

## From your District Governor



District Board met at Flinders University Adelaide on September 18 and 19, for our first formal meeting of this Biennium. We dealt with lots of correspondence, confirmed the District budget for 2004-06, received reports of District activities and met with those District Chairmen and Coordinators who could attend.

With guidance from Past District Governor Margaret Rowland Board discussed how District 23 would implement the Goals set by Zonta International at Convention 2004. A document outlining goals and implementation strategies will be sent to you when it is complete.

International President Mary Ellen Bittner has identified membership growth as the priority for this Biennium. Lt Governor Beryl McMillan and District Centurions Pauline Burton, Ellen Cox and Margaret Bird will work with Area Directors and Clubs to increase our membership.

Area Directors' reports confirmed the wonderful news from your minutes and newsletters, that clubs across District 23 are working effectively to implement the goals of Zonta International. The Area Report section of this 'Newsflash' will give you more information of club action.

District Conference Committee, lead by Jean van Driel, met with the Board early on Sunday afternoon and later took us to Glenelg to visit the Stamford Grand Hotel, our Conference venue. We were delighted with the excellent facilities and helpful staff.

Conference theme, *Zonta Action through Partnership*, will reflect and celebrate the way many of our clubs are already working, linking with other organisations to achieve wider influence and greater effect.

The most visible example of this is the grant received from AusAID, through the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills, for our Zonta Birthing Kit Project. Funding of \$113,000 for the next 12 months and \$200,000 for the following year, on a \$ for \$ basis, will support coordination of the purchase of materials for the kits, delivery of supplies to clubs and transport of kits to their overseas destinations.

This grant has taken the Birthing Kits project well beyond all expectations. The original proposal for this project suggested that 20,000 kits would be made during the Biennium but funding from AusAID can support the assembly of up to 100,000 kits in the first year alone.

AusAID dollars will greatly reduce the cost to clubs of materials and postage, and centralised ordering of supplies will save time, but matching all of these dollars will require substantial funds and time to assemble kits.

This is an excellent project that will save many lives, raise the profile of Zonta International and renew the enthusiasm of members through 'hands on' service, but clubs are not obliged to support the project. When delegates voted at Conference for two District Projects, Breast Cushions and Birthing Kits, it was on the understanding that clubs could choose to support just one project, or both, or indeed neither project.

I encourage clubs to support the Birthing Kits project by holding an assembly day or making a donation to the project, but remember that the Breast Cushion project, local service projects, Zonta International service projects and ZI award programs also need our support.

**Thank you** to members of the Zonta Club of Adelaide Flinders who hosted our Board Meeting in Adelaide and arranged a wonderful dinner with Area 2 Zontians on Saturday evening.

**Farewell** to the Zonta Club of Melbourne Yarra Inc which has voted to disband. Thank you to past and present members for 31 years service to Zonta International and to the community of Melbourne.

**Good wishes** to members of the Zonta Club of Melbourne Inc, who have voted to change their name to Melbourne on Yarra Inc.: Members of Melbourne Yarra will transfer to this club, with the new name acknowledging both clubs.

**Congratulations** to Lt Governor Beryl McMillan who has been awarded the status of Fellow of the Association of Development and Alumni Professionals in Education, and to Lynne McLennan (ZC of Ballarat), a finalist in the Telstra Business Woman of the Year 2004. Lynne is CEO of Ballarat UFS Dispensaries.

**Happy Birthday** to Zonta International, we have reached the grand age of 85, and to clubs celebrating special anniversaries. Kyneton and Port Lincoln are 10 years old, Noarlunga Southern Vales and Mornington Peninsula Area have celebrated 20 years of Zonta service, and Alice Springs and Darwin clubs are 21 years old.

Ronda Walker, District 23 Governor

## Children's Week award in SA

Zonta International District 23 has won a Children's Week Award in SA for our Birthing Kit project. The Award, recognising *outstanding and consistent contributions to the needs, interests and welfare of children*, was presented at Government House, Adelaide on 25 October.

## Contributions to Zonta International Foundation

Many thanks to those clubs who have already sent me ZI Foundation donations for 2004. For clubs that have not, please consider sending your donation now. I will accept cheques up until 30<sup>th</sup> November and will then send a single cheque for the total amount to ZI. Please include the correct form, filled out with details of the fund your club wishes to support. The form can be downloaded from the ZI website: [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

Area Directors reports indicated that all Clubs are strongly committed to continuing their support of the Zonta International Service programs and Awards programs.

*Joyce O'Loughlin, District 23 Treasurer*



## Lieutenant Governor's Report

The District Organisation, Membership and Classification Committee (OMC) works at District level to provide support and encouragement to clubs with all facets of membership.

OMC Committee Members are Lt Governor Beryl McMillan, Centurions Margaret Bird (Area 5), Pauline Burton (Area 2) and Ellen Cox (Area 3). Centurions are experienced Zontians with proven ability in membership retention and recruitment, appointed by the District Governor. Constance Price (Area 2) is Z Club Coordinator, with considerable experience in Alice Springs which has the longest standing Z Club in the District.

## Membership assistance for clubs

Apart from the OMC Committee members, and your Area Director, there are wonderful membership resources on the Zonta website; these are particularly useful in **recruitment** of new members. They include: *Tools for Clubs and Districts*; *Checklist for Club Membership Chairmen* (use to develop a membership plan if your club does not have one); *Models for Success / Sharing Membership Stories*; *Marian de Forest Membership and Classification Manual*; and the *Organisation and Extension Manual*.

Coming soon is a *Membership Recruitment Tool Kit* – I will notify clubs when this is available. Please check the site and make use of these resources.

## Celebrating our successes

Among the characteristics of successful clubs are well-organised and conducted meetings, relevant speakers, leadership opportunities, fun and celebrations. We celebrate the success of our events - we must also celebrate individual and club milestones (is that still a word?). Presidents will soon receive a short response form for completion by your club's Membership Convenor. This will enable the District to acknowledge clubs and members of long standing, and Zontians' special achievements. Such celebrations assist in **retention** and **rejuvenation** of members and clubs.

## District membership

Of the 30,541 Zontians recorded by ZI at 31 August 2004, 798 were in District 23. Let's make Ronda's biennium, leading up to the Commonwealth Games and the 2006 Convention in Melbourne, the one during which we clear the 1,000 member hurdle!

*Beryl McMillan, Lieutenant Governor*

## District Nominating Committee

Are you a current Club President or Past President? Now wasn't that easy and fun! Have you considered taking the next step and nominating for Area Director? It is such a great experience being part of the District Board and you can be part of it for the next biennium. District 23 needs you to put up your hand and say: *Yes, I can do it!*

The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for District Governor

Lieutenant Governor

Treasurer

Area Directors for Area 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

Nominating Committee (5 nominees)

Nomination forms and procedures will be sent (electronically if possible) to Club Presidents early in the New Year and should be returned to the District Nominating Committee before 31 May 2005.

We are also seeking candidates for International office positions, another piece in the jigsaw! These nominations must also be received by District Nominating Committee before 31 May 2005: nomination forms and procedures will be posted on the ZI website early in the New Year.

If you wish to stand for a District or International position, or nominate a qualified Zontian, please contact Marie Hinkley (Para Districts ZC), Val Davis (Mornington Peninsula Area ZC) or myself at [alison.martin@telstra.com](mailto:alison.martin@telstra.com). We look forward to many nominations.

*Alison Martin, Chairman*

## ZI Convention visitors in 2006

International President Mary Ellen Bittner is our first Convention visitor. She was in Melbourne for the October meeting of the planning committee and enjoyed meeting Zontians in Ballarat, Geelong and Melbourne. Mary Ellen enjoyed home hospitality in Ballarat, with PIP Val Sarah.

One of the great delights of being a Zontian is meeting people from different countries and cultures and discovering a bond of shared interests and experience. As part of the Convention 2006 home hospitality program, Zontians in Districts 16, 23 and 24 will be invited to offer home hospitality and friendship to Convention registrants in the week prior to Convention and in the week after Convention. Zontians who are not in a position to attend Convention will find this a great way to be actively involved in this exciting event. Watch for further details and the *Offer to Host* form, they will be sent to clubs next year.

*Naomi Arnold, Convention Committee Chairman*

## News from Area 1 Director

### Focus on our Mission

All Clubs are making particular efforts to focus on Category A Projects when considering new or continuing projects in their local communities. Melbourne CBD helps young women with gambling problems and Melbourne's West supports a Special Care nursery for babies born drug addicted by improving facilities for the mothers.



### Combine Service and Advocacy

Area 1 Clubs are actively working together combining their talents and expertise on projects and establishing partnerships with like-minded organisations. Melbourne

and Melbourne Yarra held a working bee to make breast cushions and Mornington Peninsula and Waverley clubs managed distribution of the cushions. Melbourne's West helped to finance Melton's breast cushions.

Melbourne's West assembled Zonta Birthing Kits with help from the Z Club at Mount St Joseph's College. Melbourne CBD assembled 600 kits with students from Our Lady of Sion College and had a sleepover with the girls!

### **Recruit, retain, rejuvenate**

Increasing and retaining membership is a continual challenge for us all with added focus during this current biennium. Clubs across the Area are seeking to implement strategies to attract new members whilst retaining existing members.

Members invite business contacts in their local communities to attend meetings and functions and some clubs hold separate information meetings. Special events like Waverley's theatre night and Melbourne's West's International Dinner foster fellowship within Zonta whilst involving the wider community.

*Elizabeth Davis, Area 1 Director*

## **The News from Area 2**

### **Focus on our mission**

Clubs have been encouraged to apply the Zonta challenge to their projects and advocacy efforts to ensure that they meet category A criteria. Clubs are also encouraged to ensure that one third of funds raised are set aside for Zonta International service projects.



Area 2 has a Combined Zonta Clubs Status of Women Committee that meets bimonthly and has speakers on women's issues. The last speaker, from the Office of Women, addressed issues of gender balance on Boards and Committees. Committee chairman Margaret Boyle meets regularly with the Office of Women.

### **Combine service and advocacy**

Area 2 clubs support the District projects with most clubs making either Breast Cushions or Birthing Kits, or giving financial support. Noarlunga Southern Vales club has established a partnership with Southern Domestic Violence Unit and Adelaide Hills has secured support from AusAID for the Birthing Kits Project.

Clubs respond to government documents as issues arise; most recently a submission on the safety strategy for women in prison. Partnerships in the community include links with National Rural Women's Coalition, Office of Volunteers and the Cancer Council. Area 2 clubs present an annual Combined Zonta Clubs Service Award, won this year by two young dieticians working with pre school and primary school children.

### **Recruit, retain, rejuvenate**

Area has 13 clubs and a total membership of 294. Club Presidents from Area 2 meet every second month. At the October meeting club membership committee convenors

joined with presidents to discuss membership issues and recruitment strategies. Suggestions included a recruitment meeting close to Zonta Rose Day, creation of opportunities for members to share ideas, and introduction of a club newsletter.

*Pauline Glover, Area 2 Director*

## **Area 3 News Report**

### **Focus on our Mission**

All clubs remain committed to continuing their support of education awards to women in areas such as nursing, business, the arts and for mature age students.



An annual award is made to an outstanding Woman of Achievement from Area 3 and will be presented at the Founders' Dinner on 6 November.

### **Combine service and advocacy**

Strong support for breast care cushions continues with more than 250 cushions distributed since last August. Ros Warrick from Peel takes care of coordination and distribution to many hospitals in WA.

Eleven Perth members travelled to the Kimberley region to establish a relationship with female elders of the Ngarinyin Community. They aim to offer support in kind and through advocacy to improve the health, education and community way of life.

Perth Northern Suburbs have received funding from the Office of Multicultural Interests to enable continuation of safety seminars for migrant and refugee women in conjunction with the WA Police Service.

A celebrity teapot auction/sale of work was organised in October by Perth Northern Suburbs and supported by all clubs. 75 teapots were decorated or signed by well-known personalities. Funding will enable the ZISVAW camps to continue beyond the original grant.

Birthing Kits have fired the enthusiasm of all clubs with workshops scheduled throughout 2004/05. Debra McLeod from Peel is Area coordinator.

### **Recruit, retain, rejuvenate**

Focussing on membership is an important priority in this biennium with membership already increasing through inductions held or planned in the next few months. Prospective member nights are regularly organised by the Perth club and other clubs make a point of inviting visitors to attend their business meetings.

*Dianne Bryant, Area 3 Director*

## **News from Area 4 Director**

### **Focus on our mission**

Clubs are working to focus on our mission in the context of their local communities. Ballarat, Geelong and Bendigo had excellent YWPA applicants for the start of the 2005 round and Bendigo is participating in the Jane M Klausman award. Bendigo held a *Jobs with a Difference* breakfast for year 9 and 10 girls; Geelong's Z Club is being revitalised at Bellarine Secondary College.



### **Combine service and advocacy**

Clubs are achieving great results from imaginative and innovative projects, many with an advocacy focus. Albury Wodonga will work with other service clubs to provide carers' accommodation at the local hospital. Ballarat funds pregnancy support for teenagers, Bendigo helps *Mums on the Move* with scholarships for young single mothers and Melton held a public forum on *Women and Heart Disease*.

Proceeds from Geelong's 2004 Bollard Walk will support *Cottage by the Sea*, providing short-term relief care in a holiday environment. Their *Kids Camping* project also gives respite for carers, mainly single mothers.

Geelong Central called for tenders for a major A type project and selected *Dragons Abreast*, women racing dragon boats as therapy after breast surgery. Kyneton's Book Fair funded dictionaries for *Project Respect*.

All Clubs are making either Breast cushions or Birthing kits, with Kyneton and Ballarat making both. Liaison with Area 1 will see requests for cushions referred between Areas.

### **Recruit, retain, rejuvenate**

Clubs are working to meet this challenge, encouraging members to spread the word about Zonta, inviting guests to functions, and supporting each other. Clubs promote and attend each other's events with clubs close to Melbourne attending Area 1 events. Melton displays information about Zonta and expression of interest forms at all events.

Fellowship dinners in members' homes and updates to membership handbooks give support to current members. Ballarat and Bendigo clubs conducted membership surveys and circulated the results to all members.

*Stella Coffey*, Area 4 Director

### **News from Area 5 Director**

#### **Focus on our Mission**

All Area 5 clubs are now focussing on the Zonta mission through different means – some are undertaking strategic planning, re-assessing program and service activities and contributing to government legislation and policies.



#### **Combine Service and Advocacy**

Led by the Devonport club, Area 5 Zontians successfully advocated for the re-opening of the Obstetrics Unit at the Mersey Hospital, Latrobe on Tasmania's northwest coast. The closure of this wing meant women had to travel away from their home and families to receive medical care.

#### **Recruit, retain, rejuvenate**

Increasing membership remains the most important activity for Area 5. Individual clubs are trying various strategies, the results of which will be shared through Area meetings and club newsletters.

*Jill Taylor*, Area 5 Director

#### **Public Relations Report**

I have sought to speak at the meetings of local service clubs and other groups. They are always looking for speakers as we are, and they have welcomed me with open arms. This experience has been very gratifying and I have answered many interesting questions. I have found a lot of ignorance and misinformation where ZI is concerned.

At a recent Rotary club meeting I received donations and the possibility of partnering on projects. We are having problems maintaining our Rose gardens and Rotary has offered to help. Do offer to speak to groups in your community, this is an untapped resource for PR.

If Zonta clubs are writing media releases about the Birthing Kit Project, AusAID requests that you explain that: *This project is supported by the Australian Government's overseas aid program, AusAID.* If a newspaper, radio or TV station wishes to interview you about the birthing kits, AusAID asks that you speak to Bronwyn Coles, AusAID Public Affairs, 02 6206 4733 before the interview takes place.

*Nan Martella*, Public Relations Chairman.

### **Zonta Breast Cushion Project**

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month – I hope all Zontians have been wearing their pink ribbons! In most States, seminars and public forums have been run by the National Breast Cancer Centre and cancer organisations. In Adelaide Zontians manned an information table at the forum.

Current work in the Project pipeline includes:

- ❑ Publicity posters for club functions, cancer wards & breast care nurses
- ❑ Club information pack with updated contact addresses, posters & updated pattern and instructions.
- ❑ Negotiation to send cushions to Darwin & Alice Springs via the Cancer Council.
- ❑ Inclusion of Breast Cushion information in Breast Cancer Network Australia booklet *My Journey*
- ❑ Development of better links with Breast Care Nurses Association.

*Barbara Baldock & Sarah Cunningham.*

District 23 Zonta Breast Cushion Project Coordinators

### **Zonta Birthing Kit Project**

The Birthing Kit Committee extends thanks to the 30 clubs that have already organised assembly days and to those that have made donations to the project.

The AusAID contract was signed on July 22 and our ZBK project received funding as of that date. The funding is for countries supported by AusAID, details are on our website [www.zontaadelaidehills.org.au](http://www.zontaadelaidehills.org.au). So far we have received about \$13,000 in club contributions.

From January to July 2004 we distributed 5,740 kits to 7 destinations: since July 22 we have sent 10,000 kits to 9 destinations. 12 Assembly Days organised for the next 2 months, will make 20,500 kits. At this rate we will assemble our 100,000 kits by July 2005. We currently have requests for 76,000 kits from 22 countries and we have just received a request to send kits to Madagascar.

We have completed an exercise on the costing of the project so far. Depending on where the kits are to go overseas and where supplies are sent in Australia, the cost is about \$1.50 per kit including transport. We have therefore had to change our initial concept that clubs could have as many assembly days as they wished for a contribution of \$500. Instead for every \$500 we can provide supplies and distribution for 1000 kits.

Our supplier will be closed and your committee will take a well-earned rest between December 20 and January 31. Clubs planning an assembly day in January or early February will need to order supplies in time for delivery before Christmas.

This has been a huge learning curve for members of the committee, please be patient as we try to streamline the processes. Our website will answer most questions. If it doesn't, please e-mail the appropriate committee member: contact details are on the website.

Many thanks to clubs in District 23 & 24 for your support.

*Julie Monis-Ivett*, Zonta Birthing Kit Project Coordinator

*In May the Zonta Club of Noarlunga Southern Vales (Area 2) celebrated their 20th Anniversary with their guest of honour, Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, Governor of South Australia.*

