

Zonta Club of Peel Region Missing Persons Memorial

Six years ago whilst attending a Zonta Conference, Joyce O'Loughlin, one of our members, heard from a Tasmanian Club that they had erected a Garden of Remembrance to missing persons. Relatives and friends of people who go missing are literally left in the dark, and face the unknown of what has happened to their loved ones. Most of us have experienced bereavements of loved ones, but at least we know what happened to them and in most cases, we have somewhere to go to remember these loved people. Relatives of missing persons don't have that comfort.

The Zonta Club of Peel Region had been discussing a possible Zonta Rose Garden and it was suggested that we combine the two, a rose garden and a Memorial to Missing Persons. A small committee was formed and an approach made to the City of Mandurah for the use of a suitable site. During the ensuing years, several sites had been chosen and discarded. The old site of the Mandurah RSL later became available and it was granted to Zonta for a Memorial Garden, with the City of Mandurah agreeing to raise the funds, and with Zonta assuming responsibility for the central mosaic, plaque and the roses. The South Mandurah Uniting Church Craft Group took us under their wing, and with great enthusiasm helped us with the beautiful mosaic which forms the centre piece of the memorial site, which displays the Zonta International colours of mahogany and gold and the Zonta yellow rose. Within the mosaic is a Bronze Plaque dedicated to missing persons.

Joyce O'Loughlin, Coordinator of the project, and Paddi Creevey, City of Mandurah Mayor and Zonta Member, officiated at the unveiling of the Missing Persons Memorial on Tuesday 20th June 2006, with Rev Lesley DeGrussa McCauley giving the Blessing. A bouquet was presented to Joyce on behalf of the Council and Zonta for her tenacity to push for 6 years to get the project completed and the South Mandurah Uniting Church Craft Group was presented with a cheque for \$100 as a thankyou for their input on the huge mosaic.

Our Club appreciates the benefit of this memorial and thanks Joyce for her dedication over 6 years to see the project through to the unveiling.

Wendy Kirkby, President Zonta Club of Peel Region. WA



Rev Lesley DeGrussa-McCaulay, Zonta President Wendy Kirkby, Mayor and Zonta member Paddi Creevey, Joyce O'Loughlin, and Past President Ros Warrick after the dedication.