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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 zontaperth@gmail.com

Contact us

- o zontaperth@gmail.com
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Carole Theobald on cloud 9 at Kennedy Space Centre



ZI President Lyn McKenzie with the Mongolian Zontians at the District 23 meeting



Some of the District 23 Zontians with the two Mongolian members.



The opening flag ceremony



Julie Monis-Ivett (left) chats to a Zontian at the birthing kit stand.

1. ZI Convention 2014 - Orlando

Carole Theobald

At the end of June, around 1600 Zontians gathered in hot, steamy Florida to celebrate the achievements of the 2012-2014 biennium and confirm the direction for the next two years. Members would have been following progress through the ZI daily newsletters, but these are some of my behind-the-scenes personal reflections ...

Florida is literally half a world away from Perth - a 40 hour adventure of changing planes, technical faults, delays, bad weather, diversions and missed flights with plenty of opportunities for aircraft spotting and people watching. Eventually, I arrived at the Convention, held in the Marriott World Center in Orlando, at 4am, grabbed a couple of hours of sleep and was on a Zonta coach by 8am for my 'field trip' to the Kennedy Space Centre. With about 70 other Zontians from around the world, we got to see the Atlantis Space Shuttle at close quarters, had a go at landing it in a simulator and even got to experience 'lift off' in a special ride that made my cheeks wobble. The Saturn V rocket that took the first men to the Moon is the length of a soccer field and a sight to behold. With the help of some coca-cola to keep me awake, I buzzed around the displays and was in heaven - I decided that yes, I would have loved to have been an astronaut - but the nearest I got was a souvenir photo!

The Convention started the following morning with each District having its own meeting - and we were joined by two delightful Zontians from Mongolia. We all got chance to meet the outgoing ZI President Lyn McKenzie as well as the incoming ZI President Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard who between them managed to briefly visit all of the district meetings.

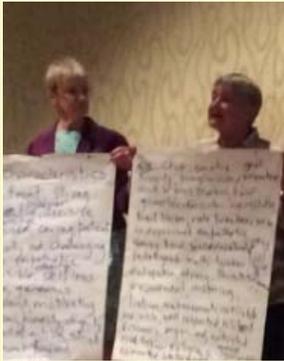
President Lyn provide a Kiwi touch by commencing each session with Kiri Te Kanawa singing 'the locust' - quite stirring music that made your hair stand on end! The Opening Ceremony is always a highlight, with Zontians in their national dress proudly carrying their national flags that are positioned on stage for the duration of the Convention. In this biennium four new countries have joined Zonta: Nepal, Lebanon, Uganda and Macau taking our total to 67 countries!

District 23 featured strongly in the program with the: Birthing Kit Project being recognized as the best district service project in the Zonta world; the Adelaide Hills Expect Respect project receiving a credible sixth place in the club service project competition; the District being acknowledged for all of its clubs donating to the Foundation; and also for being the District with the highest individual net growth with 104 new members! Our own Marg Giles was formally acknowledged in a moving remembrance ceremony that paid tribute to all the Zontians that had died in the biennium with yellow roses from each district being placed in a vase on centre stage.

The Open Forum was an opportunity for Lyn McKenzie to explain how the large number of proposed bylaw changes was an attempt by the Board to transfer 'operational processes' into separate procedures - so that changes to them could be made without referring them to Convention. Overall, it was a good try by the Board, but as the following business sessions revealed, many of the members had not grasped the concept clearly and so every clause was painfully debated. This took up valuable time and caused lunch sessions to be shortened, business sessions to be lengthened and meant that delegates had to forego some 'much-looked-forward-to' workshop sessions. All the delegates deserved a medal for their persistence and



Adelaide Hills', Expect Respect project display



Beryl McMillan (left) helps Marilyn Waring (right) during the leadership workshop



Part of our huge hotel



Meeting Zontians from Japan



Outgoing D23 Governor, Ann Horrocks (left) and incoming Governor Erica Majba (right)

patience. I remember a similar resistance when we moved from 'prescriptive legislation' to 'outcome based legislation' in Australia and I am sure that, given time, the bylaws will become far more streamlined so that only essential 'policy' matters are discussed at future Conventions.

The nominees for the various international Board and Nominating Committee positions were of a very high standard. They all spoke well and delegates got to chat with them at a special 'meet the candidates' session. Alison Martin from the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs did the District proud, but sadly missed out in the voting for a ZI Director position. However, Beryl McMillan was elected as the Australia, New Zealand representative on the ZI Nominating Committee. The President-Elect was confirmed as Sonja Honig Shough, an IT HR business consultant from Sweden, and the new Vice President is Susanne von Bassewitz, a PR manager from Germany.

There were some exceptional speakers, with my favourite being Laura Suarez Henderson, an Amelia Earhart Fellow who is a talented science communicator. She mesmerized us with her work tracking over 650,000 man-made items in space and the potential problems they can cause. Dr Marilyn Waring, a former NZ politician and founder of feminist economics, was also very memorable. I had the privilege of participating in her workshop on leadership and was very impressed with her incisive brain and her playfulness!

The projects for the coming biennium were also introduced and it was good to see the obstetric fistula project in Liberia and the HIV-free generation project in Rwanda being continued. Two other new projects are centred around creating gender responsive schools in Vietnam and delaying early marriage in Niger. Another very exciting project is the one where we team up with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to end violence against women and girls. I attended a workshop on Effective Partnerships that featured representatives from Guides, Soroptimists International and UNICEF. During discussion the possibility of creating a new guide interest badge to help guides understand what organisations such as Zonta and Soroptimists are all about was raised and was seen as a way of creating a pathway to encourage guides to consider other service clubs in later life. It was interesting to note that over half of the Zontians in the session had formerly been guides...

Outside of the 'business room', District 23 members also helped PIP Val Sarah with the Centennial display stand where our club's history book generated a lot of interest. I was invited to speak to a meeting of all the district archivists and answered many questions about how we did it and the costs involved. The information is now summarized in a Powerpoint presentation on our club and district web sites and will soon also be on the ZI site. I think there may be a lot more club histories produced thanks to on line publishing programs such as Blurb.

The ZI shop was very popular with dozens of 'official' items of Zonta merchandise. There was also a Zonta marketplace where clubs from USA displayed a wide range of cards, jewelry, clothing, soaps and bags. This area was a hubbub of activity – Zontians do like to shop!

Of course, Convention is all about meeting Zontians from other countries and over tea, lunch or dinner there was a buzz around the hotel as Zontians shared their stories. Judy and I took a lot of 'Zonta in Australia' badges, clip-on koalas and small kangaroo pins that we distributed to everyone we spoke to, and took special care to include as many first timers as possible. We caught up with old friends from previous conventions including Lori Robinson, from Canada who is the ZI Chair of Z and GZ clubs. Lori said she was happy to give a Skype call to our GZ club at any time – even if it meant getting up in the middle of the night to do so – I'm sure the GZ club members will love her!

During the convention, over \$155,838 in donations were made to the Foundation with a further \$45,000 being raised from an early morning sponsored walk around the golf course that surrounded the enormous Marriott hotel. The nearest shops and restaurants were a short taxi ride away and popular spots included 'downtown Disney' that consisted of many themed restaurants around a lake and the outlet shopping centres where many a bargain was purchased.

Now we can all start saving our pennies for Nice in 2016 and Yokohama in 2018, so we can do it all again!

2. Nakuru Hope Update

Val Gandossini



The new school

Our new school in the slums of Kapembwa opened on the 8th January this year but it was not until July 2nd that we could have an 'official opening' and 'thank you ceremony' for those whose lives have continue to change. Present were the 170 children, their parents and the community members who protect us, work with us and assist us including our labourers and our builders. It was a most remarkable day.

It was a day of personal celebration for Susan Saleeba, founder of the project. The children with the biggest smiles presented songs which they had been practicing for months; mothers in their brightly coloured traditional kangas danced and sung, welcoming guests and the new teachers. Speeches were made, prayers were said and rice and beef stew served to over 300 who attended.



Bunks in the new orphanage

We began in 2008 with a rented little house on the edge of Kapembwa, a slum area of over 200,000 people. Our little school and a women's learning centre. Over the past four years we have seen so many lives change, so many children who come to the school for food and education, women whose lives have been changed through learning a tool of trade, dressmaking.



Children in their new classroom

Countless fundraising activities were held, grateful donations were received and a lot of commitment and hard work to be able to build on our own land a school, orphanage and volunteer home stay. We could have built with mud bricks and galvanised iron roof, but we decided to build a centre that will be here in years to come, to give our children who live without hope, a centre with strong foundations with a presence of strength, stability and peace. A refuge, a centre of learning, a home away from home.

The project received a much needed boost when \$11,700.00 was pledged at The Funding Network (TFN) event in May. TFN is a start-up, member-led organization and has two clear goals: (i) to popularise philanthropy by making it fun, inspiring and accessible to all and (2) to support social entrepreneurs with funding and the power of a connected network.



The official opening

Some weeks prior to every event members suggest [social entrepreneurs](#) leading small non-profit organisations who they think would benefit from TFN funding. Four entrepreneurs are selected and invited to briefly pitch their projects, after which people have an opportunity to pledge funds with the goal of raising \$10,000 per project. The format is contagious and provokes a wave of positive feeling that transforms everyone in the room. Twelve months later projects report back on the impact of their funding to donors. Thank you Carole Theobald for suggesting to the organisers that Nakuru Hope be nominated. I was honored to be asked to speak about the project.



The Funding Network (TFN) Event

Susan Saleeba had also hoped to open the much-needed orphanage in July, disappointingly financially at this stage she could not, but we have been able to purchase bunks, mattresses, mosquito nets and warm blankets with funds raised from TFN.

What is needed now is further fundraising for staff, two matrons to care during the day and two for during the night, medicines and food, but as the saying goes in Kenya, poli poli, = slowly, slowly we will achieve this.

3. "Snapped" in the post

Congratulations to our Club President, 'Tricia Summerfield for being awarded the 2013 Coach of the Year Award from Stadium Snappers and being featured in the 'Post'.

'Tricia has been a swimming coach for many years and it is great to see her efforts acknowledged in the public arena.

Congratulations!



'Tricia Summerfield with her well earned coaching award



4. Entertainment Books

Have you purchased your Entertainment Book yet? Why not help our club and purchase some books today. They make great gifts!

We only have 12 more books to sell – so order your copy now at <https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/85e525> and Carole will bring your book to the next meeting.

Carole has used her membership for meals, movies and travel – you could too! Not only does the book give you loads of ideas of places to go, it also provides great savings when you get there.

If you find that you forget to take your book – this is no longer a problem as you can download a special app for your phone! The link to purchase the book or app is also on our club’s website at www.zontaperth.org.au

5. Diary Dates

Wednesday 6 August – Zonta Perth Northern Suburbs YWPA Presentation

This prestigious event to present Perth Northern Suburbs’ YWPA award is held at the Lake Karrinyup Country Club. Tickets \$50. RSVP to jfowler@accruer.com.au before 24 July.

Friday to Sunday 8-10 August: Pregnancy, Babies and Children’s Expo - If you can help out on the Birthing Kit Stand over this period, please contact Jean Wyder at wydervision@gmail.com

Friday 22 August: Zonta Quiz Night, Cambridge Bowling Club, Floreat, 6pm
Tables of 8 cost \$160. Order your table today at zontaperth@gmail.com

Sunday 31 August: City to Surf Fundraiser: Help raise funds for the Zonta House Refuge Positive Pathways program by walking or running the 4km, 12 km, 21 km or full 42 km course – or providing a donation! See flyer on club website.

Saturday 8 November: Founders’ Day Dinner and Woman of Achievement Award presentation, Mallard Duck, Henley Brook.

16-18 October 2015 13th Biennial District 23 Conference, Grand Chancellor Hotel, Adelaide

2016 Zonta International Convention, Nice, France

2018 Zonta International Convention, Yokohama, Japan



Roslyn Budd (left) was installed by Lennie McCall as 2nd Vice President at the July club meeting

Post Script....

Given our last two ZI Conventions have been in Italy and USA, I thought you would enjoy this ‘funny’! After a two year loan to the United States, Michaelangelo’s David is being returned to Italy.....



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