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## Club Meetings

Second Thursday of the month.

**Apologies by 8pm**

**Previous Monday**

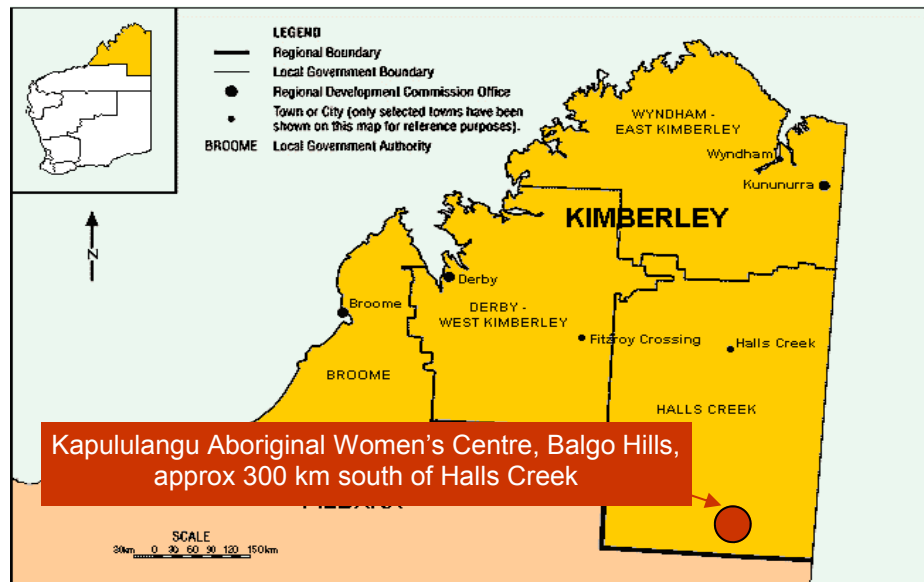
To: Lori Grech  
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## INZERT

Please send any articles or photos for InZert to:

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## Thanks from Kapululangu



Map of shires in the Kimberley region (<http://www.regional.wa.gov.au/maps/kimberly.asp#map>)

The Club recently received the following letter from Judith Nampitjin Power, voluntary Coordinator at the Kapululangu Aboriginal Women's Centre in Balgo Hills. Thanks Marilyn for forwarding the information—Ed.

Thank you so much for the great clothes you sent up for us to sell: not only does the generosity of people like you help us to survive financially without any government funding, but it's also wonderful for the women to know that so many people are on their side. I'll let you have some photos of the second-hand shop on my verandah when I get them developed: the clothes you sent were such good quality that most of them sold almost immediately.

I hate to make more requests for help when your organisation has already been so generous, but we desperately need some support for our so far fruitless quest for the Balgo Safe House Project. Last September an officer from Community Development attended a large Women's Community Meeting in Balgo and promised to "find us funding" and report back within two weeks; at her suggestion I put a lot of time and energy into getting quotes for the conversion of a large shed which was the original Women's Centre, ranging from structural alterations down to clothes pegs and garbage bags. After many reminders to her, she finally told me about a month ago that in fact Community Development has no funding

for Safe Houses!

I've subsequently contacted the department's Regional Director, the Minister for community Development and the Minister for the Kimberley—next step is the media! In the meantime, women and children seeking safety are accommodated and supported either at the Women's Centre itself, which is inappropriate not only because it is the permanent home of a number of Women Elders, but also because it has totally inadequate security OR on my living room floor, which is also obviously unsatisfactory.

If you need specific information about the funding attempts please let me know: I have a file several inches thick.

To give you some background information, I enclose a recent Coroner's Report which doesn't specifically deal with family violence but gives a comprehensive and sad picture of life in this community; it does however lack a mention of the love and support and generosity which is also very evident here and which makes my struggles worthwhile.

Thank you again for your support

*Judith Nampitjin Power.*

(See over for further insights into life at Balgo Hills and extract from Coroner's Report)

## Kapululangu needs & deserves a paid Coordinator

*Editor: This second letter from Judith Nampitjin Power provides an insight as to what life is like at the coalface in Balgo Hills—Judith is an amazing woman.*

After more than a year unsuccessfully investigating very many funding sources, we've decided to institute a Coordinator Salary Pledge Program. We are looking for as many people as possible who would be prepared to pledge a regular set amount to be paid by direct debit for one year towards a coordinator's salary, after which they could choose to continue for a further year or opt out of the program. The minimum amount has been set at \$5 per week, to make it affordable even to people on very low incomes who want to do some 'practical reconciliation' by supporting us.

Pledged amounts will go directly to our bank account and all aspects of the Program will be fully documented. Pledges will be accepted on the basis that if full salary funding is received from any sources, pledgers would be advised immediately and given the option of either discontinuing their pledge or transferring it to another Kapululangu activity which needs financial support. We would also be happy to accept lump sum donations of any amount for this purpose.

When I first came here to Balgo Hills in early 2003 to work voluntarily as Coordinator of the Women's Centre, it was on the assumption that I'd only have to survive without a salary for six months or so: nearly eighteen months later in the present difficult funding climate there's still no prospect of salary funding eventuating in the near future. It's becoming increasingly stressful for me to work here with no salary and no immediate prospect of one, the most difficult aspect being that I can't afford to take holidays, especially to spend time with my family in Victoria. I have a very strong and deep commitment to the Women Elders and to the Balgo community generally and will continue to work voluntarily until such time as a salary is available.

My work as coordinator is arduous, exhausting and challenging, but very, very rewarding. It involves daily care

of the Women Elders, none of whom are in good health: supporting the women to maintain their traditional culture and pass it on to younger women and girls; administration; running a Safe House at the Women's Centre (and often also in my own home) for women and kids in danger; driving the women as needed to the local store, the art centre, to traditional healers and to the medical clinic; driving women and kids out into the desert for traditional food and medicine gathering and (so far unproductively and taking up a great deal of time and energy) preparing endless funding applications for basic administration expenses, vehicle fuel and maintenance, cultural activities, a permanent Safe House and for my own salary.

Please contact us if you want to join the pledge scheme and we'll send you the necessary documentation and please also pass a copy of this letter on to anyone you feel may be interested in supporting us. If you were part of the previous pledge program administered by the now defunct "Friends of Kapululangu" and want to continue pledging, please let us have your details and we'll change you over to the new program.

***"It's becoming increasingly stressful for me to work here with no salary and no immediate prospect of one ... (but) will continue to work voluntarily until such time as a salary is available"***

If you've supported Kapululangu in the past we thank you very much and look forward to your continuing support; if you haven't supported us before,

now is your opportunity! If you would like background information please let us know and we'll send you an information flyer. Please let us know if you can distribute these for us.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

*If members would personally like to help Judith and the community please contact:*

PMB 308, Balgo Hills via Halls Creek WA 6770  
Ph 08 9168 8383  
Fax 08 9168 8003  
Email kapululangu@westnet.com.au

*(Remember there is only one mail delivery a week so electronic communication is preferred!)*

## Conclusion from Coroner's Report into the deaths of Owen James Gimme (16yrs) and Mervyn Milner (17yrs).

*"Owen James Gimme and Mervyn Miller were young persons who died at the Balgo Aboriginal Community in the Kimberley. Both young persons were involved in the self-destructive practice of petrol sniffing and tragically their deaths were not isolated incidents in that community.*

*Evidence at the inquest hearing indicated that suicide attempts were common in the Balgo Community and the practice of petrol sniffing was widespread; some children as young as 8 being chronic petrol sniffers.*

*Both of the deceased persons had commenced sniffing petrol when they were young children and there can be little doubt that they turned to petrol sniffing to provide an escape from the depressing circumstances which they found themselves.*

*At the Balgo community children, such as the deceased, have a poor start in life, are often of low birth weight and are likely to be medically classed as failing to thrive in their early years.*

*The standard of education achieved by young persons such as the deceased is relatively low and there is little appreciation that education could provide a pathway to a better lifestyle.*

*There are no real jobs in the Balgo Aboriginal Community and there is little scope for young persons to develop a reasonable level of self esteem. Boredom is a part of daily life.*

*The deceased persons, like their peers were brought up in a dirty and unhygienic environment where litter is allowed to collect.*

*Members of the community live in overcrowded and unattractive homes, most with only the basic of*



*kitchen facilities.*

*The entire community appears to suffer from a poor diet with associated health risks and the standard of health in the community is generally poor.*

*The deceased persons lived in a community where violence is rife and where respect for authority is breaking down in the context of solvent abuse.*

*Both of the young men were probably brain damaged as a result of petrol sniffing and the acute organic effect of their recent petrol sniffing would have left them at high risk in any environment. In the environment in which they found themselves, which was by any standards depressing, it is not surprising they took their town lives.*

*I find that deaths arose by way of suicide."*

Note: The coroner went on to support the establishment of permanent police presence at the Community and recommended that:

- Nutritious and fresh food be made available with cooking education and suitable cooking facilities (some children had not eaten for four days when interviewed)
- Participation wages be provided to clean up the community and repair homes to make the environs more attractive
- State and Territory Governments address the issue of importing alcohol into dry communities.

The Munjurla Scoping Study Draft Report 2004 identified a potential for wealth creation in the region especially in the area of eco-cultural tourism in general; and the Canning Stock Route and Paruku in particular e.g. bush tucker tours, a guided drive four wheel drive through 'the Pound' mesas of the 'Badlands' or a day in the Great Sandy Desert. However, Balgo in its current state is not likely to be seen by many as an appropriate tourist destination.

*It sounds like Judith needs all the help she can get—Editor*

## Message from Nan Martella

I have been appointed your Public Relations/Communications Chairman for the Biennium 2004 – 2006.

My intention as PR/Communications Chairman is to continue what has already been implemented by Dawn Newman and to provide a reference point for assistance to individual clubs.

My PR Objectives for 2004 – 2006 are as follows:

- Continue vigilance of the correct use of the Logo. Dawn has ensured all clubs have received and implemented the correct use of the Zonta International Logo. It is important we act as one and our point of reference is standard. Please contact me if you have a problem with this.
- Support the continuing development of the District Website
- Encourage the development of your local Zonta Website which can link into the District and then into International Websites.
- Continue PR awards for District Conference 2005
- Support the District 23 projects in their Public Relations
- Support Zonta International Public Relations/Communications Chairman. Congratulations to Dawn Newman. As Testament to a job well done during the Biennium 2002 – 2004, Dawn has been appointed Zonta International Public Relations/Communications Chairman for 2004 – 2006.
- I will also be supporting and encouraging the introduction and widespread use of the Public Relations Tool kit. This is an excellent resource put together by the last PR International team with Chairman Bridget Baker. This is a wonderful resource and I encourage you all to work from it. It has been well researched and is an easy to read practical guide for use in your clubs. This toolkit can be accessed through the Zonta



Welcome to Nan Martella from the Bunbury Club — the new District 23 PR Chair

website [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org). Go to Member resources, Foundation Resources, Public Relations and into Public Relations Tool Kit

As a way of ensuring I am kept informed I would appreciate all newsletters, flyers and any other information regarding your club be sent to me at [martella@bigpond.net.au](mailto:martella@bigpond.net.au)

Margaret Dearthcott has been appointed Editor of the District 23 Newsletter and Newsflash.

Melinda Young is developing our District Website.

Sally Gordon once again is our District 23 official Photographer. Sally has put together a wonderful Compendium of photographs from the 2003 District Conference in Bunbury.

Jean Van Driel is District 23 Conference Chairman for Glenelg 1-3<sup>rd</sup> October 2005.

At the Zonta International Convention New York 2004 a certificate was presented for 'Best Flyer' in the Public Relations area. This was awarded to District 23 Conference held in Bunbury 2003. Congratulations to Penelope Northcott of the Zonta club of Bunbury Area who designed the flyer.

*PR – Public Relations – can also be Personal Relationships – beginning with your relationship with Zonta. Your involvement and passion will reflect the Public's perception of Zonta.*

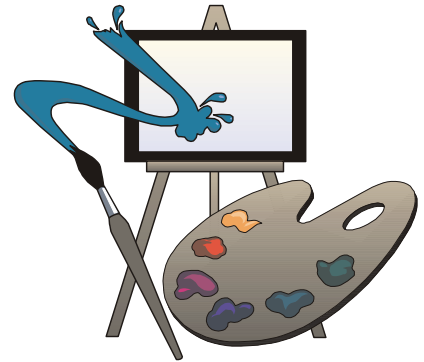
**“All members are advocates for Zonta Public Relations”**

## Diary Dates

### 30th-31st October 2004—9" x 5" Art Show, Kidogo Art House, Bathers Beach, Fremantle

The Opening Cocktail evening on Friday 30th October will give viewers the first option to buy the displayed art works. Tickets for the cocktail event cost \$10 and include wine and sandwiches.

The Art Show will be open for free general viewing and purchase of works on Sunday 31st October between 11.30am and 5pm. Unframed works cost \$55, framed works \$70 and there will be a few works available through silent auction!



**Please get your promised art works in to Wendy MacGibbon as soon as possible and don't forget to sell those tickets for this major fundraising event of the year!**

### 2nd November 2004—Melbourne Cup Lunch— Zonta Club of Dunsborough Area



The race that stops a nation—and this includes Dunsborough where for many years this event has been one of the highlights of the local social calendar. This year the event is at the Wise Winery Restaurant at Eagle Bay and starts at 10.30am.

Gourmet Menu—Complimentary Glass of Sparkling Wine—Sweeps—Raffles—Spot Prizes—Auction—

Prizes for 'Hat of the Day' (Ladies) & 'Best Tie' (Men)

TICKETS: \$55. Proceeds to Midwifery Dept., Busselton Hospital.

Enquiries to Sue Robertson 9755 2989 or Jan Boston 9755 3848

### 6th November 2004—Founders Day Dinner, West Australia Club

The 2004 Woman of Achievement will be announced at this commemorative annual event to celebrate the founding of Zonta International.

With special guest Dixie Marshall, this year's Founder's Day Dinner promises to be very entertaining. Partners are welcome.

Tickets are only \$55 each and include 3 course gourmet meal, cheeses and coffee as well as welcome champagne and limited wine. Please forward cheques payable to Zonta Club of Perth (Inc) to Barbara-Dene Jones **as soon as possible**.



**WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLUB?**

**VISIT OUR NEW WEB ADDRESS [www.zontaperth.org.au](http://www.zontaperth.org.au)**

**Email: [zontaperth@yahoo.com](mailto:zontaperth@yahoo.com)**