

The Zontapreneur



Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs Inc.

Member of Zonta International

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Hi everyone,

Eleven of us have returned from a most enjoyable and thought-provoking D23 Conference in Melbourne. The keynote speakers



- **Mark McKeon**—A leading work life balance and team cohesion advocate. Mark has written a number of books one of which, 'Every Day Counts', was the first ever to be endorsed by one of the Australian Government's health promotion arms.

- **Gillian Franklin**—Recognised as one of Australia's most innovative marketers with a passion and commitment to supporting women in business. Her company 'The Heat Group Pty Ltd' currently distributes some of the world's biggest cosmetic brands.



- **Dr Louise Mahler**—Is the originator of the groundbreaking theory of *Vocal Intelligence* that won the 2006 RMIT University Award for Innovation.

gave exceptional presentations whilst engaging the audience in a rather fun and encompassing way.

It was a thrill to hear first-hand from **Lauren Burns**, one of ZI's 2010 Amelia Earhart Fellowship winners. Lauren is analysing and adopting the design of plant and animal joints which have undergone millions of years of evolutionary adaptations and improvements.



Lauren with Jill Taylor, D23 Service Chair.

Her research has the potential to contribute significantly to the design of composite aircraft structures.

As is usually the case, the Ceremony of Remembrance and the placing of a Zonta rose was very moving as was the tribute to Kay Poustie.



Kay's husband Trevor happened to be in Melbourne and managed to visit for afternoon tea with a number of us. He was touched by the Memorial Program.

On a much brighter note, our club won two of the PR Award categories—one for our 30th Birthday event and the other for our 2010 YWPA Award publicity. So hearty congratulations to Dawn and her committee. The presentation folder will be on display at our meeting this month if you would like to see our entry.



Governor, Jane Smith (pictured below), introduced a new award—the **Heide Taylor Honour Roll** in memory of Heide Taylor to recognise members throughout the District who have contributed so much to Zonta and the community. Of course, Heide was the first named followed by two Perth Club members in **Lennie McCall** and **Margaret Medcalf**. Over 40 years of service deserves special recognition, don't you think?



The **Market Place** is always exciting with lots of interesting and new ideas from which to raise funds. There was

stiff competition with the marketing of goods, but we took over \$500, selling lots of utility bags and registration plate surrounds. **Well done to Sue Taylor who dreamt up the latter which were very well received.** At right, our club treasurer happily counting the takings!



With the Conference taking place slap-bang in the middle of the Spring Racing Season, what better theme for it than '**Raising the Stakes**'. This was carried through to the Saturday Night Dinner—'**A Night at the Races**' when several categories of the best hat were judged, but more about that later on.

As our club will be hosting the 2013 District Conference at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, we were obliged to put on a skit to encourage members to attend. Let's see if we can top the 164 attendees at this year's conference!

Congratulations must go to Carole Theobald from the Perth Club who will be our next Area Director.

More from Jean's notebook over.....

DINNER MEETING

9 NOVEMBER 2011

(NOTE: NOT THE 1ST WEDNESDAY)

Chilla Bulbeck is co-convenor of SAWA-WA (Support Association for the Women of Afghanistan WA). She is Emeritus Professor in the School of Social Sciences at Adelaide University and Honorary Professorial Research Associate, School of Social Sciences and Communication Studies (Women's Studies), University of Western Australia. Before her retirement she taught social sciences and gender studies at Murdoch University, Griffith University and the University of Adelaide.



Chilla has published widely on issues of gender and difference and will be an apt speaker this month when we also recognise 'White Ribbon Day' on 25 November—'International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women'. Her presentation will align with Zonta International's Objects and is sure to be thought-provoking and interesting. Why not come and join us?

If you would like to join us please RSVP **JUNE FOWLER** 9424 5755 or E-mail her at jfowler@accruer.com.au by Friday 4 November.

....more from Jean's notebook

We had another successful *UN Women walk* on Sunday 23 October with nearly 30 walkers and a number of 4-legged friends. *Kerry Stopher*, our *UN Women speaker* last month travelled all the way



from the Hills to join us. It was also a delight to have very tanned former member *Mary Leonard* join us after her lengthy caravanning around Australia. As luck had it, the weather was beautiful and so we managed the 5kms in about 50 minutes. *Thank you to everyone who supported us.* The funds raised will go towards one of the UN Women projects.

For those members who were not able to attend and would like to contribute something towards this fundraiser, please make your donation at the next dinner meeting or contact our Treasurer, Anastasia Maslij at anastasiyam810@gmail.com

We have another very busy month ahead and I am really looking forward to the *Founders' Day Dinner* and hearing from all the remarkable *Women of Achievement nominees*. I am sure our *Bunnings Sausage Sizzle* on Saturday 26 November is going to be very busy with everyone getting ready for Christmas, and our Christmas Party only a few weeks away thanks to the generosity of Vicki and David Moir opening their home to us again.

Jean Wyder, President



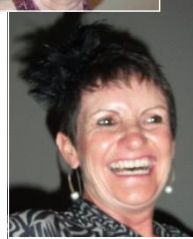
Kathleen Douglass from the ZC of Brompton-Caledon in Canada who represented Dianne Curtis (ZI President) at the Conference.

MORE STAKES RAISING!

The Conference Dinner was such a fun night with everyone capturing the Spring Carnival theme. There were some outrageous hats, like Trish McLean's from the ZC of Frankston. Cintra Amos' stunning creation was definitely a crowd stopper (right). Then there were our own club fillies



like Sue



Pertile, Alison Martin, Leanne Sultan and



oops, that's no filly!



Kath Snashall and Linda Tinning shared a drink with former member Rosemary Tait (above) and Dawn, whilst having a winning number for the hat parade, was no match for the winners!



Our club will need to *Raise the Stakes* in 2013 when we take responsibility for the District Conference that year. Work has already commenced and our team

will be striving to surpass the success of the Melbourne Conference. The venue in Fremantle has already been selected and we have given prospective attendees a little taste of life in the Port City.



"Why not take a trip to Rottnest and experience its fabulous bays and beaches."



"The night life is fantastic too—there are heaps of cafes and pubs!"



"You can do a walking tour around Fremantle with a couple of lovely young guys who call themselves 'Two Feet & a Heart Beat'."

"I'm inviting you all to come to WA in 2013 to enjoy what the West has to offer and to have a great time."



A rather impromptu skit which we hope will entice a record number of Zontians to attend our next fun District Conference.

Looks like conferences are all frivolity and no work but there were business sessions on all three days and workshops on two. Various reports were presented bringing members up-to-date with the District's finances, programs and projects. *We can be proud of our own three club members—Alison Martin (ZI Foundation Ambassador), Leanne Sultan (Area 3 Director) and Anastasia Maslij (D23 United Nations Chairman) who had reports featured.*

We can also be proud of the fact that 11 of our members attended, and had Letitia not fallen ill, we would have had 12. (By the way Letitia reports ... "I'm getting there slowly and looking forward to the Founders' Dinner.")

For those interested members, there will be a final conference report available in the future with full details.

I would like to acknowledge Sally Gordon, District photographer, and thank her for some of the photos used in this newsletter. (Ed.)

ZONTA AWARENESS

Liberia: Reflections from ZI President-Elect Lynn McKenzie

Last month, Lynn travelled to Liberia to visit the Fistula Project. Here's some of her report—

"It's pitch black outside as we leave the lights of Liberia's airport and drive the 50 minutes to the capital, Monrovia.... My task is to complete a site inspection of Zonta's Liberian fistula project, a project designed to eliminate obstetric fistula and thereby reduce the rate of maternal and newborn mortality (death) during pregnancy and childbirth.

Ravished by thirteen years of civil war, the first democratically-elected government, led by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf—the first woman to be elected to the role of president in Africa, and one of three women awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize—is in its fifth and final year of re-building its country and infrastructure at a basic level....

.....the maternal mortality in Liberia is very high—940 women die for every 100,000 live births; and, of those women that die, 578 die in childbirth. The life-time risk of maternal mortality in Liberia is 1 in every 20 women. Obstetric fistula is the main type of fistula and accounts for 94% of fistula cases in Liberia. Traumatic fistula, caused by rape and genital mutilation, is the other type of fistula. Surgery to repair an obstetric fistula costs just over US\$300. Zonta's project supports the surgery as well as prevention and rehabilitation.

So what is Zonta supporting and why? Zontians have donated just under US\$1M to the Liberia Fistula Project since 2008, and we are the largest donor. Zonta's money is donated to UNFPA (the United Nations Population Fund), who work with Liberia's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and other NGOs on the ground to administer the program.

The Liberian Fistula Project is fantastic as it is a three-in-one approach—it has a prevention side, treatment to surgically repair the fistula, and then a four-month rehabilitation program which combines counseling and teaching of literacy, business management and income-generating skills. Most importantly, when patients complete their rehabilitation, they are given a starter kit for their newly acquired skills—a sewing machine in the case of tailoring, for example. Rehabilitation is optional and during the past year, 38% of the women elected to take advantage of this opportunity.

What did I see? I saw a very successful project. Essentially, the project provides women with a 'help up and not a hand out'. Women are:

- *Accessing free fistula surgical repairs with an 83% success rate.*
- *Undergoing rehabilitation and leaving to create a better future for themselves and their families.*
- *Learning how to prevent fistula through prevention campaigns, including radio and drama, to raise awareness of fistula, its causes and treatment in the community. These campaigns are the main source of referrals for women living with fistula.*

The Minister of Health has taken steps to ensure the project is an integral part of Liberia's maternal strategy so it is not solely dependent on donor aid. Most importantly, the project is being driven by Liberians for Liberians, and services are largely delivered by Liberians. I think this is one of the project's key success factors."



Lynn met with a number of project partners and health officials. She also visited a hospital where women and young girls were about to undergo surgery and then moved onto meet women successfully treated and in rehabilitation... *"the smiles. One lasting memory I have is of a beautiful mother who just over 18 months after receiving treatment and rehabilitation has used her newly acquired soap making skills to buy a piece of land so she can build a house for her family.*

Each night, I returned to my Western hotel room with air-conditioning, security guards, hot running water and a hot shower and wrote down reflections on my day, grateful that I live where I do and with a renewed commitment to continuing work to achieve Zonta's mission.

The Liberian site visit was an amazing opportunity. Thank you. Know your donations are well spent, and you are fundamentally touching and providing hope to the lives of Liberian women and their families. You are giving women back their smiles, enabling them to fully engage with and contribute positively to their communities. Your donation gave them their lives back. Thank you, what more could you ask?"

Think about donating to the ZIF !

AROUND THE CLUB



Palma and David Phipps have just returned from New Zealand where sadly, they saw the Wallabies defeated. However, Palma looks a winner here with the Cup, eh?

Someone else not long returned from 2 weeks in Ghana is **Carolyn McMickan**.

"I was privileged to meet some of the women from the four Zonta Clubs in Accra. District 18 Governor Stella Bentsi-Enchill had organised for me to attend an "African" lunch at a local restaurant. I learnt a great deal about the Accra ZC projects, culture in Ghana and their hopes for the future. I was also introduced to "Aunt Barbara" one of the founding members of the Accra club who was truly an inspirational lady. The following day I was invited to a presentation that the four Accra Zonta Clubs made to The National Disaster Management Organisation and here's the article that was published in Ghana's main newspaper "The Graphic" in relation to this.



Zonta Club of Accra donates to NADMO

MRS Stella Bentsi-Enchill (4th left) the District Governor of Zonta Club International, handing over a quantity of items to Mr Asomaning Gye-Mensah, the Director of National Disaster Organisation (NADMO). The Zonta Club of Accra presented a number of items worth GHS 2,000.00 to NADMO at a ceremony in Accra. The items include rice, sugar, toiletries, detergents and some used clothing.

I also learnt that breast cancer deaths in Ghana currently account for 40% of all deaths from cancer (male and female) and access to mammography is not equitable. Ju Ju (witchcraft), although thankfully on the decline, is still practised in some areas. The Zonta ladies mentioned that there has also been a recent increase in child laundering.

I have sent a thank you email to Stella. She would like to keep in touch and hopefully we can catch up in Turin."

OUR NEXT BIG FUNCTION IS THE FOUNDERS' DAY DINNER ON 5 NOV FOLLOWED BY OUR CLUB MEETING ON 9 NOV AND THEN BUNNINGS' SAUSAGE SIZZLE ON 26 NOVEMBER.



A very happy Conference 1st Timer in Sue Taylor especially since her registration plate surrounds were such a hit! Good on you Susan.

Editor—Dawn Newman
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