



**Zonta Club
of Perth Inc**
Member of Zonta International

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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

By 12 noon previous Monday to
zontaperth@yahoo.com.au

Contact us

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1. Green Troopy arrives at Gibb River

Snotty-nosed kids with watermelon grins, walking sticked grannies and relieved mothers – it was an instant love affair when the Zonta Green Troopy pulled into Gibb River...Kathy Charlesworth reports...



Arriving at Gibb River

Four days on the track heading to the Kimberley loaded to the gunnels with fresh fruit, veggies, clothes, plus blue boat on top, once again gave me time to mull over yet another one of Sciona and, in this case, Wendy McGibbon's 'good ideas' to support the Gibb River mob.

Although the Zonta Troopy was given a clean bill of health before it left Perth, I still had a few reservations about driving a 20 year old Toyota on a long remote trip. But by the time I reached Derby and squeezed a few more bodies in on top of the pumpkins, I too had fallen in love with the old girl.



Zonta Green Troopy in action

Sciona and Wendy were right, there is still heaps of life left in their 'good idea'. So for the next 3 months whilst hanging out with the Gibb River mob, we must have driven thousands of kilometers, operating as a remote taxi service picking-up and dropping-off grandkids, but mostly using the 'good idea' for fishing and hunting.



Heading towards Kulumbaru

Within days of arriving at Gibb the Zonta Troopy set off for Kulumbaru to pick up the grandkids for school holidays – Yvonne quietly planned that we leave 4 days early and child-less to enjoy some serious women's business fishing up at Pago with the 'saltwater' women – who by the way were very jealous of Gibb River's new fishing car and have requested that Zonta-mob send up a Troopy for them also!

Pago (pronounced Parr-go) for those of the vintage to remember the mission boxes at school, is the original site of the Benedictine Mission settlement some 20 kms further North of Kulumbaru. Some thirty years later the Missionaries moved further South in search of better water and protection from cyclones. Sadly this will be the last year for the missionary nuns who left immediately after the 100 year celebration.



100 year Missionary celebration mass with Bishop of Broome and Kulumbaru boys

Leaving Kalumbaru 8 days later (with a promise that we would get the children back for the 100 years celebration on 15th August) was akin to trying to get out of Beirut. Every time we turned our backs, another child was slipped through a side window, no clothes, bedding or medicines - just a notion that the Green Zonta Troopy was a fun bus – reminiscent of last year's Zonta camper-trailer when Carole, Sciona, Fiona, Glen and Mary enjoyed their 'Aunties' visit. Translated in Ngarinyin terms, this means there will be plenty of yummy food, endless fishing and loving hands to tend the kids cuts and bruises.

As many of the Zonta Aunties also know, the Ngarinyin kids are very special and love their time in the bush, fishing hunting and to my surprise remnants of the 2007 fishing-line story were still very obvious.



Kids off for a fish just as dawn broke on the King Edward River



Ben-Ben's catch



Snotty nosed kids



Packing up camp

Remember the generosity of Pat Johnson, Zontian extraordinaire from the USA who donated money for the fishing lines that were distributed to children at the schools at Gibb River and Mount Barnett communities? I am pleased to report that the kids continue to love the independence of having their own fishing lines, thus making its near impossible to cross a river without letting them have a fish - also a good excuse for the weary old girls to boil a billy and have a sit-down.

Term time the kids come straight back home from school on Friday afternoon, keenly knowing the rules. If they want to go camping for the weekend, they have to pack up the Troopy - hence they have quickly worked out a good system for loading the sleeping mattresses up on the roof-rack - two stand on top pulling mattresses up – however unloading is a hoot, as it simply rains down mattresses... dust and dogs flying everywhere.

Same with gate-openings – one of the smaller kids slithers down one of the side sliding windows – opens the gate and then the others haul he/she back onboard. Meanwhile the gracious old Green Troopy stands steady as an old draught-horse loving its role as the kids' fun bus.

In current times newspapers are full of negative stories reporting poor health on Aboriginal Remote Communities. This is not the case at Gibb River – Jessica May an Aboriginal Nurse from the Bullo River in NT who did a relief stint for Mary-Jane, (the community nurse at Gibb River) made the comment that the Gibb kids were some of the healthiest lot of bush kids she has seen in her decades of bush nursing.

So in summary, I am very pleased to report back to Zonta mob that the Zonta Green Troopy has been a huge success criss-crossing along the Gibb River, Wyndham, and Kulumbaru roads in search of bush tucker and fun.

It's such a distinct old work horse, with dogs and kids hanging out the windows. Even the tourists wanted to get into the act when they heard the Zonta story, opening their hearts and tucker boxes, dishing out fruit and lollies for the kids.

A peppercorn may have changed hands in the purchasing of the Zonta Troopy, but by the time I left it was worth its weight in gold - so on behalf of all the Gibb kids, Grannies and Mothers, once again a big watermelon smile and thank you to Zonta Mob !



The impressive entry to the venue at Hale School

2. Australian Girls' Choir special evening

Carole Theobald

The Australian Girls Choir kindly donated its time for a performance for our Club at Hale School on 27th September.

The John Inverarity Music and Drama Centre at Hale School was a superb venue. There was plenty of room for guests to mingle before the show, sit in comfort during the performance and ample space for the girls to perform on stage.

The team from the Australian Girls' Choir and Hale School were very helpful and considerate throughout the organising process and on the night itself. Our special thanks go to Belinda Gray-Matthews from the choir and Oliver Loweth from the school, for working closely with club members to ensure that everything went smoothly on the night.

The night was wonderful. Penny Flett warmly introduced the choir and provided a short background about Zonta. The raffles were drawn before the performance with the two hampers being beautifully put together by Deb Mason.

The many attendees were awed by the vitality and singing of the choir that wooed the audience with songs from around the world. There wasn't a dry eye in the house when they sang their signature tune of "I still call Australia home" as featured on the Qantas television advertisements. The body percussion



The girls sang beautifully and many of the songs had quite complex choreography too!



After the performance, the choir mingled with the audience

song will also remain as a vivid memory of the evening – the girls were marvellous. After the event the girls mingled with the audience and everyone was impressed with their poise, confidence and fluency.

Funds raised from the evening are still being counted, but proceeds are going to Zonta community service projects, especially those that benefit Indigenous communities in the Kimberley.

Many, many thanks to members for organizing the event, selling tickets (especially for an event on a long weekend that clashed with the AFL Grand Final) and to those that helped on the night selling raffle tickets, putting up signs and hosting the choir. The efforts paid off, as the evening was glorious.



3. Sandy Returns from Bibbulmun Walk

Sandy McGregor

Alan and I recently participated in the “Bibbulmun Walk 2008 – the journey of the decade”. The walk was organised by the Bibbulmun Foundation to mark the 10th anniversary of the Perth to Albany Track. We were part of a team of 10 “end to enders” who set out from the southern terminus of the Bibbulmun track in Albany on a very wet and windy day on July 16th to trek the 987 kilometres to the northern terminus in Kalamunda.

The departure from Albany was quite an official affair with a breakfast and speeches from various representatives from within the local community. We were paraded down the main street lead by bagpipers. We seemed to attract a good deal of attention but I think that most spectators thought that we were mad!!!

It was very wet and very cold, but once we were on the track we all felt quite euphoric that we had last started our journey. We had spent 6 months training, made up of walking 3 to 4 times a week with our backpacks, 2-3 sessions at the gym and usually one swimming training session on the weekends. Considerable planning and effort also went into food and equipment preparation. We purchased a food dehydrator so that we could dry the majority of our food requirements. This proved very successful as it ensures good nutrition and most importantly, it reduces the weight that you need to carry.

Weight is a major consideration when planning a journey of this type, as a heavy backpack can absolutely ruin your enjoyment each day. Each meal for the 60 days was carefully planned, and we had organised “food drops” along the way so that at any one time we only had to carry enough food for each section, from 4 up to 7 days.

We researched extensively which type of gear to take, such as a good fitting backpack, light weight but warm sleeping bag and mattress, a tent and a stove and of course warm clothes. It proves quite expensive to purchase high quality, light weight gear. However it was money well spent as we kept warm and (mostly) dry.

Alan carried approximately 18kgs and my backpack weighed approximately 14 kgs. It is amazing how little equipment and clothes you actually need to survive 60 days of trekking! We used only 3 changes of clothes for the entire journey – one change to wear during the day, one set to change into at night time and a clean set for when we reached a town, Amazing really!

The partnership between the Bibbulmun Track / Foundation, the local communities and shires, the Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Corrective Services is a great success story. The local communities and these departments contribute to the maintenance and building of the track, and they all do a fantastic job.

After departing Albany the track passes through Denmark, Walpole, Northcliffe, Pemberton, Donnelly River, Balingup, Collie, Dwellingup and finally Kalamunda.



At each of these towns we were warmly welcomed by school children, and other local community groups. There were many sausage sizzles that were greatly appreciated by hungry walkers. It was a great opportunity to recognize and celebrate the terrific partnerships.

The walk extended over 60 days with the walkers averaging approx 20kms per day. There are 48 shelters along the way. As well as the end to enders, there were sectional walkers who joined us for short stretches along the way.

We experienced some spectacular scenery, especially along the south coast. Walking along the ridges the views were simply stunning. Further along the track the Tingle, Marri and Karri forests were magnificent. In fact, the scenery along the entire track always offered something special as it continually changed along the way.



We walked along many beaches in soft sand, up and down many huge sand hills, (we fondly named them up-ulations and down-ulations!), waded waist deep over 2 inlets, canoed across another inlet, waded through many huge puddles and flooded plains, clambered over rocky outcrops and climbed up and down many big hills.

We experienced all sorts of weather, particularly in the first 3 weeks – lots of rain, some hail, a big storm with gale force winds, lightning and thunder, frosts, mists and then some beautiful sunny days– I think that we had it all. We saw whales, quokkas, quendas, kangaroos, forest rats and one tiger snake. The wild flowers were stunning – there were many orchids, some of which we had never seen before.

We experienced some really hard and exhausting days but even on these days we had great fun. There is something really rewarding about getting to the end of a hard day. The friendships and support of the group each day was fantastic, and we shared many, many stories and laughs. There is something very special about being out on the track – it is simply a great place to be. It certainly was a journey of a lifetime for us both, such a fantastic experience.



The walkers hit the headlines in the Community Newspapers.

Footnote:

The only disappointing factor was that I sustained an injury preventing me from completing the last few sections of the walk. I have some unfinished business!

4. YWPA Award for Maureen

Marilyn Rainier



Lorraine McLean (left), YWPA coordinator and Carole Theobald (right) present 2008 YWPA Award to Maureen Krasnoff (centre).

This year's nominations for the Young Women in Public Affairs Award were of a particularly high standard, making it difficult to choose the most-deserving. However, Maureen Krasnoff's thank you speech to Zontians left members in no doubt regarding the wisdom of the nominating committee's final choice.

While a student at Methodist Ladies College, Maureen was involved in a number of fund-raising activities for Amnesty International, yet she still found time to work on the Red Cross soup patrol, catering for Perth's homeless. She then moved on to work in the area that made the most impact on her – working with disabled children at Lady Lawley Cottage. Such was her dedication that this organisation offered her a part-time job, a position she still holds.

As might be expected, Maureen's love for children has fired in her an ambition to study medicine and to become a paediatrician. However, her focus on working for the community has also affected her work choices and before specialising she intends to spend some time working as a General Practitioner in the rural sector. This she hopes will help to close the medical services 'gap' that exists at the present time.

Maureen has already left her mark on the community and Zonta is proud to be an enabling factor in her pursuit of these very worthwhile goals.



Left to right: Nic, Helen and Gavan in Perth



Gavan, Sr Zabibu and Nic outside the hostel under construction



Sr Zabibu (R) with a Zonta birthing kit, about to be used on woman in back of photo.



5. Girls' Hostel Dream Becomes Reality in Tanzania

The Lt Governor of District 23, is Jane Smith. Jane's son, Gavan and his wife, Nic, recently returned from a trip to Tanzania, where they met the incredible Sister Zabibu who is building a hostel so that young girls may attend high school without being subject to abuse when staying with local families.

I attended an afternoon tea the other weekend where I was able to meet the inspirational, Helen Skellett who is the Australian advocate for this project. Helen lived and worked as a doctor in Tanzania during the 60's and returned in 2005 to work as the Consultant Physician at a local hospital. Here she met Sister Zabibu and accompanied her to Perth in 2006 to help her raise sufficient funds to purchase land and commence building. Since that time, Helen has been canvassing local organizations for support and raising funds through a monthly car park market stall to keep the building process going. Helen describes the project as follows:

Sr Zabibu is the leader of a small, remote Benedictine community at Riroda, Tanzania, running a dispensary where about 600 babies are born each year. Next door to the community is the Chief Dodo Government Secondary School to which students come from all over the country. There is no accommodation provided for these students, so they have to find accommodation with families in the surrounding villages, leaving the girls without family, privacy or protection. Many return to their homes in disgrace with an unwanted pregnancy. To give these girls opportunity to finish high school successfully, Sr Zabibu is building a hostel within the community's grounds.

Gavan and Nic stayed with Sr Zabibu for a few weeks and saw the hostel's progress first hand. They were 'armed' with a handful of Zonta Birthing Kits and were amazed when Sr Zabibu said that she would show them how they were used...as a heavily pregnant woman came into the clinic...! Gavan and Nic declined the invitation to attend the birth, but Sr Zabibu said the kit worked wonderfully...and would like hundreds more!

The hostel is slowly taking shape. It consists of a number of buildings and will eventually house up to 96 girls. As funds become available, more nails and roofing materials are purchased. It is estimated that another \$20,000 is required to complete the task and provide a sanctuary for young women so they may receive an education without the fear of abuse.



6. United Nations Day

The United Nations Association Australia, WA Division invite you to an evening to celebrate *United Nations Day 2008* and provide you with the opportunity to find out more about the UN and how you can become a part of its worldwide ambition to better human rights and the environment.

The evening will be held on Friday 24th October 5.30pm for 6pm at the Subiaco Hotel on the corner of Hay St and Rokeby Road in Subiaco. Tickets are \$20 and available from 9221 9455 or 0421 316 717 or by email from unaawa@tpg.com.au



7. Melbourne Cup Lunch - Dunsborough

The Zonta Club of Dunsborough is holding a 'Touch of Class' Melbourne Cup Lunch at the Caves House Hotel, Yallingup on Tuesday 4th November from 10.30am. If you will be in the area on this day, it will be a great way to celebrate the national event.

Tickets are \$85 and include complimentary champagne and a three course meal. For more information contact Paula Milner on 97566602 or e-mail dpmilner@iinet.net.au

8. Special Service at St Georges Cathedral



St George's Anglican Cathedral is hosting a special service for women affected by breast cancer, their families and friends.

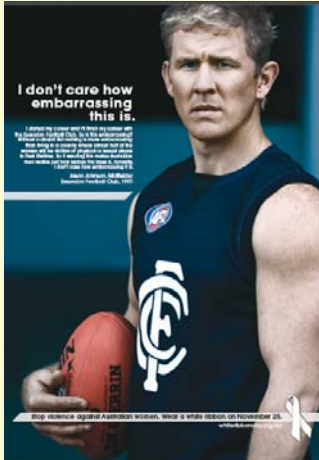
Women affected by breast cancer, their families, friends, and health professionals are all warmly invited to attend a special service in St George's Cathedral at 12 noon on 26th October.

The annual service offers support, messages of hope and comfort, and the opportunity to light candles for those close to our hearts. You don't need to be religious to participate in the service, which is a gentle way to help those affected by breast cancer connect with spiritual support and human warmth.

The service will be followed by lunch. Please let us know if you will be joining us, so that we can cater for the correct number of people. RSVP to 9325 5766 or info@perthcathedral.org

9. International White Ribbon Day

Anna Siebert, District 23, ZISVAW Coordinator



This poster features Jason Johnson saying: *I started my career and I'll finish my career with the Essendon Football Club. So is this embarrassing? Without a doubt! But nothing is more embarrassing than living in a country where almost half of the women will be victims of physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime. So if wearing this makes Australian men realise just how serious this issue is, honestly, I don't care how embarrassing it is.*

Visit <http://www.whiteribbonday.org.au/>

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is White Ribbon Day held on 25 November. This day was initiated by a group of men in Canada in 1991 after 14 women were massacred by a single male. White Ribbon Day is the largest effort by men around the world, working in partnership with women, to end men's violence against women.

White Ribbons are worn by men and women to symbolise they do not condone violence against women and children and they challenge practices and assumptions that enable violence to occur.

The period from November 25th until December 10th - International Human Rights Day, has been declared - 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence.

Zonta has long been associated with strategies to promote and protect the human rights and status of all women and girls. ZISVAW stands for 'Zonta International Strategies to prevent Violence Against Women' and the ZI website highlights several major projects being supported by Zonta through grants to UNIFEM and other organisations.

As the ZISVAW coordinator for District 23, I am writing to encourage all members to think about what they can do as a Zontian to bring about greater awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women, in their community and abroad and to encourage their male partners, friends and work colleagues to show support.

Please visit the national White Ribbon Day website www.whiteribbonday.org.au for information and ideas of what you and your club can do to raise awareness. You can also purchase various items including white ribbons to sell on the day.

Note: The website also contains a series of posters featuring high profile sportsmen explaining why they will not be embarrassed to wear a white ribbon on November 25th. These may be suitable to put up in your workplace to support the cause- Ed.

9. Zonta in Australia

Zonta in Australia is represented by three Districts: District 22, 23 and 24.

Our Club is part of District 23 that includes Western Australia, Northern Territory, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania.

The map shows the location of each District together with numbers showing where the five areas that make up District 23 are located.



10. Diary

- **9th October 2008 – Club Dinner/Committees meeting 6.15 for 6.45pm**
To give opportunity for some cross-pollination' between committees, the October committee meetings of the Club will be combined with the normal Club meeting.
- **23rd October 2008 – UWA Women's Health Forum, 6.30pm to 9pm**
As part of the UWA's Extension Winter School. Tickets \$29 from www.extension.uwa.edu.au
- **26th October 2008 – Special Service, St George's Cathedral, 12 noon.**
For women affected by breast cancer, their families and friends.
- **8th November 2008 – Founder's Day Dinner.** Venue, Methodist Ladies College, Stirling Highway Claremont, 7pm. Tickets \$75 from Deb Mason.
- **13^h November 2008 – Club Dinner meeting, St Catherine's College 6.15 for 6.45pm,** This evening will feature astrophysicist, Jackie Davidson a former Amelia Earhart Scholarship recipient and an Amelia Earhart Showcase by the first female in the RAAF, our own Penny Flett!
- **25th November International White Ribbon Day**
Followed by 16 days of activism to stop gender violence (see article)
- **11th December 2008 – Club Christmas Dinner**
This will be held at St Catherine's College.
- **January 2009 – 10th Birthday Celebrations – Zonta Club of Swan Hills**
Date to be confirmed for this celebration
- **25-27 September 2009 – District 23 Conference, Ballarat.** Book your air tickets now as this is 2009 AFL grand final weekend!

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