



Graduate Women WA

Graduate Women (WA) Inc.



Sri Lankan Trip.....story p14

Newsletter

Special AGM Edition

October 2011

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Committee

President	Margaret Giles
Vice-Presidents	Jenni Antulov, Felicity Farrelly
Honorary Treasurer	Alison Hayden
Committee Members	Wendy McCallum, Lalani Weddikkara, Evelyne Deplazes
Newsletter Editor	Susan Dunn
Immediate Past-President	Lynda Roberts-Hall

Conveners

Education (Advocacy)	Jenni Antulov
Education (Bursary Coordinator)	Liz Flatters
International Relations	Kathy Mumford
Peace and Human Security	Lalani Weddikkara
Status of Women	Barbara Taylor

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	Lesley Cala and Margaret Giles
St Catherine's College Council Graduate Women WA Representative	Hilary Silbert

Graduate Women (WA) Inc Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 25th October

6 pm Presentation of cheques to Bursary and Scholarship winners

Buffet dinner

6.45 pm Annual General Meeting of Graduate Women (WA) Inc
Followed by

Annual General Meeting of AFUW(WA) Inc Education Trust
Followed by

Special General Meeting of Graduate Women (WA) Inc

RSVP to Kate on 9386 3570 or by email to afuwwa@westnet.com.au

*******Reminder*******

All committee positions fall vacant at the AGM
See the nomination form on page.....

Completed forms should be faxed or emailed to Kate by Thursday 20th October 2011

Graduate Women (WA) Inc - Annual General Meeting – October 2011 – Order of Proceedings

Graduate Women (WA) Inc
Annual General Meeting
6 pm Tuesday 25 October 2011
Order of Proceedings

Presentations

Presentations to bursary and scholarship winners, 2011

Graduate Women (WA) Inc Annual General Meeting Agenda

1. Constitution of Meeting and apologies
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting (see Members' insert)
3. Business Arising
4. Reports
 - 4.1 President – report
 - 4.2 Secretary – no report
 - 4.3 Treasurer – report and acceptance of Audited Financial Statements – to be tabled at the meeting
5. Other reports
6. Election of Officers and Committee for 2011/12
7. Appointment of Auditors
8. Other matters
9. Thanks and Close

Australian Federation of University Women (WA) Inc Education Trust Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of 2010 Annual General Meeting held on 26th October 2010 (see Members' insert)
3. Confirmation of Minutes
 - 3.1 Business Arising from Minutes
4. Reports
 - 4.1 Trustees' Report (see Members' insert)
 - 4.2 Auditor's Report
5. Trustee appointments
6. Thanks and Close

Graduate Women (WA) Inc Special General Meeting Agenda

1. Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting of 14th August 2010 (see Members' insert).
2. Business arising.
3. Thanks and close

Graduate Women (WA) Inc - Annual General Meeting Reports

Graduate Women (WA) Inc - President's Report 2011

It has been a very busy year for Graduate Women WA. Committee members have been attentive to governance issues, compliance with AFGW requirements as well as providing events of interest to members.

AFGW convened a membership workshop with members Kathy Mumford (WA's CIR – see her report below), Michelle Imison (NSW) and Kathryn Seymour (Qld). The key imperatives that were identified at the February Council meeting in Sydney are the retention of current members, the return of previous members and the attraction of new members. In WA, Lynda Roberts-Hall, Wendy McCallum and Karen Bothwell organised a membership evening in September which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Particular mention was made to our Treasurer, Alison Hayden, for her attention to detail with our finances. We also wished our Executive Officer, Karen Bothwell, a happy birthday and best wishes for her upcoming trip overseas. Committee has agreed that these sorts of events should be continued.

Vice President, Jenni Antulov, has been very active in her submissions on issues to do with education, providing a WA perspective on issues raised at the national level, such as the use of teacher librarians. Lesley Cala has continued to provide representation for us on the National Council of Women (WA) and Sally Male has taken up the role of our representation on the Centenary Trust for Women. Hilary Silbert, who organises most of our events, is finishing her final term as our representative on St Catherine's College Council (see the nomination form if you would like to nominate for this very worthwhile role).

During the year, Committee decided to renew our relationship with the Teen Parenting Centre at Balga. We are on the Centre's Management Committee and are putting together a Christmas stocking/basket of new goods for the Centre to have for its Christmas Raffle in December. Please drop any gifts of non-perishable Christmas foods, baby and children's toys and clothes and other items to Kate/Karen in the office by the Sundowner, 7th December.

As I am standing down as President at the AGM, I would like to thank Committee and Karen for their support during my two terms as President.

Dr Margaret Giles, President

Graduate Women (WA) Inc - Convenor of International Relations (CIR) Report 2011

All members with email/internet access are urged to be IFUW Connections and IFUW News Update subscribers. See www.ifuw.org to 'Subscribe'. The same members can be more involved in national issues through registration to the Equality Rights Network found at <http://equalityrightsalliance.org.au/>

The AFGW CIR has regularly kept WA informed of government actions and the sharing of press releases related to women's issues, as well as various IFUW news including:

i. new publication containing 18 Indicator Domains as follows:

Economic Security: Working Population; Earnings, Income and Economic situation; Housing.

Education: Attainment; Participation; Education and Employment.

Work and Family Balance: Time Use; Providing Care; Time stress and Work and Family Balance; Volunteering.

Safety and Justice: Victims; Imprisonment; Offenders.

Health: Health Status; Deaths; Risk Factors; Services.

Democracy, Governance and Citizenship: Leadership.

Here is the link to the full set <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4125.0?OpenDocument>

ii. the revised/new UNWomen's agency

iii. outcomes of the IFUW International Conference held in Mexico City in August 2010

iv. Japanese Earthquake Emergency Fund and subsequent actions

v. Women and Housing Affordability Survey

vi. National Volunteering Strategy Survey

vii. IFUW Update News – approximately monthly editions of international and national organization actions

Introduction for Rosie Sitoris was made to the Korean Association and the Korean President invited Rosie to stay with her in Seoul on arrival or departure from the Model UN Conference.

Kathy Mumford, CIR

Graduate Women (WA) Inc - Academic Dress Report 2011

Academic Dress Hire has once again proved to be a profitable undertaking. 14 graduation ceremonies were held, 4 in September 2010 and 10 in April 2011 with a total of 1440 bookings. We are very grateful and give thanks to Karen Bothwell for her wonderful organisation as well as all the volunteers who have worked so hard to make this enterprise such a success. I especially want to thank Kate McCallum who was employed to help Karen during the April graduations when I was overseas.

The students are most appreciative of our care and interest and we are experiencing many 'secon-timers'. After graduating with their first degree we are seeing them return for Honours, Masters or Ph D's. It is very satisfying to have such contented customers.

The storage of hoods in flat boxes has lessened the ironing, but we continue to spend many hours cleaning them. One cannot imagine what or how so much gets spilt on the silk!

Our booking procedure has been refined and with credit card facilities, email and the data base, a lot of writing and duplicating has been eliminated.

As convenor it has been my pleasure to interact with the students and all the member volunteers. I thank you all and encourage anyone who has a spare hour or two to come and join us. You will find it a very satisfying and enjoyable experience.

Wendy McCallum, Convenor Academic Dress

Graduate Women (WA) Inc - St Catherine's College Report 2011

This will be my last St Catherine's College Council Report, as early in 2012 I will have had the privilege of completing two three year terms representing Graduate Women. It has been an eventful period in the life of the College, the last year being dominated by discussions with architects and consultants involved with the design of the proposed new building at St Catherine's College. There have been many meetings and discussions on achieving the much needed extra accommodation to grow the college. St Catherine's is part of the successful bid by the University of Western Australia to gain 1000 incentives in the National Rental Affordability Scheme bid which included 250 rooms for the College. The last meeting in September involved senior executive of UWA with Council, and lasted over 3 hours!

In summary, as the delegate for Graduate Women, I attended a strategic planning session on Saturday 27th of November from 9am to 4pm and the St Catherine's Day Annual Dinner on Thursday 25th of November. I was also involved with the selection of scholarship winners in December for the fourth year. I attended the Commencement Dinner on Wednesday 2nd of March and the Faculty Dinner on Monday May 10th. At the Commencement Dinner I presented the 2011 winner, Rebecca Adamson, with the Graduate Women scholarship, worth \$4000. During the year I was appointed Secretary to Council.

This year Graduate Women finally became "visible" at St Catherine's by unveiling an Honour Board to record all the Graduate Women (AFUW WA) scholarship winners since the first winner Kwok Sau Fong in 1986. The unveiling was performed by member, previous delegate to the College and former resident, Ruth Taylor and her daughter Kiera, a current resident. We were fortunate to have in attendance members of the College Council, staff, former winners, a past Head of College and College Fellows. In addition we received publicity at UWA.

This was a very fitting ceremony as Graduate women celebrated 40 years of awarding scholarships. The Honour Board can be viewed in situ in the Withnell Dining room of the College and is the first from an outside organization and from one that has helped propose, found and support the College from its inception.

Hilary Silbert, Graduate Women WA Delegate

Graduate Women (WA) Inc - Park Road Book Club Thursday Group Report 2011

The Thursday Book Club has now completed 20 years of reading, enjoying, criticising, recommending and at times not being impressed with the 'book of the month'. Our membership has remained stable with 14 members. We have found our format of reading 10 books each year, with a break in January and a Christmas Party in December is very successful. This year we have read : *The Life of an Unknown Man* by Andrei Makine, *The Body in the Clouds* by Ashley Hay, *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake, *The Great House* by Nicole Krauss, *The Appointment* by Herta Mueller, *An Atlas of Impossible Longing* by Anuradha Roy, *Ransom* by David Malouf, *Help* by Kathryn Stockett, *The Man in the Wooden Hat* by Jane Gardam and *Breath* by Tim Winton.

I would like to thank all my fellow readers for the wonderful books they suggested in this past year, the interesting questions formed and the many thoughtful discussions we have had. Anyone who is interested in reading, we would love to have you join us.

Wendy McCallum, Convenor of Thursday Book Club

Graduate Women (WA) Inc – Saturday Afternoon Book Club Annual Review 2011

The GRADUATE WOMEN WA Saturday Afternoon Bookclub meets on the 4th Saturday of every calendar month from February to November. Meetings are held at the Park Rd offices of the Federation between 2 pm and 4pm.

Occasional changes are sometimes required to accommodate long weekends and 'gown time' (when our meeting room at the Park Rd offices of the Federation is being used for the very important graduation gown hire). But this year the disruptions have been of our own making as most of our group are great travelers, and this year the traveling has unfortunately conflicted with monthly meetings. In fact, the meeting for April was cancelled because of holiday plans and it has been a rare month when everyone has been able to attend. Nevertheless, discussion continues to be lively, and those who are there have more speaking time – sometimes even *enough* speaking time.

Our membership list is Beth Bake, Rose Carter, Rhoda Chance, Helen Charlesworth, Margaret Ellis, Trish Hashim, Jenny Jones, Elizabeth Killerby, Marjan Oxley and Mary Pusenjak. Margaret Ellis is an irregular member because of her husband's ill-health, but she still joins us for our discussions when possible. Mary Pusenjak was unable to continue this year after her own health concerns. We are hoping, however, that all the group will be able to come to the Christmas Lunch which we have in December, instead of a book meeting.

The group's aim in choosing books is to ensure a reading list that is diverse and that members will enjoy reading and presenting. We try to decide on the books for the following year, or at least the first five months reading, during the October/November meetings. This gives members a chance to organize their summer reading and get a head start on bulky books. It also makes it easier for members to arrange their library reservations, or to otherwise source the books - from the internet, secondhand stores or friends. Usually the presenter will give the group information about the author's biography, the 'background' of the book or novel, a summary of different reviews and a closer look at some passages that highlight the flavour of the month's reading. Everyone has an opportunity to provide their own insights into the way the book was written, and how they responded to it.

Our reading list for 2011 is :

- *The Finkler Question* by Howard Jacobson
- *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
- *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
- *Freedom* by Johnathon Franzen
- *The Long Song* by Andrea Levy
- *The World on Fire* by Amanda Foreman
- *We Are All Made of Glue* by Marina Lewycka
- *Night Falls on the City* by Sarah Gainham
- *The Glass Room* by Simon Mawer

During the last half hour we enjoy the afternoon tea which is provided by a different member in rotation, and spend time in more social discussions.

We would like to emphasise that the club is open to any member of GRADUATE WOMEN WA who would like to attend. We would like to have some new members so please feel free to come along and meet us, even if you would just like to see what we do. All of the group are 50+, so if you are looking for a new intellectual and social experience you can telephone or email me, Jenny Jones, 9386 3053, jonesfam2@yahoo.com and I can give you more details.

Jenny Jones

Graduate Women (WA) Inc - Poetry Group Report 2011

The Poetry Group is very informal and does not have a Convener. During the past year we have met and enjoyed reading poetry together. Any one who would like to join us you will be very welcome to do so. We meet at 4 Park Road at 10:30 am on the second Tuesday of the month.

Barbara Hale

Graduate Women (WA) Inc - Newsletter Report 2011

In 2011 the Committee agreed to quarterly newsletters, reducing the monthly / bimonthly number of editions published in 2010. This appears to have worked favourably in capturing significant events relating specifically to GRADUATE WOMEN WA and in keeping the membership informed of forthcoming events.. Positive comments and notes of feedback received from various members indicate that the current format appeals to a wide number of readers.

Articles are called for a month prior to the anticipated publication date; however, articles can be submitted any time in the relevant quarter. An informal sub-committee oversees and proof-reads each newsletter prior to publication. Articles are also vetted to ensure that they are about GRADUATE WOMEN WA specifically. (NB: Other articles of interest to the membership are collated by our Executive Officer and relayed to members via GRADUATE WOMEN WA's weekly E-news.)

Thank you to all members who have contributed in 2011 and for your positive feedback.

Susan Dunn, Editor

Graduate Women (WA) Inc - House Report September 2011

Our very reliable tenants in the unit upstairs left on the 10th December 2010 after 3 years. Shellabears took 6 weeks before replacement tenants were found. Fortunately they are proving to be very satisfactory tenants and are paying \$480 per week in rent.

After 25 years the hot plates in the kitchen were worn out and needed to be replaced. This also necessitated some cabinet work as the new ones have different dimensions. The curtains in the living room and one of the bedrooms had also worn out and were replaced with vertical blinds. The back stairs have been modified and are no longer dangerous. All essential maintenance in the unit has now been done.

General maintenance has involved having the three front gates painted. Thank you very much to John Casey for doing this for us.

Underground power is being installed in Park Road and this has meant the block next door has been cleared. Without all the greenery the fence has been exposed and indications are that it will have to be replaced in the not too distant future. The other side fence continues to lean heavily but has not yet reached to critical point of having to be repaired.

Dorothy Ransom who has done a sterling job as Chair of the House Committee is no longer able to fulfil that role. We are greatly indebted to Dorothy for all her work and it will be very difficult for anyone to fill her shoes. This does mean though that we are urgently seeking for members to join the House Committee.

Wendy McCallum, Acting House Convenor.

GRADUATE WOMEN WA ANNUAL DINNER 2011



Acknowledgement: Photos above and below and the introduction below are from <http://stayingintouch.com.au/2011/07/graduate-women-wa-annual-dinner>

The Graduate Women of WA celebrate their 88th year and 40 years of awarding bursaries at their annual dinner.

The dinner was held at St Catherine's College, Crawley. Graduate Women WA was formerly known as the Australian Federation of University Women (WA).

The guest speaker was Professor Celia Hammond BJuris (Hons), LLM, Vice Chancellor of the University of Notre Dame and former resident at St Catherine's College.



(Left): Margaret Giles, President Graduate Women WA with Liz Flatters, Graduate Women WA Education Convenor and Bursary Coordinator. Liz has been the GRADUATE WOMEN WA Education Convenor and Bursary Coordinator since 2010.



(Right): Liz Flatters, Staying in Touch with Fiona Crowe, Head of College & CEO of St Catherine's College.

SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THE GRADUATE WOMEN WA ANNUAL DINNER

The milestone event was celebrated in a room honouring Roberta Jull.

Roberta Henrietta Margaretta Stewart was born in 1872 and died in 1961 aged 89. She studied medicine at The University of Glasgow in 1890 – more than 20 years before we had our first university in WA. She qualified in 1895 and joined her brothers Mitchell and Fergusson in Western Australia. Aged 23 she joined Mitchell's practice in Guildford and then opened her own practice being the first woman doctor in W.A. She was a founder of the WA Branch of the British Medical Association.

By 1917 Roberta had married Martin Jull, had a daughter, the future Henrietta Drake Brockman and become a widow. So aged 45 she says "In order to save my health and my reason I returned to medicine".

She was always interested in university affairs and had acted as Supervisor of Public Examinations in WA for the University of Adelaide, prior to there being a medical school in WA.

Roberta Jull was on the UWA Senate from 1914 to 1942. In those early years she was instrumental in forming a branch of the Association of University Women, some 88 years ago. With in the first few months of the Graduate group operating Roberta Jull suggested that a women's college should be established. The rest is history. So our founder, first President of Graduate Women and St Cats, is a significant personality in the history of our state and country: wonderful role model for us all. You will see a bas relief of her over the door to this room and may wish to find out more about her.

Hilary Silbert

SNIPPETS FROM FORMER MEMBERS

1991 Foundation Bursary Jane Long winner sent the following message:

Many thanks for your kind invitation (to the Annual Dinner). I think Graduate Women does a great job, and as you mention, I am a previous bursary recipient so know first-hand how important your support is, to many graduate women in WA and beyond.

.... I wish you every success for the event, and trust it will be a memorable celebration of a great milestone for the organisation.

Professor Jane Long, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education), The University of Western Australia

..... from Joan Wardrop – a long time assessor of our Bursaries

I am so sorry not to be able to be at the dinner tonight, and to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the award of bursaries to women students by what used to be the AFUW(WA). My connection with the bursary awards began in the second half of the 1980s when Noelene Reeves asked me to participate in the assessment process – then I came back to it more than a decade ago and have been fortunate to be part of the process in a number of the years since then. The AFUW(WA)/Graduate Women WA bursaries have a very particular quality: they don't attempt to take the place of full scholarships but rather they focus on individual needs and individual merit. The amounts of money in themselves, although not large, are often crucial for women coming towards the end of long higher degrees and another seriously significant benefit that those who receive them recognise is that they are a telling addition to a woman's curriculum vitae. They articulate her success in a highly competitive field open to women from across the university sector in Western Australia. Those who raise the funds (the gowns people in particular) and Karen Bothwell who does the administration each year are always to

be congratulated – by the recipients and by those of us who are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to participate in the assessment of the applications – a wonderfully satisfying task!

Joan Wardrop

.... message from Berenice Ritchie

Thank you most sincerely for this kind invitation to help celebrate your milestone....With a daughter who graduated from UWA in 2009 and who has been lucky enough to continue her studies towards a PhD with the help of a scholarship from the School of Plant Biology, I know how very much appreciated this kind of assistance is. I wish you a very successful evening.

Berenice Ritchie, President, Soroptimist International, Region of Western Australia

GWWA ANNUAL DINNER 2011



**EXTRACT FROM THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY
WOMEN – MAY 1971 NEWSLETTER –**

HIGHLIGHTING FORMER AFUWWA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

WAAUW Bursary – for many years the Western Australian Association of University Women has been working to build up a fund to provide an annual award. The bursary is open to women of any age who hold a first degree from The University of Western Australia and who have been accepted for a higher degree which involves a research project at a recognised University in any country and who have been accepted for a higher degree which involves a research project at the University of Western Australia. The value of the WAAUW Bursary is \$200pa.

The first winner is Mrs Shirley Watt, BSc (Agric). Mrs Watt completed the course for B.Sc in Agriculture at UWA in 1947. She was married in 1947 and has three children. After her youngest child went to school she began to study again and because of the change in techniques and the increase in knowledge in her field, decided to study undergraduate units initially. In 1967 she studied Anatomy, Biochemistry and Physiology and was awarded a Convocation Prize for Science. After her first year of research in 1969 she was admitted as a student for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Department of Physiology, her research project being “Intestinal Absorption of Cholesterol”. A paper entitled “The Effect of Bile Salts and Synthetic Detergents on Cholesterol Absorption in Vetro” was published in 1971 in Amsterdam, by Biochemica Biophysica Acta Journal in the Bio-Membranes Section. **In 1969 Shirley was awarded the Freda Bage Bursary by the Australian Federation of University Women.** In May 1971 she will deliver a paper at the meeting of the Australian Physiological Society in Canberra. Congratulations Mrs Watt from all members of WAAUW.

GRADUATE WOMEN WA EVENTS AND MEETINGS 2011

October	Tuesday 25 th	Annual General Meeting
December	Wednesday 7 th Dec.	Sundowner BBQ

Did You Know?

Western Australia's oldest university, The University of WA is celebrating its centenary.

Did you know that Graduate Women has had a President serving on the Governing Body (the Senate) the entire history - Roberta Jull, our first President, started the pattern and then was followed by Dorothy Ransom, Lesley Cala and currently Hilary Silbert.

SPRING SUNDOWNER

We were delighted to host our inaugural Membership Sundowner on Thursday 8 September 2011 at our Park Road premises. The event, designed to provide social and networking opportunities for new and existing members was well attended, attracting members from the Book Clubs, the Committee, past and present Presidents, new members and potential members as well as two of our Life Members: Lesley Cala and Wendy McCallum. Thanks to all who attended and who have provided such great feed-back.

Members enjoyed wine and cheese, tea and coffee and some savoury snacks whilst they mingled at our headquarters in Nedlands. This was a great opportunity for members to socialise and to hear from President, Margaret Giles, about the status of some of the projects and initiatives we are undertaking.

During the evening, we celebrated the magical milestone birthday that our Executive Officer Karen Bothwell has just reached. On behalf of the Committee, we also acknowledged the vital and time-consuming work that Alison Haydon, our esteemed Treasurer has undertaken over recent years. Alison has worked tirelessly to revamp the finances and to put in place financial strategies and funding to cover many of the imposts upon Graduate Women. She also serves as a liaison between the Education Trust and the Committee, whilst keeping the web-site up to date and working full-time. We've been very fortunate to have Alison's expertise and it was a privilege to be able to recognise this in such a public forum.

As part of our membership strategy, we are hoping to offer many more such social events to members. These are a fun way to be involved in the Association, to catch up on our many activities and to meet and mingle with other like-minded members. We hope to see you at our next social event!

Lynda Roberts-Hall and Wendy McCallum (Co-Organisers)

GRADUATE WOMEN WA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2011				
October	Wednesday	5 th		4 Park Rd, Nedlands. 6:00 pm for 6:15 pm start
November	Wednesday	2 nd		



Graduate Women WA Dinner 2011



Laying the foundation stone for
the Pre-School



The Pre-School



SRI LANKAN REPORT
on the trip to Sri Lanka - Friday 5th to Sat 20th August 2011

...and where were you on Census Night??? Well, some very fortunate people were swanning around Sri Lanka being hosted and nurtured by Lalani and Ranjith Weddikkara! The trip was over five years in the making for me, and the culmination of years of hearing about the projects in Galle. I suppose that while I was actually in Galle with Lalani, the enormity of her being there at the time of the tsunami and actually staying on to volunteer, was more and more reinforced.

We at Graduate Women WA had encouraged Lalani to tell the story of the effect of the tsunami and hoped we could in some way assist. I guess I felt how minimal our contribution was and hope we can continue the support in our own way. With innovation, creativity, patience and vision we can continue to make a significant difference in the future.

I was to learn also about Lalani and Ranjith's and their families' quiet and consistent generosity. I was so lucky to be a part of a small private tour lead by people so passionate about the projects we saw and to experience the hospitality of such talented and interesting people.

I had hoped that a group of people associated with Graduate Women WA would travel with Lalani and learn something of life in Sri Lanka in the past and the present but experience a personal approach to the country and some projects that the family is passionate about.

I had the benefit of sitting with Lalani sometimes as we travelled to our next destination and hearing about her country of birth, her training, the projects and her expertise on Buddhism – the topic of her Master's thesis. Imagine walking through the historic and sacred sights of Sri Lanka with Lalani and hearing her quiet take in answer to my questioning. I witnessed not only her present once, but twice, a speech in Singalese to the children at Sudashana, the pre School in Galle but also at the Women's Group. She also held the group spellbound when she did a thought provoking presentation in The Grand Hotel after we had devoured a six star meal, enlightening the group about the Galle projects and what they would witness.

Some of us added a new skill to our repertoire by learning how to make very colourful butterflies, folded from the pages of magazines. Our group then gave these pretty objects to the children at Sudashana ("Radiant Hope") Preschool as they symbolise hope.

I saw the play equipment Graduate Women funds have paid for and witnessed the ceremony of turning the first sod on the building site of the new kindergarten building. How satisfying for the Weddikkarra extended family and staff for them to achieve a permanent home for the kindergarten after renting and moving facility several times.

After driving to Galle and checking into our hotel built on the ocean front – the Indian Ocean – we were hosted by the Women's Group. What an experience. Our small group filled the room that was draped with the work of the women and they stood quietly at the edge observing us. As soon as I walked in I saw an exquisite hand embroidered tablecloth in pinks and said to Dianne – "That is an instant heirloom". I am delighted to say she bought it and another one was ordered in blues: two month's work.

After we viewed the gorgeous embroidery on a range of items and met the lady who actually made the one we chose, we crossed the road to hear the history of the group and be given food. Lalani's cousin explained how, as she was to invest in real estate in the area she and her husband believed they should in fact invest in the people.

We heard from a lady who had spent two hours clinging to the top of her roof during the tsunami tell her story of the café she now owns. We visited it and she insisted on giving us a drink. She commences work at 2am and cooks meals for the fishermen, thus helping support her young family.

Lalani, without much notice, asked me to thank the group for hosting us. I was delighted to learn that our donations from Graduate Women WA are going to English classes for these women. I only hope we can continue to raise funds and even visit to see the direct results of this life changing exercise. From now on, I hope to buy their work each time Lalani visits.

Another inspirational sight for me was to see the elephant, who aged four, was caught in a land mine. He is now 36 and lives at Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage and has three deformed legs that he walks/hobbles on and is very much part of the pack. It is so wonderful to see the flow on effect of the caring for the elephants growing into a

major tourist attraction in that area and creating business opportunities for the local people – I can recommend the leather goods shop – beautiful bags and luggage made in buffalo!!

Oh yes, Ranjith also made a contribution!!! As we drove past his university he told us about his time there when everyone was residential and he served on the Senate when the University was totally autonomous – virtually an island of government... and, some of his student antics!!! One day when the bus needed a rest – we had driven for some time down from the high altitude tea plantation area of Nuwara Eliya and the driver had needed the brakes at each bend – I had the pleasure of standing on the side of the road with Ranjith and hearing more about the politics and economics of the country.


I do hope some of our members will manage to join Lalani on her annual visit to Sri Lanka and enjoy the food, culture and sights of Sri Lanka. I do not know how long she will continue to do this private trip with planning arrangements happening a year ahead. She had booked twelve months ahead reserved seats for the group to view the famous Kandy Pageant (Perahera) commencing from the Temple of the Tooth, and being the longest parade in the world.

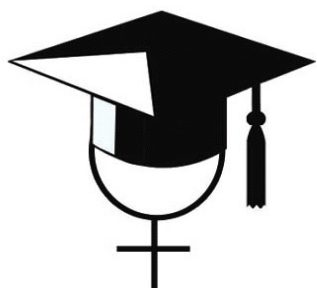
Yes, I did eat amazing local food at every meal, and binge on bananas – several varieties, check out the Ceylon jewels, tea and walk at every place we stayed to see the lay of the land. I think it will be a long time before the memory of visiting Sri Lanka, and in particular Galle, and being aware of the disaster of December 26th 2004 will fade for me. Some very beautiful memorials have been built to the people who died in a range of places including the game park where tourists were killed as they relaxed in the cabins by the ocean. What is truly amazing for me was hearing that the animals from the Yala Wildlife Park were saved – they actually moved on the day before...

So while we were not being counted on Census Night in Australia the elephants in Sri Lanka were!

Hilary Silbert

GRADUATE WOMEN WA BOOK CLUBS 2011 Meetings are held at GRADUATE WOMEN WA House, 4 Park Rd, Nedlands.	
October Thursday 20 th and Saturday 22nd	November Thursday 17th and Saturday 26th

GRADUATE WOMEN WA POETRY CLUB MEETINGS 2011 Second Tuesday of each month at the GRADUATE WOMEN WA House, 4 Park Rd, Nedlands.		
October 11 th 10.30am		November 8 th 10.30am



Graduate Women WA

Graduate Women (WA) Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 25th October 2011

*Join us
for a Buffet meal
@ 6pm*

*- cold meats, salads, rolls
with a glass of wine!
Price \$24 pp*



*AGM - commences 6:30pm
St Catherine's College, Crawley*

Please let Kate McCallum know that you are attending
so we can cater accordingly.

RSVP 20th October - Ph: 9386 3570
Email: Graduate Women WA@westnet.com.au



**NOMINATION
FOR
GRADUATE WOMEN (WA) INC COMMITTEE 2011/2012**

Nominations or expressions of interest for persons interested in joining
Graduate Women (WA) Inc Committee are called for,
with all positions being for a one year term.

The following positions are available for nomination:
President, 2 Vice-Presidents, Secretary,
Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and
Five (5) General Committee Members (one of whom has graduated in the last 10 years).

Existing members of Committee are eligible for re-election.

Ideally all committee members should have computer access.

Committee members can contribute by:

- attending Committee meetings that are held monthly and are usually 2 hours in length
- attending 3 General Meetings per year and the Annual General Meeting
- contributing on average 6-8 hours a month on Graduate Women (WA) Inc matters

If you would like to be more involved and are interested in joining the Committee
please fill out the nomination form below and return to the office by Friday 22nd October 2010.

You are welcome to email the nomination form to: Graduate Women WA@westnet.com.au; fax it to
9386 3570

NOMINATION FOR GRADUATE WOMEN (WA) INC INC COMMITTEE 2011/2012

I wish to nominate for the following position/s:

Please underline position you are willing to undertake.

**President / Vice-Presidents (2) / Secretary / Assistant Secretary / Treasurer /
Newsletter Editor / General Committee Member (5 positions).**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/fax: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

The Graduate Women (WA) Inc Office is at
4 Park Road, Nedlands 6009
Ph/Fax: (08) 9386 3570
Email: Graduate Women WA@westnet.com.au
Postal address: P O Box 48 NEDLANDS WA 6909