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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 Val Gandossini via
- o zontaperth@yahoo.com.au

Contact us

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



Freda's professional achievements with the Independent Living Centre, featured prominently in the media for many years...



Freda Jacob
Founder of the ILC



...and her fishing skills were legendary!



President, Mary Gurgone, presents Freda with flowers and 'well wishes' at May dinner meeting.

1. Freda retires after 39 years in Zonta

It was with great sadness members heard at the May meeting that Freda Jacob had decided it was time to retire from the club – but it was with great joy that we celebrated and acknowledged her magnificent contribution to Zonta. During dinner photographs of Freda, taken at many fund raising events and service activities, featured in a rolling PowerPoint presentation and stimulated much discussion and laughter as members re-lived many happy times. After dinner many members acknowledged how Freda's warmth, generosity and thoughtfulness had touched their lives, sharing anecdotes that ranged from her magnificent professional achievements with the Independent Living Centre, to her bird watching prowess and angling ability.

Mary Gurgone presented Freda with a Zonta letter opener, flowers and a CD souvenir of the presentation that also contained copies of many club newsletters in which she featured.

Freda was quite touched by all the attention and in her 'farewell speech' reported:

It is 39 years since Dorothy Thompson, from Canada, challenged us to organize a Zonta Club in Perth. What was Zonta? I soon learnt and have enjoyed the many aspects of being a member of Zonta.

The first couple of years were pretty exciting as it was decided to raise \$15,000 to send Robin Miller and Rosemary DePierres on the Powder Puff Derby flying across America.

I have enjoyed seeing women growing in confidence and ability as they took various senior positions in Zonta, "Advancing the Status of Women" in many countries around the world in different ways and knowing we belonged to an international organization, with opportunities of meeting people at Congresses held in different countries of the world

I can remember how delighted we were to help with supplying water wells in Sri Lanka. This money was probably raised with Art Shows, with Jean Oldham providing the venue in the early days. How excited we were when the Bossevain Poppies sold, as we knew we would have a monetary outcome.

I was particularly pleased and privileged to be on the committees developing the new clubs in the South West – Peel, Bunbury and Dunsborough. There have been so many wonderful moments that made me very proud to be a Zontian.

I always said that when I couldn't drive myself to the committee and general meetings and could not make a contribution, I would retire. I am not resigning, but retiring. I will be on hand to buy tickets and support the club, where possible, and intend to be around for the 40th anniversary next year to celebrate with all of you.

We will all miss Freda at the meetings, but look forward to keeping in touch through our events and activities. **THANK YOU FREDA** for everything you have

contributed both to Zonta and to us all personally.

2. The Board and Nominating Committee 2011-12

Freda Jacob's last duty before retiring was to induct the members of the Board for 2011-12. This was a duty that Freda conducted with grace and decorum.

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
2nd year Directors
1st year Directors
*Nominating Committee**

Mary Gurgone
Lorraine McLean
Tricia Summerfield
Karina Moore
Carolyn McMickan
Lyn McArthur and Wendy Atherden
Kate Ellson and Sharron Hickey
Deb Mason, Karen Groves (Chair), Carolyn McMickan and Val Gandossini



L-R Carolyn McMickan, Lyn McArthur, Tricia Summerfield, Mary Gurgone, Karina Moore, Kate Ellson, Val Gandossini, Lorraine McLean, Deb Mason and Karen Groves
Absent: Wendy Atherden and Sharron Hickey

3. Area Workshop March 26th 2011

Carolyn McMickan

I thoroughly enjoyed myself as a first time participant at the recent Zonta Area Three workshop. Firstly, the Mallard Duck, in The Swan Valley, was a magnificent venue with excellent facilities and superb food. More importantly the workshop was a great opportunity to meet women from other Zonta Clubs in our area plus enjoy a great day with fellow Zonta Club of Perth members. I learnt a great deal about many organisational aspects of Zonta, particularly its core values, history and vision for the future.

There was a variety of guest speakers including District Governor Jane Smith and comedian/author Yvonne Mettam. The afternoon's sessions were hands on. Membership, with specific focus on retention, was one of the areas which we discussed. The workshop concluded with drinks and nibbles which was a perfect way to cap off a great day.



L-R: Josephine Spaul (Bunbury) is congratulated by D23 Governor, Jane Smith (right) on being inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame.



Comedian Yvonne Mettam entertained us with hilarious stories



Great use was made of the lovely terrace and outdoor areas with members having opportunity to meet Zontians from other clubs.

4. WA's First Women's Hall of Fame

Congratulations to our own Dr Penny Flett, who was inducted into WA's First Women's Hall of Fame for her work as a "Health Pioneer"

Besides being West Australian of the Year in 2009 and CEO of the Brightwater Group, Penny is also chairwoman of the WA Aged Care Advisory Council. She oversaw the development of a State Aged Care Plan, a guide to the evolution of health and aged care services.

Also inducted were former member Beryl Grant, Kath Mazzella who was our Area 3 Woman of Achievement in 2005, Leah Umbagai who administers the Ilerla Project in the Kimberley and Josephine Spaul from the Bunbury Club.

Congratulations also to Carina Hoang, author and boat person and fellow inductee into WA's First Women's Hall of Fame. Carina was 16 when she fled Vietnam in 1979 with her two younger siblings. She has since gained a chemistry degree and a Master of Business Administration in the U.S. and worked there until 2006, when she moved to WA. Last year Carina released a book – Boat People: Personal Stories from the Vietnamese Exodus 1975 – 1996, that is a thought-provoking read that provides some insights to the struggles of the boat people and also to the authorities, particularly in Hong Kong, that had to accommodate and process large numbers of people. Carina provided a fascinating presentation at our Cultural Awareness Day.



Club Member Penny Flett, West Australian of the Year 2009, was inducted into the inaugural WA Women's Hall of Fame.



Carina Hoang shows her book to ABC broadcaster, Babs McHugh (MC of IWD Breakfast)



*Carina Hoang
Inductee, WA Hall of Fame 2011.
Carina donated 15% from her book
sales, at the event, to Zonta Service
Projects*

5. Cultural Awareness Day – “becoming Australian: past, present & future”

Karen Groves

What a wonderful event this was! Held on Saturday 7 May 2011, it took the form of an afternoon of information sharing on the refugee experiences of six women. Members of the club and guests, numbering between 40 and 50 attendees, gathered at the William Street Family Therapy Centre in Mt. Lawley (kindly donated by the Gurgones) to learn about the lives of women who have made Australia their home, after arriving here as refugees.

Thus began a fascinating, stimulating and challenging afternoon, which was the culmination of months of work - deciding on the purpose and format of the event, preparing the program, sourcing the speakers and promoting the idea. Much of the legwork was done by Wendy Atherden, but she was most ably assisted by Kate Ellson, Carolyn McMickan and Judy Tennant.

It was important to host this event in a calm, friendly, supportive and encouraging environment, which would not be threatening to the presenters. This approach was taken as this was the first time the club has engaged in this type of event, dealing with sensitive issues and asking refugees to speak about personal stories. It was hoped that it could be the first of future such events, depending on the success of this venture.

Attendees were privileged to meet **Sunili Govinnage**, a young lawyer, born in Sri Lanka and now working with Legal Aid WA and providing to assistance to offshore asylum seekers; **Hanan Abu Laban**, a Community Development Coordinator at the North Metropolitan Migrant Centre, born in Kuwait and living in Australia under the skilled migration scheme; **Robyn Sterrett**, a Clinical Nurse Specialist for Refugee Health with the South Metropolitan Public Health Unit, who has worked with refugees for over 32 years; **Carina Hoang**, author of “Boat People” and a survivor of the traumatic aftermath of the Vietnam War; **Margaret Auma-Okuma**, a courageous mother now qualified in accounting, after her amazing refugee story from Uganda to Australia via Zambia; and **Elizabeth Lang**, a young woman still studying, after being granted a humanitarian visa with her family to come to Australia from war-torn Sudan, via Egypt.

There was opportunity to ask questions, but the program was kept to time by MC Kate Ellson, so the break over afternoon tea was a very welcome time to have one-on-one contact with the speakers and to talk in small groups. At the end of the afternoon, there was a very cheerful and positive atmosphere. Presenters felt they had been able to speak freely and honestly and attendees felt they had been made much more aware of situations that they can only normally read about.

An evaluation questionnaire was made available to attendees, 30 of whom completed forms, and the feedback has been extremely positive. The overall rating for the day was *Excellent* (26) and *Very Good* (4). Other comments and suggestions will be very useful in planning a future event. The Service and Advocacy Team was most encouraged by this venture into understanding this topical and important issue, which encompasses all the issues affecting women, which lie at the heart of Zonta’s purposes.

Note: Carina kindly donated 15% of sales of her book at the event to Zonta and \$141.75 was raised. Many thanks Carina!



*L-R Mary Gurgone,, Carina Hoang,
Marlene O’Meara and Wendy
Atherton*



*L-R Kate Ellson, Robyn Sterrett,
Wendy Atherden and Karen Groves*



Carina Hoang and Wendy Atherton



6. Rowing to Africa

Debbie Mason

On April 9, the UWA Recreation Centre, saw a collection of club rowers, schoolboy and schoolgirl rowers, gym junkies and other athletes take part in the inaugural “Row 4 the World” rowathon. The Hunger Project Inc (THP) will run this event annually, in conjunction with Rowing WA, to raise funds to build Epicentres in poverty stricken communities around the world.

Zonta Club of Perth member, Debbie Mason, who is also on the Board of Rowing WA, assisted with the organisation of the event and will continue to do so in years to come. Debbie explained, “With this being the first time the event has been



*Debbie and THP finance guru –
Annalees*



held, there were some teething problems with the electronic collection of funds, but it is anticipated that when all the funds have been received the total will exceed \$100,000. Next year we are aiming for \$500,000 which pays for an entire Epicentre.”

For more information on The Hunger Project go to www.thp.com or www.thp.com.au
Well Done Deb !

7. Holly Ransom



Holly skydiving.

Holly, recipient of the D23 Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship 2010, has been named as one of the finalists in the Youth Section of the 2011 Western Australian Citizen of the Year Awards.

Holly recently returned from Kenya where she participated in a microfinance project aimed at empowering women in the slums of Korogocho near Nairobi. Holly's blog on her website at www.hollyransom.com provides a fascinating insight into what she has crammed into her life already – and she is only 21!!!

Well done, Holly!

8. District Conference 2011

When : October 7th – 9th 2011

Where : The Sebel Albert Park Hotel, Melbourne



The conference venue is adjacent to Albert Park and not far from the city centre

D23 Conference accommodation booking form is now available on the D23 website. The theme is “Raising the Stakes”, focusing on developing women's leadership potential, motivating members and increasing awareness of Zonta's involvement in addressing issues affecting women in our community.

The Conference Registration Form will be available soon - when all speakers are confirmed.

A discounted registration fee of \$325 will be available until July 15th 2011 - after that date, the standard registration fee will apply. So it pays to be an early bird.

9. Australian Girls Choir



After the 2008 show the choir mixed with the audience...these young women sing superbly, are confident, engaging and very entertaining!

Who could forget that fantastic evening in 2008 when the Australian Girls Choir sang for our fundraising event at Hale School? Well, the AGC is heading to Perth as part of its National Tour for 2011 and Wendy MacGibbon has secured the choir to sing for a fund raising event for our club on July 9th!

The event will again take place in the superb theatre in the John Inverarity Music and Drama Centre at Hale School in Wembley Downs.

There is a fantastic door prize this year of a \$500 Qantas travel voucher – now wouldn't that be handy? Tickets are \$25 and are available via Sharron Hickey or by email from zontaperth@yahoo.com.au. Download a poster from our club website and display it in your workplace today! (A handy map is on the back of the tickets...)

10. Diary Dates

1 June, Wednesday, Perth Northern Suburbs 30th Birthday Celebration, 6.30 for 7pm!

The Lake Karrinyup country Club, \$40 for dinner plus drinks. RSVP to June Fowler 9424 5755 or jfowler@accruer.com.au by Friday 27 May.

9 June, Club Dinner Meeting, St Catherine's College, 6.15 for 6.45pm
Special Awards Presentation night!

9 July, Saturday, Australian Girls Choir, Hale School, 4.30pm.

Tickets \$25 from Sharron Hickey on 0408 931 050 or zontaperth@yahoo.com.au.

7-9 October, District 23 Conference, Melbourne

Accommodation and home hospitality forms may be downloaded from www.zontadistrict23.org.au. Registration forms coming soon!

agc australian girls choir
National Tour 2011
Appearing at
Hale School
John Inverarity Music & Drama Centre, Urrus Road, Wembley Downs
WA
Saturday 9th July at 4.30pm
Tickets \$25
Door price - \$500 Qantas travel voucher
Meeting girls after the concert!
Contact Sharron on 0408 931 050 or
Email zontaperth@yahoo.com.au
Event hosted by
Zonta Club
of Perth Inc.
All proceeds to Zonta community projects
Find out more at www.zontaperth.org.au

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