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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 Friday
- o zontaperth@gmail.com

Contact us

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1. Steve Parry – New CEO for Zonta House Refuge



Photo: L-R: Debbie Mason, Steve Parry, Kelda Opperman, Ronette Druskovich

The guest speakers at the May AGM were the team from the Zonta House Refuge Association: Ronette Druskovich, Steve Parry, Kelda Opperman and Debbie Mason. Steve was introduced by Ronette Druskovich who is the club's representative on the Zonta House Board. Ronette provided a 'potted history' of the refuge and explained that it has now helped over 8,000 women in its 31 years of operation. The refuge is for lone women who do not have children and was originally established by the now defunct Zonta Club of South of Perth, with Zontian Di Annear being the Refuge Manager for many years. Ronette acknowledged members and former members from our club who had played key roles in the refuge's history including the late Margaret Giles, Lori Grech, Denise Hamilton and Mary Gurgone who recently finished her term as President.

When the grandchildren of the original clients began to present at the refuge, the refuge Board sought to break the cycle through the development of the Positive Pathways program. This program, managed by Kelda Opperman, trains women outside the refuge to build their life skills. It is strongly supported by the Starting Over Support program developed by club member Debbie Mason. SOS finds furniture and household items so that women do not have to take on debt to set up home when they leave the refuge.

With the refuge having a broader range of activities, the Board decided to appoint a CEO. The CEO relieves the pressure on the Board, enables the activities to be managed under one umbrella and takes the refuge to the next stage. Steve Parry has recently commenced in this role.

Steve was a very engaging speaker and explained that he had served in the public sector for over 25 years working with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the state through the Department of Housing. He acknowledged the elephant in the room – yes, he is a man in charge of a women's refuge and is the first man in the state to do so. He sees family and domestic violence as a whole of society issue. He explained that women leave home on average 7 times before they leave permanently and outlined the difficulties of finding semi-permanent transitional housing. With more emphasis on outcomes based funding, Steve sees his role as having the systems and processes in place to prove that the refuge can come up with the goods.

Kelda Opperman provided some horrific statistics:

- 84 women died as a result of domestic violence in Australia in 2014
- 36 women had died this year up until May
- 1/3 of women experience violence in their lifetime
- 55% of women presenting to specialist homeless services do so due to domestic violence
- There are 9595 homeless people in WA each night
- 30% of the homeless are born overseas
- 40% of the homeless are single under 24 years of age
- The fastest growing homeless cohort is women over 50 years of age.

The club is very proud of its long association with the Zonta House Refuge and wishes the team well in its future endeavours to redress these horrific statistics.



Find out more about the Refuge, Positive Pathways and Starting Over Support (SOS) and how you can help via www.zontahouse.org.au

2. Jessica Townrow – 2015 Young Woman In Public Affairs

At the Annual General Meeting in May, Jessica Townrow was presented with the club's 2015 Young Woman in Public Affairs Award by outgoing Club President, 'Tricia Summerfield.



(L-R) Jessica Townrow, Jill Anderson (Awards and Holidays Committee Chair) and 'Tricia Summerfield (Club President)

Jill Anderson, Chair of the Awards and Holidays Committee introduced Jessica and explained that she is a Year 12 student at Shenton College and has been a member of the Student Council since Year 9. This year Jessica had been elected as Head of the Environment Portfolio on the Student Council. She is currently joint President of the school's Amnesty Group and seen the group grow from 15 to 50 members.

She has made time to volunteer at her local St Vincent De Paul Society store, and in 2013 took part in a World Challenge Expedition to Vietnam and Cambodia and has taken part in several United Nations Youth Australia events. Jessica is a strong advocate for women's right to education and has campaigned within her school community to spread awareness of the need for gender equality.

Jessica explained how she uses her voice to speak for women who can't speak up for themselves. Her friends identified her as the 'token feminist' for her school year and she was pleased with the title. How did she become involved? In Year 10 she was floating without direction until a friend asked her to bake for an equal marriage drive with the school's Amnesty Group. She found this a positive experience and since this time has become a passionate advocate for women's rights and gender equality and raised \$1600 for the Girl Rising movement. Jessica has been a leader in campaigns at the school on Stop Torture and Indigenous Youth Justice. Her involvement at school has led her to become involved with the Perth Amnesty LGBTIQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning) + Human Rights Group focusing on the 'My Body, My Right' campaign. She has been a volunteer at events including Perth's Pride Parade and Pride WA's "Fairday".

She believes that gender equality will change the world.

3. New Board

It has been a busy few months during club meetings with the May AGM seeing the handover of Presidency from 'Tricia Summerfield to Sandra Burns and the installation of the new board by the District 23 Lieutenant Governor, Judy Gorton. Many thanks go to 'Tricia for her leadership in the last two years.



Presidents Handover from 'Tricia Summerfield (right) to Sandra Burns (left)



The New Board members in their first official photo (l-r) Karen Groves, Ronette Druskovich, Vera Riley, Val Gandossini, Jill Anderson, Sandra Burns with Judy Gorton (D23 Lt Governor)

4. New members

We have also increased our club membership with the induction of three new wonderful women at the AGM in May, June and July meetings.

a) May meeting - Tamara Findlay

Tamara's grandmother, Peggy Woodcock, was a charter member of the Zonta Club of Perth and was actively involved in community affairs, particularly the improvement of the status of women. Tamara would be honoured to follow in her footsteps. She is passionate about equal opportunity, inclusion and wellbeing for all and is keen to make a positive difference in the community.

Tamara is also a member of 100 Women, a giving circle that aims to help women around the world struggling with issues such as violence and assault, death in childbirth, poverty and lack of schooling – and sits on their Marketing committee.

Tamara has just completed an Emerging Leaders Program for community boards funded by about 25 community partners. She has applied for several board traineeships (non-voting member) and hopes to secure a board position in the near future within the community sector.

Tamara currently manages a team of six employees within the Public Sector Commission. In this role, she leads the preparation of the Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment Annual Report and the annual State of the WA Public Sector Report. Prior to commencing her public sector career with the Department of Defence in Canberra, Tamara was the Technical Manager for an environmental consultancy, building on her postgraduate qualification and laboratory experience. She is a member of the Institute of Public Administration Australia and mentors other public sector staff.

Tamara is married to Jason, a Project Engineer, and they just celebrated their second anniversary. She has no kids of her own – who knows what the future holds. She has one sibling, Natasha, who is the Solicitor in Charge, South-west Region, with Legal Aid.

According to Tamara...she is about 39 years old (one year to the big 4-0, sigh) but is known to act like a big kid, has sailed the STS Leeuwin II to Cape Naturaliste and back again, used to play tenor saxophone in a swing band and completed the Bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. She is also obsessed with pet animals and is currently seeking an appropriate rescue companion for her dog. She thinks she has a terrific sense of humour – but we know she does! Welcome to Tamara.

b) June Meeting - Vicky Nazer

Vicky has studied extensively and holds a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Politics and Philosophy (ANU Canberra); a Graduate Diploma in Education (secondary from Sydney University); a University of Cambridge Certificate in English Language Teaching for Adults (completed at Milner College, Perth).

Vicky's paid working life focussed on education with secondary school teaching in NSW, ACT and Tasmania; University Administration at Murdoch University and later Curtin University. In between, she spent 13 years in overseas aid administration with AusAID and finally a decade with the Western Australian Government (Department of Local Government and Community Services) from which she retired in 2014.

Past voluntary work has included conducting selection interviews and training with American Field Service (AFS) Intercultural Scholarship program and hosting a UN sponsored trainee from Timor Leste.

Vicky has diverse hobbies and enjoys reading, swimming (slowly), dancing (badly), music, theatre and movies (and obviously a sense of humour with this supplied information).

Vicky is currently single, being previously married and has two adult children – one residing in Perth and the other in San Francisco.



Left to right: President Tricia Summerfield and D23 Lt Governor Judy Gorton with Tamara Findlay after her induction into the Club



Tamara's grandmother, Peggy Woodcock was a founding member of our club.



Left to right: Sandra Burns, Vicky Nazer and D23 Lt Governor Judy Gorton

c) July Meeting - Liz Terracini

Liz is keen to join the Zonta Club of Perth after a long term membership of Zonta Northern Rivers Club based in Lismore NSW until she moved to Sydney in 2010. Liz had just found the North Sydney Zonta Club when she decided to move to Perth to take up a position with UWA and to be closer to her Mum.

Whilst with Zonta Northern Rivers, Liz was a board member for 4 years and President for 2 years. She was on the Young Women in Public Affairs Committee and organised the dinner for the presentation of the award. She assisted with fundraising for the local women's refuge. Liz organised the annual film night which was a major fundraiser for the club for 3 years.

Currently Liz is employed as a Development Manager at the University of Western Australia in the Development and Alumni Relations office.

Liz was born in Scotland but moved to Perth as a young child and grew up here attending UWA and then working in the Performing Arts until she moved to Sydney in 1977. Liz lived in Italy for 8 years before moving back to Australia and the Northern Rivers region of NSW. She lived there for 22 years raising her two daughters there. She is now a grandmother of two boys aged 3 and 5.

She has served on the Cancer Council Regional Advisory Committees both in Lismore and in Sydney. Her active interests are walking especially taking in the beautiful Swan River and swimming. Liz loves history, research and reading and would like to travel a lot more!

Liz is happy to serve on any committee - "as I'm new to the Club I don't have a preference at this stage"

A huge welcome to our new members – we look forward to working with you all.



Judy Gorton, D23 Lt Governor (left) and Club President Sandra Burns (right) welcome new member Liz Terracini (centre)

5. July meeting

Raising our consciousness

Cath Sutherland from Conscious Business was the guest speaker at the July meeting. She had spoken at the Area 3 workshop earlier in the year and provided a fascinating insight into how we could apply some brand marketing techniques to grow Zonta.

Successful business relies on successful relationships. She explained that we are energy beings designed to translate energy into neural code and also feeling beings that think! She described a brand relationship cycle and talked us through the various stages of global vision, purpose, values, personality and product and how they can be applied to Zonta.

She encouraged us to think about Zonta as a 'lovemark' product – an organisation that earns high love and high respect – so people will just want to join us.

Education Award Winners

Lara Allen and Rosalie Jane Lorenzi were two worthy recipients of this award that rewards women studying towards their first degree with \$2,000 to help them continue their studies. Competition for the award is intense and these women both demonstrated that they were not only completing their studies to a high level but also making a significant contribution to the community.

The recipients were proudly supported by family and friends including Rosalie's daughter and Lara's mother.

We wish them every success in their future studies. Congratulations!



Cath Sutherland receives a thank you gift from Tamara Findlay



L-R: President Sandra Burns, Rosalie's daughter, Rosalie Lorenzi Lara Allen and Meryl Moore (Lara's mother) at the presentation



6. Quiz Night in pictures

The annual Quiz Night was held on 7 August at the Cambridge Bowling Club. The event was MC'd by Lois Joll and the quizmaster was Judy Gorton. It was a full house and it was fascinating to see the range of 'nibbles' brought to the event that ranged from chips and dips to pots of soup!

The evening ran smoothly with everyone having time for a chat between the rounds. The questions, set by 'Tricia Summerfield, were a mix of general knowledge with something for everyone to have a crack at. Deb Mason had done a great job in coordinating the silent auction and raffles with members also donating many prizes. The final count hasn't been completed but well over \$4,000 was raised.



Lois Joll (MC) and Judy Gorton (Quizmaster)



The silent auction featured many pictures



Sciona Browne counts the money from the raffle



The event was a full house!

7. August meeting – Shirley Randall

Members and guests were delighted to welcome ZI Honorary Zontian, Shirley Randell to the August meeting. Judy Gorton explained in her introduction that Shirley was passing through Perth visiting family and had spoken that morning at Perth Modern School – a school she had attended as a girl. Shirley has education and philosophy degrees and has worked around the world including PNG, Rwanda and Bangladesh where she lectures in education.

Shirley is well known to many members as she was a speaker at the Zonta International Convention in Turin in 2012 and also at the District 23 Conference when it was held in Perth in 2013.

She spoke to us about the women and men that she had trained for their Masters in Education in Rwanda and Bangladesh. She described how she feels very relaxed working in Rwanda but there is no guarantee of safety in Bangladesh. We were able to understand the history and culture of these countries through the stories of nine remarkable men and women – many of whom now hold prestigious positions not just in Rwanda and Bangladesh but also a number of other countries.

Rwanda in particular is a special country in that it has recovered from the genocide of 1994 to become a country where there is a zero tolerance of corruption and gender based violence. Today 64% of parliamentarians in Rwanda are women – the highest percentage of women in any parliament in the world.

Rwanda and Bangladesh both offer free education to Year 12 and in so doing have achieved the millennium development goals for girls' education. We appreciated Shirley's insights and learned a lot about the challenges that her students have overcome to realise their dreams.



President Sandra Burns thanks Prof Shirley Randall for her presentation



Members were enthralled with Prof Shirley Randall's talk

8. Pregnancy, Babies and Children Expo

Congratulations to those members that helped out on the Birthing Kit stand at the Pregnancy, Babies and Children Expo at Claremont Showgrounds from 31 July to 2 August. Jean Wyder is the Area 3 Birthing Kit Coordinator and she advises that over \$3,000 was raised through rattling the tins.

Great work by members from all the clubs – that will help the Birthing Kit Foundation fund another thousand kits! If you would like to find out more about the birthing kits



and where they go to check out <https://www.bkfa.org.au/> . The Birthing Kit Foundation was established by Zontians and the project won the International Service project at the Zonta International Convention in 2014. Many Zontians are members of the foundation – it only costs \$25 a year.

9. What goes into a Living Canvas?

The Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show will feature Leah Helean's new range of hand painted silk dresses as well as showcasing her hats. At the Quiz Night Leah was wearing one of her designs and it prompted us to find out what goes into a Living Canvas. Leah works with a team in Ubud, Bali where they map out the patterns on the silk, paint the silk very carefully, dry the fabric and then fashion it into a range of very wearable designs as shown below:



Fashion designer, Leah Helean shows one of her Living Canvas designs at the Quiz Night



Mapping out the patterns on the silk



Painting the silk



Hanging the silk out to dry

10. Diary Dates

Friday 7 August – Quiz Night, Cambridge Bowling Club, Floreat, 6pm for 6.30 start. Tables of eight - \$160 per table. This event featured great prizes, silent auction, BYO nibbles and drinks at the bar.

Sunday 30 August – City to Surf for Zonta House Refuge. Sign up to walk or run to raise funds for the Refuge – team members receive a yellow T-shirt with logos and the words “working together to stop family and domestic violence” on the back. This is your chance to do some advocacy, fundraising and get fit at the same time! Contact Sandra Burns if you would like to join in via zontaperth@gmail.com.

Saturday 5 September - Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show, Royal Perth Yacht Club, Crawley, noon.

This event will be MC'd by Claudia Bertorello and will feature Leah Helean's newly launched 'Living Canvas' range of hand-painted dresses, silk and hats just in time for the Spring racing carnival. Plus Shirley Anne Fortina will motivate you to find the extra in the ordinary over lunch. \$95 for two course lunch. Email zontaperth@gmail.com for tickets or book online at www.trybooking.com/140289 (credit card charges apply)

Sunday 20 September – Birthing Kit Assembly Day, St Catherine's College

Put the date in your diary – more details will come soon.

Friday 27 November – White Ribbon Stall and Silent March, Supreme Court Gardens Put the date in your diary – more details will come soon.

16-18 October 2015 - 13th Biennial District 23 Conference, Grand Chancellor Hotel, Adelaide

See the latest conference newsletter at www.zontadistrict23.org.au

Sunday 18 October 2015 – Heritage Perth Event, Parliament House – showcasing the early WA suffragettes.

2016 Zonta International Convention, Nice, France



Have you booked for the fashion show?

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