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Club Meetings

- o Second Thursday of the month (except January)
- o 6.15pm for 6.45pm
- o St Catherine's College, UWA

Apologies

- o By 12 noon previous Monday
- o To Val Gandossini via zontaperth@yahoo.com.au

Contact us

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



L-R: Freda Jacob, Carole Theobald, Agnes Vacca and BecChristou colour coordinated for the Hall of Fame Gala night!



L-R: Katina Law and friend



Wendy MacGibbon samples the food!



Hall of fame inductees Kath Mazzella and Lois Gatley at 6PR breakfast.

1. Centenary of International Women's Day - Statewide Celebrations!

International Women's Day 2011, has been a year to remember for Zonta!

I was privileged to represent Zonta on two Perth Chapter of UN Women committees: the Management Committee to oversee the Lotterywest grant of \$550,000 to fund a range of *statewide celebrations* for the Centenary of IWD; and the annual UN Women *IWD Breakfast* Committee (see IWD Breakfast article).

Statewide celebrations:

We wanted IWD to touch the lives of as many West Australians as possible – so the UN Women's Management Committee enrolled a wide range of representatives to help spread the word: Zonta International, Australian Local Government Women's Association, BPW, National Council of Women, Young UN Women, Women's Health Services, Women's Advisory Council, Disability Services Commission, Country Women's Association, Office for Women's Interests, Kurungkurl Katitjin Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research and the Ethnic Communities Council of WA. Two professional events managers, Anne-Maree Ferguson and Marija Jelavic taught us all to think big and be audacious – with impressive results! To make the grant go further a host of corporate partners were enrolled including Channel 7, the West Australian, 6PR Radio, Yahoo!, Rio Tinto, City of Perth, the Departments of Communities, Education and Indigenous Affairs, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Perth Audio Visual, Getty Images and AV Partners. They certainly made every dollar go even further than we thought imaginable.

Early in the piece over 50 high profile WA 'patrons' (men and women) were identified and asked to distribute 3 emails over a period of a few weeks to 10 people that could be sent to 10 more people in what is called a 'viral' email campaign to spread messages about IWD and the range of forthcoming events.

The celebrations kicked off with a launch event at Council House hosted by Lord Mayor, Lisa Scaffidi which was described in the last InZert.

The 'portal' to all events for our huge state was the www.powerof100.com.au website through which all the following events were advertised and facilitated.

WA Women's Hall of Fame: Newspaper and TV adverts were used to raise awareness and direct nominations to the website. The TV advert showed men and women thinking about the women who had inspired them most, but not naming them. The extended footage showing the 'answers' was used on the Gala Night and on the website. Most of the Management Committee made up the selection panel and I spent many a weekend being totally, touched, moved and inspired by the hundreds of nominations received. This was a tough job. We had selection criteria and every application was individually and collectively assessed, then discussed until consensus was reached. Nominations were received from both men and women for famous and not so famous women from the past and present. The first 100 women selected included a range of historic pioneers as well as today's famous and quieter achievers – of all ages! (We all excluded ourselves from discussions concerning anyone we knew personally...)



L-R: Hall of Fame inductee, Leah Umbagai, and her son Falou



L-R: Hall of Fame inductee, Josephine Spauill, with Minister Robyn McSweeney



Penny Flett doing a live radio interview for 6PR with Steve Mills at Friends Restaurant



The 8 page wrap around in the West and our Zonta advert



The Bloke's Morning Tea poster

I was delighted to see that the following women with "Zonta" connections were inducted into the Hall of Fame: **Dr Penny Flett** (Perth Club), **Josephine Spauill** (Bunbury Club), **Paddi Creevey** (Peel Club), **Beryl Grant** (former member of Perth Club) as well as **Kath Mazzella** (Area 3 Woman of Achievement 2005) and **Leah Umbagai** (Project Coordinator of the Ilerla Project at Mowanjum – the Ilerla Project came from the D23 Yarri Wada Puppet Project).

All members of the Management Committee also had to complete a questionnaire about their thoughts on IWD and these were uploaded week by week...Completing the questionnaire was one of the hardest things I have had to do and I would recommend every Zontian has a go at answering the questions. It really helped me focus on why I do what I do through Zonta!

The inductees Gala Night at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre was attended by 1,000 people. The WA Governor, Sir Ken Michael, presented the inductees with specially minted brooches at an informal ceremony before everyone gathered for a formal 'gala event' in the theatre. The entertainment commenced with suffragettes on stage together with large screens showing 'herstory' being made! Tina Altieri from Channel 7 hosted the evening and historic narrations were read by Debra Kennedy from the ABC. The event told the story of women's achievements since the days of the suffragettes and included young girls performing ballet, historic photos, narrations and short films of some of the inductees.

The highlight of the evening was when over 70 of the inductees gathered on stage for acknowledgement to a standing ovation. The 'surprise' for the night was the finale by singing sensation Jessica Mauboy, who performed some of her latest hits and rounded and even provided a spirited rendition of 'I am Woman'. The show finished with cannons of purple, green and white confetti raining on the audience! The show was followed by a cocktail party with gorgeous canapés and the most remarkable middle aged female DJs who for their final numbers observed about 100 people spontaneously forming a circle and entered into a rousing version of I am Woman!! It was certainly a night to remember!

At present, the WA Women's Hall of Fame is contained on the website, but negotiations are in place to obtain sponsorships for a physical Hall of Fame. New inductees will be added to the Hall, (probably at the UN Women breakfast) and this will provide an ongoing focus for IWD in future years.

Moment in time: This is the modern day version of a 'time capsule' with women being invited to submit stories about what they did on IWD to the web site. A selection of stories will be stored in the WA State Library and provide a social history of the Centenary of IWD.

Schools program: A schools competition invited students of all ages to interview a woman that had inspired them. Entries could be written, filmed or recorded with an IPAD being awarded to the best entries in each age group.

Bloke's morning tea: Men were invited to contribute to celebrations by hosting IWD morning teas at their workplaces – where they provided the food! In so many workplaces it is the women that usually 'bring the plate' so this was a chance for the guys to take on that role!

Media coverage: The *West Australian* had a special 8 page IWD wrap around featuring the 100 women in the Hall of Fame on 8th March. This souvenir edition also contained an eye-catching advert for Zonta International – to which all clubs in WA contributed! Throughout the week Hall of Fame inductees a representatives from women's groups featured in newspaper articles and radio interviews. Jean Wyder President Perth NS club spoke about an upcoming birthing kit assembly day and our own Penny Flett was interviewed a 6PR breakfast event at Friends Restaurant at the Hyatt. In fact on IWD just about every radio and TV station featured news items about Hall of Fame inductees, achievements of women and of course lots of songs by women!

All in all, it was a tremendous week for raising the profile of a wide range of women's issues.

2. International Women's Day Breakfast



There were 940 guests at the breakfast that was opened by Minister McSweeney



A student from Clontarf Girls Academy read the Prime Minister's message. Note the hand signer behind the speaker on the screen.



L-R: Minister Robyn McSweeney with Elizabeth Broderick



L-R: Manal Omar, Sue Conde and Anne Banks-McAllister

The Hall of Fame Gala Night started IWD week with a bang and the UN Women's IWD Breakfast served as the key 'international' event of the week! It's super what can be achieved when women's organizations work together – and Zonta, BPW, Soroptimists, National Council of Women, Graduate Women WA and the WA Local Government Women's Association all helped UN Women to make this a BIG event. It was also the formal launch of UN Women in WA.

Last year's breakfast filled the Hyatt Ballroom with 550 attendees, so this year we moved to the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre and were overjoyed (and relieved) when 940 people attended!

Pre-event advertising 'piggy-backed' onto the statewide events and quite a few of us from the committee did radio and newspaper interviews. I did radio interviews with 6PR and Curtin Radio. My role was mainly to coordinate the production of the flyers and registration documents and to design and produce the sponsors' materials, PowerPoints for the day, posters of the seating plans and the programs. In addition I wrote quite a few press releases for the professional publicist to circulate through her networks. Planning for the breakfast started in about September with monthly meetings, which were ramped up to fortnightly as the date got nearer.

Guest speakers for the morning included Sue Conde the President of UN Women Australia, Elizabeth Broderick the Sex Discrimination Commissioner and, our keynote speaker, Manal Omar who is a Middle East peacemaker. Manal is from a Palestinian family, but grew up in the USA. She loves the Middle East and worked for a number of non government organizations in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Jordan, Egypt – you name it, she's worked there! During the Iraq war in 2002-2004 she returned to Iraq to be a voice for disadvantaged women in the rebuilding of the nation and established a number of women's centres to improve their lives. Sadly hostilities re-erupted and it became too unsafe for her to stay, but her heart is still with the Iraqi people and she now works as the Director of Iraq Programs for the US Institute of Peace. Manal signed a copy of her book "Barefoot in Baghdad" for me and I have just finished reading it – it was well worth the read!

Funds raised from the breakfast are going to UN Women projects to increase the participation of women in leadership and governance roles – a very worthy cause.



Hall of Fame Carina Hoang signs her book for MC Babs McHugh



L-R: Sandra Cook (BPW), Carole Theobald (Zonta) and Julie Ham (Soroptimists) queue to have their books signed by Manal Omar



The Area 3 banners looked great for our Zonta Display

3. UN Women events

Postscript: UN Women have two events coming up in Perth.

On 31 March, Young UN Women is hosting a 'Women on Boards' event. This is prompted by the Equal Opportunity Commission's recent report showing that Australian women comprise a mere 10% of company board members, In fact, this number is probably closer to 1.5-2% because a small pool of Australian women sit on numerous boards. Young UN Women pose the questions: How can we change this? How do you get your foot in the boardroom door? What does it take to sit on a board? So this discussion evening should be very interesting. Tickets available from www.trybooking.com/LPZ This event is advertised as "In the trenches with women on Boards – a discussion evening for aspiring young female directors"

On 1 April, UN Women President Sue Conde will be attending a special "Meet the UN Women Board" event at the Shire of Peppermint Grove. Guest speaker will be Carina Hoang who is also the guest speaker for our club's Cultural Awareness Event in May.



See back page of Inzert for full sized flyer



L-R: Mary Gurgone and Gary Ward

4. The Hunger Project – our own IWD night!

Our 9 March club meeting was an IWD event with a difference. Our guest speaker was the inspirational Dr Gary Ward who spoke about one of his passions – the Hunger Project (THP) – that empowers women and men to end their own hunger. The key to the success of this project, that transforms ‘hopeless’ dependent communities into self sufficient, sustainable communities with a future, is the empowerment of women!

Gary used a couple of videos to demonstrate the cycle of poverty experienced by so many women in some African, Asian and South American countries where they are nothing more than ‘breeding machines’ to produce males. Women have no education, no voice, very little food and lots and lots of hard labour! The Hunger Project has facilitators called ‘animators’ who work with the whole community to create a shared vision – and then help the community to make it become a reality. A little microfinance can help install a well, that can reduce women’s water collection walking time by hours

each day, releasing time for them to be educated...or a grinding mill to reduce the time spent grinding seeds into flour...

A key to the success of the project is the building ‘epicentres’ in villages that are used to house a grain/seed store, a kitchen, a medical centre and a community hall that can be used for meetings or classes. If you missed the evening, have a look at the videos at <http://www.thp.org/>.

If you would like to help out with the Hunger Project, member Deb Mason is coordinating a ‘Row to Africa’ fundraiser – with rowers being sponsored to row 10,000 km (on machines!!) – the equivalent of the distance from Australia to Africa. Why not sponsor Deb today?



A full house!

5. Zontians in Disaster Zones

The whole club is so relieved that Sharron Hickey has returned safely from Christchurch. Sharron was attending a conference in the Christchurch Convention Centre when the earthquake struck. We just cannot imagine what she experienced.



Devastation in Christchurch

Sharron explained that she was just so grateful to the “disaster team, the Red Cross, the New Zealand Air Force and the people of Christchurch for the amazing effort, kindness and consideration that were shown to all involved to ensure that we were safe and able to return home.”

We all extend a HUGE THANK YOU to them too Sharron! We are so glad that you are home safely.



Roads washed out to Halls Creek

Meanwhile, up at Halls Creek, Sciona Browne, who is on the Shire Council of this remote community, was sorting out the logistics of being in a remote community that is completely cut off in all directions by flood waters. Luckily the airport is still open to move supplies and people. The nearby community of Warman was flooded out (including its famous art gallery) and everyone had to be air lifted to Kununurra.

However, on a brighter note, the Halls Creek community has recently launched its new website at www.heartofthekimberley.com.au. This site will provide positive stories about Halls Creek and the activities taking place in the town as well as promoting the skills of Halls Creek residents. A great initiative Sciona!

Zonta International President, Dianne Curtis circulated the good news about Zontians in Japan following the devastating tsunami and earthquakes in that country.



The tsunami in Japan

I am delighted to advise that all Zontians in District 26 have been located and are safe. Governor Tokue advised me last night that "Now I can report you Zontians D26 are all safe and alive. Nothing would give me greater happiness than this news! It's beyond description!"

I am in discussion with Governor Tokue about the support Zontians can provide the District. I will use the website and email blasts to let you know how we can support Japan.

6. Quiz Night 18 March 2011



Get set for a great night out!



The streamers left over from a recent party, gave the room a festive air.



Our quizmaster David kept us all on track. 'Tricia and Wendy did the scoring behind the screens.'

It was a packed house for an evening packed full of entertainment! Nearly 200 people came with their suppers to exercise their grey matter, partake of a few games and bid in the silent auction... and we raised over \$6,000!

We went a bit 'high tech' this year and used three computer projectors to project two sets of questions formatted in PowerPoint (one at each end of the room) and the 'scoreboard' (on an Excel spreadsheet to reduce adding up errors!). Many thanks to St Catherine's for the use of their equipment and dining room – it was much appreciated. The students had a BBQ that night so we could use the hall. Some of the students helped us to set up the room and clear up. They even participated in the quiz and won – the booby prize!

There were ten rounds of questions including 3 'rapid rounds' which contained 10 questions on a timer so you only had 3 seconds to answer them - you could have heard a pin drop in the rapid rounds! Our quizmaster, David was very good at pacing the questions and conducting the 'heads and tails'.

Special mention goes to the scorers, 'Tricia Summerfield and Wendy Atherden who worked 'behind the screens' diligently marking all the quiz rounds and table games – not an easy task! The table games consisted of one where you had to match the car model numbers to a car make and another where you had to assign all the train stations in Perth to their correct line, which proved tricky as some stations were on two lines.

There was a huge raffle! We had been overly optimistic expecting to sell possibly 3 times more raffle tickets than we did, so had scrunched up far too many! We had to keep drawing out raffle tickets to find a winner and when we did get a winner a loud cry of 'bingo' could be heard! Deb nearly went hoarse just reading out ticket numbers!

The silent auction had a great range of gifts from holidays to literacy sets to electric toothbrushes. Raffle and door prizes included food hampers, wines, gift vouchers, insulated mugs, soft toys, cookery books, stubby holders, key rings, and toiletries – a super selection of prizes!

Many thanks to all the sponsors, Zontians and friends for supporting this event – it would not have been possible without you. A special thanks to Deb Mason for taking on the lion's share of the work – well done Deb!

7. Diary Dates



26 March – Area 3 Workshop, Mallard Duck Restaurant, Henley Brook, 10am-4pm
Opportunity to meet Zontians from other clubs, catch up on the latest from District 23 and Zonta International. Hosted by Area 3 Director Leanne Sultan and the Zonta Club of Swan Hills.

31 March – Young UN Women 'Women on Boards' Event, 6pm for 6.30pm.
In the trenches with women on boards – a discussion evening for aspiring young female directors. Freehills, Level 36, QV1, 250 St Georges Terrace. Tickets available from www.trybooking.com/LPZ. MC for the evening is Sue Conde, President of UN Women Australia.

1 April – Meet the UN Women Board, 5.30-7.30pm, Shire of Peppermint Grove.
Meet UN Women Australia President, Sue Conde and members of the UN Women board. Guest speaker Carina Hoang, author of Boat People and inductee in Women's Hall of Fame. Tickets \$20 at the door. RSVP by 30 March to alisoncook132@gmail.com

7 May – Cultural Awareness Day, 544 William St, Mt Lawley, 1pm-5pm
Carina Hoang, author of 'Boat People' will share her story along with women from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and experiences. RSVP by April 21 to seawinds4@bigpond.com Numbers strictly limited.

7-9 October – 11th Biennial District 23 Conference, Sebel Alfred Park, Melbourne
Have you booked yet? See www.zontadistrict23.org.au



Official logo of the 2011 District 23 Conference

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

Young UN Women
Perth Committee Presents



WOMEN ON BOARDS

 <p>Sue Cowie (UN Women Australia President)</p>	 <p>Denise Wischer (Facebook Board Member)</p>	 <p>Leonie-Ruth Acland (Facilitator/Consultant)</p>	 <p>Valerie Davies (All Division of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Vice President)</p>	 <p>Julie McKay (UN Women Australia Executive Director)</p>
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March 31st, 6.00 pm for a 6.30pm start
Freehills, Level 36 QV1, 250 St Georges Terrace

**IN THE TRENCHES WITH WOMEN ON BOARDS –
A DISCUSSION EVENING FOR ASPIRING YOUNG FEMALE DIRECTORS**

Recent reports released by the Equal Opportunity Commission shows that Australian women comprise a mere 10% of company board members. In fact, this number is probably closer to 1.5 - 2 % because a small pool of Australian women sit on numerous boards.

**HOW CAN WE CHANGE THIS? HOW DO YOU GET YOUR FOOT IN THE
BOARDROOM DOOR? WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO SIT ON A BOARD?**

With the UN Women National Board meeting in Perth for the first time ever, join Young UN Women Perth for an Informs session that will bring together 4 successful women with extensive Boardroom experience to talk about the challenges and realities of being on a board and to share their tips with aspiring female board room leaders.

For tickets, go to: www.trybooking.com/LPZ