



Zonta International District 23 Inc

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

NEWSFLASH

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From the Governor.....

District 23 Zontians,

Our District 23 Conference has left us with some wonderful memories and enthusiasm to attend the next one in Fremantle in 2013. By the time you read this Newsflash you should have received a report from your club delegate/proxy.

There were so many who contributed to the success of a great event that I cannot thank them all individually but I would like to acknowledge Conference Chairman, Jasmine Koch for all that she, and her committee, did. I know that Jasmine spent many hours burning the midnight oil just to ensure that everything went like clockwork – and it did. The three guest speakers were certainly a highlight and imparted sensible, entertaining and highly informative sessions.

It was a pleasure to welcome Zonta International representative Kathleen Douglass to Melbourne and our Conference. Kathleen has submitted a donation to the [Zonta International Foundation](#) in honour of our conference delegates with the message “many thanks for all that you have done, continue to do and will do in the name of Zonta, warmest regards, ZI rep, Kathleen”



Governor Jane with ZI Representative Kathleen Douglass.

The Conference is the Annual General Meeting of District 23 where District officer bearers for the next biennium are elected, proposals to the ZI Bylaws and D23 Rules of Procedure are considered and reports are presented and accepted. It is a time to listen to inspiring guest speakers and join in workshops. It is also a time to renew old friendships, make new ones and have FUN.



Your Conference delegates and District leaders at work.

After some discussion the motions put forward by Treasurer Carolyn Colquhoun were passed:

- The difference between the per capita International dues paid by clubs to the District for the current year, and the amount actually required (*due to the favourable \$ exchange rate*) will not be refunded to clubs.
- The District 23 per capita dues will rise by \$12 to \$40 per member per annum for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

The proposed changes to the District 23 Rules of Procedure as published in the Business Call to Conference papers, were also accepted with the exception of #5 which was withdrawn..

The summary of the evaluation forms has given some very positive feedback and some valuable suggestions for future conferences. (Report continues pages 2 & 3)



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From the Governor..... continued

It is my pleasure to introduce the District 23 Board for 2012-2014:

Governor, Ann Horrocks ZC Bendigo. Ann has a wealth of Zonta experience, was Area 4 Director 2002-2004 and D23 Secretary for 2004-2008. She has attended many D23 Conferences and ZI Conventions and was Credentials Chairman for the ZI Convention in Melbourne.

Lieutenant Governor, Erica Majba ZC of Adelaide. Erica has held all positions on her club Board and is currently Area 2 Director.

Treasurer, Carolyn Colquhoun, ZC of Adelaide Flinders. Carolyn is continuing in her second biennium as D23 Treasurer. Her role during the current term has been particularly difficult as having to balance a budget with declining membership has given her a huge challenge from which she has emerged with flying colours.

Area 1 Director, Debbie Schmidt, ZC of Melbourne's West, Debbie has held all positions on her club Board and was D23 Z Club and Golden Z Club Coordinator 2008-2010

Area 2 Director, Jodi Knoop, ZC of Adelaide Flinders. Jodi is a relatively new Zontian. She is a registered midwife and at the time of writing this is in Saigon having a well earned break after wading through flood waters, teaching in the open and training 400 birth attendants.

Vice Area 2 Director, Debra Kennedy ZC of Noarlunga Southern Vales. Deb is another new Zontian. She is with the SA Police – an interesting role!!

Area 3 Director, Carole Theobald, ZC of Perth. Although Carole was unable to attend the Conference she is an experienced Zontian and well known through her role as Newsflash editor in the past biennium. She is currently D23 Amelia Earhart Coordinator and

has recently updated our District 23 website.

Area 4 Director, Jane Adornetto, ZC of Geelong. Jane is well known as she is the current editor of the D23 Newsflash. She has recently retired from full time work so feels the time is right to join the D23 Board. There was no nomination for Area 5 Director.

The **Nominating Committee** will be **Jasmine Koch** (Chairman), ZC of Melbourne on Yarra, 2011 Conference Chairman, D23 Breast Cushion Coordinator past D23 Treasurer, past D23 UN committee chairman **Jo Wittorff**, ZC of Bunbury, D23 Secretary 2008-2010 and past Newsflash editor

Jill Taylor, ZC of Hobart, current D23 Service Committee Chairman and past Area 5 Director.



Newly elected D23 Board 2012-2014 with Governor Jane Smith. Left to right: Jo Wittorff, Jill Taylor, Jasmine Koch (Nominating Committee elect), Debra Kennedy (Vice Area 2 Director elect), Jane Adornetto (Area 4 Director elect), Debbie Schmidt (Area 2 Director elect), Jodi Knoop (Area 2 Director elect), Carolyn Colquhoun (Treasurer), Erica Majba (Lieutenant Governor elect) and Ann Horrocks (Governor elect). Absent Carole Theobald (Area 3 Director elect).

I recently attended the Area 2 CLAAG (Combined Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Group) meeting in Adelaide. The guest speaker was The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Federal Minister for Status of Women. She is a good ambassador for women and she based her talk on 'Getting Ahead' - how the government is helping women through the Office of the Status of Women and with particular reference to getting women on boards. It was certainly food for thought.

She also spoke about the appointment of Ms Penny Williams as Australia's first Global Ambassador for Women and Girls and said this Government is firmly committed to advancing gender equality here at home and leading action globally to address the challenges faced by women and girls around the world. In her new role, Penny will be integral to those efforts both now and into the future. We look forward to hearing more.



Governor Jane with The Hon Kate Ellis MP.

From the Governor..... continued

Dr Heide Taylor OAM - "Mother Zonta"



Heide Taylor passed away in September after a very courageous battle with cancer. She was known, not only in our District but throughout the Zonta world, as "Mother Zonta".

During her 42 years as a charter member of the Zonta Club of Adelaide she was instrumental in the establishment and sponsorship of 15 clubs in Area 2. She served for nearly ten years on the international scene and during this time 20 new countries joined Zonta International.

Heide Taylor was an exemplary Zontian who demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of women throughout her life. She will be missed by her fellow Zontians in District 23 and remembered fondly by the entire Zonta

International community. It was Heide's wish to not mourn her at a funeral but to celebrate her life at a champagne party. This "party" was organised for after the conference. About 80 Zontians and her friends got together to remember the good times. I was privileged to be asked to give a eulogy along with Heide's friend and Zontian Millicent Hughes. A full report of Heide's life is in the October edition of the Zonta International e-newsletter.

Heide Taylor Honour Roll

In the April edition of the Newsflash there was a report on the presentation of the inaugural D23 Governor's Award to Heide Taylor. In memory of Heide this award has been renamed *the Heide Taylor Honour Roll*.

At the D23 Conference it was an honour to add the names of Rita Fletcher (ZC of Noarlunga Southern Vales), Lennie McCall AM (ZC of Perth) and Margaret Medcalf OAM (ZC of Perth). These ladies are some of the unsung heroes of District 23. They are outstanding Zontians who have contributed so much to our organisation.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to add more names to the Honour Roll in the coming months.

Governor Jane Smith presents Heide Taylor Honour Roll Awards to (top to bottom): Rita Fletcher, Lennie McCall AM & Margaret Medcalf OAM



2011 Jane M Klausman Scholarship Presentation

It was an honour to present the District 23 Jane M Klausman Certificate to Sonia Ziaee at the ZC of Adelaide Flinders International Night. Sonia is a very deserving recipient of the Scholarship. (See D23 JMK Coordinator Karen Groves' report in the August 2011 edition of the Newsflash.) Unfortunately Sonia was not a Zonta International awardee but she did receive the Alan Sloan Young Citizen Community Service Prize of \$1000 at the Premier Awards held in Adelaide recently.

In her JMK application Sonia concludes by saying "*Being a participant in Jane M Klausman Scholarship, my experiences will be taken one step further by taking the peace concepts that I have developed for women and making them truly*

global. By interacting with diverse international communities and cultures, we will improve our mutual understandings and goals. We will understand our mutual needs and concerns, learn from our mutual mistakes and capitalize on our mutual accomplishments."



Governor Jane Smith (L) and Lt Governor Cintra Amos (R) presenting JMK Certificate to 2011 Awardee Sonia Ziaee.

For the first time the United Nations flag was included in the very moving opening and closing ceremonies at our Conference.

Thanks to D23 Secretary Nan Martella this flag will be part of every opening ceremony at future Conferences to highlight Zonta's role with the UN.



ZI & ZIF Director Beryl McMillan with the ZI flag and D23 Secretary Nan Martella with the United Nations flag, during the presentation of the flags ceremony.

Area 1 Report

Robyn Scholes

After months of meetings, discussion and planning the District 23 Conference has come and gone. Now we can think back on the wonderful speakers, the outcomes of the elections and great functions and times spent making or renewing friendships.

As the host Club was **ZC Melbourne on Yarra** I wish to congratulate all members on the success of the Conference, particularly Jasmine Koch in her role as Chairman. It was a pleasure to be part of the Conference Committee. What an inspiring group of women and how well they worked to achieve the result that we all benefit from. Well done also to **ZC Frankston** who organised the Market Place which we love fossicking through, **ZC Mornington Peninsula** who put together the raffle we all would have liked to have won, **ZC Melbourne's**

West who coped so wonderfully with registrations and **ZC Waverley** who organised the events. We all have talents in different directions and I think that an event such as we experienced brings those talents to the fore.

Whilst thinking of dedicated members, we must congratulate Irena Kaluski and Sika Kerry from **ZC Melbourne's West** and Elizabeth Cartwright from **ZC Waverley** who have been recognised for 30 years of service to Zonta International. Also congratulations to Kaye Stewart from **ZC Melbourne on Yarra** who has 40 years of Zonta membership to her credit. Such a long involvement with Zonta is to be applauded.

At the close of Conference, **ZC Melbourne on Yarra** had their Fran Quinn Concert in the atmospheric St Peter's church at Brighton Beach.

The winner this year is Georgia Wilkinson, a lyric soprano.

Other events such as Breast Cushion making, Birthing Kit Assembly Days, Bunnings Sausage Sizzles have either happened in Clubs or are about to. **ZC Mornington Peninsula** are industriously preparing for their Christmas Fair. We look forward to the next two busy months before Christmas.



Governor Jane Smith presenting Kaye Smith from Melbourne on Yarra with her 40 year certificate.

Area 2 Report

Erica Majba

I am not sure where to start as so much has happened since the August Newsflash edition. I know Zontians are familiar with what we call "Mad March" because of the festival activities that proliferate at that time of year; I now think we should have a new month call "Zoctobre". Sort of an Italian/ Zontian version of the crazy October that we traditionally have but seem jam packed this year.

We have had only one President's meeting and that was kindly hosted by Vice Area 2 Director Anna Siebert in her home. There was general consensus to cancel our October meeting due to the number of competing Zonta events and we will meet for Xmas in my home.

The District conference was well attended by Area 2 with a number of first timers making the time and commitment to attend. My hope would be that they will also commit to attending the Perth conference and encourage another Zontian to go with them.

ZC Adelaide Torrens turned 30 with a superbly organised "Pearls and Lace" luncheon, and many clubs held International events during October. Big Fundraisers have also

occurred – **ZC Riverland** held a fashion parade that linked into the Berri centenary and featured a 1938 wedding dress.

Thank you to D23 Treasurer, Carolyn Colquhoun for taking the initiative to recycle some pull up banner frames and make them available to 4 – 5 clubs.

Membership activities are worth noting. **ZC Clare & Districts** have inducted a total of 6 new members since the new board took over and **ZC Adelaide** is doing their best to beat this record with 6/7 new members expected to be inducted in November. One initiative gleaned from a club newsletter is to ask 2 – 3 existing club members to share at a club dinner "What Zonta means to me". Another initiative is to engage the more experienced Zontians to become mentors to the incoming new members.

I would like to thank Anna Siebert for her friendship and support in her role as Vice Area 2 Director and wish her well for the future. I know the Zonta clubs in Area 3 are lining up to ask her to transfer to their clubs. Anna is a widely respected Zontian with special experience and enthusiasm for Advocacy.

I also welcome Beryl Lester, member of the ZC Adelaide Hills to the board appointed role of Vice Area 2 Director to fill Anna's vacancy. I look forward to working with Beryl and highly value her commitment and enthusiasm for all things Zontian.

Please keep sending your club's newsletters and forwarding them to other clubs so we can learn from each other.



Governor Jane presenting Aileen Eldridge, member of ZC Para & Districts with ZI Service award for 31 years in Zonta (above), and below, farewelling Vice Area 2 Director Anna Siebert.



I would recommend all members view the 7 PM Project film clip. Even though it was disappointing they did not mention our Zonta club involvement, this was an excellent piece of PR for the project. It resulted in over 200 email enquiries with many now holding fundraisers, and even Rio Tinto is holding an assembly day.

This week we reach the milestone of 900,000 kits being made. Our 1 millionth kit will happen next year.

Funding is a core issue for the Foundation. We have submitted our Base Accreditation with AusAID. This was a huge task. We won't know the outcome until 2012 and, if successful, may still not receive funding til 2013.

You may not be aware that without AusAID funds, the Foundation has been subsidising the costs of the Birthing Kit Project as kits made in Australia cost more than \$2 to be delivered to their destination. We have therefore had to take the tough decision that, in order to keep kit production on an even keel, we cannot maintain \$2.00 kits after our 100,000 kits are booked.

From the start Zonta clubs have been SOLELY involved in the kit production aspect of the Foundation's work. Initially we only made and distributed kits.

However, as the project has grown and developed over the years, we have recognised the importance of ensuring that changes to birthing practices are sustainable.

By supporting training programs and the production of birthing kits at the local level, we hope to achieve the greatest success – that kits are readily available locally and no longer needed from us.

To be a part of the TOTAL work of the

Foundation (that is kit production in Australia, training programs and in country kit production) and to reflect the true costs of the kits. All assembly day kits will cost \$3.00 once the initial 100,000 have been booked.

To help Zonta Clubs that might struggle with the higher price, the previous minimum of **600 kits** will now be reduced to lots of **200 kits**. If funding is an issue, we would prefer you to make fewer kits. We already have a Zonta club purposely booking \$3 kits (when \$2 kits are still available) because they want their donation to be fully self-funding and do more than just supply the kits. We hope that clubs will understand what we are trying to achieve.

With our Training programs we have trained over 8,500 Traditional Birth Attendants so far. We know that health outcomes for women and babies improve with training e.g. ending Female Genital Circumcision in Afar, Ethiopia. Many cultural habits were killing their women, for example, vertically cutting the umbilical cord after delivery to get rid of the bad blood. If the woman dies she had a lot of bad blood. "One Traditional Birth Attendant after training said it was like working with her eyes open for the first time." Education is the key. There is great demand for more training programs. Our focus will be in DR Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia and India.

With in-country kit production all is progressing well. Dr Luc produced 2000 local kits in DR Congo. With support from Rotary we are facilitating the production of 10,000 kits in Addis Ababa for the Hamlin Fistula Hospital. Funds have gone to Tigray Province in northern Ethiopia where disadvantaged women are getting employment and skills as they produce

2000 kits. Kits are regularly produced in Vietnam.

The Provincial Health Authorities in Ha Giang in northern Vietnam have agreed to take over kit production and supply in May 2013. It is the first such agreement we have completed and we're proud of having made such a lasting impact for the mainly tribal women of this border province. This is true sustainability – what we are aiming to achieve.

A highlight for the foundation is the wonderful news that Val Sarah has graciously accepted our invitation to be our first ambassador. I can think of no better representative for our birthing kit project.

Haven't we have come a long way? We can all stand back and be proud of our efforts; we are the biggest supplier of birthing kits in the world after UNFPA and UNICEF.

On behalf of the entire board, and from the women and babies who use the kits I give you our sincere thanks.

To view the 7PM Project TV segment on the Birthing Kit project, allow 5 minutes for it to download, go to

http://7pmproject.com.au/video.htm?movideo_m=119394. Starts at about 53 seconds. It can not be copied from this link. For a DVD contact Erica on info@birthingkitfoundation.org.au

I showed a very moving 2 minute film of Dr Luc from DR Congo giving thanks to everyone including our Zonta club members. It is part of a 14 minute film and currently a huge file. It will soon be edited. Please contact Erica info@birthingkitfoundation.org.au if you would like a DVD.

Zonta International Foundation

Alison Martin

Donations to ZIF in memory of two wonderful long standing Zontians

Thank you for your gifts to the Foundation in memory of the late Dr Heide Taylor OAM. A total \$1,570 has been donated by District 23, members in Area 2 clubs and many non-Zontians who attended the farewell party for Dr Heide last month and Treasurer Carolyn has advised Heide's daughter of these gifts.

Also as a wonderful tribute to the late Gloria Quin, a charter member of the Zonta Club of Bendigo in 1980, donations were received from her club, individual members, Gloria's family and non-Zontians. A total of \$2,220.00 has been sent to the Zonta International Strategies to Prevent Violence Against Women (ZISVAW) Fund in her memory.

Donation acknowledgements

As is best practice with not-for-profit organisations, Zonta International

Foundation sends individual donors paper letters of acknowledgement by post to thank them for their donation. The Zonta International Board have discussed that practice, especially where all members of a club generously make individual donations and may not wish to receive individual letters. Amendments have been made to the **on-line donation form** and also the **print-out donation form** which have the following text:

!we do not wish to receive an acknowledgement/receipt for this gift.

Whether you wish to donate by mailing the hard copy (enclosing a bank transfer or details of your credit card) or directly by the secure online donation form on the ZI website using your credit card, you can now indicate your wishes. It's that easy! However **if you do not wish** to receive an acknowledgement (receipt) for this gift **when your donation is sent via the**

District Treasurer, may I suggest you pass on your instructions to Carolyn so that when she sends your donation to the Foundation she can advise HQ of your request.

It is easy for individual members to donate on-line through the ZI website and indicate which fund/s you wish your donation to go to. You can also indicate if the donation is in honour or memory of someone (i.e. a guest speaker or deceased member etc.) as above.

If donating by secure on-line you can nominate to send an e-card to one **or multiple** email addresses.

Thank you for your understanding of this process and your ongoing commitment to help in improving the lives of both women in need and the exceptional young women through our international awards.

It's been a very busy year with all the Area 3 clubs hosting many wonderful fundraising activities, awards nights and providing financial supports for recipient projects and individuals. The Birthing Kit assembly days and Breast Cushion making sessions have continued with great enthusiasm.

Over the past year we have had many members inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame, recognised for their commitment to service, for length of service, and named on the D23 Governor's Heide Taylor Honour Roll. Congratulations to Lennie McCall and Margaret Metcalf from Zonta Club of Perth.

Congratulations also to Margaret Field from Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs who recently was awarded the City of Stirling Community Service Award in the category of innovation. The mayor awarded Margaret with a framed certificate for her contribution in setting up holiday camps for women and children from domestic violence situations, safety seminars for migrant women, voluntary work in teaching English to migrants, helping stroke patients with speech and working as an oral historian.



Margaret Field, Stephanie Proud (Shire Councillor), Jean Wyder and Alison Martin, Zonta Perth Northern Suburbs

The Area 3 Women of Achievement 2011 was awarded at our annual Founders Dinner at the Mallard Duck in the Swan valley on the 5 November. The awardee Dianne Annear has a career spanning a period of over 40 years and has used her deep compassion and empathy and extensive managerial skills to care for women in crisis. This enviable achievement has been accomplished both professionally and in a wide-ranging voluntary capacity, including practical and emotional support to abused women. Under Diane's guidance the Zonta Women's Refuge was established in 1984. The service proved to be a successful agency accommodating more than 1,000 women in its first 3 years of operation. The services offer 3 meals a day, shared accommodation, emotional support, financial advice, advocacy, transport and assistance in finding alternative accommodation after the resident have left the refuge. Dianne also established a not-for-profit Women's Legal Referral Service in 2000. This service assists domestic violence victims who are deemed ineligible for Legal Aid, to pursue property settlements, and provides the legal support for women to gain financial independence. So high was Diane's reputation within the legal profession, she convinced two lawyer friends to assist pro-bono when the cases became complex. The Women's Legal Referral Service now has a network of pro bono and community service providers which operates full time, assisted by funds from the Law Society and the State Attorney General's Department.

We have many outstanding women in Area 3 who work quietly to achieve the objectives of Zonta and beyond. It is always wonderful to see them recognised for their contribution to our community.

As an Area we can all be proud that we have achieved our goals within the District for 2011. The focus on retention and rejuvenation of members has seen many clubs induct new members this year and also develop many creative ways to promote Zonta. It has been a fantastic boast to see the increase in media, local paper and radio coverage of club events this year.

We have a great deal to be proud of, but much remains to be done. As we look ahead to the future, we will need to continue to use the expertise, experience, and enthusiasm of our members effectively and efficiently. It is in our members that we will increase our membership and raise awareness of Zontians' dedication to advancing the status of women locally and globally through service and advocacy.



Dianne Annear awarded the Area 3 Women of Achievement 2011 award and brooch by Area Director Leanne Sultan

Membership Matters

Cintra Amos

"Growing One Member at a Time"

ZI has recently released a new membership PowerPoint entitled "Growing One Member at a Time" and this will be distributed to Presidents and Membership Chairmen, along with the ideas on

recruitment, retention and red alerts arising from the Conference Membership Workshop "Increasing Your Odds".

It is suggested that the results of the workshop along with the new PowerPoint could form the basis for constructive and beneficial club discussions on increasing membership.

Congratulations to Bendigo Club, the only club so far to receive recognition for the ZI Membership Incentive Award, with three members introducing 8 new members between them!

Hopefully there will be many more from District 23 who qualify before the closing date of 31 May 2012 to receive an award at Convention in Italy - so **keep dropping that "Z" Word!**

Area 4 Report

Margaret Hinks

Members who attended the District Conference certainly should have had a great time and learned much to take back to their clubs and pass on to members who were unable to attend. Congratulations to Governor Jane Smith, Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra and the Conference committee for the wonderful outcome. I am sure that they will all feel well rewarded for the hard work over the past 12 months. CONGRATULATIONS to our own Ann Horrocks from Bendigo on being elected to the position of Governor for the 2012-2014 biennium and to Jane Adornetto from Geelong to the position of Area 4 Director, well done.

Clubs in Area 4 are working hard at recruiting new members and retaining and nurturing the present members. Congratulations to **Bendigo** inducting 8 new members, especially to Sandra Burns who will be recognised at convention in Torino as part of the ZI membership incentive program for introducing 4 new members, a great example to us, all well done Sandra! **Geelong** have also inducted a number of new members over the past months.

Some exciting news in Area 4 as we grow and endeavour to put Zonta further out into the community. **Kyneton** club has agreed to form a

Z Club and we congratulate them and wish them well with this venture.

Kyneton and Ballarat clubs are proposing to form a Zonta Club in Maryborough and have sent out over 100 invitations to a meeting on the 19th of October. This is a lot of hard work for the committee, and we wish them well with this endeavour.

All clubs in the area are planning White Ribbon Day events either individually or partnering with other organizations and it is great to see the increased interest that is being generated for this very important event.

Area 5 Report

Georgie Hutchinson on behalf of Carol Fuller

What an absolutely glorious spring day it has been here in Area 5, clear blue skies and warmth! But it wasn't just the weather! The highlight of the day was sharing wonderful Zonta fellowship with the fabulous girls from ZC **Devonport** assembling 1000 Birthing Kits bound for Ethiopia! There was an overwhelming warmth as we worked together to advance the lives of women and children less fortunate than ourselves.

The room was also abuzz with excited chatter as members who had attended the District 23 Conference, shared their experiences. Fifteen Zontians from Area 5 attended the Conference, with all clubs being represented. There were seven First Timers from ZC **Devonport** and one from ZC of **Launceston**! What a

wonderful achievement from Area 5!

Some comments from our first timers: **Tania Skeggs** from Launceston had a very pleasant evening of fun and laughter in Melbourne enjoying the fellowship of Zontians who made her feel very welcome, **Lynn Whittle** found it interesting gaining an understanding of the mechanics of the District meeting procedures, **Vicki Jeffrey** appreciated that the program mixed business with pleasure, **Margie Temple-Smith** was in awe of the guest speakers, **Suzie Bowe** enjoyed learning about the ZI projects, **Jenni Jago** thought it was interesting to see the diversity of Zontians, **Julia Taylor** was struck by the importance of visibility and enjoyed the awesome stories of some amazing Zonta women, and **Vicki Carmen Brown**

enjoyed the inspiring key note speakers!

Of course, Area 5 can be proud of other achievements: the newly formed **Hobart Derwent Club** achieved success in the PR awards, **Georgie Hutchinson** helped lead a successful, interactive workshop and was a member of the Nominating Committee, **Jill Taylor** chaired the 2010 -2011 District 23 Service Committee and was successful in being elected to the Nominating Committee for 2012 – 2013.

Area 5 Zontians would like to thank Jasmine Koch and her Conference Committee for organising such a successful, friendly, inspiring and thought-provoking conference.

Legislative Awareness & Advocacy

Pauline Glover

I managed the 5 kilometre walk into Durban for the International Confederation of Midwives Conference and let me tell you that if you want to see advocacy in action, it was all there.

One thousand midwives from all over the world walking as one to promote Safe Motherhood.

If we begin with this concept of Safe Motherhood such as clean and safe birth environment, ability to live with human rights respected, have an education, with mutual support and fellowship, then many of the objects

of Zonta will be achieved.

Thank you to all clubs who have responded to the LAA questionnaire. This survey has had an amazing response and has allowed us to collate the responses to give us a picture of District 23 activities.



Jodi Knoop (top) and Pauline Glover (bottom) training birth attendants in Battambang, Cambodia.



On Wednesday 31 August, Area 2 Zonta/SAWA Liaison Rita Fletcher (Support Association for Women in Afghanistan) and Lt Governor Cintra Amos were privileged to be part of an intimate lunch to meet Malalai Joya, who had previously that week appeared on the ABC program Q&A.

Malalai is an activist, writer and former Parliamentarian in the National Assembly of Afghanistan from 2005-2007 before being dismissed for publicly denouncing the presence of what she considered to be warlords and war criminals in the Afghan Parliament.

Her suspension generated international protest and appeals for her reinstatement have been signed by high profile writers, intellectuals and members of parliament from several countries. She has been called "the bravest woman in Afghanistan". In 2010 Time Magazine placed her on their annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world, Foreign Policy Magazine listed Malalai in its annual list of the Top 100 Global Thinkers and, in March 2011 The Guardian listed her among Top 100 Women Activists and Campaigners. The BBC has called her "the most famous woman in Afghanistan" and the Washington Post said "Her truth is that warlords should not be permitted to hide behind the mask of democracy to hold on to their chairs".

Malalai is 33 years old and was born in Afghanistan. When she was just 4 years old her family fled Afghanistan to live as refugees in Iran. She became involved in humanitarian work while in eighth grade. Malalai returned to Afghanistan after the Soviet withdrawal in 1998 during the Taliban's reign, and at 20 began work as a social activist.

Because she was "unemployed" and "lived underground" the US denied Malalai a travel visa earlier this year, which sparked a public campaign by supporters to pressure the US Government. However, the US State Department later advised that a visa had been issued, and she started her speaking tour in the US in March.

She has been attacked physically and verbally and has received many death threats, but Malalai says "They will kill me but they will not kill my voice because it will be the voice of all Afghan women – you can cut the flower, but you cannot stop the coming of spring". Malalai has escaped four assassination attempts and travels with six bodyguards wherever she goes.

Internationally she has received many awards and honours and, in 2009, released her book "Raising My Voice: the extraordinary story of an Afghan who dares to speak out" which has been translated into several languages. The New York Times wrote "...her story bears witness to the horrific experience known as being female in Afghanistan."

Malalai is unquestionably passionate and courageous but, despite being so outspoken, she is a softly spoken and gentle woman and we enjoyed her company immensely. While her story is a chilling one, Malalai told us at lunch that she does see rays of hope for the future.

That evening she spoke at the Hawke Centre and Rita Fletcher attended the evening with Sonia Ziaee, 2011 District 23 winner of the Jane M Klausman Scholarship.

As during Q&A, she spoke out about corrupt warlords and of the various difficulties Afghanistan is still facing in

spite of the many years of foreign intervention, not the least of which is that of corrupt warlords particularly in the provinces where girls are often in danger if attending school. This creates a dilemma for parents who would like to see their daughters educated.

Malalai feels strongly that American and Australian troops should leave as little has changed, and that a country can only solve its problems from within. She spoke of American money being misused and of the number of civilians, often women and children, who have been killed during bombing and the abuse by a small minority of American troops. Sadly this is a normal occurrence in any war.

What was particularly interesting was a very lively debate after the meeting closed with a group of Afghan Uni students challenging Malalai about her view on the removal of foreign troops. They agreed with many things she had said but maintained that without foreign intervention, there would be more corruption and chaos and a magic wand would need to be waved to solve their internal problems.

It is certainly a most contentious issue.

L-R Lt Governor Cintra Amos, Malalai Joya and Rita Fletcher.



The 2011 Conference race has been run and the winner waseveryone who attended as they all contributed to its success! Our aim was to provide an exciting, stimulating and informative District Conference with loads of Zonta business and fellowship. Based on the evaluations and feedback received, we definitely achieved this with flying colours. The key highlights for many were the

inspiring, energizing, entertaining keynote speakers; the very moving ceremony of remembrance; the great atmosphere of the conference dinner; the informative, inspiring workshops and the opportunity for fellowship and sharing ideas with other Zontians. I would like to congratulate the Conference Committee on a job well done in the lead up to and at the conference both behind the scenes and in the spotlight. It was very fortunate for me, that the committee comprised so many talented and experienced members.

Thanks team!!

The 2011 Conference Committee are taking a well earned break and are looking forward to the wrap up meeting (party) in a few weeks time. Jasmine Koch
Chairman



Conference Chairman Jasmine Koch with ZI representative Kathleen Douglass

Firstly I wish to thank all the D23 members who were so welcoming to me when I attended your fabulous conference in Melbourne. I have to also relate that I have already worn the fascinator I bought for the dinner for Melbourne Cup day and I'm sure that's why I was reasonably successful at the sweeps. My report to you will cover aspects of the work of the AWC.

Lunch with Global Ambassador Penny Williams

On the 7 November a small group of AWC members will have lunch with Penny Williams at the Sydney Australian Passport Office. Ms Williams has recently been appointed in the newly formed position as Global Ambassador for Women and Girls. In the letter written to congratulate Ms Williams of her appointment we drew her attention to several of the AWC's priorities which we believe are relevant to her new portfolio area:

- advocating for a long-term model of care for survivors of sexual violence, both nationally and globally (for eg through our links with the Medical Women's International Association);
- advocating for reform on the trafficking of women;
- social inclusion, particularly among Australia's refugee and immigrant women;
- enhancing leadership opportunities for women, particularly young women from non-English speaking backgrounds and communities;
- advocating on behalf of incarcerated women and girls, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls.

The group will comprise of myself representing Zonta International D23, State Commissioner of Girl Guides NSW, the AWC Coordinator Frances Panopoulos, Conflict Resolving Women's Network and NSW Lifeline President Robyn Gaspari (past D24 Governor), and Associate Professor Jennifer Burn of the Anti-Slavery Project. Areas raised will include agreement with the Pan of Action

concern of the lack of coordination on the groups for Australian NGO (Non Government Organisations) projects when dealing with regulations, customs, communication and transport. The important issues of achieving the MDG's (Millennium Development Goals) concerning women and girls particularly the areas of violence and health will also be of importance.

Support for Women's Health

All members of AWC have been proud to be selected as a supporting organisation for the upcoming pilot to inform patients on the treatment for fragility fractures. AWC was involved in advocating for better Federal and State government support in the early 2000 and now we have returned to take up the case again. The one-day GP Workshop and half-day Patient Seminar aim to raise the awareness around osteoporosis, a disease affecting 2.2 million Australians. The objective of HELLO is to reduce the number of fragility fractures and their associated negative impact on quality of life, morbidity and premature mortality.

Many fragility fractures are preventable through healthy lifestyle interventions, early detection and, most importantly, appropriate management in those at high risk. The HELLO series will address these important and often neglected topics. On the 26 and 27 November the event will be supported by an excellent line up of speakers, all of whom are experts in their field. The Garvan Institute is also delighted that the Governor General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, has indicated her strong support for this educational activity and will be opening the Patient Seminar.

This is a collaborative venture, which could not happen without adequate support. Sincere thanks goes to the HELLO sponsors and supporting organisations of which AWC is one of them along with Rural Health Education Foundation, large pharmaceutical companies and Osteoporosis Australia. The Australian Women's Coalition is recognised with the link to the Australian Federation of Medical

women and the wide range of women's organisations within our members. Professor John Eisman AO, Director, Osteoporosis and Bone Biology Program, Garvan Institute of Medical Research plans that these seminars will, if successful in Sydney, be rolled out to major centres and rural areas of Australia. More information can be found at www.HELLOmeeting.com.au

Radio Moment

Luisa Latakefu of the Pan Pacific South Asian Women's Organisation represented the AWC on 'Yes She Can', Canberra's Multicultural Women's Radio, broadcasting on FM 91.1 every Tuesday from 2-3PM. This is a new station recently launched as part of Canberra's Multicultural Service and sponsored by the ACT Government. Luisa spoke about the national advocacy we can do as an organisation and the importance of women finding a voice together.

NSW Law and Justice Foundation

The AWC has received a positive response from the Law Foundation whom we contacted to gain support for further research and support for long term responses for survivors of sexual violence. The Director Geoff Mulherin, after reviewing the Happy Healthy Women Report the AWC produced last year said the research was very important and useful work. and suggests that there could be scope for an application to the Foundation for a grant to further the work of any one of a number of the recommendations you cite. The AWC committee is seeking further support in this important advocacy area.



AWC's Sharyl Scott with D23 Governor Jane Smith at the D23 Conference in Melbourne.

History & Archives

Lennie McCall

'Having Fun in Zonta Poster Display 2011

The opportunity for the 26 clubs who participated to illustrate this theme with one or more activities was on show in the conference venue and created some considerable interest. "These images will be a good source for forthcoming history projects" commented PIP Val Sarah, Chairman of Zonta International's Centennial Anniversary Committee.

In particular this role will see Val planning for the publication of a Centennial History with contributions from every Zonta District.

This year's poster contributions provided an excellent record, as have previous pictorial conference exhibitions, showing members active around the District enjoying themselves while contributing service to their community and to projects worldwide.

Our committee appreciated the Conference Committee's theme idea, Having Fun in Zonta, which was promoted well beforehand and we welcomed the response from clubs for their creative entries.

A list of entries and theme activities will be forwarded to Area Directors for distribution to all their clubs later this month.

Public Relations & Communication

Faye Jeutz

Congratulations to Zonta Clubs who entered the PR Awards presented at the District Conference, as detailed below – you are all winners!

I receive many newsletters and flyers by email and am always interested in reading about the innovative and diverse activities undertaken across District 23. The standard is excellent and while each is different in layout and content, there is an obvious effort to use Zonta colours, logo and emblem to present your club in the best way, even those clubs with basic computer software. Let's aim to at least double the number of entries in 2013, in fact, why not aim for EVERY club to participate?

Category 1 - Advertising

FLYER - MELBOURNE'S WEST
BANNER - ADELAIDE FLINDERS
MEMBER BROCHURE -
MELBOURNE ON YARRA
NON-MEMBER BROCHURE -
MELBOURNE ON YARRA

Category 2 - Advertising

MEDIA COVERAGE - PERTH
NORTHERN SUBURBS
ONE-OFF EVENT - PERTH
NORTHERN SUBURBS
ONE-OFF EVENT - HOBART
DERWENT
ONGOING EVENT - BENDIGO

Category 3 - Club Newsletter

MELBOURNE'S WEST
BUNBURY
Category 4 - Website
MELBOURNE ON YARRA

WHITE RIBBON DAY

I was thrilled (yes, thrilled) to log onto the White Ribbon Day site and discover 10 Zonta clubs hosting events across our 3 Districts under the White Ribbon banner. I didn't count the total number of events, but the Zonta logo is very prominent and by far the most listed organization. Well done!

Nominating Committee

Chairman—Judith Rothe

The Nominating Committee would like to present their final slate of elected D23 Board members and Nominating Committee for 2012-2014 as introduced by Governor Jane on page 2 of this Newsflash.

On behalf of the 2010-12 Nominating Committee I wish to congratulate the incoming D23 Board and Nominating Committee members. I would like to thank all the candidates that participated in the election for their interest and passion in our vibrant organisation which provided our Committee the opportunity to present a healthy slate to the D23 Conference.

Amelia Earhart

Carole Theobald

Amelia Earhart Deadline Approaches

It has been a busy couple of weeks reminding universities that the closing date for the 2012 Amelia Earhart Fellowships is 15 November and emails have been flying through the airwaves! Hopefully, we will be able to give a US\$10,000 Amelia Earhart Fellowship to a woman who is pursuing a graduate PhD/doctoral degree in aerospace related science/engineering research – and help make life a little easier for her. Since their inception in 1938, there have been 1,333 Amelia Earhart Fellowships totalling over \$7.5 million awarded to 929 Fellows from 65 countries.

In 2011 there were 36 recipients, though sadly none from District 23. Let's hope that next year we can have a 'local' AE Fellow!

Amelia Earhart - Zontian and Aviatix



Zontians Honoured

South Australian ACSO Annual Premier's Awards

ACSO (Association of Community Service Organisations) held their annual SA Premier's Awards Dinner on 11 October. Record nominations for club project awards in several categories were received from member organisations (Apex, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, Soroptimist and Zonta) as well as for the Heide Taylor Medal and Prize, the Allan Sloane Young Citizen Community Service Prize and the Community Schools Award.

Congratulations to the Zonta Club of Adelaide Torrens who won the Social Inclusion Award (with \$500 cash prize) for their Seeds of Affinity Project working with the Adelaide Women's Prison.

The Event Award and \$500 cash prize went to the Adelaide White Ribbon Breakfast Committee for their Human Trafficking Forum. This project was

nominated by the Zonta Club of Adelaide Flinders on behalf of Zonta and Soroptimist, who collaborated on this event together with BPW (Business & Professional Women International), NCW (National Council of Women SA) and a small group of White Ribbon Ambassadors.

Rita Fletcher from Zonta Club of Noarlunga Southern Vales and Marjorie Smith from Zonta Club of Adelaide Flinders both received special acknowledgement as very worthy nominees for the Heide Taylor Medal, and I am delighted to report that our 2011 District 23 Jane M Klausman Women in Business Winner, Sonia Zaiee, won the \$1,000 Allan Sloane Young Citizen Community Service Prize. Sonia was nominated by her "Aussie Mum" Rita Fletcher and the Zonta Club of Noarlunga Southern Vales.

St Aloysius College were nominated by the Zonta Club of Adelaide Flinders

for the Schools Community Award for their ongoing "Mercy in Action" efforts, and were thrilled to be placed first equal with Woodcroft College, receiving \$500 towards their project. This Award was presented at a special reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide.

Cintra Amos
Zonta ACSO Representative and
Events Coordinator



Cintra Amos and Pauline Glover (on left) with representatives from Soroptimist and BPW receiving the Events Award for the White Ribbon Trafficking Forum.

District 23 Conference Photo Gallery

www.zontadistrict23.org.au

website has links to a great gallery of conference photographs taken by our D23 photographer, Sally Gordon who stepped out from behind the camera in the photo below. Thanks Sally for your great efforts!



Flag ceremony to start the conference (above). Conference in business mode (left). Catching up on the conference handbook (right).



District 23 Conference Gallery



District Board members relaxing at the Conference dinner (left).

The room is abuzz with conversation, decorations and hats (right—top and bottom)!



A beautiful choral accompaniment to morning tea (left).

Judges conferring (left), and the winners of the Conference dinner best hats competition are..... (below)



An explanation for the above two photographs will be found in Fremantle, WA at the 2013 District 23 Conference!!



Governor Jane, International Representative Kathleen and past D23 Governors enjoying the Conference dinner.



Service Chair Jill Taylor (left) with Amelia Earhart Fellow Lauren Burns.

And the unwritten rule.... There must be a raffle at every Zonta function!!!

