



Application for Inaugural District 23 Service&Advocacy Project Award

Club: Zonta Club of Devonport

Project: Ending domestic violence in the Devonport region

Advocacy:

The Zonta Club of Devonport centers its advocacy work for the 'Zonta Says No' campaign to end violence against women around "White Ribbon Day" in late November each year.

For a period of one week around White Ribbon Day, Zonta Devonport utilizes the shopfronts in and around the Rooke Street Mall, which is the hub of Devonport's retail precinct, to raise awareness of domestic violence and its devastating impacts. These shopfront locations have included prominent government-owned sites such as the Devonport Community and Health Services Centre.

Zonta members have also persuaded local businesses, such as ladies retail clothing outlet 'Rockmans', to dress all of their shopfront mannequins in the striking orange 'Zonta Says No' t-shirts. As retail outlets rely upon their shopfront displays for marketing purposes, this is a significant sacrifice for a business to make. It is a sign of the strong support for this important cause that Zonta Devonport has built up over the years amongst the local business community.

Another particularly evocative display was initiated by Zonta Devonport member, Julia Taylor. She gathered # pairs of women's shoes, borrowed for the purpose from club members, and set up the display pictured. Each pair of empty shoes represented a female victim of domestic violence, who had lost her life in Australia that year. It was both a moving tribute to all of the women that should still here be with us, but also a stunning visual reminder of the horrifying number of victims of fatal domestic violence.

For our focus event, "Walk the Talk", we partner with other women-focused service organisations to stage an event on White Ribbon Day each year, to raise awareness of domestic and family violence. Prominent men are invited to participate, and in 2016 this included the Deputy Premier of Tasmania, Jeremy Rockliff, and the Mayor of Devonport, Steve Martin, and representatives from the Tasmanian Police, Tasmanian Fire Service and the Australian Defence Force.

These activities are promoted through free announcements on local radio stations, and the events and shopfront displays are always covered prominently by the daily newspaper that services the entire north-west region of Tasmania, *The Advocate*.

Service:

Although the ultimate goal of Zonta Devonport (and all such organisations) is to prevent domestic violence, it sadly still occurs. As the Australian Institute of Family Studies notes, women in regional areas such as Devonport are more likely than women in urban areas to experience domestic and family violence.

Zonta Devonport therefore seeks to provide practical support to the victims of domestic violence through our ongoing relationship with Warrawee, a local shelter providing crisis accommodation for women and children escaping violence. We regularly consult with the administrators of Warrawee to determine what could assist their clients to move forward in their lives.

When the Club is advised of Warrawee's needs (bed linen, for example), members then either donate high quality second-hand items, or the Club makes a budgetary allocation to purchase new items for provision to Warrawee clients.

Grace E. Brown

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President of Zonta club of Devonport

