Graduate Women WA
90th Anniversary
1923-2013

90th Anniversary Events

flyers inside
get your tickets now!

Breakfast (page 11)
Sunday 4th April
Dinner (page 12)
Saturday 22nd June
Gala Prize Night (page 13)
Tuesday 21st May

Graduate Chorus

Newsletter

February 2012 Volume 50 Number No 1

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GRADUATE WOMEN (WA) INC OFFICE BEARERS 2013

Committee	
President	Felicity Farrelly
Vice-Presidents	Wendy McCallum
Honorary Treasurer	Alison Hayden
Honorary Assistant Treasurer	Margaret Giles
Secretary	Jenny Jones
Membership Officer	Felicity Bradshaw
Committee Members	Lalani Weddikkara, Patricia Alessi, Louise Ewing,

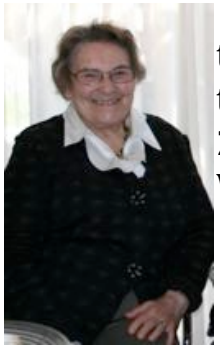
Conveners	
Education (Advocacy)	Position Vacant
Education (Bursary Coordinator)	Position Vacant
International Relations	Kathy Mumford
Peace and Human Security	Lalani Weddikkara
Status of Women	Position Vacant

Representatives, Coordinators & Other Roles	
Education Trust Chair	Robyn Carroll
Events Organiser	Hilary Silbert
Centenary Trust for Women Representative	Sally Male
National Council of Women Graduate Women (WA) Representatives	Lalani Weddikkara
St Catherine's College Council Graduate Women	Ruth Taylor
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Jones

CAN YOU HELP?

Graduate Women WA is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. Seeking past bursary and scholarship winners to attend a gala prize night in May. If you have won an award or know of anyone who has who we can invite please contact Hilary Silbert 0409 375 148. Email: hilarysilbert@westnet.com.au

Congratulations



to Marcelle Brown and her husband Douglas who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Thursday 14th February 2013. Marcelle is a long serving member of Graduate Women WA and a stalwart of the academic dress hire team.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

At the 35th Triennial Conference held 22nd to 25th November 2012 at the University of Queensland Dr Madeleine Laming was elected President, Lynda Roberts Hall is now the National CIR and Jenny Jones accepted the position of National Secretary and continues as Secretary of Graduate Women WA as well. It was a tumultuous AGM, but the drive to radically change the structure of AFGW was defeated, thereby retaining the traditional involvement of STA Presidents as Vice-Presidents of AFGW and part of the Council.

Our BBQ Sundowner was held on Wednesday 12th December 2012, and despite the wet weather was enjoyed by 37 members and guests. As usual, the Christmas cake was made by member Mary Dinneen. Special guests included the new AFGW President, Madeleine Laming, Cheryl Praeger and Jan Lord (daughter of Dorothy Ransom).

President Felicity Farrelly with Margaret Ellis at the BBQ Sundowner

Hilary Silbert our 90th year Convenor, also reminded members to give to the donate a book fund on their birthday to purchase books for the pre-school in Galle which we have supported since the tsunami. This fundraiser will continue throughout the year, and every few dollars provides a book and the knowledge it contains for the children of Galle.

Several members received acknowledgment "in recognition & appreciation of years' of membership". ,Mary Pusenjak, was congratulated for her 65 year membership and Professors Cheryl Praeger and Lyn Abbott have been members for 35 and 30 years respectively. Other members were also acknowledged, 20 years: Kerry Evans, Anne Bloemen (Broome) and Coralie Solomon; 15 Years: Lalani Weddikkara, 10 years: Helen Charlesworth, Kay Wright and Verity Norman;5 years: Kathy Shellabear and Dellas Clements.

New committee member Louise Ewing enjoying the Christmas festivities with friends at the BBQ sundowner

The Graduate Women WA committee met on January 17 where members discussed Communication, Advocacy and Action, our Business, Scholarships/Bursaries and our Operational processes. A number of outcomes will be acted upon. Felicity Bradshaw has enthusiastically embraced the role of membership convenor, and recently provided a paper on mentoring which provided some great ideas which will be developed further.

Member Manja Apol has taken over organising the movie club and the first movie night in 2013 was ***Lincoln*** at the Windsor on Tuesday 12 February. These evenings are on the second Tuesday of the month, meeting at the Captain Stirling art deco hotel before and after, so come and join in. The International Womens' Day collaboration breakfast will be held on Thursday 7th March at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre at 7am. As President, I represent Graduate Women WA on the Hall of Fame IWD Committee and Lalani Weddikkara, our Convenor Peace and Human Security is on the Breakfast committee. Graduate Women WA will attend the Sundowner at Government House the evening before to acknowledge the work of previous women achievers in WA.

As you are all aware, our financial resources come almost entirely from the hire of regalia for the UWA Graduations. Karen and Wendy are very busy gearing up for 11 graduations between 6th and 25th March. Every bit of help from members – with clerical tasks or with the gowns themselves - is greatly appreciated and urgently needed. Please do what you can.

Keep in mind the exciting events that Hilary Silbert has put in place for our 90th. It is time to start booking so look for the flyers in today's newsletter. We are gearing up for Saturday 7th December for the history launch at Government House and then the AFGW AGM on Sunday 8th December 2013 at St Catherine's College. We are all looking forward to the book launch which the Project team of Lynda, Barbara and Wendy, and more recently Bruce McCallum have already spent many hours on, meeting on a regular basis.

Lastly, I would like on behalf of all our members to wish Kate McCallum well in her move to Bridgetown. This move has meant that she has resigned as a committee member. Graduate Women WA will miss her commitment and enthusiasm and the reliable back-up she provided for Karen during graduations.

Felicity Farrelly

AFGW CIR Update

AFGW CIR, Lynda Roberts-Hall, has been working extremely hard preparing for the IFUW conference that will be held in Istanbul in August 2013. Australia is co-proposing, with the British Federation of Graduate Women, a resolution for the Right to Safe Access to Education. Lynda, with input from Jenny Strauss and Dorothy Collin, has negotiated the wording of the resolution with her British counterparts, a highly complex process even allowing for modern communications. This resolution was inspired by the difficulties in safely accessing and promoting education in Afghanistan:

> **The 31st IFUW Conference resolves that:**
>
> 1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) reaffirm and go beyond the existing resolutions of the 24th Conference (1992, Resolution 1), the 26th Conference (1998, Resolution 1) on access to education and the resolution of the 26th Conference on the prevention of Violence at School (1998, No. 9) to urge their governments to take effective action to support girls and women who are seeking, attending and promoting education at all levels within Afghanistan and Pakistan, amongst other countries where educational access is low, unsafe and/or at risk;

2. NFAs continue to take effective action to counter all forms of violence directed at those women and girls who are seeking, attending and promoting education at all levels and seek to improve the security of all those at risk; and

3. The IFUW use its standing committees and consultative role with the UN, UNICEF, and other international bodies to assist in the implementation of this resolution;

The work with Afghanistan has led to AFGW involvement in a workshop with Canada, Britain, USA and Rwanda.

AFGW has also nominated members for positions in IFUW: Margaret Giles for Hegg-Hoffet, Jenny Strauss for Vice-President, Michelle Imison for Special Projects Committee Convenor, and Tricia Blombery for Finance Committee.

Red Cross Migrant Support Program

Editor's Note: One of the volunteer activities I really enjoy is being part of the Red Cross Migrant Support Program. As part of this program I help out at the weekly ESL classes which are run by the Red Cross. I asked Ceire O'Reilly who is one of the co-ordinators of the program here in Perth to tell us about the work.

> Red Cross Migration Support Program seeks to assist migrants, irrespective of their legal status, whose survival, dignity, physical or mental health is under threat. We effect change in order to prevent and reduce the vulnerability of migrants, protect them against abuses, exploitation and denial of rights.
>
> Through our work we strengthen the capacity of people impacted by migration to seek opportunities and sustainable solutions for themselves and their families. Our volunteer project provides vital support services to our clients and in particular, we focus on English language support, a priority to any new arrival for whom English is not their first language.
>
> We are always looking for new volunteers to assist with one to one tutoring with our clients. A qualification in TESL is not required and many of our clients will also be attending English classes. Please contact Ceire O' Reilly at (08) 9225 8824 or wa_msp_volunteers@redcross.org.au to express your interest!

Murdoch Summer School

Lalani Weddikkara had an enjoyable time chatting to the enthusiastic and energetic young students at the Murdoch Summer School. The majority of the students were from the country, and some came down from the Northern territory. They loved living at Murdoch University. 47 Schools from across WA were represented with 30 students from 18 country schools.

Yolanda Pereira did a great job with the students and it was wonderful to have our National President Madeleine Laming give the scholarships to the girls. The winners were Emilee Martin from Governor Stirling SHS and from the country, Isabelle Martin from Busselton SHS. The President also spoke about Graduate Women (WA) and the work we do.

Isabelle Brittain, left and Emilee Martin, right, after being presented with their awards by AFGW President Madeleine Laming, and Lalani Weddikkara from Graduate Women WA.

Call for Volunteers

DEAR MEMBERS: URGENT CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The **UWA Graduations for 2013** are fast approaching and this is a **call for volunteers** to help with the Hire of Academic Dress during February and March.

With 11 graduations (beginning on Wednesday 6th March) we expect to receive approximately 1000 applications in the next few weeks, and really would appreciate your help in the office prior to the ceremonies beginning.

If you can help out with any of the following small jobs in the office on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday, between now and Friday 1st March please contact me in the office (9386 3570).

1. Opening envelopes and writing receipts.
2. Sending confirmation details to all students – either by mail or email.
3. Processing credit card detail (electronically)
4. Checking phone messages.

PLEASE LOOK IN YOUR DIARY NOW TO SEE IF YOU CAN COMMIT TO HELPING IN THE OFFICE. **Even if you can only help for an hour it will be much appreciated.**

Details of the Graduation Ceremonies are as follows:
On these dates we require volunteers to:

1. Help between 10.30am and 12 noon to put name tags on the gowns.
2. Help give out the gowns to the students between 12 noon and 6.30pm.
3. Collect the gowns in the evening at UWA (approx 9pm to 10.30 pm).
4. Help iron the 1000 hoods!

Wednesday, 6 March 2013	**Faculty of Arts**
Thursday, 7 March 2013	**Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts; Faculty of Business**
Monday, 11 March 2013	**Faculty of Business; Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences**
Tuesday, 12 March 2013	**Faculty of Science**
Wednesday, 13 March 2013	**Faculty of Business; Faculty of Science**
Thursday, 14 March 2013	**Faculty of Science**
Monday, 18 March 2013	**Faculty of Science**
Tuesday, 19 March 2013	**Faculty of Law**
Wednesday, 20 March 2013	**Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics**
Thursday, 21 March 2013	**Faculty of Education; Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics**
Monday, 25 March 2013	**Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences**

Karen Bothwell, Executive Officer, Graduate Women WA

Australian Human Rights Commission Report

by Helen Charlesworth

Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, has released a report that recommends reform that will value unpaid caring in Australia. "Investing in care – Recognising those who care" reports that caring in the community is undertaken mainly by women and that current Superannuation, Tax and Employment Systems severely disadvantage them. These reforms would remove the lifelong disadvantage experienced by these people.

Figures from "Counting on Care Work"[www.security4women.0rg.au} August 2012 indicate that while paid care is worth $112.4 billion – 8.8 per cent of GDP –providing nearly 20 per cent of paid employment, unpaid care was imputed at $650.1 billion. This is equivalent to: 50.6 per cent of GDP, 11.1 million FTE workers and 1.2 times the total Australian full time employed Work Force. Women contributed 60 per cent of these 21.4 billion hours of unpaid care work. Also, local, state/Territory and Commonwealth Governments invested a total of $135.9 billion in the care sector [excluding wages, salaries and social security payments} equivalent to 10.6 per cent of GDP. This research highlights the primacy of women in the care economy and its significance to Australia. All aspects of women's lives are impacted on, including their family, education, health, employment, retirement, housing and personal safety.

Elizabeth discusses many options for reform in her paper. She discusses Anti –discrimination Laws and suggests extending the prohibition of discrimination on the ground of family responsibilities to include carer responsibilities in anti-discrimination legislation. The Carer Recognition Act of 2010 should create legally enforceable obligations to carer assessment modelled on the UK Legislation. A carer Card, which identifies carers who are assessed as having significant caring responsibilities, could be used to access services and entitlements.

Flexible work arrangements are needed. The Fair Work Act 2009, should be amended to extend the right to request flexible work arrangements, remove the qualification requirements that restrict the categories of employees who can make this request, place a duty on employers to accommodate this request and provide a procedural appeals process. Carers' leave arrangements should also be changed. The National Employment Standards need to be changed to provide for additional carer leave separate from personal leave, specifically for carer responsibilities, provide for job protected unpaid leave and extend the definition of caring responsibilities in carers' leave to include kinship relationships.

Elizabeth discusses income support for carers. She suggests that The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs {FaHCSIA] review the number of hours allowed for work, education, training while on the Carer Payment. She suggests a review of income testing arrangements to better support combinations of employment, care-giving and carer-directed income support. She also recommends that the employment conditions and pay of paid care workers be included within the NDIS, the Aged Care Reform Package and the early childhood education and care sector. Assessment for Carers could be enhanced by mechanisms to recognise carers and their needs and to provide adequate support services. These would include the development and implementation of the NDIS, the implementation of the Aged Care Reform Package and the Health Care System.

It is recommended that a Productivity Commission Inquiry be held into early childhood education and care. This could look at the following mechanisms for valuing unpaid caring work: parental

leave mechanisms, carer leave mechanisms, the superannuation system and a care bonus. The Commission should also have a whole of system review into current provision, costs, taxation and financing of early childhood education and care services with a view to providing accessible, affordable, flexible and quality early childhood education. Lastly it is recommended that the Australian Government and the Human Rights Commission conduct a joint community wide social marketing and education campaign to promote reform that will "**Value Unpaid Caring in Australia".**

From a personal point of view I find this Report very refreshing! I have been a carer in my family for many years. I look after my son who had meningitis as a child, developed epilepsy as a consequence and suffers with Schizophrenia as an adult. I also looked after my parents, my father dying with cancer and my mother suffering with diabetes, my uncle who lived to 88 and was a World War 2 Veteran with many health issues and my mother-in-law who currently is 96 and suffers with Dementia. I am currently Chair of Carers WA and have only referred to myself as a carer since 2000. My caring role has been considerable in this period, a full time, every day event. I gave up my career in Education where I held a position as a Deputy Principal to attend to my son's needs and moved from the country to Perth, bouncing between country and city living trying to balance life for family in the city and farm life in the country. I devote my life now to the plight of the unpaid carer, working on government committees and lobbying government in my official capacity.

Helen Charlesworth

2013 Grace Vaugan Memorial Lecture

21 March 2013, 6pm, University Club Theatre Auditorium, UWA, Free, but RSVP essential.
Details: www.ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures/2013-gvl Bookings: 1800 199 174 or wis@communities.wa.gov.au

Shaky Ground or Firm Foundation? When women's equality depends on a business case

A public lecture by Jacquie Hutchinson, UWA Business School. Jacquie Hutchinson works at the UWA Business School where she lectures and researches in the areas of workforce diversity and employment relations. A constant theme throughout her career has been social justice in education and employment. Jacquie's research projects include women's employment in the mining and resource sectors, careers and leadership and workplace bullying.

The annual Grace Vaughan Memorial Lecture is a partnership arrangement between the Australian Association of Social Workers, The University of Western Australia and Department for Communities - Women's Interests, Western Australia. The Grace Vaughan Memorial Lecture is held annually to commemorate the life and achievements of Grace Vaughan, social worker, social activist and parliamentarian.

Congratulations to **Margaret Medcalf** who was awarded a Fellow of St Catherine's College at the dinner held at the College on Saturday 9th February during the UWA Centenary weekend.

Have you heard?

Did you see on page 14 of *'In Principio'*, The University of Notre Dame Australia magazine, an article about our inaugural University of Notre Dame Scholarship winner Madison Lloyd-Jones? Madison is a PhD candidate in History and is currently working on the topic "The Fremantle home front during World War II and the impact of American servicemen on Fremantle's women from 1942-45."

From Left, Lanani Weddikkara, Jenny Jones, Lynda Roberts-Hall and Felicity Farrelly enjoyed an evening meal at the famous Regatta Hotel Brisbane while attending the AFGW 35th Triennium Conference.

The Regatta Hotel, Brisbane
Australian actress Sigrid Thornton's mother Merle and her friend Rosalie Bogner chained themselves to the public bar of the Regatta in 1965 to protest against women not being allowed to drink in public bars.

Graduate Women (WA) Inc committee members making their statement for One Billion Rising - an international day to call for an end to violence against women.

Check out the link at
http://onebillionrising.org

Letter from St Catherine's Scholar Lauren Clarke

The Committee Members
Graduate Women (WA) Inc.

Dear Ladies,

I am writing to let you know how my year went at St Catherine's College.

After a very successful first semester, in which I had received three distinctions for my studies, I struggled with illness for a large part of second semester and was eventually diagnosed with glandular fever. I had found it very difficult to study and eventually missed two complete weeks of university just prior to the exam period commencing. Despite this, I was pleased with my academic results as I receiving one distinction, two credit passes and a pass. I am looking forward to the new academic year and am hoping my health will continue to improve.

During my second semester at St Catherine's I continued to participate in college sports and events. A highlight of the semester for me was the annual college ball, which was held at the Fremantle Prison.

My interest in the St Vincent de Paul Society, in particular their work supporting homeless people, resulted in me going ahead with my plan to fundraise for them by conducting an event for the College called "The Great Sleepout".

I held the sleepout on a Thursday night in October in the underpass near Trinity College. The participating girls slept on cardboard boxes that we had laid flat to make 'beds'. We used sleeping bags to keep warm, however we were aware that some homeless people might not even have the luxury of these items. St Cat's provided soup and bread rolls for our evening meal. I arranged to have some girls from 'The Red Frog Crew' come down to join us for a few hours and they arranged board games to keep us entertained! Passing pedestrians were curious as to what we were doing and a couple of them donated some money towards our cause. 'The Great Sleepout' was a great way of raising awareness for the plight of homeless people. I also arranged to sell Cadbury Fundraising Chocolates as a way to raise money and I was very pleased to raise just over $500 for the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Following on from the meeting I had earlier in the year with two representatives from Uniting Care West, I organised a volunteering project to assist with this year's Rainbow Project Worship Service, held as part of Mental Health Week 2012. The Rainbow Project is a support program for people with mental illness. Assistance was required with the catering for the event, so I arranged to attend with three other volunteers from St Cat's. The service was held at a church in Nedlands and we spent the Sunday afternoon setting up the afternoon tea, waitressing and then packing everything away afterwards. All of the girls enjoyed helping during the afternoon and it was very rewarding to see how appreciative of our help the Rainbow friends and volunteers were.

I would like to thank you most sincerely for your generosity in providing this scholarship to St Catherine's College. The scholarship has allowed me to not only become involved in college life but also to focus on my studies to the best of my ability. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at University and it has certainly been an honour to be the 2012 recipient of the Graduate Women (WA) Scholarship.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Lauren Clarke

Graduate Women (WA) is always delighted to hear about our scholars, and Ruth Taylor, our representative on the St Catherine's council, sums it up very well:

> *it is quite remarkable to see just the range and scope of opportunities and activities that St Catherine's provides to assist in the development of their students - in conjunction with their core academic studies. They certainly are 'women of excellence'.*

$35.00 PER PERSON

Bookings essential. Contact Karen at the office on 9386 3570 or by email:gwwa@westnet.com.au

I _____ (name) will be attending the

Autumn Breakfast Panel and bringing _____ guests @ $35 per person

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I enclose a cheque for a total of $ _____ made payable to Graduate Women WA, and post to P O Box 48 Nedlands WA 6909,

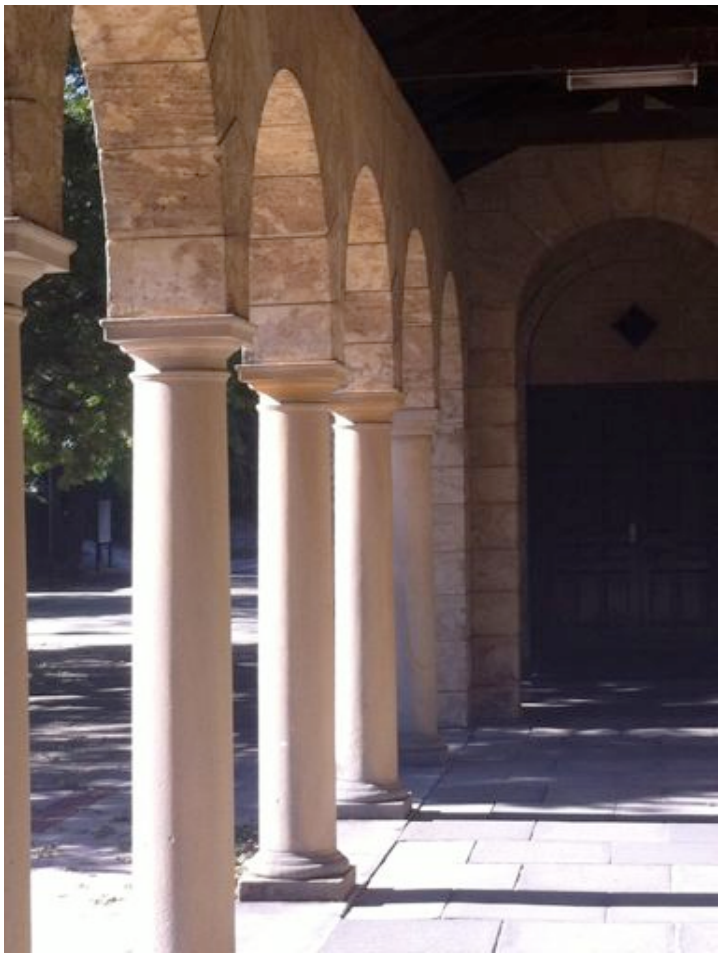
or please charge my credit card (please circle): Mastercard / Visa

Cardholder's name: _____

Card No: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Expiry Date: _ _ / _ _

90th Anniversary Celebratory Dinner



YOUR INVITATION TO AN HISTORIC EVENT

Join friends, family and members on the actual date our organisation was founded!!

You are invited to enjoy a delicious meal in the heritage building, Hackett Hall, (known to some as The Ref), and hear the after dinner speaker
Dr Annie Duncan.
Former West Australian, Annie was CEO of both Questacon and SciTech and is a highly regarded board member on a range of boards and consultant.

She will fly from Melbourne for the 90th anniversary dinner

Saturday 22nd June 3013
7pm
at
Hackett Hall, The University of WA, Crawley

$85.00 a head

Bookings and enquiries to Karen at the office
9386 3570 or Email: gwwa@westnet.com.au

The Inaugural Gala Prize Night
Presented by Graduate Women
WA

On

Tuesday 21st of May 2013
At 7pm
In the Roberta Jull Room at St
Catherine's College, Crawley

Join our current and past winners in all the awards, prizes, bursaries and scholarships Graduate Women (WA) have supported since 1971.

They are all part of our history and our reason to exist!

This celebration will be held in the room commemorating our first President, and the driving force behind the formation of St Catherine's College

Presentations by the 2012 winners and supper

Please RSVP for catering purposes. All Welcome

Contact Karen at the office on 9386 3570 or by email:
gwwa@westnet.com.au

You are invited to participate in

DONATE A BOOK

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

During our 90th anniversary year

we are planning on making a lasting gift to the children of the pre school in Galle, Sri Lanka

2013 will see the completion of the new building to house the pre school and the children will be in their first permanent location, designed and built with the expertise and generosity of the Weddikkara family and others.

2012 saw GWWA award a travel scholarship to the Head Teacher, Asanka, to spend a month in Western Australia and receive professional development under the expertise of Dr Dawn Butterworth.

The grand plan for 2013

is to leave ***a lasting legacy of a library*** in the preschool, donated by Graduate Women WA and friends.

Appropriate books will be selected by the teacher with the funds, in Sri Lanka, and will range in cost from $10.00 to $50.00.

So

If 100 people donated $10 we achieve a $1000.00 goal.....

this donation enhances the quality educational environment for these children and is our 90th anniversary gift.

If you wish to take up this invitation, simply donate the amount of your choice through our office,

give your donation to Lalani Weddikkara or Hilary Silbert at any event you attend or

spread the opportunity amongst family and friends who may just want to help us achieve the $1000.00 goal.