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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 Karina Moore via zontaperth@yahoo.com.au

Contact us

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

1. Lennie McCall AM, AALIA, AFAIM

Margaret Medcalf

Lennie was a Charter member of the Zonta Club of Perth at its commencement in 1971. She has held office on every Committee within the Club, was President in 1987-89 and twice Vice-President (1975-78 and 1985-87). She was Area Director in 1996-98 in which capacity she was a member of the District Board. She has also been a member of the District Organisation, Extension, Membership and Classification Committee 2000-02. She has played a major role in the two District Conferences held in Perth, being the Chairman in 1991. She is currently the Chairman of the District History and Archives Committee which mounted an exhibition at the Conference in Hobart in 2007 to showcase significant club projects and she is in the process of organizing another one for the Conference in Ballarat in September this year.

In 1998 she was invited to represent Zonta on the State Reconciliation Advisory Committee. This Committee held workshops to get input locally from the community and Lennie was one of the two representatives who went to Canberra to give feedback towards the final report in 2000.

Lennie's professional career has been in librarianship and from this she has interwoven many threads. She joined the State Library Service in 1956 just three years after its inception and she has held many leadership positions under the Library Board of Western Australia until her retirement in 1998. She had two years overseas in 1961-63 and for part of that time worked in the Scots Ancestry Research Society in Edinburgh.

She has been involved in many state and national projects and committees. Her most significant national contribution has been her work with library resources for disadvantaged people. In 1993 she was honoured as the inaugural winner of the Australian Library and Information Association (WA) Certificate of Recognition.

Her activities spread to non-library fields such as the National Trust which soon after its foundation in Western Australia formed a Younger Group of which Lennie was the Chairman in 1972-74. She then became a Councillor of the Trust from 1974-84.

Since her retirement she has remained a member of the Management Committee of the Friends of the Batty Library and was a driving force in obtaining a grant of \$3million from Lotterywest to preserve the most at risk documentary material in the Batty Library.

In 2000 she was asked by UWA Press to form a voluntary support group, the UWA Press Club. Under her chairmanship sufficient money was raised for an oral history program to collect information for a published history of the Press.

Her major undertaking in retirement has been her involvement with the Royal Western Australian Historical Society where she is the Chairman of Council and spends many hours every day in a voluntary capacity on administration matters. In her ten years in office she has brought the Society into high standing in history and heritage circles.



Lennie on your Order of Australia (AM)!



President Carole presenting Lennie with her cake



The cake before it became the dessert!

2. Induction of New Members

At the May AGM, three new members were inducted by Area 3 Director, Judy Tennant. A special welcome to Jill, Lesley and Donna!

Jill Anderson

Jill was born in Subiaco and educated at St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls and spent her childhood in Fremantle. She is married with three children.

Jill has a Diploma in Occupational Therapy and a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Anthropology. Her career has taken her to Victoria, Tasmania and is currently the locum OT for the Independent Living Centre.

Her community activities have been many and varied and she is presently involved with the Gracetown Progress Association.

She lists as her interests; family, swimming, reading, Gracetown, art, travel, cooking, fishing, art, friends, dressmaking and the AFL Fremantle Dockers.

Lesley Meaney

Lesley was born in England and arrived in Australia in 1969. She had already completed 4 years of fine art studies and followed this with a post graduate diploma in education upon her arrival in Perth.

Lesley has spent her career in the Arts. She has been head of Art at Fremantle College of TAFE and Art Coordinator at Karratha College of TAFE, after which she spent three years in the Fiji Islands painting.

Lesley has had 19 solo exhibitions. Her most recent has been an exhibition at the Holmes a Court Gallery where she was the resident artist until June 28th.

Her hobbies have balanced her solitary and sedentary career as an artist by being active. She plays golf, swims, and is an active member of Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club.

Lesley is married with three children and two grandchildren.

Donna Caspersz

Donna was born in Sri Lanka and arrived in Australia with her family at the age of six. Donna has a Masters and PhD from UWA and now works in its Business School in the Management and Organisations Discipline.

Donella is also the Academic Advisor to Family Business Australia WA and has chaired a WA Curriculum Council Advisory Panel on teaching Business Management Education in Secondary Schools, and is involved in policy engagement on disability services and women's affairs.

Donna lives in Subiaco with John, Joseph, James and Louisa.



Jill Anderson



Lesley Meaney



Donna Caspersz



3. Expressions of Interest for Zonta Refuge Management Committee

Mary Gurgone

Zonta International usually has 4 representatives on the Zonta House Refuge Association Management Committee (ZHRAMC) and until recently these comprised of two members from the Zonta Club of Perth and two members from the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs. Our Club's representatives included Mary Gurgone and Lori Grech. Lori was President of our Club from 2006-2008 but is no longer a member of Zonta.

PLEASE
GIVE THIS
SOME
THOUGHT

At the next annual meeting in October there will be several vacancies on the ZHRAMC and it is timely to put forward at least one Zonta nomination for the Management Committee. This is a great opportunity to find out what happens at the Refuge and contribute your talents to a worthy cause.

Lori, as Chair of the ZHARMC, has led a process to examine what skills are needed and would appreciate nominations from Zontians who have expertise in:

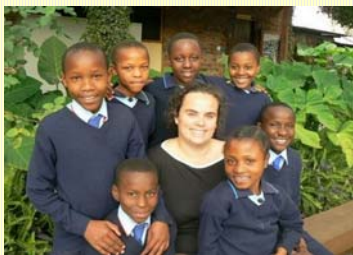
- Finance
- Governance
- Marketing
- Law

If you think you have what it takes to make a difference, please contact Mary Gurgone to find out more on gurgone@inet.net.au



Carole with Gemma (second from right) and her team at the June Dinner Meeting

Photographs from The School of Saint Jude website...



4. Gemma Sisia and the School of St Jude

*No such thing as 'it can't be done'....*this is the mantra of 'challenge junkie' Gemma Sisia our guest speaker at the June meeting. Gemma is the inspirational founder of the School of St Jude in Tanzania –named after the saint of lost causes - that caters exclusively for disadvantaged children. Gemma featured in the ABC's Australian Story program a few days before the meeting and members were able to see footage from her beautiful family home on the merino farm in rural New South Wales (where she grew up as the only daughter with seven brothers) and compare it to the amazing scenery of Tanzania near Mount Kilimanjaro where she lives now with her husband and three children. Gemma started off her career wanting to be a nun and after completing a science degree majoring in genetics and biochemistry did a teaching diploma and went to Uganda to help in a convent and school there. An eventful safari to Kenya and Tanzania showed her some magnificent country but also introduced her to romance and she subsequently married her rather handsome tour guide, Richard, whose father is a vet in Tanzania. Her father in law suggested that she start a school in Tanzania and the School of St Jude was born - with three children - and now boasts over 1100 – all of whom rely on donations to the school for their future.

Gemma was undertaking a six week tour of Australia to raise funds for these marvelous children who have beaten the odds just to get into St Judes. Members were awed to hear that every week from September to Christmas over three thousand children aged 7 and under come to the school hoping to be accepted into the next year's intake. First of all the children have to demonstrate that they can read and if they can, they then do a further 20 minute written test. Each week a handful of children are selected until the annual intake of 150 is reached. All the children have to be able to prove that they are poor and in the main this means that the home has no electricity or floor coverings i.e. has dirt floors. As the school has increased in reputation, so has the desperation of families to get their children into it. Gemma cited instances of richer families moving to the slums so they could pass the disadvantage test.... However, Gemma's team soon got wise to this and now all potential students are subjected to home visits over a period of time to check the authenticity of claims.

St Jude's boasts a superb academic standing with all its senior class students being in the top 10% of all students in Tanzania – in fact on Gemma's slide show she showed a photograph of 3 students who were among the top 150 students in the country.

The children all looked very smartly dressed in their school uniforms and Gemma explained that they are made on site by parents of the students, but if you look closely no two uniforms are quite the same! The school tries to employ as many local people as possible to do the catering, cleaning, guarding, gardening and of course the teaching - all of the 127 teaching staff are now Tanzanians. Twelve boarding houses that accommodate 400 older students have recently been completed and a second primary school has also been constructed about half an hour away from the original school.

Zontians may be interested to know that the school has a hostel where overseas visitors may stay. The hostel accommodates individual travelers to groups from



service clubs. Gemma explained that often Rotarians use the hostel and during their stay they make furniture for the new intake of students or cover textbooks with 'contact'. Overseas volunteers are not permitted to teach the children in the 'core' academic subjects but they are able to help out with music and art classes and of course play with the students – sounds like a lot of fun!

Gemma has a hard job ahead of her – she has to find the money to ensure the students can stay at school and hopefully find sponsorships for the new year's intake. Gemma is slowly building up the school, each year starting with a new grade 1 intake of 150 students and slowly expanding the school upwards into the secondary levels. Currently the school is planning for the second year of high school and Gemma hopes that by 2014 the school will be complete – with all primary and secondary classes in place and no builders on the site! Of course, every year Gemma has to find the funds to build 6 new classrooms, 150 desks and chairs, new books, buses, new boarding houses, extra pots in the kitchen and much, much more!

Gemma can only be described as purposeful. She has kept to her dream of building the school and whilst negotiating to make it all happen has somehow found time to have a family as well... This is a lady who is making a difference not only to the over 1100 children attending St Jude's but also to their families and ultimately to their country for who knows where these bright students from St Judes will take Tanzania in the future.

The recession is hitting the school hard and without more donations the school may not be able to accommodate the 2010 intake which, according to Gemma, will mean '150 children will be at the gates and not inside the school'. If you would personally like to donate money to St Judes, sponsor a child or buy a bucket load of carrots – all donations may be made via the school's web site at www.schoolofstjude.co.tz. You can also watch the Australian Story episode from this site! However, as Gemma pointed out, we can do most by talking positively about the school and letting our friends, families and colleagues know that it exists – and the more people that know about the school the more potential donors there will be!

5. Call to Conference

What: 10th Biennial District 23 Conference in Ballarat
When: 25 to 27 September 2009
Where: Mercure Ballarat Hotel and Convention Centre, 613 Main Road Ballarat.
www.mercureballarat.com.au

Full conference registration is \$315 and in addition there is a special Gala Dinner and the opportunity to view the famous sound and light show "Blood on the Southern Cross". Please join the District Board, District Committees and other STARZ in Ballarat for a relaxing long weekend celebrating our successes, increasing your knowledge of Zonta, making or renewing wonderful Zonta friendships.



6. "Raising my Voice" by Malalai Joya

When: Monday July 6th 7pm
Where: Tompkins on Swan Function Centre, Cnr Dunkley Avenue and Canning Highway, Alfred Cove
Bookings: Dymocks Garden City, Shop 33/34 Garden City Shopping Centre, 125 Riseley St, Booragoon. garden@dymocks.com.au
Cost: \$15.00 – includes refreshments

Malalai Joya was elected into the first parliament after the fall of the Taliban. She was evicted after she spoke out against the warlords who now hold seats in the parliament and demanded that war criminals should be prosecuted. For the last five years she has been living under constant threat and now has to move between safe houses almost daily. Her book will bring the situation of Afghanistan into sharp focus. More can be found by 'Googling' Malalai Joya.



Malalia with her bodyguards at a secret address in the back streets of Kabul

7. Rebecca Christou at Arafura Games 2009

Bec's talent showcased at Arafura Games 2009



Bec Christou

More than 2000 athletes competing in 26 sports came together in Darwin in May to celebrate the very best emerging sportsmen and women have to offer at the Arafura Games 2009.

Representing countries from across the Asia Pacific region and beyond, these young men and women demonstrated their skill on the sports field and their fellowship socially.

For 18 years the Arafura Games has been pivotal in focusing attention on emerging athletes, offering them the opportunity to compete in an international competition the like of which occurs nowhere else in the world.

Our own Bec Christou came away with two medals - a silver in the 800m dash open and a bronze in the 1500m run open. Though what the difference is between a dash and a run, I'm not quite sure!

Congratulations Bec!

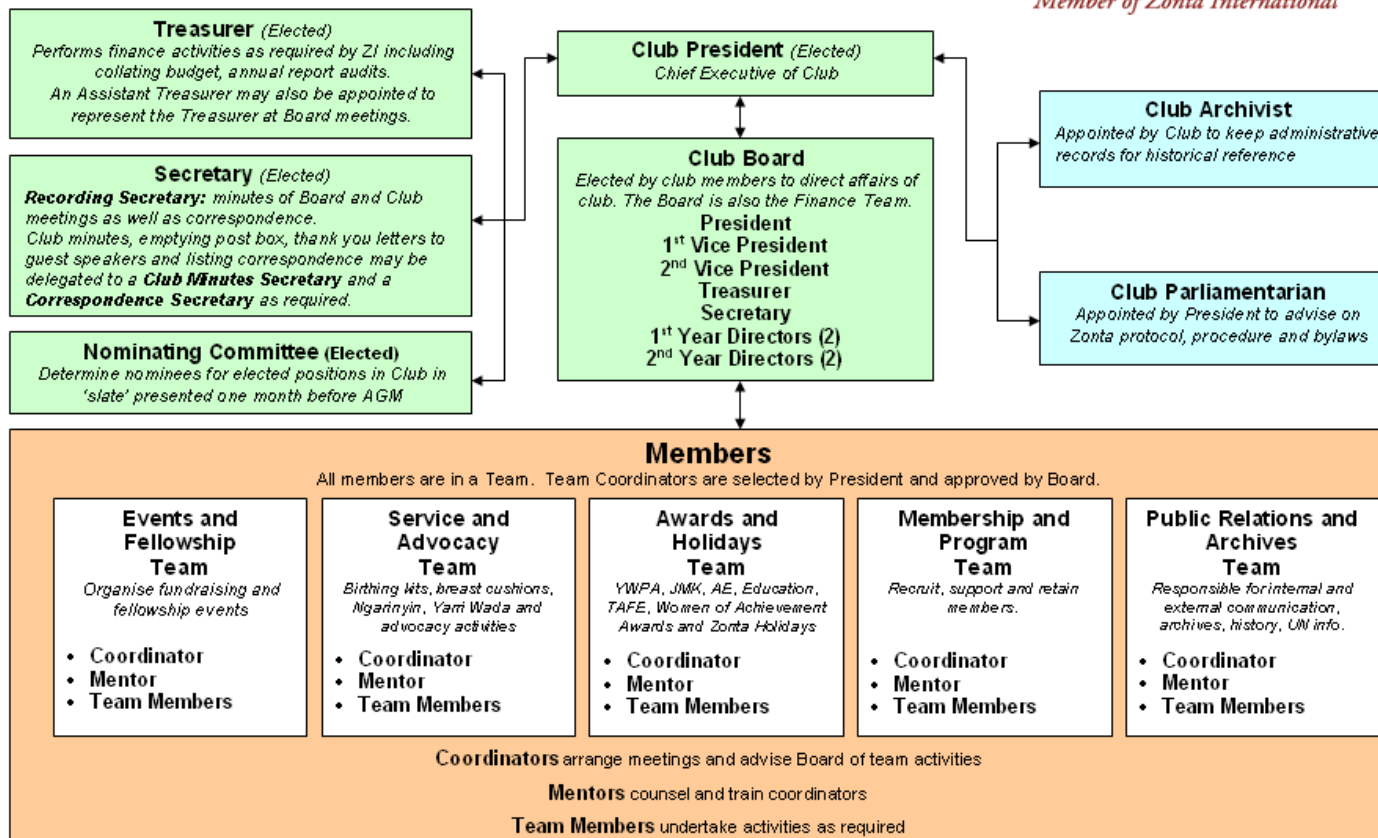
8. New Shape for our Club 2009-10

One of the big issues facing our Club has been succession planning and in the last few months members have tackled this problem head on. After a series of club workshop sessions, discussions and debates, a new structure for the club has been developed and is being trialled from the 2009-2010 Zonta year.

'Out' are the big committees with chairs and 'in' are smaller teams with co-ordinators and mentors as can be seen from the chart below.



Structure of the Zonta Club of Perth Functions commence on 1 June each year (Last updated 2 July 2009)



A copy of the new Structure is also in the back of the Members' List booklet



Club Management Team 2009-10
with A3 Director Judy Tennant (on
left)

The aim of the changes is to support the club's future leaders by giving members opportunity to learn about Zonta as a team member and then to take on a team coordinator role knowing that they will be mentored by a more experienced member. Eventually members will become mentors...

Apart from the Nominating Committee there are five teams:

- Service and Advocacy
- Events and Fellowship
- Awards and Holidays
- Membership and Program
- Public Relations and Archives.

Each team has a co-ordinator and a mentor with 4-6 team members. For efficiency, the Board will perform both the Board and Finance functions.

At the AGM in May, Judy Tennant, Area 3 Director installed the new office bearers and the new teams were announced. The new structure with the smaller portfolios and mentorship system will encourage more members to 'have a go' at taking on leadership roles and lead to a stronger, more sustainable club.

9. Diary Dates

July 6th Raising My Voice - Malalai Joya, 7pm

Book launch at Tompkins on Swan Function Centre, Cnr Dunkley Avenue and Canning Highway, Alfred Cove. Bookings garden@dymocks.com.au. Tickets \$15.

July 9th Dinner Meeting, St Catherine's College 6.15 for 6.45pm.

Please welcome our new member, Bonnie Kelly who will be inducted at this meeting. Also note that due to rising food costs, the meeting fees will be \$40 from this month and this will include raffle tickets. Drinks remain at \$5 each. A fundraising 'ideas into action' session will be held at this meeting.

August 13th Dinner Meeting, St Catherine's College 6.15 for 6.45pm

It is proposed to hold all the team meetings on this night – releasing members to 'cross pollinate' between teams and move fundraising projects along!

September 10th 'Down Under' night, St Catherine's College 6.15 for 6.45pm

Bring a friend to a night 'down under' and dispel the many myths that exist about gynaecological awareness and incontinence. Celebrate International Gynaecological Awareness Day with the founder of the 'day' – Kath Mazzella OAM. In addition, learn why 'just in time' is better than 'just in case' from our own International Continence consultant, Glen Wilson. Please bring some new knickers for the ladies at the refuge! This will be a fun and educational night so share it with your friends - flyer available from our Club website at www.zontaperth.org.au

September 25th to 27th District 23 Conference, Ballarat.

Closing date for registrations is 28 August 2009. The Call for Conference and registration forms may be downloaded from our Club website. Book today!

INZERT and District 23 News Flash 2009

These two newsletters
will now
be published on
alternate months.

INZERT
July
September
November

D23 Newsflash
August
October
December

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