



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
PERTH INC  
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

**in-zert**

March 2016

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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](mailto:zontaperth@gmail.com)

**Contact us**

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**1. WA Women's Hall of Fame – 2016 Inductees honoured**  
*Carole Theobald*



2016 inductee Cheryl Davenport was unable to attend the presentation

International Women's Day is a day to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of women. Since 2011, the achievements of over 150 women have been celebrated through the Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame. The 2016 Inductees into the WA Women's Hall of Fame were honoured at a special induction ceremony held at the State Function Centre in King's Park on the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO, Governor of Western Australia welcomed the inductees and the Honourable Liza Harvey MLA Deputy Premier/Minister for Women's Interests presented the awards. The event featured a short video produced by Melanie Ambrose that showcased the stories of five of the inductees and a wonderful rendition of "I am woman" by Amanda Canzullo – to which the audience sang along with gusto.

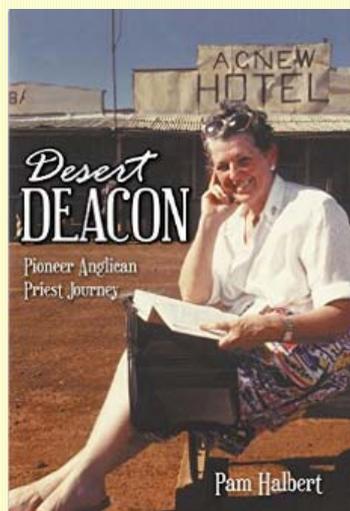
There was a very strong field of candidates and ten women were selected for the Hall of Fame with a further six women being acknowledged through the Roll of Honour that recognises women who are no longer with us.



L-R: Pam Halbert being congratulated by fellow Peel Zontian Lorraine Webb at the Hall of Fame induction ceremony



L-R Back Row: Professor Margaret Seares AO, Drisana Levitzke-Gray, Hon Cheryl Davenport (represented by Patricia Tassell), Deputy Premier the Hon Liza Harvey, Governor Kerry Sanderson, Glenda Kickett, Dr Erica Smyth, the Honourable Justice Carmel McLure.  
L-R Front Row: Holly-Ann Martin, Reverend Pam Halbert, Oriel Green, Annette Knight



Pam's book may be purchased online via [Amazon.com.au](http://Amazon.com.au)

**Hall of Fame Inductees:**

- **Reverend Pam Halbert** – one of WA's first female Anglican deacons and priests who overcame significant personal adversity and has helped innumerable people through her pastoral care as well as through her work with Save the Children Fund and Zonta International. Pam is a well respected member of the Zonta Club of Peel and author of 'Desert Deacon' that recalls her life adventures. Congratulations to Pam!



Robin Adamson – helped refugees



Ada Bromham – early feminist



Ruby Hutchison – first female member of WA Legislative Council



Melvina Rowley – preserved Aboriginal language



Vida Wright – first female local government town planner in Australia

- *Hon Cheryl Davenport* – driving force to ensure women and their medical practitioners in Western Australia were free of fear and prosecution if they chose to terminate their pregnancy.
- *Oriel Green* – a leading Noongar Elder advocate for indigenous rights, participation and reconciliation. At 80 years of age she is still active on many committees and mentors many school and university students
- *Glenda Kickett* – Ballardong Wadjuk woman, social worker, university lecturer, tireless community worker and Chair of NAIDOC who is currently studying for a PHD that explores Aboriginal storytelling.
- *Annette Knight* – a former newsreader and announcer with ABC regional radio, longtime former Mayor of Albany and lifelong advocate for promoting Albany.
- *Drisana Levitzke-Gray* – a 21 year old fifth generation deaf woman who cherishes her first language Auslan. She was the first deaf 'Auslan' jurer in WA and promotes a positive image of deafness which says loudly and proudly that it is OK to be deaf.
- *Holly-Ann Martin* – a selfless community educator for over 27 years who has delivered 'whole of community' child abuse prevention education to communities throughout Australia including 30 'men only' sessions in remote Aboriginal communities.
- *Professor Margaret Seares AO* – who has made significant contribution to the arts and education in Australia, including as Chairperson of the Perth International Arts Festival as well as advocating for better representation by women in senior academic management positions.
- *Honourable Justice Carmel McLure* – second woman in WA to become a QC, second woman appointed to the Supreme Court of WA, inaugural judge of the Court of Appeal, member of academic and cultural and the arts boards and also a member of the Rhodes Scholarship selection panel.
- *Dr Erica Smyth* – over forty years experience in mineral and petroleum industries and first woman to be BHP's Minerals' principal geoscientist, first woman state manager for BHP Petroleum and first woman to chair the Pilbara Development Commission.

#### Roll of Honour Inductees:

- *Dr Robin Adamson* (1938-2015) – tireless worker with refugees through the Nedlands Uniting Church Refugee Group
- *Ada Bromham* (1880-1965) – feminist and temperance worker, led the Australian delegation to the International Suffrage Alliance Congress in Paris and advocated for many women's issues throughout her life.
- *Ruby Hutchison* (1892-1974) – first female member of the WA Legislative Council, single mother of 7 children and founder of the Australian Consumers Association.
- *Sister Mary Kelly* (1930-1987) – through the Catherine McAuley Centre she reformed the living conditions of children who were wards of the state, keeping siblings together and introducing occupational and speech therapy and psychological care.
- *Melvina Alice Rowley* (1916-2016) – a non-Aboriginal woman who lived in Aboriginal communities sharing their same living conditions and who learned and wrote 'primers' in the local language so that children and adults could learn to read in their own language.
- *Vida Jean Wright* (1915-2005) – in 1969 when appointed to the Shire of Wanneroo, she became the first female Shire Planner in Local Government in Australia who helped to create Joondalup – also a founding member of the Joondalup Club of Soroptimist International.

Zontians Sandra Burns and Carole Theobald were on this year's judging panel that also included representatives from Soroptimists, Business and Professional Women, Women's Health and Family Services, Graduate Women WA, WA Local Government Women's Association and Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre.

To learn more about the WA Women's Hall of Fame check the website at [www.wawomenshalloffame.com.au](http://www.wawomenshalloffame.com.au)



Yvonne Burgu in the White Angel in 2005



Yvonne's carvings on display at Wanalirri Catholic Primary School, Gibb River



Yvonne was also a talented artist who's work had been displayed in the UN Geneva.

## 2. New Education Scholarship - Yvonne's legacy

*Karen Groves*

The Zonta Club of Perth has developed a special friendship with the indigenous communities along the Gibb River Road in the Kimberley. The relationship began in 2004 and has endured since then through visits by our members to their communities, visits by members of their communities to Perth and consistent long distance contact. It is important to mention the role played by Kathy Charlesworth in bringing the Kimberley women and the "Zonta mob" together and liaising between the two groups up until her death.

The club has worked with the women on several projects including clothing collections, art exhibitions and the purchase of a vehicle for women's business. The club successfully nominated the Yarri Wada Puppet Project to be endorsed as a District 23 Project from 2008-2010 in which most clubs in District 23 supported the funding of health education and life skills programs in the communities. The Ilerla Project continued and strengthened that work with the support of funding from Lotterywest, gained through an application from the club.

Throughout the years of this friendship, the key person in the Kimberley was Gibb River elder Yvonne Burgu who totally empathized with the concept of women helping women and who maintained strong communication with club members Sciona Browne and Carole Theobald. She saw education of the young people as the key to intercepting the cycle of dysfunction in her communities and was instrumental in establishing the Wanalirri Catholic Primary School at the Gibb River Community.

It was a very sad day in 2015 when the club learned of the passing of Yvonne Burgu in a car accident on the Gibb River Road. Sciona Browne and Carole and David Theobald attended Yvonne's funeral and took the condolences of our club to her family and the extended community. Club members agreed that it is most important that Yvonne's work be continued and that her memory be honoured with a worthwhile endeavour.

Through the Yvonne Burgu Scholarship, \$1,000 will be granted to an indigenous West Australian woman, preferably from the Kimberley region, who is in the second year of her tertiary studies. Arrangements are currently being made so that the first scholarship may be awarded for the 2017 academic year.

## 3. Building stronger ties with refugees

*Carole Theobald*

At the March meeting, members were privileged to hear Dr Carol Kaplanian talk about her work with women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) who experience domestic violence. One of Carol's roles is as a therapist with Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre. Most of her clients have a history of torture and trauma and have been victims of violence. She described how throughout the world domestic violence has become an epidemic with 1:4 women experiencing violence in their lives and 2 women a week in Australia being killed by an intimate partner. She described the various forms of violence that can take physical, financial, isolating, emotional and stalking forms. 90% of victims are women and children. Many women find the subject taboo and find it hard to access services.

Carol started a therapy group through Ishar initially with three women and the group quickly filled to its maximum capacity and now there is a waiting list. The women all speak different languages so need interpreters. This makes for many bodies in the room and so limits the number of clients that can be accommodated in the group. The women have shared their stories describing how some have been prisoners in their homes, prevented from learning English, been victims of marital rape with some not even knowing that they could say no to sex in a marriage or have access to a divorce in Australia. Some women were abused not by their husbands, but by their mothers-in-law. Many women had been traumatized by their lives before coming to Australia and further traumatized through being raped on their boat journeys here. Some women may be immaculate and beautiful on the outside, but inside have endured some horrific experiences. The UN estimates that 80% of refugee women have experienced some form of sexual or domestic abuse.



Linda Higgie provides a vote of thanks to Carol Kaplanian



Donella Caspersz, Linda Higgie, Dr Carol Kaplanian and Wendy Atherden



Our club is working more closely with Ishar

The therapy sessions provide a safe place for stories to be shared and through much laughter and tears the healing can commence. The group's funding recently stopped and thanks to Wendy Atherden's financial support, the group has been able to continue to meet.

Our club has been helping Ishar to obtain a grant to fund the program into the future and the club is also providing funding to host some picnic events during the year so that members may get to meet some of these courageous women.

We look forward to meeting some of the women at future meetings.

The club is also currently advocating to include reference to gender violence in the visa conditions for people working in Australia on 457 visas. Donella Caspersz is working on a project to gather more statistics to support this cause.

## 4. One Hundred Women making a difference to women

*Sandra Burns*

Our club is a member of the local philanthropic group, 100 Women. The \$99,950 raised in 2015 have recently been distributed via three grants to projects that aim to support women and girls. The projects are:

- **Telethon Kids Institute** receives \$39,450 towards the *Remote Aboriginal Women Community Researcher* project. The project will train 10 Aboriginal women from remote communities across the Fitzroy Valley to become community researchers, exploring long-term intervention for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Each woman will be supported to complete a Certificate II in Community Health Research and will have access to valuable work experience for future careers in research.
- **Global Development Group** receive two grants of \$40,000 and \$20,500 on behalf of their international partners: Cambodian Children's Fund and Classroom of Hope.
  - *Cambodian Children's Fund* trains Cambodian female police officers in the Child Protection Unit. 24 female police officers will receive specialist training for interviewing child victims of serious crimes, assisting in the expedient arrest of offenders. Each will learn how to obtain important facts and evidence from interviews, and importantly reduce the number of times children must recount crimes to local authorities.
  - *Classroom of Hope* will support young women from rural Cambodia to participate in science and maths studies. With local partner Kampuchean Action for Primary Education, this project empowers 10 young vulnerable women to undertake Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) studies in 2-year tertiary-vocational degrees. Personal development training and career counseling will also be provided to ensure high employment rates upon graduation.



Received \$39,450 to train female Aboriginal interviewers



Received \$40,000 to train female police officers



Received \$10,500 to support young women to study STEM subjects

## 5. Member movements

*Helen Margaria*

At the March meeting members farewelled long-time member, Helen Margaria. Helen has been a member since 1992 and during this time has supported a wide range of club activities and been on most committees. Her main contributions over the years have been through the coordination of club scholarships such as the Education Awards and the Guide Leaders' Award as well as Zonta holidays. Helen has been a wonderful advocate for Zonta, provided thoughtful counsel and we thank her for her many years of valuable service. We hope that when the increasing demands of her busy professional schedule decline, she will be able to return to the club.

*Deanna Byers*

In 2013, Deanna transferred to our club from the Zonta Club of Para Area District in South Australia. Deanna's enthusiasm and engaging personality brightened up each team she was on. She helped out on the Birthing Kit stand at the Baby Expos and during the last year she took on the challenge of collating the Inzert – a role that she was getting to grips with quite well. Deanna's current job involves her working overseas in Timor and this, together with some health issues, have meant that she has



L-R: Helen Margaria farewelled by Tricia Summerfield.



Deanna helping with the Birthing Kit stand at the Baby Expo in 2013



L-R: Ronette Druskovich and Lyn Anderson at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Refuge in 2014

been unable to contribute as much as she wanted to the club. We will miss Deanna, wish her well and hope to see her return to the club in the future as she will always be welcome.

#### *Ronette Druskovich*

Over the Christmas Break, Ronette received an offer she could not refuse and relocated to Dubai. Ronette had transferred to our club from Brisbane and before that was a member of the Zonta Club of Wellington in New Zealand. Ronette contributed in many ways to Zonta but will be mostly remembered for her work on the board of the Zonta House Refuge where she was able to utilize her legal training to good effect. Ronette reports that she is settling into the Dubai way of life and notes that 'life is different'.

- Dubai seems to be a strange mix of first world with underlying third world tendencies;
- She made Camel's milk cheese sauce;
- people are very interesting - staring goes both ways;
- it's not hot....yet;
- everything requires patience;
- there's no such thing as street addresses and this leads to confusion (for all). She also thinks that this is why so many of the buildings are very distinctive;
- there are more shops per head of population than she has ever seen;
- she is able to buy Vegemite (and almost anything else) at the supermarket;
- she has no TV, no friends, no internet, 4 books, some music and one case of clothes; and
- She has found it a wonderful and surprising opportunity for reflection and working on what she wants to get out of the next phase of her life – this is a work in progress...

She also notes that Lynn McKenzie, the immediate past President of Zonta International and member of the Zonta Club of Wellington, has been appointed the Chief Executive of the National Council of Women in New Zealand.

We look forward to hearing more about Ronette's adventures in the future.

## **6. Congratulations to Kelda**

Hot off the press – Baby Maddox Oppermann was born on Monday 13 March to Zonta House Refuge CEO, Kelda Oppermann. Congratulations to the family on the new arrival.

## **7. Diary Dates**

### **30<sup>th</sup> April – Area 3 Workshop, Perth Modern School, 10am -3.45pm**

What's on the horizon for Zonta? This workshop will touch, move and inspire you about the great work of Zonta and how you can contribute. It represents great value at \$35 for members and \$25 for first timers. If you can provide home hospitality please let Sandra know at [zontaperth@gmail.com](mailto:zontaperth@gmail.com). Register before 18<sup>th</sup> April – form on club website.

### **1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 Zonta International Convention, Nice, France**

With Judy Gorton being District 23 Governor Elect, why not come to France to support her as she commences her new role? Find out more at [www.zontaconventionnice.com](http://www.zontaconventionnice.com)

### **2018 Zonta International Convention, Yokohama, Japan**



The next ZI Convention will be held in July 2016 in Nice!

**Want to know what is happening in our club? Visit [www.zontaperth.org.au](http://www.zontaperth.org.au)**