Hi-Jinx women's barbershop quartet and was followed by canapés on the terrace. During 2013 research is being undertaken into the role that women's groups have played in WA society by researcher Dr Elaine Dowd. A first draft of the initial research called Women's Business: Mapping Women's Groups in Western Australia can be downloaded from the www.powerof100.com.au website by following the 'about' and 'women's groups' links.

With the Zonta clubs of Peel, Dunsborough and Bunbury having special breakfasts – IWD 2013 was a time when Zonta could not have been more credible and visible!



Sandra Burns (left) prepares raffle boxes with other volunteers



Janine Wyatt (centre) stuffs the bags!



Helen Margaria and Wendy Atherden (seated centre) prepare raffle tickets



Dawn Newman Perth NS (left) and Ruth Thomas Swan Hills 3rd left man the Zonta display.



Rosie Johnson



Part of the room of 1,000 people!

3. New Life member of Stadium Snappers Masters Swimming Club – 'Tricia Summerfield



***Congratulations
'Tricia on
becoming a Life
Member of Stadium
Snappers Masters
Swimming Club***



President G.M. Klug 30 January 2013

'Tricia has been an active member of Stadium Snappers Masters Swimming Club Inc for 18 years. During this time she has been conscientiously committed to supporting this club through its development phases in the 1990s, as a President, Secretary and Coach. As a club coach for the past 15 years, 'Tricia is the longest serving accredited coach with the club to date.

Over these 18 years when 'Tricia was working full time she contributed extensively to many club activities as a swimmer, swim meet official and in many other administrative and technical duties to maintain an efficient and effective club. In addition, 'Tricia has held Directorships for Development and Coaching on the Board of Masters Swimming Western Australia Inc. and has been recognised for her services to Masters Swimming in Western Australia.

4. Zonta Club of Perth Holiday Relief Scheme

Do you need reminding about this very worthwhile, rewarding Zonta project?

History

In 1979/80 a Holiday Relief Scheme for families in need was established by the Club. A special fund commenced with \$200, the idea being to build up the capital and use the interest for holidays. By 1995/6 the balance had increased to \$15,000 but interest rates had decreased so since then the capital as well has been used to provide holidays.

Criteria

The family should be low income or unable to afford a holiday without assistance. Families are usually referred to Zonta by a Social Worker. Holidays are for up to one week. Special circumstances are taken into account such as:

- A recent serious illness of a family member
- Chronic family disability-mental or physical
- Recent family trauma, e.g. death, marital breakdown, loss of employment, mental
- Illness, bereavement, or release from imprisonment
- Help to prevent family break-up
- Assistance with family reunion.

Accommodation

Holidays can be taken anywhere if there is a suitable house at a reasonable price, however, most of our people go to Albany where the Albany East Rotary Club now has two very well equipped houses with disability access in a magnificent location by the beach at Emu Point.

Rent is never more than \$320 per week for up to 6 people and is paid by Zonta whose members also arrange transport by bus, or if by car pay a petrol subsidy of \$150, plus \$25 per person for spending money. An added bonus is that the Rotary Club members who are involved are very kind, understanding and helpful to these holiday folk.

Who requests holidays?

Extracts from some recent requests:

- *A family with 4 boys under 10 years of age. One has severe autism is non verbal*



Dog Rock Albany



Whale off Albany



A walk on the beach



A Day at the beach



The Gap Albany



Middleton Beach Albany



Cosy Corner Albany



Albany Museum



Two People's Bay Albany

and a handful, and requires extensive support in all aspects of daily living and so extra financial constraints. They have never been able to afford a holiday.

- A family of 5 children - one with Cerebral Palsy who can't talk and is globally delayed. They struggle to get quality time as a family (parents separated)...“a holiday in Albany sounds perfect to touch base as a family but also to give the children time to focus on them and see Albany at the same time with both their mum and dad”
- A family with 3 young children. One has autism and his sister is struggling with this (his behaviour and constant visits to doctors etc.) The father also has a health card.

There are many others with similar sad stories who would really appreciate and benefit from a holiday.

Then there are the telephone calls and cards and letters when they return. These are all very positive and one realises again what a worthwhile project this is benefitting so many people.

So far this year 28 people have benefitted from a Zonta holiday-11 adults and 17 children at a total cost of just \$3032.

Dear Wendy and the Zonta organization

I am so sorry for the delay in writing but I would like to thank you so much for the opportunity you gave us to stay at Emu Point in the October holidays.

My five children and I thoroughly enjoyed our stay. We took our bikes down and we loved riding around Emu Point. We swam out to the jetty and loved jumping off into the water.

We found a park, which had a tyre swing, and spent many hours taking turns on it.

One of my children has cerebral palsy and needs carrying but we were able to carry her up to the top of one hill and we all loved the view. We also went for a drive to Two People Bay beach and were in awe as to how picturesque it was. The children were itching to swim but it was raining!

We visited the museum and painted a clay boat / ship, then we went on the ship for a look. We couldn't believe men used to sleep in there!

We had a swim at Middleton Beach although it was a bit cold for me! We went to the wind farm, Cosy Corner and Shelley Beach and “The Gap” and the Natural Bridge. We were so amazed at what we saw and did.

The accommodation was so homely. There was plenty of room for us and we even managed to do 1000 piece puzzle!

Words can't begin to say how much we appreciated your generosity with Friendship House and the \$250 towards fuel. We had such a lovely time and we all loved Albany so much, we can't wait to return.

To Zonta Club of Perth

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all the people at the Zonta Club that made it possible for our family to have such a wonderful holiday down in Albany at the Van Eyk unit.

It has been about 13 years since we have been able to get away with our boys on a holiday so thank you.

It's very hard with a child with Autism. We have gone away before but it's always lasted 2 nights. At most, my eldest son does not like to be away from home and so we kind of had given up going away altogether.

My 3 boys don't play outdoors much but they spent almost everyday playing outdoors down Albany. They went to the beach everyday. They played cricket or went for walks, this was the side of them that I have never seen before.

The unit was perfect. I mean what more could you ask for? The beds were very comfortable, the place was clean and very nice deco.

We can't fault this holiday. My husband and myself, along with the kids, enjoyed every minute and were sad to leave.

There was so much to explore and do. My eldest son, with Autism, found peace and was so calm.

So once again thank you for making it possible for us to have this much needed break. We are very grateful.

5. March Dinner Speaker – Dr Sue Gordon

ZCP welcomed many guests at the March Dinner Meeting who had come to listen to Dr Sue Gordon, AM, a retired indigenous Australian magistrate.

Sue Gordon was born at Belele Station, near Meekatharra in 1944. At the age of four she was taken from her mother, under government policies relating to part Aboriginal children at midnight and spent the next 2 days on a train to Perth. Her family found her over 30 years later.

Sue's philosophy is "Just get on with our lives and not live in the past." Her success against the odds is an outstanding achievement.

She began her "new" life at the East Perth Receiving Home and was labeled 'feral'. These children were educated but could not continue after the age of 11 or 12 if they were not academic. Her father died and so she became a Ward of State for 10 years. Sue began her working life at Underwoods as a typist but was forced to leave there as she was unable to find accommodation. After 2 years as a nanny to Dalkeith family she joined the army as a full-time soldier in the Women's Royal Army Corps based mainly in the eastern states.

Following her army career she worked in various administrative positions around Australia and, in the early 1970s, started a long association with the Pilbara region, working mostly in Aboriginal Affairs with both urban and traditional people. She was awarded the National Aboriginal Overseas Study Award to study employment programs with a number of American Indian communities in the USA in 1977. Sue has a Bachelor of Laws from UWA, which took 8 years to complete as a part-time student.

In 1986 Sue was appointed Commissioner of Aboriginal Planning in Western Australia, making her the first Aboriginal person in WA to head a government department. She was appointed a Magistrate of the Children's Court of WA in 1988, making her the first Aboriginal Magistrate in WA. As a result of her work with Aboriginal and community affairs, she received the Order of Australia award in 1993 and a Honorary Doctorate of letters in 2003.

In 2001 she became the Chair person of the Sister Kate's Children 1934 – 1953 Aboriginal Corporation, which has achieved nearly all its objectives, but mainly the building of Aged Persons' Units at the Institution she grew up in. Sue is still the Chairperson.

In 2002, she was appointed to head an inquiry into family violence and child abuse in Western Australian Aboriginal communities by the Premier of WA, Geoff Gallop. The inquiry was known as the "Gordon Inquiry" and resulted in the closure of the controversial Swan Valley Noongar Camp on the death of a teenage girl there. The girl had encountered "sexual violence, violence, and the ravages of alcohol and substance abuse".

In 2004 she was appointed as Chairperson of the National Indigenous Council (NIC) under the Howard Government and the Council ceased under the Rudd Government in December 2007.

In 2010 Dr Sue Gordon accepted the position of President of The Federation of Western Australia Police and Community Centres (WA PCYC) and still performs in the role. Sue is seeing PCYC undergo many changes in its structure and direction, whilst it continues to offer targeted and relevant youth activities.

Sue has also been a Patron of The Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation for many years. Sue said "What has been achieved is in no small way the results of a dedicated, hardworking Foundation which just gets on with it and makes it happen in most parts of Australia"



L-R Judy Tennant and Dr Sue Gordon



Sue with long time friend – ZCP Roslyn Budd



Sue with Indigenous guests in the new Indigenous Cultural Space at St Catherine's College UWA.





Fiona Crowe in her volunteer firefighter role....

6. Volunteer Gidgegannup Firefighter

Recently flames tore through the Walyunga National Park, near Bullsbrook. A small army of volunteers from all walks of life, and not just burly men, stopped what they were doing and pulled on their yellow uniforms and went into action. One of these was **Fiona Crowe**.

"Our members volunteer out of a deep sense of community and pride." Said West Gidgegannup recruit, **Fiona Crowe**, who balances her volunteer duties with her role as head of St Catherine's College at UWA. She hopes to encourage more women to become volunteer firefighters. "It's such an active way to be involved in the community and you meet such a great range of people," she said.

Fiona has been a volunteer fire fighter for 3 years. These "vollies" are extraordinary, have a great sense of camaraderie, and have been willing to battle for as long as is needed to extinguish all the WA bushfires, most of which are deliberately lit.

Dave Gossage, the Association's President, said "Volunteers don't want a medal and they don't even ask for money, even though they are working in arduous and dangerous conditions".

Great Work Fiona!

Don't forget to check out the new pages on the Zonta District 23 web site.....

www.zontadistrict23.org.au

7. Diary Dates

6 April Perth NS Birthing Kit Assembly Day, Churchlands Senior High School, Contact Hilda Malanczak hmalanczak@gmail.com if would like to help out.

7 April Zonta Club of Peel Golf Day

11 April Dinner Meeting at St Catherine's College

9 May Annual General Meeting

18 May, Area 3 Workshop, Waterside Restaurant, Mandurah. You saw how lovely this venue was for Founders Day Dinner. Imagine what it will be like during the day for the workshop! Have you saved the date?

13-15 September 2013, District 23 Conference, Rendezvous Hotel, Scarborough See the conference webpage at www.zontadistrict23.org.au



Save the date



Area 3 Workshop 2013
Stripped Back—to the Bare Facts

Saturday 18th May 2013
9.00 for 9.30 start until 5.00 pm
The Dolphin and Pelican Function Rooms,
Mandurah Quay Resort, Erskine

This is a day to pamper yourself with Zonta!

- Be reinvigorated connecting with members from other clubs;
- Be enlightened as you make the connection between Zonta policy and practice;
- Be uplifted as you connect with some inspirational speakers; and
- Be challenged to think creatively.

Set in the beautiful surroundings of Mandurah Quay Resort, where we recently held the Founders' Day Dinner, this will be a day of enquiry, creativity and fun.

Put the date in your diary now. More details will follow soon when the great speakers have been confirmed!

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