

Championing Gender Equality

Fifty years of the Zonta Club of Perth Inc
1972 - 2022



ZONTA
CLUB OF
PERTH INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY



Carole Theobald

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Cover photograph: Montage of photographs featured in this book.

Please note: Aboriginal people should be aware that this book contains images or names of deceased persons.

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Many thanks to the Zontians past and present that have shared their stories and to the Editorial Team for bringing the stories together:

Karen Groves - the 2000s
Lennie McCall - the 1970s and 1980s
Margaret Medcalf - the 1970s and 1980s
'Tricia Summerfield - the 1990s
Carole Theobald - the 2010s, 2020s, feature projects,
appendices, layout and design.





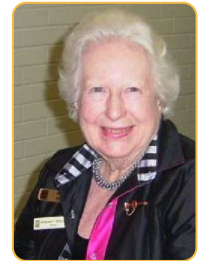
Margaret Giles



Freda Jacob



Lennie McCall



Margaret Medcalf



'Tricia Summerfield



Jean Oldham



Wendy MacGibbon

Dedication to the 'Magnificent Seven'

It has been an honour and privilege to search through the archives and also capture the stories behind the headlines from those members who forged our club through its early days to current times. In particular, I would like to dedicate this book to these 'magnificent seven' shown above:

Margaret Giles (deceased 2012);
Freda Jacob (deceased 2017);
Lennie McCall;
Margaret Medcalf;
'Tricia Summerfield;
Jean Oldham (deceased 2012); and
Wendy MacGibbon.

Between them, they have given nearly 300 years of Zonta service and some continue to actively contribute to the Club. This book is a tribute to their endeavours and those of the women they inspired.

Carole Theobald



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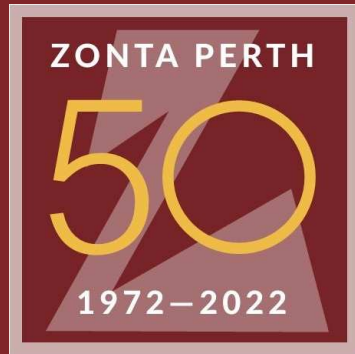
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Technical note: The information in this book is taken from a variety of sources including the Annual Reports of 1972/73 to 2021/22. The dates reflect the publishing date of the Annual Report at the end of the period. An event that occurred between June and December may be reported as the following year, so please regard all dates as approximate.

Photo of club members in 2009: Standing L-R: Carole Theobald, Wendy Atherden, Gill Palmer, Lorraine McLean, Mary Gurgone, Tricia Summerfield, Lyn McArthur, Fiona Crowe, Wendy MacGibbon (part), Bonnie Kelly, Karina Moore, Bec Christou, Sharron Hickey, Marg Giles, Deb Mason, Marlene O'Meara, Donella Caspersz, Agnes Vacca, Lennie McCall, Judy Tennant, Jean Oldham and Karen Groves. Seated L-R: Roslyn Budd, Margaret Medcalf, Freda Jacob, Helen Margaria, Joy Zec and Sue Boyd (guest).



The Zonta Club of Perth acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands throughout Western Australia and pays its respects to leaders past, present and emerging.

A photograph of two wooden boomerangs crossed at their ends. Each boomerang has a hand-drawn face in black ink. The boomerang on the left has the name "by / WARD" written on it. The boomerang on the right has the name "Done by Yvonne B" written on it. The boomerangs are set against a dark, textured background.

Introduction

This book celebrates the past and present members of the Zonta Club of Perth who together have championed gender equality locally and globally for fifty years.

In 1972, when the club started, gender inequality was rife. Women and men could be denied employment based on their gender, marital status, or age. These were the days when situations vacant were advertised ‘for men and boys’ or ‘for women and girls’—when women had to give up their Government jobs when they married. Regardless of how much they earned, women had to have a man’s signature on a document to get any loan. A chromosome could close the door on a potential career, home-ownership, or a loan.

However, these problems were just the tip of the iceberg of injustice for women worldwide. Too many women had too few choices about education, health and marriage, and the probability of poverty for life was high.

Gender equality has come a long way in Western Australia, especially since the Commonwealth’s *Sex Discrimination Act* and the *WA Gender Equality Act* were passed in 1984.

However, the dream of closing the gender gap, may not be realised unless urgent action is taken to address the growing inequalities caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis.

What is Zonta International?

Zonta International started in Buffalo, New York in 1919, at a time in history when many women were just beginning to graduate from college, enter the workforce and, in the USA, vote for the first time.

The early Zontians were keen to help women and girls achieve their potential and understood how important it was to break through the ‘glass ceiling’ long before the term was ever used.

Today, Zonta International is a global organisation of more than 27,000 members in approximately 1,100 Zonta Clubs in 63 countries.

Zontians around the globe are on a mission to empower women and girls. We envision:

A world in which women's rights are recognised as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.

The Zonta Club of Perth was the first club in Western Australia and held its charter dinner on 5 April 1972.

The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report in 2021 showed that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the time it will take to achieve global gender equality from 99.5 years to 135.6 years.

As Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations stated in 2021:

No human rights scourge is more prevalent than gender inequality. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated entrenched discrimination against women and girls.

The crisis has a woman's face. Most essential frontline workers are women — many from racially and ethnically marginalized groups and at the bottom of the economic ladder. Most of the increased burden of care in the home is taken on by women.

Violence against women and girls in all forms has skyrocketed, from online abuse to domestic violence, trafficking, sexual exploitation and child marriage.

Women have suffered higher job losses and been pushed into poverty in greater numbers. This is on top of already fragile socio-economic conditions due to lower

incomes, the wage gap, and a lifetime of less access to opportunities, resources and protections. None of this happened by accident. It is the result of generations of exclusion.

It comes down to a question of power. A male-dominated world and a male-dominated culture will yield male-dominated results.

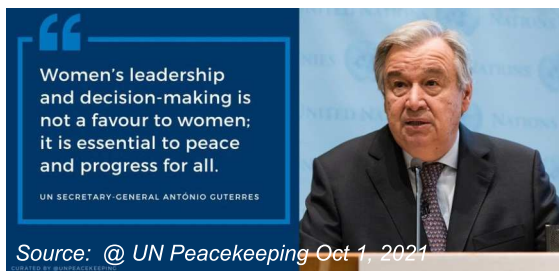
At the same time, the COVID-19 response has highlighted the power and effectiveness of women's leadership.

The lives of women are perhaps one of the most accurate barometers of the health of society as a whole. How a society treats half its own population is a significant indicator of how it will treat others. Our rights are inextricably bound.

This is why, as a proud feminist, I have delivered on my commitment to make gender parity a reality in the leadership of the UN. And I have made gender equality a leading priority for the Organization as a whole.

The opportunity of man-made problems – and I choose these words deliberately – is that they have human-led solutions. But these solutions can only be found through shared leadership and decision-making and the right to equal participation.

Little did we know fifty years ago when we started on our gender equality journey that



Zonta International's mission would be more important today than ever before.

In April 1972, on the day of the Zonta Club of Perth's charter dinner, the following article appeared in Perth's Daily News:

New women's club gets its name from Sioux

There is a touch of the Sioux Indian about one of Perth's newest women's organisations, the Zonta Club. The touch is in the name, Zonta, which comes from a Sioux word meaning "honest or trustworthy" and is the title of a world-wide organisation called Zonta International, of which the Perth Club is one of the newest branches.

It promises to become quite an influential force in WA's community affairs if it lives up to its charter, which is **"to improve the legal, political, economic and professional status of women" as well as to work for broader community aims.**

"We hope it will become a really solid group where women can bring their causes," says the Perth Zonta President, Mrs Susan Fletcher (known as Sue Rowan of TV Channel 9). "We hope to really carry some weight".

(Alison Fox, Daily News, Wednesday 5 April, 1972, page 30).

This book shows how members worked to achieve the aims of the Club's charter. It documents the achievements, activities and frustrations of the first

fifty years of the Zonta Club of Perth Inc. Each chapter reflects on the societal changes that have taken place since 1972 to improve a 'woman's lot' at home, in the workplace, and the wider community.

To give the reader context, we commence with an overview of Zonta International. We then describe each decade's activities from the perspectives of service projects undertaken, issues advocated, awards presented, fundraising conducted, members achievements and how the Club has been organised to respond to an ever-changing environment. Special feature projects at the end of each decade give a more in-depth look at key projects that have defined the Club.

Today, we live in the decisive decade for humanity. We are at a time in history when we need the talents of everyone - women, men, young and old - to tackle climate change, pandemics and an increasingly unstable geopolitical world. To access everyone's contribution, we need gender equality now.

Therefore the club is accelerating its activities through our new charity, the *Perth Foundation for Women* and the *Zonta Says NOW to gender equality and climate action* program.

There is a long way to go before all women have equal access to education, live lives free from violence and have the opportunity to reach their full potential. However, thanks to our pioneering Zontians, our club has a strong foundation from which to build a gender-equal, sustainable world - where all lives matter.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in 2015, embody a roadmap for progress that is sustainable and leaves no one behind. Only by ensuring the rights of women and girls across all the goals will we get to justice and inclusion, economies that work for all, and sustaining our shared environment now and for future generations. (UN Women)

1. Overview of Zonta International

To give some context to the Zonta Club of Perth's history, it is helpful to understand a little about Zonta International: what it stands for, its links with the United Nations, how it is administered and what Zontians do.

Zontians work together on a mission to empower women worldwide through service and advocacy. Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is integral to each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Zontians seek to:

- improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women at the global and local level through service and advocacy;
- work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of members;
- promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- be united internationally to foster high ethical standards, to implement service programs, and to provide mutual support and fellowship for members who serve their communities, their nations, and the world.

Zontians all over the world volunteer their time, talent and funds to support local and international service projects, as well as scholarship programs aimed at fulfilling Zonta's mission and objectives.

Zonta's Links with the United Nations



Zonta International is proud to be associated with the United Nations and has:

General Consultative Status with:

- United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Consultative/Participatory Status with:

- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- International Labor Organization (ILO)
- Council of Europe (CoE)

Operational Relations with:

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The Administration of Zonta

Zonta has two administrative arms:

- *Zonta International* to administer the organisation and its membership; and the
- *Zonta Foundation for Women* to administer the international service projects and which is the charitable arm of the organisation.

The world is a big place, and just like a government, Zonta International has several levels to make it easier to communicate effectively with members. The world is organised into 32 administrative districts, each containing many clubs. The Zonta Club of Perth is in District 23.

At the international, district and club levels, there are boards to direct policy and functional committees that put the policy into practice.

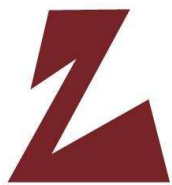
Members elect boards at international conventions and district conferences (held in alternate years) and at club annual general meetings.

Committees are the powerhouses of the organisation, as it is through these that service and advocacy projects, awards, fundraising and public relations activities are organised.

There are robust governance processes at all levels with bylaws, policies and procedures available to guide members. There is a classification system for membership to encourage diversity in each club.

To achieve Zonta's mission, club members need to work well together, and therefore membership is by invitation to ensure that Zonta is a good fit for prospective members.

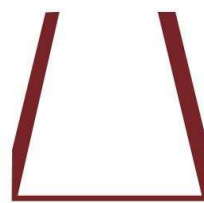
The Zonta Logo Reflects Zonta's Values



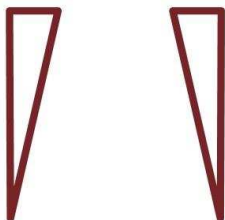
Inspiration



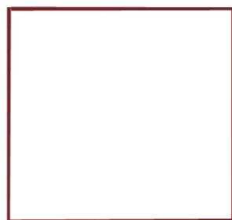
Loyalty



To carry together



Shelter



Honesty and trust



The Zonta logo signifies the philosophy of the organisation - an honest and trustworthy group, loyal to the cause of providing inspiration and service to improve women's lives.



The Early Zontians

The founding of Zonta International occupies a unique moment in women's history. Early members were among the:

- first generation of college-educated women;
- first generation of North American women to vote; and
- growing, though still comparatively small, legion of women entering the workforce.

Amelia Earhart— Aviatrix and Zontian

You cannot mention the early Zontians without mentioning Amelia Earhart. This famous aviatrix was a member of the Zonta Club of Boston.



In 1938, the Amelia Earhart Fellowships were established in her honour and are awarded annually to women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace-related sciences and aerospace-related engineering. Today up to 30 scholarships are awarded internationally each year and are valued at US\$10,000 each.

Zonta operates on a two-year cycle called a biennium that commences at an international convention, held in even-numbered years.

International conventions attract thousands of Zontians and are an excellent opportunity to showcase the achievements of the previous biennium and plan for the next. At conventions, club representatives:

- elect the International Board;
- vote on the service projects for the next biennium;
- determine the strategic direction for the biennium; and
- vote on amendments to the bylaws.

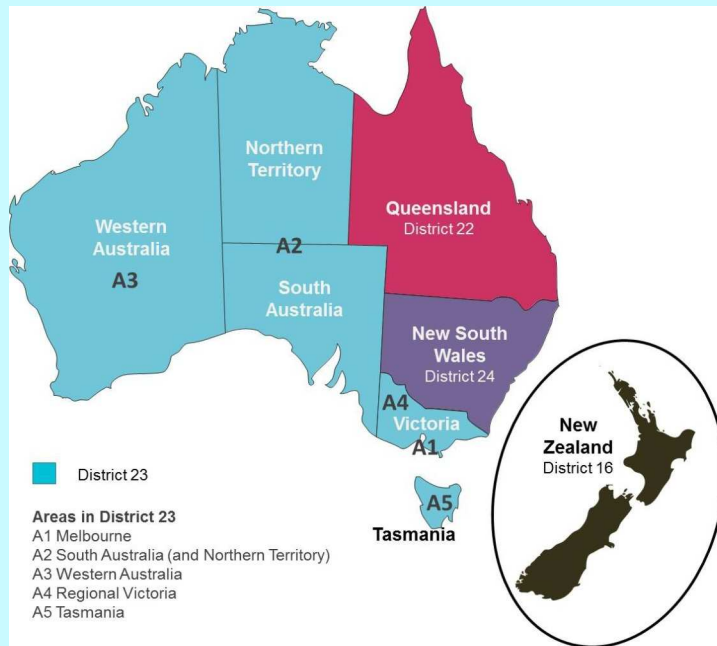
Conventions enable Zontians to meet members from other countries and form lifelong

international friendships. The 2020 Convention was hosted in Chicago, USA but held online due to the pandemic. In 2022, the Convention will be held in Hamburg, and in 2024 it will be nearer to home in Brisbane!

In odd-numbered years, district conferences are held. In 2019, a special Zonta International Centenary Combined Districts Conference was held in Brisbane, with clubs from all of Australia and New Zealand attending. In 2021, the District 23 Conference was to be hosted in Bendigo, Victoria but had to be moved online at the last minute due to the pandemic. Hopefully, we will enjoy a face-to-face District Conference in Bunbury in 2023.

To overcome geographic isolation and enable

How the Zonta Club of Perth became part of District 23



When Zonta was first being established in the Asia Pacific region, Australia and New Zealand were part of Region III that included Hong Kong and Singapore.

As more clubs were chartered, boundaries were redistributed and Australia became part of District XVI that included Australia and New Zealand.

Today, the Zonta Club of Perth is in District 23 that includes Western Australia, South Australia, Northern Territory, Victoria and Tasmania.

clubs to coordinate their activities more effectively, clubs in the districts are organised into areas.

There are five areas in District 23, and each area is represented on the District 23 Board by an Area Director, who is elected at the District 23 Conference by the clubs in the area. Our club is in Area 3 that consists of the six clubs in Western Australia:

- Zonta Club of Perth Inc;
- Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs Inc;
- Zonta Club of Bunbury Inc;
- Zonta Club of Dunsborough Inc;
- Zonta Club of Peel Region Inc; and
- Zonta Club of Swan Hills Inc.

In addition, the Zonta Club of Perth has established two clubs for young people:

- Golden Z Club of St Catherine's College, University of Western Australia, for university students; and
- Z Club of Shenton College, for high school students.

What do Zontians do?

Zonta's mission is to empower women worldwide through service and advocacy. Service is about helping others, and advocacy is about pleading the cause of another: this is a powerful combination of tools, and the club has used them to good effect to champion gender equality.

Judging from our Annual Reports, the Club has helped thousands of people at home and abroad. It has supported: children, girls, youth, women and the elderly; women and families in

crisis; disaster-affected communities, and the disabled, the abused and the illiterate.

All clubs are encouraged to donate one-third of the funds raised to the Zonta Foundation for Women. At the International Convention, Zontians agree on how funds will be allocated to support a range of educational and service programs throughout the biennium.

Educational programs

Zonta's educational programs encourage women to pursue careers in public policy, business, technology and aerospace through a range of awards and scholarships. The:

- *Amelia Earhart Fellowships* for women studying aerospace science/engineering at a PhD level are valued at US\$10,000 and up to 30 fellowships are awarded internationally each year;
- *Young Women in Public Affairs Awards* aimed at high school students, are valued at US\$1,500 at the district level and US\$4,000 at the international level;
- *Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarships* for university undergraduates are valued at US\$2,000 at the district level and US\$8,000 at the international level; and
- *Women in Technology Scholarships* for women pursuing a technology degree or a closely related program are valued at US\$2,000 at the district level and US\$8,000 at the international level.

Awards are also provided at the Club or Area 3 level for most of these educational programs.

Amelia Earhart Fellowship

Supports women in aerospace-related sciences and aerospace-related engineering; since 1938, more than US\$9.7 million for more than 1,540 fellowships



Jane M. Klausman

Women in Business Scholarship

Recognizes women pursuing degrees in business management; since 1998, more than US\$1.1 million for more than 480 scholarships



Young Women in Public Affairs Award

Empowers young women with leadership skills and commitment to public service and civic causes; since 1990, more than US\$835,000 for more than 800 awards





Service Programs

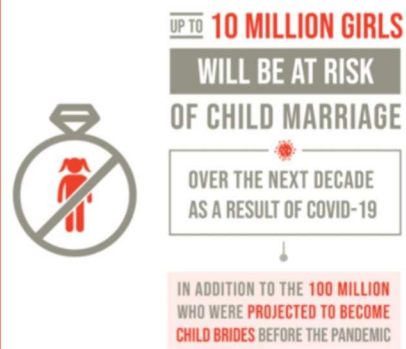
The Zonta Club of Perth has served the world, the nation and the local community through a range of service programs in the last 50 years. All projects align with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, (especially Goal 5: Gender Equality) and aim to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030.

Serving the World - Zonta International Foundation Projects

International service projects improve women's legal, political, economic, educational, and health status and end violence against women.

During the 2020-2022 Biennium, there are four international service projects:

- *Let us Learn Madagascar* is an integrated education program, undertaken in partnership with UNICEF USA that is creating opportunities for vulnerable and excluded children, particularly girls in Madagascar to realize their right to an education in a secure and protective environment. The program is implemented in the Androy and Atsimo Andrefana regions and supports children as they transition from primary to lower secondary school.
- *Supporting the Global Program to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage* is undertaken in 12 countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia. This project is undertaken in partnership with UNICEF. Globally, one in five girls is married before





the age of 18. This program works with adolescent girls and boys, families, traditional and religious leaders to support girls' rights.

- *Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection in Peru* is undertaken in partnership with UNICEF USA in the regions of Huancavelica and Ucayali. This program aims to prevent teenage pregnancy, address mental health concerns and provide a protective environment from violence in schools through a range of health, education and protection services. The program works with over 31,000 adolescents, 10 health centres, and 24 schools.
- *Her Health and Dignity, Our Priority* is strengthening services for survivors of gender-based violence in Papua New

Guinea and Timor-Leste. In these countries, two out of every three women report having experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime. This project is undertaken in partnership with UNFPA and works with health service providers and relevant government authorities to improve health services for survivors of gender based violence.

The international service programs are very inspiring. They provide an opportunity for club members to support women and girls overseas. They also serve as a reminder of how much we take for granted in Australia.

More information about the magnificent work of the Zonta Foundation for Women may be found at www.zonta.org. Service projects are also undertaken at the District 23 level.



Zonta International works to protect adolescent girls in Peru



Zonta International supports women and girls in Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste to live life free from violence

Serving our Nation - Zonta District 23 Projects

Clubs are encouraged to submit proposals for potential District 23 projects.

At the 2003 District 23 Conference held in Bunbury, WA, two very successful projects were adopted that continue to this day. They are the following:

- *Breast Care Cushion Project*; and
- *Birthing Kit Project*.

These projects are described in more detail below.



Top: Marilyn Rainier models a breast care cushion. Below: Ros Warwick, right, presents a bar code reader to officers at Bandyup Prison for use in the prison shop.

The Perth Club also initiated the *Yarri Wada Puppet Project* adopted by District 23 for the 2008-2010 biennium. This project flowed from our relationship with the senior Ngarinyin Law Women in the Kimberley region of WA and is featured in Chapter 10.

More recently, a Mental Health First Aid project has been launched in our District, and the club hopes to commence activities on this in the future.

The Breast Care Cushion Project

The Breast Care Cushions are specially designed to provide valuable comfort after breast surgery. The cushions are kidney-shaped with a shoulder strap to fit snugly under the armpit and are made to a standard pattern by many clubs in the District. They are used by both women and men who have undergone breast surgery, and the Breast Care Cushion Coordinators have received many letters of thanks from grateful recipients.

It soon became apparent that very few of our club members were keen on sewing. So the club decided to provide funds to other well-organised clubs in the area to manufacture the cushions.

The women prisoners at Bandyup Prison also make the cushions. To thank the women for their efforts, a gift of a bar code reader was presented to the prison to use at a small prison shop. The women can buy personal items at the shop, and it is a valuable resource for them to learn retail skills, including stock control.



In 2008, students from St Catherine's College, University of of Western Australia, helped Zontians and friends to pack 2,000 birthing kits in less than two hours.

Special mention must be made here to two Zontians. Ros Warwick from the Zonta Club of Peel was the original Breast Care Cushion Coordinator in WA and did a magnificent job in liaising with hospitals in the Metropolitan and country areas to set up the scheme. Sadly, Ros passed away in late 2011 and is fondly remembered. In recent years, Elaine Newman from the Zonta Club of Swan Hills has taken on the coordination role and worked tirelessly to collect cushions from clubs and distribute them to hospitals in WA.

The Birthing Kit Project

Approximately 300,000 women and 2.5 million newborns die each year from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. To help address this, birthing attendants in developing countries use simple birthing kits to prevent primary infection and provide first-line childbirth care.

Most infections occur when women give birth on the ground, often on a dirt floor. The dirt contains microorganisms that infect the women and babies during childbirth, and without access to medication, many women and children die from infections, including tetanus.

A birthing kit consists of a square of plastic, a pair of disposable gloves, soap, cord, gauze and a blade to cut the umbilical cord. Together, these items create a clean birthing environment. The kits are provided on request to Non-Government Organisations in developing countries and are often the only equipment available to birthing attendants.

When the project started in 2003, the kits cost \$3 each to make and transport to their destinations in Asia, Africa or the Pacific. The kits are now made with biodegradable materials and are \$5 each.

By June 2021, nearly two and a half million kits had been distributed. Today, there are field partnerships with over 40 organisations in around 20 countries that distributed about 200,000 kits annually before the pandemic.

The Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills initiated this project. The project became so successful that in 2006 it established the Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) to administer it.

In the early years, AusAID matched the funding raised, and the Australian Government used the RAAF to fly kits to Afghanistan.

The project has expanded to include training programs for birthing attendants and strategies to make it possible for countries to source and collate their own kits.

The Zonta Club of Perth, the Golden Z Club of St Catherine's College and the Shenton College Z Club all hold regular birthing kit assembly days.

This project is very hands-on, and other organisations are keen to be involved, such as the WA Rowing Club and Trinity College and community members, family, and friends.



Top: Lori Grech (front left), Kaye Martin and Marilyn Piper fold plastic and, below left, Sharee van den Berg assembles kits for use in Tanzania, below right.

Top: Kimberley Strong with Dr Luc Mulimbalimba Masurura and his wife, Delice, from DR Congo. Below: Dr Luc sees how the birthing kits used in his clinic are assembled at an event hosted at UWA.

Shenton College Z Club completes its first birthing kit assembly day



More information about the Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) may be found at www.birthingkitfoundation.org.au

Through the birthing kit project, the Club developed a relationship with Dr Luc Mulimbalimba Masurura from the Mission in Health Care and Development in DR Congo. Members collected clothing and stationery items for Dr Luc's hospital and the people in his region. In 2019, Dr Luc and his wife, Delice, visited a birthing kit workshop hosted at UWA.

The Birthing Kit Project has been very successful and adopted by Zonta clubs throughout Australia.

Serving our community – Zonta Club of Perth

Besides supporting the International and District education and service programs, the Zonta Club of Perth undertakes a range of educational and service projects closer to

home. These are described in the following chapters that focus on how members have worked to achieve Zonta's mission internationally, nationally and locally in Western Australia.

The chapters are arranged in decades. Each chapter describes the service projects undertaken, the issues of the day being advocated for, the awards presented, the fundraising activities, the fellowship enjoyed and the organisation that underpinned sound governance practice at each stage.

The Club's history reflects the history of the State and the society within it. Through the decades, some issues have been addressed, such as access to contraception, but others, such as violence against women, continue to be a problem.

My Country

By Dorothea Mackellar

President of the Zonta Club of Sydney, 1931-1934.

The love of field and coppice,
Of green and shaded lanes,
Of ordered woods and gardens,
Is running in your veins;
Strong love of grey-blue distance,
Brown streams and soft, dim skies—
I know but cannot share it,
My love is otherwise.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror—
The wide brown land for me!

The stark white ring-barked forests
All tragic to the moon,
The sapphire-misted mountains,
The hot gold hush of noon.
Green tangle of the brushes,
Where lithe lianas coil,
And orchids deck the tree-tops
And ferns the warm dark soil.

Core of my heart, my country!
Her pitiless blue sky,
When sick at heart, around us,
We see the cattle die—
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady, soaking rain.

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the Rainbow gold,
For flood and fire and famine,
She pays us back threefold,
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze.

An opal-hearted country,
A wilful, lavish land—
All you who have not loved her,
You will not understand—
Though earth holds many splendours,
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country
My homing thoughts will fly.



View on Gibb River Road, the Kimberley, Western Australia 2007

2. A New Club is Born!

The Zonta Club of Perth was formed during the 'second wave' of introducing Zonta to Australia.

The 'first wave' of Zonta was in 1929 when a club was formed in Sydney. This was one of the first to exist outside the United States and Canada. Dorothea Mackellar, best known for her adaptation of the famous poem My Country, was President of this club from 1931 to 1934. However, by 1935 this club had disappeared.

Dorothy Thompson's mission...

The 'second wave' was spearheaded by an amazing Canadian Zontian called Dorothy Thompson. In 1965 Dorothy received a letter from Ms J. Maria Pierce, a Past International President and Chairman of the Organisation Committee, asking if she would be interested in re-establishing Zonta in Australia and New Zealand. In Hazel King's book entitled *Zonta in the Antipodes*, Dorothy recalled:

Seeing those countries had always been a dream. But could I accept the challenge? Could I persuade intellectual women to form a club of fifteen interested in service and fellowship? I accepted the challenge on Lady Macbeth's admonition, 'live dangerously'. (King, 1990, p2)

Between 1965 and 1971, Dorothy Thompson organised clubs in all the capital cities in Australia and five cities in New Zealand – twelve clubs in all. The Perth Club was the last

one that she organised in Australia. She reflected:

When I think of Perth, I visualise the extensive university campus and Helen Watson-Williams, Susan Glynn, Director of the Susan Glynn Cooking School, Susan Fletcher, actress and television personality, who was elected President, (they) all became active members.

Perth is the home of adventurous women who fly to the 'outback' and across oceans. (King, 1990, p3)

Susan Fletcher was known professionally as Sue Rowan, and Susan Glynn later married and is known to many Zontians as Susan Jarvis.

Dorothy Thompson was an accomplished organiser. Margaret Medcalf and Beryl Grant recalled lunches with her at the Karrakatta Club in Perth. Margaret Medcalf explains:

Late in 1971, I had received a letter from Dorothy Thompson with information about the Zonta movement and saying that she was coming to Perth with the intention of setting up a Zonta club here. She was then in the Eastern States where she had been establishing clubs in Sydney and Canberra. When she arrived in Perth, I received a phone call inviting me to lunch at the Karrakatta Club, which I accepted.



Left to right: District Governor Elizabeth Todd, Dorothy Thompson, founder of District XVI, Mary Davies and Leneen Forde at the Denver Convention of 1978.



In 1972, Beryl Grant was one of the first Zontians in the state. In 1985 she also became the first female Moderator of the Uniting Church in Western Australia.

I cannot remember who else was there, if anyone. She was very convincing, and I agreed to be part of the new club. She had a series of these lunches and was amused when she was questioned by the Secretary, who thought she was transgressing the rules by using the Karrakatta Club for commercial purposes!

Beryl Grant's recollection was of a very busy day in her working life at Ngala. Beryl's secretary told her that a very persistent lady wanted to see her. She did not have an appointment, and Beryl's diary was full till after 5 pm. However, the lady said she would wait. Beryl recalled:

When I finally met her, she was a Miss Dorothy Thompson from Toronto, Canada, and she was in Perth to recruit professional

women to form a Zonta club. Dorothy Thompson was very persuasive and adamant that I would make a good member. I ended up taking Dorothy out to dinner and agreeing to attend a dinner at the Parmelia Hotel a few nights later.

There I met the other prospective members, some I knew. By the time the dinner was finished, we were members of the Zonta Club of Perth. How glad I am that I went to that function. I met many old friends and made new ones which I still have today.

Besides learning as much as they could about Zonta, members spent the next few months organising the Club's Charter Night that was to take place at the Western Australia Club.

Harriette Yeckel's Quotes

The formal chartering of the Club on 5 April 1972 put Zonta into the spotlight in Perth - especially when Harriette Yeckel, the President-Elect of Zonta International, came to town from the USA for the Charter ceremony.

Mrs Yeckel, a psychologist, was the Vice-Chairman of the Missouri Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, a member of the National Organisation of Women and a speaker who was much in demand on the subject of women's rights. Harriette Yeckel caused quite a stir in the *West Australian* on 6 April 1972, where these pithy quotes were cited.

I don't really see eye to eye with the lunatic fringe of women's lib. Burning brassieres and all that sort of nonsense hardly appeals to me. I think that kind of thing gets reported because that is the way the press believes the movement will be put down.

Me? I'm tickled to death to be a woman. I'm delighted that I've got children and that I got married. I really love cooking, but I hate sweeping the floors and I loathe making beds.

Treat each person as a human being and judge him or her on merit, not sex.

Women are their own worst enemies, not men. They put themselves down. They actually believe that it is less good to be a woman than to be a man. They even pass the idea on to their children.

In my experience I have repeatedly found that mothers nurse boys differently to girls so that they develop different habits. Boys tend to get their own way, but with a girl, mother always knows best and the child is no longer free to make a choice.

If anything harms the cause of equality, it is women grinning inanely over soap in commercials.



Some women still shy away from administrative positions because they feel it is not right for women to hold them. This is a bunch of nonsense. So is the idea that women are more emotional than men or that they are less intelligent.

A woman is as capable as a man of clear, cool thinking. But it remains true that a woman has to be both lucky and three times as good as a man to enjoy the same promotional opportunities.

Sometimes even that isn't enough and she will never get beyond a certain level simply because she is a woman.

The idea that America is a matriarchy in which women are really in control, although seldom in office, is a myth invented and perpetuated by men.

The popular misconception remains that the apron is the mark of the good woman, the job the mark of the frustrated woman and being single the mark of a desperate woman.

As long as this thinking persists there is a need for women's organisations.

Charter Night

Margaret Medcalf recalls that the Charter Dinner held on 5 April 1972 was very exciting:

Sue Fletcher, our Charter President, certainly did things with flair. As well as our 27 original members, invitations had been sent to a number of VIPs.

Guests included the Premier, John Tonkin and Mrs Tonkin, a representative of the Opposition, Des O'Neil and Mrs O'Neil and the Lord Mayor of Perth, Sir Thomas Wardle.

Harriette Yeckel, the Zonta International President-Elect had come to Perth to give us our Charter. She took a special interest in our Club and was a good friend for many years.

Dorothy Thompson had chosen well, as each of those Charter members was in a position of influence in the community which made the occasion a significant event.

The Charter Dinner was held at the Western Australia Club, with the original 27 members of the Zonta Club of Perth smartly attired in their evening dresses.

Photo below, left to right: Harriette Yeckel, President Elect of Zonta International, presents the Club Charter to inaugural Club President, Susan Fletcher under the watchful eye of WA Premier, John Tonkin.



The Charter Members

Leslie ANDERSON

Joy COOKE

Jean DAVIES

Rosemary DE PIERRES

Dorothy DETTMAN

Sue FLETCHER (ROWAN)

Susan GLYNN (JARVIS)

Beryl GRANT

Barbara HALE

Shirley HUGALL

Jean HUNSLEY

Freda JACOB

Margaret JOHNSON (GILES)

Antoinette KENNEDY

June LEWIS

Lennie MCCALL

Phyllis MCCUTCHEON

Margaret MEDCALF

Elaine MORRILL

Ann MORTIMER (ZUBRICK)

Mollie O'SULLIVAN

Joanne PAYNE

Yvonne ROBERTS

Roberta TATOM

Helen WATSON-WILLIAMS

Peggy WOODCOCK

Patricia YOUNG (EDWARDS)



L-R: Yvonne Roberts, Patricia Young and Beryl Grant



Margaret Giles



L-R: Susan Fletcher, Lennie McCall and Patricia Young



Antoinette Kennedy



June Lewis



Margaret Johnson (Giles) presents a cheque to Dr Harold Dicks from the Royal Flying Doctor Service, 1973

3. The First Decade - 1970s

Australia in the 1970s	
1972	Australian troops were withdrawn from Vietnam
1974	The White Australia Policy was scrapped
1975	The dismissal of Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam.
Technology	Colour television was introduced to Australia.
Fashion	Hemlines ranged from maxis to minis with bright, bold patterns. Designs ranged from 'Hippie' style and ethnic inspired dresses to platform shoes, huge bell-bottom flares, or tight, shiny, disco-inspired hot pants.
Sport	Margaret Smith Court won the Wimbledon women's singles in 1970 and Evonne Goolagong Cawley took the title in 1971.
Cost of groceries	Milk \$0.30/L, sugar \$0.24/kg, onions \$0.43/kg
Value of money	\$100 spent in 1972 would require \$1,133 in 2022

Service Activities in the 1970s

International President Harriette Yeckel guided the new Club in many ways. One thing she stressed was the need to be aware of the international aspect of Zonta and not to concentrate solely on local matters. She urged the Club to donate 25 per cent of all funds raised to international projects, which was later increased to one third. The Zonta Club of Perth has followed this direction, which is not covered by the Bylaws but is regarded as an obligation.

In the Club's first year of activity 1972-73, with only a small income, a quarter was given to international projects, including refugee relief in Ramallah, Israel and UNICEF clinics. As Zonta International has NGO status with the United Nations, money donated for international projects is channelled through UN agencies.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service was high on the Club's agenda. The first local service donation provided two Komesaroff resuscitation machines used on aircraft in remote areas of Western Australia. This was followed by a highly ambitious scheme to launch an international appeal proposed by the Club's far-sighted President Susan Fletcher.

In November 1972, the Club formed the Royal Flying Doctor (RFDS) Appeal Committee to raise funds for the RFDS (Western Australian Section). A portion of the funds would be used to publicise the RFDS in the United States of America with the object of raising funds from American donors. To this purpose, the RFDS sponsored Robin Miller and Rosemary de Pierres, two members of the Zonta Club of Perth, in the highly publicised U.S. women's air race, the 1973 All Women Transcontinental Air



Charter member, Freda Jacob AM, founder of the Independent Living Centre with the Zonta Club of Perth's standard rose in the Independent Living Centre's garden in November 2008



Dr Lesley Vincent AM, retired as the Medical Superintendent of the Spastic Welfare Association of WA in 1977 (Daily News 24 August 1977)

Race—also known as the Powder Puff Derby. The next chapter is dedicated to this project that captured the imagination of many in Western Australia.

During the 1970s, many donations were made to assist disabled and disadvantaged people. These included financing the prototype of a unique toilet chair for disabled children and payment towards a special bus for the Quadriplegic Centre.

The Information and Aids Centre for the Disabled (later to become the Independent Living Centre) was brought to the Club's attention by charter member Freda Jacob, who was a highly respected pioneer in the field of occupational therapy. Early support for this

project was given in the form of reference books so that material could be purchased to assist in the cataloguing of aids and appliances at different centres in the community.

The development of the Centre was closely watched and further supported by the Club prior to the official opening in March 1978. It has become a well established and essential supplier of aids for the disabled.

Many varied donations have been made to needy causes, including Talking Books for the Silver Chain, Guatemala earthquake relief, Noah's Ark Toy Library, Multiple Sclerosis Society, books for the Women's Health Care Association, games equipment for youth work at the Balga/Girrawheen Anglican Contact and

A CHILDLIKE LOOK AT THE ADULT WORLD

By JAN HALLAM

"O WAD some Pow'r
The gifte gie us
To see ourselves as
thers see us!"

—Robbie Burns,
The Scottish poet was
pondering this matter
as he watched a louse
crawl over a lady's
bonnet while she sat in
church.

The organisers of the
Knee-High Show, to be
held during Expo '79,
have been making simi-

lar observations. They
want adults to see
themselves as children
see them.

At the special exhibi-
tion starting at the
Claremont Show-
ground on Saturday,
adults will be able to
journey back to child-
hood and remember
what life was like with
a child's perspective.

The Knee-High Show
is being staged by
more than 20 non-gov-
ernment organisations
as a combined project
for the International
Year of the Child.

One of the coordina-
tors of the show Mrs
Phillipa Daly-Smith,
from the Occupational
Therapy Association,
said that the organisa-
tions contributing to
the exhibition all
worked in fields of
child care and develop-
ment.

"The aim of the exhibi-
tion is to give adults
a chance to share some
of the experience that
children have living in
our adult world," she
said.

"It is so easy to for-
get the sometimes fun-
ny, sometimes fright-
ening world that
loomed all around
when we were small."

Besides the emotional
impact the show is ex-
pected to create, it also
represents quite a ma-



What is life like from a child's vantage point? This poster for the Knee-High Show gives some idea of the child's perspective.

for feat in design and
engineering.

Five major areas of
activity are depicted:
the child in the home,
in hospital, on trans-
port, at school and at
play.

The designers, Rick
Hook, Don Prince and
Ted Snell, from the
WA Institute of Tech-
nology, Greg Dick,
from Claremont Teach-
ers' College and Leon
Pericles, from Ned-
lands Teachers' Col-
lege, have used size,
shape, sound and light-
ing as major effects to
create the child's view.
The exhibition is a U-
shaped tunnel. On

entering, the unsus-
pecting adult is en-
gulfed by a sea of gi-
gantic legs. He of
course comes only
knee-high to the mon-
sters. After the dram-
atic entrance he wanders
along the grotesque
wonderland tunnel
seeing everyday life
enlarged 24 times.

It has been estimated
that each section of
the exhibition will cost
\$1000 to construct and,
though a minimum
grant has been sought
from the IYC fund,
three organisations
have agreed to sponsor
parts of the show.
Princess Margaret

Hospital will contri-
bute \$1000 to build the
hospital section and at
the end of the Knee-
High Show on May 13,
this section will be
erected at PMH in
Hospital Week, from
June 16 to 21.

The Ngalia Mother-
craft Home has spon-
sored the home section
and the professional
women's club, Zonta,
has also given \$1000.

The National Safety
Council offered a lot in
the area of safety in
the home environment,
and the Association for
Welfare of Children in
Hospital helped Rick

Hook with design of
the hospital section.

Construction of the
oversized parts that
make up the Knee-
High Show was done
by volunteer labour.

While adults are re-
exploring their child-
hood, students from
the Department of
Early Childhood at
WAIT will supervise
play activities for the
children.

The exhibition will be
held in the Animal
Nursery daily from
2pm to 10pm except
Saturday and Sunday
when it will be open
from 10am to 6pm.



The Club donated \$1,000 towards the 'Knee High' Show held at the Claremont Showgrounds in April 1979. This show gave a child's eye perspective on the world with participants seeing the world through giant legs!

Resource Centre, a kiln for the Crippled Children's Society at Rocky Bay and a commode chair for Nulsen Haven.

After the damage done by Cyclone Alby, the Club purchased replacement trees for the Police Boys' Clubs' Camp at Camp Mornington. It was envisaged that this might be the start of a project extending over many years so that a progression of boys would have experience in planting, pruning and maintaining the orchard.

Service in kind has also been provided, and with this, there is a lot of good fellowship and fun. Certainly, there was much laughter when twelve members operated telephones at the Telethon Appeal weekend at Channel 7 and when children from the Catherine McAuley Home were taken on a picnic to a friend's farm.

Unfortunately, a pond had dried into a mud pool, which was greatly appreciated by the children but not the adults.

Another activity was the Knee Hi Show to which the Club donated \$1,000, and members also participated. It was an imaginative project to celebrate the International Year of the Child. The enthusiasm of Phillippa Daly-Smith and Trish Young led people to look at life with a 'child's eye view'.

The Club has always wanted to find a project that would be a continuing one and with which the Club would be identified.

In 1979 several long term projects were commenced, possibly because that was the International Year of the Child. One was

initiated with Dr Judy Henderson, a paediatrician from the Shanta Bhawan Hospital in Kathmandu and a friend of member Dr Lesley Vincent. The Club supported her work with interest and donations for several years.

Save the Children sponsorships commenced at this time with funding for the education of a ten-year-old Indian girl, Vijaya, who lived in a children's home near Madras. The Club enjoyed corresponding with her and watched her development for several years.

A notable project that benefited many people had its beginning at the end of the decade. The Holiday Relief Scheme provided holidays to needy families and was the brainchild of Cathy Spitteler. The Club agreed to put a \$200 deposit into a special holiday fund. Over the years, the fund was added to and the interest used to pay for the holidays. The Scheme ran for over 40 years and is described in more detail in Chapter 8.

Issues and Advocacy in the 1970s

The Zonta International objects set the parameters for the sort of areas of concern that the Club might support, and speakers at the monthly general meetings were selected to give an insight into the needs in such areas. An early speaker was Anne Blanchard, Senior Lecturer in Social Work at the Western Australian Institute of Technology, and another was Dr H Rees, Medical Superintendent at King Edward Memorial Hospital. Inspired by these leads, the Club worked as a pressure group to get daycare centre fees income tax-deductible, and letters went to Parliamentarians advocating



Members worked to get day care centre fees income tax reducible. Above: Matron Beryl Grant retires from Ngala- pictured with two of her charges, Marie and Rhys. (Sunday Times 28/8/80)

the removal of restrictions on advertising family planning clinics and the luxury tax on contraceptives.

A matter of much concern to women at this time was that women who applied for loans from banks or other financial agencies were required to have their husband's signature on the application, and lobbying for the removal of this discrimination was entered into as an ongoing battle.

The Council for Equal Pay and Opportunity had been in operation for some time. The new Club became affiliated with it, lobbying Legislative Council members concerning the Industrial Arbitration Act Amendment Bill. Fortunately, the amendments were not opposed, and the legislation was successfully passed. With the accomplishment of its aims, the Council for Equal Pay and Opportunity was wound up.

The UN Association of Australia, WA Division, reconstituted its Status of Women Committee

with which the Club became associated in the lead up to International Women's Year in 1975. Barbara Hale and two other club members became the Club's representatives on this Committee. It aimed to promote equality between men and women, integrate women fully in the country's development, and stress the importance of women's contribution to peace and friendship.

Members attended a number of the International Women's Year meetings but did not fully share some of the extreme views of women libbers of the period. Members held the attitude that women should accept their equality, take politics responsibly, solve their own problems and continue to press to improve occupational opportunity and for greater representation on official boards and commissions.

The Zonta Club of Perth continued to be a member of the UN Association, WA Division, kept in touch with UN activities and attended a meeting regarding the formation of the Federal Advisory Committee for Women. Members agreed to send submissions to Canberra expressing the views of Perth Zontians.

The Club concerned itself with many topical subjects where it saw an injustice or even wrote

to commend some positive action. For example, access for the disabled was a cause with which the Club concerned itself and supported the Committee, which was lobbying for access and accommodation modifications to building bylaws.

Comments were forwarded to the National Women's Advisory Council concerning a proposed allowance for women (\$40 per week) to encourage them to remain at home with their children rather than use daycare. Members considered that this needed a lot more knowledge and further discussion before any plan should be formulated. Condemnation was expressed to the Australian Labor Party for their policy of legalising the use of marijuana. Also, a letter was sent commending the Judge of the Licensing Court when a licence was revoked because of the use of topless waitresses 'as this action upholds the dignity of human beings'.

Contact was made with Murdoch University about their new Women's Studies course and with the University of Western Australia to ascertain the prevalence of sexual harassment at tertiary institutions. Delight was expressed about revised legislation that made safety glass compulsory in various vulnerable positions in

*Logo of the UN's
International
Women's Year in 1975*



Members did not agree with the extreme view of some of the 'women libbers' of the time. Sunday Times 21/9/75 p49



Lunch meeting in 1972 for Harriette Yeckel at June Lewis' Home: L-R: Leslie Anderson, Roberta Tatom, Beryl Grant, June Lewis, Toni Kennedy, Joy Cooke, Harriette Yeckel, Margaret Medcalf and Sue Fletcher

new houses, and recommendations concerning this were sent to the Products Safety Committee.

In 1978 the Public Affairs Committee identified areas of concern that they considered topics for study, discussion, and/or action in the coming year. They were environmental issues, alternative sources of energy, attitudes to the concept of work, media advertising and the need for legislation in relation to food packaging and labelling. These are still matters unresolved in the public arena, but fortunately, some of the early causes embraced by the Club have had a good outcome.

Awards Presented in the 1970s

The Zonta Club of Perth did not create any local awards in the first ten years of the Club's

existence, and the only international one which required input from the Club was the Amelia Earhart Fellowship. This award is named in honour of the famous aviatrix who was a member of the Zonta Club of Boston and later New York. She was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic (1928), the first woman to fly an autogiro and the first woman to fly from Hawaii to the USA mainland.

She epitomized the spirit of Zonta International by actively promoting women to take on non-traditional roles. In 1937 she undertook her most ambitious project, which was to fly solo around the world, which tragically ended in her death.

In 1938 Zonta International instituted a scholarship by way of a loan to women pursuing graduate education in aerospace. By

1952 the Amelia Earhart Fellowship (by then a financial award rather than a loan) became Zonta International's first and only continuing service project.

Rosemary de Pierres was the Chairman of the Zonta Club of Perth's Amelia Earhart Committee for the whole of the 1970s and entertained Club members on several occasions on her farm at *Derdebin*, Wyalkatchem for lunch and flights over the property as a fundraiser. She and Robin Miller Dicks had been the crew who flew in the Powder Puff Derby in 1973 (see Chapter 4).

A photograph of Amelia Earhart, taken as she boarded her aeroplane in Lae, New Guinea for her last disastrous journey, was found in Perth taken by an Australian who witnessed her take off in 1937. A copy was forwarded to Zonta International Headquarters Library.

Fundraising Activities in the 1970s

The first fundraising event for the new Club was a jumble sale, mainly consisting of second-hand clothing, held on a Saturday morning in the back of a shop in Hay Street, Subiaco. What the members lacked in experience, they made up in enthusiasm. Unfortunately, dealers quickly descended, picked the eyes out of the stock, and found the Zonta shop assistants easy game, but a profit of \$308.80 was made.

The next event was dinner at Diamond Lil's Wild West Saloon in Fremantle, which was good fun with a slight profit.

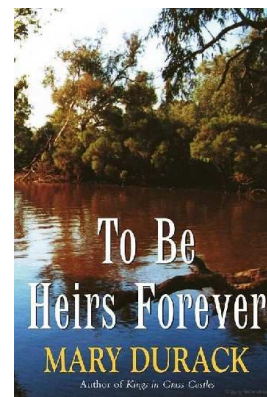
A more cultural offering followed this in the music room at Lesley Vincent's home. At that time, Mary Durack had written a script depicting the life of Eliza Shaw, an early settler in the Swan Valley in Western Australia, for Nita Pannell, a local actress, to perform. This had gained a lot of publicity, and the Club was



L-R: Robin Miller Dicks and Rosemary de Pierres



Rosemary de Pierres and Betty Lefroy at Derdebin, Wyalkatchem 1975



The story of Eliza Shaw features in this Dame Mary Durack book.



L-R: Dr Lesley Vincent, Spastic Welfare Association and her sister Helen Watson-Williams, Associate Professor UWA at the Club's Charter Dinner, 1972



L-R: Margaret Johnson (Giles) and Margaret Chaney at a Barbecue at Helen Watson-Williams' Gidgegannup property, approx 1975

fortunate in getting them to talk about their creation with extracts from it.

The total fundraising for that year was \$886, with which the Club was pleased. An indication of the dollar's value at that time can be assessed by the fact that Club dinner meetings were held in members' homes with a charge of \$3, of which \$2 went to the hostess for the cost of the meal and \$1 to the Club.

Lesley Vincent was generous in allowing the Club to use her gracious old home, Minnewarra, on several occasions, and a final event there, before she moved away in 1975, was called 'End of an Era'.

This was a delightful evening when Nita Pannell performed three dramatic portraits of early colonial Western Australian women: Charlotte Bussell, Catherine Gavin and the Mother Superior of St John of God School in Broome. The researchers and authors of these historical sketches were also present, which added to the interest.

As in this instance, many of the fundraising activities relied heavily on the goodwill and input of an individual member. Another such was a boat trip to the upper Swan River to Sandalford vineyard, where Sue Jarvis provided a delicious luncheon.

Another highly successful fundraiser, both socially and financially, was a 'Come in Bad



Member Sue Jarvis had a successful cooking school (Daily News 20/7/78)



Phyllis McCutcheon, the owner of the Terrace Arcade Bookshop, sold Zonta cookbooks from her store

Taste' party at Christmas time at Sue Jarvis' home. On two occasions, Gladys Lourvanij opened her home in Kalamunda and, with the help of her family, provided oriental dishes, including a pit-roasted whole pig.

Phyllis McCutcheon, who owned the Terrace Arcade Bookshop in central Perth, also assisted with fundraising by using her shop to sell a Zonta Cook Book compiled by the Club and wildflower notelets. She also arranged the sale of second-hand books, prints and other items gathered by members. An earlier financially successful second-hand book sale had been held at St Luke's Church in Cottesloe, but further sales proved to be too labour intensive.

Throughout the 1970s, there was a variety of activities to raise money. They included white elephant stalls at Swap Meets, raffles and outings to theatres and places of interest, such as a visit to Gowers and Brown's stained glass studio in Greenmount.

By the end of the decade, ideas had become less, and a scheme was introduced whereby each member was asked to raise at least \$50 by an individual or small group effort.

The projects included a visit to a small museum, a raffle of a crocheted rug in Zonta colours, a fashion parade, dinners, the sale of products (including manure) and catering for



1978 in Zena Webster's pool: L-R: Peggy Woodcock, Tricia Young, Zena Webster, Edith Willis, Barbara Hale, Lennie McCall. Rear: Barbara Palmer and Heide Taylor

lunch for the Oral History Association Conference in 1980.

Any fundraising activity is dependent on the enthusiasm and energy of the person who runs it, and unless there are members who are willing and able to do this, it will not take off. The diversity of membership envisaged by the founders of Zonta is the basis of its success, and so it is vital to strive to fulfil these various categories.

People and Fellowship in the 1970s

Zonta International's Membership Classification Manual guides the Club into inviting members with a good mix of talents and networks, which

plays a valuable role in choosing and supporting service and fundraising activities. It also acts as a guide for the Membership Committee in selecting members who can fill any areas lacking. Of the 27 original members, a good coverage of professional ability was achieved by Dorothy Thompson's selection.

However, a club is never static, and by the second year, the Club had lost four members, two from non-attendance, one from the change of employment and one from transfer to New Zealand but two new members, had been inducted, and this has been the pattern throughout the history of the Club.

The international aspect of Zonta was to the fore. In the first year, the Club sought out and



Helvi Sipila with Harriette Yeckel at the ZI Convention in Boston



L-R: Susan Fletcher, Jack Fletcher and Sue Jarvis (Australian Women's Weekly 11/7/73)



Margaret Medcalf addresses the Region IV conference in Taipei 1973

corresponded with Australia's Zonta friendship countries: Japan, Ghana, and the United Kingdom. Friendship countries changed with each biennium, and the Club continued to write to each one throughout the 1970s and eventually had some interesting exchanges.

In 1973, two framed posies of Western Australian wildflowers were sent to Massachusetts for sale at the Boston Convention, and a Namatjira print was sent as a gift to Zonta International headquarters. Three members of the Club attended a meeting at UN headquarters in Perth to form a committee to celebrate International Women's Day in 1975, and the association with the UN for this purpose has lasted (with some gaps) to today.

In 1975 Susan Fletcher, the Club's inaugural President, was appointed Chairman of the Zonta International Public Relations Committee, the first international appointment for the Club. International visitors to the Club that year were Helvi Sipila, a past Zonta International President (1968-70), Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs at the United Nations and also Princess Pat Diskul of Thailand, who was with the Australian Information Service at the UN.

In 1976 the Club commenced holding its meetings at the Gateway Inn in central Perth. At the first meeting for the year, Beryl Grant was congratulated on being awarded the honour of an OBE. She was the Matron of Ngala, a mothercraft home and also at that time Chairman of the Committee of Enquiry into Residential Child Care.

In the following year, the Club was delighted when another member, Dorothy Dettman, was honoured with an OBE for her work in the community. Amongst her other activities, she was a long-serving member of the Children's Court. In 1979 charter member Lesley Vincent was chosen as the Citizen of the Year in the category of the professions in recognition of her outstanding service

to the community. Dr Vincent was the Director of the WA Spastic Centre.

During the decade, Perth Zontians visited Zonta Clubs in Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Taipei, Tokyo, Jakarta, Manila, Amarillo, Texas, Sydney and Melbourne.

Three members attended a regional conference in Taipei and later were warmly welcomed by Zontians on a tour of the Philippines. By the end of the decade, membership of the Zonta Club of Perth stood at 36.

Organisational Activities in the 1970s

Before Dorothy Thompson arrived in Perth in December 1971 to start a Zonta club here, she had planned her strategy well. With advice from the women she had gathered together to form Zonta clubs in the Eastern States, and from other sources, she had selected several women in Western Australia in a spread of classifications. She had written to these women, telling them about the Zonta movement and soliciting their interest. If they were not prepared to be part of the proposed new club in Perth, she asked them to suggest others who may be likely members.

So when Dorothy arrived, she had a list of people to meet and entice into forming a club, and 27 of those people agreed to do so. She arranged for the group to meet over dinner at the Parmelia Hotel on 23 December 1971.

This says a great deal for her powers of persuasion to bring this disparate group of women together two days before Christmas. Some already knew each other, but many did not, and this is one of the strengths of Zonta that people from different professions come together for a common cause.

At that meeting, it was agreed that this group would form the Zonta Club of Perth. Susan Fletcher, who knew a little about Zonta, was elected to be the President, Susan Glynn became the Honorary Secretary and Margaret Medcalf the Treasurer.

The Zonta Club of Perth was sponsored by the Zonta Club of Omaha, Nebraska (unfortunately now defunct), which subsidised Dorothy Thompson's expenses.

In the new year, meetings were held to study the Zonta International Bylaws and determine what was required of this new organisation.

Plans were made for the official charter to take place on 5 April 1972, and a full complement of office bearers was appointed. The charter office bearers were:

President: Susan Fletcher

President-Elect: Joy Cooke

Vice-President: Antoinette Kennedy

Secretary: Susan Glynn (Jarvis)

Treasurer: Margaret Medcalf

Directors: Jean Hunsley and Barbara Hale.

The committee chairmen were:

Service: Margaret Johnson (Giles)

Finance: Susan Fletcher



Opening of District XVI Conference in Perth 1975: L-R: Mary Beasley, Judith Dey, Eleanor Jammal (ZI President), Margaret Medcalf and Hon Premier Sir Charles Court

Fellowship Program: June Lewis

International Relations:

Helen Watson-Williams

Public Relations: Susan Fletcher

Membership, Classification, Attendance:

Lennie McCall

Club Bulletin: Jean Hunsley

Status of Women: Barbara Hale

Amelia Earhart: Rosemary de Pierres

The charter dinner was a glittering affair (as described in Chapter 1), and so the Club was on its way.

Initially, monthly general meetings were held on variable days of the week, but this proved unworkable, and in 1974 the majority of members agreed that the second Thursday of the month was the most suitable, and this remained the pattern.

The most important event of 1974 was the creation of District XVI, of which Perth formed a part. Dr Judith Dey from Sydney was the inaugural District Governor. She visited Perth in August partly because the Perth Club's intrepid inaugural President had offered Perth as the venue for the initial Conference to be held from 18 to 21 September 1975.

The Conference was held at Riverside Lodge with 73 Zontians from Australia and New Zealand attending, including the Zonta International President Eleanor Jammal and the Past International President Harriette Yeckel. One of the delegates was Mary Magee from Brisbane, who later became the Zonta International President.

There was an impressive array of dignitaries at the opening ceremony, including the Premier Sir Charles Court.



Region IV Conference, Manila 1973: L-R: Lennie McCall, Harriette Yeckel, George Yeckel, Margaret Medcalf and Trish Young



L-R: District XVI Conference Perth 1975: L-R Harriette Yeckel (ZI President 1972-1974) and Mary Magee (ZI President 2000-2002)

Membership is the lifeblood of any organisation, and the extension of Zonta by forming new clubs was an objective. Zonta International promotes the organisation and sponsoring of new clubs by providing an instruction kit and a small amount of funding towards expenses. The sponsoring club provides the remainder of the funding and the perseverance and mentoring required.

In 1974, the Zonta Club of Perth formed a committee to make a feasibility study regarding the possible formation of a new club, preferably in the country—and the Avon Valley area comprising the districts of York, Northam and Toodyay was explored.

All the requirements were fulfilled with details, potential membership and statistics and forwarded to the District Governor for approval. However, approval was not given as it was considered a wiser approach would be to

consolidate and further develop the Perth Club before extending to outlying districts.

Undaunted, five years later, consideration was given to the area South of Perth, and the Organisation and Extension Committee (Barbara Hale, Ellen Cox and Peggy Woodcock) successfully brought a group together to form the Zonta Club of South of Perth. This was formed in April 1979 and chartered in November of that year.

In 1977 District XVI was divided into Areas, Perth becoming part of Area II. A paper was given at the Adelaide Area Workshop on 'Bridges to Asia', drawing attention to the proximity of Asia and developing a closer relationship with Asian clubs, many of which had been visited by Australian Zontians.

For one year in 1978, the Club ceased holding its meetings at the Gateway Inn and reverted to



Jean Gordon and Lennie McCall, 1975



Beverley Bennett and Rosemary de Pierres, 1975

meeting in members' homes. At a charge of \$5 per head, \$30 went to the hostess to cover costs, and the remainder went to the Club resulting in a profit of \$799.

However, in the following year, University House, the staff club of the University of Western Australia, was used for meetings at a charge of \$6 per head for a three-course meal with wine, and meetings continued here during the '80s.

Public awareness of the Zonta movement has always been a problem, and the Club makes every attempt to make itself known through publicity in the media and in any way possible.

To this end, a Zonta Club of Perth plaque was erected at the Perth International Airport, and a listing entered in the Perth telephone directory giving the telephone number of a willing member. Also, a Post Office box was rented,

and the Nedlands Post Office box number is still (in 2022) the Club's official address.

Mention should be made of the Club's records. Due to the fact that Lennie McCall, a librarian, and Margaret Medcalf, an archivist, were charter members, good coverage of the Club's activities has been maintained.

An annual report has been issued from the commencement of the Club. Minutes of meetings have been kept from the beginning.

Early members recall the painstaking work of Sue Glynn as charter Secretary, who for many years used her Gestetner's blue ink to churn out early circulars. Also, as evidenced in this book, newspaper cuttings and photographs add considerably to the record. This archival material is held in the Battye Library in Perth.



ZONTA club secretary Margaret Johnson, pilot Rosemary de Pierres, navigator Robin Miller and club publicity officer Lennie McCall discuss the flight plan.

NOTHING BUT A 2500-MILE 'JAUNT'

IT'S the longest, most hazardous annual air race in the world—the 2,500-mile "Powder Puff Derby" across America.

Australia's only entrants in the race—and they'll be pitting their skills not only against some of the world's most experienced women pilots, but against the most

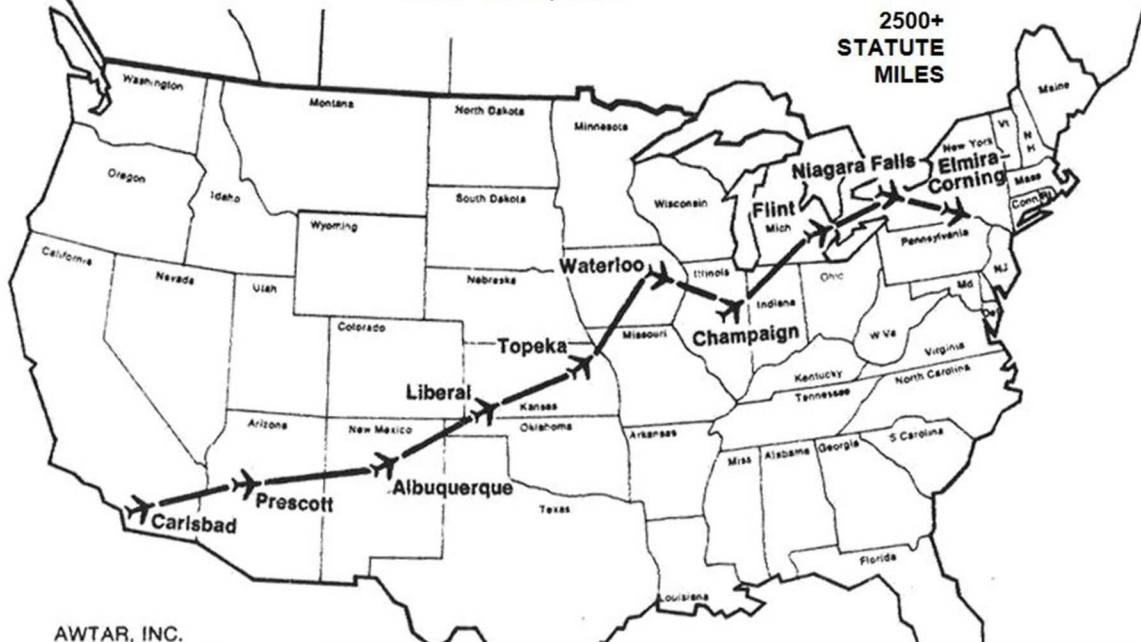
epic—where speed is the essence of getting there, do you to decimal points of a second on touch-down—as a "huge challenge." They'll start from Palomar,

The challenge to win and put Australia in front in the powder puff stakes is their greatest motivation. Robin, though as non-committal about flying as most of us

gamble she didn't say, only that "he co-operates." If there's another reason the two women are risking their lives for a buffeting ride across America, it's

27th POWDER PUFF DERBY

JULY 13-16, 1973



AWTAR, INC.
Teterboro Airport
Teterboro, New Jersey

In 1973, two members, Rosemary de Pierres and Robin Miller, competed in the Powder Puff Derby to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service

4. 1970s Feature Project: The Power Puff Derby Air Race

This was a recipe for adventure. Two remarkable women, a shared passion for flying, access to a good aircraft, mixed with the desire to help the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and stirred up by one of the biggest air challenges in the world.

In November 1972, the club formed a Committee to raise funds for the RFDS (Western Australasian Section), publicise the RFDS in the USA and hopefully attract American donors to the cause. To this purpose the RFDS sponsored Robin Miller and Rosemary de Pierres, members of the ZC Perth, in the most publicised women's air race, the 1973 Transcontinental Air Race popularly known as the Powder Puff Derby.

Robin was a pilot nurse with the RFDS and Rosemary de Pierres lived on a farm at Wyalkatchem 225km north of Perth where the community benefitted from its air ambulance services. This was a charity close to their hearts.

The Committee made approaches to companies in the USA and in WA resulting in a substantial sum being raised, including the donation of a Beechcraft Bonanza aircraft for use in the race. The Australian Wool Board donated specially designed flying suits and woollen banquet gowns.

The project raised \$5,030 in cash donations and a further \$4,382 in donations in kind.

The committee included the pilots, as well as Margaret Giles and Lennie McCall. Legal advice was provided by Jonathan Bilbery and financial advice by Kevin J Meyer. The Club met all the administrative costs and publicity was launched in January 1973. Twenty-one publicity kits were posted to the air race organisers, various media sources, Zonta International headquarters and Zonta Clubs along the race route from California to New York State.

As the Miller/de Pierres crew were the only Australian entrants, a full-page coverage was given in an Australian national women's journal.

The two WA pilots won admiration of American aviators for their performance in the 27th Annual Powder Puff Derby. They finished sixth



L-R: Rosemary de Pierres and Robin Miller in their Wool Board flying suits. Photo: West Australian 12 June 1973

over the finishing line after winning the first leg of the race from Carlsbad to Albuquerque as well as a performance prize into Topeka, Kansas. In a field of 104 entrants of the world's top women pilots, many of whom had competed

in previous derbies, the West Australians, after handicapping results were placed 36th.

The race captured the media's imagination and this is how the story unfolded at home.

Independent, Perth 7 January 1973

NOTHING BUT A 2500-MILE 'JAUNT'

It's the longest, most hazardous annual air race in the world – the 2,500 mile "Powder Puff Derby" across America. But to listen to WA's Robin Miller, the well-known flying nurse, and her friend Rosemary de Pierres, two of the 100 entrants, you'd think it was a guided tour of a commercial crop-duster's circuit.

Robin, the Royal Flying Doctor Service's angel-on-wings, and Rosemary, grazier's wife and mother-of-three, are so far Australia's only entrants in the race – and they'll be pitting their skills not only against some of the world's most experienced women pilots, but against the most exacting, perilous conditions the climatic elements can turn on.

That they could be "frozen in" in a four-seater single-engined Beechcraft at 14,000 feet with the treacherous Rockies 2,000 feet below, where the air is so thin they'll have to be encapsulated in oxygen masks, doesn't even raise an eyebrow.

They see the three-day epic-where speed is the essence of getting there, down to decimal points of a second on touch-down- as a "huge challenge".

They'll start from Palomar south of San Francisco, on July 13, with Robin navigating and Rosemary at the controls.

"We won't have time for chit-chat – it's navigation all the way," said Robin. "It's as much an obstacle race and endurance test as a speed race, and with the smog as bad as it is over there and 100 light aircraft all going the same way, we'll have to concentrate."

The challenge to win and put Australia in front in the powder puff stakes is their greatest motivation. Robin, though as non-committal about flying as most of us are to driving to work, can't resist a tussle with the elements.

And Rosemary, who would seem as much at ease mustering cattle on her husband's Wyalcatchem property if she didn't look more the jet-set passenger type than a pilot, just can't resist flying.

Whether her husband, the Vicomte Henri de Pierres, approves of her forthcoming gamble she didn't say, only that "he co-operates."

If there's another reason the two women are risking their lives for a buffeting ride across America, it's charity. Their epic challenge is being sponsored by WA business concerns to help raise funds for the RFDS and to fly the RFDS flag across America.

The Zonta Club of Perth – the WA branch of an international service organization for executive women – is organizing their sponsorship.

The West Australian 12 June 1973

2,600 MILES AHEAD

Miss Rosemary de Pierres, of Wyalkatchem, and Miss Robin Miller, of Brentwood, will leave Perth soon to compete in one of the world's longest and most difficult air races.

The 2,600 mile, all-women race organized by the International Organization of Women Pilots will be flown across the United States. They are the first West Australians to enter the race.

After the race Miss Miller will go on a lecture tour in the US to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. She is a pilot-nurse with the service.

Miss Miller and Miss de Pierres were given a farewell reception at the WA Club last night.

L-R: Tricia Young and Lennie McCall at the reception at the WA Club to farewell the women pilots. Photo: Australian Women's Weekly 11 July 1973



Below: L-R: Fashion designer Jane Noyelle, pilot Rosemary de Pierres, fashion designer Tish Phillips and pilot Robin Miller, study designs for the flying suits and evening gowns for the Power Puff Derby



Extract from Daily News 18 June 1973

AIR RACE WILL BE A BIG CHALLENGE

By Penny Hepple

The race itself is only the beginning of their task. When it is over, Mrs de Pierres will accompany Miss Miller on a lecture tour of the US.

“With the extent of US involvement in our north-west, the US is the obvious place for fund-raising efforts,” said Mrs de Pierres.

For Mrs de Pierres, the race itself provides the biggest challenge yet in her flying career. “It’s a challenge – it’s the toughest air race in the world - none is more exacting than this,” she said. “It’s a speed race and depends on real navigational skills.”

“We’ll be encountering conditions we’ve never met before,” said Mrs de Pierres. “The topological features are entirely different from anything we have in Australia. We will be wearing oxygen masks for two hours as we cross the Rockies. I’ve never worn one before, but I’ll soon learn. I’ve never been in a speed race before either.”

“We’ll also be up against some pretty stiff opposition. Many of the women are professional racers and have 22,000 hours or more flying time to their credit. We have 4,500 hours between us. There will be 108 aircraft in the race this year – and many of the pilots have competed in every race since it first started 23 years ago.”

There’s a touch of glamour, too. The girls have been fitted out in specially designed flying suits donated by the Australian Wool Board. During

their flying hours they’ll be wearing matching deep-green wool gabardine trouser suits and green and white paisley shirts. For the race banquet at the conclusion of the race, each has selected her own woollen banquet gown.

“Flying is a big thing in my life,” said Mrs de Pierres. It all started 10 years ago when I went for a ride with a friend in a tiny Moth Minor. After that, I just had to learn to fly – it just got to me.”

Since that time, she has earned her private pilot’s licence, clocked up 800 hours in the air and successfully ran her own flying school for five years. “We would still be running it now if it hadn’t been for the rural recession,” she said.

Now she owns a Cessna 172 and flying is purely for pleasure. It means that Perth is a mere 50 minutes away from the farm. It also means flying just for fun, for the occasional sheep muster in times of flood and for the occasional mercy dash with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

What does this remarkable woman think of their chances in the big race? It was a somewhat evasive answer: “We’ll need lots of luck, lots of know-how and a good aircraft.”

Daily News 16 July 1973

WA POWDER PUFF GIRLS COULD WIN

Two WA women pilots have a good chance of winning the US Powder Puff Derby in competition with women pilots from all over the world.

The 2600 mile race is from California to New York.

Mrs Rosemary de Pierres, of Wyalkatchem, and Miss Robin Miller, of Brentwood – the only Australian entrants – have already won two prizes in what is regarded as one of the world's most difficult and longest air races.

Final result of the Derby will be known on Wednesday.

Competing against 104 entrants the WA pair won the first leg of the race from Carlsbad, California to

Albuquerque, New Mexico and also won a performance prize on the leg to Topeka, Kansas.

Mrs de Pierres and Miss Miller, flying a Beech Bonanza, were sixth across the line at Elmira, New York, and under the handicapping system are given a good chance of taking the race outright.

The best performance previously by Australian women pilots was to finish in 82nd place. The two West Australians had not flown any leg of the race before the event started on Friday and their performance of being sixth across the line is being regarded as an outstanding feat.



Rosemary de Pierres was the pilot for the Powder Puff Derby



Robin Miller was the navigator for the Powder Puff Derby



A memorial to Robin Miller Dicks, "the Sugar-Bird Lady" was unveiled in 1978 and stands outside the Royal Flying Doctor Service Headquarters at Jandakot Airport, Perth, Western Australia. Following storm damage in 2013, it was renovated by the Aviation Heritage Museum in Bullcreek. This prototype of the Mooney Super 21 aircraft that she flew was donated by Mooney Aircraft—her original aircraft still operates in Queensland. The registration letters, REM, are the Sugar-Bird Lady's initials, Robin Elizabeth Miller.

The Sugar Bird Lady

Robin Elizabeth Miller is well remembered in WA as the 'Sugar Bird Lady'.

Her father was Australian pioneer pilot Horrie Miller, co-founder of MacRobertson Miller Airlines, and her mother was Mary Durack, author of *'Kings in Green Castles'* that tells the story of the Durack family that pioneered much of the cattle country in north western WA.

In 1967 Robin obtained permission from the Department of Health to carry out a

poliomyelitis immunisation program in the north west of the state.

She borrowed money to buy a Cessna 182 and flew herself to remote communities, flying 69,200 km and administering over 37,000 doses of the Sabin oral vaccine.

The Aboriginal children dubbed her the 'Sugar Bird Lady' as she would land her plane and feed them the vaccine on a lump of sugar.

She later replaced her Cessna with a Mooney Mark 21.

In 1970 she received the Nancy Bird (Walton) award as Australia's woman pilot of the year.

She regularly flew aircraft for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and was always on call and flew in all types of weather, responding to a range of emergencies and coping with difficult or frightened patients. Her book, *Flying Nurse*, published in 1971, provided a lively account of her career.

In 1973 Robin married Dr Harold Dicks, the Director of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

In May 1974, she had a melanoma removed from her thigh, and sadly, Robin died from cancer in December 1975 at the age of 35.

A representation of her Mooney aircraft was unveiled at Jandakot Airport opposite the Royal Flying Doctor Service on 20 May 1978.

Harold Dicks compiled her biography *Sugar Bird Lady* from Robin's manuscript and diaries, and this was published in 1979.

Nancy Bird Walton (honorary life member of Zonta Sydney 1 Club) suggested that the Perth Club raise \$200 for the cost of a tree and marble slab to be placed in her memory in the Forest of Friendship at Atchison, Kansas, the birthplace of Amelia Earhart.

The money was raised, and in 1981, Robin Miller was inducted posthumously into the International Forest of Friendship. This arboretum features aviation's history makers,



The plinth under the Sugar Bird Memorial at Jandakot Airport

and her name now sits alongside those of Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, the Wright brothers and other aviation pioneers and astronauts.

In 1976 she was also posthumously awarded the Paul Tissandier Diploma by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale and the Brabazon Cup by the Women Pilots' Association of Great Britain.

Horrie and Robin Miller are also commemorated at Perth International Airport with the main thoroughfare known as 'Horrie Miller Drive' and a new side road named 'Sugar Bird Lady Drive'.

Robin is buried in Broome cemetery.



Lennie McCall welcomes Zonta members to a club meeting on board the STS Leeuwin, Fremantle, 1988

5. The Second Decade - the 1980s

Australia in the 1980s	
1984	Advance Australia Fair replaced God Save the Queen as the national Anthem.
1985	Australia Act 1986 (Cth) removed the right to appeal to the UK Privy Council.
1986	Halley's comet visible for first time since 1910.
1987	New York Stock Exchange crash, Australia in recession, unemployment rose.
Technology	Video Cassette Recorders cause decline in cinema attendance.
Fashion	Shoulder pads, power suits, dungarees and leg warmers.
Sport	Australia II wins the America's Cup for yachting in 1983.
Cost of groceries	Milk \$0.68/L, sugar \$0.65/kg, onions \$1.01/kg
Value of money	\$100 spent in 1982 would require \$388 in 2022

Service Projects in the 1980s

As in the previous decade, support during the 1980s was given to Zonta International's projects, ongoing Club projects as well as single donations to deserving local charities.

One of the ongoing projects was Dr Judy Henderson's medical work in Nepal which the Club supported for the period 1979-84 while she was in Kathmandu. This money went directly to Dr Henderson and was not a Zonta International sponsored scheme.

Another project which the Club supported internationally, independently from Zonta

International, was the Zonta Dairy Village in Chom Bung, Rajburi, Thailand.

This had come about unexpectedly through a fellowship and fundraising function held in 1982. Overseas teachers studying in Perth had entertained Zontians and guests (and cooked an international dinner for them), which raised \$200. It was thought appropriate to send this money to the Club's Friendship Country, Thailand, and the Zonta Club of Bangkok passed it on to a dairy project which they were sponsoring.

The Zonta Dairy Project was a self-help community scheme for needy and homeless

families, settling them on a tract of land obtained for this purpose and supported by the Ursuline Mission Sisters.

A lasting association with the Project was maintained with several members visiting Chom Bung over the years. This project is featured in detail in Chapter 6.

In 1984 the South of Perth Club sponsored a refuge for women called Zonta House, and the Zonta Club of Perth has been closely associated with this undertaking since its commencement. Annual financial donations are made to it and supplies of clothing and other goods, including personal items such as toiletries and 'knickers and nighties'. Although the South of Perth Club has now lapsed, a close liaison is kept through membership of the Zonta House board. The Zonta House Refuge Association is a wonderful organisation and is featured in Chapter 12.

One of the most successful projects undertaken by the Club has been the Holiday Relief Scheme. Initiated in 1979, funds from Zonta Art Shows and other activities were invested annually with the idea of using the interest to pay for holidays for needy families. The first families were sent on a holiday in 1983. The Albany East Rotary Club was most helpful in allowing the use of their holiday accommodation 'Friendship House', and the Albany Branch of the Country Women's Association allowed the Club to use their accommodation. While interest rates were high in the 1980s, a good income was achieved, and many families benefited from the Scheme. (See further details in Chapter 8)

The local Sail Training Association proposed an imaginative venture in 1985 to build a sailing ship, the STS Leeuwin, to operate adventure sail training programs for young people between 16 and 25. The Club gave an early donation, and several members were present in 1986 when the ship was officially launched.

The principal objective of the STS Leeuwin project was to help young people mature and develop good character, community spirit, initiative, and self-discipline. As an associate member, the Zonta Club of Perth was entitled to nominate one trainee per year, and in 1987 Sheila Anderson, an engineer based in Narrogin, was the successful applicant. She sailed from Fremantle to Carnarvon, a trip of ten days, and spoke with enthusiasm and appreciation of the project. In 1988 the November Club dinner meeting was held onboard the STS Leeuwin berthed in Fremantle Harbour. Members viewed the ship and had an update on its activities.

Sponsorship of a child was continued through Save the Children. Support for our first child, Vijaya, ceased in 1984 and sponsorship was transferred to Tenzing Tsamchee, an eight-year-old Tibetan girl living in India under the Tibetan Homes Foundation scheme in Mussoorie. In 1987 a second child was taken on by the Club. She was Mahmoud Abboud, a Lebanese.

An emergency relief fund was established in case of some sudden need, and this has continued in most years. One-off donations were made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Western Australia and the State Education Assessment Centre to assist children with



Dairy workers at the Zonta Dairy Village in Thailand

impaired hearing. Members gave time and expertise to assist the newly established Museum of Childhood.

Donations were also made to Talking Books for the Blind, the Richmond Fellowship, the Hospice Foundation, Friends of Batty Library, Communicare, Wearne House, Princess Margaret Hospital and the Lady Gowrie Child Centre.

Service in-kind was also provided by knitting squares for a blanket to donate to an annual blanket appeal and support for the Disabled Persons Exhibition at the Claremont Show Grounds.

1982 was the Year of the Tree, and Rosemary de Pierres organised a tree planting of over



1985 Zonta Club President Jean Oldham enjoys a touch of the classics with Wearne House residents Ethel Gill and Doris Gaston thanks to a new stereo system donated by the club. Photo: Post 25/6/85.

1,000 gum tree seedlings at Wyalkatchem. The day was a general international gathering as Zontians were joined by students from Malaysia, Thailand, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Indonesia and the Philippines, who all lent a hand.

In 1988 an awareness seminar was held for women in isolation. The one day program was designed for women who wished to broaden their horizons, including some who had found refuge at Zonta House. The range of topics included joining the workforce, managing the food budget and you and the law.

In 1988 and 1989, efforts were directed to assisting the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal by holding a successful cocktail party.



Margaret Woodall, left, and Maggie Wilde West right, listen to Captain Merv Lincoln of the Salvation Army at the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal Lunch on 21 October 1988. Photo: West Australian 24/10/88.



Kim Stanley packs clothes for people in an albino village in Africa. Photo: Post 13/12/88



Peggy Woodcock chaired the Status of Women and Public Affairs Committee for most of the 1980's.

This was financially rewarding and had good press coverage, which led to other Zonta Clubs indicating that they wished to join in the event in the future.

In 1988 an unusual project was to collect and send protective clothing and creams to Kariba in Zimbabwe, where 70 Albinos were being cared for by a hospital directed by a friend of one of the Club members. Thanks to Skid Rose for clothing, Hamilton Laboratories for creams and Qantas for transport, a large consignment was sent.

Support for Zonta International projects has continued, including water wells for Sri Lanka and the Third World Immunization appeal.

Issues and Advocacy in the 1980s

With Peggy Woodcock chairing the energetic Status of Women and Public Affairs Committee for most of the 1980s, a 'vigilant eye' was kept on public affairs, and members were asked *to bring forward matters about which, after proper research, and agreement of the Club, the gentle but firm voice of Zonta should be heard.*

Many and varied issues were investigated and pursued: some were ongoing, and some were new, some more successful than others. In 1980, thanks to the Club's lobbying, the issue of married women requiring their husband's consent to obtain a loan achieved some success with the Civil Service Association Credit Union passing a motion *that the Board of Management cease to*

require a guarantee from the husband of a married woman of 21 years and over in support of an application for a loan.

Another success was urging for the appointment of a suitable Women's Adviser to the State Government on matters particularly concerning women. This was achieved with the appointment in 1983 of the Women's Advisory Council. The Club was represented at the Council's inauguration and some of the open forums which followed.

The passage through Parliament of the Sex Discrimination Bill in that year was a cause for satisfaction. Since its inception, the Club had also supported the Women's Information and Referral Exchange (WIRE).

A recommendation was put forward that various Boards and Commissions which make decisions affecting women should include women as members. In 1986 a letter was received from the Premier stating that 800 women were listed on the register for boards and committees, which became operational in 1985. Since that time, a total of 55 people from the register had replaced retiring members, and 35 of these were filled by women. The Club supplied lists of potential women members.

In 1983 the Club submitted to Channel 7 and the manufacturer Kimberly-Clark Australia about what may be considered unsuitable time slots on television for advertising certain feminine hygiene items. Courteous replies were received from each company, and Channel 7 recommended that an approach

should be made to the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal, which was done.

Computer pricing was taken up with the Australian Retailers' Association, particularly in connection with supermarkets, and the matter of women and taxation was also investigated.

An anomaly in instructions to social workers concerning fleeing wives and children was brought to the relevant Minister's notice, and a proper procedure was re-iterated. Privacy and statutory powers of intrusion were investigated and superannuation for permanent part-time Government employees.

Other matters for consideration included the age of consent, employment of married women, whether family allowances should be means-tested and problems in Family Law Courts.

The Committee declared its amusement and disappointment at the neutering of nouns and pronouns in the English language. They believed that the 'over-hammering' of the so-called 'women's cause' could only do harm. It is interesting to note that Zonta International has continued to use the term 'chairman'.

All Club members were requested to be involved individually in some way in assisting or encouraging another woman in the workplace or elsewhere.

The Nigerian Conference in 1985 closing the Decade of Women was noted with interest, particularly the resolution that governments would be asked to assess the economic value



Member Dr Linda Dann (left) with Ellen Cox. Linda was nominated by the club to attend the National Safety Council Conference in Chicago in 1986.



1983 ZI Amelia Earhart Fellow - astrophysicist, Jacqueline Davidson (left) worked from an infrared observatory on top of a mountain in Hawaii. Carole Theobald presented her with a gift when she came to speak to the club in 2008.

of the 'unremunerated contribution of women' who bear children, keep house and in many cases raise crops.

In 1986 a 'Careers Talks' project was initiated. The Club offered its services to upper school students for members to speak about their career paths and to provide role models for the somewhat less common professions entered by women.

Speakers at Club meetings in the 1980s gave talks on topics pertinent to members.

They included Liza Newby (Director of Women's Interests Division of the Premier's Department), Dr Myrna Tonkinson (first Officer for Equal Opportunity at the University of WA), Senator Susan Knowles (speaking on the Bill of Rights) and Dr Linda Dann (who as the Club's

nominee won sponsorship to the 1986 National Safety Council Conference in Chicago).

Awards Presented in the 1980s

Money continued to be contributed to the Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Awards.

In 1983 there was great excitement when a Fellowship was awarded to a graduate of the University of Western Australia. Jacqueline Davidson had graduated with a First Class Honours degree in 1979, after which she had been awarded a Hackett Scholarship for PhD studies in astrophysics at the University of Chicago. The Amelia Earhart Award enabled her to continue her studies, after which she moved on to work with NASA.



L-R: Sue Jarvis, Jean Oldham, Rae Edwards (with granddaughter) and Jean Goldsmith at Amelia Earhart Birthday Party at Jandakot Airport 1986



Kate Walker (standing at back left) was awarded the Guides Leadership Award in 1987

Jacqueline visited the Zonta Club of Perth in 1986 and 2008, was a guest speaker at the District 23 Conference hosted in Perth in 2013. She lectured in Electrodynamics and Relativity at the University of Western Australia and is now an Adjunct Professor.

Amelia Earhart Day is celebrated annually on 11 January. This commemorates the date on which she flew solo across the Pacific Ocean. In Perth, joint functions of all the Zonta Clubs have been held, often at the Royal Aero Club at Jandakot or, more recently, at the home of Ruth Thomas from the Zonta Club of Swan Hills.

Posters advertising the Amelia Earhart Award are distributed to high schools with aeronautical science courses, universities and flying clubs.

A film about her last flight in 1937, 'The Search for Amelia Earhart' is held in the State Library of Western Australia, and the club showed this as a fundraiser for the Award in 1984.

In 1986 the sum of \$256 was donated by the Club to assist Bonnie Henderson, who was the only woman selected for the team of five Australians to compete in the World Aerobatics Championships in the UK. The Zonta emblem was displayed on her Red Spitz aircraft to recognize sponsorship by 44 Zonta clubs in Australia, who donated \$13,000 towards her costs.

An award that commenced in 1984 was with the Girl Guides Association of Western Australia. Contact was made through Joy Cooke, a charter member of the Club, who was at that time the State Commissioner of the Girl



1988 Founders' Day Dinner with Presidents from the four clubs in WA L-R: Lennie McCall (Perth), Pauline Vukelic (Bunbury), Ruth Walker (Zonta International President), Kay Poustie (Perth Northern Suburbs) and Shirley Deutscher (South of Perth)

Guides. The award of a Leadership Banner and a cheque for \$25 was initiated to be given to a guide selected for her leadership qualities. This became an annual event and only ceased in 2011. In 1984 it received good media coverage when the Club was made an honorary member of the State Council of the Girl Guides Association.

In 1984 planning commenced for a proposed Founders' Day Award. On 8 November each year, the Zonta movement celebrates the foundation of Zonta in 1919. It was proposed that the Western Australian Clubs join together to offer an award to an outstanding woman who is not a Zontian and has not been honoured in any other way.

The first presentation of the Founders' Day Award was made in 1985 at the Founders' Day Dinner organised by the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs. The recipient was Deaconess Joyce Poulsen, Chaplain of St Mary's Anglican Girls' School, Karrinyup.

She was presented with a silver chain and pendant made by a local jewellery designer from the Western Australian Craft Council.

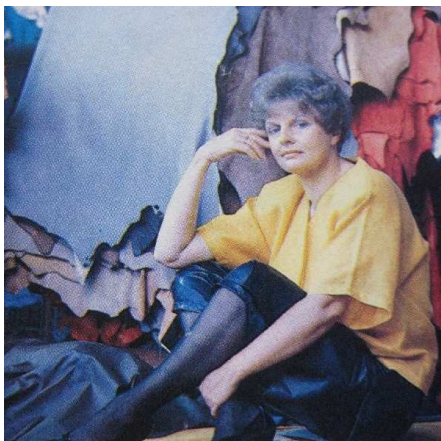
The 1986 awardee was Mrs Sylvia Byers, Principal of the Chidley Education Centre. An unusual piece of silver jewellery designed by Dorothy Erickson was presented to her at the Founders' Day dinner at Lombardo's Restaurant in Fremantle.



Jean Oldham plans for an Art Show in her home



L-R: Margaret Medcalf and Freda Jacob enjoying an Art Show at Jean Oldham's house



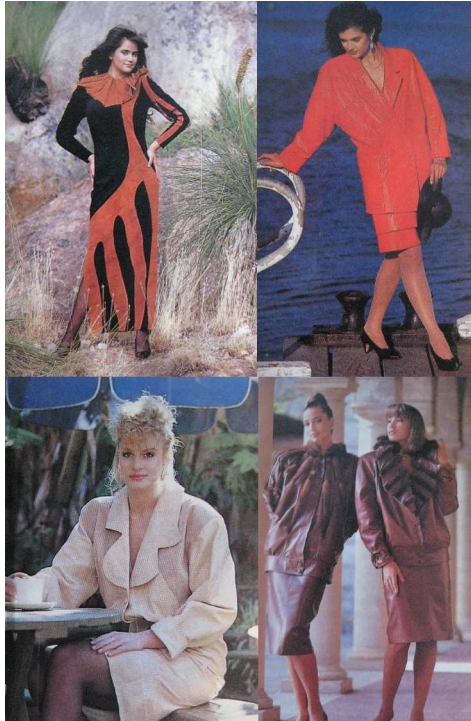
Anne Dreske-Somoff's leather fashions were very popular in the 1980s. Photo: Airways Sep/Oct 88

In 1988 when the Perth Club hosted the dinner at the Langley Plaza Hotel, the Zonta International President Ruth Walker happened to be in Perth for 24 hours on her way from Singapore to the Eastern States, and she was able to present the Founders' Day Award to Mrs Patricia O'Sullivan, President of the Meerilinga Council. A silver brooch designed by Rita Winkler was given with the Award. The Club arranged a civic reception at Council House for Ruth Walker while she was here. This annual Award continued until 2012; after which it became a biennial Award. See Appendix 1 for a list of recipients.

In 1988 the Club agreed to establish the Zonta Club of Perth Inc Education Trust to assist mature women to further their education. This was in response to one of the Status of Women committee requirements, which was *to organise Club action in support of education programs in relation to women*. Money was set aside to present the award in 1990 to be taken up in the 1991 academic year. This Award continues today.

Fundraising Activities in the 1980s

In the 1980s, the Club was fortunate to have two members who contributed their expertise to produce highly successful fundraising activities. These were Jean Oldham, who organised the Art Adventures held at her home for several years and Ann Dreske-Somoff's fashion parades. Both projects commenced in 1980 and were held several times throughout the decade.



Ann Dreske-Somoff's fashions Photos: Eyeline Perth Lifestyle Vol 2 No 4 1988



The New York Salutes Fashion show makes the social pages in the West Australian on 14/3/88

Jean Oldham, supported by Freda Jacob, arranged with well-known local artists and craftsmen to exhibit items for sale on a commission basis. The exhibition took over the whole of Jean and John Oldham's house, which gave an added graciousness and interest to the atmosphere. On the first occasion, it was held in the late afternoon, but it became more extensive and well known over the years. It was a wonderful source of income for the Club and a great fellowship occasion as all members were needed to lend a hand. (See Chapter 8 for more information).

By 1989 the event had outgrown Jean's home, and in that year, it was held at the Bay Gallery

of Fine Art in Goldsworthy Road, Claremont. There was a gala opening for invited guests, and Dr Fiona Stanley opened the exhibition. A raffle and art auction added to the evening's activities. The exhibition was open to the public over the weekend, which helped raise public awareness of Zonta. Portrait painter Elaine Upton made portrait sketches of visitors, and the highlight was the sale of Wim Boissevain's painting of 'Poppies' for \$10,000.

Ann Dreske-Somoff was known internationally as a talented designer who worked with leather and skins as well as more orthodox materials. Her garments were unusual, and her fashion parades were highly professional. The first Zonta fashion parade was held at a dinner



President Fay Woods presents the Zonta Cup at Toodyay Race Day



Tricia Summerfield and Susan Jarvis at Area Workshop in 1989



1988 Founders Day Dinner L-R: Yvonne Roberts, Margaret Medcalf and Helen Watson-Williams

dance, the proceeds of which were to go to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Lady Trowbridge, the wife of the Governor, attended, and a stunning collection of wool and leather fashions for autumn and winter was shown.

The following year the parade was in co-operation with Guide Dogs for the Blind Women's Auxiliary and took place at Pier 21, North Fremantle.

In 1986 a parade was held at her showrooms, and in 1987, 400 guests attended a Zonta Dreske-Somoff gala show at the Perth Concert Hall called *New York Salutes*. The collection had just returned from being shown in New York, and the evening was an outstanding success.

In the 1987-88 year, both an Art Adventure and a fashion parade were held, bringing the Club's total fundraising profit to over \$16,000, a record amount.

Many other fundraising activities took place during the 1980s. Several theatre nights were held, including Dr Lesley Vincent promoting a group called *Theatre of Difference*. This aimed to promote participation by people who were disabled. The Club first met them at a performance at Dr Vincent's home and later saw them perform another play. Money raised was to assist the Theatre in their forthcoming visit to Singapore, and the Zonta Club of Singapore was asked to take an interest in this event.

In 1987 a most enjoyable and successful fundraising evening of Polish classical and folk music was held at the Dalkeith Hall. The concert was arranged with the Coordinating Council of Polish Organisations to help raise funds for the Polish Association to purchase a piano for their kindergarten. Over \$1,300 was raised and donated for the purpose.

At the end of the decade, an ambitious Zonta Race Day was held at Toodyay on 5 August 1989. A good crowd came, and special buses took punters from Perth to the Toodyay racecourse. The weather was fine, and it was a great fun day. Through sponsorships by members and business contacts, race and raffle tickets, a profit of over \$11,000 was achieved.

People and Fellowship in the 1980s

Membership rose steeply during the 1980s. From 36 members in 1980, the Club grew to 56 in 1989. In the latter year, there was a 75 per cent attendance at meetings. Because the Club had grown so big, there was discussion about breaking it into a second Club, but this was not pursued. In 1988, 13 members joined, and 9 resigned, which indicates that the Membership Committee was very active in recruiting, but there was a high fall out.

During this time, Margaret Johnson (Giles) was Chairman of the Membership Committee, and she was a mentor to the Committee for many years until she passed away in 2012.

In 1984 the Zonta International Convention was held in Australia, in Sydney. Eight members of the Zonta Club of Perth attended. District XVI was formed, and Susan Jarvis was appointed the Director of the new Area 6, with 'Tricia Summerfield following her in the role in 1988.

At the 1984 International Convention, Catherine Martin's proposal for an international project was submitted to the International Committee. It concerned 'Oral Rehydration Therapy in Rural Villages in Indonesia', but it was not accepted.

An Intercity Committee was formally established in 1984 to bring together representatives of all the Western Australian Clubs. They met bimonthly at Sascha's Coffee Shop at the Alexander Library Building to exchange ideas relevant to all Clubs and hold joint functions. The Area Director chaired this Committee.

Information about Zonta Area activities was disseminated in two newsletters which commenced in November 1984. They were WAZ – the West Australian Zontian issued by the Intercity Committee and Area 6 Newsletter published by Susan Jarvis.

Under the auspices of the Intercity Committee, the Founders' Day Dinner continued to be held each year on a date near to 8 November, with the organisation of the function moving from club to club.

Publicity for Zonta received a boost when Catherine Martin, an experienced journalist, joined the Zonta Club of Perth. She wrote

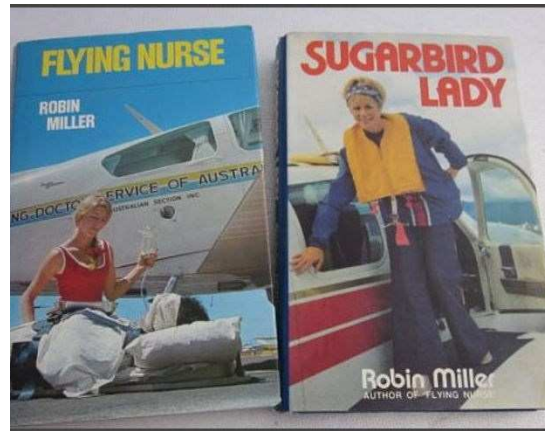


Marg Giles (left) was a stalwart of the membership committee for over forty years. Here with Judy Tennant at Founders' Day Dinner 2008.

several articles about Club events and was able to get good media coverage.

Club members on their travels visited many other Zonta Clubs. These included Trish Young to Hobart, Susan Fletcher to Oxford, Lennie McCall to Hong Kong and Barbara Hale to Bangkok, where she presented a cheque from the Perth Club for \$202 for mobile health units. Helen Muir visited Zonta International in Chicago, where she gave two autographed copies of Robin Miller Dicks' book 'Flying Nurse' and there were also visits to Christchurch and Singapore.

In 1980 Dr Helen Watson-Williams invited the Club to have its Christmas party at her home, and this continued as a tradition for several years. Members prepared the meal for what was always a fun night with Helen at the piano, accompanying members and friends singing carols. In 1986 because of the size to which the party had grown, it was held at Jean and John Oldham's home, where many happy social events followed.



Top: Flying Nurse and Sugarbird Lady were two books Robin Miller wrote about her life as a flying nurse. Left: Perth's bi-monthly newsletter, Perth NewZ was launched in 1987.

The quality of membership of the Club is evidenced by the high number of personal and professional honours awarded to members over the decade. These included:

1980 - Freda Jacob received the Sylvia Docker Award by the Occupational Therapists' Association and Phyllis McCutcheon the Book Person of the Year awarded by the Booksellers' Association;

1981 - Freda Jacob became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM);

1984 - Helen Watson-Williams became the WA Citizen of the Year for Arts, Maggie Wilde-West received the Golden Key Award for the best talent of the year, and Beryl Grant became Moderator-Elect of the Uniting Church in WA; and in

1985 - Margaret Medcalf received a Fellowship of the Library Association of Australia, Moira Rayner received a Churchill Fellowship, and Beryl Grant and Trish Edwards received Rotary Awards.



L-R: Sue Jarvis and District XVI Governor Leneen Forde, 1984



In 1988, Moira Raynor became the first female chairman of the WA Law Reform Commission. Photo: West Australian 12/9/88



Left: Miss J Edgar, District XVI Governor with Mrs D Bauer, President of the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs. Times, 24/11/81

Organisational Activities in the 1980s

The 1980s was a decade of expansion for Zonta Clubs in Western Australia, spearheaded by the Club's Organisation and Extension Committee.

Yvonne Roberts chaired this Committee from 1980-87 and Patricia Turner from 1987-89. They were ably supported by Committee members Barbara Hale, Trish Young (Edwards), Sue Jarvis and from 1988 Freda Jacob. It achieved the chartering of three more clubs, making five by the end of the 1980s.

The first new club of the '80s was to be formed in the Perth Northern Suburbs, and on 3 June 1981, an organisation meeting was held at the Carine Technical College where a motion was passed to form the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs. Twenty-two potential members signed the Charter application, and office bearers were elected.

The Club was officially chartered by District XVI Governor Jean Edgar, on 23 October 1981 when approximately 60 Zontians and friends attended a dinner at Lake Karrinyup Country Club.

The Zonta Club of Perth budget for 1983 included a sum of money to form a new club in the Darling Range area, and an organisational meeting was held in Kalamunda in December of that year.



Above: Zonta women's club recently opened a branch in Karrinyup. Sue Jarvis (left) of Peppermint Grove, Yvonne Roberts, of Scarborough, president Dorothy Bauer of Hamersley and secretary Claire Atkinson also of Hamersley, were at the club's first meeting which was held at the Karrinyup Country Club. The West Australian 28/10/81.

The Charter Dinner of the Zonta Club of Darling Ranges was held on 19 January 1984 with a membership of 32. The District XVI Governor, Leneen Forde, officiated at this presentation. (Sadly, this club lapsed in 1997).

In 1984 Zonta International released a new organisation Manual that urged Zonta clubs throughout the world to sponsor and/or organise and/or mentor a new club. The Club's Organisation and Extension Committee changed its name to the SOM Committee (Sponsoring, Organisation and Mentoring).

These activities required the involvement of many Zontians so that new clubs were nurtured and strengthened under the guidance of an experienced club.

Mentoring became a significant factor for the Zonta Club of Perth in developing new clubs and retaining members in both new clubs and their own Club.

In 1985 Albany was researched as a possible location for a new club, but this was not considered practical. Thoughts then turned to Bunbury. Several meetings were held with different groups of women in that area, including a meeting in Busselton. The latter location was dropped, however, because of demographic boundaries.

Towards the end of 1987, there emerged a strong group of women in Bunbury who could be classified and who wished to become Zontians. The organisation meeting was held in December, and the Charter Dinner was held on 28 May 1988 at the Lord Forrest Hotel. At that function, the District Governor, Val Sarah, chartered the Zonta Club of Bunbury with a membership of 28 women. Val Sarah later went on to be the President of Zonta International.

On the administration front, the Club launched a bi-monthly newsletter called Perth NewZ in

1987, and in 1988 revised its Constitution with a view to the formal incorporation of the Club and this was achieved in 1990.

At the Zonta International Convention in Helsinki in 1988, the Club was presented with a Past International President's Award for outstanding club accomplishment by achieving 31 of 35 Zonta International goals for 1986-88.

In 1988 the matter arose of whether men should be allowed to become members of Zonta clubs. With sex discrimination being discussed throughout the world, this became a vexed topic for discussion. The Secretary of District XVI asked for an opinion on the subject from the Club's Parliamentarian, Moira Rayner. She replied that *you cannot exclude men from Zonta under the Commonwealth anti-discrimination legislation*. Some American clubs have admitted men, but as yet, no firm applications have arisen for this Club to deal with.

Members of the Zonta Club of Perth have always been aware that they are part of a much larger organisation and have contributed to District and International activities. Several Club members have attended international and national meetings and held official positions in the District.

At the District 16 Conference in Auckland in 1989, it was moved that the District be split into

three separate districts from June 1990, with the Perth Club to become part of the new District 23.

The Story behind the Zonta Thanks

'Tricia Summerfield was our Area Director between 1988-1990 and recalled the story behind the Zonta Thanks created during this last biennium of the decade.

We held a workshop in South Australia, and in preparation for the dinner following, the District Governor, Sue Laidlaw from Christchurch, asked me to say the Zonta Blessing, which was:

We thank thee Father for this food
And for thy gracious loving care.
Help us to honour Zonta's code,
To be in all things, fair and square;
And, grant our prayer for lasting peace,
For every nation, everywhere.

I wasn't keen on this rhyming verse and said so. Sue's philosophy was: don't criticise unless you have a better alternative.

So, while we were dressing for dinner at one of the member's homes, I created the following:

Thank whatever God you may believe in, for the meal we share today in Zonta fellowship; but remember too those who have had no food today – not with guilt that we have so much, but with hope that they too may come to share the same.

When Bobbie Porter was District Governor she consulted me about making some extensions and refinements to the 'grace' which were made.

In 2017, the word 'advocacy' was included. Today, the Zonta Thanks has been adopted throughout Australia.



'Tricia Summerfield, author of the Zonta Thanks at the Club Christmas party in 2001



Zonta Thanks

Fellow Zontians (and guests)

Wherever your country of birth,

Whatever your faith or creed,

Give thanks for the meal

we share today in Zonta fellowship.

But remember too, those

who have had no food today –

Not with guilt that we have so much,

But with hope, through

Zonta service and advocacy,

They too may come to share

the same in peace and harmony.

 **ZONTA Dairy Farm** 
Training Center & Breeding Station



6. 1980s Feature Project: Zonta Dairy Farm in Thailand

You never know where a Zonta event will take you. In 1982, the Club held a fellowship and fundraising dinner, where around thirty overseas teachers studying at the Western Australian Institute of Technology entertained guests and cooked an international dinner.

The \$200 raised from the event was sent to Mrs Chinda Charunchareonvej, the President of our Friendship Club of Bangkok I in Thailand and forwarded to the Zonta Dairy Project in Rajburi, a province of Thailand. Thus began the Perth Club's special relationship with Thailand. The club newsletters of January/February 1988 and May/June 1988 summarised the project as shown below.

In 1983 Sr Francis decided Jum needed to see overseas dairy industries and Zontians in Perth and Hamilton, New Zealand, were asked to organise a study tour.

Jum spent several months in New Zealand, hosted by the Waikato-Hamilton Club. She did training in clean milk production, milk laboratory procedures, animal husbandry, pasture management and artificial insemination.

She then came to Perth where she was hosted by members of the Zonta Club of Perth. Gladys Lourvanij and Ellen Cox organised a program to give practical experience on several Western Australian dairy farms and also undertake various courses related to the dairy industry.

Dairy Village a great success

Visitors to Chombung, Thailand, could be forgiven for thinking the word "Zonta" means milk, butter and cheese. In fact, the story of Zonta's involvement with 65 Thai families and a growing dairy village some 200 km from Bangkok, is an outstanding example of international co-operation and sponsorship in the development of a human resource project.

The Zonta Dairy Village – as the project is known – brings together Zontians from Thailand, New Zealand and Australia.

The village began in 1979 under the directorship of Sister Francis Xavier Bell, an American Ursuline nun and teacher whose vision was to improve the lifestyle of Thai families by giving them the opportunity to become farmers and overcome poverty and lack of employment.

The Zonta Clubs of Bangkok organised financial support for the project and, with 2,000 acres of land allocated by the Thai Government, the Zonta Dairy Village was "born" in 1979. As the project gathered momentum:

- young graduate teacher, Miss Supasiri (Jum) Intarasooksri, was employed as project manager;
- Thai families were progressively allocated individual farms within the village;
- a community centre was built;
- the first cows, financed by the Zonta Clubs of Bangkok, arrived; and
- as the new farmers were taught skills for farming and animal husbandry, they were financed to purchase cows for their own farms.



Jum with Sue Jarvis at a club meeting in 1983



Sr Francis' house at the Dairy Village



Testing the milk at the Dairy Village

For the Zonta Club of Perth this was a rewarding visit. Jum won tremendous admiration for her eagerness to learn and interest in everything around her.

On her return to Thailand, Jum took with her old milk cans and other dairy equipment donated by WA firms. She also packed electric fencing which was significant because it would enable the cows at the Dairy Village to free graze instead of being tethered.

From 1983-1986 there was frequent communication between those associated with the Zonta Dairy Village and Zonta members in Perth and New Zealand. Various items of equipment were purchased and the club assisted as requested.

Through the Zonta District XVI network, the Dairy Village was able to access specialised dairy equipment and expertise from all of Australia and New Zealand. During this period the Dairy Village established a dairy processing centre including a laboratory for testing, pasteurising and packaging the milk.

The ongoing development of the Dairy Village has required substantial capital and many government and international agencies have contributed to specific costs. The Zonta Clubs of Bangkok have continued to support the project with short-term interest-free loans and financial guidance as well as substantial donations.

In 1986, manufacture of milk products was being considered because of excess milk production. The Zonta network again went into action and Jum returned to New Zealand and Western Australia for a further study tour.

While in New Zealand she learned to make butter and Gouda cheese. In Western Australia, she stayed with Perth Zontian Anne Hector and learned the art of making cream cheese at Anne's Mundella Cheese Factory in Mundijong.

The ongoing commitment of both the Perth and Waikato-Hamilton Clubs involved forwarding more equipment to the Dairy Village.



Thai farmers benefit from local ties. The recent touring party of Sister Francis Bell (centre left) and Jum Surpasiri inspected the Peters cheese factory in Brunswick Junction. Pictured with them are Bill and Jean Jarvis, Zonta's WA vice-president, Ellen Cox, Marie Jackson and Harvey Shire President John Sabourne. Picture: The Harvey Reporter 5/10/88



The Zonta Dairy Village's product packaging



In 1988, Jum sent the village's Quality Control Officer, Pixie Wachirapron Kaewkhumphun to Perth to also learn the art of cream cheese spending several months at Anne Hector's cheese factory.

Pixie worked as a lawyer in Bangkok for ten years before following her long term dream. 'I always dreamed of having a cow as a little girl,' she explained. 'When I met up with Jum, I knew that I wanted to be involved in this project.'

Zontians from the Perth Club have visited the Dairy Village on many occasions including Margaret Medcalf in 1983 and Ellen Cox and Rae Edwards in 1987.

In 2012, retired member Rae Edwards provided

an update to members after her latest visit to the village a couple of months previously. Rae has watched the village progress into a thriving farm that concentrated on giving women a chance to earn a living.

It has become a training centre not only for the resident farmers but also for small scale dairy production. Training officers from the Philippines have been teaching the farmers to test milk quality so that it is hygienic and passes the Good Manufacturing Practices standard.

It was not easy in the early days of the village. Some excerpts from Margaret Medcalf's diary from her visit in November 1983 paint the picture quite well.

Excerpts from Margaret Medcalf's diary

Sr Francis conceived the idea of using some of the virgin land in the mountains and requested an area from the Government. The land in question was not really wanted by any one as it was poor quality and close to the places where the community was reputedly carrying out training camps for the terrorists. The area is not far from the Burma border and the River Kwai.

During the war it was deserted by the hill people who lived there and after the war became an Army responsibility.

The story goes that Army personnel cut down all the timber, sold it for their own gain and denuded the area. The forest has regrown a small amount and the people go up there from the villages and cut the trees for sale to the local pottery factory. The area has tigers, snakes, scorpions and malarial mosquitoes.

There is a village school and a day care centre and a lot of the people who live in the village

augment their incomes by working for the community, doing construction work or truck driving, looking after the cows etc.

Sister Francis explained to us that cows to the Thais are a sort of insurance policy i.e. if they suddenly need some cash for a wedding, funeral, sickness etc. they can quickly sell a cow. But traditionally, they are not used for their milk, they are for beef and tough it might well be. To breed some milking cows they used artificial insemination to cross Friesians with the local Brahman type of breed.

The Zonta ladies got into the act and promoted the cow project in a big way by sponsoring the import of cows from New Zealand.

The cow project is strictly a Zonta project. Sister Francis worries as she had to borrow heavily from the bank to finance it, but I think she has no worries, as the project is supported by Mrs Chinda, the immediate past President of the Zonta Club of Bangkok and a Vice President of the Bangkok Bank and many other 'powerful' Zontians.



Jum ready for work



Jum, Margaret Medcalf and Sr Francis in the milking shed



Ellen Cox (fourth from left) visits the Zonta Dairy Village in June 1987

The most successful project with immediate benefits was the production of methane or biogas from cow manure. This was apparently sponsored by the Australian Embassy. It has been installed at the Dairy and also in a number of village houses. We saw it in action in one of the best farmer's houses, being used for cooking and lighting.

Sister Francis is an excellent person. She is, I guess, in her late 50's, straight-talking, no-frills, good sense of humour, speaks fluent Thai and giggles away with the staff.

The whole development project, but particularly the cows, is an act of faith. No-one without a great strength of idealism would have embarked on it. However, she is also very

sensible and her practicality will make up for the lack of technical knowledge.

She will certainly succeed in developing a farming village community and make the life of the locals more comfortable.



The cows having a good feed!



January 1995: Zonta members ready to start the day at Perth's City Farm.

Photo: Sandra Jackson West Australian, 16/1/95

7. The Third Decade - the 1990s

Australia in the 1990s	
1990	Carmen Lawrence becomes the first female Premier of Western Australia
1992	The first Anglican women were ordained as priests when ten women were ordained at St George's Cathedral in Perth
1992	Unemployment at 11.4% – highest rate since the 1930's Great Depression.
1998	First Sorry Day for forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families
Technology	Introduction of the internet and the mobile phone.
Fashion	Baby doll and petticoat dresses, then boot-cut jeans, baggy, flannel shirts and tight T-shirts. Low-rider pants were trendy.
Sport	In 1993 Sydney awarded the 2000 Olympic Games.
Cost of groceries	Milk \$1.03/L, sugar \$1.02/kg, onions \$1.16/kg
Value of money	\$100 spent in 1992 would require \$208 in 2022

Service projects in the 1990s

Throughout the 1990s, the Zonta Holidays flourished, with over 520 people from 130 families benefitting from a timely break, including two groups of women from the Zonta House Refuge.

The Club maintained a good relationship with the Albany East Rotary Club, who own and operate Friendship House used for many holidays, and Broadway Travel in Nedlands, who help with travel bookings as required.

Zonta Holidays are funded from the interest on monies raised and invested from the Zonta Art

Shows held throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s. (See Chapter 8).

The Zonta House Refuge also went from strength to strength, with Club members hosting several Outreach Days at Grace Vaughan House in Shenton Park.

Women came from Zonta House, Wesley Care, and associated groups to hear about relaxation, education, budgeting, legal issues, gardening, skincare, and financial concerns. There were also sessions providing dietary advice, colour makeovers and even circle dancing.

Members also helped out by providing transport to Outreach Days, making 'warm fuzzy' bags containing toiletries or clothes and donating household goods, linen etc. Throughout this decade, Margaret Giles dedicated her efforts to the Zonta House Refuge and women in crisis. She organised information evenings at Bateman House and took great delight in showing the new Outreach Centre at the Refuge and the completion of the Enid Down Village. (See Chapter 12).

The Club's sponsorship of our Save the Children Fund sponsored children, Tenzing Tsamchoe in Tibet and Issa Abboud in Lebanon, continued, and we received excellent newsy letters from them. Tenzing completed her schooling in 1994 and intended to study law, and Issa's sponsorship was completed in 1995. A new sponsorship commenced for Leyla Sorhun, aged 11, who lived in a small slum house in a village near Istanbul, Turkey.

Nearer to home, the Club members were helping young and old with 'hands on' service

activities. For the young, Rosemary Lawn and Carine Morrison instigated a project where members identified potential job opportunities for people with disabilities with 'Tricia Summerfield hosting a successful work experience fortnight for a high school student with cerebral palsy at the WA Museum.

Members weren't afraid to get their hands dirty, as attested by the City Farm 'working bee' in 1995. Members braved 37°C heat (in October) to dig garden beds, move muck and generally do jobs as required on the day.

The Club provided financial and practical support to this inner-city urban redevelopment program designed to give horticultural skills training to long term unemployed people. The City Farm working bee, in the permaculture garden and nursery, gained a double-page story and photograph in the West Australian newspaper.

At the other end of the age scale, in the Year of the Older Person 1999, a picnic day was held



Left: Margaret Giles and Trin Stewart in 1999 Centre: 1991 Enid Down, charter member of the Zonta Club of South of Perth, was a driving force behind the establishment of the refuge. Right: Janie Lingard at the 1994 City Farm working bee.



Zonta Club of Perth members 1995: Standing L-R: Linda Dann, Janet Gorski, Ann Lindsay, Judy Tennant, Suzanne Robertson, Trin Stewart, Ann Dreske Somoff, Kaye Poustie (District Governor), Barbara-Dene Jones, Jenny Liddelow, Cathy Spittler, Jean Goldsmith, xx, Anne Hector. Sitting: Wendy Alford, Jean Oldham, Yvonne Roberts, Linley Buchanan, Margaret Medcalf, Roslyn Budd, Freda Jacob and Lennie McCall.

for a group of elderly people from the Silver Chain Nursing Home - with Zontians and their families. The day was very successful, with our guests enjoying themselves immensely.

As usual, more requests were received for financial assistance than we could afford to help, but donations were given to our regular recipients, Salvation Army, Girl Guides, and Sail Training.

A special donation of \$200 was given to the Rockhampton Flood Fund, and club members donated personal gifts (via the Girl Guides Association) for the women of Bosnia Herzegovina. The latter were the victims of human rights violations.

Issues and Advocacy in the 1990s

In the early 1990s, unemployment was over 11 per cent and times were hard. Speakers spoke of homelessness and soup runs, the Zonta House refuge, the plight of children and police initiatives through this time.

We learned about forming cooperatives, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, unlawful dismissal laws, native title, protective behaviours, and disability equity.

We were brought up to date on scientific advances in forensic pathology, gynaecology, leprosy, leukemia and cancer research and electronic media systems.



*Nancy Bird Walton was a guest speaker in 1992.
Photo: The Telegraph, UK 1/2/09*

On the aviation front, Nancy Bird Walton, the famous Australian aviatrix and writer, gave us a wonderful evening telling us all about her adventures. Nada Murphy showed ways to overcome the fear of flying, and Vic McAlpine brought us up to date with happenings at the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

We became aware of the endangerment of animals through the work of the Perth Zoo and campaigns to save the black rhino.

Literacy was identified at the 1991 District 23 Conference as an area of need, and the Club donated \$2,700 to the Learning and Attention Disorder Society (LADS), established by Wendy Mander. Our Club nominated Wendy for the 1994 Area 3 Woman of Achievement.



1991 District Conference at Sheraton Perth Hotel: on stage L-R: Pauline Vukelic, Elizabeth Harris, Margaret Medcalf, Lennie McCall and Ellen Cox

Through Jacqui Gilmour, we learned of the plight of orphaned children in Ethiopia, and members subsequently met with her to discuss ways the Club could help. This led to Yvonne Draydon and Helen Margaria liaising with the Royal Perth Hospital Supply Department Manager and arranging for redundant items to be sent to Jacqui. Members also provided donations of children's clothing.

Teresita Deles, the Philippines representative on the UN Committee to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and an advocate in the Pacific region for UNIFEM, spoke to our Club in 1992.

This prepared the ground for our input into a range of women's issues for discussion at the



L-R: Club Directors 1999: Margaret Medcalf, Yvonne Draydon, Jan Turner, Jill Wood and Barbara-Dene Jones

4th UN Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, and members were pleased to receive first-hand feedback on the event from Dr Adrienne Kinnear from ECU.

Members spread the messages of Health, Harmony and Human Rights from Beijing by distributing a poster to over 230 libraries in WA. The poster was designed by Jill Wood, a graphic artist who had transferred to our Club when the South of Perth Zonta Club folded.

Judy Tennant (Gorton) was our watchdog in the higher echelons of the Public Service/ State Government. She presented material and suggestions to the Club for furthering the status of women. Club members met with the WA Minister for Women's Interests, Federal

Senators and the Women's Policy Development Office to provide input into policies affecting women at the State and National levels.

International Women's Day (IWD) is a time to celebrate women's achievements and reflect on how far there is to go before women can share the same opportunities as men and fulfil their potential.

From 1995 to 1999, the Club partnered with Soroptimists International and hosted IWD breakfast events to raise funds for UNIFEM projects in developing countries.

This spirit of cooperation continued when Yvonne Draydon and later Margaret Giles

represented the Zonta Clubs of WA on the Community Service Organisations Committee for the State Images Competition - one of the State Government's Millennium West projects to celebrate the Millennium.

This led to the development of several mosaics representing various regions in WA that were located in front of the Swan Bell Tower. The pathway surrounding the mosaics contained plaques to many service organisations, including Zonta International.

Margaret Giles in 1999 also represented Zonta on a committee creating a Memorial and Pavilion celebrating the Western Australian Centenary of Women's Suffrage. The Memorial includes a pathway through picturesque gardens in which bronze plaques have been placed to recognise women's service organisations, including Zonta International.

Awards Presented in the 1990s

University Education Award

This decade was kicked off with a new University Education Award designed to encourage mature women to complete their first university degrees.

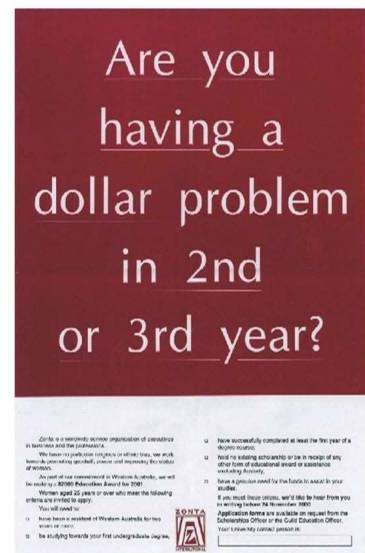
In setting up the award guidelines, the Club liaised with UWA, Curtin, Murdoch and ECU, the Presidents of each Zonta Club in WA, WIRE, WEDO, The Equal Opportunities Commission, the Women's Advisory Council and the Department of Education and Training. It was essential to ensure that selection criteria specifying a woman over 25 years did not breach Equal Opportunities legislation.

The Education Award was formally launched in 1991 at an official breakfast attended by Club members, scholarship officers of the WA



Left: The mosaics from the State Images competition and a plaque for Zonta International were located near the Swan Bells in Perth. The mosaics were removed when Elizabeth Quay was developed.

Right: Education Award Poster designed by Mary Baynham in 1993



universities, and media representatives. Seventy applications were received, with a panel selecting a shortlist to interview. Judith Spyvee was chosen as the recipient of the first \$1,500 award to complete her Japanese language studies.

In 1993, Club member Mary Baynham produced a poster *Are you having a dollar problem in 2nd and 3rd year?* and this was distributed by Wendy MacGibbon to all university campuses in WA.

Wendy even ventured to Bunbury, only to find the posters had preceded her. She promoted the award personally to scholarship officers on each campus using a fact sheet and the signs, which, in later years, were also distributed to over 70 public libraries.

In 1994, the award was increased to \$2,000. Stephanie Black exemplified the impressive

women who were applying: she is a widow with two young children working hard against domestic and financial odds to attain a Bachelor of Business at ECU. She used her award to buy a computer to work at home in the evenings and can now finish her degree earlier than planned.

Over the years, the selection panel had difficulties deciding on one winner and suggested that the award be doubled and/or shared. In 1996 two special encouragement awards were made as the applicants were of such a high calibre and so deserving.

All finalists are high achievers determined to give back to their communities in appreciation of their education, despite their common themes of financial hardship and achieving through adversity.



Jennifer Henry, a health promotion undergraduate at Curtin University was the Education Award recipient in 1997. Photo: The Voice 9/4/97

1995 Anna Sabidini is announced as the inaugural Emerging Artist Awardee by one of the judges, John Stringer.



Gwyn Lamb Award

In 1991 the Foster Care Association invited us to be part of its Gwyn Lamb Awards. This is an award presented annually to a foster carer to recognise the quality of service to the foster children in their care. Nominations for the Award come from the Department of Family and Children's Services, government agencies, foster carers themselves or foster children in current or past care.

Criteria for selection include the foster family's relationships with foster children, their natural families, within the foster family and with support workers and their commitment to undertake training. The Club contributed a Zonta holiday to the Gwyn Lamb Award recipient, and by 2000 this was in the form of a \$500 holiday voucher.



L-R: Gillian Wong, Young Women in Public Affairs Awardee 1992 and Leila Hoffman, Woman of Achievement Awardee 1992.

Emerging Artists Award

With the success of the Zonta Art Shows, it was no surprise that the club wanted to find a way to 'bring on' young artistic talent. The Emerging Artist Award was aimed at women undergraduates studying in a specific artistic-related field. There was a pool of \$2,000 prize money awarded every two years at the judges' discretion to artists displaying talent in a specific area of art.

The Awards focused on different areas of art such as wearable art, jewellery, textile-related art, etc. Artists were encouraged to display their work at Zonta Art Shows, held roughly every two years.

In 1995 our inaugural young artists finalists had all held exhibitions over the past year. The first Emerging Artist Award winner, Anna Sabidini, had been awarded a scholarship to study in Paris and found her Zonta Award invaluable to help get her there.

Girl Guides Leadership Award

The Girl Guides Leadership Award began in 1983 and continued throughout the 1990s. It recognised the work of outstanding leaders in the guiding movement. In 1993 the award consisted of a Zonta leadership banner and a cheque for \$100, with the amount being raised to \$200 by the end of the decade.

Guides WA selected the recipient with a Zonta member, often Helen Margaria, presenting the award at a significant guiding event. The awardees' names are engraved on an Honour Roll at Guide House.

Leaders have been from the city and the country and have been inspirational leaders of Brownie Guide or Guide units. For example, one leader from Carnarvon was acknowledged for her work with Brownies of the Air and another who had a strong interest in the arts, for producing the Brownie magazine and designing Brownie badges for Australia.

In later years the awardees came to a dinner meeting to receive their cheque and share their passion for guiding with members.

Area 3 Woman of Achievement Award

The Club continued to find high calibre nominations for the Area 3 Woman of Achievement Award that is presented to a previously unrecognised, quiet achiever in the community, including:

- *Wendy Mander* (1995) for her voluntary support to the Learning and Attention Disorders Society;
- *Barbara Clinton*, in the 1996 Year of Remembrance, who dedicated her life to supporting the Red Cross and RSL;
- *Dr Jenny Browne* (1997), who for over 30 years had made a significant contribution to sport, education and the life and welfare of West Australians and who was president of the WA Women's Advisory Council;
- *Jacqui Gilmour* (1999), who spent several years in Africa and with her husband had adopted two small, orphaned Ethiopian children. She also sponsored children living in Ethiopia and, in conjunction with Saint John of God Hospital arranged for children



Donna Legge, Woman of Achievement Awardee 2000.

requiring surgery to be brought to Perth where surgeons donated their services. Jacqui was aware of the shortage of medical supplies in Ethiopia and worked with members to find ways to provide some much needed supplies; and

- *Donna Legge* (2000), who went on to be the Area 3 winner and later a member. Donna was a strong exponent of Protective Behaviour and provided practical demonstrations to Zontians at the Area 3 workshop.

Young Women in Public Affairs Award

The Young Women in Public Affairs Awardees continued to impress members at meetings where they articulately described their activities, hopes and aspirations for future careers.

In the 1990s, the awardees from each club were put forward to select an Area winner to be presented at the Founders' Day Dinner event. The Area 3 winner's application was then forwarded for consideration of the District 23 and Zonta International levels of the award.

Club winners who went on to receive the Area 3 award included Anastasia Joll (1996), who was planning to be a doctor and was being mentored by member Dr Linda Dann, Jennifer Piper (1998) and Helen Cochrane (1999).

Young women in the 1990s were very worldly, as demonstrated by the three 1997 finalists: Rosalind Dixon and Julie Taylor from PLC, who were runners up and Sarah Wallace from St Hilda's, who was the winner. They eloquently described their service activities inside and outside school and were presented with certificates and roses. Sarah also received a \$100 cheque.

All three subsequently sat their TEE, with Rosalind achieving second place in WA and receiving several exhibitions. Julie also received outstanding results and went to Japan on a scholarship and then to England for one month, having won a public speaking award. Sarah studied an Early Childhood Education course and saved to join an expedition to Antarctica as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Fundraising Activities in the 1990s

As the decade began, high unemployment and very high interest rates caused many a belt to tighten and had a negative impact on some events, such as the cocktail party for the Salvation Army that was poorly supported.

The only good thing was that our Zonta Holiday Trust fund grew with the nearly 17 per cent interest rates providing us around \$1,000 of



Left: 1997 Woman of Achievement, Wilma Dunne with 1997 Young Women in Public Affairs Awardee, Jennifer Piper.

Right: The 1989 Salvation Army Cocktail party was a great success.

L-R: Dee Page, Peter Newman and Trin Stewart. The parties were poorly supported in the recession of the 1990s. Photo: West Australian 11/12/89



income. However, by 1994 interest rates were going down again.

The Club continued its focus on the arts with the biennial Zonta Art Shows. Under Wendy Alford's careful eye, these raised over \$13,000 in 1992, \$8,000 in 1994 and nearly \$6,000 in 1996. The Art Shows in 1999 included mini art shows and raised almost \$14,000. (See Chapter 8).

In 1991, Zonta was the first external organisation to host an event at the Art Gallery of WA. The highly successful Mexicanista Fashion Show featured Anne Dreske-Somoff's leather clothing and was based on the theme of the Gallery's Freda Kahlo Mexican exhibition.

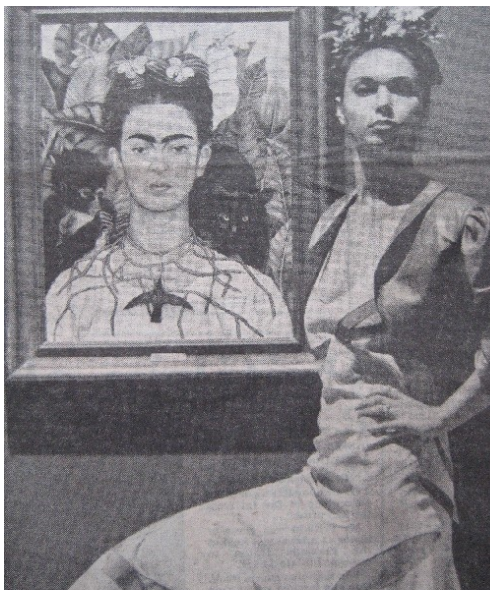
The promotional materials were very striking, and the event received great coverage from the press. However, the event was more of a PR success than a financial one, with less raised than we had hoped for.

Barbara-Dene Jones and Maxine Howell-Price produced tee shirts for sale and gave one to every club president in our area so they could be promoted to members.

Mini Art shows, quiz nights, the sale of diaries/banksia books, flash trash, theatre outings and cinema afternoons kept the club solvent between Art Shows with more unusual events such as a gaming night in 1997 and an ANZAC day brunch, providing some 'spice' to the fundraising landscape.

People and Fellowship in the 1990s

There were over 50 members in the Club at the start of the 1990s, and this slowly dropped to around 40 by the end of the decade. There were many comings and goings. Over a dozen members were inducted in some years, but just as many were transferred interstate or overseas.



Colourful invitations and programs for the Mexicanista Fashion event at the Art Gallery in 1990. Photos Left Sunday Times 20/5/90 and right Sunday Times 13/5/90





1994 Zonta International bestows honorary membership to Professor Fiona Stanley at a special event in Perth. L-R Professor Fiona Stanley, Inge Savage (Amelia Earhart Fellow) and WA Premier Richard Court. Photo: Campus News Vol 13, No 4, April 1994.

Zonta is a truly international organisation, and in the 1990s, Zonta International Conventions were held in even years in Dallas, Hong Kong, Detroit, St Louis and Paris.

Our Club had good representation in Dallas considering the distance with both Ellen Cox and Tricia Summerfield attending the event.

However, in Hong Kong in 1993, the world suddenly became smaller with members meeting up with members of our friendship clubs, including our official friendship Club, Portland, Maine, USA as well as Prague, Gifu, Charlottetown Gothenburg II, Dijon Area and Auckland East.

In addition to contacts made during Convention, Pamela Langdon Walsh visited the Gifu Club in Japan, and Lennie McCall and Margaret Medcalf visited the Prague Club. In 1998, Lennie McCall, Shirley Deutscher and Marg Medcalf attended the ZI Convention in Paris.

A significant event in February 1993 saw the WA Premier, Richard Court, and well over 100 guests pay tribute to Professor Fiona Stanley in her capacity of International Honorary Zontian.

Professor Stanley continues to be an inspiration to all Western Australians for her research into maternal and children's health and was the founding director of the Telethon Institute for



Miriel Reid transferred to the Club when the South of Perth Club folded and for many years was our very diligent Club Treasurer

Child Health Research. (Footnote: The Fiona Stanley Hospital was opened in 2013.)

At this prestigious event, Inge Savage, a PhD student at Murdoch University, received a Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship.

In June of the same year, a special Area 3 dinner was held to honour Gabi Kennard during her round Australia flight for RFDS. Gabi Kennard was the first Australian woman to complete a solo flight around the world in a single-engine aircraft. Gabi spoke about her world solo flight and several personal challenges faced during that time.

Sadly in 1997, we said farewell to Enid Down, a much loved and admired member of the South



Miriel Reid and friends created this quilt to celebrate Penny Flett becoming the 1998 Telstra Business Woman of the Year

of Perth Club. Enid had for many years worked tirelessly in the service of others and in particular for the Zonta House Refuge but succumbed to cancer shortly after the Founders' Day Dinner. (See Chapter 12).

Members also attended the funeral of charter member Helen Watson-Williams. Helen was not only remembered for her intellect, wit and discerning nature but most of all for her generosity of spirit in Zonta.

The Club welcomed four members in 1993 from the disbanded South of Perth Club: Shirley Deutscher, Jill Wood, Miriel Reid and Jane Westney. For them, there was, of course, some sense of loss, but hopefully, they shared our sense of gain as they readily contributed their skills to join in Club activities.

A fun and fellowship workshop weekend was held at Bridgetown, with the highlight being a Murder Mystery dinner on the Saturday night.

Congratulations went to members Penny Flett for becoming the 1998 Telstra Business Woman of the Year and Dr Suzanne Robertson for her role in establishing the new ward for teenagers at PMH.

Organisational Activities in the 1990s

Following the formation of District 23 in 1990, member Trin Stewart became one of the new Area Directors. Perth hosted the first D23 Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in September 1991, which Lennie McCall convened. One hundred and forty Zontians attended from D23, and we were thrilled to have ZI President Leneen Forde with us. The theme was '*The challenge of the 90s*'.

Not only was this a time for forming a new district, but also new clubs. In 1991 the

Sponsoring, Organisation and Mentoring (SOM) committee, with Jean Oldham at the helm and with tremendous support from Yvonne Roberts, sponsored a new club in Dunsborough.

The Dunsborough Charter Dinner was held on 15 June 1991 with about 30 members. Official guests included Elizabeth Harris (District 23 Governor), Bobbie Porter (Lt Gov D23), Trin Stewart (A3 Director) and John Cooper (Busselton Shire President).

The team followed this up with the charter of a new club in Mandurah. The Peel Region Club was chartered with 29 members on 22 May 1993 and Bobbie Porter, the D23 Governor, officiating. The Area 3 Workshop at the Gates Resort in Mandurah coincided with the Charter Dinner of the Zonta Club of Peel Region.

The Perth Club hosted the 1993 Area 3 Workshop at the Inglewood Community Centre. The morning commenced with a healthy breakfast, team-building exercises and a workshop on stress management.



1990 Trin Stewart (left) and Lennie McCall at meeting to organize the first District 23 Conference in 1991



Jan Hedemann and Ellen Cox were also on the organizing committee



First D23 Conference, Perth. Leading proceedings L-R: Pauline Vukelic, Elizabeth Harris, Margaret Medcalf, Lennie McCall and Ellen Cox



25th Birthday in 1997: Charter members present included: L-R Yvonne Roberts, Margaret Medcalf, Sue Jarvis, Freda Jacob, Barbara Hale, Joy Cooke, Marg Giles, Trish Young, Beryl Grant and Lennie McCall

Zonta International was growing fast, and by 1995 the Club's flag stand, which had been presented to the Club by the inaugural President, Sue Fletcher, had outgrown the 50 slots and so needed to be expanded to accommodate the 67 member countries.

The flags remind us of our international associations and are displayed at meetings and special events such as Founders' Day Dinners and Area Workshops.

It was hard to believe in 1997 that our Club had reached the 25th Anniversary of the first

Freda Jacob's reflections

At a Club meeting in 2007, Freda Jacob reflected on the formation of the new clubs:

In 1993 we began looking at Mandurah and Rockingham as it seemed to be a potential area of growth. Little did we dream of Mandurah as it is today. The Peel Club was chartered in May 1993.

Each area had its little crises. Jean Oldham was still our Chairman and we added Linley Adam to the committee.

Mandurah was a little easier than Dunsborough as the distance was better, but we had to work extremely hard there as it did not have a good cohesive community. We eventually got ready for Charter, everything organised, and the Chairman rang Jean up and said "I can't do it, and I am going to have to resign".

We were able to get someone to take the reins who did an excellent job and was really suited to the position and who I believe, enjoyed it.



AGM 1999 at the Victoria League Club. L-R: Penny Flett, Colela Browning (1999 Education awardee) and Roslyn Budd.

meetings to form the Club. A special formal dinner celebration combining the anniversary with the annual Christmas function was held at The Mount Street Inn in Perth. Beryl Grant, a retired charter member who proposed the toast to the Club, added a strong touch of humour to the proceedings.

The reviewing of 25 years of achievement presented by Lennie McCall and Margaret Medcalf was of genuine interest to members and their guests, and it was a delight to see the charter members blow out the candles and cut the cake.

In 1998 the Club's Strategic Plan (developed under the direction of Trin Stewart and Roslyn Budd) was implemented to reduce the number of committees from 17 down to five. This

resolved issues of duplication and isolation, in short helping us benefit from synergy and foster more supportive interaction.

The culmination of these new horizons was moving to a new venue; the Edith Cowan University, Nedlands Campus. This versatile venue allowed us to expand easily for special meetings and augured well for our anticipated escalating membership and activities. Meetings were held in the Conference Centre.

However, by the end of the decade, the Club had moved to the Victoria League Club in Shenton Park. After dinner, meetings were conducted in the drawing-room surrounded by royal memorabilia, including photographs of a very young Queen Elizabeth.



1999: Taking a break after a Board meeting. L-R: Miriel Reid, Margaret Giles, Penny Flett (President), Tricia Summerfield and Karen Groves.

Inzert, the Club's newsletter, continued to be a bright, newsy focal point for distributing facts, figures and items of interest. Various displays were developed for use at events such as the Women in Leadership Conference, thanks to the graphic design skills of Jill Wood.

In 1999, other communication initiatives were discussed for the future, including creating or being involved in a Zonta website page and the use of photos to record important events.

All files and pro formae relating to Membership and Classification were sorted, rationalised and put in computer format (Word 6) to reduce paperwork in the future.

The Club took up an invitation to be part of the Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL) project to

create a kilometre long banner to commemorate the 'mile-long banner' used by the suffragettes in 1884.

Jennifer Piper (YWPA awardee) enthusiastically and competently produced four panels promoting our Club and the Zonta rose. This panel is featured on the contents page of this book.

The organisation of the Club's archives, including collating photo albums, records of clippings and reports of local publicity, continued to be guided by Margaret Medcalf.

Margaret was the 1994-1996 District Archivist and Co-Chairman of the International President Folake Solanke's Zonta International Special Committee on Archives.



Barbara Dene-Jones models some 'wearable art' at a Zonta Mini Art Show in Linley Buchanan's offices in 1999

8. Feature Project of the 1990s: Zonta Art Shows and Holidays

Many families in Western Australia find it very tough to make ends meet, especially those who also cope with disability, unemployment or crises. Sometimes just a short break from the daily hardships could make such a difference to the lives of these families.

In the 1980s, Club members included social workers who saw the problems disadvantaged families faced first hand. They understood the health and emotional benefits that a short holiday would give to families in need – those for whom holidays were a dream, not a reality – and they set about finding a way to provide them.

In 1980 Mrs Linda Samonas spoke to the Club about holiday relief schemes. Following this, the Service Committee spent a great deal of time researching and establishing criteria for a holiday relief scheme for families in need. \$200 was allocated to a special fund to 'seed' the project.

The Club decided that the best way to provide holidays as an ongoing project would be to establish a separate holiday fund and use the interest from the fund to pay for holidays. A lot of money would be needed to ensure the self-sustainability of the project.

This is where the Zonta Art Shows came in.

The Zonta Art Shows

The first Zonta Art Show was arranged in 1980 by President Jean Oldham in her home and was advertised as an 'Art Adventure'. It was a delightful late afternoon affair, with many well-known local artists and craftsmen exhibiting their paintings and art pieces with a percentage of the sale price going to Zonta. More than half the items sold and \$3,159 was raised for the Holiday Relief Fund. In 1983, 1985 and 1987, similar events were held, and these raised over \$15,000 between them.

The Art Adventures epitomised the fellowship that Zonta can provide. Everyone in the Club participated, and the events were friendly, hospitable and financially successful.

Members also got to see some great artwork and meet the artists. When exhibitors included artists of the calibre of William Boissevain – we knew we had a good art show. These were very happy and successful days for us all, and we were very grateful to Jean and John Oldham for their fantastic support.

The Art Shows grew in popularity, and Jean's home became too small to host them. Jean had more than 'done her bit', so it was time to find another home for them.

Wendy Alford took the helm from this time with the 1989 Art Show being held at the Bay Gallery of Fine Art in Claremont, the 1991 and

1995 events being held in the Moore's Building in Fremantle and the 1993 event being held at the Fremantle Prison TAFE workshops.

At most events, the Club took the opportunity to show off the activities of Zonta, with Linley Adam's display boards being put to good effect.

In the background, interest rates played a big part in how much money would eventually be available for the holidays. When the Art Shows started, the principal sum of \$5,000 for the Holiday Relief Fund was invested with the WA Trustees for three years maturing on 15 March 1985 at 16.25% interest per annum, payable quarterly (\$812.50 per annum).

In the early 1990s, the interest rates were falling rapidly and, by 2012, were less than a quarter of that original rate.

In 1991, the Art Show was held in the Moore's Building, Henry St, Fremantle, and the large open spaces proved ideal for displaying paintings, textiles, jewellery, glass and

silverware from more than 50 of WA's most distinguished artists.

The exhibition was opened by Seva Frangos, Assistant Director Curatorial of the Art Gallery of WA and attracted a steady stream of visitors and buyers over the three days. More than \$59,000 worth of artwork was sold during the exhibition - the return to the Club was \$13,645.

Members of the committee worked hard and were even prepared to sleep overnight in the supposedly haunted Moore's building to provide additional security for the exhibition.

By 1993 the Art Show had grown into quite a social occasion with the former Governor's wife, Mrs Ruth Reid, opening the event at Fremantle Prison. The event was compered by local ABC personality and former Zontian, Verity James.

Over 300 attendees enjoyed the exciting exhibition at this unusual prison venue, with the work of over 50 artists being displayed with a good range of paintings, jewellery, ceramics,



Jean Oldham (photographed here in 1993) initially ran Zonta Art Adventures from her home



1989 Fay Woods and Edith Willis in Jean's dining room ...



...and Yvonne Roberts and Maggie Wilde West attend to the drinks on the patio!

sculpture, fine timber ware and tableware, leather goods and silk scarves on display.

There were a few tense moments when several tons of sculpture had to be lifted over the prison wall. Both Verity and Mrs Reid were generous in their support of Zonta, presenting education awards to two winners and greatly assisting in promoting our work on the evening. Sales totalled over \$8,000, less than previous years, but still a substantial amount.

Our first Emerging Artist Award was presented at the 1995 event at the Moore's Building. This award was an initiative of Anne Hector and received accolades from the art fraternity. The winner, Anna Sabidini, when accepting her award, commented that:

... whilst the dollars will help me, the acknowledgement of my ability by such esteemed judges and the support of women such as yourselves was inspirational.

PR was significant and included the publication of a printed catalogue. Mary Baynham

organised radio and press interviews that resulted in articles in community newspapers that made thousands more people aware of Zonta and our community projects.

Profits were down on previous years as we now competed with 12 other charities and schools in the Metropolitan area who ran similar Art Shows. It got to the stage where the Art Shows were seen as too much work for too little return - so they were put on hold for a couple of years, and alternative events were explored.

Members began to visit the artists' studios, and events held at the studios of Leon Pericles, Cedric Baxter and Ian de Souza proved enjoyable, educational and profitable. Members were fascinated to see where and how the artists approached the creative process and enjoyed the ambience of their surroundings. The visits inspired members with several excellent ideas that would enable the club to keep ahead of the competition with new and creative concepts – without losing the Zonta Art Show tradition.



1989 Zonta Art Adventure was held at the Bay Gallery in Claremont. Chronicle, 24/10/89



The 1993 Zonta Art Show had eye-catching advertising



1995 Linley Buchanan and Trish Hines

The 1999 Art Show was held in the Moore's Building, Fremantle and raised over \$11,000. There was a continuous festive atmosphere with participation from our well-known contributing artists and some new names on a new medium - decorated pots.

These pots were a great success in unleashing hidden talents. The two most noteworthy being from 'Hon Zons', Bill Lingard and John Oldham. Special thanks for this event that triggered our financial buoyancy went to Wendy MacGibbon, Wendy Alford and Jean Oldham. Mary Baynham was also a great asset in the PR and

sales aspects. When Mary moved away, Jill Wood provided professional printing and design work for every notable occasion. Miriel Reid and her family proved invaluable in keeping the Club on the 'straight and narrow' by taking control of the Art Show finances.

The 1999 Art Show at Moore's Building in Fremantle raised \$4,236 from sales and \$1,754 from the cocktail party opening. The Emerging Artist Award focused on wearable art and was shared between Judith Sumich and Michaela Bowen, with Jessica Scott receiving the 'People's Choice' Award.



1993 Zonta Art Show Fremantle Prison featured a wide variety of art



1993 Wendy MacGibbon with the colourful textiles



1993 Margaret Medcalf with the magnificent glassware



1993 Hand crafted serving utensils were very popular



1993 Ceramics showed a diverse range of shapes and styles



The Zonta display boards were always on show too



1993 L-R Wendy Alford, Diane Doherty and Helen Congrues admire the displays over a glass of wine



1993 MC Verity James (left) receives a bouquet from Wendy Alford (right), while Mrs Ruth Reid, the wife of the WA Governor looks on.

Someone on the team reminded members that the Moore's Building was supposedly haunted. This put Jean Oldham on edge, and there was no way she would be the last in the building – this was a bit of a problem seeing as how she was supposed to lock up. So Carole and David Theobald walked around the building with her, singing and talking very loudly to scare away any unwelcome spirits - the neighbours must have wondered if the ghosts were really walking that night.

In 1999 the Club also held a Mini Art Show at Linley Buchanan's office of works by Crispin Ackerman, Jenny Sanderson, Sally Douglas and Heather Jones. This low key event raised \$1,799 and was followed up with more Mini Art Shows in 2000 and 2001.

Wendy Alford, Linley and Les Buchanan got these down to a 'fine art' with each mini-event raising a couple of thousand dollars and attracting high-quality artists, including those already mentioned and Leon Pericles, Tricia Hines, Rebecca Cool, Dean Alston, Frances Andrijich, Rachel Coad, Emma Griffiths and Pamela Walter.

The Club was delighted with the success of these events – and to think we considered dropping Art Shows altogether.

The final Art Show in 2004 was inspired by the Heidelberg School exhibition of 1889 and modelled on an exhibition viewed by Wendy MacGibbon in Margaret River. The 9"x5" Art Show at the Kidogo Gallery on Bathers' Beach

in Fremantle involved members soliciting friends and acquaintances to donate artworks painted on the craft board supplied by the Club so all profits could go Zonta projects. There were some fantastic pieces, and over \$6,280 was raised primarily due to Wendy's colossal effort.

Overall the Art Shows were marvellous vehicles for members to work together in a fun, purposeful way. Yes, there were many stressful moments wondering if the artworks, catering or sales would eventuate, but everything worked

out in the end. The funds raised made the Zonta Holidays possible.

Zonta Holidays

There is immense satisfaction in knowing that your actions have made a difference, and the Zonta Holiday Relief Scheme has provided relief to hundreds of families since it was established in the 1980s.

The Scheme was the brainchild of Cathy Spitteler, and after many enquiries, the Club



1993 Judy Tennant



1993 Janet Gorski, Linda Dann and Janie Lindgard



1993 Rae Mackay



1993 Marina Valmadre and Ann Lindsay



1999 Emerging Artist finalists with Penny Flett on right.



1999 Carole Theobald serves at the Zonta Rose Café



2004, The 9" x 5" Art Show, Fremantle 30/10/04. Top row: Lin Turner, Jean Oldham, Judy Tennant and Marg Giles. Opening night. Carol Warren, Linley Buchanan and Lyn McArthur run the bar. Bottom row: Wendy MacGibbon (organizer) with Lin Turner and Jean Oldham. Geraldine Dennis and family. Sandra Pressman.

agreed to put \$200 into a special fund to form a nucleus for an ongoing project. Funds raised from the Art Shows and other fundraising activities were added to the special fund so that the interest from it could be used to pay for the holidays. The Club provides the families with money for travel, accommodation and a little spending money. Each family only needs to pay for food and entertainment themselves.

With several social workers as members at that time, it was considered that their knowledge and experience would make the best possible use of the scheme to help families in the future. The number of families benefitting varied depending on how much money was in the fund at the time and what interest it earned. Interest rates varied considerably during the thirty years of the scheme's operation, which impacted the number of holidays that could be funded.

By 1982, \$5,000 had been raised and put in a settled fund, and the first recipients to have holidays were the needy parents of disabled children. The fund was growing well and contained \$6,500 in 1984. At this time, \$1,317 was paid out from the interest, and this helped nine families have a holiday.

The average cost of each holiday in 1987 was just under \$300 and the total number of persons accommodated for that year was 18, including children. In 1992, 26 families visited Albany for under \$7,000.

In 1989 the name was changed from the Zonta Holiday Relief Scheme to the Zonta Holiday Trust to reflect the fact that holidays were paid for from the interest on the capital in the trust fund.

The Club tried to augment its fundraising by applying for funds from the WA Family

Foundation but was unsuccessful because, as a service club, we did not qualify.

The Club has to find suitable families that need a break. In the 1980s, the social worker members in the Club facilitated approaches to Princess Margaret Hospital for Children to identify people in need of such assistance. A plan was drawn up for how the scheme could be put into action.

In the early years, applications were received from Ngala, Princess Margaret Hospital, Department of Community Health, and the Mental Health Services on behalf of deserving families.

Over the years, other agencies have also applied, including the Lady Gowrie Child Care Centre, Wanslea, Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) and the Silver Chain Nursing Association. By 1990 requests came from many agencies, including some in country areas and later referrals were received from RPH Cardio Unit and the Salvation Army in Rockingham.

In 1992 the Club provided two separate holidays for groups of women from the Zonta House Refuge who had been victims of domestic violence. (See Chapter 12).

The Albany East Rotary Club owns and operates Friendship House, a comfortable, fully furnished, three-bedroom house with accommodation for up to six people. Rotary built it in 1975 specifically to accommodate disadvantaged people and their carers. The

Snapshot of Zonta Holidays in 1989

We have continued to make contact with as many agencies as possible, and in spite of the very positive results experienced some social workers tend to forget us and have to be reminded of the program regularly.

On the other hand there are others who phone frequently and offer a constant source of worthy clients - one such person is Linda Kazazi, Snr Social Worker Substitute Care Fremantle.

Linda commended the club on an innovative and unique program and we are pleased that she will be inducted as a member at the AGM.

This year 19 families (75 people) have enjoyed a Zonta Holiday in Albany and other venues at a cost of approximately \$4,350.

Most holidays planned ahead and fitted into the generous allocation of bookings at Rotary's Friendship House in Albany. Some holidays are in answer to emergencies, and fortunately we have been able to respond to all such requests.

house has wheelchair access and is located at Emu Point, where there is a shallow beach, a children's playground and shady trees. This is an excellent place for children to run around and have fun.

In 1993 member Jean Goldsmith commented:



Zonta Holidays are mostly taken at Emu Point, Albany where there is a lovely sheltered, shallow beach.



There are also lots of pelicans, tourist boats and play grounds for children.

For many who go to Friendship House, it is their first holiday ever or at least the only one they have had in many years, and we do have many calls of gratitude and enthusiasm for the program.

Friendship House has been the destination of choice, and when the rents were doubled in 1991, it remained an ideal and economically feasible place to send families.

Thanks were given in 2000 to Ross Tassiker and Roy Perry of the East Albany Rotary Club for their help with bookings, and in 2010 Roy Perry retired after giving 37 years of service to Friendship House.

Since the late 1980s, Broadway Travel in Nedlands has attended to the bus bookings for

families, and this relationship continued until the project ceased.

Other destinations have been used for holidays. For example, in 1997, when Friendship House was being renovated, the Swan Brewery Social Club responded to our plea for accommodation and eight families enjoyed a holiday at Swan Cottages at Point Peron.

As Friendship House became more popular other venues in Mandurah and the Yanchep area were sourced. Some holidays have also been taken in accommodation offered by Club members. The Country Women's Association (CWA) cottages in Albany have also been used on occasions where the rent is higher but within

our means. In 2001 Fairbridge Farm was the destination chosen by the family.

There is some flexibility with the holidays. For example, in 1986, a special grant was provided to enable a child to participate in a holiday camp for children. Occasionally, the family may choose to have a family at home and use the money for outings.

Things do not always go smoothly when organising holidays. For example, in 1995, there were several cancellations due to heart attacks, surgery or family breakdown.

Over the years, many carers have benefitted from the holidays, and in 1990 the Holiday Trust Chairman, Rae Edwards, represented the Club at the Australian Substitute Care conference dinner held by the Foster Care Association and a morning tea at Princess Margaret Hospital. At both events, the Club was publicly thanked for the Zonta Holidays.

In 1991 the Foster Care Association invited us to be part of its Gwyn Lamb Awards, with Zonta contributing a holiday to the Gwyn Lamb Award recipient. By 2000 this was in the form of a \$500 holiday voucher.

Zonta Holidays in Action

1995

Worth mentioning are some of the more notable families; many sole parents - one father whose wife died leaving a very small boy who was fostered out; but dad has him back now that he's five and a four page letter with happy snaps of the lad fishing, swimming and boating down there said it all?

And the lady we flew to Melbourne with new babe for respite from her other eight kids; a family with quadriplegic child and two diabetics - I could go on! So please let us consider this Holiday Trust as an ongoing commitment with a great deal of merit.

Holidays provided this year to 56 individuals with support from Albany East Rotary Club.

Jean Goldsmith should win an award for her negotiating skills. She managed to get us the holiday house for \$60 per family per week instead of \$30 per person per week. Well done Jean!

1996

A few hiccups have occurred - one single mother with four children in tow had her car break down near Williams; the petrol money allowance plus the expenses all going toward a new part and the repairs.

It has been difficult to stay under budget as there does seem to be an ever increasing amount of trauma out there; but we handle the shortfall with delay tactics putting forward the holidays until the next financial period.

Club President Linda Dann was asked to speak about the Zonta Holiday Trust in 1991 to the Foster Carers' Association and presented a holiday to the Gwyn Lamb awardees for that year, Mr and Mrs Gaigai.

She commented that there was:

...no need to publicise the program now as there is a constant flow of enquiries with requests coming from many different agencies.

The recipients of the Gwyn Lamb Award are inspirational people, and the Annual Report of 1999 noted that:

...having fostered some 50 children over the years, taking a holiday was, for Barbara Binks, something of a novelty and certainly a luxury.

Although funding was allocated for the Gwyn Lamb Award, in 2002, the Foster Carers' Association was restructured, and the Club was not asked to make a presentation of a cash award. No awards have been presented since that time.

Through the foresight of the early members, the Zonta Holiday Trust continued to provide holidays for many years, with its peak during the heady days of the high-interest rates in the late 1980s.

It was described in 1988 by a State Government Senior Social Worker, Linda Kazazi, as:

...the first of its kind in Australia. No other scheme in Australia provides financial,

practical and moral support to the extent of the efforts offered by this Club. The complete package offered is second to none.

Letters of gratitude received from holiday recipients are sometimes read out at Club meetings. These often contain children's drawings of their holiday experiences and sometimes photographs. In 1999, a delightful photo album was received showing the activities enjoyed by a cerebral palsy boy on holiday at Friendship House.

Many of the letters have been highly emotional and left members in no doubt as to the benefit of the scheme in terms of pleasure and stress relief gained by carers and the cared for. Wendy MacGibbon coordinated many holidays until 2015 and did an excellent job.

In recent years, the number of families that were able to benefit from the scheme slowly reduced. The scheme was experiencing difficulties due to the low-interest rates, unsuitable referrals, the higher cost of alternative accommodation, transport issues and the distance to the Albany accommodation offered by the Rotary Club of Albany City. Sadly, in 2018 the Club agreed to cease the holidays.

The Zonta Art Shows and Zonta Holidays hold a special place in the Club's history: they brought all members together to hold the events, and for nearly 30 years, the Zonta Holidays helped many families in need.



Sciona Browne (left) Judy Tennant (right) and Deb Hegarty (standing) at the club's first birthing kit assembly day in 2005

9. The Fourth Decade - the 2000s

Australia in the 2000s	
2001	Centenary of Federation. Terrorist attacks on New York World Trade Centre trigger war on terrorism.
2008	Global Financial Crisis commences, Australia insulated from worst of it due to trade with China and India. Official apology by the Prime Minister to the Stolen Generations.
2009	Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria killed 173 people.
Technology	Social networking sites, YouTube, online shopping, gaming and downloading entertainment all increase internet take up.
Fashion	Vintage fashion from 1950s to 1980s, thongs, cargo pants and grunge look. Exposed tattoos started small, but by the end of the decade covered necks and sleeves.
Sport	Olympic Games in Sydney. Cathy Freeman lights flame and wins 400m.
Cost of groceries	Milk \$1.50/L, sugar \$1.25/kg, onions \$1.35/kg
Value of money	\$100 spent in 2002 would require \$162 in 2022

Service Activities in the 2000s

The most significant project of this decade was the development of a friendship with the female elders of the Ngarinyin communities in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

In June 2004, with the encouragement of Kathy Charlesworth (a friend of the Club) and the organisation of Sciona Browne, eleven Club members spent a week camping with six indigenous women from the Mt Barnett and Gibb River communities, learning about each other and exploring ways to develop the relationship.

A second visit by seven Club members was made in 2007, strengthening the ties of the relationship.

The friendship blossomed into an ongoing partnership with these women, some of whom are known artists, and a number of joint projects ensued. One was a painting by Gibb River elder, Yvonne Burgu from which notecards were made for sale, to produce funds for projects within the Ngarinyin communities.

Arrangements were made for Yvonne Burgu to come to Perth to prepare an exhibition of paintings for sale to raise funds to purchase a badly needed vehicle to be used by the women and children at Gibb River. This was achieved and the 'White Angel' twin cab ute was proudly driven from Perth to the Kimberley, loaded down with much donated and purchased equipment.

The Ngarinyin Friendship was featured and achieved accolades and support at the District 23 Conference in Adelaide in 2005 and at the Zonta International Convention in Melbourne in 2006. One Californian Zontian, Pat Johnson, was so inspired she resolved to send funds to the Ngarinyin Project over several years. These funds were allocated to specific needs, such as the purchase of fishing equipment for the children of the communities. The Club purchased an old 'troopy' vehicle which was driven up to the Kimberley to be used for excursions 'into country'.

As the relationship developed, a major focus was to tackle the problem of dysfunction and violence in the communities and the impact of those situations on women and girls. The goals were to mentor the young girls, to encourage them to pursue education and to support them to improve their self-esteem. A mammoth project was developed with the senior women and health educators in the Kimberley to work towards these goals. The Yarri Wada Puppet Project, designed to educate through the telling

of stories with puppets, was adopted as a District 23 Project at the District 23 Conference in Hobart in 2007.

Many clubs in District 23 supported the Project with funds. Further funds were received from the EON Foundation and as the Project matured and evolved into the next decade, its successor, the Ilerla Project, attracted significant Lotterywest funding. (See Chapter 10).

Several service projects which were commenced in earlier years continued in this decade. For example, the Club continued to give support financially, materially and in an advisory capacity to the Zonta House Refuge. Margaret Giles was a tireless supporter being a member, and at one time Chairman, of the Refuge Management Committee for 13 years. The Refuge celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2004. Club members provided ongoing help with outreach programs and the 'House of Zonta' recycling boutique, as described in Chapter 12.



Pansy Nulgit paints Wendy MacGibbon's face, Kimberley 2004



The "White Angel" twin cab ute.



The District 23 Board agree to support the Yarri Wada Project

The other long term project which continued to be supported by the Club was the Club's Zonta Holiday Trust. As explained in Chapter 8, this provided challenges as sometimes holidays were difficult to organise as families' circumstances changed quickly and there were frequent cancellations. However letters received from people on return from a holiday were heart-warming in their gratitude and expressions of pleasure.

The Club has also proudly supported the two District 23 Projects that were adopted in 2003: Breast Care Cushions and Birthing Kits.

While Breast Care Cushions (to offer support and comfort to women after mastectomies) were not made by members of the Zonta Club of Perth, funds were donated and allocated through Area 3 to the Zonta Club of Bunbury as they had a group well organised to manufacture the cushions.

Birthing Kits provide a few simple items to enhance hygiene and safety for mothers and babies during birth in developing countries.

Birthing Kit assembly workshops were commenced by the Club in 2004 with students from St Catherine's College and Trinity College at the University of Western Australia.

A Club project which happened in 2004 concerned support for women in Bandyup Prison. A partnership was established with Central TAFE to establish a course in Beauty Therapy to be run at the Prison. Four appropriate units were chosen from the Diploma of Beauty Therapy by Central TAFE to suit the needs of the women to help rehabilitate them into employment after their release. These funds were allocated to the cost of tuition.

In 2007 the Club donated \$2,000 towards the Women's Legal Referral Service which was run by Diane Annear who had originally been involved in the setting up of Zonta House Refuge.

Also, following a talk by Martha Teshome, \$2,000 was donated towards the cost of broadcasting an Ethiopian community radio



Dianne Annear, manager of the Zonta House refuge at 20th anniversary



Carole Theobald promoting breast care cushions at a local fair



Wendy Atherden (seated) coordinated birthing kit assembly days with students from St Catherine's and Trinity Colleges, UWA

program on 103.3FM to raise awareness of female genital mutilation.

In 2001 and 2002 the Club supported Carers WA with donations to enable the production and distribution of brochures to the wider community.

The Club is sometimes called upon to assist in emergency situations and special grants were made in 2002 to the Bali International Women's Association to help the people of Bali after the bombing tragedy and another to the District 23 Treasurer to help the families of the Victorian bushfires.

Other small grants given this decade were to a student in Year 12 towards attendance at an International Youth Science Forum in London; to Solo Mothers and Their Children WA Inc for the establishment of a Post Office box; to Advocates for Survivors of Child Abuse, a Young Women in Leadership Seminar and a Women in Wellness Conference for administrative support.

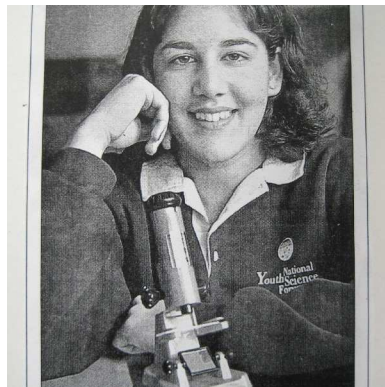
Advocacy Activities in the 2000s

The mission of Zonta International is to empower women through service and advocacy. The meaning of advocacy and how to provide it was a question tackled by the Club early in this decade. Marilyn Piper led members through the issues involved and then compiled a kit which was published by the Club. This was adopted by the District and the booklet featured at the District Conference in Geelong in 2001 at which Marilyn conducted a workshop on the subject.

International Women's Day in early March has always been celebrated by the Club and during this decade moves were resumed to join with other organisations in a more general celebration. In 2003 the Club supported The West Australian Newspaper's Lunch Box event and mounted a stand at the function publicising Zonta. In 2005 a LotteryWest grant of \$10,000 was obtained to co-sponsor a Lunch Box event by funding over 300 high school students to attend and Zonta publicity was given. In



Local MLC, Margaret Quirk is presented with a copy of the Advocacy Kit, by its author, Marilyn Piper in 2001



2001: Richa Tayal is supported to attend the London International Youth Science Forum. Photo West Australian 26/4/01



Karen Groves presents Area 3 Woman of Achievement award to Martha Teshome for her work to prevent female genital mutilation

following years other local Zonta Clubs joined with the Perth Club, mounting a publicity stand and handing out brochures.

In 2009 the Club joined with the WA UNIFEM group, a liaison which had existed in earlier years, and planning commenced for a more ambitious celebration of IWD by combining with other women's service organizations.

The subject of Aboriginal reconciliation and how the Club could give support to indigenous people was discussed in 2000. Apart from the huge commitment to the Ngarinyin Project, several other projects developed from this. The first was a partnership with women of the Kapululangu Aboriginal Women's Centre with support for the Centre's Op Shop and assistance with advocacy advice over a range of issues.

Further initiatives have included a mentoring program for indigenous students studying at UWA and living at St Catherine's College. Regular home hospitality for Aboriginal children

from the Kimberley, who were at boarding school in Bindoon, was given by Carole Theobald.

The Club's standing in this area was acknowledged when TAFE sought its support when seeking accreditation to establish a course on mentoring for Aboriginal people.

Another project, co-ordinated by the students of St Catherine's College and supported by the Club (the PAALS Project), is aimed at forging links between College students and indigenous students at Halls Creek High School. In 2009 the Rotary Club of Mt Lawley provided the finance to enable two groups to travel and stay in each other's communities.

In 2009 the Club held a workshop on funding for women's organisations. This was sponsored by Lotterywest and attended by approximately 30 women representing a wide range of women's groups including universities, health groups, multicultural organisations, refuges, businesses and sporting groups. It showed the



2006: Sandra Pressman, Lucy Ward, Kathy Charlesworth and Carole Theobald with Lucy's work.



Fiona Crowe, left, takes boxes of clothes to Pacific Transport, Midvale where Peter Zee's team takes them to the Kimberley communities in mighty trucks!



Mary Gurgone at the Lunch Box International Women's Day event at the Hyatt Hotel, 2007

real need for dialogue and the exchange of information and the desire of organisations to have the opportunity to meet and make strategic links.

Awards Presented in the 2000s

Awards for which the Zonta Club of Perth is solely responsible are the Education Award, the Guides WA Leadership Award, the Gwyn Lamb Carer's Award, two TAFE Awards and an Emerging Artist Award. They are all financial awards.

The Education Award, for a woman who has completed one year of a tertiary education course and is in need of financial assistance to continue her studies, attracts a lot of applicants. This shows the need to support women who are in difficult circumstances and are determined to complete their qualification. Most of the applications are extremely deserving and it is often difficult to make a choice. The Award has continued to be made throughout this decade.

The Guides WA Leadership Award was presented each year except for 2007 (when no nominee was received) and 2008 (when the process was being reviewed).

The Gwyn Lamb Award to a member of the Foster Care Association of WA was given to a carer chosen by that Association. This award was made in 2000 and in 2001 but at that time the Association was being restructured and the Club did not resume the Award.

In 2002, two new awards were introduced. They were for \$500 each for Central TAFE Health and Community Services students to support women in full time study for Certificate IV. One was for the Community Work course and the other was for the Mental Health (non-clinical) course. Both were given in 2003 and 2004 but only one award was recommended and given in the following years.

A Perth Club Emerging Artist Award was given in conjunction with the Art Shows. This was for a sum of \$2,000 and was given in 2000 but it was not continued after that.



Mukashema Triphine was delighted to receive her TAFE award in 2007



Mary Gurgone presents the TAFE Education Award to Loretta Hynes



Dr Emma Lalor receives the WA Guides Leadership Award from Lennie McCall in 2005

The annual Woman of Achievement Award for outstanding but unrecognized service in a field is a joint undertaking by all Zonta clubs in Area 3. All WA Clubs contribute money on a per capita basis towards a hand-crafted brooch for the winner. A nomination may be made by each Club and the winner is announced at the annual Area 3 Founders' Day Dinner. Our Club nominees, Michelle Stubbs, Kath Mazzella and Martha Teshome, won the Area 3 Woman of Achievement Award in 2003, 2005 and 2007 respectively.

The Club has also continued to support the major Zonta International Awards – the Amelia Earhart Fellowship, the Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship and the Young Woman in Public Affairs Award. While applications were not received for the JMK Scholarship over this decade, there has always been a robust selection process for the YWPA Award.

As applications are made directly to Zonta International for the Amelia Earhart

Fellowships, the Club promoted the award at the Astro Fest events to raise awareness in the science community.

Fundraising Activities in the 2000s

Fundraising during this decade was varied and imaginative. The last of the highly successful Art Shows (described in Chapter 8) was held in 2000 in the Moore's Building in Fremantle with a cocktail party opening. In the following year a Mini Art Show was held at Impact Communications organised by Linley Buchanan. Unfortunately this form of fundraising had been taken up by many other organisations and the market had become saturated. However some variations on the art theme were still successful. A viewing of Kerry Stokes' art collection and a cocktail party in his gallery was popular and there were also some studio visits to meet artists and to view their work. The successful 9x5 Art Show held at the Kidogo Gallery in Fremantle and organised by Wendy MacGibbon raised \$6,000 in 2004.



Lennie McCall, Trish Young and Margaret Medcalf at the Women in Space stand to promote Amelia Earhart Scholarships at Astrofest 2003



Kath Mazzella, Area 3 Woman of Achievement 2005



Michele Stubbs, Area 3 Woman of Achievement 2003



Isobel Wilson and Judy Tennant take a break at the 9x5 art show at the Kidogo Gallery, Fremantle in 2004

Away from the art world, several highly successful events were organised by Barbara Dene Jones. One was a Blues Breakfast held in 2003 at the home of her parents. Members provided the catering and guests were treated to excellent food, great Blues music from the Russell Holmes Trio while they sipped champagne and enjoyed the superb view across Freshwater Bay. Another of Barbara Dene's successful ideas was a Wine Expo at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club in 2005. Then in 2006, having moved into a new riverside home, she held a champagne and oyster fundraiser where members and friends enjoyed the modern architecture, the beautiful view and a highly convivial evening while consuming the output of the oyster shuckers.



The Australian Girls' Choir chatted to guests after their performance for Zonta at Hale School in 2008

In 2006, another Club member and archeologist, Fiona Crowe, provided great entertainment at a Bone and Fundraiser dinner at the Oceanus Restaurant when she gave a talk about the life and times of ancient Romans through a study of their bones.

Another unusual and successful event was a Luck of the Irish Lunch at Ascot Race Course, organised by Sciona Browne in 2007, where Miranda Green's hats were modelled. Members from all Committees entered into the spirit of this event and gave a great deal of their time and expertise that resulted in over \$7,500 being raised.

The Australian Girls' Choir concert at Hale School in 2008 was another event involving all



Miranda Green's hats modelled by Judy Tennant's daughter, Leah Helean and Marilyn Rainier at the Luck of the Irish event at Ascot Races in 2007.

members where successful ticket sales were necessary to make the most of the Choir's generous offer of a special performance for the Zonta Club of Perth. The evening was greatly enjoyed with a good profit.

Also in 2008, Deb Mason enlisted her rowing friends to organise a breakfast at the historic WA Rowing Club. Zonta members brought their coffee pots and other kitchen equipment to undertake the catering. A fashion parade, a raffle, quiz and Penny Flett as guest speaker provided plenty of entertainment.

Throughout the decade funds continued to be raised in all sorts of ways. These included film nights; the sale of entertainment books, cards, bulbs, smoked salmon; raffles; sausage sizzles,



2009 West Australian of the Year, Penny Flett, helps David Theobald with the table quizzes at a fundraising breakfast at the WA Rowing Club.

and a garage sale at St Catherine's. One undertaking which raised a surprising amount of money was a wine raffle, the bottles of wine having been donated by members. There was a Quiz Night at the Cambridge Bowling Club and an international food dinner at the home of Karen Groves.

Fundraising is dependent on the make-up of the membership. Firstly they need to have imaginative and energetic people to have the ideas and then enthusiasm to make it work. Such activities, when they include all members, are important for binding the Club together and providing fun and fellowship.

People and Fellowship in the 2000s

Membership in 2000 was 28 and rising to 36 at the end of the decade, having reached a peak of 41 in 2006. In 2004, the Membership Committee initiated regular wine and cheese evenings to showcase the Club to prospective new members. Such evenings were held during the next four years with a cross section of professional women attending. However attendances fell away and a decision was made to use alternative strategies to provide information to prospective members. These included using the promotional DVD produced by the PR Committee possibly on a one to one basis.

Enlistment of members is essential but retaining them is equally important. In 2006, a formal process for mentoring new members was introduced. A pamphlet 'Guidelines for Zonta Buddies' was developed, which new members, together with their nominated mentor, could work through.

A couple of information evenings were held at Linley Buchanan's offices and also the concept of coffee mornings was introduced to provide the opportunity for new members and their mentors to get to know each other. Nurturing of members has been done consistently by sending flowers and visiting members who are sick or in need of help or support in any way.

In 2008 the Membership Committee was amalgamated with the PR and Archives Committee for a short time. The Club's web page was up and running, making information about Zonta International and the Zonta Club of Perth readily available to promote membership.

Unfortunately, there is a consistent turnover of membership with many people remaining in the Club for a few years. Because of the requirements for eligibility, the people who join lead busy lives and their circumstances are likely to change. They also travel a great deal and this sometimes results in a lack of continuity in the Club.



Marlene O'Meara, Laurie O'Meara and Glen Wilson enjoying sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Melville



Agnes Vacca with the club's mobile display at Fashion Show in 2008



2005 Introduction evening at Linley Buchanan's offices. Lennie McCall, Karen Groves, new member Virginia Shotter and Tricia Summerfield sharing Zonta stories



Club members, 2009: Back row: Karina Moore (partial), Marg Giles, Dianne Agnew, Sandy McGregor, Deb Mason, Agnes Vacca, Tricia Summerfield, Fiona Crowe. Middle Row: Roslyn Budd, Gill Palmer, Lorraine McLean, Marlene O'Meara, Bec Christou, Judy Tennant, Helen Margaria, Mary Gurgone. Front row: Margaret Medcalf, Lyn McArthur, Freda Jacob, Penny Flett, Carole Theobald, Jean Oldham, Wendy MacGibbon, Wendy Atherden.

Dinner meetings continued to be held at the Victoria League Club at a cost of \$25 per head until 2005, when it was decided to change to the University Club at UWA. In 2007 the venue changed to St. Catherine's College where it has remained ever since. The Club was fortunate to have the Head of College as a member at one time and although the dinners are on a commercial basis, there are many benefits received from this association.

Christmas dinners have been held in a variety of locations. In 2000, it was at the Celtic Club and in 2001 the Royal King's Park Tennis Club was the venue. This was a special occasion as it included a celebration for the thirtieth anniversary of the formation of the Club. Many original members attended and reminisced about the beginnings of the Zonta Club of Perth with friendships formed and retained. In 2003, it

was at the Brighton Beach Restaurant and in 2007, at Bill and Karen Groves' home. For the rest of the years, it was at St Catherine's College where the chef always provided a sumptuous and comprehensive buffet.

Fellowship is emphasised as part of the Zonta ethos and as well as Christmas dinners, there have been plenty of opportunities for fun as there have been many social functions during this decade. On one weekend in 2007 members joined with Zontians from other clubs to spend a weekend walking the Bibbulmen Track and spent a night sleeping under the stars.

A number of members have served on District and International Committees (as listed in Appendix 2) including Karen Groves as Area 3 Director from 2006-2008 followed by Judy Tennant in 2008-2010.

Jean Oldham received a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2008. In 2009 Penny Flett was named West Australian of the Year and Lennie McCall was made a Member of the Order of Australia. Also, Wendy MacGibbon and Jean Oldham reached their 30 years of membership of the Club.

Fiona Crowe and Diana Rigg were named in the Top 40 Under 40 business women in 2010.

Sadly Yvonne Roberts died in January 2010. She had been a foundation member of the Zonta Club of Perth and had been a driving force in the establishment of new Zonta Clubs throughout the State.

Organizational Activities in the 2000s

This decade was notable for bringing the Club into the digital era. There was an expectation by Zonta International that all clubs would have

websites and email addresses by mid-2005. The Club was fortunate to have Carole Theobald's knowledge and drive in this regard. In 2003 she introduced email communication and a website and the quality of Inzert was improved. In 2006, MYOB was commenced for financial accounting and a grant obtained for a laptop computer for the Treasurer.

The variety and excellence of the many public relations materials which Carole produced put the Club at the forefront within District 23. Top prizes were won for the Club's entries whenever they were submitted for District Conference awards. In 2007, the District judges commented about the Zonta Club of Perth:

Not only are they continually producing quality marketing and public relations material, but they are constantly reinforcing the Zonta brand and its values. There is a simple but sharp principle through all their material.



Carole Theobald, left, surprises Lennie McCall with a cake on receiving the Order of Australia.



Jean Oldham was also surprised with a cake when she received an OAM in 2008



Charter members, Yvonne Roberts (left) and Freda Jacob were instrumental in setting up other clubs in WA

Some movement took place in responsibilities of Committees. In 2000 the Status of Women and Service Committees joined together to form one Committee (SOWS) and in 2004, a separate Committee was formed to oversee the Ngarinyin Project.

In 2009 an offshoot of the Membership Committee was created with a new Events and Fellowship Committee. Succession planning was envisaged by each Committee having a team co-ordinator with a more experienced mentor.

In 2008, the Club commenced acknowledging indigenous people at the start of meetings and public events with these words:

The Zonta Club of Perth acknowledges that it meets on the traditional land of the Noongar people.

We also respect and acknowledge the special friendship we have with the Ngarinyin,

Worora and Wunambul people and their communities in the Kimberley region of Western Australia

Pre-dinner slide shows were introduced and a PowerPoint electronic agenda used.

The Constitution, which had been in force since the early years of the Club, was updated and came into force in 2008.

District 23 office bearers from the Club were directly involved with the biennial District Conferences in 2001, 2005, 2007 and 2009 and particularly in 2003, when the Conference was held in Western Australia in Bunbury.

At this Conference our Club distributed a CD which contained all the PR materials developed by Carole Theobald for the Zonta Club of Perth with permission for them to be modified for use by other clubs.



Diana Rigg, left, and Fiona Crowe, right, were both named in the 40 under 40 Awards for 2010 by the WA Business News

Wendy MacGibbon notched up 30 years in the club in 2009



Pansy Nulgit and Karen Groves seal the Ngarinyin friendship on the banks of the Gibb River in 2004 with Yvonne Burgu (left)

10. Feature Project of the 2000s - Our Ngarinyin Friendship

This is the story of the Zonta Club of Perth's friendship with the wonderful senior Ngarinyin lawwomen ...who live nearly 3,000 kilometres from the metropolitan area of Perth.

The indigenous people in Australia have had a torrid history since the settlement of Australia by Europeans over two hundred years ago. Through a complex range of policies and practices this has resulted in many of the traditional owners of the land being among its most disadvantaged. It is a situation shared by many indigenous people around the world whose land at one time or another was settled by a colonial power.

There are four Ngarinyin communities along the Gibb River Road in the Kimberley region of Western Australia: Imintji (Mount House Station), Kupungarri (Mount Barnett Station), Ngallagunda (Gibb River Station) and Dodnun (Mount Elizabeth Station). Together their population is less than 1,000 people.

So what can we, as Zontians, do to empower these women? This was a question raised by a member in the Club... and the simple answer came back - ask them.

This story begins with two remarkable women meeting at a conference in Perth, Western Australia.

Kathy Charlesworth had an interest in the dynamics of indigenous displacements since 1963, when she lived in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions. Prior to that, she had also seen displacement of the Bedouin people in the deserts of Saudi Arabia.

Kathy, who died in 2010, was a Fremantle-based photojournalist, a trusted friend of the Ngarinyin people and often lived with the Ngarinyin women during her prolonged visits to the Kimberley region. She understood their culture, hopes and aspirations and shared in the joys and sadness of the communities for over forty years.

Sciona Browne, member of the Zonta Club of Perth is an entrepreneur and former test pilot. She has lived and was educated in most states of Australia and has strong connection with the land. Sciona is passionate about the aims of Zonta International and through discussions with Kathy sought ways for the two communities to meet.

The rest, they say, is history and between 2004 and 2010 the club was intimately involved with the Ngarinyin women. The relationship is best described through a number of 'stories' that provide first-hand accounts of the adventures.

The First Visit to the Kimberley - 2004

Sciona and Kathy talked with Pansy Nulgit from the Kupungarri community on the Gibb River Road to float the idea of a visit by members from the Zonta Club of Perth, so the women from each community could meet and share their cultures. Sciona then put a proposal to the Club for a visit to the Kimberley region.

The visit would rely on each Club member paying for their own travelling costs. The 3,000 km journey involved flying from Perth to Kununnurra and then travelling by a four wheel drive mini bus (called an OKA) to Kupungarri, 400 km over unsealed roads and through rivers.

There are no hotels in this remote region, so accommodation would consist of tents, camp fires, rivers for washing and holes dug for toilets...and this would cost nearly \$4,000 per person (twice the cost of a round the world air

ticket). In spite of this advert for discomfort, eleven members (nearly one third of the total Club membership) put their hands up to meet the challenge.

We camped with Pansy, Jilgie, Lucy, Kitty, Yvonne and Maudie - all senior Ngarinyin law women. The Ngarinyin women aged from 50 to 86, the Zonta women aged from 48 to 86.

Sitting in the sand next to a beautiful inland waterway we learned to define ourselves in terms of the land as salt water women, fresh water women and even mountain women. Together we learned about life at Kupungarri and a few days later moved our camp to the neighbouring community about 100km away called Ngallagunda (Gibb River Station), so we could see more of the sacred places.

These very shy women were very generous to us. English is their second language and for some of them their literacy skills are elementary.



The four wheel drive OKA mini bus



Crossing the Pentecost River



Our camp site by the river - wood and water in easy reach.



Back row L-R: Carole Theobald (kneeling), Angela Fisher, Freda Jacob, Jacqueline Power (friend), Margaret Medcalf, Yvonne Burgu. Middle row: Maudie White, Lucy Ward, Marg Giles, Kathy Charlesworth, Pansy Nulgit, Karen Groves, Lennie McCall. Front row: Lyn McArthur, Marlene O'Meara, Wendy MacGibbon, Sciona Browne, Judy Tennant and Jilgie Morungu

At first, it was not easy to get out of our city ways - we had to learn that the plan for the day was that there was no plan. Acceptance was our first lesson, learning to sit and be at one with our environment our second. Slowly our outcome based city living ways were replaced with a timeless wonder for the land around us.

Traditionally, in Aboriginal thinking, there is no ownership, only belonging and we were learning to belong...

Our Ngarinyin friends are the custodians of the rock art in their area and by following the local traditions of being 'sung in', 'smoked in' and 'smoked out' we were able to visit a few of these sacred sites. Some of the paintings we saw are over 10,000 years old, and were

painted by our friends' ancestors. Sitting by the paintings of the Wandjina we could literally feel the country and spirit of the land around us.

Sadly our Ngarinyin friends cannot get to their art to maintain it very often as most of it is located on private land and they do not have a suitable vehicle to access it. Some paintings are over 50km away. They spoke of 'tourists' bringing power tools to physically cut the paintings out of the rock - this causes them great sadness as they are powerless to stop it.

We had a wonderful week, sharing our stories, listening and learning. We learned about bush tucker, caught fish, dug for sugar bag (traditional honey found below ground among the rocks), made clapping sticks and underwent



Lucy Ward and Lennie McCall digging for tiny frogs to bait the fishing lines

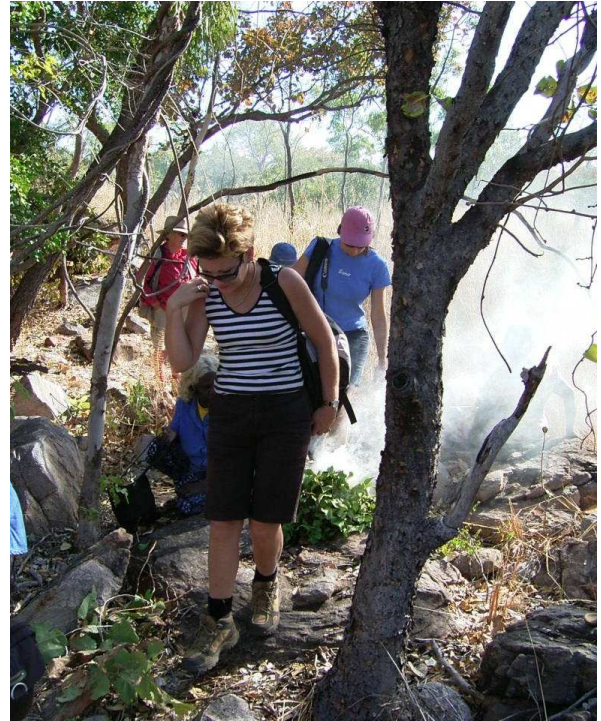
women's business with painted faces.

We laughed together as we washed in the river and fumbled finding frogs in the sand to use as bait. We also cried together as these generous women related their personal experiences of being part of the stolen generation.

Beside the Gibb River we talked into the sunset and somewhere during this time something happened to us all - we gelled - we could now meet as sisters and help each other as friends.

The White Angel Story - 2005

Imagine this situation—your local shop has closed, the nearest supermarket over 350km away along unsealed roads that require you to



Lyn McArthur leads our group through the smoke before going to the sacred ground at Crocodile Rock

drive through rivers that are impassable in the wet season.

Your community of 70 people has two vehicles—one is a two wheel drive that cannot cross rivers and the other, an old four wheel drive, has engine problems and cannot be fixed. The rains are coming and your subsistence community will rely once more on accessing traditional hunting grounds to survive—but you have no vehicle to get to them.

In October 2005, artist Yvonne Burgu and her friend Kathy Charlesworth (visiting from the city) were sitting under a tree in the Kimberley discussing this very predicament.

They decided to hold an art exhibition to buy a



Wandjina and owl at Crocodile rock

second hand four wheel drive. Can you imagine putting every cent you had into buying fuel, paints and canvasses? This is what Yvonne did and armed with artistic talent, guts, determination and courage headed for the city to realise her dream...

Kathy, Yvonne and Yvonne's grand-daughter Rebecca Wunggundun aged 9 (Becky Boo) drove down to Perth and using Kathy's small Fremantle flat as a base, Yvonne painted her heart out over a period of four weeks, living on pot noodles. While Yvonne was painting, Kathy asked 'Zonta mob' for help.

A vacant shop was found to use as an art gallery, stories ran in the West Australian, and Dr Mary Anne Jebb, the curator of the newly



Pansy and Lucy follow bees into a rock hollow to retrieve sugar bag, a sweet sticky treat!

created Mowanjum Art Centre helped with the translation of the oral stories into written word.

Carole Theobald took photos of the paintings and made electronic flyers, posters and programs and, with Yvonne, created posters for the gallery window, business cards and portfolios of her work.

Sciona Browne meanwhile found a host of fantastic people who helped sponsor the exhibition. Sciona took on the role of finance officer and followed through on all sales and helped Yvonne calculate her budget and tax.

The Art Show was launched on Friday 28th October - Yvonne's birthday. Sciona Browne MC'd the 'launch' and introduced Mr Phil

Narkle, respected Noongar artist, who formally welcomed Yvonne to his land in the traditions of his people.

Sister Frances from Mazenod College in Lesmurdie provided a beautiful history of her association with Yvonne and the Gibb River and brought three Ngarinyin girls, relations of Yvonne's, who board at the College, to the launch. She also showed a beautiful wooden spear thrower that Yvonne had carved and painted for the school a few years before.

Dr Mary Anne Jebb held the group of about 60 entranced as, on behalf of Yvonne, she related the Nyalanggunda and Wanalirri stories behind the paintings and the characters in them: brolgas, turtles, lizards and owls. Around us we could feel the watchful eyes of the Wandjina as nearly every painting contained their image. For a moment we were transported to the Kimberley...

The exhibition was very successful over the weekend with most of the paintings being sold.

With the magnificent help of Dennis York from Dockside Fremantle, an auto wholesaler, a white 4WD Hilux utility was sourced and dubbed 'the White Angel'.

A load of household items were donated by members and friends and the ute was packed to the gunnels for its 3,000km trip to its new home in the Kimberley.

Saying goodbye to everyone after the big pack-up and hand-over left Kathy driving off with Becky-Boo wailing on top note for Sciona and Carole to come too, plus a very tearful Yvonne firmly clutching the wonderful A3 portfolio Carole had made up for her proving that the antics of the past six weeks were actually a reality and not some bizarre dream. As Sciona Browne described it:

They drove off, the Hilux being driven by an old bushie with her hearing aids turned off, belting out Patsy Cline classics on the CD and a couple of happy 'Wandjina women' inside.



Yvonne Burgu, Kathy Charlesworth and Becky Boo at entry to Art Show



Yvonne, Becky, Dr Mary Ann Jebb and Phil Narkle tell the stories behind the paintings



The White Angel leaves for the Kimberley....fully loaded!

Return visit to the Kimberley - 2007

In June 2007, seven members of the Zonta Club of Perth made a 'return' visit to the Kimberley to visit our Ngarinyin friends. Glen Wilson, Carole Theobald and Mary Gurgone, caught the OzJet flight to Derby and were met by Sciona Browne and Fiona Crowe with a brand new four wheel drive Landcruiser and camper trailer they had hired in Broome. They were met a few days later at the Mowanjum Art Centre near Derby by Lennie McCall and Margaret Medcalf.

At Derby, the campers stocked up with shelf stable food, root vegetables and sturdy fruits and then headed off to meet Yvonne Burgu and Kathy Charlesworth at Mt Barnett—a journey of 355km over unsealed roads and through rivers without bridges.

Sciona did all the driving weaving her way around muddy obstacles caused by recent

rains, avoiding stray cattle and driving through the flowing rivers, negotiating the river banks with care. Sciona was a previous runner up on the 'Australian Survivor' television program and also a former test pilot, so took everything in her stride on the hazardous track.

Gibb River community consists of about twenty tin houses, built in a loop around the nursing post, community store and child care centre. Yvonne's house has traditional Kimberley breezeways, with various walls folding back to catch any breeze. There is very little privacy, with only one close-able room that is used as a bedroom with everyone sleeping on the floor on mattresses with doonas over them.

Sciona had sourced 100 fishing lines that were paid for by Pat Johnson, a kind American Zontian from California, who we met at the International Convention in Melbourne in 2006. The lines were distributed to the 23 children at the Wanalirri Catholic Primary School. Later at Mt Barnett Primary School Zontians gave out fishing lines and shared in International Day



Fiona Crowe and Sciona Brown cram the trailer full with food



Sciona drives through rivers without any problem



Gibb River Community



The children at Wanalirri Catholic Primary School liked the fishing lines the Zontians gave them



Top: Fiona watches the children use the fishing lines, while Yvonne and Kathy have some quiet time. Below: Fiona unloads wood from the White Angel.

preparations by speaking to the children in Italian and Indonesian.

Zontians, Yvonne and her family and Kathy travelled to the first campsite at Munggaray about 40km from Gibb River Station. The site can only be accessed using a four wheel drive vehicle, so before the White Angel, Yvonne's family could not access it easily.

Munggaray was a lovely fishing spot where the river was crystal clear with a sandy shore and where two small waterfalls created a natural swimming hole and washing area.

The pace of life at Munggaray was tranquil with the children playing among the trees and rocks.

There was a constant stream of minor injuries that Nurse Glen dealt with each day. The women washed themselves and their clothes in the waterhole—the children knowing to keep away until it was their turn. Even the dogs were washed.

Seeing Fiona wash Nancy's back was a sign of the trust and closeness that developed between us all.

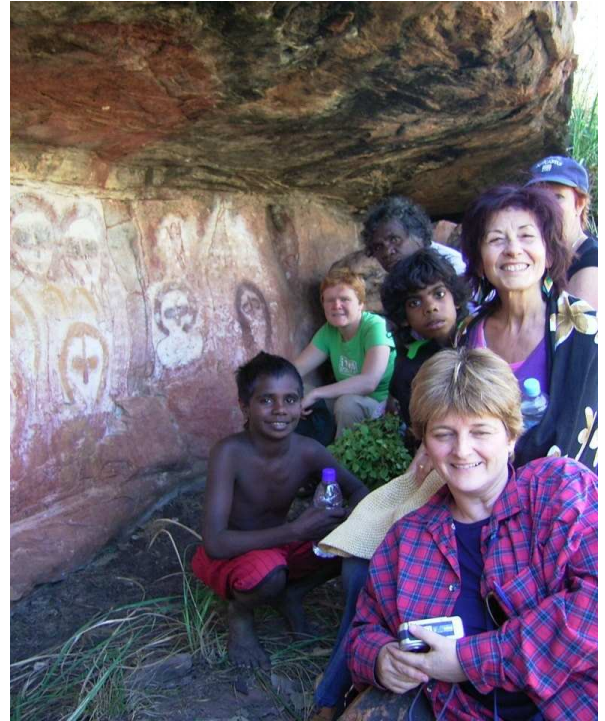
The following day everyone moved on to Miner's Pool, sited among trees next to a body of water that can only be accessed through the biggest mud patch you have ever seen. Here, the group was joined by Alfie and Nancy White who were doing a magnificent job 'growing up' over a dozen children.



*Top: Queuing up for porridge for breakfast!
Below: Playing running relay games at Drysdale Station on our way to Miner's Pool.*

Over the next few days Zontians fed up to 30 people each day from the camper trailer's pull out kitchen consisting of a double gas burner and sink. Some mornings the line for the breakfast porridge looked like something out of *Oliver Twist*.

Zontians shared stories, learned the local ways and played exhausting games with the children who were polite, full of beans and big smiles. They watched freshly caught bush turkey being cooked over a wood fire, watched with admiration as children with mud up to their knees carried buckets of water half their size from the waterhole and braved going to the toilet at night in the bush with wild bulls roaming the area.



With Nancy's Wandjina at Donkey Creek. Nancy (at back) is the custodian of this art.

Zontians helped out where we could, especially in relation to some business matters that needed clarification.

One day Nancy and Yvonne led the Zontians through the long grass to Donkey Creek, using traditional ceremonies to call up and smoke out the spirits. The ochre Wandjina paintings here are estimated to be over 10,000 years old with some older Gwion Gwion paintings among them possibly being twice this age. These paintings were created by Nancy's ancestors and many photos were taken of Nancy and her family by the Wandjina.

Back at Gibb River, Nancy and Yvonne took the Zontians to see Ngallangunda—the rocks and paintings that form the inspiration for Yvonne's



Glen and Mary admire the Ngallangunda art - the source of Yvonne's inspiration for her Art Show.



Top Fiona, Mary and Glen get lots of help from the children. Below: back in Derby, Lennie McCall and Margaret Medcalf join us for the Mowanjum Festival

paintings. The rock paintings are a short ride and a few kilometres walk from the station. The Zontians were awed by the paintings that featured hundreds of snake heads, a lovely snake curled protectively around a child, Wandjina and frogs.

During this special time the Zontians were accepted as friends and 'aunties' and it was with great sadness that they left to return to Derby for the Mowanjum Festival.

Lennie McCall and Margaret Medcalf joined their fellow Zontians at the new Mowanjum Art Centre that is built in the shape of a Wandjina and was the site of that day's Mowanjum Festival that featured a full program of traditional dancing, singing and bands. The

young people danced energetically in traditional costume and the old people sat behind them providing the songs and music.

Club members had donated 38 boxes of clothing and these were collected from a depot and sorted for distribution to the community. Some of the clothes were used for traditional 'sorry business' ceremonies that Yvonne needed to complete after recent deaths in the family. Zontians were privileged to be part of this ancient ceremony that involved shaving Yvonne's head, gathering particular foods and collecting specific types of wood/leaves to generate smoke.

It was an extremely moving ceremony and Yvonne was visibly lifted after this emotional



Time for the new 'aunties' to say farewell....

experience that had been hanging over her for many months.

While in Derby, the Zontians held a very productive meeting to discuss the potential puppet project with Community Health Nurse Angela Fisher and Maya (Kimberley TAFE).

They will always remember the differences in the living conditions between Gibb River, where the community has hope and strives for sustainability, to those at Mowanjum where, in spite of an alcohol ban, alcohol problems are rife. They acknowledged that while some issues may be seen as being too big to handle, by creating friendships, it is possible to 'make ladders, not holes', and support those who are doing their best to make a future for their

communities.

The Zontians remembered fondly:

- handing out the fishing lines;
- Daniel and Patrick stirring food in the 'dolly kitchen';
- washing clothes in the river with Nancy;
- walking through the bush with Nancy and Yvonne and listening to stories;
- Glen's motto "go to the loo just in time, not just in case";
- children stuck in the mud; and
- being called 'auntie' by a host of new young friends...a priceless experience.

The Green Troopie Story - 2008



The Green Troopie ready for the long trek to the Kimberley

The Ngarinyin Committee reported in August 2008 that they had recently negotiated the 'peppercorn purchase' of a 'Troopie' (4 wheel drive people carrier) for the Ngarinyin women in the Gibb River Community.

The vehicle was serviced by the team at Ultratune in Claremont, who declared, that the old vehicle still had lots of life in it and was in very good condition. This was very reassuring to Kathy Charlesworth, our Club's 2006 Woman of Achievement nominee, who was to drive it to the Kimberley.

To literally 'top it off', lecturers and students at Challenger TAFE in Fremantle had made a boat that was ideal for use on the Kimberley rivers. Many thanks go to Jean Menzies, from



Students at Challenger TAFE made the boat and loaded on the roof of the Green Troopie

the Maritime Skills Training Centre at Challenger TAFE for making the project possible.

The vehicle and boat were used by the senior law women in the community to access fishing and hunting areas and also undertake cultural activities at sacred sites.

Given that the Gibb River Road is impassable for three months of the year due to the high water levels in local rivers – the vehicle and boat will shorten the period of inaccessibility. This vehicle made such a difference to the lives of so many people as Kathy Charlesworth reported:

Snotty-nosed kids with watermelon grins, walking



Top and below: The trip to the Green Troopie's new home in the Kimberley - crossing creeks and long dusty roads.

sticked grannies and relieved mothers – it was an instant love affair when the Zonta Green Troopie pulled into 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 MacGibbon's 'good ideas' to support the Gibb River mob.

Sciona Browne and Wendy MacGibbon 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 kilometres, operating as a remote taxi service picking-up and dropping-off grandkids, but mostly using the 'good idea' for fishing and hunting.

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



Top: packing up camp Below: Watermelon grin!

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 Troopie - 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.

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

Lynch, (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 Troopie has been a huge success criss-crossing along the Gibb River, Wyndham, and Kalumburu roads in search of bush tucker and fun.

Yarri Wada Project Story - 2008-2010

In 2008, the Yarri Wada Project was officially adopted as a District 23 Project for the 2008-2010 biennium and many clubs in the District provided donations that totalled over \$32,000.

Yarri Wada is a Ngarinyin phrase meaning 'many dreamings'. Senior law women of the Ngarinyin, Wunambal and Worrorra clans have one thing in common - a deep love of their country and the people within it. They dream of finding a way to guide their communities out of

the cycle of poverty, domestic violence, child abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, disease, youth suicide, poor education and unemployment. They dream of their communities regaining pride in their culture and respect for themselves and each other and children enjoying good health, good education and a safe living environment.

Together, these women decided that they could use puppets to best apply their strengths in art and story-telling, to help men and women make positive changes in their communities...all they needed to get started, was a little help from their friends.

Zontians successfully sought partnership with the EON Foundation, the Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, the Union Internationale de la Marionnette (UNIMA) - the world puppetry body, Million Puppets Project, St Catherine's College (University of Western Australia) and several private individuals to realise the aims of this unique project.



Daniel with his catch of the day.



D23 Governor Alison Martin holds a Yarri Wada pack & Wandjina card



The Yarri Wada pack contained newsletters, sponsorship forms and a DVD of the puppet making phase



Top: Puppet training school. Below: Puppeteer shows the kids how the joints move on a puppet

Two stages were initially proposed that involved a) making puppets and b) using them to form a troupe that would be able to educate communities in the Kimberley on a range of health and cultural issues.

The first stage went very well with 50 women (accompanied by children and dogs) being trained by a professional puppeteer to make puppets at a 'bush' training course in the Kimberley with at least three generations of women working, teaching and learning together. Nineteen women completed the training and received a TAFE Certificate I in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Cultural Art.

The puppets created, included two Gwion



L-R: Leah Umbagai, Mary Lou Umbagai, Pansy Nulgit and Anika Rastus with the Gwion Gwion puppets they made on display for the World Puppet festival in Perth.

Gwion puppets over 4 metres tall which required at least four people to operate them. These were proudly displayed at the World Puppet Festival in Perth.

Stage Two was intended to see the formation of the Yarri Wada Puppet Troupe. This would be an ongoing, stand-alone entity providing professional development and employment opportunities for young Indigenous women and men of the Kimberley region. Puppets can deliver sensitive messages in a lighthearted way; can pass on cultural stories; are colourless, classless, apolitical; are cheap to make; could get the whole community involved; can tell stories people remember because they make you laugh, cry and capture the



50 people attend the bush puppet workshops with professional puppeteer - 19 complete training and get a certificate.

imagination; and are entertaining and healing - they can be used to help small children discuss their feelings and problems with adults.

However, during the puppet making workshops, the women brainstormed a lot of ideas and realised that having a formal puppet troupe may not be what they needed now. They still saw the value of using puppets somewhere in the program, but felt that it was more important to focus their energies to educate young women to achieve the project aims in a directed, controlled and safe environment.

In Mowanjumb, and with the help of District 23 clubs, a safe place could be created where women, young and old, could learn to address everyday issues that affect their communities and this was how in 2009 the Yarri Wada spawned Monorngungga— Stepping Forward with Pride project.

Monorngungga – Stepping Forward with Pride

This was a young women’s project, teaching sexual health and wellbeing to young people aged 10-16.

Program leaders were Beryl Davis, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Derby Health Service; Leah Umbagai, Mowanjumb Community member and program designer; and Angela Fisher, Child Health Nurse, Kimberley Public Health Unit.

Firstly, these amazing ladies completed a certified course in sexual health and positive life skills training so they could get young Aboriginal people to talk about puberty, body image and sexual issues in a group environment and make learning about sexual health an engaging experience.

Monorngungga Program



Through the Monorngungga Young Girls' Project, the young girls are able to learn about life and take control of their lives

1. **Introduction:** getting to know each other and create a safe place where opinions and concerns are respected.
2. **Puberty Blues:** dealing with physical changes, personal hygiene, self-knowledge.
3. **Talking "Sex":** understanding sex physically and emotionally.
4. **Speaking Out about Feelings:** talking about sexual rights, establishing personal boundaries and understanding the consequences of sex in terms of health and pregnancy.
5. **Back to Country Day:** fishing , relaxing together and talking about positive life styles.
6. **Stepping Forward with Pride Day:** a graduation day of grooming, pampering, reporting back to parents and moving forward.

The Monorngungga program was compiled from a number of resources – other programs, specific needs of the community, research findings – and was adapted to suit the skills and resources of the program coordinators, the available facilities and the critical needs of the young girls involved.

At the outset, the course content was explained to parents who had to give permission for their girls to participate. Twelve girls completed the pilot course with 100% attendance. Following the course, the incidence of adolescents presenting for sexual health checks increased and parents and community members requested more health education. A health worker at the local school noted that:

...the girls that undertook the course keep telling me they are excited for the time when they will get their period. They tell the big girls to look after themselves and where to go for check-ups, and all of them come - including the boys. They are not waiting till they get an infection, but are presenting after unsafe sex.

One of the older girls said she was at the clinic after a lecture from her little sister on how to use a condom.

Subsequently, local schools requested women run the Monorngungga program as part of the school Personal Development curriculum.

On the basis of her work in the overall Yarri Wada Puppet Project, Leah Umbagai won a scholarship to Curtin University to study for a Diploma in Community Development. She used her experience from the Monorngungga Project and associated programs as case studies in her research, which provided formal critical analysis in support of ongoing funding for the project.

From Monorngungga, a longer-term dream emerged to put in place a Youth Coordinator for the region, based at Mowunjum which leads us to the next story...

The Ilerla Project Story – 2010-2012

The ground breaking work achieved through the District 23 Yarri Wada Project continued for two more years thanks to members Sciona Browne and Fiona Crowe who obtained a grant of \$230,307 from Lotterywest, the official state lottery for Western Australia.

The Ilerla Project (meaning 'young youth') targeted youth in the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia who live in environments where there are high levels of alcohol abuse, drug abuse and violence. Ilerla brings together over 20 organizations to work together for the young people of the Kimberley.

Leah Umbagai, the Project Manager, who lives and works in the Mowanjum Community, implemented a range of programs to promote family and community competence around meeting children's needs. Through the Ilerla initiatives, families are now better able to protect their children, promote opportunities for their children to set and achieve their goals, and build a strong positive environment.

Programs ran repeatedly in intensive two day or one week blocks and in stages over six to eight weeks and included:

- Community Engagement in Health and Education Programs that enabled children, youth, young adults, young parents, mothers, fathers and grandparents to participate in programs that promoted a pride in strong cultural identity and taught life skills side-by-side with traditional values and practices. Ilerla promoted the speaking of local language and took young people into country with their elders to learn about their culture;
- Children's Programs to broaden their thinking and that provided models for positive lifestyles. In a safe environment they were able to speak out and gain confidence, to learn and engage successfully with education, make healthy life-style decisions, enjoy positive relationships, communicate their needs effectively and be aware of the dangers in the community.



At the end of the course, the young girls have a pamper session and enjoy being 'princesses' for the afternoon!



Leah Umbagai, the Project Manager, lives and works in the Mowanjum Community



The Mowanjum Arts Centre is built in the shape of a Wandjina

The Ilerla Partners

The *Ilerla Project* partners with a diverse range of individuals and organisations to ensure an integrated approach to achieving better health and education outcomes for Mowunjum and surrounding indigenous communities. Partners include:

- **Community Elders** from the Worrorra, Ngaryngin and Wunumbal tribes who will continue to share cultural knowledge and skills; provide an understanding of the Law; and share stories and the lifestyle attributes of the ancestors;
- **True Blue Dreaming** who will deliver a mentoring program to train youth to empower youth to set and achieve goals and develop a sense of value, identity and purpose;
- The **Rainbow Program** that focuses on children from kindergarten to Year 12 who are grieving. It encourages emotional literacy and builds self esteem. It also offers individual crisis

counseling. The *Ilerla Project* Manager has received training and ongoing support from the Program.

- The **David Wirrpanda Foundation** that will assist with programs designed to build youth confidence and self esteem;
- Pamela Hunter, the Manager of **Aboriginal Healthwork** who will help deliver protective behaviour strategies that support safety in communities;
- The **Police** through the Child Protection Unit who will give advice and direction on how to protect children at-risk. The local Police run a community policing program that offers kids an understanding of what happens if they disclose child sexual abuse;
- **Mooditj** that will continue to provide training and advice on delivering creative learning programs around sexual wellbeing for all target groups;
- **Kimberley Paediatrics Team** who will continue to provide mentoring for the *Ilerla Project* Manager around

situations where there is disclosure of sexual abuse;

- **Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS)** that will provide programs on personal hygiene;
- **Community Health** that will be involved in the delivery of programs associated with suicide prevention, hygiene and first aid;
- **Standby Me** that will assist in strategies for suicide prevention;
- **Nunga Women's Workshops** run by the *Ilerla Project* Manager on women's issues, that will provide "play and learn" sessions for babies and mums;
- **St John Ambulance** that will provide CPR training and other first aid programs;
- Further expert advice will continue to be provided by Professor John Boulton, Senior Regional Paediatrician, **Kimberley Health**; Emeritus Professor Freda Briggs AO, **University of South Australia** and staff of **Curtin University**.
What a team!

- Children's After School Activities designed to cultivate self-esteem, positive self-image and better educational and emotional outcomes. Activities included art workshops, a drop-in centre for homework, puppet theatre activities, 'in country' camps, performance art workshops, traditional art afternoons and a weekly 'kids club' that incorporated a sleep-over from Friday night for those children who were unsafe at home on weekends.

The *Ilerla Project* was administered on a day-to-day basis by the Unity of First People of Australia and brought together over twenty community organizations. The Zonta Club of Perth was represented on the Community Reference Group.

After *Ilerla*, Zontians maintained their friendship with the Ngarinyin women with visits to the Gibb River community (sadly mostly for funerals),

phone calls and sending clothing parcels. We were kept up to date by Yvonne Burgu and community nurses when they visited Perth.

It was with great sadness that, in 2015, we heard that our dearest friend Yvonne Burgu had died in a car accident on the treacherous Gibb River Road. She had been an advocate for education and had been instrumental in establishing a primary school in her community. To commemorate her life's work to improve the lives of young indigenous women through education, the Zonta Club of Perth has established the Yvonne Burgu Scholarship.

This award encourages indigenous Australian women to continue their education and the first award was presented in 2017. Through the Yvonne Burgu Scholarship our Ngarinyin friendship lives on.



Cultural Awareness Day 2012: Guest Speaker, Ruth Sims (left) talks to event organiser, Wendy Atherden.

11. The fifth decade: the Club in the 2010s

Australia in the 2010s	
2010	Mary MacKillop becomes first Australian saint of the Roman Catholic Church. Julia Gillard becomes the first woman to be Prime Minister of Australia.
2017	Same sex marriage legalised in Australia.
Technology	The Australian Square Kilometre Array radio telescope project commences in WA. Mobile phone and tablet technology improves enabling internet-of-things to develop using big data. Social media takes off (Facebook, Instagram, Linked-in, TikTok etc), on-line shopping increases, streaming media (Netflix, Stan, etc).
Fashion	Peplums, neons, athleisure, skater and hipster fashions - lots of short term trends, but anything goes!
Sport	2011 Sally Pearson is first Australian female athlete to be named Athlete of the Year by the International Association of Athletics Federations. 2017 Women's Australian Football League starts.
Cost of groceries	Milk \$2.00/L, sugar \$1.75/kg, onions \$2.50/kg
Value of money	\$100 spent in 2012 would require \$123 in 2022

Service Activities in the 2010s

The Club carried on the friendship with the Ngarinyin senior law women and donated clothing and other goods as required. On one occasion, clothes for all ages and sexes were sorted and packed into boxes by Wendy MacGibbon, Sciona Browne, Vera Riley and Wendy Atherden on a 40°C day – an exhausting time. On another occasion, Margaret Medcalf provided her garage for storage and tables were set up in her garden to sort the clothes.

In 2011, following a special plea for help from Angie Fisher, Community Nurse in Derby, a

special order was made for 60 blankets for the Ngarinyin community that was freezing during the winter months. These were partly paid for through the sale of the Wandjina cards. Over the years, Regal Transport has generously transported dozens of boxes of clothes to Derby. The clothes were safely stored, and when the Gibb River Road is passable, they are gradually dispersed through the communities. In 2015, the Club helped Yvonne Burgu sell some of her paintings to support activities at the primary school at Gibb River.

The Club provided some financial assistance to Valeriia Minigoulova in 2013 to attend a meeting of the International Criminal Court

Assembly at the United Nations' Headquarters in New York. She was also attached as an intern to the Australian Mission in New York and shared her experiences with members on her return.

The Birthing Kit Assembly days went from strength to strength, with students from St Catherine's College and Trinity College getting behind them. Over fifty volunteers have helped out sometimes, with students from over 20 countries participating, and these assembly days continue to raise the profile of Zonta in the community. Vera Riley, coordinator of many birthing kit assembly days, and Wendy Atherden promoted the program to year 11 students at Perth Modern School.

Nowadays, the club supports the vibrant assembly days held by our Golden Z Club at St Catherine's College, UWA and Z Club at Shenton College (see page 21).

The Club shared a stand with other clubs to display birthing kits at the Pregnancy, Babies and Children Expo held at the Claremont

Showgrounds for a couple of years. Over \$2,000 was raised in the collection tins at each event, and many people were inspired to have collections for kits at their baby showers.

Sewing is not one of the members' strengths, so the Club supports the Breast Care Cushion project by providing funds to purchase materials. Female prisoners in Bandyup Prison use the materials to make the cushions as part of their sewing program. The cushions are later filled at local Zonta sewing bees.

Val Gandossini and inspirational social advocate, Susan Saleeba, shared their experience working in the slums of Karemura in Kenya with Susan's Nakura Family Project. Val taught at one of Susan's slum schools and explained to members how women are trained to sew, so they may support their families and break out of the poverty cycle. Members supplied \$1,000 for sewing machines to support this worthy cause.

The Club supports the Zonta House Refuge through members serving on the Refuge Board



Golden Z Club completes another successful Birthing Kit Assembly Day



Val Gandossini with some of the children she taught in Kenya

and supporting the recently established Positive Pathways Program and Starting Over Support described in Chapter 12. Fundraising for the refuge has included tin rattling, and City to Surf runs. The Refuge celebrated its 30th birthday in October 2014.

The Zonta Holiday Relief Scheme has been up and down this decade. One year Wendy MacGibbon arranged holidays for 33 people - 13 adults and 20 children – while other years, it could be two to three families accommodated with around a dozen people involved. A social worker refers families, and many have never been on holiday before.

Wendy has liaised with the Rotary Club of East Albany to book accommodation with disability access at Emu Point in Albany – mostly during school holidays. She uses her calm, graceful nature to good effect as she liaises with the families that are often under stress to make sure their holidays go smoothly - and has had to handle re-bookings due to family crises or car breakdowns. Wendy has managed Zonta

Holidays very ably for many years and in 2014 handed over to Jill Anderson.

It became increasingly difficult to obtain referrals from social workers for the holidays even though a lot of effort was made to promote them. Holidays were funded through the interest from the holiday fund, and as interest rates decreased, so did the viability of the holiday scheme. The combination of low interest and referral rates contributed to the ending of the holiday scheme in 2018.

Advocacy Activities in the 2010s

Advocacy was front and centre with the Cultural Awareness Days organised by Wendy Atherden. The inaugural event was an afternoon tea gathering. It featured five women who shared their inspiring and moving stories showing how they overcame incredible odds and forged extraordinary new lives in Australia. Carina Hoang, a Vietnamese boat person, was the keynote speaker. She lived through appalling conditions with her two younger



Zontians and Zonta House Refuge Association staff promoting the Zonta Says NO message before the 2014 Silent March

siblings when dumped on a deserted island. Her book, *Boat People*, was sold at the event, with part proceeds going to the Club. This event was repeated in 2012 with speakers including Mehdi Nawa, a young Afghan man.

Subsequently, a relationship was formed with Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre, which supports women from various countries who have been and still are, experiencing domestic violence. Many are also on unresolved visas (i.e. partners of Visa 457 holders, spousal visas and humanitarian visas), compounding their untenable situation. Many have no Government support, are isolated and often frightened.

These women are so appreciative of both our practical help and our friendship. Members enjoy getting to know the women and their children at lunch events in members' homes or parks and donate toys, books, toiletries and clothes. A special donation was made of 20 'Days for Girls' menstruation packs for those who cannot afford the ongoing costs of sanitary products. These courageous women inspire

members, and a mentoring program has been established to help the women achieve their goals of being included in society, finding work or returning to study.

The Club supports the annual White Ribbon Day in November, and members regularly participate in the yearly Silent Domestic Violence Memorial Marches through the Perth city centre. At the march's starting point, Zonta members join the Zonta House Refuge team to sell white ribbons and raise awareness of the Zonta Says No campaign. This event has grown over the years, and in 2018 there were hundreds of people silently marching. Pedestrians in the Hay Street and Murray Street Mall stand still as the march passes to respect those that have died through domestic violence. In Australia, on average, one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner (Bryant and Bricknell 2017, <https://aic.gov.au/publications/sr/sr002>)

Members encourage people to wear their white ribbons for the duration of the 16 days of activism that start on White Ribbon Day and



Cultural Awareness Day 2012. L-R: Speakers, Mehdi Nawa, David Majri, Lily Chen and Ruth Sims



Members building relationships over lunch with the amazing women from Ishar

finish on Human Rights day (25 November to 10 December). The Club posts information about gender-based violence on its Facebook page throughout the 16 days.

The internet has proven to be a vehicle of abuse, and in 2019 Greg Gebhart, senior trainer for the Office of eSafety Commissioner, presented to all the Zonta Clubs in WA. He showed members how to manage online abuse, cyberstalking, and how to put in place an eSafety plan. In April 2019, Noelle Martin, 2019 Young Western Australian of the Year, inspired members with how she had managed to change the law in many states. Her image had been superimposed without her permission on pornographic material and widely circulated on social media. Through her persistence, she fought to make this practice illegal - and succeeded.

The Club continued to support UNIFEM (that became UN Women in 2012) through the International Women's Day UN Women Breakfast. This event went from strength to

strength with the creation of the IWD WA Collaboration that brought together eight local women's service organisations, including Australian Local Government Women's Association, Business and Professional Women, Country Women's Association, Graduate Women WA, Soroptimists International, UN Women, Young UN Women and Zonta.

To mark the Centenary of International Women's Day in 2011, Lotterywest provided a \$500,000 grant for the IWD Collaboration to organise state-wide celebrations with the cheque being presented at an event at the Shire of Peppermint Grove. Celebrations included:

- Establishment and Launch of the WA Women's Hall of Fame;
- Organisation of the IWD UN Women Breakfast to raise funds for UN Women;
- Management of a statewide schools project that encouraged students to write about women that inspired them and inviting them into the classroom to



L-R: Noelle Martin is congratulated by Agnes Vacca for changing the law to protect people from cyber abuse



\$500,000 cheque ceremony in 2011: L-R Judy Tennant, Lennie McCall, Leanne Sultan (A3 Dir, Perth NS), Alison Martin (Perth NS), Anne Banks-McAllister (UN Women), Holly Ransom (Young UN Women) and Carole Theobald



Hall of Fame Cocktail event 2011: L-R Freda Jacob, Carole Theobald, Agnes Vacca and Bec Christou



2011: Leah Umbagai and her proud son Falou at the Hall of Fame ceremony



2012, Freda Jacob (centre) inducted into WA Women's Hall of Fame. L-R: Wendy Atherden, Carole Theobald, Lennie McCall and Mary Gurgone.

talk to the students;

- Promotion of a 'Blokes Morning Tea' where men were encouraged to host events to celebrate the contribution of women in their workplaces;
- Raising awareness of IWD with the West Australian having a special wrap around to the newspaper that featured the women in the Hall of Fame and also contained an advert about Zonta which was funded by contributions from all the Zonta Clubs in WA; and
- Creating the Power of 100 website where people could record stories of their 'moment in time' of what they were doing on the centenary day. This site continues to serve as a vehicle to promote the WA Women's Hall of Fame and its activities.

The WA Women's Hall of fame kicked off in 2011 with the first one hundred women, past and present, inducted by the WA Governor, Dr Ken Michael, at a high profile 'show' at the

Perth Convention Centre. Among the first one hundred inductees were Club member Dr Penny Flett and Zonta friends Carina Hoang (who spoke at our cultural awareness days), Kath Mazzella (who was our Club's nominee and 2005 Area 3 Woman of Achievement) and Leah Umbagai (whose commitment managing the Yarri Wada and Ilerla projects had been instrumental to their success).

Leah's flight from the Kimberley had been delayed, and she dashed straight from the airport to the event – arriving just in time for her presentation from the Governor. Pop singer Jessica Mauboy entertained an audience of over 500 people, leading them through a spirited rendition of 'I am Woman'.

Freda Jacob was inducted in the WA Women's Hall of Fame in 2012 and Margaret Medcalf in 2014. In 2013 the Hall of Fame recognised the contribution of women's groups to the shaping of Western Australia, with Zonta International



2012 Margaret Medcalf (front row second left) inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame by the WA Governor Malcolm McCusker (front right) at Government House Ballroom. Front left: Hon Liza Harvey MLA, Minister for Women's Interests



2015 Heritage week: L-R Margaret Nowak and Anne-Marie Ferguson (IWD Collaboration) and Carole Theobald

being formally recognised at a ceremony at the Government House Ballroom.

Carole Theobald, Sandra Burns and Judy Gorton were on the committee to establish and manage the Hall of Fame. In 2015 the committee received \$64,000 from Lotterywest to investigate options for an enduring memorial for the WA Women's Hall of Fame and undertook a feasibility study to establish an entity to help organisations collaborate more effectively in the gender space. In December 2017, the WA Women's Hall of Fame became an incorporated entity.

In 2015, Carole Theobald conducted two radio interviews on 6PR where she was able to showcase Zonta and talk about the early suffragists in WA and the inductees into the Hall of Fame.

Carole also coordinated a play with IWD Collaboration members during Heritage Week in the Legislative Council chamber of the Western Australian Parliament. She was joined by members of Soroptimists International and Business and Professional Women. Carole performed the role of Edith Cowan (the first woman in the world to be elected and sit in a Parliament) to highlight the achievements of female parliamentarians in Western Australia.

The IWD UN Women Breakfast events grew from a couple of hundred people in 2008 to over 1,000 by 2012. Carole Theobald chaired the IWD Breakfast committee in 2012 and 2013 when she was joined by Club members Wendy Atherden, Janine Wyatt and Kate Ellson. Those two breakfasts each attracted over 1,000 attendees and raised a total of nearly \$100,000.



2012 YWPA Emma Boogaardt (centre) with President Lorraine McLean (Left) and Val Gandossini



2015 YWPA Jessica Townrow (left) with Jill Anderson and President 'Tricia Summerfield



2015 Education Rosalie Jane Lorenzi with President Sandra Burns (left) and Kate Ellson

Awards Presented in the 2010s

The Club continues to support the Young Women in Public Affairs Award with Denise Hamilton, Janet Fitchat, Jill Anderson and Tanis Jackson coordinating the awards during this decade. Awardees from 2010-2019 were Georgia Westbrook, Frances Gamble, Emma Boogaardt, Claire Moran, Jessica Sidi, Jessica Townrow, Claire Burwood, Emily Hardbottle, Mutia Daruso and Paris McNeil.

Selecting our Education Award awardees is very difficult as they were all worthy and inspirational. On three occasions, two awards were provided as it was impossible to choose an outright winner. Agnes Vacca and Kate Ellson coordinated awards in this decade. Awardees included Stacey Armstrong, Aysha Davis, Jasmine Walker, Sharon Rose, Jannah Cooper, Terri Sugars, Rosalie Jane Lorenzi, Lara Allen, Debbie Booth, Sharon Turner, Tracey Fickling and Alexandra Farrell. One awardee received her cheque in Boronia Pre-release Centre. The 2016 awardee, Debbie

Booth, became a member for a short time before moving interstate.

The TAFE Community Award in 2011 was presented to Frida Lemi, but no award was made after this time.

The Yvonne Burgu Education Award commenced in 2017 with Denise Colbung being the first recipient, followed in 2018 by Brianna Ozies (with runner up Jordin Payne) and Taylah Thompson in 2019. When Brianna received her award, her father drove for two days from Derby (2,400 km each way) to witness the event and returned the following day!

Yvonne Burgu was a community leader at Gibb River Station in the Kimberley region of WA and a strong advocate for education. She established the Wanalirri Catholic Primary School in her community.

The Club is grateful to Yvonne's family for agreeing to her name being used for the Award. The Award encourages continuing education by



2017 Yvonne Burgu Awardee, Denise Colbung (centre) with Jill Anderson and President Donella Caspersz



2018 Woman of Achievement nominee, Jannine Gliddon



2018 Area 3 Jane M Klausman Awardee Kerran Olsen (left) with Director Judy Gorton

an Aboriginal woman in her second year of tertiary education in Perth or a regional centre.

The nominations for the Area 3 Woman of Achievement continue to impress with our 2011 nominee Roslyn West sharing her nursing experiences of community-based perinatal mental health and our 2012 nominee Donna Percy describing to members how she provides legal, social and housing assistance to wheelchair-bound individuals who have spinal cord injury or acquired brain injury. This award was presented biennially from 2012.

In 2014-16 our nominee Mavis Steenson, who had given over 28 years of service to the Zonta House Refuge, went on to be the Area winner. Our 2016-18 nominee, Jannine Gliddon, advocates for Indigenous health and has established many programs at King Edward Memorial Hospital, including an Aboriginal Volunteer Program. Nominees received a certificate, brooch and their citation at the Area 3 Founders' Day Dinner.

Zonta International piloted a new Women in Technology Award in 2019 and the Club presented an award to Shakila Rathnayake who was undertaking postgraduate studies in Geographic Information System Mapping.

The Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarships became an Area 3 award in 2013. Club members Karen Groves, Donella Caspersz and Gabrielle Walker, have coordinated this award for the Area. This decade's recipients have included Holly Ransom, Natalie Meyer, Lori-Ann Shibish, Gabrielle Walker, Gemma Tually, Emmelyn Wu and Kerran Olson. Holly, Natalie, Gabrielle and Kerran went on to win the District 23 level of this award. Gabrielle Walker joined the Club at the end of 2017, and it is fitting that she coordinated the JMK Award until she left the club in 2020.

As an aside - Holly Ransom has had a whirlwind career and is CEO of a company that specialises in marketing to millennials. In 2014 the Australian Prime Minister appointed her to

chair the G20 Youth Summit. The Australian Financial Review regards her as one of Australia's 100 Most Influential Women – and was listed by Sir Richard Branson as one of his six dream dinner guests alongside Neil Armstrong and Desmond Tutu. One to watch!

Fundraising Activities in the 2010s

Many members have excellent writing skills, which have been applied to acquire grants, donations and sponsorships. For example, Karrinyup Country Club sponsored the Young Women in Public Affairs Award for 2011 and donations were received from the Attadale Rotary Club, Samson Cellars and individuals Andrew Chapman, Carina Hoang, Alex Pallis and Kay Zani.

The biggest success on the donor/sponsorship front was the \$230,307 from Lotterywest in 2011 to support the Ilerla project in the Kimberley (see Chapter 10). The successful submission was prepared by Fiona Crowe and

Sciona Browne, who oversaw the management of the project.

Another grant of \$13,623 was obtained in 2011 from Lotterywest to help the Club evaluate its fundraising activities over the past 40 years. Consultant, Anne Butarac, was engaged to produce the report entitled *Advancing the Status of Women - Funding the Way* and she facilitated a workshop to share the findings.

Not all grants were from Lotterywest. In 2014 Club members helped the Zonta House Refuge obtain over \$200,000 through a one-off grant from the Criminal Property Confiscation Grants Program to support its Positive Pathways Project.

In 2015, our club became the first service organisation in Perth to join the local philanthropic group 100 Women. In one year, the group raised nearly \$100,000 that was distributed to projects helping women and girls.

Members have had a lot of fun with the sausage sizzles outside Bunnings hardware



2010 A3 and D23 JMK Awardee, Holly Ransom (Centre) with Karen Groves and President Mary Gurgone



Anne Butarac (left) thanked by Karina Moore for presenting the findings of the *Funding the Way* report



L-R: Carole and David Theobald, Karen Groves, Deb Mason, Ron and Gill Palmer get those sausages sizzlin'

store in Melville. These events provided an excellent opportunity to spread the Zonta message to the broader community with each event raising between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

Some members are adept at organising casual club dinners in members' homes with members and partners (Hon Zons) lending a hand. Sumptuous arrays of salads, hot baked leg ham and delicious desserts are produced together with copious amounts of wine. Members have enjoyed Christmas events on balmy summer evenings in the gardens of Jill and David Anderson, Karen and Bill Groves, Carole and David Theobald and Donella Caspersz's family. These events are boosted by silent auctions and raffles and can raise a few hundred to a couple of thousand dollars each.

Thanks to Jill Anderson, the Christmas function in 2011 was held in the Lionel Samson Cellars in Fremantle. Wendy Atherden coordinated members to provide the salads, meats were purchased, and Margaret Medcalf made all the fabulous meringue nests for the dessert base. There were 72 attendees, great raffle prizes, a

competition for the best table centre-piece (a boat constructed by Lesley Meaney) and all members received a Christmas gift. The event raised over \$4,500. 'Hon Zon' Gerry Atherden was, once again, our volunteer dishwasher.

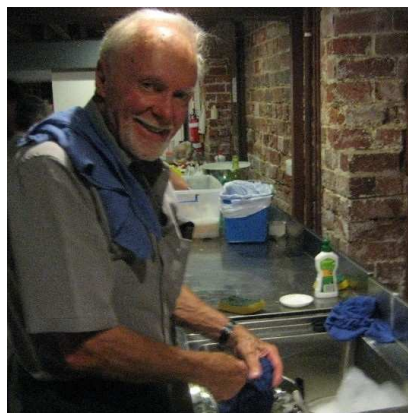
High tea at St Catherine's College in 2014 featured guest speaker author Deborah Burrows and a saxophone quartet from Perth Modern School (thanks to member Lois Joll - the school's principal). Members donned aprons made by Wendy Atherden and high tea plate stands and china cups sourced by Deb Mason.

On the weekend of the high tea, Wendy MacGibbon organised a photographic exhibition and sale of framed photographs taken by her talented late husband, Dudley. People going to the high tea passed through the display with photographs selling quickly. These two events raised over \$5,000.

Wendy MacGibbon was also 'instrumental' in the Australian Girls' Choir performing for the Club in 2010 and 2011. These events were a



'Tricia Summerfield and Jean Oldham enjoy the 2011 Christmas party in the Samson Cellars



Hon Zon, Gerry Atherden has been a great supporter and volunteer at Zonta events!

Dudley MacGibbon Collection

Dudley was an avid photographer who took to travelling with great enthusiasm upon retirement.

This collection is some of the work he did during his retirement years.

These are original photographs sold in limited edition.

Copies of some of the collection are available for purchase.

All regular sized of \$150
A few large size \$200

High Tea

All proceeds **Monday 23rd October, 2pm to 4pm**
Zonta Club of Perth Inc.
www.zonta.org.au
St Catherine's College,
University of Western Australia
(entry off Fremantle Highway, Northside)

Tickets \$35 each online from
Thursday 10th October 2013
Bookings close 10am on 23rd October

Please come and see the collection
• Refreshments to include fresh baked scones
• Free will donation to support author, cultural diversity, equality
• Live music by Perth Modern School Saxophone Quartet and Percussion
• Auction of the late Dudley MacGibbon's collection
• Refreshments
• Gifts to include for \$10
• Cash donations welcome
• Help us raise money for our friends today!

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In 2013, the photographic exhibition and High Tea were a great success

great success. In addition, with the consent of the District 23 Board, residual funds from the Yarri Wada project were used to fund ten girls from the Kimberley to spend time with the Australian Girls' Choir in Melbourne.

Members were delighted when Laura Bernay joined the Club. She has put together musical concerts featuring singers from the Bachelor of Classical Voice and Music Theatre Certificate IV from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) and Bernay Studio. The first, in 2018, *With a Smile and a Song*, was held in the Shenton Park Community Theatre and was a 'sell out'. The second event in 2019, *Comedy Tonight*, was over two evenings in a studio in Shenton Park. At both events, the standard of the performers was excellent, and the audience heard singers who would no doubt achieve fame.

In 2017, the newly formed Freeze Frame Opera (FFO), led by Harriett O'Shannessy, performed *Opera Heroines* at a special, successful event for the Club.

Fashion events are always popular, and the *2015 Spring Fashion Show* at the Royal Perth Yacht Club was fantastic. Judy Gorton's daughter, Leah Helean, launched her new range of hand-painted silk outfits and matching millinery just in time for the Melbourne Cup.

Agnes Vacca organised a successful event in 2013 at Morrison's in Claremont, and Nicky Grobler took the initiative and organised two Fashion Events in 2017 with the Wardrobe at Applecross. Members provided platters of non-greasy food and white wine so as to not spoil the clothes. Members and friends enjoyed trying on the clothes and buying them with part proceeds going to the Club.

Quiz nights get the whole Club involved, and successful events were held at the Cambridge Bowling Club in Floreat and St Catherine's College. Lesley Meaney, Jill Anderson, Denise Hamilton, Deb Mason, Roslyn Budd (who coordinated a significant event at St Catherine's) and many more members provided prizes for raffles and silent auctions. Around \$20,000 was raised from these three events.



2018, Stars of the future perform in *With a Smile and a Song*.



2019, the finale of *Comedy Tonight* - a marvellous cabaret style evening



The 2015 Spring Fashion Show featured Leah Helean's hand painted silk outfits and hats

Club members are very keen to advocate for more women to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and so commenced the Club's 'women in science events'.

In 2017, the *Antarctic Challenge-Women Breaking the Ice* event showcased three Western Australian scientists who attended the inaugural Homeward Bound international women in science leadership expedition to the Antarctic. Dr Samantha Hall, Kathleen Patrick and Sarah Conolly, spoke of their Antarctic experiences, leadership and diversity.

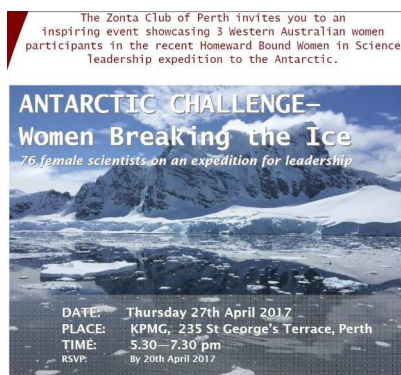
The next event in 2018, held at the Grant Thornton Central Park offices, featured Professor Christobel Saunders, who shared her work on breast cancer research.

In Zonta's centenary year, a special Cosmos Calling event was held in the Sci-Tech Planetarium that featured a planetarium show followed by Prof Lyn Beazley (former WA Chief Scientist) hosting a panel discussion with three

of WA's top astrophysicists: Dr Natasha Hurley-Walker, who uses precursor SKA radio telescopes to create a map of the sky in radio colour; Dr Katarina Miljkovic who leads the only Australian planetary science group working on NASA's Mars InSight Mission; and Dr Ellie Sansom, who leads the Desert Fireball Network. A few people dressed as someone from 100 years in the past or future to spice up the night!

Other fundraisers have included the 2017 Bridget Jones' Baby movie night at the Cygnet Cinema in Como, members walking in the City to Surf to raise funds for the Zonta House Refuge and smaller fundraisers such as raffles, sales of Entertainment books and a book 'bring and buy' sale at monthly meetings.

The 2010s have seen the impact on technology on the club with online banking and apps such as Trybooking and Eventbrite, making it easier to market and sell tickets. In recent years, speakers' gifts have been replaced with certificates and donations to the ZI Foundation.



The first Women in Science event featured Antarctic scientists



The second Women in Science event featured Professor Christobel Saunders' breast cancer research



The third Women in Science event featured WA's top astrophysicists: L-R Dr Katarina Miljkovic, Dr Ellie Sansom, Dr Natasha Hurley-Walker and former WA Chief Scientist Prof Lyn Beazley



Jane Moulden (Area 3 Dir) with Wendy Atherden (left) and Chrissie Hodges (right) who both transferred from ZC Dunsborough



President Mary Gurgone (left) with Freda Jacob who retired from the Club in 2012



President Sandra Burns presents Margaret Medcalf with flowers on her retirement from the club in 2017

People and Fellowship in the 2010s

During the 2010s, membership has fluctuated between 29 and 38, with members moving interstate or overseas to follow their careers or take a sea/tree change to the country. Many members have times when their careers 'take off' or when they need to take on additional caring roles for their elderly parents, children or grandchildren. The Club is mindful of these responsibilities and tries to provide a varied program so members can contribute when they can.

Fellowship events were held in cafés and members' homes to allow prospective and existing members to learn more about Zonta and each other.

We gained members from other clubs, with Chrissie Hodges transferring from Dunsborough, Sandra Burns from Bendigo, Deanna Byers from Para Districts in South Australia, Janine Wyatt from Rockhampton and Ronette Druskovich from Brisbane.

In 2012, Freda Jacob and Penny Flett retired from the Club after many years of valuable service. Freda, a charter member, and Penny both had very gentle yet strong and persuasive ways of inspiring and mentoring members to get involved in Club activities - and brought out the best in those around them.

A former State Archivist and charter member, Margaret Medcalf, decided to retire from the Club in 2017 after a magnificent 45 years of Zonta Service. She continues to be a 'friend' to the Club, attending events and meetings when she can.

Sadly, during this decade, we lost our beloved Jean Oldham and Margaret Giles in 2012 and Freda Jacob in 2018. Jean and Marg were a constant source of encouragement to members, always providing a kind word and a listening ear. Jean will be fondly remembered for her work in establishing new clubs and hosting the early Art Shows and Marg for her tireless work with the Zonta House Refuge.



Kathy Charlesworth and Yvonne Burgu collecting the White Angel in 2005



January – Deb Mason (left) named City of Bayswater Citizen of the Year (with Kaye Winfield from SOS - photo Eastern Reporter)



2018, Judy Gorton D23 Governor, at International Convention in Yokohama where she was elected ZI Director

In 2011, Kathy Charlesworth, who had introduced the Club to the senior Ngarinyin law women in the Kimberley, died. The Club presented Kathy with a bound collection of our times together in the Kimberley. This provided hours of joy for Kathy as she relived her adventures with her family around her bedside in the hospice.

Yvonne Burgu, the leader of the Gibb River Community, was a good friend of Kathy's, and she was sadly killed in a car accident on the infamous Gibb River Road in 2015. Sciona Browne and Carole and David Theobald knew her well and attended her funeral at Gibb River Station in the Kimberley. Kathy and Yvonne are buried near each other in Gibb River cemetery, near Yvonne's mother Maudie. It is fitting that our Ngarinyin relationship is recognised through the Yvonne Burgu Education Award.

On a brighter note, members celebrated when Agnes Vacca, a partner with KPMG, received a 40 under 40 Award by the WA Business News. In 2017, the fantastic work of Debbie Mason in establishing the Starting Over Support charity

(see Chapter 12) was recognised when she became the City of Bayswater's Australia Day Citizen of the Year.

Members were immensely proud when Judy Gorton (formerly Tennant) was installed as District 23 Governor at the Zonta International Convention in Nice in 2016. In 2018, she was elected as a Director of Zonta International – the international board of Zonta – and installed to her new role at the Zonta International Convention in Yokohama, Japan. These are the highest Zonta positions ever held by a Club member in our history. Well done, Judy!

During the decade, Sandra Burns, Carole Theobald, Margaret Medcalf, Lennie McCall, Tricia Summerfield and Karen Groves have also taken on District 23 committee responsibilities. Carole Theobald served as Area 3 Director from 2012-14, and Sandra Burns was the District 23 Lt Governor for 2018-20.

At the District 23 Conference in Geelong in 2018, Wendy Atherden received the prestigious

Heide Taylor Award for her service to Zonta. The Club also had a big celebration in 2012 when Marg Giles, Lennie McCall and Margaret Medcalf were awarded certificates to acknowledge 40 years of service to Zonta. Since then, Tricia Summerfield (2017) and Wendy MacGibbon (2019) have 'notched up' 40 years of service – a magnificent achievement!

Organisation in the 2010s

This decade has seen the formation of two new clubs: the Golden Z Club of St Catherine's College, University of Western Australia (UWA) in 2013 and the Z Club of Shenton College in 2018.

The Club has enjoyed a long association with the staff and students at St Catherine's and

holds its monthly meetings and many of its events at the College. Students have helped with garage sales, quiz nights and birthing kit assembly days, and members have supported the College by mentoring students. Residents at the College come from around Australia and overseas and attend many universities in Perth.

The Golden Z Club of St Catherine's College was the first GZ Club in Australia and was launched at a Gala Dinner event at UWA with 14 members. Elizabeth Woodgate, International Director from the Zonta Club of Peel, presented the charter certificate. Many GZ Club members live at St Catherine's College and regularly attend Club dinner meetings. The GZ Club holds fundraising and advocacy events at the College, and its service activities include birthing kit assembly days.



2013: Charter members of the Golden Z Club of St Catherine's College, UWA

Lennie McCall, Carole Theobald and Sandra Burns worked closely with Katie Parsons, Dean of Students, and Nikki Dumbrell and Rebecca Adamson (students) to establish the GZ Club. Sandra and, more recently, Kimberley Strong, Donella Caspersz and Vera Riley have provided the ongoing liaison keeping Club members updated with GZ Club activities.

Golden Z Club Presidents have included: Cara Webling, Lauren Rosher, Samantha Goering, Brooke Shepherdson and Zoe Scott.

The Z Club of Shenton College was the first Z Club in Western Australia, and the charter for this Club was presented by our member Judy Gorton, International Director, on 28 May 2018. The Charter event was supported by Principal Michael Morgan, teachers Garry Green and Gabriella Barrett, and families of students and Zonta members.

Shenton College is very enthusiastic and immediately held several fundraising events to fund birthing kit workshops. Emily Barrett, a previous Shenton College student now at UWA,

serves as the Z Club ambassador. Donella Caspersz and Jill Anderson were the main instigators of the Z Club with assistance from Sandra Burns. This new Club entered the ZI Emma L Conlon Awards in 2018 and received a US\$250 award, for a club less than two years old, for its outstanding efforts.

Our special thanks go to the City of Perth for kindly hosting a civic reception at Council House to formally celebrate the Club's 40th birthday in 2012. Deputy Lord Mayor Janet Davidson JP, the Minister for Women's Interests, Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC and Professor Colleen Hayward welcomed members and guests to a night where the new, current and former members could share their stories and reminisce.

A rolling PowerPoint display of photos from the archives showcased all that had been achieved. Several charter members were also at the event, as well as members from other clubs and representatives of WA International Women's Day Collaboration partner organisations.



Golden Z Club 'founders': L-R students Rebecca Adamson, Nikki Dumbrell and Dean of Students, Katie Parsons



2018: L-R President Donella Caspersz with Shenton College Z Club Ambassador, Emily Barrett and Gabriella Barrett



L-R: President Mary Gurgone receives a plaque from Deputy Lord Mayor of Perth Cr Janet Davidson JP at the 40th Reception at Council House in 2012.



2012: Club and former charter members at the 40th Anniversary Reception at the City of Perth. Back row L-R: Judy Tennant, Katina Law, Jill Anderson, Fay Woods, Kate Ellson, Val Gandossini, Karen Groves, Karina Moore, Roslyn Budd, Fiona Crowe, Marg Giles, Sue Jarvis, Lesley Meaney, Helen Margaria, Jan Stewart, Wendy Atherden, Ellen Cox, Mary Gurgone, Lorraine McLean, Tricia Summerfield. Middle row: Lennie McCall, Joy Cooke, Barbara Hale, Beryl Grant, Margaret Medcalf, Lyn McArthur, Freda Jacob. Front row: Carole Theobald, Gill Palmer and Wendy MacGibbon.

The Zonta Club of Perth was the first Zonta club in Western Australia, and it was through the efforts of its early members that its 'daughter' and 'granddaughter' clubs were formed. The Zonta Clubs of Perth Northern Suburbs, Dunsborough, Bunbury, Peel and Swan Hills are thriving, and the clubs continue to work together on a range of events, including Founders' Day Dinners, Area Workshops, and International Women's Day events - and through their ongoing support of the Zonta House Refuge (see Chapter 12).

In 2013, the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs hosted the District 23 Conference in Scarborough and many of our members were

involved with the organisation of this major event.

The Club hosted the lively 2010 Area 3 Workshop at the new Surf Lifesaving Club in Swanbourne. Judy Tennant was the Area 3 Director, and guest speakers included Elizabeth Shaw, the 2008 Australian Youth Representative to the UN and Club member Diana Rigg, a leader in the field of preventing learning difficulties.

In 2016, the Club hosted the Area 3 Workshop at Perth Modern School to which several of our Golden Z Club members attended. Guest speakers included Professor Marylene Gagne,

who spoke on volunteering and Patricia Lavater, the CEO of the Esther Foundation.

The Founders' Day dinner became a biennial event during this decade. In 2018 the Club co-hosted the event with Area 3 Director Faith O'Brien, at the Royal Perth Golf Club in South Perth. The Minister for Women's Interests, the Hon Simone McGurk MLA and ZI International Director, Judy Gorton, presented the awards at this gala occasion that attracted around 100 attendees from Area 3.

In 2019, members celebrated Zonta International's Centennial year with a combined Australia and New Zealand District Conference in Brisbane. This was attended by Zonta International President Susanne von Bassewitz from Germany. Sadly, District 23 Governor Jane Adornetto from Geelong had an accident at the airport and had to be hospitalised, so the



Presenting Club history book at Brisbane Conference: L-R Karen Groves, Tricia Summerfield, Sandra Burns, Susanne von Bassewitz (ZI President), Judy Gorton and Carole Theobald

Lt Governor, our own Sandra Burns, stepped up to co-host the event.

A special edition of the Club's history was produced for the Centennial with a copy gifted to the ZI President. The book was formally launched at a special Awards Presentation night in 2019.

2019 Awardees L-R: Kimberley Wilde (Education Award), Shakila Rathnayake (Women in Technology Award), Taylah Thompson (Yvonne Burgu Education Award) and Paris McNeil (Young Women In Public Affairs Award).





Club Christmas Party 2011: Club President, Mary Gurgone (left) gives members' gifts for the Refuge to Annette Chivers, Manager of the Zonta House Refuge.

12. Feature Project of the 2010s – Helping those seeking refuge

It was through the inspirational work of Enid Down, Dianne Annear and other members of the Zonta Club of South of Perth that the Zonta House Refuge Association (the Refuge) became a reality. They observed that, while there were facilities to help abused women with small children, there were no shelters for women without children. In true Zonta style they set one up.

In April 1984, members of the South of Perth club sourced a house in Applecross to provide a safe and supportive environment for women in crisis – a refuge from violence. They voluntarily worked shifts to provide support for women day and night, did the shopping and transported clients.

Once the need had been established, Zontians were able to obtain support from Government, raised funds to employ full time staff and over the years built a strong relationship with Homeswest and other Government departments.

Di Annear was the Manager of the Refuge from 1984 to 2004 and it was through her efforts that the sustainability of the Refuge was achieved. The Refuge has helped more than 12,500 women since it was established.

Sadly, the Zonta Club of South of Perth disbanded in 1993, but its lasting legacy is the Zonta House Refuge Association - a flourishing

not-for-profit organisation that is supported by Government grants and donations from agencies, businesses, individuals and, of course, Zonta clubs.

The Zonta Clubs in WA provide representatives to serve on the Refuge's Board and Management Committees, including the following members from the Zonta Club of Perth: Marg Giles, Linley Buchanan, Lori Grech, Denise Hamilton, Agnes Vacca, Mary Gurgone, Kate Ellson, Linda Higgie, Ronette Druskovich and Ute Schierhorn. In addition, Marg Giles, Lori Grech and Mary Gurgone have all chaired the Board.

The Refuge provides not only accommodation but also a suite of services to nurture women from crisis to independence. Besides providing technical skills via the committees, Zontians have also provided support in the way of funding, clothing, toiletries, furniture and other items as required.

Di Annear and Enid Down, who died in 1997, both have Refuge facilities named after them in recognition of their vision and determination to see the Refuge established. Zonta House is one of the largest refuge associations in WA.

This chapter will describe the Refuge and associated programs including the Women's Legal Referral Service, Positive Pathways and Starting Over Support. It will also describe the

What is Domestic Violence?

(Source <http://www.community.wa.gov.au>)

Domestic violence is considered to be behaviour which results in physical, sexual and/or psychological damage, forced social isolation, economic deprivation, or behaviour which causes the victim to live in fear.

Sexual abuse: Any unwanted sexual contact this includes rape.

Emotional abuse: This includes psychological and verbal abuse. It occurs most often in the form of humiliation, threats, insults, harassment or constant criticism.

Verbal abuse: Continued verbal harassment, put downs, insults, name calling and swearing.

Club's new relationship with the women from Ishaar Multicultural Women's Health Centre.

The Zonta House Refuge

The Refuge is not one house. Accommodation is varied and includes two crisis centres, a block of flats, houses, the Enid Down Village consisting of five small houses that opened in 1999 and the Di Annear cottages, a modern two bedroom duplex pair which opened in 2004. The facilities are well-maintained with all basic requirements provided. The Refuge accommodation looks no different to other houses in the street and in some cases the Refuge houses look better maintained than their neighbours'.

The crisis centres can support up to 16 women for a short period. Clients are then moved to one of the transition houses located in Cloverdale, Bateman, Brentwood, Fremantle and Shelley, where they can stay between six months and a year. In addition, there are flats and cottages for permanent residents.

The accommodation caters for different demographic groups of residents, for example there are bedsits for women over 40, one house accommodates women with visa problems and another for women with mental health issues.

In 2006, the then Refuge Manager Annette Chivers explained:

There are many instances of women marrying Australians overseas - for example in Europe and Asia - and coming to Australia only to find they are literally locked away in isolated farmhouses and not allowed outside. With no family or friends these women are particularly vulnerable.

We also help women who have been discharged from a mental hospital but who need a bit of support to gain confidence before they live on their own again in the community. These women

have clinical referrals and are supervised through Fremantle Hospital.

Clients cannot just walk into the Refuge, they must be referred from crisis departments or the police.

Many women arrive at the Refuge with just the clothes they are wearing and no other belongings. Zontians gather toiletries and regularly have 'knicker nights' so that the Refuge clients may be supplied with a bag of toiletries and new underwear. In 2001, Di Annear explained that her mother had made over 3,000 toiletry bags to put the toiletries in, so they could be easily handed out at the Refuge.

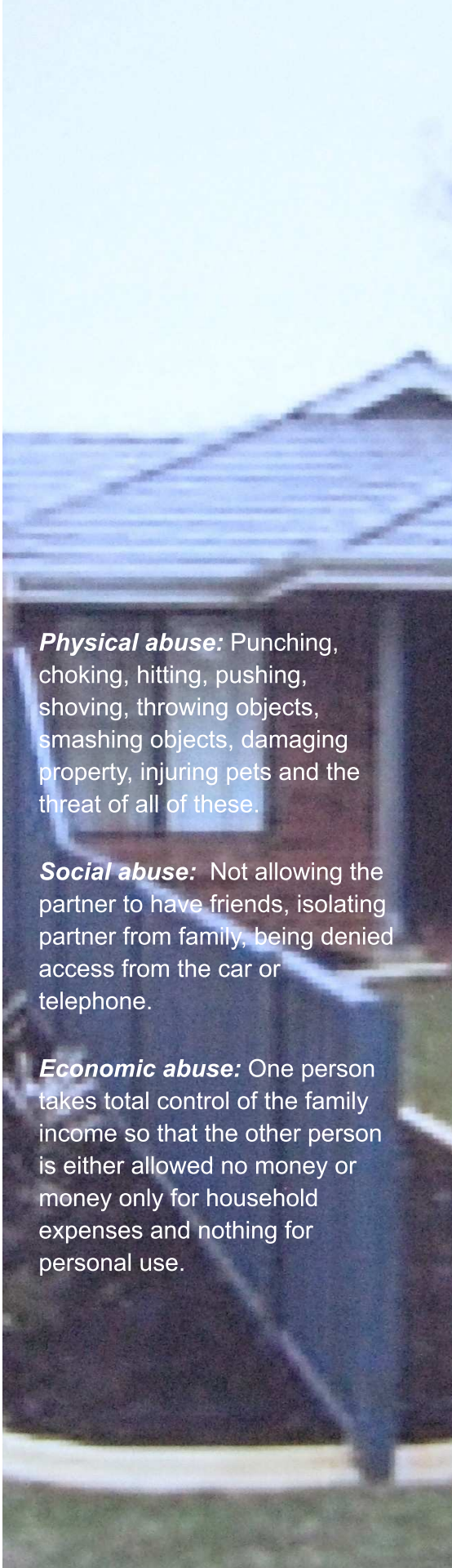
The centre is open 24/7 with staff working three rotating shifts, each of eight hours' duration. There is full time social worker support to help those with mental health issues. As Annette Chivers explained:

Staff members have to keep a professional relationship with the clients—if they get too emotionally involved they would not be able to do their jobs effectively.

Sometimes the house can be volatile so people are screened carefully before admission and have to agree not to self-harm, take drugs or alcohol and abide by the house rules. If they break the rules their 'card is marked' and they are not able to re-present. If clients are asked to leave, another place is found for them to go to. The Refuge is set up to deal with the worried well, not provide psychiatric help."

It is always difficult for women from the Refuge to rebuild their lives from scratch so Zontians provided donations of clothes, furniture and household items to help them get started.

The *House of Zonta* recycling boutique was one way that Zontians provided 'hands on' support. In the 1990s, the boutique was located in Parry Avenue, Bullcreek and the shop moved to Willagee in 2001 and closed a few years later. The better items of donated clothing were selected



Physical abuse: Punching, choking, hitting, pushing, shoving, throwing objects, smashing objects, damaging property, injuring pets and the threat of all of these.

Social abuse: Not allowing the partner to have friends, isolating partner from family, being denied access from the car or telephone.

Economic abuse: One person takes total control of the family income so that the other person is either allowed no money or money only for household expenses and nothing for personal use.

for sale in the boutique and Zontians such as Wendy MacGibbon and Leonie Collison-Bryant volunteered in the shop and helped ex-clients receive training so that they may gain self-confidence and experience. Proceeds from clothing sales were used towards the building fund for the Enid Down Village.

Each year, at the Club's Christmas party, Zonta members bring presents for the clients at the Refuge and hand over a donation. One year the Perth Male Voice Choir entertained us for the Club Christmas party and they all brought bags of gifts for the Refuge – a magnificent gesture.

The Club's donations have gone towards fridges, fencing or fitting out new homes with whitegoods and in 2000, a very large and handsome Board Table.

The Management Committee constantly looks for ways to raise funds and to help more women in need. Christmas for many years was not complete without Marg Giles requesting all members to place their order for smoked

salmon with all proceeds going to the Refuge. In more recent years, members have also participated in a range of the Refuge's events including joining the Refuge's City to Surf team to raise awareness and funds.

Through the 1990s, the Zonta Club of Perth provided 'hands on help' through Outreach Days where members shared their skills on a diverse range of topics including: relaxation and meditation, dietary advice, colour makeovers, recreational options, dried floral arrangements and circle dancing. For example, in 1999 Wendy Alford conducted art classes, Wendy MacGibbon showed the ladies how to do silk screening, Helen Trowell demonstrated self-defence techniques and Marilyn Piper cooked up 'a surprise' – though no details of the latter were provided.

The original Outreach Centre was converted from the garage at the main house and not only provided a venue for ongoing support with craft sessions, relaxation groups, employment and legal assistance, financial counselling,



Enid Down, member of the Zonta Club of South of Perth who was the inspiration behind the Refuge



2004: Diane Annear at the opening of the Di Annear Cottages. Diane retired from the Refuge after 20 years of service at this event.



2004: Marg Giles (ZC Perth) and Anita Sutton (ZC Perth NS) from the Refuge Management Committee

advocacy and emotional support, but was also used for staff meetings and training and for the Management Committee meetings.

Recently, Outreach services have consolidated and matured through the establishment of the Positive Pathways Program.

Women's Legal Referral Service

Over the years Di Annear discovered a loophole in the legal service that was causing

great financial distress to many of women at the Refuge. In March 2008, she was the guest speaker at a Club meeting and explained why she had established the Women's Legal Referral Service. (See Di Annear - helping women in need).

In 2010, Di Annear was nominated by the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs and presented with the Area 3 Woman of Achievement Award at the Founders' Day Dinner held in Dunsborough.

Di Annear – helping women in need

Marilyn Rainier – from Inzert, April 2008.

Di Annear, Manager of the Zonta House Refuge, described 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 no hope of employing a lawyer they are unable 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 to share assets, particularly superannuation. Property settlement is not covered by Legal Aid, making it difficult for women to acquire legal assistance.

In 1990, Di managed to acquire the services of altruistic lawyers who were willing to assist but soon found that court costs and obtaining consent orders was financially beyond them.

Fortunately, she was able to gain Lotterywest funding for 18 months. The Law Society and the Attorney General's Department have also offered funding over the years but Di still relies heavily on women's

organizations such as Zonta to help her cover costs. Di explained:

Problems arise when men go overseas, find a partner, then leave the woman financially destitute and repeat the process. The traumatised women approach Di for help, 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 successfully obtaining their rightful share of assets 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 for a client who had suffered abuse throughout thirty years of marriage.



2010 Founders Day Dinner: Leanne Sultan (left, A3 Dir ZC PNS) presents A3 Woman of Achievement Award to Di Annear



2014: L-R: Debbie Mason, Prof Colleen Hayward and Angie Perkins, Positive Pathways Manager at the launch of the Positive Pathways Program

Di was acknowledged for her fantastic contribution to women through her service to the Refuge and obtaining legal services for women in need.

housing options which make them vulnerable to continued violence.

The Refuge was finding that many clients were returning up to 15 times for assistance. When the granddaughters of the Refuge's first clients started to seek help, it became clear that a more preventative approach was needed to break the cycle of recidivism.

The Refuge Board applied for and received LotteryWest funding to identify both the causes and best practice strategies to respond to this challenge. In 2012, the Refuge received funding of \$200,000 from the Criminal Confiscations Grant Program to put the research into practice. The Zonta House's *Positive Pathways to Safety for Women and the Community* was launched in March 2014 by Professor Colleen Hayward and Angie Perkins was appointed as Program Manager.

The purpose of the program is to provide specialist programs to decrease and prevent the impacts of family and domestic violence on

Positive Pathways Program

According to police statistics more than 8,000 West Australians were assaulted in a domestic environment between July 2011 and March 2012. It's important to note these are the assaults that police responded to, and there would be significantly more that are not reported to police.

This means that every day in Western Australia at least 29 people were victims of physical harm within their household structure. Mary Gurgone, Chair of the Zonta House Women's Refuge, commented:

Zonta House currently provides immediate relief, by way of accommodation and social services but does not have the resources to journey with women to rebuild their lives. As a result women often return to



2017: City to Surf Fun Run L-R: Sandra Burns, Mary Gurgone and Linda Higgle



2017 Club meeting: L-R: Kelda Oppermann receives a donation from President Donella Caspersz

women and children in the community. The program has been developed for women who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing family and domestic violence. This includes women with issues around mental health, alcohol and other drugs, women who are homeless, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Indigenous women and women with disabilities.

The preventative measures within the *Positive Pathways* project focus on empowering women to make choices about their life before a crisis point is realized.

There would be many women who feel “trapped” in their abusive relationship due to the inability to secure housing and support and fear of becoming homeless.

Positive Pathways supports women to make the transition from refuge accommodation to community housing and eventually private rental and home ownership.

It also provides women with a structured environment to experience mentoring, education, fiscal management and counselling which empowers them to make good decisions on their future.

Kelda Oppermann is the current dynamic CEO of the Zonta House Refuge Association. Under her leadership in 2016, *Positive Pathways* won the Community Service Excellence Award for a Medium-Size Organisation, and has subsequently been effective at gaining ongoing funding for continued implementation in dedicated premises.

Positive Pathways' Lois Goodram Centre in Willetton was officially opened in May 2018 by the Minister for Women's Interests, the Hon Simone McGurk MLA. The centre honours Lois Goodram who worked at the Refuge for many years.

From November 2013 to December 2017 *Positive Pathways* has facilitated over 132 education programs to 898 participants,



May 2018: Opening of Lois Goodram Centre. L-R: Linda Higgie, Judy Gorton, Ute Schierhorn, Mary Gurgone, Alison Martin (Perth NS), Hon Simone McGurk (Minister for Women's Interests), Lois Goodram, Club President Donella Caspersz, Barbara Goulden (President ZC Swan Hills), Sandra Burns and Kelda Oppermann

facilitated 100 sessions community awareness sessions to 4,500 participants, held over 150 one-on-one coaching sessions and had 200 volunteers and 15 student placements.

In 2018, the Zonta House Refuge Association was a Western Australian Social Change Maker finalist in the Telstra Business Awards.

Starting Over Support

Since its inception in 2014, *Starting Over Support* (SOS) has provided furniture and household goods, free of charge, to over 1,000 adults and their children, averaging around 10 households per week. They have worked with over 65 refuges and government and non-government agencies.

At the March 2014 meeting, SOS founder and Club member, Debbie Mason, shared her story

of how she went on a 'journey' to the Eastern States that ended with her forming SOS on her return.

Debbie described how when travelling alone in a campervan to Adelaide and Castlemaine she had about nine days to literally sit, drive and think. She kept thinking of a woman in Adelaide who had been helping homeless people get off the street and whose efforts had culminated in a \$16 million donation by the SA State Government to build a hostel that houses 290 senior homeless people and is operated by volunteers.

I kept thinking, surely there is something that could be done for the homeless in Perth along these lines and ... kept being brought back to the Zonta House Refuge and what happens to the residents when they leave there. Where do they go? How do they

manage to begin their life on their own, especially if they have come from a controlling, potentially violent relationship where they had no access to money and no say in their own lives?

Many families leaving refuges are not only recovering from the trauma associated with violence or other crises but often have no money, making it extremely difficult to start again without getting into debt.

Debbie had previously donated furniture to the Refuge and thought that she could take this a step further. SOS gives families a 'jump start' by taking away this additional pressure so they may focus on rebuilding their lives.

She initially worked closely with the Zonta House Refuge, using a large garage behind one of the Refuge's facilities to store donated goods. She used her car or rented a truck and, with volunteers, collected and delivered goods. She created a list of furniture, furnishings and equipment as a 'start-up-package' – ranging

from beds to potato peelers; arranged for volunteers to collect and deliver the furniture; and set up a system to receive donations so that she could buy items such as fridges, washing machines, cleaning agents etc that may not always be available via donated goods.

Since those early days, she has taken this organisation to a stage where it became a charity with a small warehouse in Bayswater. With LotteryWest support, in 2016 SOS was able to purchase its own truck for deliveries.

SOS continued to work with scores of organisations to source goods and donations and occasionally received large quantities of furniture such as when the King's Perth Hotel closed for refurbishment.

Electricians check that all donated electrical goods are safe to use and Men's Sheds fix up furniture. Besides donations, SOS had regular garage sales, high tea events and stalls at car park markets to raise funds.



The Lotterywest funded SOS truck features the Zonta Says No message



In 2020, SOS became part of the People Who Care group and can help more people.



2019: The *Don't pass the buck - pass the bucket* campaign. Donors attach the label to a bucket and display the bucket in workplaces to gather donations of cleaning products or kitchen utensils for SOS.

The goods help many families in crisis – not just those from the Zonta House Refuge. As SOS was the only organisation doing this role, their services were much sought after by many government and non-profit organisations.

Debbie connected with the women's prison pre-release centre, presenting at an open day and offering volunteer positions to women once they leave prison, to assist with their integration back into society.

The Club provides some financial support to SOS and members volunteered their time at the warehouse, assisting with sorting donations and fundraising events. At the Christmas Party in 2018, members brought cleaning products to donate to SOS with laundry baskets, brooms, mops and cleaning materials piled high.

SOS needs a constant supply of cleaning materials and kitchen utensils. The *Don't pass the buck...pass the bucket* campaign asked for donors to purchase plastic buckets, place labels on them, and use them as collection points for donations.

SOS developed a reputation for the highest standard of service and its volunteers have been commended for their compassion, care and understanding, as well as their fairness and respectful attitude to all people, no matter what background they come from.

Debbie Mason, was recognised for her selflessness in establishing SOS when she was named the 2017 Australia Day City of Bayswater, Community Citizen of the Year.

In 2020, SOS was able to expand its services when the program became part of *People Who Care* - a large community not-for-profit organisation that serves the entire metropolitan area.

Hand of friendship to women on unresolved visas

Upon hearing about the status of women on unresolved visas, who had experienced domestic violence, the Club made representation about the issue to the Department of Immigration and Border



2018: forming friendships with the women from Ishaar



2016: picnic and family day outing with Ishaar friends at Leighton Beach

Protection, DIBP, now known as the Department of Home Affairs. Women with unresolved visa status include those whose partners are on 457 visas, or women on spousal visas or humanitarian visas.

The aim of the *Hand of Friendship* project is to form a friendship with these women and to advocate on their behalf at the government level. The Club aims to raise awareness that change is needed in policy and practice for this cohort of women. As a result, the DIBP convened a meeting of relevant organisations to expose and discuss the women's untenable situation.

Advocacy in this area has also resulted in a presentation at the 2016 WA Migration Update held at the University of Western Australian where the appalling situation of women on unresolved visas was outlined to over 100 people attending from all over Australia.

Since then, the Zonta Club of Perth has developed a friendship program with a group of women through Ishaar, the Multicultural

Women's Health Centre, which is a non-government organisation. This has involved organising picnics with the women and their children, inviting them into our homes, collecting donations of clothes, toiletries, Christmas gifts and providing assistance vouchers.

A mentoring program has just commenced between Club members and our Ishaar friends. The aim is to provide friendship and support as the women seek to settle into life in Australia. Support will include giving a helping hand to answer questions on everyday items and assisting with language, education and career advice.

Members also look forward to a continuing association with the Zonta House Refuge, Positive Pathways and SOS.

We look forward to the day when violence against women will be eliminated and these services will no longer be required.



Ping Teo has turned the dream of creating a charity arm for the club into a reality

13. Into the Sixth decade: the Club in the 2020s

Australia in the 2020s	
Climate	The 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires spread over 300,000 square kilometres and killed 34 people and billions of animals across Australia. Kalbarri destroyed by cyclone in 2021. Onslow has 50.7°C day in 2022 equalling record for hottest day in Southern Hemisphere.
Health	In 2020, coronavirus pandemic spreads globally and continues into 2022. States of emergency are declared throughout Australia. Face masks, social distancing, and lockdowns are a normal part of life. Large scale vaccination program instituted across Australia.
Travel	Freedom of travel is curtailed within states, between states and between countries. Working from home is normalised.
Economy	Australia is in recession for the first time in almost three decades and there is massive investment in infrastructure to provide jobs.
Gender equality	<i>March 4 Justice</i> rallies were held in all states as women protested against the sexual abuse and harassment of women in Australia.
National Anthem	The words <i>young and free</i> are changed to <i>one and free</i> .
Fashion	Comfortable clothes for wearing when working from home. Sweater vests, boots with dresses, clogs (Crocs).
Cost of groceries	Milk \$1.35L, sugar \$1.95/kg, onions \$3.00/kg

Service Activities

Globally, the pandemic, extreme weather events associated with climate change, and geopolitical instability have placed immense pressure on women and girls. Violence against women has been increasing locally, and progress towards gender equality is going backwards. The Club is acutely aware that it needs to raise more money to ramp up its service and advocacy activities to meet these challenges.

For the last three years, Zontian Ping Teo has worked tirelessly to establish the *Perth Foundation for Women*. This is the Club's new charity arm and will operate in much the same way as the *Zonta Foundation for Women* does at the international level of Zonta.

Ping sourced the help of Alison Wallace, a lawyer from Birchstone Tax Law, who has provided guidance and support at every step. In the last year or so, Ping and Alison, together with a small team of Zontians including Kate

Ellson, Mary Gurgone, Judy Gorton and Sandra Burns, have overseen the development of the name and constitution, registration of the business entity, formation of the initial Board of Directors, and registration as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission. The Foundation is currently being considered for tax deductibility with the Australian Tax Office and, if approved, will enable supporters to claim tax deductions for their donations.

This is a game-changer for the Club as it means that we can approach the corporate sector for donations in the future. A suite of potential projects is being collated to support homeless women, reduce coercive control, and engage with vulnerable young women to educate them about challenging issues related to sex, grooming, sexual harassment, pornography, coercive control, intimate abuse, and relationships. The website is also being updated to accept donations.

Congratulations to Ping for her determination and persistence in seeing the dream of creating a charity become a reality and literally building a strong 'foundation' for the Club.

Meanwhile, the Club continues with its well-established service projects.

In 2020, pandemic restrictions meant that Club members had to assemble birthing kits 'at home' in small groups rather than having community-based events in large halls. Members assembled 400 kits in the homes and offices of Mary Gurgone, Laura Bernay, Wendy Atherden, Ping Teo, Hanna Donders, and Sue Martins.

The Golden Z Club could not assemble any birthing kits in 2020 as many students had returned home, and those who remained were not permitted to engage in community-based activities. However, in early 2021, when the university re-opened, the Golden Z club held a charity concert raising sufficient funds to



BIRTHING KIT ASSEMBLY DAYS
Left: At Home with L-R: Kate Ellson, Sue Martins and Barbara Nattabi
Centre: At school with Shenton College Z Club
Right: At University with St Catherine's College Golden Z Club

purchase 400 kits. Members joined the Golden Z Club students to assemble the kits in record time.

The Shenton College Z Club managed to squeeze in the assembly of 250 kits when some restrictions had eased in November 2020. The Z Club also assembled 70 care packs for very young children and created 15 3-D printed prosthetic hands for children.

With the gender pay gap in WA being 22 per cent in 2022 and women having on average two thirds the superannuation of men, it is not surprising that the fastest growing cohort of homeless people is women over 55. The Club has taken a particular interest in the plight of homeless women through two projects.

In the first project, Ute Schierhorn contacted Ruah Community Services, which operates a 'Safe Night Space' where 30 women can rest, bathe, and get advice on services. Ute and Carolyn Armstrong sourced items to add to members' donations. They created 'care

packages' consisting of pyjamas, underwear, towels, and hair products (shampoo/ conditioner and brushes) to support these women in need.

The second project is *My Home* where members will provide welcome packs for women moving into a new affordable housing project in Fremantle. The packs will include underwear, a bathroom pack and a first meal for the new residents.

Club members continue to mentor women from the Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre, though face-to-face meetings have often been replaced by phone calls or Zoom meetings due to the pandemic. The women are from culturally, and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and have experienced family and domestic violence. The program has broadened to include the husband of one mentor and two members of the ZC Perth Northern Suburbs. Val Gandossini and Sue Martins developed a mentoring guide to help mentors and mentees get the most from their relationships. Many





Zontians are regulars at the Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March through the streets of Perth.

friendships have been formed, trust has grown, and with the contribution of their mentors, mentees are working to move on with their lives.

Kelda Opperman, the CEO of the Zonta House Refuge Association (ZHRA), spoke to members during a Zoom club meeting and explained how the pandemic had increased demand for its services. The Club continues to help the Refuge by providing donations (\$2,500 in 2020) and supporting its fundraising events. Mary Gurgone, our Club President, is on the ZHRA External Relations Sub-Committee and Janice Dudley, an individual member of Zonta International, is a member of the ZHRA Administration Sub-Committee.

Advocacy

Zonta Says NO to violence against women, and members continue to spread this message at the Silent March and during the 16 Days of Activism.

The Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March remembers those who have lost their lives to

family and domestic violence. The event raises awareness and advocates to end family violence. Each year, thousands of people join the Silent March through the city.

Traditionally, members of ZC Perth Northern Suburbs and ZC Swan Hills have joined with our Club as we march through the streets of Perth wearing our striking orange 'Zonta Says NO' tee-shirts and walking behind our 'Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women' banner. The Club usually shares a stand with the Zonta House Refuge at the starting point for the Silent March, where members can talk with other marchers and raise awareness of Zonta's projects.

Since 2020, marchers have had to be mindful of pandemic requirements, registering their names for contact tracing in case of an outbreak, maintaining a safe social distance, and wearing masks as required.

The Club continues to promote the global *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* between 25 November and 10 December. Emily McGleish developed a



The Diving into Boola Bardip evening was socially distanced at KPMG. The speakers were Dr Zoe Richards, Dr Nerida Wilson and Dr Lisa Kirkendale - all marine biologists from the WA Museum.

different message for each day and these were featured on our web page, social media outlets (Linkedin, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter), and through word-of-mouth discussions with our networks. Members were encouraged to wear 'Stop the Violence' badges, call out inappropriate behaviour, and be proactive on climate change issues.

The Club has also broken ground in a new area of advocacy for Zonta. *Zonta Says NOW to Gender Equality and Climate Action* is on the point of being adopted as a Zonta International program. Chapter 14 features this project.

Our Club's 2021 Women in Science event, took an environmental theme. *Diving into Boola Bardip*, featured three marine biologists from the WA Museum who work on coral reefs. Dr Lisa Kirkendale specialises in molluscs, Dr Zoe Richards in marine invertebrates and Dr Nerida Wilson in exploring the evolutionary history of species using molecular systematics. These amazing women inspired everyone in attendance, including students from Perth Modern School, with their experiences of working on coral reefs off the Kimberley coast,

studying marine life in the waters off Antarctica and using robotic submarines in their work. They showed how a kitchen brush is attached to a submarine's robotic arm to gather tissue samples from passing marine life. These scientists generously shared their personal stories and showed that studying STEM subjects can lead to some exciting careers. The event was held at KPMG's offices with social distancing and individually packed snacks in biodegradable packaging helping to meet pandemic requirements.

So far this decade, guest speakers have included Gracia Mukiibi (author of *A Mile in our Shoes*), Dr Hannah McGlade (indigenous human rights advocate), Dr Jane Hutchinson (microcredit specialist), Sophie Hills (Marr Mooditj), Ayor Makur Chout (first South Sudanese Australian elected to an Australian parliament), Dee Roche (leadership specialist and change-maker), Dr Marilyn Metta (Feeling Safe and Free initiative), Dr Fiona Lander (She Runs Campaign School), Gloria Sutherland (older women and homelessness), Tracey Cave (CEO, Sister Project Inc) and Dorinda Cox (WA's first Aboriginal woman to the Federal Senate).



2021 Yvonne Burgu Awards presented at Marr Mooditj. L-R: Mary Gurgone with awardees Dakota Whitby, Alice Krakouer, Rene Morrison, Janieka Eades, and Georgia Dowell with Jill Anderson and Margaret Quartermain

These speakers provided a tapestry of the challenges facing women today and influence the projects undertaken by the club.

Awards

With schools and universities being disrupted by the pandemic, it wasn't easy to attract applicants for the Young Woman in Public Affairs and Yvonne Burgu Awards in 2020.

The Yvonne Burgu Award was subsequently reviewed. A new collaboration has been formed with Marr Mooditj Training which offers certificate and diploma courses in Health and Community Services to Aboriginal students. Margaret Quartermain, CEO, and Sophie Hills, Marketing Team Coordinator, from Marr Mooditj, worked with members Mary Gurgone, Karen Groves and Jill Anderson to develop new criteria for the award. In 2021, five awards were presented to Aboriginal women undertaking studies in various health-related areas across Western Australia. In December, President Mary and Jill Anderson attended the

graduation ceremony to see Rene Morrison, Alice Krakouer, Dakota Whitby, Janieka Eades, and Georgia Dowell receive their \$250 Yvonne Burgu Awards.

Our University Education Awardees continue to impress. The 2020 University Education Awardee was Fatemah Etemadi, an oral health therapy student at Curtin University. Fatemah was born in Iran and spent much of her youth in Afghanistan. Her father died when she was 12, and soon after this, her mother made the brave move to Australia to start a new life with her six children. In her spare time, Fatemah is a volleyball coach and bilingual facilitator. A few months after receiving her award, Vicki Nazer was delighted to see Fatemah working with her dentist!

Our 2021 University Education Awardee was Stacey Harding, a single mum graduating with a Bachelors's in Behavioural Science and a Bachelor's of Politics and Gender studies at Notre Dame University. Stacey has published articles with the Fremantle Herald, was a



2020 University Education Awardee
Fatemah Etemadi with her sisters



2021 University Education Awardee
Stacey Harding with Helene Jaccomard



Left to right: Woman of Achievement
Penny Webb, Mary Gurgone and JMK
Awardee Marina Sarkorski

student representative at Government House during the Youth Democracy Forum and is the President of the 'newsspeak' Journalism club. Stacy is also a radio producer and has her own radio segment titled the Uni Collective on radio Fremantle 107.9FM. Stacey interviewed Mary Gurgone and Vicki Nazer on her radio segment, and this recording is now on our club webpage.

The Area 3 Jane M Klausman Woman in Business Award, is coordinated by Bev McNamara from the ZC Perth Northern Suburbs. Our Club works closely with Bev to seek applications by promoting the scholarship widely. The 2020 Area 3 winner was Marina Sarkoski, who is studying at Edith Cowan University.

Penny Webb was the worthy winner of the 2020 Zonta Club of Perth Woman of Achievement Award. Penny is the CEO of People Who Care (where the Starting Over Support project, that member Debbie Mason founded, is now located). Penny volunteers in local community organisations, bringing leadership and supporting vulnerable people, such as the

homeless, people with mental health challenges, and families experiencing domestic violence.

Marina Sarkorski and Penny Webb were presented with their awards at the Founders' Day Lunch event in Dunsborough in 2020.

Fundraising

At the pandemic's start, group events were not permitted, so we had to think about raising money online. Sandra Burns quickly arranged with Plantagenet Wines for bulk wine orders, and members kindly filled their wine racks to support the Club.

Lan Tran had the idea to create Inspiration cards featuring quotes from Amelia Earhart. The cards included a smaller card indicating that a \$10 donation had been made to the Club. The cards were promoted to the corporate sector as they were ideal for acknowledging work well done, expressing thanks, or celebrating an event.

Ute Schierhorn promoted a Containers for Change project with proceeds going to Carbon Positive so they can plant trees on our behalf and reduce the Club's carbon footprint. In 2022, former Zontian Sciona Browne negotiated with St Catherine's College for their bottles and cans to support our cause - and raise awareness of our Club and the Golden Z Club in the process.

As soon as the public got the go-ahead to stretch out again, Vicky Nazer took on the challenge to organise a very successful Quiz Night. The event raised almost \$4,200 and was needed to fund the Birthing Kits and Awards programs.

When Vicky Nazer found out that the Camelot Theatre opened its final rehearsal night for community organisations to use as fundraisers, she quickly booked the club in to host *Confetti from Graceland*. The small theatre group played to a packed house, and the comedy raised many dollars and laughs.

Perhaps the most unusual event was the Tango High Tea. Donella Caspersz and a team of

willing Zontians organised the catering and Helene Jacomard arranged for professional tango dancers to teach us the Argentinian Tango. Everyone able was on the dance floor, and under the patient tutelage of the professionals, members soon got the hang of the steps and the sensual nature of the dance. Nearly \$3,000 was raised on this afternoon of fantastic fun.

People and Fellowship

The Club started the new decade with 34 members, and this number has remained relatively consistent. New members have included Susanne Martins, Lena Hilton, Carolyn Armstrong, Rosie Jeans, Jenny Wood, and Faith O'Brien.

In 2020, Sandra Burns commenced her two-year term as Governor of District 23. Fortunately, she attended Governor training in Chicago just before the pandemic hit. As Governor, she has supported clubs throughout District 23 in WA, SA, Victoria, and Tasmania, travelling when she could between lockdowns.



Quiz Night 2020



Tango High Team 2021

While Sandra was the District 23 Governor in Zonta, her husband Colin was the District 9465 Governor in Rotary. Sandra attended many Rotary events gleaning ideas that could be useful for our Club and District. Sandra and Colin Burns have recently returned to Melbourne to live near their family. We will miss Sandra's experience, enthusiasm, and leadership and thank her for all she has done for the Club.

At the end of Judy Gorton's term as International Director in 2020, she was appointed as a Co-Convenor of the 2024 Zonta International Convention in Brisbane. This is a great honour, and Judy has already begun work on this monumental task.

With pandemic restrictions, many members have opted not to travel to the 2022 Zonta International Convention in Hamburg. However, Judy Gorton, Sandra Burns and Carole Theobald are making every effort to attend in person. Judy will be promoting the Brisbane Convention and shadowing the Hamburg organising committee. Sandra Burns will be completing her term as District 23

Governor and handing over to Kay Stewart from the ZC of Melbourne on Yarra. Carole Theobald will be presenting two Zonta Says NOW workshops with Zontians from the USA and India. (See Chapter 14).

In 2022, the Club celebrates its 50th Anniversary, and an organising team led by Karen Groves is planning two key events. Celebrations will commence with a 50th Anniversary Dinner at Ambrose Estate for Zontians past and present. This event will showcase many of the Club's achievements. A couple of days later, Charter member Lennie McCall and retired charter member Margaret Medcalf will be the special guests at a tree-planting ceremony. Members and representatives from Nedlands City Council will plant a red flowering gum tree (Zonta colours) on Sir Charles Court Reserve in Nedlands. A commemorative plaque will go on a plinth next to the tree.

In 2021, two of our 'daughter clubs' celebrated key birthdays: the ZC of Perth Northern Suburbs turned 40, and the ZC of Dunsborough turned 30 providing an excellent opportunity for



Colin and Sandra Burns were both District Governors at the same time



Lennie McCall and Karen Groves, Christmas 2020

members from all clubs to catch up, have some fun, and share stories. Sadly, our 'grand daughter' club, Swan Hills, has recently announced that it will fold.

Members enjoy the fellowship of our Club Christmas parties that are often held in members' homes. Karen and Bill Groves hosted the event in 2020 where Laura Bernay, accompanied by a guitarist, sang a suite of Spanish songs and played the flute for us. It was a magical evening, and almost \$1,000 was raised for Christmas presents for the ISHAR ladies. In 2021, Vicki Nazer hosted the event in her home and Club and Golden Z Club members sat on the patio enjoying a sumptuous feast prepared by members.

Members continue to support the UN Women's International Women's Day brunch and IWD events hosted by other clubs in the area. The WA Women's Hall of Fame continues to go from strength to strength. In recent years, portraits of the winners have been featured on the giant curved screen at Yagan Square and in exhibitions at Brookfield Plaza.



*Rosie Jeanes and Kate Ellson,
Christmas 2021*

The bi-annual Founders Day Lunch in 2020 was hosted by the ZC of Dunsborough at the Pullman Bunker Bay Resort, with many members choosing to stay for the weekend in the local area. This event was a rare opportunity for members of all clubs to catch up on a beautiful autumn day next at a location with ocean views.

Organisation

Since the pandemic, the club has used a mix of online, face-to-face and hybrid meetings, depending on what restrictions were in place. The adoption of Zoom technology has meant that team meetings can be held online, saving travelling time and greenhouse gas emissions. Zoom has also enabled members in isolation to join club meetings online, providing valuable social contact.

Technology is influencing how the club communicates. In 2021, Sandra Burns, Judy Gorton and Mary Gurgone recorded our club's first podcast at Spacecubed. Through engaging conversation, they discussed how the club was formed and what we do. Josh



Club's first Zoom Meeting in 2020

Fernandes guided them through the process, assisted by his sound engineer colleague Simon, and edited the final copy that has been uploaded to our Club's website.

Helene Jacomard and Lan Tran have developed the Club's social media channels and regularly post articles to Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Technology saved the day for the 2021 District 23 Conference. As District 23 Governor, Sandra Burns co-hosted the event with the ZC of Bendigo. However, a week before the conference, pandemic restrictions forced it to go online. Carole Theobald was quickly seconded to the Conference organising committee to work with Jane Adornetto from the ZC of Geelong to work out the logistics of online hosting.

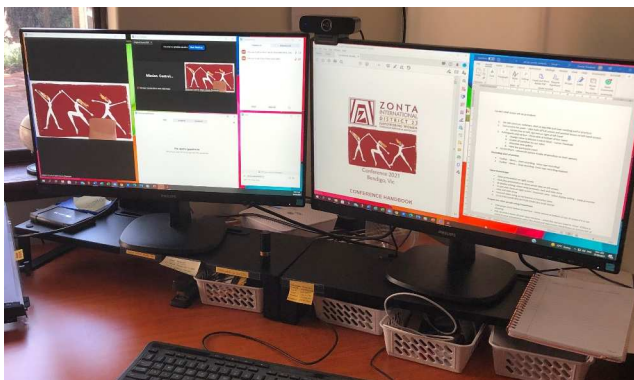
Carole at Mission Control West liaised closely with Jane at Mission Control East in Victoria. It was a steep learning curve, and somehow all the speakers, panel sessions, videos, and elections worked during the two-day conference. Many club members watched

proceedings from their homes or Mary Gurgone's office conference room. All of the speeches and panel sessions were recorded and are available on YouTube.

The Area 3 workshop in 2021 was face-to-face and hosted by Perth Northern Suburbs at Hillarys Boat Harbour. It featured sessions that introduced *Zonta Says NOW* (see Chapter 14), and the local police delivered a fascinating, educational session on coercive control.

As the Club nears its 50th birthday, the board deemed it timely to plan priorities for the future. Dee Roche from UWA, who specialises in leadership and change management, kindly facilitated a half-day workshop to help members prepare for the future of the Club.

Overall, the Club is energetic and strong. Members are committed to accelerating Zonta's mission and are well-positioned to meet the challenges that lie ahead.



Mission Control West for D23 Conference



Dee Roche facilitates planning session to plan priorities for the future



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 23
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

ZONTA SAYS NOW

To gender equality and climate action



*The creators of Zonta Says NOW,
Judy Gorton and D23 Governor Sandra
Burns (sitting) and Carole Theobald
(standing).*

14. Feature Project of the 2020s – Zonta Says NOW to Gender Equality and Climate Action

Zonta Says NOW to Gender Equality and Climate Action is the brainchild of three members of the Zonta Club of Perth: Sandra Burns (D23 Governor), Judy Gorton (D23 Centurion and former Zonta International Director), and Carole Theobald (D23 Futurist/ Leadership Coordinator).

Through its Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the Paris Agreement, the United Nations has created a framework for nations to close their gender gaps and halve their greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. *Zonta Says NOW* provides a framework for Zontians to contribute to these aims.

Zonta Says NOW was developed as a trial project but has captured the imagination of many Zontians in Australia and overseas and is poised to 'go global'.

What is Zonta Says NOW, and why do we need it?

Zonta Says NOW is a program that accelerates Zonta International's mission and transforms societies to create a gender-equal, sustainable world.

Zonta International's mission *is to empower women and girls through service and advocacy.*

Zonta's vision *is to empower women and girls to achieve their full potential, have access to all*



Sustainable Development Goals logo
Source: UN Women.

resources, be represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men, and live without fear of violence.

We have made many advances in the last one hundred years, but today, too many women cannot achieve their full potential. For example:

- Two-thirds of the world's poor, illiterate and chronically hungry are women, one in three women experience violence, one in five girls is married under 18, and 130 million girls are not in school.
- Globally, women have three-quarters of the legal rights of men and cannot own land, open a bank account or sign a contract
- Women are more likely to be in lower-paid, casual jobs with the least economic security. Women are half the world's population yet make up a quarter of the parliamentarians who decide the world's future, so their voices are not heard around decision-making tables.



The list of gender inequalities goes on and increases for women of colour.

We have likened the link between gender equality and climate action to a runaway train. Increased greenhouse gas emissions are causing global warming, which triggers intense weather events. These cause immense social disruption that magnifies any existing inequality, including gender equality. Zonta Says NOW works at both ends of the train to advocate to reduce emissions and close the gender gap.

During times of social disruption, uncertainty increases, and inequalities magnify. We have had a *taste* of this with the pandemic with the World Economic Forum reporting that gender

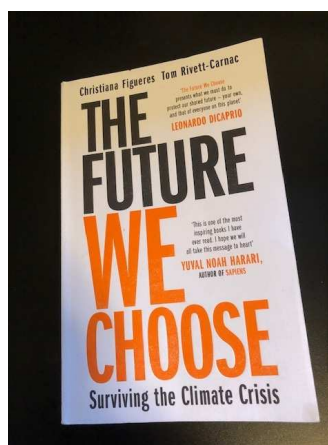
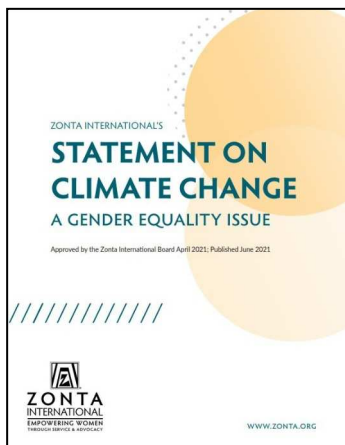
equality has been set back 36 years. (See statement by Antonio Guterres in the Introduction).

Rising sea levels, storms, floods, drought, fire, and intense heat displaced 30 million people globally in 2020, including 51,000 in Australia. Some houses in high-risk areas are already uninsurable. If urgent action is not taken to stop global warming, potentially over a billion people could be displaced by mid-century.

Women are already disproportionately impacted by the severe weather events caused by climate change. Among other things, they are more likely to be injured and 14 times more likely to be killed. Many women are in casual labour and without economic security could be forced into slavery or prostitution to survive. Displacement and poverty cause girls to miss out on an education and force many into child marriage.

For Zonta, climate change presents an extreme threat and an opportunity.

In 2021, Zonta International released its *Statement on Climate Change: a gender equality issue*. This highlights the



importance of educating girls, having more women in parliament, and achieving gender equality, especially in economic participation and responses to climate change. However, a year before Zonta International released its *Statement on Climate Change*, our Club members were triggered into taking action.

The Trigger

Zonta Says NOW started with a conversation between Sandra Burns, Judy Gorton and Carole Theobald. Carole says:

In early 2020, my Zonta and work worlds collided. At work, I commenced a new role to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector. Through my research, I learned that climate change is the biggest existential threat to humanity and disproportionately impacts women and girls. If we did not reduce emissions quickly, our gender equality gains of the last one hundred years would be lost. I realised that we needed to ramp up all of Zonta's programs NOW!

Carole shared her concerns (passionately) with club members Sandra Burns, our District 23

Governor and Judy Gorton, a past Zonta International director. They told her to do something about it. So, with their support, she did!


Carole came across the book *The Future we Choose* by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac that clearly described the science and outlined ten actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One action was to 'build gender equality'. Subsequently, this book has served as a useful primer for many members.

We needed to find a way to close the gender gap and stop global warming quickly. But how?

First Steps

Sandra is the current District 23 Governor and could see that this issue was larger than our Club. Sandra created the District 23 Futurist role for Carole to explore this new area of advocacy. Sandra put an article in the District 23 newsletter outlining the links between climate change and gender inequality and invited members to join a 'Think Tank' (a name suggested by Judy). As Carole explained:

Zonta Says NOW is on a mission to create a gender-equal sustainable world by educating girls, advocating for women's rights and inspiring more female leaders and uses this five step Framework for Action to achieve its mission.




Mission

Zonta Says NOW is creating a gender-equal, sustainable world by:


- Educating girls
- Advocating for women's rights and
- Inspiring more female leaders

Framework for Action




1. Gather the facts

We learn about climate change, inequality and what we can do about it




2. Lead by example

We reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink and repair to minimise our environmental footprint.




3. Add our voice

We share the facts and emission reduction experiences with family, friends and co-workers



4. Advocate

In our clubs, we identify and act on issues where we can make a difference to women and girls.



5. Collaborate

We magnify our voice by collaborating with like-minded organisations e.g. other Zonta Clubs, 1 Million Women



We wanted the Think Tank to be a place where people across the district could connect, learn, be inspired, and share ideas for a gender-equal sustainable world. Climate change was scary enough – we wanted Zonta Says NOW to be empowering and fun.

About 20 members responded, and at the first Zoom Think Tank meeting in October 2020, members drafted the Mission Statement and Framework for Action that is shown on the previous page and developed the summary of how we take action above.

Carole obtained a domain name and created the website that she maintains. (Visit www.zontasaysnow.org.au) The website is the knowledge base for *Zonta Says NOW*. It contains information provided by members, including descriptions for each action in the framework, a range of leaflets, our two-monthly newsletters, recordings of Think Tank meetings and presentations, notes of meetings, and a host of helpful information about books, videos, products, and events.

All materials produced are designed to be read on-screen. The only printed item is a pull-up banner purchased for the District 23 Conference - though small numbers of some items are printed for those who are not yet computer literate and to give out at events.

At Think Tank meetings, experts are invited to speak on particular issues and members share their climate journeys. There are many talented members in the Think Tank who have worked professionally or in their communities on a host of climate-related issues. Think Tank members include lawyers, doctors, educators, community activists, overseas aid workers, public servants and academics who have all shared their stories from Australia and around the world. The Think Tank has revealed the amazing depth of talent we have among our Zonta members.

The Think Tank meetings are held at weekends to accommodate the three-time zones in District 23 that covers Western Australia, the Northern Territory, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. The meetings soon covered four time zones as Zonta International District 23

Website
www.zontasaysnow.org.au

The website has leaflets, posts, bi-monthly newsletters, Think Tank meeting notes and recordings.

There are also links to books, articles, films, campaigns, apps, podcasts, and organisations.

ZONTA SAYS NOW
 To gender equality and climate action

Creating a gender-equal, sustainable world, by educating girls advocating for women's rights and inspiring more female leaders.

www.zontasaysnow.org.au

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 23
 EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

liaison, Florence Herber-Fischer, joined the Think Tank from Luxembourg.

Members showcased *Zonta Says NOW* in their clubs and at area workshops, and by March 2023, there were 83 Zontians in the Think Tank.

Up and Running

In 2021, several events accelerated interest in *Zonta Says NOW*.

The Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra hosted a district-wide webinar featuring Natalie Isaacs, the CEO of 1 Million Women. This organisation advocates for gender equality and climate action and has over a million members around the world. Funds raised from this event went towards creating a *Women Taking Climate*

Action Award that was open to women throughout District 23. Applications were received from Victoria, WA, SA, and Tasmania. Carole Theobald was invited to be on the judging panel and the winner was Margaret Hender, who had founded Australia's first solar revolving fund via the Citizens Own Renewable Energy Network Australia (CORENA).

Zonta International released its *Statement on Climate Change: A Gender Equality Issue* in June 2021. Salla Tuominen, the Zonta International Vice President, joined the August Think Tank meeting from Finland and explained how the statement was developed. The statement aligned very well with the *Zonta Says NOW* activities.

Natalie Isaacs again showed her support for Zonta and was a guest speaker on a *Zonta Says NOW* panel at the District 23 Conference

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 23
 EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

WOMEN TAKING CLIMATE ACTION AWARD 2021

\$1000

WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA WHO ARE CONTRIBUTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE INNOVATION ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

zontamelbourneonnyarra.org.au
 e: info@zontamelbourneonnyarra.org.au

APPLICATIONS CLOSE AUG 27 2021

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 23
 EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Bendigo Virtual District 23 Conference
 10-12 September 2021



in September 2021. The panel was hosted by Claire Flanagan-Smith from RMCG an environmental consultancy and also featured Ginny Tan who manages Sisterworks in Bendigo, and Carole Theobald talking about *Zonta Says NOW*.

Carole Theobald was invited to participate in Zonta International's webinar on Women and Climate. This panel also included:

- Alicia Godsberg Assistant Director, Global Programs from UNICEF USA;
- Fleur Newman, UNFCC Gender Focal Point and Focal Point for Women in the UN Climate Change Secretariat; and
- Mabel Mak, member of the Zonta Club of New Territories in Hong Kong who is a civil engineer, nonprofit founder and environmental activist.

Following this event, Carole received many emails from Zontians around the world keen to know more about *Zonta Says NOW*.

The Giant Leap

Towards the end of 2021, the Zonta USA Caucus asked if they could use the *Zonta Says NOW* name in their districts. Sandra Burns, Judy Gorton and Carole Theobald liaised with

Zonta International to make sure they were comfortable with this and received no objection.

Members of the newly-formed USA Caucus Climate Subcommittee started attending Think Tank meetings (in the early hours of the morning their time) to learn more about what we did.

Around this time we also learned that District 25 (India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal) had held a climate competition for the clubs in their District. Sandra Burns introduced Carole Theobald to the District 25 Governor, Errick Elavia and these entries are now proudly displayed on the *Zonta Says NOW* website. (Errick is the first male District Governor in Zonta International's history.)

It was not long before members from District 23, the USA Caucus and District 25 started to collaborate and submitted a proposal to showcase *Zonta Says NOW* at the 2022 Zonta International Convention in Hamburg. Our joint team has been accepted to deliver two workshops showing how the program started in Australia, is being taken to the next level in the USA and how it is moving into District 25.



Women and climate was the theme for the 2022 Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) New York's online global event. This was an opportunity not-to-be-missed. The District 23/USA Caucus/District 25 collaboration delivered a workshop on Zonta Says NOW in March 2022 as part of the CSW's parallel event for non-government organisations.

The USA Caucus launched its own Think Tank in March 2022 and kindly invited Carole Theobald to speak at their first meeting. She was very honoured to do so, even if it was at midnight!

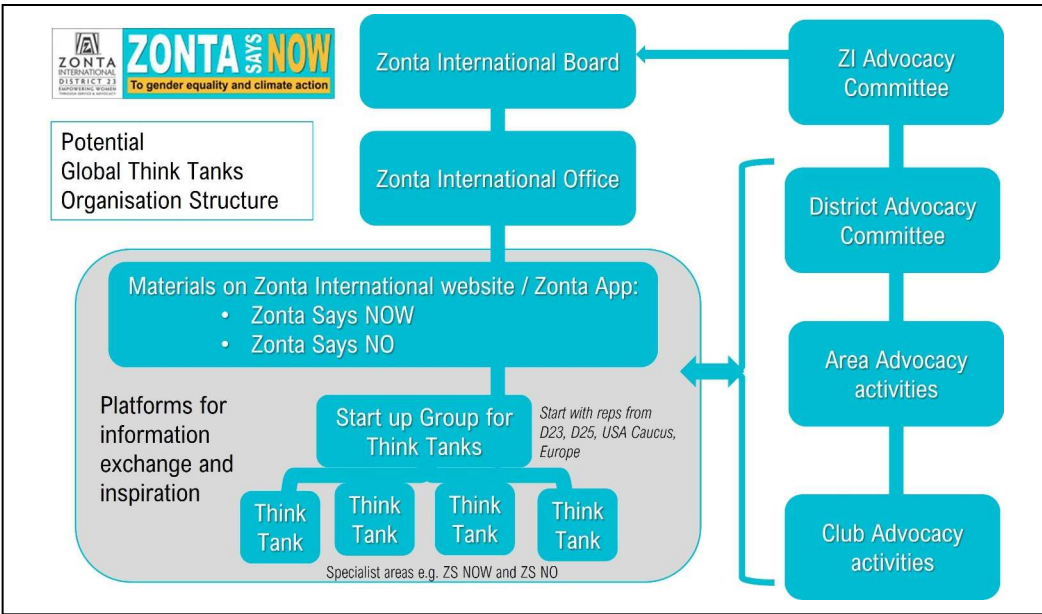
What Next?

In March 2022, Zonta International released the Zonta Connect mobile app. This platform will make it easier for Zontians to connect across their districts and the world and will be the perfect platform to support future Think Tanks.

Carole Theobald is working with Zonta International President-Elect Ute Scholz to set up a small team to roll out the Think Tank concept with representatives from Australia, the USA, Europe, and Asia.

This start-up team is seeded with Zontians that District 23 has formed relationships with through our Think Tank and also through exposure at the Zonta International Women and Climate webinar and the recent CSW event. Together, we will explore ways of creating a network of Think Tanks on particular issues around the world.

As our Club enters its fifty-first year, there is no hint of slowing down! Our Club has exciting days ahead and through Zonta Says NOW, we will be informed and empowered to take action to create the gender-equal, sustainable world we want to live in. Bring it on!





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Appendix 1: Awardees

The recipients of the following Club awards are listed in this chapter:

1. University Education Award, page 188
2. Emerging Artist Award, page 188
3. Yvonne Burgu Education Award, page 189
4. TAFE Education Award, page 189
5. Guides WA Leadership Award, page 190
6. Gwyn Lamb Award, page 190
7. Woman of Achievement Award, page 191
8. Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship, page 192
9. Amelia Earhart Fellowship, page 192
10. Women in Technology Scholarships, page 192
11. Young Women in Public Affairs Award, page 193
12. Emma L Conlon Service Awards for Golden Z and Z Clubs, page 193.

The Awardees on the facing page are:

1. Michelle Stubbs 2002 Area 3 Woman of Achievement. 2. Kerran Olsen 2019 JMK Awardee Education Awardee with Judy Gorton ZI Director. 3. Kath Mazzella 2004 Area 3 Woman of Achievement. 4. Claudia Rosario 2005 Young Women in Public Affairs Awardee with Maria Franchina. 5. Dr Emma Lalor 2005 Guides Leadership Awardee and Lennie McCall. 6. Fatemah Etimadi 2020 University Education Awardee with her sisters. 7. Brianna Ozies 2018 Yvonne Burgu Education Awardee presents 2019 Yvonne Burgu Education Award to Taylah Thompson 8. Kathy Charlesworth 2007 Club Woman of Achievement. 9. Karen Groves and Martha Teshome 2007 Area 3 Woman of Achievement. 10. Tricia Summerfield and Mukashema Triphine 2007 TAFE Awardee. 11. Belinda Hunyh 2007 YWPA Awardee and Carole Theobald. 12. Shakila Rathnayake 2019 Women in Technology Awardee. 13. Nicole Banks 2008 Education Awardee with Helen Margaria. 14. Catherine Corcoran 2009 TAFE Awardee. 15. Phyllis Tonkin 2000 Club Woman of Achievement Awardee and Lorraine Townshend 2000 Guides Leadership Awardee. 16. Holly Ransom 2010 Area 3 Jane M Klausman Woman in Business Scholarship winner with Mary Gurgone.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AWARD			
To encourage a mature aged woman to complete her first degree.			
Year	Awardee	Year	Awardee
1991	Judith Spyvee	2006	Elouise Constantine
1992	Sally Malone	2007	Dawn Cullen Jantina Van Der Jagt
1993	Stephanie Black	2008	Nicole Banks
1994	Barbara Duekershoff	2009	Deanne Johnston
1995	Beatrice Ballangarry	2010	Stacey Armstrong
1996	Jennifer Henry	2011	Aysha Davis
1998	Bronwyn Bateman	2012	Jasmine Walker
1999	Colela Maria Browning	2013	Sharon Rose
1999	Carole Gorby*	2014	Jannah Cooper Terri Sugars
1999	Sophia Aziz*	2015	Rosalie Jane Lorenzi Lara Allen
2000	Kylie Webster	2016	Debbie Booth
2001	Tiina Tarik	2017	Sharon Turner Tracey Fickling
2002	Loretta Anderson	2018	Alexandra Farrell
2003	Sandra McQuillan	2019	Kimberley Wilde
2004	Tracy Hanratty	2020	Fatemah Etemadi
2005	Emily Carroll	2021	Stacey Harding

* Presented with special education awards

ZONTA CLUB OF PERTH
Emerging Artist Award
 A Pool of AUSD\$2,000 Prize Money for
 Women Undergraduates
 Studying in a Specific Artistic-Related Field

The award is to support female artists currently studying towards a Diploma or Degree in an accredited tertiary institution.

The prize money pool of \$2,000 is awarded every two years at the discretion of the judges to artists displaying talent in a specific area of art.


The Awards focus on different areas of artistic endeavour. For example, wearable art, jewellery, textile-related art, etc.

All entries shall be the original work of the artist and entered by the artist.

Entries received will be judged by an independent panel of experts in the field of expertise of the Award.

Finalists are able to display their work at a special Zonta event.

Application forms are available from your local Zonta Club:
 Emerging Artist Award Co-ordinator
 Zonta Club of Perth
 PO Box 237
 NEDLANDS WA 6909



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EMERGING ARTIST AWARD	
To encourage young female artists.	
Year	Awardee
1996	Anna Sabidine
2000	Shared by Judith Sumich and Michaela Bowen. Jessica Scott received the People's Choice Award.

YVONNE BURGU EDUCATION AWARD

To encourage an indigenous woman to continue her tertiary education. From 2021 supports women at Marr Mooditj Training Aboriginal Corporation to undertake health-related studies.

Year	Awardee
2017	Denise Colbung
2018	Brianna Ozies Runner up Jordin Payne
2019	Taylah Thompson
2021	Rene Morrison Janeika Eades Alice Krakouer Dakota Whitby Georgia Dowdell



EDUCATION AWARD FOR TAFE COMMUNITY SERVICE STUDENTS

To encourage students to complete Certificate III and continue to Certificate IV studies in either Community Services (Community Work) or Community Services (Mental Health Work non-clinical)

Year	Awardee
2004	Julia Carter Amelia Tomic
2005	Loretta Hynes
2006	Lauren Dean
2007	Mukashema Triphine
2009	Sherry Maso
2010	Catherine Corcoran
2011	Frida Lemi

ZONTA CLUB OF PERTH University Education Award

ALUD\$2,000 Annual Grant to a Mature Aged Woman
in Her Second Year of Undergraduate Study

The Zonta Club of Perth's University Education Award encourages a mature aged woman to complete her first degree in any area of study.

The \$2,000 grant is awarded to a woman who has been a resident in Western Australia for two years or more and who does not hold a scholarship, other award or receive financial assistance under bond to an employer.



The applicant must be 25 years of age or over, have satisfactorily completed at least the first year of a degree course, be enrolled for the following academic year and be able to demonstrate the need for financial assistance.

Previous academic achievement, extra curricular activities and community contribution will also be taken into consideration by the selection panel.

Application forms are available from your local Zonta Club:

University Education Award Co-ordinator
Zonta Club of Perth
PO Box 237
NEDLANDS WA 6909



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ZONTA CLUB OF PERTH TAFE Education Awards

Two ALUD\$500 Annual Grants to Women
Entering a Certificate IV Course in Community Services

The Zonta Club of Perth's TAFE Education Award encourages two women to complete their studies towards a Certificate IV in Community Services.

The two \$500 grants are awarded to women who have been residents in Western Australia for two years or more and who do not hold a scholarship, other award or receive financial assistance under bond to an employer.



The applicants must have satisfactorily completed the Certificate III in Community Services and demonstrate the need for financial assistance.

Factors such as previous academic achievement, extra curricular activities and community contribution will also be taken into consideration by the selection panel.

Application forms are available from your local Zonta Club:

TAFE Education Awards Co-ordinator
Zonta Club of Perth
PO Box 237
NEDLANDS WA 6909



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GUIDES WA ZONTA AWARD

To recognise an outstanding leader of Guides WA.



This Award commenced in 1983 and finished in 2008. At the time of the original award an Honour Board was donated to the Girl Guide Association (as it was called then) and displayed in Guide House, in Wellington Street, East Perth. Awardees names were inscribed on the honour board.



Year	Awardee
1983	Jillian Bell
1984	Margaret Ravlich
1985	Merrill Cole
1986	Joy Addiss
1987	Kate Walker
1989	Lyn Flett
1990	Aimee Edwards
1991	Joan Johansson
1992	Judith Smith
1993	Anne Greenhill
1996	Carey Lawrence
1997	Wendy White
1999	Joyline Kruger
2000	Lorraine Townshend
2001	Raewynne Jannings
2004	Tracy Jenkin
2005	Emma Lalor
2006	Sharon O'Brien
2009	Sian Hayes

GWYNN LAMB AWARD

Arranged in conjunction with the Foster Care Association of Western Australia to recognise exceptional foster carers.

Year	Awardee
1991	Mr and Mrs Gaigai
1992	Mrs Ros Graham
1993	Mrs Ruth Richardson
1994	Mr and Mrs Croft
1996	Castle Low Family
1998	Barbara Binks
2001	Delphine Miller

AREA 3 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Recognises a quiet achiever who has given exceptional service to the community.

Year	Club Nomination	Area of service
1985	Deaconess Joyce Poulsen	Service to youth religion, Chaplain at St Mary's Anglican Girls School
1986	Sylvia Byers	Special education/pilot
1987	Dr Fiona Stanley	Medical research – infant health
1989	Gloria Lloyd Jones*	Non-government organisation – home care services
1990	Margaret Nowak	Service to Princess Margaret Hospital for Children/tertiary education
1991	Sally Malone	Community service
1992	Leila Hoffman	Late 50s equal pay for women campaigner/Jewish community
1993	Sister Joan Wynch	Indigenous Nurse Educator
1994	Wendy Mander	Founder of Learning and Attentional Disorders Society of WA
1996	Dr Jenny Browne	Equal opportunity
1998	Jacqui Gilmour	Support for Ethiopian orphans and HIV infected children
1999	Donna Legge*	Education in protective behaviours
2000	Phyllis Tonkin	Community service
2001	Judith Parker	International service to women
2002	Michelle Stubbs*	Advocate for survivors of child abuse
2003	Mayree Hill	Riding for the disabled.
2005	Kath Mazzella	Advocate for gynaecological awareness
2006	Kathy Charlesworth	Advocate for Ngarinyin people
2007	Martha Teshome*	Advocate/educator to prevent female genital mutilation
2008	Pat Kopusar	Advocate for indigenous women
2009	Sue Boyd	Internationalism
2012	Donna Percy	Legal and practical assistance for people recovering from severe personal injury
Award presented biennially from 2012		
2014-2016	Mavis Steenson*	Service to Zonta House refuge for over 28 years
2016-2018	Jannine Gliddon	Advocate for indigenous health
2018-2020	Penny Webb	CEO of People Who Care. Advocate for vulnerable people.

*Indicates nominee went on to win the Area 3 Award.



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL Amelia Earhart Fellowship Award

US\$6,000 Annual Grants for Women
Undertaking Post-Graduate Studies in
Aerospace-Related Sciences and Aerospace-Related Engineering

Amelia Earhart, a member of Zonta International, was an internationally famous flyer when she disappeared in 1937 on a world flight.

She was the first woman to make a trans-Atlantic flight in 1932.

Through the Amelia Earhart Fellowship, Zonta International encourages and supports women to expand their horizons by



pursuing aerospace-related sciences and aerospace-related engineering.

The fellowships are open to women of any nationality.

They may be used in any university or college offering fully accredited graduate courses and degrees in aerospace-related sciences and engineering.

Application forms are available from your local Zonta Club:

Amelia Earhart Fellowship Award Co-ordinator
Zonta Club of Perth
PO Box 237
NEDLANDS WA 6909



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ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

Jane M Klausman

Women in Business Scholarships

US\$4,000 Annual Grants to Women for
Undergraduate Study in Business-Related Fields

During her career, Jane M Klausman was a successful parliamentarian, professional secretary and entrepreneur.

The Jane M. Klausman Scholarships work to support women who demonstrate outstanding potential in business-related fields.

Applicants apply to their local Zonta club.



Winners progress to the district level.

Five district winners are chosen for the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships.

They may be used at any college, university or institute for the third or fourth year in an accredited program that will result in a business-related degree.

Application forms are available from your local Zonta Club:

Jane M Klausman Scholarships Co-ordinator
Zonta Club of Perth
PO Box 237
NEDLANDS WA 6909



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ZONTA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship supports women in their undergraduate business related studies and aim to encourage women to enter careers in leadership positions in business. From 2013, this award was administered at an Area 3 level.

Year	Awardee
2007	Rachel Thompson*
2008	Saffron Sharp
2009	Chloe Jarrett**
2010	Holly Ransom*
2013	Natalie Meyer*
2014	Lori-Ann Shibish
2015	Gabrielle Walker*
2016	Gemma Tually
2017	Emmelyn Wu
2018	Kerran Olson*
2019	Eloise Ireland*
2020	Marina Sarkoski

*Indicates also won a District 23 award.
** Indicates also won a Zonta International award.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIPS

These fellowships, named after Zontian Amelia Earhart, are to encourage women to pursue PhD level studies in aerospace science or engineering.

As applications are made direct to Zonta International, the club is not always aware of Western Australian women who may have applied for a fellowship either whilst living in Western Australia or studying overseas. The club actively promotes the Amelia Earhart Fellowships that are valued at US\$10,000 a year.

Year	Awardee
1983	Jackie Davidson*
1993	Inga Savage


ZONTA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

To encourage women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in technology. Initially, this was a pilot program with awards at the club, district and international levels. From 2020 the awards were offered at the International level (like the Amelia Earhart Awards). Therefore, the club did not progress the award at the club level.

Year	Awardee
2019	Shakila Rathnayake

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
Young Women in Public Affairs Award

US\$5,500 Annual Grants to Encourage Young Women to Enter Careers in Public Affairs, Public Policy and Community Organisations




The Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs Award program offers a AUD\$200 Club prize, a cash award of US\$500 at the District level and five awards of US\$1,000 at the International Level.

The Award encourages women students to enter careers in public affairs, public policy and community organisations.

Pre-university or pre-college women students, aged 16-20 years on June 30 are eligible to apply for the Award.

Students must be involved in community activities, be aware of world issues and events, admire current and historical role models and have a vision for women in the world.

Application forms are available from your local Zonta Club:
 Young Women in Public Affairs Award Co-ordinator
 Zonta Club of Perth
 PO Box 237
 NEDLANDS WA 6909



Zonta International is a worldwide service organisation of executives in business and the professions working together. Advancing the Status of Women.

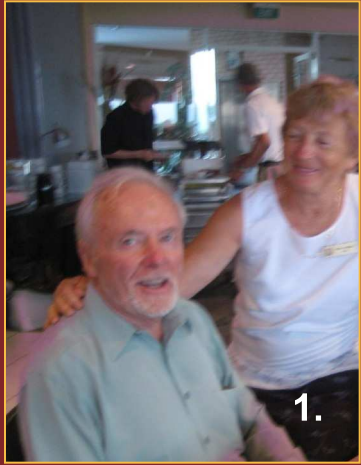
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL YOUNG WOMAN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD	
To encourage secondary school students to pursue studies, careers and leadership positions in public affairs, policy and community organisations.	
Year	Awardee
1992	Gillian Wong
1993	Tara Booth
1994	Rosemary Nicholson
1995	Anastasia Joll
1996	Sarah Wallace
1997	Jennifer Piper
1998	Helen Cochrane (also won Area 3 award)
1999	Leonie Taylor
2000	Hope Hayward-Rowling
2001	Susan Low
2005	Claudia Rosario
2006	Stephanie Clugston
2007	Belinda Hunyh
2008	Maureen Krasnoff
2009	Jessica Sherman
2010	Georgia Westbrook
2011	Frances Gamble
2012	Emma Boogaerdt
2013	Claire Moran
2014	Jessica Sidi
2015	Jessica Townrow
2016	Claire Burwood
2017	Emily Hardbottle
2018	Mutia Daruso
2019	Paris McNeil



**ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMMA L CONLON
SERVICE AWARDS**

These annual International Awards recognize four Z and four Golden Z clubs whose projects and programs best express the ideals of Zonta International.

Year	Awardee
2019	Z Club of Shenton College. (New club award)



Appendix 2: Members, Charter Dates and Presidents

1. Members List, page 196

This list shows the approximate dates of members' inductions, or transfers into, and departure from the Club. It also shows the highest office(s) attained by each member at the Club, area, district and international levels.

Zonta is a very structured organisation and the positions shown reflect the increasing level of responsibility based on the following hierarchy.

* Indicates an elected position.

Club positions

Member
Committee Chair
Director*
Vice President*
Secretary*
Treasurer* and
President*

Area positions

A3 award or project coordinator.

District positions

District Committee Member
District Committee Chair
Area Director*
District Secretary
District Treasurer*
Lt Governor* and
Governor*.

Zonta International positions

ZI Committee Member
ZI Committee Chair
ZI Board of Directors* and
ZI President*.

2. Charter Dates, page 206

This list shows the dates on which the Zonta Clubs in WA were chartered.

3. Club Presidents, page 185

These women have successfully guided the Club through its first forty seven years.

Inductees and supporters:

1. 2010 Gerry Atherden with Wendy Atherden. 2. 2001 Leonie Collinson-Bryant and Kay Maskiell. 3. 2001 Jo Beer. 4. 2003 Karen Groves inducts Carole Warren. 5. 2003 Karen Groves inducts Maria Franchina. 6. 2003 Tricia Summerfield inducts Sciona Browne. 7. 2007 Refat Murshed is welcomed by Lori Grech. 8. 2008 Hal Finkelstein with Freda Jacob. 9. 2008 Geoff McArthur with Lyn McArthur. 10. 2009 Dianne Agnew. 11. 2012 Chrissie Hodges is welcomed by Lorraine McLean. 12. 2009 Lesley Meaney and Donella Caspersz are inducted. 13. New members 2021 Dr Jenny Wood and Rosie Jeanes. 14. 2007 Helen Rowe is inducted by Lori Grech. 15. 2010 D23 Governor, Alison Martin, inducts Val Gandossini. 16. 2010 Jean Oldham with John Oldham.

Many thanks to the partners and friends - who are affectionately called 'Hon Zons' - who have supported us through some amazing adventures on our Zonta journey...

The following list of members shows the *approximate* years of their induction and departure from the club. The highest offices attained by each member at the club, area, district and international levels are also shown. *Positions in increasing level of responsibility. (* indicates an elected position.)*

- **Club positions:** Member, Committee Chair, Director*, Vice President*, Secretary*, Treasurer* and President*.

- **Area positions:** A3 award/project coordinator.
- **District positions:** District Committee Member, District Committee Chair, Area Director*, District Secretary*, District Treasurer*, Lt Governor* and Governor*.
- **International positions:** ZI Committee Member, ZI Committee Chair, ZI Board of Directors* and ZI President*.

**A
to
B**

First Name	Surname (nee)	Joined	Left	Highest Offices Club/Area/District/International
Val	Abery	2003	2005	Member
Dianne	Agnew	2009	2010	Member
Wendy	Alford	1986	2003	Secretary 1997-98
Leslie	Anderson	1972	1973	Editor
Jill	Anderson	2009	Current	Vice President 2016-2019
Carolyn	Armstrong	2021	Current	Member
Wendy	Atherden	2008 <i>Dunsborough</i>	Current	Vice President 2008-10 & 2012-2014
Brigit	Bachs	1991	1992	Member
Helen	Balme	1985	1988	Member
Jan	Barrie	1985	1986	Member
Mary	Baynham	1987	1998	Committee Chair
Jo	Beer	2002	2005	Member
Deborah	Bennett-Borlase	1986	1988	Committee Chair
Laura	Bernay	2016	Current	Member
Debbie	Booth	2016	2017	Member
Jane	Brazier	1996	1997	Committee Chair
Virginia	Bristowe	1986	1990	Committee Chair
Sciona	Browne	2003	2016	Committee Chair, D23 Project Coordinator 2008-10
Jennie	Bryant	1984	1988	Director
Linley	Buchanan (Adam)	1988	2007	President 1994-96
Roslyn	Budd	1994 2005	2000 2017	Vice President 1996-98 & 2014-15
Sandra	Burns	2013 <i>Bendigo</i>	Current	President 2014-2016 (Previous A4 Director) District Governor 2020-2022

First Name	Surname (nee)	Joined	Left	Highest Offices Club/Area/District/International
Deanna	Byers	2012	2016	Member
Sylvia	Byers	1988	1998	Director
Shirley	Byrne	1985	1986	Member
Jean	Callandar	1973	1978	Director
Kathryn	Carr	1996	1997	Director
Donella	Caspersz	2009	Current	President 2017-2019 A3 Award Coordinator
Toni	Chambers	1987	1993	Member
Betty	Christie	1998	1999	Committee Chair
Bec	Christou	2008	2011	Secretary 2009-11
Anna	Ciffolilli	2001	2003	Member
Leonie	Collison-Bryant	2000	2005	Member
Claire	Condry	1987	1991	Member
Helen	Congues	1992	1996	Director
Joy	Cooke	1972	1979	Vice President 1972-74
Ellen	Cox	1977	1994 <i>Bunbury</i>	Vice President 1987-91 District Treasurer 1990-1992
Fiona	Crowe	2006	2016	Vice President 2008-09 D23 Project Coordinator 2008-10
Phillippa	Daly-Smith	1981	1984	Director
Linda	Dann	1987	1997	President 1990-92
Jenny	D'arcy	1988	1992	Committee Chair
Jean	Davies	1972	1985	Committee Chair
Pam	Dawe	1988	2000	Member
Rosemary	De Pierres	1972	1988	Director
Geraldine	Dennis	2000	2005	Member
Dorothy	Dettman	1973	1989	Member
Shirley	Deutscher	1997 <i>South of Perth</i>	2002	Member
Rowena	Devlin	1987	1992	Director
Dianne	Doherty (Wilkinson)	1990	1994	Director
Hanna	Donders	2017	Current	Member

First Name	Surname (nee)	Joined	Left	Highest Offices Club/Area/District/International
Yvonne	Draydon	1997	2000	Director
Anne	Dreske-Somoff	1978	1998	Director
Ronette	Druskovich	2013 <i>Wellington, NZ & Brisbane</i>	2020	Member Zonta House Board
Jane	Easdown	1985	1989	Member
Virginia	Edman (Shotter)	2005	2008	Member
Rae	Edwards	1982	1994	Secretary 1980-82
Trish	Edwards (Young)	1980	1990	Committee Chair
Robyn	Ellison	1993	1997	Member
Kate	Ellson	2011	Current	Director
Anne-Marie	Farley	2004	2007	Member
Alison	Farmer	1987	1989	Member
Tamara	Findlay	2015	2017	Member
Janet	Fitchat	2012	2017	Member
Sue	Fletcher	1972	1985	President 1972-74
Penny	Flett	1991	2012	President 1999-2001
Lynda	Ford	1996	1999	Vice President 1997-99
Maria	Franchina	2002	2006	Secretary 2005-06
Val	Gandossini	2010	Current	Vice President 2019-20
Margaret	Giles (Johnson)	1972	2012	Vice President 1988 Zonta House Board
Jean	Goldsmith	1983	2001	Secretary 1986-87
Ann	Gordon	2016	2019	Treasurer 2017-19
Sandra	Gorringe	1982	1985	Committee Chair
Judy	Gorton (Tennant)	1988	Current	President 1992-1994 Area Director 2008-2010 District Committee Chair 2002-04 & 2006-08 District Governor 2016-18 ZI Director 2018-20 Convenor ZI Convention 2024
Janet	Gorski	1983	1997	Treasurer 1989-91 & 1995-96
Beryl	Grant	1972	1990	President 1980-82

First Name	Surname (nee)	Joined	Left	Highest Offices Club/Area/District/International
Lori	Grech	2002	2010	President 2006-08 Zonta House Board
Nicky	Grobler	2016	2019	Director
Susie	Groucott	1983	1986	Member
Karen	Groves	1999 <i>Perth Northern Suburbs</i>	Current	President 2002-05 A3 Director 2006-08 District Committee Chair 2008-2014
Lindy	Gulland	1997	2000	Member
Mary	Gurgone	2002	Current	President 2010-12 & 2020-2022 Zonta House Board
Barbara	Hale	1972	1990	President 1976-78
Deb	Hall	2010 <i>Swan Hills</i>	2010	Member
Denise	Hamilton	2008	2014	Member Zonta House Board
Anne	Hector	1986	1998	Vice President 1989-1991
Deborah	Hegarty	2002	2008	Vice President 2006-07
Sharron	Hickey	2009	2013	Director
Linda	Higgie	2015	Current	Vice President 2018-19
Lena	Hilton	2021	Current	Member
Patricia	Hines	1991	1998	Committee Chair
Rhea	Hitchins	1985	1988	Member
Chrissie	Hodges	2012 <i>Dunsborough</i>	Current	Member
Jacqueline	Hope	2005	2007	Committee Chair
Maxine	Howell-Price	1985	1998	Treasurer 1994-05
Jean	Hunsley	1972	1974	Director
Helene	Jacomard	2019	Current	Director
Audrey	Jackson	1984	1988	Director
Tanis	Jackson	2017	Current	Director
Freda	Jacob	1972	2011	Director
Verity	James	1989	1990	Member
Georgie	Jansen	1982	1983	Member
Susan	Jarvis (Glynn)	1972	1992	President 1978-1980 Area Director 1984-1986

First Name	Surname (nee)	Joined	Left	Highest Offices Club/Area/District/ International
Rosie	Jeanes	2021	Current	Member
Michelle	Jennings (Collins)	2006	2008	Member
Lois	Joll	2006	2016	Member
Barbara-Dene	Jones	1993	2006	Vice President 2000-2001
Diana	Kaiser	2006	2009	Director
Carol	Kaplanian	2016	2017	Director
Linda	Kazazi	1988	1992	Member
Barbara	Kellerman	1973	1974	Member
Bonita	Kelly	2009	2010	Member
Antoinette	Kennedy	1972	1973	Vice President 1972-73
Michelle	Kilminster-Clement (Kilminster)	2000	2002	Member
Rosslyn	King	1988	1992	Treasurer Asst 1990-91
Nola	Kirby	1972	1973	Member
Sue	Kiriakoff	1989	1992	Committee Chair
Valmai	Kopke	1998	2000	Member
Natasha	Kusmuk	2018	Current	Director
Nonie	Lake	1982	1988	Treasurer 1987-88
Shanaz	Lambat	2012	2013	Member
Pamela	Langdon-Walsh	1991	2000	Secretary 1994-95
Katina	Law	2005	2013	Treasurer 2009-10
Suzanne	Leavesley	2002	2004	Member
Betty	Lefroy	1974	1975	Committee Chair
Donna	Legge	2001	2002	Member
Cherry	Lewis	1982	1983	Member
Dina	Lewis (Lankester)	1987	1992	Member
June	Lewis	1972	1975	Committee chair
Jennie	Liddelow	1995	1996	Member
Ann	Lindsay	1990	1997	Treasurer 1991-93
Janie	Lingard	1992	1999	Secretary 1995-96

First Name	Surname (nee)	Joined	Left	Highest Offices Club/Area/District/International
Gladys	Lourvanij	1972	1986	Secretary 1974-1976
Angeline	Low	1987	1992	Member
Frances	Maber	1983	1985	Member
Wendy	MacGibbon	1979	Current	Treasurer 1983-84, 1987-89, 1994-95 & 1996-99
Rae	Mackay-Silbert	1989	1994	Member
Helen	Margaria	1992	2016	Asst Treasurer 1994-95
Catherine	Martin	1982	1991	Secretary 1982-1984
Kaye	Martin	2001	2008	Treasurer 2006-07
Susanne	Martins	2020	Current	Committee Chair
Kaye	Maskiell	2000	2003	Director
Debbie	Mason	2006	Current	Director CEO/Founder Starting Over Support
Margaret	McAleer	1972	1973	Member
Lyn	McArthur	1996	Current	President 2005-06
Lennie	McCall	1972	Current	President 1987-89 Area Director 1996-98 District Committee Chair 2007-2016
Phyllis	McCutcheon	1972	1985	Member
Heather	McGowan	1995	1995	Member
Sandy	McGregor	2005	2009	Secretary 2008-09
Andrea	McGurk	2005	2008	Member
Heather	McKinlay	1989	1990	Member
Lorraine	McLean	2007	2015	President 2012-13
Emily	McLeish (Thomas)	2019	Current	Secretary 2020-2022
Carolyn	McMickan	2010	2012	Member
Anne-Marie	McNaughton	2005	2009	Vice President 2007-09
Lesley	Meaney	2009	2013	Member
Margaret	Medcalf	1972	2017	President 1974-76 District Archivist 1998-2008 ZI International Archivist 1994-99 & 2004-06
Joy	Merigan (Treasure)	2001	2008	Vice President 2006-07

First Name	Surname (nee)	Joined	Left	Highest Offices Club/Area/District/International
Jan Marie	Michie	1999	2000	Member
Colleen	Miles-Cadman	1985	1992	Member
Robin	Miller-Dicks	1972	1974	Member
Karina	Moore	2008	2014	Treasurer 2010-2014
Elaine	Morrill	1972	1977	Director
Fiona	Mouritz	2013	2014	Member
Helen	Muir	1982	1988	Director
Refat	Murshed	2007 <i>Dhaka III, Bangladesh</i>	2009	Treasurer 2007-09
Vicky	Nazer	2015	Current	Director
Elizabeth	Nottage	1992	1993	Member
Faith	O'Brien	2022 <i>Swan Hills</i>	Current	A3 Advocacy Coordinator A3 Director 2018-20
Lyndell	O'Brien	1993	1995	Member
Jean	Oldham	1980	2012	President 1985-87 District Centurion 1994-96
Margaret	O'Meara	1994	2012	Vice President 1999-2000 & 2004-2005
Mollie	O'Sullivan	1972	1973	Member
Val	O'Toole	1997	2000	Director
Carolyn	Ozturk	1988	1992	Member
Carla	Page	1985	1989	Director
Dee	Page	1991	1999	Director (based in Singapore and Hong Kong)
Geraldine	Page	1991	1994	Member
Barbara	Palmer	1976	1980	Director
Gillian	Palmer	2007	2016	Director
Suzanna	Papadimitriou	1990	1993	Director
Liz	Parlour	2019	Current	Member
Enid	Paterson	1988	1998	Director
Noreen	Paust	1974	1975	Committee Chair
Joanne	Payne	1972	1973	Committee Chair
Terri	Pens	1987	1994	Member

First Name	Surname (nee)	Joined	Left	Highest Offices Club/Area/District/International
Anna	Petterson	1988	1991	Member
Jan	Pettorino	2005	2008	Member
Jan	Pilgrim	1983	1984	Director
Marilyn	Piper	1997	2008	Vice President 2001-2004 District Committee member 2002-06
Sandra	Pressman	2004	2008	Director
Marilyn	Rainier	2006	2010	Member
Yvonne	Rate	1993 2001	1996 2003	Member
Val	Raubenheimer	1987	1991	Member
Moira	Rayner	1983	1989	Director
Miriell	Reid	1997	2005	Treasurer 1998-2004
Rosemary	Reynolds	1979	1985	Vice President 1981-82
Diana	Rigg	2008	2012	Member
Vera	Riley	2011	Current	Secretary 2018-2020
Yvonne	Roberts	1972	2010	Director District Committee member 1987-88 Life member
Suzanne	Robertson	1985	2000	Vice President 1988-90
Jan	Rose	2001	2002	Member
Helen	Rowe	2008	2008	Member
Wendy	Ryan	1984	1995	Treasurer 1985-87
Susan	Schafers	2013	2015	Member
Susanna	Scheller	1998	2000	Member
Ute	Schierhorn	2016	Current	Treasurer 2019-2022
Jeri	Sein	2013	2014	Member
Glenys	Shere	1991	1994	Secretary 1992-93
Jan	Simmons	1997	2000	Asst Treasurer 1999-2000
Helen	Sjardin	1994	1999	President 1997-99
Jude	Somerville	1987	1992	Vice President 1991-92
Cath	Spitteler	1979	1984	Director
Emma	Stenhouse	2018	2021	Director
Mescal	Stephens	1987	1991	Director

First Name	Surname (nee)	Joined	Left	Highest Offices Club/Area/District/International
Jan	Stewart	1984	1992	Director
Trin	Stewart	1986	2000	President 1996-97 Area Director 1990-92
Dawn	Stratton	1995	1997	Asst Treasurer 1996-07
Maddie	Stringer	2017	2018	Member
Kimberley	Strong (Roehrig)	2017	2019	Committee Chair
'Tricia	Summerfield	1977	Current	President 2001-02, 2011, 2013-15 Area Director D16 A6 1988-1990 District Committee member 1996-98 & 2008-current
Joslyn	Summerhayes	1981	1983	Director
Jocelyn	Taine	1992	1993	Member
Roberta	Tatom	1972	1973	Member
Jean	Teasdale	1978	1979	Committee Chair
Ping	Teo	2019	Current	Vice President 2020-2022
Liz	Terracini	2015	2019	Treasurer 2017-19
Carole	Theobald	1999	Current	President 2008-2010 & 2018-19 Area Director 2012-14 District Committee member 2004-06, 2008-2014, 2016-2018 & Futurist 2020-2022. ZI Endowment Fund Regional Representative 2018-current
Rebecca	Thompson	2016	2017	Member
Myrna	Tonkinson	1987	1990	Secretary/Director 1988-90
Lan	Tran	2019	Current	Committee Chair
Helen	Trowell	1982	2002	Secretary 1991-1992
Lin	Turner	1997	2005	Director
Patricia	Turner	1984	1990	Vice President 1988-89
Carolyn	Unsworth	1989	1995	President 1994
Agnes	Vacca	2006	2020	Director
Marina	Valmadre	1993	1998	Committee Chair
Sharee	Van den berg (Simm)	2004	2008	Secretary 2006-07
Lesley	Vincent	1975	1986	Committee Chair

First Name	Surname (nee)	Joined	Left	Highest Offices Club/Area/District/ International
Debra	Walker	2006	2007	Member
Gabrielle	Walker	2017	2020	Director A3 Award Coordinator
Carol	Warren	2002	2005	Member
Susan	Watson	1988	1993	Committee Chair
Helen	Watson-Williams	1972	1990	President 1982-84
Di	Watts	2005	2008	Member
Zena	Webster	1976	1988	President 1984-86
Jane	Westney	1997	2001	Secretary 1999-2001
Lynette	Whittingham	1992	1995	Member
Maggie	Wilde West	1984	1992	Committee Chair
Dianne	Wilkinson	1990	1994	Director
Edith	Willis	1982	1991	Secretary 1982-84
Barbara	Wilson	2005	2006	Member
Glen	Wilson	2006	2011	Committee Chair
Isobel	Wilson	2001	2005	Director
Sandra	Wilson-Schraw	1980	1985	Committee Chair
Jenny	Wood	2021	Current	Member
Jill	Wood	1997 <i>South of Perth</i>	2002	Director
Peggy	Woodcock	1972	1992	Director
Fay	Woods	1984	1994	President 1989-1990
Janine	Wyatt	2012 <i>Rockhampton</i>	2014	Secretary 2013-14
Patricia	Young (Edwards)	1972	1981	Director
Joy	Zec	2009	2012	Director
Ann	Zubrick (Mortimer)	1972	1977	Director



ZONTA

CLUB OF
PERTH INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

2. Clubs established by the Zonta Club of Perth

The Zonta Club of Perth has established the following clubs in Western Australia:

Zonta Club of South of Perth

Chartered 28.11.79.
Chair Barbara Hale with
committee members
Ellen Cox and Peggy
Woodcock.

Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs

Chartered 22.10.81.
Chairman Yvonne Roberts
with Barbara Hale, Sue
Jarvis and Trish Young
(Edwards).

Zonta Club of Darling Ranges

Chartered 19.1.84.
Chair Yvonne Roberts
with Barbara Hale, Sue
Jarvis and Trish Young
(Edwards).
Closed 1997.

Zonta Club of Bunbury

Chartered 28.5.88.
Chair Pat Turner with Anne
Hector, Freda Jacob,
Yvonne Roberts and
Trish Edwards.

Zonta Club of Dunsborough

Chartered 15.6.91.
Chair Jean Oldham with
Freda Jacob, Yvonne
Roberts, Jude Sommerville
and Carolyn Unsworth.

Zonta Club of Peel

Chartered 26.1.93.
Chair Jean Oldham with
Linley Adam, Freda Jacob,
Yvonne Roberts and
Carolyn Unsworth.

Golden Z Club St Catherine's College, UWA

Chartered 1 June 2013.
Co-Chairs Lennie McCall,
Carole Theobald and
Sandra Burns.

Z Club Shenton College

Chartered 29.5.18.
Co-chairs Donella
Caspersz and Jill
Anderson.

3. Club Presidents

First Name	Surname	Years
Susan	Fletcher	1972-1974
Margaret	Medcalf	1974-1976
Barbara	Hale	1976-1978
Susan	Jarvis	1978-1980
Beryl	Grant	1980-1982
Helen	Watson-Williams	1982-1983
Zena	Webster	1983-1985
Jean	Oldham	1985-1987
Lennie	McCall	1987-1989
Fay	Woods	1989-1990
Linda	Dann	1990-1992
Judy	Tennant	1992-1994
Carolyn	Unsworth	1994-1994
Linley	Adam	1994-1996
Trin	Stewart	1996-1997
Helen	Sjardin	1997-1999
Penny	Flett	1999-2001
'Tricia	Summerfield	2001-2003
Karen	Groves	2003-2005
Lyn	McArthur	2005-2006
Lori	Grech	2006-2008
Carole	Theobald	2008-2010
Mary	Gurgone	2010-2012
Lorraine	McLean	2012-2013
'Tricia	Summerfield	2013-2015
Sandra	Burns	2015-2017
Donella	Caspersz	2017-2019
Carole	Theobald	2019-2020
Mary	Gurgone	2020-2022



The Club Presidents use clapping sticks to call order instead of a gavel. These were made by the senior Ngarinyin law women in the Kimberley.

Since 1972, the Zonta Club of Perth has made a positive difference to the lives of thousands of women in Perth, in Australia and around the world.

When the club was formed, gender inequality was rife. These were the days when women had to give up their Government jobs when they got married...the days when regardless of how much they earned, women had to have the signature of a man on a document to get any loan...the days when situations vacant were advertised as 'for men' or 'for women' and when the door could be closed on a potential career due to a chromosome.

However, these problems were just the tip of the iceberg of injustice for women worldwide. Too many women had too few choices about education, health and marriage and the probability of poverty for life was high.

However, the gains made over the last fifty years are threatened by the impacts of the pandemic and climate change. To respond to these threats, the club has recently established the Perth Foundation for Women to increase donations and magnify its impact, and initiated a global program called *Zonta Says NOW to gender equality and climate action* to create a gender-equal, sustainable world.

The Zonta Club of Perth will continue to champion gender equality until:

- **women's rights are recognised as human rights**
- **every woman is able to achieve her full potential**
- **women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men**
and
- **no woman lives in fear of violence.**