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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

zontaperth@yahoo.com.au
www.zontaperth.org.au
PO Box 237
Nedlands WA 6909

1. International Women's Day – Hyatt Hotel



*The Honourable Robyn McSweeney,
Minister for Child Protection;
Community Services; Senior and
Volunteering; Women's Interests*



Carole showing a breast cushion



The presenters on stage

Friday March 6th

Our club has been involved with the Lunch Box List event for a number of years and this year was the first time that we marketed ourselves as Zonta Clubs of Perth, with all three metropolitan clubs sharing the stand at the event. This event is great for profiling Zonta as it is attended by about 700 women – 500 of whom are schoolgirls. The event featured a small careers Expo, where the girls can mingle among the displays and talk to women 'mentors' about starting out with their careers. Displays included various universities, resource companies and even Main Roads. The Zonta stand caused quite a stir with many school girls being fascinated by the birthing kits. In many schools, the girls have to undertake community service activities and many wanted to help with birthing kit assembly days. The young Women in Public Affairs Award was also promoted to the girls.

The event was officially opened by Minister for Women's 'Interests, **Robyn McSweeney**, who shared an interesting story of how she writes her goals for the next ten years in an envelope and then opens it ten years later to see how her life compares to her goals. She has done this a few times now and she shared with the audience just how many of her dreams had come a reality. It is a fascinating idea that many members may choose to try.

However, the stars of the day were the four women who presented their stories in the ballroom, whilst the audience tucked into a box containing a lunch of sandwiches, fruit salad and cake.

The speakers included **Kristen Nowak**, who is a molecular biologist researching into muscular dystrophy, floppy baby syndrome and other DNA associated diseases. She stated that, for her, science was like a religion as 'you try to keep faith that what you are working towards will happen!'. She also commented that success is not the result of spontaneous combustion – you have to set yourself on fire!!

Aimee Silla, the second speaker, is a wildlife conservationist and painted a magical picture of how she worked with 120 kg Ningaloo turtles, helping to flip them over when they get stuck in the sand dunes. She is currently undertaking research into endangered frogs on a breeding program that involves collecting frog sperm!

The third speaker, **Lauren Heinritz**, works as a native title and community relations officer with Rio Tinto. She explained how she was inspired by her mother, who was the only woman working in a power station, and how she had thought that all mothers wore hard hats and steel boots for work. She works on sustainable land access schemes with local communities in the Pilbara – an extremely difficult job, trying to balance mining needs with the cultural needs of the local people.

The final speaker, **Kerry Allan-Zinner**, is a disabilities activist. Kerry was amazing. She commenced by saying that she was proud to be a woman, a mother



L-R Carole Theobald, Dawn Newman and Wendy Atherden

and a WA citizen. Her only sign of disability, apart from her husband, was her cerebral palsy! This woman was inspirational and commented that she 'never did nothing'. She had difficulties finding employment, but did loads of voluntary work – this angered her parents, who thought it unfair that it was OK to work for free, but not to be paid. Kerry learned to work with her passion, which is creating understanding about disability and has her own consultancy business. She commented that other women are her mentors – especially those that cross her path that give her strength when she is exhausted.

Many thanks go to Wendy and Carole for 'manning the stand' together with Zontians from Swan Hills and Perth Northern Suburbs – what a team!



2. Accent on IWD

Friday 6th March

District Governor Alison Martin and our Club President, Carole Theobald, were invited to attend a special International Women's Day event for Accenture staff. Accenture is a global management consulting technology services and out sourcing company with offices in 52 countries. This year, all of the company's offices in Australia included presentations from local representatives of Zonta International as part of their International Women's Day professional development days for their female employees. So, Zonta representatives were speaking in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne at similar events to this one in Perth.

The theme of the event, which was held at the Hilton Hotel, was 'stretching yourself'. Alison and Carole were part of the afternoon program that followed on from a yoga stretching session – so the audience was very relaxed.

Our club's DVD was shown to provide an introduction to Zonta and then Alison provided an overview of the international environment, and Carole, a club perspective. Following on from this, a lady from Accenture talked about stretching yourself within the Accenture organization, showing small videos throughout her presentation. The next two speakers were fascinating, as it turned out they both had worked as the 'only woman', on oil rigs, had worked their way up the corporate ladder in the resources sector in many countries, combining careers and families on the way. The talks were very well received, with a later speaker remarking that she had been 'humbled' by the ladies from Zonta!

After the presentations, we were invited to take questions over cocktails and, given the interest shown in Zonta, had obviously touched, moved and inspired some women to find out more....! This may prove to be a valuable partnership in the future.

By the way....West Australian IWD liftout
At the February meeting the club agreed to partly fund an advert in a special International Women's Day liftout that was being planned by the West Australian.

Four Zonta Clubs agreed to co-fund the advert, but sadly, the newspaper advised that it was not able to run the liftout due to lack of support from the advertisers!



Mary Gurgone and The Minister for Women's Interests, Robyn McSweeney

3. International Women's Day – Sharing and Caring for the Future.

Sunday March 8th

The Department for Communities hosted a special International Women's Day that was themed "Sharing the Caring for the Future". The event, held at Perth Central TAFE in East Perth, consisted of an Indigenous Celebration Program, a community Expo, and a variety of workshops.

The Minister for Women's Interests, Robyn McSweeney MLC opened the event and we were treated firstly to a performance by Kwarbah Djookian Dance Group. This group of four young women, were dressed in rust-coloured skirts, black tops, with ochre on their faces and legs and carried boughs of gum leaves that wafted eucalyptus scents throughout the room. They sang to the sound of a pair of clapping sticks and everyone was mesmerized with their performance that featured miming the baking of damper among other things.

Other entertainers included the pocket dynamo Thalia Skopellos, who sang and played the guitar and the impressive Moana Dreaming, a group of three young women, who had been together for less than a year. All of these artists performed their original works.



Moana Dreaming



L-R Elaine Newman (partly obscured), Lennie McCall, Gillian Palmer and Dawn Newman playing with the basket containing ribbons and bookmarks for guests



L-R Dawn Newman shows Mary Gurgone one of the Zonta shoe bags

In between the entertainers, some special people were acknowledged for their contribution to the Aboriginal community, including a couple who had fostered over 80 children. Visitors were invited to partake of tea and muffins before the performance and later to a sausage sizzle.

The Zonta stand looked great and attracted much interest and volunteers were able to spend time describing the work of Zonta to visitors. The volunteers were also able to visit other stands and learn about other organizations that contribute to our community.

The LHMU (Aged Care Union for enrolled nurses, carers and support staff) provided 'show bags' for visitors and they were able to fill them with information from 30 community stalls in the Expo.

The Zonta stand was manned by Zontians from Perth, Perth Northern Suburbs and Swan Hills Clubs. Many thanks to Helen, Freda, Lennie, Mary, Gillian, Carole (all from Perth Club). Dawn Newman (from Perth NS) and Elaine Newman (from Swan Hills) for volunteering their time on the day. Judy Tennant was also on the scene, but in a professional capacity with the Minister, so was not able to stay long, as she had other events to attend after this one! However she made sure the Minister visited the Zonta stand and, of course. Carole made sure we had a photo to mark the occasion!

It soon became clear that everyone knew Mary Gurgone (who looked gorgeous in her purple dress), which was super as lots of people came to see her and also learn about Zonta at the same time!! The volunteer team did a magnificent job in sharing their passion of Zonta with visitors, so much so, we may even have attracted a few potential members from the day.

4. UNIFEM IWD – Breakfast at Hyatt Hotel

The UNIFEM Breakfast was held at the Hyatt Hotel. Approximately 200 people attended the event that was co-hosted by UNIFEM, Soroptimists, Business and Professional Women, the National Council of Women and the Australian Local Government Women's Association.

There were two speakers, the first an amazing young woman called Alison Whitelaw. Alison helped establish Timor Leste Vision (TLV) after she was part of a group of University students that travelled to Timor Leste in 2004 to teach English in rural schools. After seeing the challenging conditions there, the group was motivated to work in partnership, to set up grass-roots sustainable programs to benefit rural communities. She shared about the challenges of teaching a class of 90 students aged between 5 and 20 years of age, who shared one pen between four people and the hardships that these students endured as they had to walk for 2-3 hours each way, each day to school. Find out more about this project from the website at www.tlvorg.au

The second speaker was Rita Taphorn, the programme Manager of UNIFEM's "Gender Equity in Political Governance Programme", based at UNIFEM Pacific Regional Office in Suva, Fiji. Rita explained how she is trying to improve market conditions in pacific nations, so that women are not disadvantaged or intimidated from just trying to make a living. Often sellers, who are mainly women, pay high prices to get a space at the market, but no money is put back into the market. Therefore they have no shade, no toilets and often sell their food on bare ground. Many also leave home at 1am to walk to the markets – and their safety is at risk. UNIFEM is working to improve their conditions and proceeds from the breakfast were going towards this valuable project. Both speakers were inspirational. To find out more about what UNIFEM is doing in the Pacific see <http://pacific.unifem.org/>.

As many Zontia International projects are conducted through UNIFEM, it would make sense for our club to be involved in this event. Therefore, Carole approached UNIFEM to see if we can contribute next year and she, Lenny McCall and Margaret Medcalf were pleased, but quite surprised, when this was publicly acknowledged at the breakfast! Another good PR opportunity for Zonta!



UNIFEM – working to improve conditions in markets to benefit women



UNIFEM breakfast



Kath Mazzella

5. Kath Mazzarella

Members of the Zonta Club of Perth will be pleased to hear that our Woman of Achievement for 2005, Kath Mazzella, continues to go from strength to strength with raising gynaecological awareness.

She recently won the Centre for Leadership for Women's Short-listed category of the National Leadership Achievement for Women Award. She was particularly acknowledged for her vision to bring professionals and health consumers together for the betterment of Gynaecological / Sexual issues. Kath was presented with her award at the event that was attended by the Governor General, Quentin Bryce. Congratulations Kath!

Be aware that Gynaecological Awareness information Network is hosting a Vulva Awareness day on March 28th (See Diary).

6. Rebecca (Bec) Christou



Bec Christou

Zonta Club of Perth welcomed Bec Christou as a new member at the end of 2008. Bec and her older brother, David, started life in Moe, Victoria. Bec joined the army for adventure, travel and meeting new people from all walks of life. Bec enjoys the physical demands and mate-ship of the army. So far her career has seen her spend most of her time in Sydney and she has been in Perth for 12 months.

Bec is a Medic in the Australian Army. Medics provide medical support to Defence members, both in Australia and in the Solomon Islands. Bec has worked in small military wards and in a field medic role.

Bec lists her hobbies as:- LOVE running, swimming at the beach and just about any outside activity. She recently took part in her first mini triathlon and really enjoyed it. Her only pet, a dog called Kellis, is with Dad in Victoria, who now wants to keep her.

Bec joined Zonta as she wanted to be able to talk with women who have such inspirational lives. These women make her feel inspired to reach a little bit further and aim a little higher in order to go after her goals.

At the moment Bec is studying a Bachelor of Science in Health and Environment at Murdoch University. On completion, she hopes to travel the world and work where her experiences from the army and her degree will enable her to assist in communities that are less fortunate than her. Her aim is to work in small medical clinics and work with children. Eventually she would like to be able to have a couple of kids of her own at some time down the track.

7. Gibb River visitors



L-R Selwyne, Nelita and Rebecca



L-R Nelita, Kathy, Rebecca and Selwyne

Many Zontians will remember young 'Namy' Selwyn who helped us prepare the clapping sticks and Yvonne Burgu's granddaughter, 'Becky Boo', from our visits to the Kimberley. Well, see how they have grown up!

Carole was delighted to catch up with Selwyne Malay (now 14), Rebecca Wungundin (12) and Nancy White's granddaughter, Nelita Jorda (14) when they were recently staying with Kathy Charlesworth for the long weekend.

Kathy reports that, "The families at Gibb River Station accepted the offer from Bindoon Agricultural College to take 6 of the Ngarinyin school children as boarders at the agricultural college, situated in the beautiful Chittering Valley. The college has its own equine centre where the kids can study hands-on cattle station skills that are relevant to their home environment as well as basic literacy studies. Hopefully, the Ngarinyin kids will do well and ultimately return home with a certificate in Agricultural Studies that will enable them to be useful on Gibb River Cattle Station or any other pastoral properties throughout the Kimberly."

The youngsters had a packed weekend and after visiting Carole, they were going to see the movie 'Australia'. Kathy reported that they all loved the film, "it is filmed in our Barramundi fishing spots on the Wyndham Road in and around Home



L-R Nelita, Rebecca, Carole and Selwyne

Valley. It is a very complex film but the kids really 'got-it' and it thrilled me to listen to their after film chat. We all laughed at the local in-jokes whilst the audience was silent. After the film, several people approached the kids to say hullo – this is good stuff and they are now getting less shy about feeling everyone in the city 'stares at them' a complaint I have been hearing for years from Ngarinyin kids."

The youngsters were looking forward to a visit to McDonalds but, according to Kathy, "the Maccas didn't rate very high, but the fruit lollies, Carole had given them all, as rations, for the movies were gobbled up with glee!"

Hopefully, we will be able to arrange a visit to Bindoon to see them in a few weeks'.



Picnics on the lawn

8. Rocking and Rolling in the Hills

The Zonta Club of Swan Hills recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with a Rock n' Roll event in a picturesque setting, among citrus trees and alpacas, beside the Swan River. Guests sat on the lawns, eating their picnics and dancing to the music of the 60s and 70s.

There were raffles and a silent auction featuring everything from golf days to pamper packs. Perth members at the event included Area 3 Director, Judy Tennant, and her husband, Kevin and Carole Theobald with her husband, David, and her mother Betty Finlay.

A huge birthday cake was cut by previous Presidents of the Swan Hills Club and shared amongst the audience. Anastasia Maslij, from Perth Northern Suburbs, presented Swan Hills President, Sheila Watters, with a lovely bouquet of 10 yellow roses and Carole presented her with a special card from our Club.

The evening was great fun and Carole reports that it will definitely feature in her diary for next year!



L-R Carole Theobald, Judy Tennant, Sheila Watters and Anastasia Maslij

9. Elizabeth Shaw...a finalist in the WA Youth Awards

Last year the club had the privilege of donating some money to help Elizabeth Shaw on her way to the United Nations as an Australian Youth Ambassador. Elizabeth was one of two Australian young representatives and she undertook a tour of Australia listening to the nation's youth so she could provide an informed address to the UN's General Assembly in New York.

Elizabeth has now returned from her travels and recently featured in an article in the Post where she stated that has a determination to make the world a better place.

She is one of six finalists in the WA Leadership Award having been nominated by the United Nations Youth Association. The youth award winners will be announced on April 2. The six category winners will each receive \$2000. In addition, the WA Young Person of the Year will win two return air tickets to a European destination courtesy of Singapore Airlines.

We wish you every success Elizabeth and look forward to you coming to the club one day to tell us more about your adventures!



Elizabeth Shaw

10. Diary Dates

March 19th – Mowanjum Community History Book Launch

When: 6pm – 7.30pm

Where: Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, UWA

What is it? The Mowanjum Community has published a book to celebrate the community's 50th anniversary. The book will be launched in Perth by Hon Dr Kim Hames MLA, Deputy Premier and Minister of Indigenous Affairs.

The book will be available for purchase on the night for \$55 or it can be purchased from Fremantle Press : <http://www.fremantlepress.com.au/books/newreleases/1095>





Saturday March 28th - Vulva Awareness Day

When: 1pm to 5pm

Where: FJ Clark Lecture Theatre Complex in Caladenia Ave, off Monash Ave, in the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Complex

Theme: "What's up, down under"

A fun filled afternoon to look at some serious health issues concerning HPV, HPV vaccine, abnormal Pap smears, cervical cancer prevention

How Much?: \$20, \$15 concession, \$10 GAIN members

Who's the famous MC? Emelia "Em" Rusiano – popular Perth radio personality from 92.9FM will be your fun host! Come and meet Em, afternoon tea, prizes, raffles, goodies galore!

How to book: Phone 9340 1670 and leave a message or email enquiries;-

enquiries@gain.org.au

Viva la Vulva!

Sunday March 29th – Breakfast with 'our' West Australian of the Year!

When: 9am for 9.30am

Where: WA Rowing Club (Next to the Swan Bells)

How Much: \$25

RSVP: before March 24th to Bec Christou

Email: zontaperth@yahoo.com.au



Please email the club if you have jugs, carafes and coffee plungers that we can collect to use on the day.

Join the Fruit Platter SWAT team! Let Deb Mason know if you are able to bring a knife and help to slice up the fruit from 7am.

Zonta Club of Perth Inc
Member of Zonta International

Invites you to breakfast with

West Australian of the Year 2009
Dr Penny Flett

Sunday 29th March
9 am for 9.30 am
at the historic WA Rowing Club
(Next to the Swan Bells)
Parking at the Concert Hall Car Park
Tickets \$25

Please RSVP before 24th March to:
Bec Christou
Email: zontaperth@yahoo.com.au
Tel: 0415 682 365

Payment by either:
Electronic funds transfer:
Zonta Club of Perth Inc
BSB 036038 Account 154851
or
Cheque:
Payable to Zonta Club of Perth Inc and send to
PO Box 237, Nedlands WA 6909

Continental Breakfast
Prizes
Raffles
Surprises Galore!

Please give generously as proceeds benefit Zonta service projects including the Yarri Wada Puppet Project, breast care cushions, birthing kits, education awards, Zonta House Refuge, community awards, respite holidays and much more...

Thursday April 16th - Next Club Dinner meeting (after Easter)

Please note that the meeting is moved to a new date to avoid the Easter long weekend.

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