

A word from your President



"Life isn't a matter of milestones, but of moments."

Rose Kennedy

Well, my dear fellow Zontians, my Presidency up to now has been full of those moments. I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to lead our wonderful Club.

We are also blessed to have **Dawn Newman** in our Club. Now here is a Zontian who has experienced a momentous number of special moments which have led to her being recognised for her service to Zonta and cricket—so many stories to tell and many roads travelled!

I have always called Dawn my star and now she has been recognised by others through the awarding of an **"ORDER OF AUSTRALIA"**. We are all thrilled by this recognition and took the opportunity to congratulate her at our February dinner meeting. Wendy (below) presented Dawn with a beautiful arrangement on behalf of the members.

I have more special moments to report. **Wendy Dowling**, already an AM has also been recognised as a **CONSERVATION FELLOW** for all the work she has undertaken for community projects in villages around Sabah Borneo. So congratulations are in order here as well!

Wendy and Ross, over 20 years, have chaperoned four groups of Edith Cowan University students to this area—Sukau Rainforest and more. No doubt they will continue this vital work.

November/December 2023 seems so long ago; however, I would like to thank all those members who attended the **33rd march against domestic and family violence** that took place on 5 December at Forrest Chase.

Our advocacy group **YouthGuard** will be meeting with **Kayeleen Kerr** from **eSafeKids** and **Julie Gorman** of **WA Child Safety Services** towards the end of March to discuss running community forums throughout the metropolitan area with the aim of increasing parental awareness of the scourge of online pornography which is readily available to their children.

Don't forget the speaker for our Club's IWD Breakfast is **Dr Kim Farrington** who will enlighten us more about this topic. See details below.

To reiterate a couple of points covered at our February Planning Meeting—

- *To meet our budget for the coming year it was suggested we endeavour to seek funds through sponsorships. Members, please consider whom you might be able to approach in this regard—perhaps someone in your immediate vicinity could help!*
- *While we have an active Fundraising Committee, please remember we are all responsible for raising money for our programs and projects. The Committee cannot be expected to do this alone.*

Well, that's it for now. Let's make sure the memorable moments continue as we work together to **build a better world for women and girls**.

Sue Penttilä



International Women's Day & Zonta Rose Day Breakfast Friday 8 March 2024

Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club
(227 West Coast Drive, Marmion)

6.30 for 7 am start—finish 9.00 am

\$50 pp includes plated breakfast



Dr Kim Farrington is well qualified to present her thoughts on this subject. She is a Founding Fellow of the Faculty of Clinical Forensic Medicine of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and has served on several National Committees.

Dr Farrington's presentation will throw some light on how pornography is affecting society, especially school-age children, and its relationship to sexual assault.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE/S, CLICK [HERE](#)

RSVP BY 5 PM FRIDAY 1 MARCH

ENQUIRIES KAY METAXAS 0412 476 567





Don't forget that 8 March is also **Zonta Rose Day**. This day is encouraged as one on which clubs or individuals could donate to the **Zonta Foundation for Women (ZFW)** to give tribute to those

working in the community to achieve gender equity. This can be done through the ZI website at:
https://www.zonta.org/Web/Your_Support/Foundation_Campaigns.

There are plenty of options to support Foundation projects that are not yet at their target for the biennium. So far we have only reached 75% of our overall goal. Click on the link if you would like to donate to the following—

Amelia Earhart Fellowship 46%
Women in Business Scholarship 27%
Young Women in Public Affairs Award 70%
All International Service Programs 50%

Our commitment for the 2022-2024 Biennium is US\$4,413,000 so every \$ will help!

A word from your International President

ZI President, Ute Scholz wrote to all members on 24 January wishing us a happy new calendar year and a happy International Day of Education! Here's some of what she said—

"Each year gives us a fresh start brimming with opportunities to build a better world for women and girls. We start the year celebrating January with our very own Zontian and pioneer, Amelia Earhart. However, to realize a gender-equal world,



we must empower the next generation of female pioneers, leaders and innovators in all fields and that begins with quality education opportunities for all women and girls.

According to UN Women's Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals report, although access to education is rising among girls and their completion rates consistently surpass those of boys across the primary, lower-secondary and upper-secondary levels, millions of girls have never entered a classroom or completed their education. Around 110 million girls are estimated to be deprived of completing their education by 2030. Therefore, it is crucial that Zonta continues to support women and girls throughout the world through our international service projects and education programs. Through your support for these projects and programs and through your own local actions, you help ensure that women and girls have access to education and the opportunities it provides.

With your tireless support and unwavering dedication, we are poised to achieve great things in 2024. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey."



There are many inspiring stories from women who have benefited from our education programs. Here's just one—

"As a first-generation student, this Fellowship will enable me to pay for tuition, purchase books and computer equipment and attend conferences that will support my research. I am excited to become a member of an international community of women and receive the guidance of talented role models." 2021 Amelia Earhart Fellow

Of course there are all the other young girls we have introduced education to in countries where schooling is not a priority for them. An earlier Program was designed to empower the most vulnerable girls through equitable access to quality learning opportunities and help them transition from primary to lower secondary school.



If you're planning on going to the Convention be mindful that the **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION** closes on 15 March ! This will cost US\$325.

After this date registration will increase to US\$355 until 15 May and after that you will pay US\$395.

If you book into other events there will be added costs for some so you need to factor these into your overall outlay. Fares and accommodation will be added expenses.

Holding this Convention in Australia is quite special as there have only been two others—1984 and 2006. As an Aussie Zontian you won't want to miss this unique opportunity!

16 Days of Activism—Zonta Says NO to Violence

Going by the reports in the *District 23 'NewsFlash'*, there was plenty of action going on during this campaign. Clubs across our District were extremely active between 25 November and 10 December with plenty of orange splashed around their communities.

There were many very innovative ideas. In *South Australia* clubs engaged in marches, vigils, special community events and luncheons; bakeries were asked to put orange icing on their finger buns and cakes; posters and banners were erected around various towns. There was also significant yarn bombing in one town (pic below), 57 orange shoes displayed in one library and an event



where footballers painted slogans on T-shirts.

The *ZC of Bunbury* invited schools and students to participate in a *Respect Calendar* competition. No less than 121 entries were received and the twelve students whose art was included in the calendar, their families and school staff were invited to an afternoon tea. The artworks were displayed in a local bookshop and featured in the social media campaign during 16 Days of Activism.

In *Dunsborough* several orange female form corflute cut-outs were displayed at the Naturaliste Community Centre and later moved into the centre of Dunsborough to draw attention to this global awareness movement. There was a family violence themed art exhibition by members of the Busselton SHS Z Club and others, as a backdrop to

several speakers on their experience of childhood bullying and violence. Attendees were given an orange felt flower with a white ribbon made by the Z Club.

The *Geelong Club* also yarn bombed many trees in and around their city and arranged the lighting up of several buildings.

All five *Tasmanian clubs* were involved in a variety of activities. The Launceston Club believe the public understanding for this issue should be broadened so the message displayed during their walks highlighted some of the gender-based reasons for the status of women:

*"Change harmful stereotyping",
"Promote Equal Pay"
Stalking is a Crime".*

Refer to the District NewsFlash for more stories and ideas for next year's campaign.

A BIG Thank you from SOS

At the end of 2023 our members donated a whole lot of good quality pillows to the *Starting Over Support* group. *Ruth* was the good Samaritan who delivered these on our behalf but has passed on SOS's monthly Facebook THANK YOU, as follows—

"And the Love and Kindness Keeps Coming!!

So much love again in the door so far this month for our crisis families. We are just so humbled and appreciative of all the amazing support so many continue to provide for our program.

There are many days when we just look at each other and it doesn't take much for the tears to flow—the new pillows, the donations that come from our young folks like Shenton College—what beautiful young folks who want to help others—"Buckets of Love" products and more—thank you Emily and your wonderful students for taking the time and effort to help our families.



To the lovely Maureen who came in with lots of "Buckets of Love" for our program and some handmade pot holders and more—absolutely beautiful.

Ruth Thomas—delivered some new pillows on behalf of the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs. Thank you

beautiful friends of SOS.

Sharon Baxter who brought in some brand new toys for the children, thank you.

Then of course every month hundreds of beautiful people drop in with so many treasures and beautiful items for us to pass to our families—you are all truly amazing.

We hope you know what a difference you are making to the lives of so many—every single day. Thank you all.

Truly amazing."

And a BIG thank you to Ruth who collects and delivers all our goodies. She is always helping someone. Once before she took along some blankets and large Moccona coffee jars which SOS were thrilled about. So keep these items in mind as well.

Around the Club

Exciting Club News—an OAM to DN

“Dawn is a very dedicated Zontian, having been inducted as a member of the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs Inc on 5th June 1985, the same night as past member Gillian Cuss, and just four years after our club was chartered in 1981. Dawn became the 6th Club President in 1990–1992, with Gillian becoming Club President the following biennium.

They were amongst dedicated members who readily took on the task of forming a new club in Western Australia, the Zonta Club of Swan Hills. Dawn was also part of the Area committees that introduced the Peel and Dunsborough Clubs.

Recognising her strength and ability to get things done, Mary Ellen Bittner (Zonta International President 2004–06) appointed Dawn as Chair of the International Public Relations & Communications Committee. This culminated with arranging media for the 2006 Melbourne ZI Convention, a thankless task as Dawn wasn't able to see much of

the Convention, being tied up with media contacts in Melbourne.

The District 23 Nominating Committee soon recognised Dawn's commitment and she was elected as Area 3 Director for the 1994–96 biennium. Subsequently, she became a member of that Committee herself during the 2002–04 and 2008–10 biennia.

The District 23 Governor soon saw what an asset Dawn was and appointed her to the PR&C Committee which role she held from 2000–06 and then the Centennial Anniversary Committee 2016–20.

Having such excellent skills in writing and photography our club has been very fortunate to have Dawn as editor of our newsletter, 'The Zontapreneur', which she has been producing since 2006.

The saying 'ask a busy woman to do anything and the job gets done' is certainly applicable to Dawn as she has difficulty saying no! There is no doubt she has proven to be a wonderful asset to Zonta International and I am very fortunate to have her as a friend.

Cricket is Dawn's other passion, having earned a 'Baggy Green'. As a member of the WA Cricket Association Past Players' group and the Australian Cricketers' Association, Dawn has contributed variously over the years. She is invited from time to time to events at the WACA and Optus Stadium which she enjoys very much.

Her active playing record is:

*Western Australian Women's Cricket Team
1963–64, 1964–65 and 1967–68
Australian Women's Cricket Test Team
1968–69*

In his congratulatory letter (one of many letters, texts and messages Dawn received), CEO of Cricket Australia, Nick Hockley wrote:

'Playing three tests for Australia against England with an average of over 30 and two half-centuries including a top score of 76 batting at number five is an outstanding achievement, as is your career for the Western Australian State Team.'

cont'd below...

The test series mentioned against England, consisted of three matches (all drawn), as follows –

*Adelaide 27–30 December 1968
Melbourne 10–13 January 1969
Sydney 25–28 January 1969*

Dawn comes from a family with great passion for and participation in cricket. Her older sister Betty Newman was selected in the Australian Women's Test side in 1958 (the very first Test Match at the WACA), and Betty, Elaine and Dawn all played in the same team called 'Willows', quite unique in cricket circles. Dawn's nephew Bruce Reid (a lanky 6'8" fast bowler) also played



cricket for Australia in the 1980s and did the family proud with two match hauls of 10 wickets (13/148 and 12/126).

Dawn has made great and long-lasting contributions to Zonta International and Australian Cricket and we congratulate her, once again, on this wonderful achievement."

*Alison Martin
Past District 23 Governor 2008–10*

Left: Dawn cutting her neighbour's OAM/ Australia Day cake.

Right: Following her innings of 76 in the first Test in Adelaide.



Another member who deserves recognition is Wendy who has become a 'Conservation Fellow' for her work in Borneo. For the past twenty years she

has travelled to the state of Sabah in Malaysian Borneo many times to work with International Eco-tourism

Pioneer Albert Teo on conservation and community projects. Some of her contributions include—

- * Sponsoring an orphan baby orang-utan;*
- * Donating to the Sun Bear Conservation Centre;*
- * Planting trees along the mighty Kinabatangan River to create a wildlife corridor for pigmy elephants. These trees are now over 50 ft high creating dense jungle allowing wildlife to return to the area.*

Most of Wendy's community contributions have been helping remote impoverished communities. These include initiating a tourism business, painting a village hall, providing iron roof sheets for a village longhouse and chairs for a community hall.

cont'd over...

more from around the Club

Wendy has also been active in supporting the **Starfish Malaysia Foundation** with its goal of 'educating, elevating and empowering' young people in rural communities in East Malaysia. Most of these underprivileged youth are girls so it has tied in nicely with Zonta's work.

Her joy has been in helping the children and orphans of these 'forgotten' communities by donating educational books. In addition she helped provide bunk beds for children at a hostel and contributed to an educational scholarship for youth from a remote village.

As mentioned on p.1 Wendy has accompanied Ross on ECU Student visits and helped them understand Australia's deep connection with Sabah.

Being recognised by Albert Teo Wendy now sits amongst others, alongside legendary broadcaster **Sir David Attenborough** (UK); the father of ecotourism, **Hector Ceballos-Lascurain** (Mexico); and conservationist **HRH Prince Henrik** (Denmark). She also has a villa named after her at the **Rainforest Lodge**.

Someone else who has been visiting that region is **Irene**. On 3 December she completed her fourth half marathon



for 2023, the **Angkor Wat International Half Marathon**. Over 10,000 participants from 78 countries took part in the event, with the majority from the UK, USA, and France.

Irene reported—

“Running through the forest of Angkor Wat temples under the natural canopy, constituting 90% of the route, was breathtaking. The event commenced at 5:30 am, with a mild 23°C temperature and a challenging 90% humidity! It was an incredible, humbling, and unforgettable experience.”

After the marathon event, she and Tony had a private tour of

Siem Reap, including **Angkor Thom**. They enjoyed learning about the history of the place through the well-organized tour and were amazed that the oldest temples, **Pre Rup** and **Banteay Srei**, were built in the 10th century. They also visited a **Khmer** village to gain a better understanding of Cambodian rural life, along with an insight into traditional Khmer culture. They also visited **Phnom Penh** where they went to the Royal Palace, and explored the **Toul Sleng Prison Museum** and the **Killing Fields of Choeung Ek**—both grim reminders of Cambodia's bloody past under Pol Pot.

Congratulations on your run Irene!



Member Kath's stepdaughter, who lives in Switzerland, sent a message to Kath indicating that the Guildford Garden Centre was asking their customers to support the Zonta House Refuge Association as they had a personal connection to domestic violence. For a donation they offered to gift wrap Christmas purchases. However, you don't have to wait for next Christmas to make a donation! Just click [here](#).

Our **Zonta House Liaison, Letitia**, reported that on 18 December several members and friends had a busy, but social time, gift wrapping the myriad of donated Christmas items. This is an annual activity for our Club members and much appreciated. So thank you to all who happily gave their time to bring cheer to others.

Our previous Joke Night was such a roaring success we're running another one on **Friday 12 April at the Sorrento Tennis Club**. Seating is limited to 80 so book early to avoid disappointment!

Enjoy an hilarious night out with your friends. We all need a good laugh from time to time. Purchase tickets [here](#).

Joke NIGHT

FRIDAY, 12 APRIL 2024
AT 6:30 PM

SORRENTO TENNIS CLUB
46 MARRICK RD, DUNCRAIG

\$25 PER TICKET

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

DON'T MISS IT!

GET YOUR TABLE OF 8 TOGETHER - BRING A PLATE FOR YOUR TABLE
BRING YOUR FAVOURITE FUNNIEST JOKE AND WIN A PRIZE
BRING SOME COINS FOR EXTRA FUN GAMES

The Birthing Kit Foundation has informed us that the 500 kits packed by our group in September were distributed to their Field Partners in the DR Congo, Nigeria and Uganda.



Not issuing a newsletter until now, we've missed two birthdays in Jan/Feb but have half a dozen in March! You

Jan 4—Sue Sofoulis
Feb 16—Dagmar
Mar 7—Lesley
Mar 8—Jan
Mar 10—President Sue
Mar 18—Shanaz
Mar 22—Jean
Mar 28—Ruth

With Best Wishes to you all for your special days!

Dear Friends, one and all!

My life has been a whirlwind since Australia Day this year. Being awarded an OAM has been nothing but overwhelming and humbling, but at the same time, a very proud and wonderful experience. However, I must also share this recognition with so many people who



have journeyed with me, especially my family, which of course, also includes Zontians! To think I have now joined an amazing group of Australians is very special. It is a privilege and honour I will cherish always.

Dawn



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SUBURBS INC
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

PO Box 255, Karrinyup, WA 6923
Email: secretary@zontaperthns.org.au
Web: www.zontaperthns.org.au
ABN: 69 616 440 942 Assoc. No. A1000362L
Charitable Collections Licence No. CC22522

Newsletter contributions to
Editor—Dawn Newman OAM
dawn.newman3@bigpond.com