

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

*Karen Groves*



*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.*

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.