

A word from your President



Hello fellow Zontians!

It's been a busy time for our Club in terms of events and planning. I'm sure you will agree our **Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Tribute Dinner** at the

Marmion Angling and Aquatic Centre on **August 8** was a wonderful affair.

The event had a very positive 'vibe' and was well attended by Zontians and guests including Zontian **Judy Gorton** (Past International Director and District 23 Governor), the **Hon. Ayor Makur Chuot MLC**, the **Hon. Lorna Harper MLC**, Councillors **James Rowe** (Deputy Mayor City of Wanneroo) and colleague **Nat Herridge** and **Elizabeth Re** from the City of Stirling.

Of course the real guests of honour were our past **YWPA Awardees** in **Dr Demelza Ireland**, **Dr Ditza Teng**, **Karri Lee Coles**, **Paige May**, **Maddy Barrett** and **Charlotte Easden**.

Demelza, our amazing **1996 Awardee**, added her charm and special touch as she orchestrated the panel discussion. I felt so proud to hear how our past recipients had progressed in their careers, and their commitment to social justice.



We have held a number of events at the MAAC including our March International Women's Day Breakfast. The food is always excellent and the staff do a great job setting up and making sure everything runs smoothly. As well, it goes without saying, that our members who arranged the evening with all of its facets, were instrumental in ensuring the event had the desired outcome. **Thank you to everyone**, including all our supporters who attended and added to the success of this special 32nd Anniversary occasion.

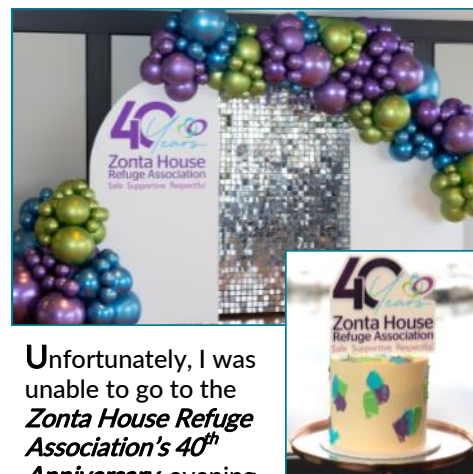
From 2025 the YWPA Award will be renamed the **Young Women in Leadership Award**. Our Club's timeline will then align with Zonta International's guidelines. In the meantime, we can look back with pride over the past three decades knowing that we have had a positive impact on the careers of so many of these young women. Read more about the panel (shown below) further on.

We are now planning our February **YWL** event. Under the capable leadership of **Jean Wyder**, the **Service and Advocacy** team are busy canvassing local schools for potential candidates.

Before then we have a variety of functions looming up—

- **4 September—dinner meeting ;**
- **7 September—Kit Assembly morning;**
- **15 September—High-Tea at the Lavender Bistro, Swan Valley;**

I am particularly looking forward to September 15 in the beautiful Swan Valley which should be blooming with spring flowers by then—so please buy your tickets [here](#) soon! I actually found snowdrops in my 'jungle' garden this week! Not a native, I imagine, but a nice reminder of 'Blighty'!



Unfortunately, I was unable to go to the **Zonta House Refuge Association's 40th Anniversary** evening



on 15 August at Matilda Bay. However six members were able to attend and helped to celebrate this amazing milestone. And this reminder, at left, is the reason we support the work of Zonta House!

I will sign off for now.
In love and fellowship

Lesley Andrew



Ditza Teng
2008



Karri Coles
2013



Paige May
2016



Maddy Barrett
2017



Charlotte Easden
2020

Special Tributes

Following on from p.1, we have plenty to 'crow' about and celebrate! Firstly, there are our 32 years of the Young Women in Public Affairs Awards, but particularly, the panelists who made the Tribute Dinner so special.

These young women are excelling in their respective careers, or career paths, and becoming very successful business women, although Charlotte is still working on her degree.

The 'Forum' was the highlight with each of the panelists contributing their thoughts on a set of questions based on Zonta's advocacy themes and their lives following the Award—from then until now—all skillfully orchestrated by Demelza. These were—

1. *Please share an update of your career and major milestones since your YWPA award.*
2. *Which woman has inspired you the most since receiving this award and why?*
3. *If you were mentoring another young woman what would you draw from your own experience?*
4. *What issues of Equity and Equality for women interest you the most and why?*



Paige, Karri and Ditzza

This was such a vibrant and interesting segment and demonstrated why this award is so worthwhile in recognising the potential of young women. Here are some random excerpts—

Q.1

"Graduated from UWA with Bachelor of Arts / Commerce in Business Law and Law & Society (2020). Graduated from UWA with Juris Doctor Postgraduate Law Degree (2023). Started a job as a Projects / Corporate Lawyer international law firm"

"I started a Bachelor of Science at UWA.transferred into undergraduate medicine. Completed 6 years of medical school. Married in 2017 ... worked at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Joondalup Health Campus as a junior doctor. I

got into GP training while completing my training part-time I had my two kids, and also completed a postgraduate dual masters in Public Health & Health Management/ Leadership through UNSW. Sat my GP specialist exams last year and officially finished completing all my requirements July 2024! After 15 years of study and training, I am now working as a fully fledged GP, and absolutely enjoying this new found life without any assignments or exams!"

"Studied Bachelor of Commerce majoring in accounting and business law at Curtin University. Completed year exchange in the UK at the Leeds University. Started working at RSM Australia in the Business Advisory division (been working there 5 years now). One year ago I started my own team within the BA division providing Strategic Outsourcing services (management accounting and CFO advisory), a service line previously offered in our Sydney office. In June I was promoted to manager."

cont'd below..

"Undergraduate degrees (Bachelor of Arts, double majoring in Political Science & Diplomacy, Bachelor of Laws) from Bond University (Queensland), graduated with honours and a university medal for community involvement in 2017. Qualified as a lawyer in 2018 and worked in private practice, specialising in mining and offshore oil and gas disputes from 2018-2024. Moved to the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation & Safety in May as a Senior Lawyer, doing advice and policy work for mining and resources regulation."



Charlotte

"Completed an Arts Degree (Bachelor of Social Justice). Currently in my 3rd year

of a Law Degree while working part-time as a paralegal specializing in immigration and family law. Volunteered at a number of community legal centres, such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau, providing legal assistance and referrals to those who cannot afford legal advice. I plan on exploring new areas of law next year with the hope of being accepted into the Legal Aid rural graduate program post-graduation where I will have the opportunity to travel throughout WA alongside experienced lawyers, helping those who do not have access to legal services."

Q.2

"Chanel Contos, author of "Teach Us Consent" and 2023 NSW Young Woman of the Year."

"My mum! After having kids myself, I am just in awe of how she migrated to Perth with my two older siblings, had me, and continued to work without any support. Both of my parents came from quite low socioeconomic backgrounds. They had moved to a totally foreign new country with the hope to provide their children with a better future. It was a totally new

place, a new culture, they had no family here, and English was their second language. They went from not being able to afford eating out, to paying for all three of their kids' university degrees."

"I've been really fortunate to work with a variety of women who have been really inspiring and also mentors for me over the last few years. There are two women in particular in my workplace who have both built their own service lines like I am currently trying to do that have mentored me and been huge inspirations and part of what gives me the confidence to chase these opportunities."

"Rachael Young—Senior Counsel Barrister working in the legal field. Rachael started mentoring me when I was 17.... she worked as a junior lawyer at the SSOnow progressed to being a Barrister and moved up to an SC role. Continued to mentor me throughout legal career. Breaks barrier for women in the legal industry—on the same level as many of her male counterparts. Giving with her time—kind of mentor I want to be."

cont'd over..

Special Tributes cont'd

"My tutor Ciara who has just graduated completing the same degree in Social Justice and Law as me. She has believed in me every step of the way, providing courage and wisdom, pushing me outside of my comfort zone to apply for job positions I wouldn't deem myself capable. I look up to Ciara as a successful aspiring young woman in the legal industry."

Q.3

"The legal industry is a marathon not a sprint – long, hard-working career, don't want to burn out easily. Important to be giving with your time (eg giving feedback for juniors, making time to mentor) as lots of value comes out of this. Don't be close-minded / fixed mindset with opportunities – be open to everything."



Maddy

"Trust the process. Find ways to make a difference even when the process/journey is long. If you see an inequity, voice it—push for better, making a way for those behind you. It's okay if things

change, or what you thought you wanted changed—be open to this. Lean into your village. Outsource where you can.

"One of the hardest things to do sometimes can be to step out of the day to day and take action towards the things you really want. Making time to move the long term goals forward even if they don't feel as urgent in the moment."

"...the work/life balance and what works best looks different for every person. Experimentation with work, hobbies, social life etc is the best way to find your own balance. You can't do it all at the same time, but you can have it all over time."

"I would tell her not to let anyone deter her from pursuing her goals. With a support network around you young women are capable of entering any profession."

Q.4

"The development of the 'you can have it all' idea and how realistic that may or may not be for women in today's society. i.e. what does it look like to have both a fulfilling career and a fulfilling non-work life (family, kids, friends, hobbies)."

"I think we have had progress in people accepting that we want more women in leadership roles, but not putting enough thought and interrogation into how to make the pipeline into those roles more accessible for women and why some of those roles and environments may not be appealing to as many women. Where I see this succeeding it is due to more equitable parental leave policies and flexible work options and environments that are supportive instead of competitive."

"Domestic violence and physical/sexual assault rates. Gender bias in healthcare. Gender pay gap."

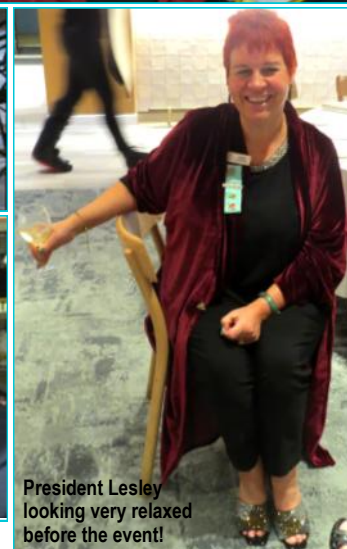
".....it is blatantly obvious to me that inequality regarding wages and opportunities in higher paying positions still remains a prevalent issue. There seems to be a constant cycle of women putting their careers on hold to have children and struggling to re-enter the legal field, having to climb back up the corporate ladder to compete with men. How will young aspiring female lawyers have a pool of female role models to look up to when there are so few recognised for their tireless efforts... there is a great possibility this will hold women back from pursuing their full potential."

more below ..

The above responses demonstrate that these young women are extremely intelligent lateral thinkers, ever mindful of the obstacles women face in progressing their careers. Their reflections focus on some of the problems and ideas, in their opinions, that need to be addressed for women to have similar opportunities to their male colleagues. As we know, some steps are now being made by some employers to close this gap but there is still much to be done to make the situation equitable. More female role models are needed, as mentioned, to encourage younger women to pursue their career dreams and give them the confidence to do this.



The Panel with the Hon. Lorna Harper MLC



President Lesley looking very relaxed before the event!



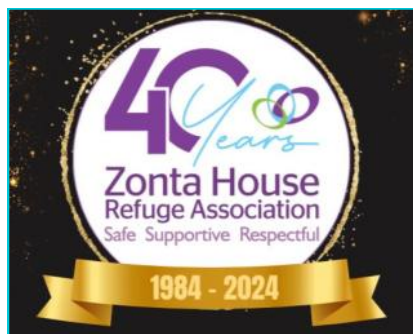
Councillors James Rowe, Elizabeth Re and Nat Herridge



Your Editor in good hands with Drs Ireland and Teng!

Special Tributes cont'd

Another special tribute this month was the **40th Anniversary of Zonta House Refuge Association.**



Zonta House Refuge Association grew from a need which was first recognized by **Dianne Annear**, the inaugural coordinator of the Refuge. Whilst there was crisis accommodation for women with children in the 1980s, there was no support for women without children. Dianne recognized that there were many women who suffered long-term abuse, remaining in the family home until the children were no longer dependent. Lack of alternative accommodation and support made their lives intolerable.

Dianne approached her Club for assistance in supporting a venture to house lone, homeless women who were in crisis. The Club agreed and in 1982 the first house was established. Zonta Club members gave their services in a voluntary capacity, covering 24 hour rosters, shopping and transporting clients. The Club contributed financially and in kind and Di worked in a voluntary capacity for several years. Her contribution over 20 years cannot be over-estimated.

After much hard work Government funding became available and permission to establish a Zonta Refuge was approved. Zonta House Refuge Inc was officially established on 16 April 1984. Some of our members will recall these early days when the then Zonta Club of South of Perth's members volunteered 24/7 to provide a safe place for single women to stay.

Of course the Refuge today is a far cry from those early days. Under CEO **Kelda Oppermann**, the Association has evolved into a highly respected family and domestic violence service provider with a diverse range of programs and a dedicated team of over 65 staff members. Its office is open 24/7 providing safety planning, risk assessment, case management, counseling, advocacy, coaching and education through its seven service arms. Importantly, clients are supported after they leave the Refuge.

What a proud moment it was for Di to cut the Anniversary cake at the Matilda Bay function. Here she is with Kelda and our members including PNS past member Vicki Moir (far left) who for a time sat on the Refuge Board.

Today, Zonta House boasts a well-established reputation and extensive experience in the community services sector which has fueled its growth. It is no wonder then that they are a **Finalist** in the **'Third Sector Awards'** in the category of **'Workforce Excellence'**. This award was initiated in partnership with the Centre for Social Impact to recognise organisations that have made remarkable contributions to society. If you would like to support Zonta House, public voting is now open. Use this link to cast your vote.

<https://bit.ly/3YCzwd3>

As well as this, at a recent Conference in Sydney commemorating 50 years of the establishment of the **Elsie Women's Refuge**, Kelda received one of fifty **Hall of Fame 'Elsie Awards'**.

Congratulations Kelda on this accolade in recognition of your dedication to the refuge movement. We know how much Zonta House has developed under your stewardship and the wonderful services now available to the many women who, sadly, find themselves in desperate need of help to turn their lives around.

(we acknowledge UA Media Agency for providing the photographs used in this article)



Since the Refuge began our Club has been involved in supplying all manner of things from new underwear to Christmas gifts as well as a monetary donation each year. **Letitia** (aka Mrs Feelgood) is our liaison

and regularly visits the office to drop off boot loads of goodies. One of the highlights for us is the annual Christmas gift wrapping day which is always a fun event. Some of our members have sat on their commit-

tees and/or Board. Shown below at the



opening of **'The Lois Goodram Centre'** on 1 March 2018 is Lois, who was instrumental in Zonta House being able to acquire this new administration facility, with **Vicki Moir** and **Alison**. This enabled the long-awaited expansion of the services being provided, one being the **Positive Pathways Program**. Clients were offered half day, full day and weekly workshops with an holistic integrative approach looking at both physical and emotional-wellbeing as well as life skills. As one client said—

"Positive Pathways has brought back my confidence. I now have belief in myself. I am living again, renewed."

The Refuge has certainly come a long way since the 1980s!



Member Linda with Di Annear

Around the Club

Our Club has been on such a high since the Tribute Dinner with much feedback from members and guests alike. **Deputy Mayor of the City of Wanneroo—James Rowe**, is probably one of our greatest supporters—so much so, that he wanted to share the following message—



“Please extend my thanks to Zonta club (Northern Suburbs) members for another inspiring evening. It is a highlight of my calendar to attend these events and celebrate the success of young, inspiring women who are following in the footsteps of trail blazers, who continue to empower and advocate for equality.

I am grateful to everyone who played a role in coordinating last night's event. I look forward to attending events into the future, including the annual dinner in February.”

Dagmar picked up a bug a short time ago on a flight to Queensland to visit rellies which subsequently developed into pneumonia! After struggling with this for a time she is now almost back to herself and hoping to join us for dinner in September.

Jan has recently undergone surgery as well, thinking she was scheduled for a stent but came out of hospital with three stents, a pacemaker and three broken ribs. Ouch! She's recovering slowly and taking it easy—no more golf for awhile. We wish her all the best for a speedy recovery and that she will be teeing off again in the not too distant future.

Someone else who recently spent a few days in hospital is **Connie** the 'Kit Queen'. It seems she's been doing far too much needing to ease back and take some time out. Having been involved in arranging two kit assembly days, this is not surprising. It is not only the assembly day itself, but behind the scenes, a lot of preparation takes place.

Talking of this, we had a very successful day on 3 August when we assem-

Past International Director and Chair of the recent ZI Convention, Judy Gorton, was also full of praise—

“I wanted to thank you for such a lovely evening on the 8th August. ZCPNS has much to be proud of when it comes to their “Awards” and has demonstrated time and time again the high standard and calibre of the many young women chosen to receive these awards. I very much enjoyed catching up with friends and was most pleased to hear from members about their experiences in Brisbane at Convention 2024. Again, thank you

for the invitation and for all you do for women and girls.”

Since the dinner our Club 'sleuth' **Jill**, currently holidaying in Europe, has been trolling LinkedIn and found another of our 'long lost' YWPA Awardees in **Rita Sullivan (nee Khouri)**. Rita was our 2005 recipient who after much travelling and job changes, marriage and starting a family, is now working as a Marketing Manager with the AFL.

We still have a number of awardees missing from 1994 and 1998-2004 so a

little more 'detective' work might bring these to light. It is difficult to keep track of these young women when their lives move on through careers or personal circumstances.

Now, a few news items about our own members!

Firstly, we have an extra special update on **Marion's** health. Last week she informed us that she'd had her last chemo treatment after being diagnosed last February with Stage 3C ovarian cancer. Apart from losing her hair and taste buds and some feeling in her feet, she's happy to have come through this ordeal reasonably well compared to others. Knowing her positive attitude this is not surprising!

She said—*“There was never any doubt I would win this battle. Smashed it!”*

That's 'our Marion'! We're looking forward to those taste buds repairing and her return to Club life so we can share in the celebrations.

Palma on the other hand, has been wrestling with painful shoulder surgery. She's been on leave for several months but is planning to attend the September dinner meeting.

cont'd below..



to be able to meet Amy's Mum.

We still have a few members on leave and others making the most

of the northern summer. **Wendy** and **Ross** have just returned from a cruise around the Mediterranean disembarking in Venice and spending time in and around Italy.



cont'd over..

more from Around the Club

Irene certainly had a wonderful family holiday in Hawaii, as shown here, when she caught up with her sister, daughter and grandkids.



Past President **Sue** and **Faith O'Brien** (D23 Advocacy & Nominating Committees), attended the **National Rally Collective** and **What Were You Wearing Rally** on 30 July.

Rabia Siddique (keynote speaker at the ZI Convention) and Senator **Dorinda Cox** were two of the speakers! Sadly the weather wasn't the best but Sue and Faith brought some brightness to the scene with their orange **Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women** shirts!



As our group knows, we have had an association with **Edith Cowan University** for some time. Two of our members in **Lesley** and **Jill** work at this campus and celebrated on 2 August **Edith Dircsey Cowan OBE's** birthday. Edith was a trailblazer who fought tirelessly to improve conditions for women, children, families, and the underprivileged. Her values of inclusion and equity are deeply embedded in the fabric of the university.

Edith's life was marked by significant achievements, including becoming the first woman elected to an Australian parliament. Her advocacy for women's education and welfare services has shaped the mission and vision at ECU. You might like to access this clip and learn more about this amazing woman—[The Story of Edith Dircsey Cowan \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TheStoryofEdithDircseyCowan).

Please volunteer to help save the lives of mothers and babies

BIRTHING KIT ASSEMBLY DAY

Sponsored by: **EEC specialists**

Date: Saturday, September 7, 2024
Time: 8.30am - 11am (or until completed)
Venue: All Saints Uniting Church,
60 Berkeley Crescent, Floreat
Enquiries: Call Connie on 0417 184 640
Register: Via the link/QR code before Sep 5
Morning tea provided. Walk-ins welcome.

NO WOMAN SHOULD DIE WHILE GIVING BIRTH

Every year over 300,000 women die from pregnancy or childbirth-related complications. The majority of them are in developing countries. The Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) is dedicated to improving conditions for women all over the world by providing clean birthing kits. Each kit costs less than a cup of coffee, but it provides essential resources to reduce infection and fatalities.

www.bkf.org.au www.zontaperthns.org.au
www.zonta.org www.essentialgood.org.au

Scan the QR code or click [here](#) to register

Click [here](#) to register for this free event.

Spring High Tea Fundraiser

Lavender Bistro & Boutique
French Flair Relaxed Style
6 Granleigh Street, West Swan

Sunday 15 September 2024
2:30 pm - 5 pm

Per Person: \$55 • Table of 10: \$520

Click here by Friday 11 September 2024 to book tickets through Humanix

Enquiries: Shanaz 0416 677 018
lam-bat@hotmail.com

All funds raised will support our service projects and programs to
Build a Better World for Women and Girls

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City of Stirling
City of Choice

The City of Stirling has just opened their Community Citizen Awards. You can acknowledge those making outstanding contributions in areas like fund-raising, education, health, charitable and voluntary services, arts, business, sport, the environment, or any area that contributes to the advancement and wellbeing of the community. Every community has its local heroes!

Why not consider nominating someone from your community? There are several categories. Applications close on 31 October 2024. Further information can be accessed [here](#).

LISA BLAIR MOVIE—SEPTEMBER 2024
LunaSX Fremantle—Thursday 26 (6.45pm) & Sunday 29 (1pm) with virtual Q&A session

SAIL SURVIVE SUCCEED

ICE MAIDEN

Click on the picture above to book tickets and find out more about the film. However, note that only the showing on 29 September will include a virtual Q&A session with Lisa. Unfortunately, she won't be able to make it to Perth.

Hey, Spring has almost sprung
Winter rain's been ever done
Sunnier days are almost begun
And I'm looking for some sun fun!



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FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

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