

A word from your Vice-President



Hi everyone!

I have just returned from a 23-day cruise with Ross which left Tokyo and stopped at ports in Honshu and Hokkaido then 7 days at sea crossing the North Pacific Ocean finally reaching Alaska and continuing down the west coast of Canada and the USA—a wonderful time meeting many new people and visiting lots of places we had not seen before. There is more to read about this trip on page 5.

As I reflect on the wonderful aspects of Zonta, I so appreciate the way our members step up during times of illness and holidays and thank you all for covering for Lesley and me during the last few months. Lesley continues her journey of recovery and I know we all look forward to welcoming her back into the fold. However, for the time being, we are buoyed to learn that her new companion/carer in 'Gus' is keeping her spirits high. She reported he is a source of wonder and naughtiness, but just gorgeous!



I would especially like to thank **Sue Pertilé** for stepping up to the helm in my absence and for her presentation about visiting Armenia. She and John recently spent nine weeks overseas and she spoke about her special reunion with **Anush** who lives in Armenia and whom she mentored through ISHAR a few years ago. Here are Sue and John enjoying a drink with Anush. See more pics later in this edition.



From all accounts it was a very uplifting and enjoyable presentation and what a thrill to be able to celebrate our Club's 44th birthday that evening as well—you should all be so very proud of our local and global service achievements.

Dawn's Toast reflected on our beginnings when we were part of District 16 and the then Governor—**Jeanne Edgar**—presented the Charter and gavel to our inaugural **President Dorothy Bauer** at the Lake Karrinyup Country Club dinner where we still have connections. She also reflected on our first budget of \$195 whereas these days it can be as much as, or more than, \$15,000!

Dawn also reminded members that our success has not been achieved without the support of husbands, partners, work colleagues, relatives, neighbours and friends, as well as community partners, all of whom have played an integral part in our accomplishments over the years. Thank you to **Barry, Ambrose** and **Peter** (probably our staunchest supporters over the years) for joining us and for your continued support.

I look forward to seeing you all at the July dinner meeting. Our speaker from **Bush Heritage Australia** is speaking about the biodiversity 'hotspot' in our South-West so this should be of much interest.

In the meantime, a huge thanks to Dawn for making me look so good in the April/May Zontapreneur!!"

Wendy

New Board steps up!

Following our AGM in May, we have some new faces on our Board. These are—



Liz Wason—Director
Term 1.6.25 to 31.5.26
Member since 1999



Chris Findlay—Director
Term 1.6.25 to 31.5.27
Member since 2023



Chris Tapley—Director
Term 1.6.25 to 31.5.27
Member since 2019



Nola Hackman—Secretary
Term 1.6.25 to 31.5.27
Member since 2021

and vibrancy as a proud member of Zonta International. Officers continuing their roles are -



Dr Lesley Andrew—President
Completes Term 31.5.26



Wendy Dowling AM—Vice-President/Acting President
Completes Term 31.5.26



Sue Sofoulis—Treasurer
Completes Term 31.5.26

We thank these dedicated members for stepping up and their willingness to assist in maintaining the Club's strength

Women in the News

The most exciting news for our Club has been the announcement by Zonta International that they have awarded an **International Honorary Membership** to now famous solo sailor **Lisa Blair OAM**.

Lisa has been connected to PNS since 2017 when we wrote an article in our August issue of *'The Zontapreneur'* following her first solo attempt at circumnavigating Antarctica. Here's a clip from that story -



This week you might have heard where **Lisa Blair** arrived back in Albany after completing a solo circumnavigation of Antarctica, the first woman to do so! She has not only put women sailors on the map, but women everywhere!

Lisa's original aim was to—

- *Circumnavigate Antarctica: solo, non-stop and unassisted;*
- *Circumnavigate below 45° south;*
- *Compete in the Antarctica Cup Ocean Yacht Race; and*
- *Break the current record set by Russian Fedor Konyukhov.*

Also, since Lisa began sailing in 2005 she has noticed the impact that man-made climate change has had on our environment. To draw attention to this she renamed her yacht **'Climate Action Now'**, not to focus on the problem, but on actions we can all take as individuals to finding a solution.

Unfortunately for Lisa, her yacht was dismasted 895nm south of Cape Town when in 40+ knot winds and huge swells the port shroud broke in a knock down. With some help, she managed to make it to Cape Town where she had a new mast fitted. This meant a long stay and abandoning her unassisted non-stop attempt. Not to be daunted, Lisa sailed back to where she'd left the track and continued her circumnavigation.

Because the official speed record is counted from the time Lisa left Albany to her return there, she cannot claim the fastest circumnavigation. However, unofficially, a new benchmark time is being set when Lisa rejoined her track.

So, this week, Lisa will have completed a full circumnavigation, crossing all tracks below 45° south, solo, unassisted with one stop. The benchmark time is for this record.

Before embarking on her trip Lisa spoke with both **Kay Cottee AO** (ZI Honorary Member) and **Jessica Watson OAM**, both of whom have been inspiring mentors.

Kay and Jessica sailed solo unassisted around the world whereas Lisa tried a different tack (no pun intended!) by circumnavigating the Antarctic, a most hazardous and amazing feat.

If you are interested in Lisa's Blog, which I followed in its entirety, go to her webpage—

<https://lisablairsailstheworld.com/>

She is now recuperating in Albany with her much relieved Mum, other family members, friends and supporters.

Another ZI announcement has been the awarding of **Amelia Earhart Fellowships** to 30 applicants from around the world. One of those is **Erin Holdorf** who is studying Astronomy and Astrophysics at the Australian National University. Further information will be forthcoming on the ZI website.

However, what we do know about Erin from ANU's Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, is that she is in her third year of a PhD. Her research investigates the use of a point diffraction interferometer wavefront sensor to measure the wavefront phase in strong atmospheric turbulence. In these conditions, not only is the phase of the wavefront perturbed, but so is the amplitude, an effect known as scintillation. When strong scintillation occurs, the performance of traditional wavefront sensing techniques deteriorates.

To ensure continual connectivity between satellites and the Earth, new methods need to be investigated that are not impacted by scintillation. Erin's thesis involves modelling the behaviour of a point diffraction interferometer, testing it in the lab and on-sky, at the

European Space Agency Optical Ground Station, as well as investigating non-traditional phase retrieval methods such as machine learning.

No doubt we'll be hearing more about Erin, but in the meantime, I hope you've followed all of this! I'm feeling quite spaced out. (Ed.)

The other young lady we need to congratulate is **Maya Farmer**. If you linked into last Saturday's **Zonta Says NOW Think Tank** you would have met Maya. She spoke for half an hour about the work of **Generation Justice**, a group of nine young people questioning our Government's lack of climate change action on breaching human rights!

Maya grew up on the northern coast of NSW and is currently studying science in Melbourne. Her high-school days were punctuated by a series of natural disasters such as the Black Summer bushfires and super-cell hailstorms that wrought havoc. Since 2016 she has been advocating for the Government's ambitious climate change action.

In a post she said—*"Climate change is terrifying. But losing hope is not an option. That is how I find the motivation to continue advocating for climate justice. It's a cliché, but we genuinely do only have one planet."*

Maya further commented—*"I must be hopeful because giving up on climate justice means giving up on my future!"*

Her group **Generation Justice** have filed a complaint with the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Climate Change. If you wish to read her submission, here's the link—

[Environmental Justice Australia](#)

Maya was one of the 37 **2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award** recipients. She was nominated by the ZC Club of Melbourne on Yarra Inc.

Women's Hall of Fame

Of course we also have the **WA Women's Hall of Famers**, all of whom should be congratulated for their amazing and varied contributions to our community.

On Wednesday 28 May **Linda** and **Alison** represented our Club at the 15th Anniversary of the inception of the WA Women's Hall of Fame (WAWHF) at The Globe Lounge—a successful and enjoyable event for Alumni, the 2025 inductees, sponsors and supporters. The WAWHF has worked hard over the years promoting the achievements of a diverse past and present group of women from a range of sectors.



Congratulations to **Fiona Reid** and her Committee for organising such a successful evening and for the on-going work of WAWHF. The Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs is a proud supporter of the WA Women's Hall of Fame. Shown above are L-R: **Samina Yasmeen AM** (2012), **Emma Hanh Ma** (2022), **Alison, Linda** and **Kath Mazzella OAM** (2011).

A Bubbly Celebration

On Saturday afternoon 24 May, the champers was flowing as well as the accolades for **Master of Champagne Steve Leslie** and **Liz Wason** who arranged and ran a hugely successful Tasting Masterclass, netting over \$4,000 for our kitty! Liz is shown below receiving a thank-you gift at our June meeting from stand-in President **Sue Pertilé**.



together with some other desirable items, including a special bottle of **Louis Roederer** champagne, tempted the guests and raised \$830! As well, we were thrilled to receive \$700 for the auctioning of a ticket to an elite Champagne tasting event.

But the most important were the non Zontians, like the ladies above, who lent their support and helped raise the \$4,000+.

Thank you one and all for making this event such a success!

Liz and Steve spent an humungous amount of time planning the day, filling out forms from the liquor licensing authority, liaising with the venue and sourcing a variety of champagnes. No-one could be more pleased with the result than our Treasurer, Sue (right), who was all smiles, even before the start knowing we had 60+ participants!

Of course, there were many people who contributed to the day—our own members, especially Shanaz and friend, who set up the room and prepared the in-between tasting eats, replenished the water carafes and poured the bubbles! Steve's daughter was a pourer and did a fine job keeping the glasses topped.

The Fundraising Committee produced two fabulous gourmet baskets and



Connie and Kath—raffle ticket sellers.

More on our Bubbly Celebration



Shanaz and a very happy gourmet basket winner



Steve and Liz with Cate Inman who so generously donated \$700 for the auction item



Happy 'bubblers' Ruth and husband Kevin with Barbara Goulden (former member of the ZC of Swan Hills) who always supports our events

Around the Club

Some of our members over the past two or so months have been reaching out to many regions of the world such as Scandinavia, Scotland, Armenia, Italy, Japan, Canada and closer to home, Tasmania.

Irene and **Tony** decided to explore Tassie in May and then follow up the missed bits after the September Conference. From Devonport, in an anti-clockwise direction, they headed to the wilderness area spending two nights at the **Corinna Wilderness Village**..... "a completely off-grid retreat with no TV, radio, internet or mobile reception. It was two days of pure disconnection, a chance to feed our souls, nourish the senses and experience Corinna's wilderness. We explored four tranquil walking trails, our longest taking about 1.5 hours.

A highlight was the 4-hour cruise along the Pieman River which flows into the Southern Ocean. Our knowledgeable skipper shared fascinating insights into the area's history. It was a truly memorable day."



Moving on, the next stop was **Cradle Mountain** where they completed three short but scenic walks-**Dove Lake Boatshed**, **Glacier Rock Lookout** and the **Enchanted Walk** where "we had the unforgettable experience of getting up close and personal with a wombat!"

It was then onto **Strahan** for three nights, a ride on the **West Coast Wilderness Railway** and tickets to the acclaimed local play- 'The Ship That Never Was'.



Their final stops were **Port Arthur** and more trekking at **Wineglass Bay**. They must be the fittest couple around. Irene has obviously given up marathon events for hiking! Heading to the Conference? Might be worth asking Irene for some sightseeing tips.

more over

More from around the Club

Wendy and Ross' trip started in Japan where they embarked on a 23-day cruise from Tokyo to San Francisco aboard the 5-star Regent Cruises' ship 'Mariner' as Ross was guest lecturer on board. Here's some of their story—

"Before the cruise started we had a fun day scooting around Tokyo on the trains. From there the ship visited two ports in Honshu and another two in Hokkaido. In Miyako, Honshu we visited the site of the 2011 tsunami caused by an earthquake which devastated much of eastern Japan and killed 20,000 people. We visited the remains of a six-storey hotel and from a room in the top storey we watched a video taken from the room of the 16m high tsunami devastating the town which was compelling viewing.

In Hokkaido we visited the Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark as we run the Australian Geoparks Network working to establish similar parks in Australia. From there we began a seven-day sea journey across the North Pacific Ocean passing



Kamchatka (eastern Russia), the Bering Sea, and the Aleutian Arc. We landed in Kodiak Island, home of the bears, and visited a National Park Centre and Russian Orthodox Church. Next we visited Whittier, a town where everyone lives in one apartment building, and from there we

did a day trip to Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska.

A highlight was cruising the Hubbard Glacier, North America's largest glacier which ends in the sea. Here Ross was invited to give a commentary about the glacier from the ship's bridge. After that we visited Sitka, our favourite town in Alaska, which was once named New Archangel and was the capital of Russian American. The Russian influence is still strong. Our final Alaskan port was Klawock on the Prince of Wales Island which is famous for its collection of totem poles.



cont'd below...

We then visited Vancouver in British Columbia, Canada, where we went to Capilano Park, an amazing forest park. The next day we visited Victoria



and experienced the Malahat Skywalk. Our final destinations were in the USA with an overnight stay in Seattle where we visited the Seattle Space Needle, built for the 1962 World's Fair, as well as the famous Pike Street Market. From there the ship trekked south to Astoria in Oregon where we undertook a day trip to Mount Saint Helens, which when it erupted in 1980, was the most destructive volcanic event in United States' history.

Our final stop was San Francisco from where we flew home via Los

Angeles and Sydney. Altogether, we had a wonderful time visiting some amazing destinations while enjoying the 5-star luxury on board the 'Mariner'."

As for Sue, she and **John** virtually took long-service-leave! They disappeared for three months.....

"Our nine-week trip entailed lots of geography and history as well as catching up with John's relations in Bassano del Grappa and Anush in Armenia. The scenery was breathtaking, miles of snow, rugged mountains and ancient rock formations. The vastness and silence made everything else feel inconsequential. The history of Armenia and Sardinia (6,000 years) is also a reminder of the tenacity of humankind."



Italy



Scotland



Sardinia

More from around the Club

More Italy



Arctic Circle 23rd February 2025



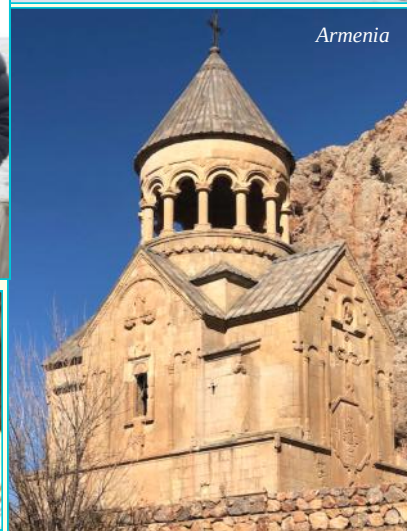
Looks a tad colder than Perth in the middle of summer! As

the saying goes—it would freeze the off a brass monkey!

Sue spoke about visiting Anush in Armenia at the recent dinner meeting. Here are some more photos.



Norway and Sweden



Armenia

At left, a particularly happy Anush now well and truly settled back in Armenia, and above, with her two handsome young sons!

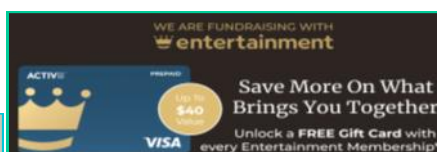
With such a variety of experiences and tours shared here, why would you want to pay to go yourself?!

Below three happy members who have just completed their terms on the Club Board—L-R: **Jan**, **Letitia** and **Leanne**.



Thank you ladies for volunteering your time and talents to ensuring we stay strong and active in the Zonta world. All the best to the latest Office Bearers for their terms. Once again, we're going to be in good hands!

Another thank you to **Ruth** who hosted drinks and nibbles on her balcony overlooking the Swan River on 15 June. She made a nice contribution to the kitty of \$75. A very enjoyable afternoon for those who attended. Thank you Ruth.



A reminder that we still fundraise through **Entertainment Books**. These offer even more for your dollar with multi-city upgrades, and the best part, our Club benefits with 20% going straight to our fundraising account! [Click on the logo above for more details.](#)

Also, our Fundraising Committee has some future event dates in mind and there is a Birthing Kit Day coming up with sponsorship from **EEO Specialists**.

- * **26-27 September Prep/Assembly Kit days—flyer to come**
- * **12 October High Tea Lavender Farm Swan Valley—details to come**
- * **November TBA—Stirling Markets—free stall when we'll be able to sell goods and promote our service projects**

The Committee is always looking for fundraising ideas so contact Chris T. if you have any!

REMINDER—D23 CONFERENCE



Registration Open:	1 May 2025	
Early Bird Registration:	1 May - 30 June	\$210.00
Full Registration:	1 July	\$260.00
Gala Dinner:		\$90.00

If you're planning on attending the Conference, the **Early Bird Registration of \$210.00 closes on 30 June!**

If you're experiencing a few hiccups in your life, I thought you might enjoy a couple of giggles!

"Take life with a pinch of salt—a wedge of lime and a shot of tequila."

"Don't get your knickers in a knot—it solves nothing and makes you walk funny!"

"I decided to take an aerobics class. I bent, twisted, gyrated and jumped up and down for an hour, but by the time I got my leotard on, the class was over!"

Catch you next month!

Dx



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