

District 23

NEWS FLASH!

Volume 11, Issue 9
November 2007
Editor: Jo Wittorff



www.zontadistrict23.org.au

From the District Governor.....



Dear Zontians,

Club Reports

Thanks to clubs for sending your comprehensive reports to your Area Director and to me throughout the biennium to date so that information about what is happening in District 23 can be forwarded to ZI – please be assured that my report, which includes a collation of all that is sent by clubs, is read by every member of the ZI Board and by the Chairmen of all ZI Committees.

There are just two more for the biennium, with number 5 due on **31 December**.

I have had a couple of enquiries about the format to be used. I am grateful for whatever information is sent, but request that if possible, clubs use the revised format on the ZI website (under *club administration*, the proforma is *club quarterly report with fellowship V2 January 2007*). With the formatting there is the capacity to provide details of (only) eight projects or activities. If a club has more than eight, I suggest you use a second form with just the extra activities detailed on that.

Please remember that your Area Director receives several reports and I receive

(hopefully) 38. It is extremely helpful when clubs include their club name in the file name so that there is no need for re-naming when received. If there is the need to use a second form for a greater number of activities, please identify it as *club-name2*.

Please note that with the change to fewer reports, there is no club report due in March as on the original list sent to clubs, BUT I need to change the date for the final report for the biennium. My DG report is due to ZI on 25 May, and to ensure that Area Directors have adequate time to collate reports, then I in turn provide a comprehensive report to ZI, I ask that clubs have their final report for the biennium submitted to Area Directors and to me by **25 April**.

Visit to ZC The Riverland

It is well known that a number of clubs beyond Melbourne celebrate the Melbourne Cup in a special way. My Cup Day was spent well away from the scene of the race at the ZC of The Riverland. What a treat that evening was! Traditionally, members do something to celebrate the event, and this year's focus was hats. For those who did not come wearing one, there was a solution,

with a selection of hats from the 1950s and '60s on hand. Why? To complement the stunning frocks from that era 'discovered downstairs' when a retail shop changed hands. We were treated to a fashion parade par excellence of the garments, complete with the original swing tags and prices still attached!

I was privileged and delighted to induct two new Zontians, Mara Rada and Rosalie Richards, mother of our District and International YWPA Award winner Amanda. Rosalie humbly reported on her own achievements and reported to us that Amanda is going to Africa to undertake volunteer work for a month over Christmas – we look forward to hearing of her work there. Amanda's sister Rebecca was recently awarded the inaugural Terry Roberts Memorial Scholarship for Indigenous South Australians. Wow – what a family!

Convention 2008: Global Empowerment Through Local Action

27 June to 2 July (note the change by one day from the originally published dates). Visit the ZI website for the Call to

District Governor
Beryl McMillan
ZC of Melbourne CBD

Change of Details

Please note the following changes in your District Directory:

Lynley Evans, Treasurer
ZC of Adelaide Hills:
New email address - ljevans@adam.com.au

Val Baldwin, President
ZC of Adelaide:
New email address - valray227@bigpond.com

Sally Walker, President
ZC of Hobart:
New email address - Sally.Walker@tafe.tas.edu.au

Merry



Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

Convention which will also be included in hard copy in the November edition of *The Zontian*, delivery of which is imminent. The Convention Committee has planned a comprehensive and enticing program which includes a range of social and cultural activities during a specially designated month in Rotterdam.

All clubs should have received the Zonta memo for November recently mailed from headquarters. In it there is information about convention which should be discussed at your next club meeting, with follow up early next year. Please take particular note of the request for clubs to submit electronically up to three photos for inclusion in a special power point presentation at convention.. Remember that we were grateful when clubs around the world contributed to our *Eyes on Club Success* in Melbourne, so please reciprocate! For more detail, see 'Calling All Zonta Clubs' from Nan Martella on page 10.

There are some good prices available for travel to Europe next year. I have heard from a couple of members that travel agents report they are selling fast with some dates already unavailable, so those going to Rotterdam should make sure they don't miss out.

Violence Against Women

How is your club marking the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence between 25 November and 10 December? Have you read the comprehensive reports sent to us recently by our UN Co-ordinator Louise Van Keulen?

District 24

For some time, there has been discussion in District 24 about splitting into two Districts. A vote at the District 24 Conference this year formalised a request to the ZI Board which at its last meeting agreed that, from the conclusion of the 2008 convention, there will

be three districts in Australia. NSW will remain as District 24, and Queensland will become District 22, the 'missing' Zonta District.

Christmas greetings

I send warm greetings at Christmas to all Zontians in District 23 and thank you for your service, advocacy and fundraising to make the world a better place for women especially, but ultimately for all.

For many, whether or not you celebrate Christmas in your culture or religion, this is a very special time to catch up with friends and family not seen during the year, making it even more significant. For some, there is a holiday from work, so take time to charge your batteries and have some 'me time'.

Across the District, there are several members who have been ill during the year or who have suffered loss of family members. My best wishes to those who are facing continuing medical treatment, and to those who have returned fit and well after an enforced time away from Zonta.

One of the wonderful things about our organisation is that there are invariably Zontians there when needed, whether to provide practical support or simply to 'be there', and their support is greatly valued.

Whatever you are doing and however you are celebrating over Christmas, I wish you well, with a special wish that this is a safe and happy time for you, your friends and family.

Beryl McMillan
District Governor



D23 YWPA Report



I am pleased to inform you that there has been a major change for Australia and other countries in our part of the world to assist us with acquiring recipients for the Young Women in Public Affairs program from Colleges this year instead of having to wait until next year to begin the procedure.

There will now be a place on the application forms on the website where the Club Status of Women and Service Chairman (or President) inserts the year of their candidate e.g. 2008 now.

Basically any time after the award finishes at the district level - the club can start again. This overcomes the fact that school years are different in different parts of the world.

On downloading the ZI application form for this year, I am pleased to inform all clubs that the questions are exactly the same as last year.

Let us make history in District 23 with a surge of recipients from Colleges ranging from the Northern Territory to Tasmania and send in your winning recipient to the District from your specific Zonta Club as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Judy Rothe
D23 YWPA Coordinator

Membership and Meetings

In 1983 Stephen Baker wrote a book titled, *I Hate Meetings* which he described as a tongue in cheek guide for the upwardly mobile in business. In this book he addresses matters such as:

- if a meeting accomplishes nothing, why have them at all
- how to look like an authority even when you are not
- how to act organised when you are not
- what to do when you don't understand the situation
- creating the right atmosphere
- what every chairperson should know about people at the meeting.

Zonta is about having meetings and I would like to raise some pointers for you to consider for your own meetings (in light of the above points). In The ZI Membership Goals for the 2006 – 2008 biennium one of the actions is: *Promote stimulating informative club meetings while still following meeting procedure.* It is the responsibility of all clubs and Area Directors to ensure that this action happens and the goal is met. Section 5 of your club manual is all about Zonta meetings and I refer you this document. Let's return to the dot points above.

Why have a meeting?

The purpose of a meeting is to conduct club business. Where do you have your meetings? Is the venue appropriate for the meeting you are having? Is it costing too much for the meal? If you have always had your meetings at the same place is it time for a change, just for one meeting? Is there an order of business that is communicated to members so that they can follow the meeting? Is correct parliamentary procedure followed? Do you have a copy of the parliamentary authority for reference at club meetings? Do you

have a designated parliamentarian to advise your president? If you have answered yes to all these questions, well done. If you have answered no, you have some work to do.

Meetings should be informative, fun and allow time at the meetings for fellowship, talking to friends and especially getting to know new members. You should have a yearly calendar of meetings planned that take into account Zonta events e.g. Amelia Earhart, biennium/mid-biennium dinners, International Women's Day and International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Appropriate speakers can be sourced for these meetings. This planning meeting should occur in May/June when there is a new board.

Being in authority, i.e. the president's role

A member of my club at Adelaide Flinders reminded me when I was elected as president some years ago; *The President Presides – not decides.* I heeded these words from an older, wiser member the whole time I was president. Presidents play a key leadership role in Zonta and communication is important. Information from and to ZI must be communicated to members. The president will bring her own personality to the position and this must be respected. The responsibilities of the president can be found in the club handbook. The president needs to know procedure and have a close liaison with chairs of committees. They need to have tact and tenacity.

Are you organised?

Is the club organised with meeting procedure? Agendas, minutes, physical preparation before the meeting (seating, audio visual equipment, flags, gavel, gifts for speakers etc) need to be well organised. Do you have a roster for grace, objects of Zonta and the

raffle if you have one and does the member know well before the meeting that she will be expected to participate? Does your club have a member or small group to plan meetings and speakers at meetings in collaboration with the board? Sharing responsibilities around can give members a taste of leadership. It can also provide the opportunity for a member to demonstrate their Zonta talent.

P.S. Don't forget to consult with the Area Director as to when she would like to program her visit. This needs to be once in the biennium.

Don't understand?

For long standing members of Zonta we sometimes take for granted that everyone at the meeting is 'on the same page'. This may not be the case. Newer members may not understand some of the things that happen at meetings and it is up to us to ensure that they are fully aware. This means that when you induct a new member please get someone to mentor them and go through the history of Zonta, ZI, the District and the area. Make sure everyone understands – even guests.

Creating the right atmosphere

For some people this is easy and for others it needs work. Make sure that there is a welcoming person at the door every time you meet. If you are expecting a big crowd then there needs to be more than one person. Ensure that guests are taken or directed to their seats and that there is someone to speak with them. Do not leave a guest or new member alone. Do not have heavy debate on controversial matters when speakers/visitors are present – this is a sure put off.

What everyone should know about people at the meeting

Everyone brings to the meeting her own personality and agenda.

(Continued from page 3)

It is important that you know what these are.

Do you have members who are steeped in long established traditions and do not want to change? Respect this and move on.

There needs to be a close relationship of members within a club to be a good working club. Facilitate an environment in which all ideas are valued. All members need to become skilled in handling the difficult member at a meeting. As Baker wrote in his book – *no one must shout, scream, howl, or bellow – at least not until all other modes of communicating have already been exhausted.*

While the president is ultimately responsible for the meeting, it may be you, the member, who can intervene and defuse a potentially bad experience.

While the above is not exhaustive I hope that it has given you some food for thought about your meetings. Take a few moments at your next Board meeting to reflect and identify any areas that you could improve. Good luck with your future energetic, vibrant, vivacious meetings!

Some of this information also comes from the President's Handbook.

Pauline Glover
Lt Governor D23

Around the Areas

Area 1

Well the year is just flying by! All the clubs in Area 1 should be proud of their accomplishments. Each club has its own unique way of raising funds, gaining new members and keeping up its commitment to service. It is very important to keep focused on these components and grow as a club.

Some clubs have worked hard on a Strategic Plan to keep the club focused on goals and time lines. While membership is a problem for some clubs, they are still continuing their commitment to service, status of women etc. News on Melbourne on Yarra's recent seminar on Climate Change has been submitted by Rosemary Tait - see below.

Areas 1 and 4 Workshop 2008

The workshop/ officer training day will be held in Melbourne on the 3rd May. I have already had suggestions for guest speaker and would welcome ideas from others.

Glenda Peck
Area 1 Director

'Earth Matters' to Melbourne on Yarra



Dr Anne Sibbel gives good advice to Melbourne on Yarra members

The Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra organised a seminar on climate change, on Saturday, 27 October, at which Dr Anne Sibbel revealed that in 2006, 6% of children in Australia were from families that could not afford to buy food once supplies were depleted. This unhappy scenario could get worse as food prices escalate due to the impacts of climate change.

In her presentation on food security, Dr Sibbel, Senior Lecturer School of Applied Science at RMIT University, explained that food security was threatened when families cannot afford to buy food, or accessible food is nutritionally unbalanced or inadequate. As the drought impacts the production of

fruit and vegetables, with the inevitable increases in prices, both these factors will be evident. This can lead to long term health problems, as evidenced by the incidence of obesity being 20-40% higher in women experiencing food insecurity compared with trends in other developed countries.

Melbourne on Yarra organised the breakfast seminar on climate change to present the issues at a human level. Other speakers included, MairiAnne Mackenzie, a farmer and conservationist, who discussed the problems arising from shortage of water on the types of crops we are going to be able to grow and therefore the impact on our diet.

Mike O'Connell, immediate past president of the Alternative Technology Association focussed on practical solutions within the home that would cut down our use of energy and greenhouse emissions.

Any surplus from the seminar will be donated to the Ardoch Youth Foundation, with whom Melbourne on Yarra has had a long association. Julie Hilton, Community Education Coordinator at Ardoch, spoke about the work of the Foundation in making education a reality for young people including those experiencing homelessness or poverty.

More information:
Rosemary Tait
9499 3610

*
To
All D23
~Zontians~
The District Governor
And the District 23 Board
Send their warm
Season's Greetings with
Best Wishes for a Joyous Christmas
And a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous
New year in 2008.
XXX
...CCC...
///

Area 1: Longest serving Zontian turns ninety

Jean Hagger, now the longest serving member of an Australian Zonta Club, celebrated her 90th Birthday at the October meeting of the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra.



D23 website coordinator Melinda Young (left), shares a happy moment with Jean Hagger as she is about to blow out her candles.

Head of the Department of Librarianship at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Jean was the first woman to head a Department at that institution. She tells how she was beavering away in her office at the end of the 1965 academic year when she received a visit from the legendary Dorothy Thompson on her mission to establish Zonta Clubs in Australia and New Zealand. Not a person to join Clubs and Associations, Jean “got rid of” Dorothy by giving her names of possible recruits. Within a short time, Dorothy was back in person to report that these women had committed themselves to joining Zonta.

Jean’s reaction was “If *they* are interested, there must be something in this Zonta”, whereupon she, too, committed herself to Zonta. She has never regretted her decision.

Now the only remaining Charter member of the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra, the first Club to be chartered in 1966, Jean is the longest serving member of any Zonta Club in Australia.

Jean has served Zonta well. Past President, Secretary, Director, Archivist and Life Member of our Club and a regular participant in the Victorian Past Presidents’ Group, she was until recently a member of the District History and Archives Committee.

Jean is well-known to the wider Zonta world through her regular attendance at District Conferences, International Conventions and visits to Clubs during her many travels. Those of us privileged to be a co-member of the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra, appreciate her extensive knowledge of Zonta, her wisdom, her forthright manner and her keen sense of humour.

Happy 90th birthday, Jean, and may there be many more!

Area 2

Congratulations to Area 5 for a great Conference in Hobart. Being an ex-Launcestonian it was also a good opportunity to visit my sister and her family and a number of family friends hence no Area 2 report in the last Newsflash.

I am very honoured to have been elected as Lt Governor for the next biennium and look forward to working towards establishing new clubs and increasing our membership.

The highlight of recent events in Area 2 was the opening of the “Women’s Work – a Zonta-District 23 Area 2 Exhibition” at the SA Migration Museum by



Sarah Cunningham with His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, Governor of SA - Is Sarah describing a breast cushion?

Mrs Liz Scarce, wife of the recently appointed Governor of South Australia. This was Mrs Scarce’s first official duty and both she and His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce stayed for the cocktail party after the opening and spent time chatting with

many Zontians and guests. They were both very interested in the exhibition and to learn about Zonta and Mrs Scarce has accepted the Adelaide Flinders club’s invitation to become an Honorary member. Clubs in Area 2, together with the SA Migration Museum, put together this very informative exhibition showing Zonta International, District Projects and A2 clubs’ activities. Christine Sweeney, from the Zonta Club of Adelaide Flinders, coordinated this very worthwhile PR opportunity.

September last year we received an e-mail from Melinda Young, D23 Website coordinator which highlighted the need for funds to support teachers at Naseema Shaheed High School in the Khewa refugee camp in

Area 2 - continued

Pakistan operated by RAWA (the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan).

A2 Clubs were touched by the story of a young girl at the school and collectively donated \$2240 to go to SAWA Australia, the Australia-based Support Association for the Women of Afghanistan. Unfortunately, between the time that we received Melinda's e-mail and getting some funds together the Pakistani government forced the closure of Afghan refugee camps and RAWA was under great strain to assist the refugees in the attempts to resettle into life in war-torn Afghanistan so we were advised our "very timely" contribution would go towards RAWA's emergency relief effort. More information on SAWA and RAWA can be found at www.sawa-australia.org

In August I attended the SA Rural Women's Gathering at Clare. Area 2 clubs had become major sponsors by donating \$1500 to assist drought affected women to attend the conference. The Clare Zonta Club was asked to set up a Zonta display showcasing the Breast Cushions and Birthing Kits. I was given a two minute speaking opportunity and from this and the display, interest was shown in setting up two new clubs. Lt. Gov Pauline Glover has followed this up and has already visited Bordertown and has a trip to Mt Gambier planned for the New Year.

Millicent Hughes is not only the coordinator of the Area 2 Combined Status of Women Committee (CSOWC) but is also the Area 2 representative on the Association of Community Service Organisations (ACSO). Both these committees have had a very busy time and thanks go to Millicent for her commitment and input. A very successful seminar "Domestic Violence -

Community Action" was held in October with four excellent speakers discussing various aspects of community action for the management of domestic violence. The recent ACSO Premier's Community Service Awards dinner was very well attended by A2 Zontians and Zonta won the Team Award for the Breast Cushion Project. The Adelaide Club was a finalist in the Women's Health Award.

Around the Clubs

Most clubs have been involved in Birthing Kit assembly days, breast cushion workshops, meetings with an international theme, are planning fun based meetings to end the year and have inducted, or are planning to induct, new members.

Adelaide: 25 members participated in a Spring Walk for UNIFEM where almost \$400 was raised. A civic reception for Women of Achievement Awards,



Port Lincoln sponsored the Port Lincoln Dragons Abreast team's T-shirt for the International Abreast in Australia Regatta in September.

hosted by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide was held at the Adelaide Town Hall.

Adelaide Flinders continues to hold very successful XYZ (eXtend Your Zonta) functions for fun and fellowship. The most recent were attending the movie "Jammed" and a guided tour of the "Freestyle" exhibition followed by lunch at the Art Gallery Café.

Adelaide Hills' members and guests arrived in international dress for their International Night where there was a guest speaker

from Africa representing the African Women's Association in Adelaide and two teenage girls from Sudan and Afghanistan. The club coordinated the Zonta walkers in the City to Bay Walk held whilst many of us were at Conference. The team looked resplendent in their yellow T-shirts - another great PR exercise.

Adelaide Torrens had a meeting with a difference - an Indonesian cooking class. Gardasil and Cervarix were the topic of a talk by a member of the club, Assoc. Professor Marg Davy, Director of Gynaecological Oncology, Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Alice Springs provided assistance at the Alice Springs Breast Cancer Golf Day where over 100 participants became aware of the Zonta Club in Alice Springs. Together with members of the **Z Club** they raised over \$1600 selling fruit salad at the Old Timers Fete. **Alice Springs Z Club** members have made and donated 12 new gowns to the Alice Springs Hospital for premature babies.

Clare hosted a very successful CSOWC meeting held with seven clubs represented by 23 Zontians. Two young guest speakers spoke on Domestic Violence and the provision of safe houses.

Fleurieu's focus has been on promoting Zonta through displays at several shows. Judy Steele AO spoke at the International night on her work in Uganda and the distribution of birthing kits.

Gawler and Barossa have made a commitment to increased networking within the community and Area 2. They have participated in a wide range of mission focused projects ranging from two members sleeping in cardboard boxes at the Gawler Community House Sleep Rough event to raise funds for a Christmas Lunch for homeless and others who, for geographical, health or other reasons, have no close family and friends, to attending Minister for Status of Women, Jennifer Rankine's

Area 2 - continued from page 6

network morning tea to meet with and hear the issues of local women.

Noarlunga Southern Vales held their first Quilt Show which was very successful.

Para District members are almost set to begin making their first Breast Cushions. A2 clubs agreed that a donation of \$510 received from Centrelink would go to Para Districts Club to launch their breast cushion project. With Para on board, there is now 100% participation from Area 2 in the Breast Cushion project.

Port Lincoln sponsored the Port Lincoln Dragons Abreast team's T-shirt for the International Abreast in Australia Regatta in Caloundra in September. As well as supporting "the Dragons" it was a great PR opportunity with the Zonta logo prominently displayed on stunning shirts. (See photo on page 6)

Riverland raised over \$3,500 at a Fashion Parade and sale of clothing and accessories dating back over the past 50 years. A lucky "find" of clothing, some still with original price tags, led to this very successful fundraiser. They hosted the Berri Combined Services Club Annual dinner in August with funds raised on the evening going to support an Afghan teacher (see above). Riverland is very proud of their YWPA winner, Amanda Richards, and DG Beryl McMillan had the honour of inducting Amanda's mother at this month's meeting.

My best wishes to all Zontians and their families for a blessed and happy Christmas.

Jane Smith
Area 2 Director

Area 3

Area 3 clubs gathered in Bunbury on the 10th November for their annual Founders' Day Dinner and presentation of the Area

3 Woman of Achievement Award. Members were able to socialise and network as they were provided with delectable 'networking entrees', before sitting down to the main course.

Perth Club's nominee, Martha Teshome, was announced as this year's Area 3 Woman of Achievement and following is the citation outlining Martha's outstanding achievements.



Area 3 Director Karen Groves with the 2007 Area 3 Woman of Achievement, Martha Teshome.

Martha has accumulated 14 years of community related work experience in Ethiopia (East Africa) before migrating to Western Australia 18 years ago. Martha is currently the Community Education Officer (Female Genital Mutilation - FGM) at Child and Community Health, Women's and Children's Health Service.

Much of Martha's work since migrating, has been in community health and she has also worked in a voluntary capacity with the Unity of Ethiopians in WA Inc. and community radio.

In her current paid position Martha provides education and awareness to effect change through:

- Training health professionals;
- Educating migrant services of the FGM issues affecting newly arrived migrants and refugees;

- Liaising with migrant services to sustain government funding and interest;
- Liaising with international organisations to access relevant research, campaigns and other materials and programs to deal with FGM issues;
- Developing specialised education sessions for men and religious leaders to de-stigmatize FGM as a women's issue that is culture specific;
- Ensuring educational materials are available in multiple languages; and
 - Revising and updating existing education materials.

Martha was instrumental in establishing two community-based Ethiopian radio programs through 6EBA-FM World Radio and she contributed to the program as producer and broadcaster for two years (2001 and 2002) in a voluntary capacity. She currently produces and broadcasts in an hour-long Amharic Radio Program every Sunday on 103.3 FM.

Martha has also worked as an African Community Worker to assist migrants through the settlement process on arrival in Western Australia and this work includes:

- Arranging English classes;
- Finding employment;
- Arranging health check-ups;
- Dealing with culture shock and adjustment issues, such as marital problems; and alcohol and drug abuse;
- Finding permanent housing; and
- Linking migrants with services and infrastructure which fulfil cultural needs, such as where to shop for ingredients for traditional foods.

For the past nine years in her role as a Community Education Officer, Martha has developed skills and expertise specific to FGM. In this role Martha has advocated for a specific law to be passed to make FGM illegal.

Area 3 - continued from page 7

She has formed partnerships with other service agencies and international organisations including the Zonta Club of Perth and Soroptimists International. Martha has implemented FGM protocols for service delivery. She has also developed many translated resources to be used for community education. She is a passionate advocate for the rights of women and children.

Martha has played an important role in educating doctors, midwives and health care workers about FGM and has made a large contribution to health education programs for health care and community workers. She is largely responsible for a change in community attitudes to FGM amongst migrant communities which practise it.

Martha generously gives of her own time to be involved with the community in raising awareness about FGM. She has a huge commitment and drive to work on an important women's health issue.

Karen Groves
Area 3 Director

Area 4

District 23 has a new Z Club - at the September meeting of the **Zonta Club of Bendigo the Z Club - Girton Grammar School** was chartered. Past District Governor, Ronda Walker, (member of the Zonta Club of Kyneton) inducted the new members. The Z Club has 21 young women ranging from Year 7 - Year 12 and they have already been very active on their own projects as well as supporting Bendigo Zontians with birthing kits and Open Garden events. President of the Z Club, Samantha Deacon, was Bendigo's YWPA winner for 2006 and it was Samantha's passion for Zonta that led to the establishment of the Z Club at Girton Grammar School.

The **Zonta Club of Albury Wodonga** had new member and

new President Sharon Connolly at the District Conference in Hobart and they are busy preparing for the "Christmas Light Up" function in December that their club is well known for.

The Zonta Club of Ballarat has just celebrated its 29th Birthday and is busy with plans for a big 30th in 2008. The Club is also busy with preparations for an extended exhibition on Zonta at the Ballarat Gold Museum in 2008. This is quite a coup as the Gold Museum is a very popular tourist destination in Victoria and many thousands of visitors will have the opportunity to see the Zonta Exhibition. Ballarat Zontians are also excited about hosting the 2009 District 23 Conference. We congratulate current President Hilary Pope on accepting the role as Chairman of the District Conference Committee for 2009.

The **Zonta Club of Bendigo** has

year showed off their waterwise gardens for Zonta. It is amazing what you can do with very little water!

The **Zonta Club of Geelong** held a Women's Health Forum in early November "From the inside Out", have been busy making birthing kits and then running a Market Day as well. The club recently invited Ballarat President, Hilary Pope to speak on the UN and UNIFEM in her role with UNIFEM in Victoria. Now the club is gearing up for a very big New Year's Eve party at Dromoland House.

The **Zonta Club of Kyneton** held a sell out Fashion Parade this year. The Parade's popularity has been building and this year was so popular it was a sell out well before the event. Kyneton members have also been busy raising money at the annual book stall and sewing the much needed breast cushions.



Past District Gov. Ronda Walker (left) & Naidene Parry, President of ZC of Bendigo with the new Girton Grammar School Z Club

just successfully completed 3,000 birthing kits for Vietnam and PNG and the club has been working closely with the women at the Tarrengower Prison to produce breast cushions and birthing kits. The club has also collected and provided suitable clothing for women exiting the prison system. The club has had a busy few months with events such as the Open Gardens which raised over \$3,500 for local breast cancer projects and another successful Gifts Galore shopping day showcasing local products. The Open Gardens has not been held for several years due to the drought but a number of brave gardeners this

The **Zonta Club of Melton** members have been busy with a membership information and workshop evening and publicising the "Women's Wellness in the West" program.

Also in party preparation mode is the **Zonta Club of Wangaratta** who are planning a big celebration in early 2008 for their 20th birthday. The Club also held their Annual ZAPA Awards recently and this event brings great publicity for the club and is an eagerly awaited event on the local calendar.

Sandra Burns
Area 4 Director

Area 5

If you thought Tasmanian Zonta Clubs would go into recess after their efforts to make your time at the 9th biennial Conference in Hobart welcoming and worthwhile....think again. On the contrary, we seem to have been



Happy 30th birthday Launceston! (L-R) Original club sponsors Margaret Smith and Catherine Mair from Queenborough look on, while Foundation member Pat Richardson cuts the cake.

energised. Our most recent Area Presidents' gathering was a good opportunity for positive exchanges about 'how we do things' and sharing ideas that worked, or not, as the case may be. Most Area 5 Clubs had several first timers at conference whose reported reactions can be summed as..... "Bring on Ballarat!"

So what has been happening whilst I have been swanning [well walking] around France? In Service we are delighted that Women Tasmania has accepted our offer to be one of the two Major Sponsors for the 2008 Material Girl Award. This will be a combined project between all the Area 5 Clubs. This is a Women Tasmania initiative to encourage women artists. It should also increase our visibility in the Community as the exhibition of Award winners 'Tours Tasmania' visiting large and small communities. The Launceston Club has recently selected the awardees for their two Awards. Christina Savage is, as I write, travelling with RFDS remote area dental staff to gain

experience in working under such special conditions and Nicole Erb has been awarded the 2007 Young Women's Achievement Award. Both these young women spoke at the 30th birthday celebration of the Zonta Club of Launceston, more about which will come later.

Advocacy

In October Devonport held their annual Breast Cancer Awareness Breakfast which is an example of effective advocacy for women's health through a profile-raising fundraiser which, this year, has led to some new members. They were also very encouraged at a special membership introduction meeting

addressed by Robyn McKinnon [the Launcestonian Young Woman of Achievement for 2006 who led a workshop at Conference] when 18 members were joined by 19 guests many of whom were so enthused that they are asking about how to become a Zontian. This was also another example of the increasing co-operation between Area 5 Clubs as Robyn was mentored and chauffeured by fellow members of the Launceston Club.

Credibility, Identity & Visibility

The Zonta Club of Storm Bay has responded to confused reactions, most recently at C o n v e n t i o n , about their identity and will soon have an announcement..... look out for news of a special event to officially launch their new look for their growing club.

Membership

I am particularly heartened to note the increasing skill and suc-

cess in publicising Zonta functions, projects and Awards which seem to be contributing to a steady trickle [Hobart and Launceston] and occasionally a small flood [Storm Bay and Devonport] of expressions of interest which are gradually being converted into memberships.

Governance

The Area Presidents' meeting took the opportunity to check Club and Area progress against the District goals and concluded that we are making good progress but also highlighting some areas which could use attention at the next Area Workshop, notably how to make better use of the web sites and how and why to devise a membership plan. Presidents in Area 5 seem to be alert to the need to be regularly reviewing the effectiveness of Club committees as membership changes, to ensure not only that everyone is involved with something that attracts them but also to take care that no one becomes overcommitted, whether through enthusiasm or goodwill.

There seems to have been plenty of opportunities to foster friendships and networking at theatre visits and film nights as well as at breast cushion-stuffing and birthing kit assembly days. There seem to be a full programme in the lead up to Christmas of 'Pudding' and shortbread - making which, whilst major fund-



L-R: Catherine Mair and Margaret Smith with the two newly acknowledged recipients of the Zonta 30 year Service Award, Pat Richardson and Betty Grey.

raisers for Devonport and Launceston Clubs respectively,

are also important ingredients in membership retention strategies.

However the highlight for me personally since the last Newsflash has to be Launceston's 30th Birthday Bash, the Launceston 30th birthday celebration which was held on Fri Nov 9th.

It was truly a celebration at which 65 supporters including Zontians past, present and future, from four of the five Clubs in Tasmania joined with the Lord Mayor of Launceston and, imminent elections not with standing, local members of parliament.

We were entertained by the well trained Sing Elon choir of school children and the energetic Sudanese women's dance group as well as generously and tastefully fed as we shared in congratulating the Zonta Club of Launceston on their achievements.

I would love to have been able include here the DVD of clippings and photos selected from their 30 years of Service to the community put together by President Carol Fuller who also gave a thought-provoking and informative discourse on where the Club has come from, and where it may go next, but technology has not quite made that possible yet so you will have take my word, and look at the photo[s] instead.

Odile Glenn
Area 5 Director

Calling all Zonta Clubs!

All clubs will have received the October PR&C E-News from Erlinda E. Panlilio, Chairman, ZI Public Relations & Communications Committee who has called for all clubs to be a part of Convention 2008 in Rotterdam as it celebrates Zonta's Local Service in Action. In keeping with the Convention theme, "Global Empowerment Through Local Action," all Zonta clubs are invited to submit photos of their service and advocacy projects that focus on Zonta's mission of advancing the status of women. "Local Service in Action," a PowerPoint presentation of these photos, will be shown 15 minutes prior to the start of each business session.

Following are the criteria from Erlinda:

1. A club may submit a **maximum of three** photos: two of its service projects and one of an advocacy initiative. Photos must be **action shots**, pictures that tell a story, rather than posed photos of Zontians at their project, smiling at the camera. Photos should be clear and sharp; use the best-quality settings on your digital camera. Send the photos in **jpeg format** attached to an Email to zontaintl.pr@gmail.com. In your covering Email, put the **corresponding caption** for each photo, identifying which caption goes with which photo. The caption must describe the action in the picture in **no more than 20 words**, and include the name of your club and your district number.
2. **Photos must relate to one of Zonta's goals** for advancing the status of women-- Improving women's: a) health, b) education, c) legal rights, d) economic self-sufficiency, e) self-esteem; and f) preventing violence against women.
3. **Deadline** for submission of all photos is **1 March 2008**. (Please submit early to avoid congestion in the email box. Please do not wait until the last month.)

A special Task Force under our ZI PR & C Committee will select the photos to be included in the PowerPoint presentation, and may edit captions. Those photos that do not conform to the above criteria will not be included. By submitting photos, it is understood that the club abides by these criteria.

For more information on the above, as well as some great tips on 'branding and marketing' Zonta are available from PR&C E-News No.6 October 2007, which is available from your President and also from the ZI website - www.zonta.org

Nan Martella
D23 PR&C Chairman

Zonta Birthing Kit Project

Members should have recently received the ZBKP's latest newsletter, (Issue 6, Nov 2007) which is full of news about the project and people involved with it. Many thanks to the ZBKF board and committee for their dedication and commitment to this Project.

More staff to share the load

The BK Committee was pleased to introduce their newly appointed Project Manager Jacqui Wathen in their newsletter. Jacqui has been appointed by the board to manage and oversee the work of the Foundation and has already proved that she loves to get things done. Jacqui's background is in data collection, record keeping and statistical reporting so she well qualified. Welcome Jacqui!

Read more about our birthing kits in Afghanistan, membership update, some feedback from Kenya (which emphasises just how important our birthing kits are to needy communities) and much more in the latest newsletter.

Dates to Remember

2 0 0 7	25 Nov -10 Dec	16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence*	All members
	1 Dec	World AIDS Day	
	10 Dec	International Human Rights Day	
	31 Dec	Club report #5 due to AD & DG	Club presidents
2 0 0 8	11 Jan	Amelia Earhart Day*	Dist AE Coordinator Elizabeth Davis, clubs
	1 March	Photos of <i>Local Service in Action</i> requested for Convention	Clubs
	1 March	Deadline for ZIF donations to District Treasurer Jasmine Koch for acknowledgement at Convention in Rotterdam	Clubs
	8 March	Zonta Rose Day; International Women's Day	All members
	15 March	Club report #7 due to AD & DG	Club presidents
	31 March	Deadline for receipt of Convention registration at early bird rate of 350 Euros*	Clubs, members
	1 April	YWPA club award winners to District Coordinator Judy Rothe* Convention registration fee increases to 425 Euros* Deadline for ZIF contributions to be received by ZIF for Convention recognition	Clubs Clubs, members District Treasurer Jasmine Koch
	5 & 6 April	Area 3 Workshop	Area 3 members
	12 & 13 April	District Board meeting	District Board
	25 April	Club report #6 due to AD & DG	Club presidents
	30 April	Emma Conlon applications (Z & Golden Z Club) due to ZI & DG	Z & Golden Z Coord Fiona MacDowall
	1 May	Club officers 2007-2008 report form due to ZI & District Secretary Ann Horrocks* Club annual report due to AD & DG ZI & District dues payment for 2007-2008 due to District Treasurer Jasmine Koch YWPA District candidates due to ZI* ZI & District dues payment for 2008-2009 due to District Treasurer Jasmine Koch	Clubs Clubs Clubs YWPA Coordinator Judy Rothe, DG Clubs
	3 May	Areas 1 & 4 Workshop	Area 1 & 4 members
	15 May	Convention delegate credentials forms (paper or faxed) due to ZI**	Clubs
	22 May	Convention delegate credentials forms (online) due to ZI**	Clubs
	31 May	Jane M Klausman club recipients due to District Coordinator Rosalie Lake* Last day to register for convention at 425 Euros	Clubs Clubs, members
	1 June	Convention registration fee increases to 475 Euros 2008-2009 International dues payment due to ZI	Clubs, members District Treasurer Jasmine Koch
27 June – 2 July	59 th International Convention, Rotterdam	All members	

* indicates information available on the ZI website

** indicates information in November Zonta memo sent to all club presidents

NOTE: Area 2 & Area 5 2008 Workshops - dates to be confirmed later.