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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 Marg Giles
- o Tel: 9383 1083

Contact us

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1. Embrace everything that Zonta offers...

The Area 3 Workshop, hosted by the Zonta Club of Peel Region was held on a wet and windy Saturday at the Mandurah Country Club. However, the dampness outside, did not dispel the warmth and energy within.



(L-R) Karen Groves, Area 3 Director, with club presidents: Wendy Kirby (Peel), Sheila Watters (Swan Hills), Jan Greive (Bunbury), Palma Phipps (Perth NS). (Absent: Lori Grech (Perth), Jane Moulden (Dunsborough))

After introductions by Audrey Clay from the host club, Karen Groves, Area 3 Director, welcomed Zontians and special guests. There were fifty Zontians in attendance, including 8 from our Club: Karen Groves, Judy Tennant, Fiona Crowe, Tricia Summerfield, Wendy MacGibbon, Anne Marie McNaughton, Margaret Medcalf and Carole Theobald.

Karen gave special mention to apologies from, Di Bryant and Ros Warwick, who are currently unwell and Kaye Poustie who was at her OAM investiture. She introduced Alison Martin the District 23 Governor Elect who has recently returned from Governor training in Chicago. Alison brought attendees up to date with news from Zonta HQ, including Beryl Stein's (incoming ZI President) vision for the forthcoming biennium, structure, goals and ZI service projects including the following 3 International Service Projects (ISP) and 3 ZI Strategies to Prevent Violence Against Women (ZISVAW).

- o Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Rwanda, a project in cooperation with UNICEF.
- o Safe Cities for Women Project in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and San Salvador, El Salvador, a project in cooperation with UNIFEM
- o Reduction of Obstetric Fistula in Liberia within the context of Maternal and Newborn Health, a project in cooperation with UNFPA
- o Ending Violence Against Women through Community Action (EVAWCA) in Cambodia
- o Combating physical violence against women and supporting the implementation of protective and anti-discriminatory laws and policies in Egypt
- o Community-based center for housing and rehabilitation of women victims of violence in Syria



MC Audrey Clay and Dawn Simmonds from Peel Club model the new Zonta T-shirts

Alison went on to introduce the members of the incoming D23 team who were attending today's workshop and explained that the new biennium commences after the International Convention in Rotterdam in June. In particular, Alison encouraged all members to visit the Zonta International web site so they may see the proposed ZI projects.

The next speaker was our own Fiona Crowe, who provided a succinct overview of the amazing Yarri Wada Puppet Project that is an official District 23 project from July. She showed a DVD of the first puppets being made by community members from 3 tribes in the Kimberley. The video showed how the puppets are already bringing together people of all ages, in an environment that celebrates culture, language and learning. This project touched, moved and inspired many members present.



Fiona Crowe presenting Yarri Wada strong for country puppet project

Fiona explained that, as a direct result of the first workshops, 17 women have received Certificate I qualifications in traditional art. Some of the puppeteers are currently in Perth for the World Festival of Puppetry and the Million Puppet Project display in the Perth Concert Hall includes two large, impressive Yarri Wada puppets (the female is 5 metres high, the male is 3 metres high).



*Key note speaker Paddi Creevey,
Mayor of Mandurah*

Currently information packages are being put together for Clubs so the story may be shared and more agencies inspired to support this positive, worthwhile, project that builds enormous social capital.

Karen briefly outlined the expectations for the day before introducing the keynote speaker, Paddi Creevey, the inspirational Mayor of Mandurah.

Paddi was a charter member of the Zonta Club of Peel Region and described how her involvement with Zonta contributed significantly to her own personal development. Her presentation provided insights into her views about leadership, service and advocacy, developed over 20 years of experience as a social worker, local government councillor and, more recently, as mayor of one of the fastest growing cities in Australia.



Karen facilitated Group A

She explained how her 'positional leadership' role as mayor is all about making a difference and how this is complemented by her 'relational leadership' role which is all about developing interpersonal relationships and trust.

Her words were echoed in many of the group sessions, showing how her talk had resonated with the fifty members present. Among her memorable words include the following (some of which are paraphrased):

- *It's all about finding a solution that works...*
- *Mix with successful people and you will become successful ...*
- *Ensure developing, nurturing relationships...*
- *As a leader, be confident, unafraid and unashamed...*
- *Say 'thank you' when you receive positive feedback...*
- *Show respect for people and don't buy into negativity...*
- *You can only lead as much as the group will let you...*
- *Follow Dr Fiona Woods example and 'create an environment so those you work with can be as best as they can be.'*
- *Enable ordinary people to do extraordinary things in the face of challenge and change..*
- *Focus on what people can offer..*
- *Wake up with an attitude of gratitude..*
- *Don't be afraid to do what is right...*
- *Embrace everything that Zonta offers you...*



*Fiona Crowe and
Judy Tennant/Carole Theobald
facilitated Group B*

Attendees then broke out into groups to explore different aspects of Zonta:

- A. Exploring Zonta for new members
- B. Making our clubs work for us - the members
- C. Making our projects work for us - the clubs
- D. Making Zonta happen in our communities



*Wendy Kirkby and Deb Hall
facilitated Group C*

The group discussions provided opportunity for Zontians to share their ideas and experiences on a diverse range of topics. The discussions continued over lunch and later attendees participated in a second group discussion



*Jan Greive and Kerry Coyle
facilitated Group D*

After afternoon tea, facilitators provided an overview of the main issues raised and ideas shared during the day – Carole was asked to explain how the Yahoo site works in combination with our web page for our Club and this generated a lot of interest.

Karen will collate the information from the discussions, so it may be distributed to help Clubs continually improve both their value to the community and experience for members.

The subsequent open forum session enabled clubs to 'bring out their wares' with T-shirts, shoe bags, brooches, books and cards being showcased. Order forms for all the items will be available for downloading from our website soon...



*Tyrill Houghton (Bunbury) and Tricia
Summerfield catch up over a cuppa*

The day finished with a sundowner event and over a glass of wine and a range of nibbles, where attendees were able to unwind, enjoy each other's company, share ideas and truly embrace everything Zonta offered.

2. Puppets and their makers come to Perth



Leah and Anneka erecting the 5m high Jilinya puppet in the Concert Hall



Leah, Mary Lou, Pansy and Anneka pose with the 2 large puppets they helped to make.



Gill, Leah and Marg with some of Leah's paintings at the Atwell Gallery



Carole, Lau, Leah, Mary Lou, Anneka and Gill at King's Park



Pansy in the Women's Memorial Garden

The last week has been a very busy time for the Yarri Wada puppet team. Pansy, Leah, Mary Lou, Anneka and Leah's young son Lau, flew down from the Kimberley last week and were joined on Thursday by Janet, Rona, Ernest, Christobel, with youngsters Tommy, Johnny and Benticia. It was quite a challenge transporting the two puppets as the female is 5m tall and the male 3m tall. (see pictures). The puppets had been dismantled and transported in boxes. The puppet makers spent the first couple of days completing the puppets and taking them to the Concert Hall so they could be displayed as part of the World Puppet Festival's Million Puppet Display. It proved quite a task getting the puppets to 'sit' straight on bamboo poles and they looked magnificent together near the St George's terrace entrance to the Concert Hall.

The visitors are staying at St Catherine's College and Fiona Crowe has done a magnificent job in managing their stay, arranging accommodation, meals, transport and providing support as required. The Spare Parts Puppet theatre representatives were very busy with the pressures of the Festival, but managed to arrange tickets for the visitors to see a few puppet events presented by expert puppeteers and provide guidance on the erection of the puppets.

Before the second party arrived, Club members were able to host Pansy, Leah, Mary Lou and Anneka on a few showery afternoons. Carole took them to some art supply shops, with a quick diversion to Carousel shopping centre and on the following day to the Concert Hall to erect the puppets. The next day, Carole, Marg and Gill took them to the Atwell Art Gallery in Melville where an art exhibition of Mowanjum artists (including many of Leah's paintings) was on display. After this, they went to King's Park to admire the views and take in the tree top walk and the Women's Memorial Garden. The movement on the treetop bridge surprised Pansy, as did the sudden gushing of water at the Pioneer Women's fountains! Young Lau was full of beans, and showed us just how fast he could run up and down the DNA tower – twice!

On the Friday evening, a BBQ was held at St Catherine's for all the visitors with Fiona arranging the meats and drinks and Karen, Tricia, Judy, Deb, Marg and Carole providing the salads and desserts. Liz, a school teacher from the Swan Hills area, is a great friend of the visitors and it was lovely for us all to meet her too. Kathy Charlesworth also popped in to say hello. The BBQ was very special, not only because it was the first time we had met the incoming team, but also it was Mary Lou's 21st birthday – Liz knew this, and had brought along a present, mud cake and candles to celebrate! It was a lovely evening and the showers did not to wash us out!



Members were busy on Saturday at the Area Workshop, but on the Sunday the visitors, Karen, Anne Marie, Marg, Carole and Fiona were all seen enjoying the puppet displays at the Concert Hall. This was a wonderful event – there were so many things happening, you did not know where to look. The DVD of the puppets being made was shown beside the team's big puppets. In addition to the Million Puppet static displays (that featured the Zonta Club of Club, St Catherine's and the EON foundation on its 'thank you list'), there were people-flower-puppets suspended outside the building, magnificent sea creatures 'floating' on peoples backs with teams of people working fins, mouths and claws; an amazing Arabian caravan pulled by a 'camel bicycle', the largest mechanical kangaroo puppet you have ever seen, Chinese lion dancers, flea circuses and finger and feet puppeteers and much more... including sheep puppets on stilts rounding up human sheep! There was no lack of imagination at this event!

The visit by the puppeteers has given us chance to meet new friends and get to know each other. The team has some great ideas, a lot of energy and vision for their communities. It was a privilege to be part of it.

3. Images of the Puppet Festival



Puppets large and small entertained the huge crowds at the World Puppet Festival

4. Di Annear – helping women in need

Marilyn Rainier

At the March meeting, we were fortunate enough to have Di Annear, as our speaker. It was while running the Zonta House Refuge for fifty lone women in crisis that Di discovered a loophole in our legal service that was causing great distress to many of these women. Nowadays she rents an office from the Women's Health Services in Northbridge where she works to overcome this problem and this was the focus of her talk.

In opening, Di alerted us to the fact that domestic violence, in its many forms, is on the upsurge, due in the main to the increase in drug abuse in our culture. One of the 'hidden' problems here is that while women might be relieved of physical and mental bullying while in crisis care, the financial intimidation continues. With no access to finance and therefore no hope of employing a lawyer they are thus unable, in many cases, to proceed with a property settlement. Their husbands or partners often claim that housekeeping and bringing up children is not paid employment, therefore they refuse outright to share assets, particularly superannuation. The area of property settlement is not covered by Legal Aid, hence the difficulties experienced by these women when trying to acquire legal assistance.



In 1990, Di volunteered to help her first client with her property settlement. However, while Di managed to acquire the services of altruistic lawyers who were willing to assist them, she soon found that court costs and obtaining consent orders was financially beyond them. Fortunately, she came into contact with a woman from Lotterywest who was sympathetic to her needs and soon she had funding for 18 months. The Law Society and the Attorney General's Department have also offered funding over the years but Di pointed out that she still relies heavily on women's organizations such as Zonta to help her cover the costs involved in each case.

None of this has been straightforward and Di told us some of the problems that arise. An example of this is the men who go overseas, find a partner, then leave the woman financially destitute and repeat the process. Some women are also traumatized because they approach Di for her advice but when they tell their partners that they are claiming financial assets from the partnership they are abused and threatened to the point where they are too afraid to return to seek further help.

The upside of Di's work is the deep satisfaction she gets from seeing women succeed in obtaining their share of the assets due to them and who simply cannot believe, after so many years of misery, that they have some form of finance available to them. Di's biggest financial success was a settlement of \$1.1 million, which she obtained for a client who had suffered abuse throughout thirty years of marriage.

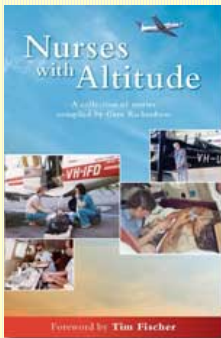
In general discussion, we found that most of us had been unaware of this aspect of



Anne Marie receives the 'Legend of the Loon' from visiting Zontian, Sandy Frauenheim



Glen with baby Jack



Find out what really happens!

crisis care and this prompted much discussion. Lori Grech therefore had two messages of thanks for Di – firstly, for the trouble she had taken in coming to inform us about the difficulties suffered by so many; and secondly, for her incredible dedication over so many years to improving the overall status of women in crisis.

5. Thank you

The club recently received a lovely thank you letter from Sandy Frauenheim, from the Zonta Club of Michigan Capitol Area, USA. Sandy visited us at our March meeting whilst holidaying in Perth. Sandy writes: *It was such an honor for me to be so warmly welcomed by our Zonta group and I thank you all! I was so impressed with your work with the Ngarinyin women of the Kimberley region. It must have been a wonderful experience for all of you, and I'm looking forward to sharing some details with my club. I've already sent a message re your 1,000 birthing kits per hour – what an accomplishment! Thank you again for your warm reception. It was a delight to be with all of you...*

A big thank you goes to you Sandy – for sharing your stories and providing the 'birthday' present for Anne Marie!

6. Snippets

Glen Wilson is a Nanna! - Jack Cameron Thompson born 2.2.08 to Vanessa and Rob and Nanna Glen's first grandchild. (Perhaps we won't go into the weight 10lbs 13oz, and 55cm long!!) Not a future Zontian, however probably will marry one and play for the Wallabies, given that his mum is a National athlete (volleyball, marathon runner (Sydney and Perth) double Black Belt Karate etc!!!!)

Uplift required – Pauline Glover, SA Zontian, reports that Maxine Jones from Melbourne, mobile 0414251058, is looking for a service club or someone to take up this project called "Uplift Fiji". Fijian women are very well endowed in the breast department as you have probably seen. The women earn only \$1-\$4/hour and bras cost \$30-\$40.00 so they cannot afford them. Uplift Fiji is aiming to donate 200,000 bras. They have so far donated 10,000 so need another 190,000. They can be second hand as long as they are clean and preferably large. Apparently doesn't matter how old they are. One suggestion is to buy new ones and wash them. If they are new get into trouble with tax, exporting and customs. Maxine is asking community groups in Adelaide to get behind this (or into it!) they are being distributed through Rotary International. If you are looking for something this might appeal... If you would like to progress this, let Lori know.

Nurses with Altitude – given that one of the Club's first projects was to raise awareness of the RFDS, it seems appropriate to raise awareness of this book written by WA nurses of this great organization. This collection of stories was compiled by nurse Gaye Richardson in conjunction with the Flight Nurse Reunion Committee and is being released this month. Probably the best book on the RFDS, written by the staff from their own experiences – and what experiences they have had! At \$35 for 264 pages, plus postage contact (tel) 08 9362 5955, books@hesperianpress.com, or www.hesperianpress.com (ISBN 978-0-85905-441-6)

Many thanks to Diana Kaiser for hosting the last Board meeting of the year at her house and treating members to a traditional Russian meal! We thoroughly enjoyed the olives, borsch, polf and blinz! (One day we may be even be able to spell them correctly!)

Annual fees – don't forget that your annual subscription is now due!

7. Diary Dates

- **10th April 2008**—Club dinner meeting and AGM 6.15 for 6.30pm, St Catherine's College There will not be a guest speaker at this event, as it is the AGM.
- **8th May 2008** – Club dinner meeting, 6.15 for 6.30pm, St Catherine's College.
- **28th June-3rd July**—Zonta International Convention 2008, Rotterdam. Visit <http://www.zonta2008.com/> for more information.
- **25-27 September 2009** – District 23 Conference, Ballarat.

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