



NewsFlash

June 2020



Jane Adornetto,
District 23 Governor 2018-2020



Dear District 23 Zontians,

Two years have gone by in a flash. It seems only yesterday I was standing on stage in Yokohama, being presented with the District 23 Governor's pin by outgoing Governor Judy Gorton, feeling nervous and excited.

There are many words that could describe various parts of the biennium – celebratory, empowering, fun, poignant, challenging, unusual. Our vocabulary has expanded - Coronavirus and COVID-19, and words and phrases such as social distancing, isolation, unprecedented and pandemic were rarely used in our day to day life. Such is our new normal.

At our final board meeting for the biennium on 21st June, I spoke to the District 23 Board about how easy it is to forget what we've achieved over the whole biennium, given that since March this year so much time and energy has been focussed on ensuring our clubs and district continue to be operational due to COVID-19. However, we mustn't forget, prior to March we had many successes to reflect on and be proud of, particularly our centenary celebrations across the district in 2019 including the combined conference in Brisbane in September 2019.

We welcomed the Zonta Club of Cradle-Coast in Area 5, the Monash University Caulfield Campus Golden Z Club in Area 1, and the Z Club of Geographe Bay in Area 3. Unfortunately, the Zonta Club of Clare disbanded during the biennium. For many years the members of Clare contributed to their local community and the wider Zonta world, and we thank them for the hard work and dedication over that time.

You will read in Advocacy Committee Chairman Christine Hepburn's report of some wonderful advocacy participation at District level. We also advocated at a national level in conjunction with Districts 22 & 24 to Senator Marise Payne, Minister for Women urging the federal government to develop a national strategy to eradicate child marriage and forced marriage.

Our clubs continued to support our ongoing district projects – birthing kits and breast care cushions. Unfortunately another casualty of COVID-19 was our Mental Health First Aid Project. Mental health issues will certainly be at the forefront as a result of the current pandemic, so hopefully sooner rather than later we will be able to commence work on this worthwhile project.

Included in this Newsflash is the final report to the District 23 Goals for the 2018-2020 biennium. Whilst we did not meet every goal, I'm extremely proud of the work of the District 23 Board, and the commitment of District 23 members in relation to progress towards these goals. Please take a moment to read and reflect on your contribution to these achievements.

After our District 23 Business Meeting at the combined conference in Brisbane in September 2019, some concerns were raised regarding

nominating and election procedures. I advised that a review would be conducted and that a report would be made prior to the end of the biennium. Please see the results of the review on page 3.

Over the past few months, the majority of our clubs have been meeting electronically and embraced use of the District 23 Zoom subscription – well done. I'm sure the approximate cost of \$200 is some of the best money the district has ever spent and will have further long-term benefits. My own club met face to face recently for the first time since March. The majority of members were present at the venue, with the remainder attending via Zoom (including our President). Different, yes, successful, yes.

Offering the webinar to all District 23 members, and club officer training, via Zoom, were also successful, and again may have future potential in how we conduct our business. This certainly shows the positivity, flexibility and resilience of our members. Please be proud of yourselves.

Towards the end of the webinar I chose to thank many people who have been instrumental in the successes of District 23 over the last two years, as well as those who have assisted me personally.

Some of those slides are repeated throughout the Newsflash and I sincerely thank those Zontians for their support, commitment and dedication to our district.

My grateful thanks also, to my own club, the Zonta Club of Geelong. Thank you for accepting me as a part time member for the last two years and for all the fantastic support you have given me over this journey.

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Christina Rylander Bergqvist, our Zonta International Board Liaison, has been a wonderful support to the board and I over the course of this biennium and I can't thank her enough. We've had many Skypes and emails, and she has joined quite a few of our board meetings via Zoom. She is always available and answers any of our queries with great speed.

Unfortunately, we didn't get to meet Christina at conference last year, and we won't get to have a drink together in Chicago, but we're holding out hope that we will have a great reunion in Hamburg in 2022.

Australian and New Zealand governors always enjoy great collaboration, and this biennium has been no exception with Souella

Cumming, Sandy Venn-Brown, Sharyl Scott and I. We've had a great time from the moment we met at training in Chicago in February 2018. Over the course of conference planning we had many Zooms, phone calls and a few face to face meetings, all in the spirit of wonderful fellowship and support. During this lockdown period in both countries we have regular Sunday evening Zooms with a glass of wine to chat about how our districts are going and continue to share ideas. A friendship that will endure, I'm sure.

I've been blessed with the District 23 Board and I can't thank them enough for all their hard work and dedication over these two years. We've dealt with some challenging issues, not the least the pandemic, but we've had good times too and a lot of fun along

the way, as well as the odd glass of wine! Your elected officers have worked diligently and passionately, and they are a credit to our district.

I'd also like to wish incoming Governor Sandra Burns and her incoming board all the very best for the coming biennium. I know you will all do a fantastic job and I hope sooner, rather than later, you can be together in person.

As we close out the 2018-2020 biennium, thank you all District 23 Zontians for your support and all you do for Zonta. You are all amazing and I've been so proud to be your Governor for the last two years, as well as a District 23 Board member for the last 8 years.

Yours in Zonta Service and Advocacy,



Thank you to District 23 Board

- **Lieutenant Governor**—Sandra Burns
- **Area 1 Director**—Di Hillman
- **Area 2 Director**—Eronwy Edwards
- **Area 2 Vice Director**—Lynda A'Bear
- **Area 3 Director**—Faith O'Brien
- **Area 4 Director**—Catherine Taylor
- **Area 5 Director**—Georgie Hutchinson
- **Secretary**—Debbie Schmidt
- **Treasurer**—Lyn Symons

Thank you to District 23 Zontians

- **District 23 Conference Chair** – Erica Majba
- **Combined Conference Co-Ordinator** – Naomi Reschke
- **Combined Conference Secretary** – Jo Wittorff
- **Mentors and “go-to” sounding boards** – Former Governors Judy Gorton, Beryl McMillan, Naomi Reschke, Ann Horrocks, Jane Smith & Erica Majba



CONGRATULATIONS PIP VAL SARAH AM

Recently, as Governor, I had the privilege in participating in a ceremony hosted by Zonta International President Susanne, to confer Past International President and District 23 member Val Sarah, with Zonta International's highest honour – the Meritorious Service Award. Eva Neilson from District 13 was also recognised.

Zonta International Centennial Anniversary Committee Chairman, and District 23's Beryl McMillan's introduction of Val is below.

The Meritorious Service Award is a prestigious award given in recognition of exceptional member service performed at the international level including outstanding Zonta leadership; remarkable, successful efforts in membership, service, PR or other Zonta activities; and activities which have created a legacy for the organization which has resulted in other unspecified areas.

Val started her career in a secretarial role with a television station in the UK, then only 4 months later became their first woman announcer, producing and presenting programs for 5 million children every weekday.

Two years later, her urge to travel led her to Australia where she has lived since. She spent a further 15 years in

television, then her later career involved fashion, family welfare and as an international travel consultant. Along the way, she married and has two daughters.

Though Zonta has been Val's major volunteer commitment, she has also chaired boards of major arts and civic organizations in Ballarat and worked as archivist and historian for two significant local organizations, co-authoring the history of one.

In 2001, Val was awarded an AM in the Order of Australia 'for services to women and the community internationally, and to the community through cultural, social welfare and youth organisations'.

She was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll for Women on International Women's Day in 2006.

In addition, she has been invested as a Dame of Grace in the order of St John of Jerusalem, the oldest order of Christian chivalry in the world.

In Zonta, Past International President Val has held leadership roles at international level in almost every biennium since 1982 - soon after she had joined Zonta as charter president of the Zonta Club of Ballarat in 1978. Club and district roles have been interspersed and Val remains an active member in Ballarat.

With professional fundraising as part of her career, Val placed special emphasis on the value of the fledgling Zonta International Foundation during her presidency. That commitment has continued with active participation in the Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign Committee since 2015.

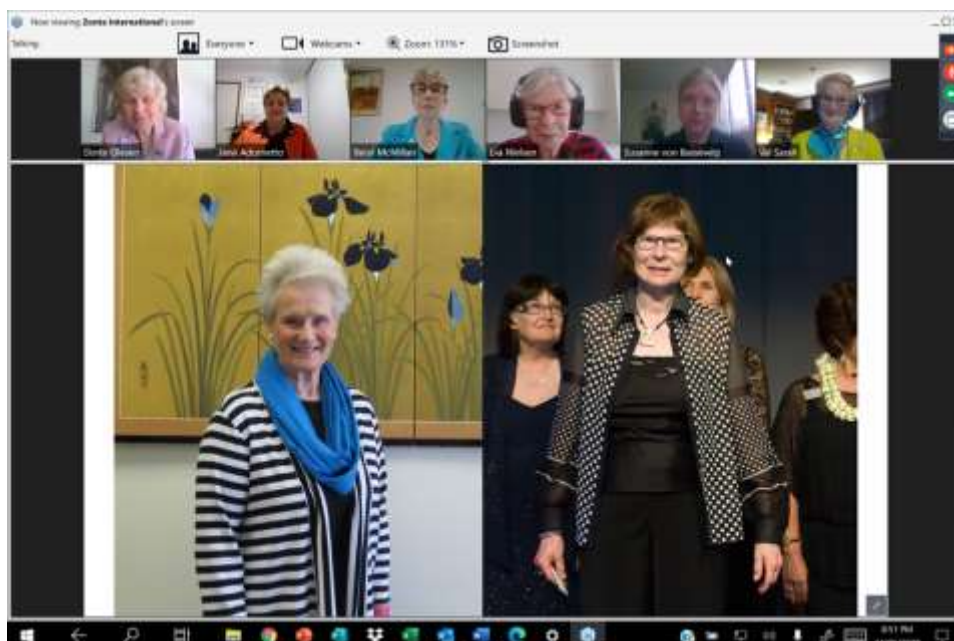
Her passion for Zonta and its history was exemplified when she commissioned and contributed to 'A History of Zonta International 1919-1999' published in 2000, the concluding year of her biennium as International President.

So, when International President Dianne Curtis established the Centennial Anniversary Committee in 2010, the obvious person to lead the committee was Val.

Val took on this role with her customary passion and attention to detail and has served diligently on the committee for the past decade.

Those who have had the privilege of working and serving with Val have learnt much from her as she willingly shares her extensive knowledge and understanding of Zonta and cares deeply about people. In summary, Val is an exemplary leader and Zontian.

Jane Adornetto,
District 23 Governor 2018-2020



REVIEW OF DISTRICT 23 NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

Review conducted by Governor Jane Adornetto, Parliamentarian Ann Horrocks, Nominating Committee Chairman Beryl McMillan

Only 3 candidates put forward for Nominating Committee

No nominations received by the closing date, therefore nominations had to be sought.

Recommendation: Future nominating committees must follow Zonta International guidelines and present at least 5 candidates for nominating committee positions.

2. Nominations from the floor

Recommendation: District 23 Rules of Procedure be changed as indicated in red:

Note: Changes to the District 23 Rules of Procedure can only be made at a District 23 Conference – therefore the first opportunity to make any changes will be at the District 23 Conference in 2021. When submissions are called by the 2020-2022 Bylaws and Resolutions Committee in 2021 clubs may also use this opportunity to submit other recommendations on this issue.

7.5 Nominating and Elections:

7.5.1 Nominations:

- Nominations for district positions are requested by an advertised deadline so that the Slate of Candidates can be published alongside the Conference Business Call to Conference.
- At conference, a subsequent nomination can be made from the floor provided the candidate's name, and completed nomination form, has previously been submitted to the District

Nominating committee at least 7 days prior to the conference start date. The candidate must meet the prerequisites for that position. The candidate is asked to maintain confidentiality until advised by the nominating committee, that their nomination has been accepted.

- In the event of a nomination being made from the floor, the other candidate(s) for that position must be contacted by the nominating committee approximately 24 hours prior to the reading of the slate at conference, to inform them that there is a nomination from the floor for the same position.

7.5.2 Elections:

- In the event that there is a tied vote at conference, a re-vote will be required. It is accepted that a club delegate may change ~~its~~ their vote. ~~Clubs-Time~~ for consultation will be allowed prior to each re-vote being taken.
- After two tied votes, a winning name will be drawn "out of a hat" by a senior serving Zontian in attendance at the conference. All other rules relating to the vote and majorities will be as in the Zonta International and District 23 governing documents.

3. Other recommendations, but not to be included in the District 23 Rules of Procedure:

- A candidate who is nominated from the floor may choose to have a candidate biography provided to delegates. The biography must be in the same format as all other candidates, and prepared or approved by the Nominating Committee.
- Prior to election results being announced to the conference, candidates will privately be advised the results of the election by the Governor and Election Committee Chair. The candidate will be advised the number of votes cast, giving them the opportunity to be present or absent for the announcement of election results.

It is recommended the votes cast for each candidate are announced at the conference, as this is a guiding principle of the transparency of the election process.



REVIEW OF DISTRICT 23 GOALS 2018 – 2020

District 23 Goals are based on Zonta International's biennial goals which were adopted at the Convention in Yokohama, Japan.

Clubs are encouraged to develop their own biennial goals based on ZI & District 23 goals.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL GOAL 1

We maximise our impact through service and advocacy initiatives and educational programs that empower women and girls.

DISTRICT 23 ACTIONS:

Service & Advocacy

- The Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women initiative is further developed to achieve local and national governmental commitment.
 - ◇ District 23 collaborates with Districts 22 & 24 to raise awareness regarding ending child marriage, and to continue national discussion regarding the elimination of violence against women and children. **GOAL MET** Governors of Districts 22, 23 & 24 collaborated on a letter to Minister for Women asking for Australian Government action, and response received. Whilst goal was met there is still much work to be done.
 - ◇ District 23 will encourage all District 23 clubs to deliver an action to oppose child marriage by providing district specific resources in the form of presentations to be used at Area Meeting/ Workshops and club meetings and information resources available on the District 23 website. **GOAL MET** District 23 Service & Advocacy Chairmen provided a PowerPoint resource which was used at all 2019 Area Meetings and is available on the District 23 Website. Clubs are to continue to be encouraged to use this resource and continue to highlight this issue.
- District 23 reports new collaboration with two like-minded organisations to enhance our effectiveness in empowering women and girls.
 - ◇ Clubs in District 23 are encouraged to collaborate with new like-minded organisations and report these collaborations to Area Directors. **GOAL MET** Many clubs reported collaborations, particularly through the application process of the Centennial Grant process. Although only a small percentage of clubs received grants, many contacts will lead to future collaboration.
- District 23 clubs continue to participate in the District 23 Breast Cushion and Birthing Kit projects. **GOAL MET** Clubs continued to participate in both ongoing district projects .

Education

- District 23 implements the pilot Women in Technology Scholarship program that encourages women to pursue a leadership role in technology, a field that will impact the next generation of women. **GOAL MET**
 - ◇ To facilitate District 23 club involvement in this pilot scholarship program, District 23 appoints a Co-Ordinator for this program. **GOAL MET**
- District 23 participates in Zonta's existing education programs – Young Women in Public Affairs scholarship, Jane M Klausman Women in Business scholarship, Amelia Earhart fellowship: **GOAL MET**
 - ◇ District 23 Education Program Co-Ordinators assist clubs to participate in the education programs by disseminating information to appropriate timelines, and encouraging more District 23 clubs to participate than in the previous biennium **GOAL NOT MET – small decline in participation.**

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL GOAL 2

We strengthen our resources to support our mission.

DISTRICT 23 ACTIONS:

Membership

- District 23 encourages District 23 clubs to enhance fellowship and mutual support of existing members, and to seek out new members who are motivated to join a global movement for women's rights. As a result, District 23 will have more members on 31 May 2020, than on 31 May 2018. **GOAL NOT MET. However, numbers held fairly steady, with less decline than previous years, which is positive.**
- District 23 and District 23 club service committees to maintain a list of past recipients of scholarship and education awards, as well as Golden Z Club members to create a data base which may be used for relationship building and networking opportunities. **GOAL PARTIALLY MET. Further work to be done to ensure complete data bases.**
- District 23 will continue to encourage District 23 clubs to charter student clubs as relevant service projects, and as a result, we will have more Z and Golden Z clubs on 31 May 2020 than on 31 May 2018. **GOAL MET. Two Z Clubs have won international awards.**
- District 23 board members to complete Zonta International leadership training program and encourage club leaders to make use of this program to enhance their ability to effectively manage Zonta club business. **GOAL MET.**

Finances

- All District 23 clubs make donations to the Zonta International Foundation, and these donations exceed the previous biennium total. **GOAL PARTIALLY MET 100% of District 23 Clubs donate to ZIF. Missed exceeding previous biennium by around 9%. Total of giving \$151,667.85 – a fantastic effort!**
- District 23 Foundation Ambassador and Representatives to provide information and education on the power of endowment funds to provide long-term sustainability, including information on the Mary E. Jenkins 1919 Society. **GOAL MET**

Operations

- District 23 implements measures to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of district operations by employing best practice financial management, communication strategies and strategic management. **GOAL MET.**
- **Budget deficit for biennium was forecast at -\$37,350. Actual (unaudited) was just under -\$7400.**
- **Exchange rate for member dues now set annually. Still providing a subsidy to members, however exchange rate is more realistic.**
- **Strategy of when to send funds to ZI – particularly during 2020 with financial market volatility, minimised losses.**
- **Communication via MailChip to all District 23 members directly as necessary.**
- **Making the District 23 Zoom account available to all clubs.**
- **Conducting club officer training for the whole district via Zoom.**
- **1st District Webinar.**

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL GOAL 3

We enhance our profile around the world through our centennial anniversary activities.

DISTRICT 23 ACTIONS:

- District 23 will honour a person or an organisation for outstanding achievement to empower women and will also collaborate with Districts 22 & 24 to select an Australian recipient. **GOAL MET – Julia Gillard Recipient for Australia. Natasha Stott Despoja recipient for District 23.**
- District 23 and District 23 clubs report on actions that increase Zonta's visibility to more effectively empower women. **GOAL MET Large and small centenary celebrations and activities.**
- District 23 members are encouraged to attend the combined District Conference in 2019 in Brisbane to celebrate Zonta's centenary with Zontians from Districts 16, 22 & 24 **GOAL MET with over 200 District 23 Zontians attending.**

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

BELIEVE • INVEST
EMPOWER

PIP Val Sarah

CAEC Committee Member



Dear Zontians,

It's a wrap! You've done SO well!

A long time ago, in 1988, an **Endowment Fund** was introduced by convention vote and established using US\$ 70,000 of unallocated service dollars. It quietly bubbled away, with growth from earnings and occasional donations until the Fund stood at over US\$ 1 million.

At that point, in 2014, the **Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign** was launched... and this is where OUR story begins!

As those who were able to join us for our recent District Webinar will recall, between 2014 and May of this year, the 4 Districts 'Down Under' – *Districts 16 (New Zealand), 22 (Qld/northern NSW), 23 (that's us!) and 24 (NSW and the ACT)* raised an impressive US\$160,000.

Now comes the amazing part! ere in District 23, **we raised over US\$ 100,000** of that amount – as individuals, through our Clubs, and District gifts.

What makes it the more extraordinary, is that this is **in addition to**

- your donations to the ZI Foundation supporting our international programs and projects and
- the other two-thirds you raise for your own club projects each biennium

That really is amazing. So, take a bow!

Special thanks go to our great Regional Representatives **Ann Horrocks** covering Areas 1 and 4, **Liz Bice** in Area 2, **Carole Theobald and Liz Woodgate** in Area 3, and **Julie Wiltshire** in Area 5.

Together, our team would like to thank **Governor Jane Adornetto** for her outstanding leadership and support during this biennium – thank you, Jane!

What next? As you know, **the Campaign finishes** at the close of Convention, however, **the Fund will continue to grow** above and beyond our target of US\$ 10 million – it's here for perpetuity. Your team of Regional Representatives will continue to help with that growth. We seek your continued support, and thank you all for the opportunity to serve.

In the meantime, our donor list will be updated on the CAEC website and featured in the 2019-2020 Annual Report as well as first 2020-2022 issue of The Zontian magazine.

Thank you everyone!

Thank you to District 23 Committees

- **Advocacy** – Christine Hepburn, Leann Symonds, Jane Moulden, Chris Denmead, Jill Taylor
- **Bylaws & Resolutions** – Veronika Maddock, Dee Saunders, Liz Bice
- **Centennial Anniversary Celebrations** – Margaret Rowland, (the late) Donna Campbell, Karen Groves, Dawn Newman, Naomi Reschke, Julie Wiltshire, Val Sarah
- **History & Archives** – **'Tricia Summerfield**
- **Membership** – Sandra Burns, Annamarie Perlezs
- **Nominating** – Beryl McMillan, Julia Taylor, Leann Symonds
- **Public Relations** – Pru Blackwell, Sandy Nicholson, Jane Smith
- **Service** – Jasmine Koch
- **Z & Golden Z Clubs** – Judy Rothe & Julia Taylor



Area 1

Di Hillman

Area Director 2018-2020



What an honour and privilege being the Area One Director for the 2018-2020 Biennium has been. When inducted at the Yokohama Convention, I anticipated an exciting time of new challenges, expectations, responsibilities, experiences and I have found all of these to be true. Celebrating 100 years of Zonta service and taking part in the inaugural Combined District Conference in Brisbane meant that this Biennium would be unlike any other in our lifetime. Meeting with International President Susanne during our Board meeting was a personal highlight. (Little did we know then than a pandemic would turn the whole world, including the Zonta world, on its head!)

Working with the D23 Board has been a joy. We have shared knowledge and ideas, successes and concerns. Friendships have been formed and we have been able to appreciate the wider Zonta circle, with the leadership of Governor Jane being pivotal to our journey. The last four months have seen enormous change at all levels, yet members have been creative and innovative, and determined to keep our organisation viable.

Some of the many events from the past two years include:

Melbourne on Yarra's highlights have been their Annual Awards night, sponsorship to support awards and their *16 Days of Activism* project. The Service and Advocacy committee designed and sought funding for a poster to be developed for placement by Yarra City Council in 184 public toilet stalls. Club Members also displayed the posters in local libraries and restaurants - in total, over 400 posters were displayed across YCC

municipality. This project - *Behind Closed Doors* - has been a fantastic initiative!

Melbourne's East celebrated 40 years of Zonta service in 2019 with a beautiful High Tea and an impressive celebratory cake. A static display - *Speaking Out* - has been well received in the community. This project won an award at the Centennial Conference; it consists of 18 tabletop orange wooden female figures with eye-catching captions opposing family violence and advocating for the prevention of child marriage. A Centennial grant was received for a proposal to implement a project with Emerge as the partnering organization. *Young Empowered Women* will be presented in schools later in the year. A free event entitled "Say No To Family Violence – The Next Step", was held to commence awareness of the *16 Days of Activism*.

Melbourne's South East also celebrated Amelia Earhart during the biennium with a High Tea and the opportunity to see her actual Cord car. The club joined with Frankston Council and other like-minded organisations to highlight the *16 Days of Activism*; one of their displays consisted of 50 pairs of shoes representing the number of women killed as a result of family violence every year in Australia. Attending the Combined District Conference was also a highlight and the club is eagerly waiting to implement their *Mental Health Project*.

Melbourne's West received a grant from Hobson's Bay Council to conduct a forum on "Endometriosis – Just a pain in the pelvis" with local specialists. Members supported WestCASA by providing essential items for a therapy room situated in the newly-opened Women's Health Hub in Werribee, where a plaque recognises the club's efforts. The WHH is part of the Wyndham Multidisciplinary Centre, a specialist centre supporting those affected by sexual assault. Two wonderful concerts were held with the Dixie Chicks, which raised significant funds for the club's scholarship program. To celebrate their 35th birthday,

Mornington held a "Women's Health Forum" in their local community. Another very successful Amelia Earhart Brunch in January saw Governor Jane present Dea Wangsawijaya with her Zonta wings as the winner of an International Amelia Earhart Fellowship. Sarah Wisely, a former Cathay Pacific 747 Captain was the guest speaker. Delicious food and quirky table decorations added to a most enjoyable day. In September 2019, the club sadly lost longtime member Elizabeth Davis after a short illness. She is remembered fondly by Zontians far and wide.

The past two years as Area Director have been amazing. I have worked with wonderfully supportive Presidents and I thank them most sincerely for their commitment and collaborative approach. Visiting clubs for meetings and functions has been invigorating and has reaffirmed my commitment to Zonta. The successes of the combined Centennial Celebration and first Area Meeting, along with our Area-wide contribution to the refurbishment of the CASA Rooms at the Royal Women's Hospital show that Zonta in Area One is united in our outlook.

Thank you to all who have supported and assisted me, answered my questions and given me advice during the past two years. To Governor Jane and fellow Board members - it's been an unforgettable period in my life.



D23 Governor Jane Adornetto with Area 1 Director Di Hillman

Area 2

Eronwy Edwards
Area Director 2018-2020



Lynda A'Bear
Vice Area Director 2018-2020



Area 2 Zontians continued to make a difference to the lives of women and girls in South Australia in 2018-2020.

Just under a year ago we were gathering in large groups to celebrate the Centenary of Zonta at Government House, Parliament House and numerous club and community events in country and metropolitan locations. The Zonta Club of Adelaide celebrated its 50th birthday and Clubs presented recognition awards to women and girls in their areas.

Governor Jane Adornetto presented Natasha Stott Despoja AO with her Zonta District 23 Centennial Recognition Award at the Area 2 Gala Dinner.

Zontians and friends continued to maintain the Service and Advocacy projects, including Expect Respect Programs, producing breast cushions, Birthing Kits, sanitary supplies, and a range of care kits and packs for women and children in DV shelters and other agencies.

The Zonta Club of Adelaide Flinders won a Zonta Centennial Anniversary Grant for its Food for Thought Program in partnership with the Zahra Foundation Australia.

To fund projects, clubs ran events including quiz nights, raffles, movie nights and more to raise over \$70,000, including a generous donation to ZIF.

2019 one of the largest Area 2 Advocacy Meetings focused on Women's Homelessness, featuring a panel of four Members of Parliament, including Attorney General, Vickie Chapman.

Family and Domestic Violence remains a strong focus and in 2020 the theme is From Awareness to Action.

The majority of members in the majority of clubs continued to support the Decriminalisation of Sex Work in SA with several Zonta members attending parliamentary readings of the proposed Bill. Round 14 continues in 2020.

The excitement and energy of the Centennial year attracted 39 new members between March 2019 and June 2020, and we finished the biennium with 249 members. We were saddened that in 2019 the Zonta Club of Clare and Districts became unsustainable after seventeen years. This Club enjoyed considerable impact in the area, earning recognition for projects including the local Zonta Garden with its Memorial plaques.

This year our clubs have found innovative new ways to face challenges of meeting, communicating, fundraising and service. I commend club leaders and members for their capability and willingness to find new ways for new times. The support and encouragement shared by our Presidents has been outstanding, and we are all delighted that any suggestion that our Area be divided was soundly defeated.

I express my admiration for the outgoing, continuing, and incoming club leaders who continue to show such warmth, compassion, and commitment to the ideals of Zonta.

I also recognise those Area 2 Zontians who continue to serve through their roles on District Committees as chairmen or members. Your input and wisdom are especially valued in many local forums.



2018-2020 District 23 Board 2018-2020

Faith O'Brien (A3),
Eronwy Edwards (A2)
Lynda A'Bear (VA2),
Georgie Hutchinson (A5),
Catherine Taylor (A4)
Debbie Schmidt (Sec.)
Jane Adornetto, (D23 Gov)
Lyn Symons (Treas.)
Di Hillman (A1)
Sandra Burns (Lt. Gov.)

Area 3

Faith O'Brien

Area Director 2018-2020



Area 3 Clubs at the end of the 2018-2020 biennium are looking back with pride in the achievements of their clubs and looking forward to the challenges of the future. Welcome to all the new Presidents and Club Boards. I know Zonta still has a long way to go to achieve our goals, but with enthusiasm and determination we will make a difference.

Recent times have set many challenges for all clubs – and each club has met the challenge head on, with all members learning many new skills – especially with communication.

Congratulations to the **Geographe Bay Z Club** on winning an Emma L Conlon Award! What a dynamic group of young people who, under the guidance of Dee Shade, are putting

their energies towards projects to help others. **The Zonta Club of Dunsborough** is also helping Charter member Kris Carter to celebrate being awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Zonta Club of Bunbury congratulated Tennille Hamilton, Engineering (Heavy Fabrication Pre-Apprenticeship) on winning her award in Non-Traditional Trade, and Amber Ramage, Young Women in Public Affairs Award. Well done to both winners.

With everyone scratching their heads on how to do fundraising at present, **Zonta Club of Peel** have ventured into doing "Containers for Cash". This scheme is to begin in October. Well done to all the organisers and participants of the ZC Peel 27th Breast Cancer Charity Golf Day for raising over \$14,000 for QE2 Breast Cancer Research.

Zonta Club of Perth have been successful in maintaining their Mentoring Program in conjunction with Ishar involving the multicultural group through phone, Skype or other online methods.

Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs held a Zoom meeting with a difference for their Changeover meeting – everyone was required to wear a "Fascinators" which added a bit of frivolity for everyone. To the delight of members their July meeting was able to be held at their usual haunt Ambrose Estate.

A new meeting venue for **Zonta Club of Swan Hills** has been provided, through member Ruth Thomas, at their newly furnished offices. This offer was timely with the small number of members of the club all being able to gather because of the loosening of restrictions.

Area 3 Jane M Klausman Award winner has been announced as Marina Sarkoski, Edith Cowan University student studying for Masters of Business Administration. Thank you to JMK Coordinator for Area 3, Bev McNamara and her team for their work with this.

I sincerely thank all Zontians from Area 3 for their enthusiasm and support for Zonta ideals, and for all they have done to make my time as Area 3 Director so enjoyable.

ADVERTISEMENT

Looking to be involved at a Zonta District Level?

Governor Elect Sandra is looking for a member who is "very enthusiastic" about our **BIRTHING KITS**. We wish to appoint a **new coordinator** of this District Project and there is a great opportunity to be mentored into this role.

A second opportunity involves being a member of the **BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE** under the wonderful guidance of Past District 23 Governor and past Zonta International Board member, Beryl McMillan.

Please advise your interest to:

Governor Elect Sandra Burns
sandraburnszonta@gmail.com



Area 4

Catherine Taylor
Area Director 2018-2020



It has been an honour and a privilege to assist the Clubs in Area 4 during this Centennial Biennium and it has been wonderful visiting all clubs and meeting Presidents and Members.

I would like to thank the Presidents for all their help during this busy time! Adrienne Dyal – Albury Wodonga; Jen Kirby and Christine Haddrick – Wangaratta; Ann Horrocks – Bendigo; Donna Campbell – Ballarat (I miss her and think about her regularly), and Alison Round for stepping in as Acting President; Bronwen Haywood – Central Goldfields; Kaaren Colwell – Geelong; Janice Stanton – Mitchell, Jane Sultana – Melton and Eloise Forbes – Kyneton, who will take over as the incoming Area 4 Director. You have all done some magnificent work to empower women and make the world a better place for them!

Over the last few months, all club members learned new skills when we went into lockdown, using different electronic platforms as they navigated the health crisis. Some clubs have enjoyed wine and cheese tastings and afternoon teas as a way of engaging their members all in the comfort of their living rooms, as well as their meetings.

I continue to be amazed at the diverse projects and events all clubs have achieved, while also serving to increase Zonta's awareness in their areas; here are some highlights -

ALBURY WODONGA have developed a great Domestic Violence Prevention & Awareness Campaign producing safety cards offering 40 support services for women at risk, which is now a go-to resource for frontline services.

BALLARAT'S signature event each year is Ballarat's Great Women, this event honours local women who have made a significant contribution in their community and ticks all the boxes for empowering women.

BENDIGO won a Centennial Anniversary Grant working with Community Health to engage refugee women to build knowledge and literacy across many areas. The program also built intercultural understanding with many networks.

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS offer study grants worth \$1000 each year to local women to assist them complete their post-secondary study. Each new recipient is presented with a certificate of achievement at their annual International Women's Day celebrations.

GEELONG celebrated its 40th year of service and advocacy with a wonderful event that was shared with charter members through to past and current members. Their Club was delighted when Nigar Rashida, a Masters Candidate from Deakin University School of Engineering was awarded a Zonta International Women in Science and Technology Scholarship.

KYNETON has a new leadership project titled HERStory, which aims to provide young women in years 9 and 10 with an understanding of the concept of leadership and what it means to challenge the idea of what a leader may look like with participants coming from a variety of areas.

MELTON organised a day in the Victorian Parliament last November, for members in Areas 1 & 4 to hear the Honourable Steve McGhie, Member for Melton, acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Zonta International. An Extract of his speech appeared in Hansard and a wonderful day was enjoyed by all.

MITCHELL held an Art and Craft Show as part of their 16 Days of Activism, and all the art and craft was made by either their members, or family or friends of members and this was a huge success.

WANGARATTA celebrated a great year with Madalynn Baumanis winning the District 23 Young Women in Public Affairs Award. They also installed a park bench in Apex Park carrying the 1800 RESPECT phone number.

Many milestones have also been achieved with Albury Wodonga celebrating their 30th Anniversary, Ballarat and Geelong, their 40th Anniversaries and Kyneton their 25th. Later this year, Bendigo will celebrate their 40th Anniversary, depending on the health situation.

A huge thank you to Governor Jane, for her leadership, direction and friendship and to all my fellow Board Members for their help and friendship and the fun and laughs along the way!

It has been an honour and a privilege, thank you!



Jane Sultana, then President of Melton organised this wonderful event! Governor Jane is front and centre, with Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews at the back and Steve McGhie, Member for Melton, far right, with Members from Areas 1 & 4.

Area 5

Georgie Hutchinson
Area Director 2018-2020



Being the Area 5 Director 2018 – 2020 has been an absolute privilege! It has been especially enriched by Zonta International's Centenary Biennium, a period of heightened collaboration, meaningful communication, wonderful celebrations and significant resilience!

Goal 1 - We maximise our impact through service and advocacy initiatives and educational programs that empower women and girls

District 23 projects remain a priority in Area 5. The production of Breast Cushions is a deeply appreciated local service. The assembly of Birthing Kits, valued as both a service and advocacy initiative, provides ideal pathways for collaboration with like-minded organisations and interested individuals. **The Zonta Clubs of Cradle Coast and Launceston** have developed strong partnerships with UTAS, and ZCL's MORE program, Making Opportunities Real in Education is gaining momentum and enabled two girls to attend Rascal Robots. **The Zonta Club of Hobart** has partnered with Hobart Women's Shelter and Migrant Resource Centre to provide assistance to women

seeking accommodation and the club advocates strongly to support homeless women. Newsletters are sent to a wide readership. **The Zonta Club of Hobart Derwent Inc** which supports two thriving Z Clubs, has also been active increasing awareness about Elder Abuse. Public awareness of Zonta's stance against domestic violence in Area 5 has increased significantly with "Zonta Says No", "Walk in her Shoes" and 16 Days of Activism campaigns. During Covid-19 **the Zonta Club of Devonport** has embraced a new collaboration with Loaves and Fishes, helping to provide meals for Tasmanians struggling during difficult times. Zonta's Emerging Artist Award, part of the Women's Art Prize Tasmania is supported by all five Area 5 clubs and it won the Zonta District 23 Service & Advocacy Award at the combined Australia and New Zealand Zonta Conference in Brisbane!

Goal 2 – We strengthen our resources to support our mission

The Zonta Club of Cradle Coast has grown to 16 members, their membership being diverse in age, professional and personal backgrounds. **The Zonta Club of Hobart** started the biennium with low numbers, but has increased its membership and is looking forward to strengthening further to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2021. Over the biennium all clubs have kept members engaged and attracted prospective members by holding interesting social events and fundraisers like Open Gardens, themed dinners, raffles, Breast Cancer Awareness Breakfast,

high teas, Bunnings Barbeques, monthly coffee catchups etc. Social media pages have also been used effectively to raise awareness and attract new members. Membership in Area 5 has remained steady which is very pleasing considering world trends.

Goal 3 - We have enhanced our profile through our centennial anniversary activities

Zonta's 100 years has definitely helped to enhance our profile! The fabulous, eye-catching banners provided to every club by District 23 have been used to advantage at club meetings, fundraisers, information evenings, advocacy events and in social media posts. Clubs have celebrated with birthday cakes, member profiles and **the Zonta Club of Devonport** has placed a plaque acknowledging Zonta International's centenary at the Reflections Seat. The very special and memorable 100 years Centennial Function at Government House with Her Excellency Kate Warner and Governor Jane was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the valuable work done by Zonta in Tasmania with all Area 5 Zontians.

It's been a pleasure to have been a part of such a wonderful District 23 Board led so capably by Governor Jane. I wish Vicki Carman-Brown a rewarding and enjoyable journey as the Area 5 Director for the 2020 – 2022 biennium. Finally, a heartfelt thanks to all my fellow Area 5 Zontians for their support, enthusiasm and passion for empowering and honouring women.



Area 5 Club Presidents, Jenni Jago (ZCD) Wendy Quinn (ZCHD), Jacqueline de Jonge (ZCCC), Sue Dyson (ZCL) Veronika Maddock (ZCH) absent, with the Governor of Tasmania Her Excellency Kate Warner and Area 5 Director 2018 -2020, Georgie Hutchinson

PHOTO GALLERY



Area 1 Presidents at Centennial Lunch Celebration
Loraine Trotter (Mornington), Stella Coffey (Acting for Melbourne's West), Di Hillman, Peta Simpson (South East), D23 Gov. Jane A, Bev Devidas (Melbourne on Yarra) , Debbie Grinter (Melbourne's East)



Area 3 Lennie McCall and Wendy Atherden are presented with their District Heide Taylor Governor Award pins by incoming District 23 Governor, Sandra Burn



Area 1—Speaking Out



Area 5—Zonta Club of Launceston's eye-catching Zonta Says No display with orange people made by the local Men's Shed.



Area 5—Zonta Club of Devonport celebrating Zonta International's Centenary

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

Membership

Sandra Burns

D23 Governor Elect 2020-2022

Membership Chairman 2018-2020



Membership Update – Reflections on the Biennium

I am very proud of how our members have responded to the sudden changes brought about by Covid 19. Not only have clubs taken quickly to meeting on-line and setting up systems to look out for member's wellbeing, but they have embraced potential members and inducted new members by Zoom.

Our membership has declined slightly over the biennium; 832 down to 802 at end of April 2020. I am pleased to note however that there are quite a number of new members to be added to our District in May/June. Clubs

have sought out and engaged with Young Professionals and although not large in number (currently 12) they have brought new ideas and vibrancy to our clubs and keenly taken on leadership roles. Some clubs have also engaged with Zonta International Individual members in their local area, as well as utilizing "Friends of Zonta" to support their clubs.

It was a huge privilege to have worked with the other Lt Governors- Membership Chairs in Districts 16,22 & 24, to prepare and run the very successful Membership Workshop at the Brisbane Conference in Sept 2019. We showcased 4 Young Professional Members on a panel with Belinda Moore, Strategic Membership Solutions and author of "Is Membership Dead?".

New members in 2019-20 have received Zonta 100 Year badges as part of their induction in our Centenary year and this will continue until the end of the 2020.

Unfortunately we lost one club during the biennium despite the Board and Area Director working tirelessly. It is pleasing to note that all 37 clubs have renewed for the coming year.

We have all become "e" clubs in the last few months and we will work on establishing at least one "e" club in the coming biennium. I urge clubs to be very flexible in the way that they interact with members. Dinner meetings are starting to resume, however not all members will feel confident in close contact, so allow members to join by Zoom or phone. This hybrid meeting style will be how our clubs will look from now on. We have been encouraged to think outside the square and there are so many ways in which clubs can meet. The options are yours.

I wish to thank the Area Directors, Di Hillman, Eronwy Edwards, Lynda A'Bear, Faith O'Brien, Catherine Taylor and Georgie Hutchinson for their input and support in driving our membership program. It really has been a joint effort.

I encourage you to go onto the new Zonta International web site and look up the many "e learning" presentations regarding attracting and retaining members.

I am looking forward to working with you all in new biennium

THANK YOU D23 GOVERNOR JANE ADORNETTO

On behalf of the 2018-2020 District Board, District Committee Chairs and Zonta Club members in District 23, I would like to sincerely thank Governor Jane for her dedication and leadership over the past two years.

No one could ever have predicted that unusual events would make her two years so challenging. Jane presided over a most interesting time in our Zonta history – our centenary. She worked tirelessly with the D16,22, & 24 Governors to present an inspiring Centennial Conference in Brisbane. We were all so saddened that an accident on the way to Conference meant that she was unable to participate in an event she had so meticulously prepared for. The D23 section of the Conference went off very smoothly due to her diligent planning and organizing,

Faced with Covid 19 and lockdown, Jane has ensured our District is virtually connected and has worked to keep clubs operating as well as looking at initiatives to keep Zonta relevant in challenging times. The recent District Area Webinar Meeting prepared in consultation with the Area Directors was a first and a huge success.

Jane has attended president's meetings, inductions of boards and AGMs via Zoom; she has been at them all. She has seen the silver lining in Covid19.

We take this public opportunity to thank you for your wise and dedicated leadership. Our District is very appreciative of your commitment to us and to Zonta.

Sandra Burns

District 23 Governor Elect 2020-2022

United Nations

Kay Stewart

Chairman UN Committee 2018-2020



Yet another biennium is drawing to a close. It has been my privilege to chair the D23 UN Committee for the past two biennia. I thank Governor Jane for giving me the extra time to fulfil my goals.

The committee is tasked with promoting awareness to clubs of the United Nations, its agencies and programs, and understanding of the relationship between the UN and the programs and activities of Zonta International and Zonta clubs. As part of this, clubs are encouraged to recognise United Nations Day,

International Women's Day (also known as Zonta Rose Day) and other international days, themes, years and world decades designated by the United Nations

To that end, I have spoken at workshops/meeting in all five areas of District 23 and to all clubs individually in Victoria (Areas 1 & 4) and have shared my presentations (when requested) for members to share at their club meetings. I have enjoyed meeting many of you across the district and I thank you for your hospitality and fellowship.

Clubs have been participating in International Women's Day (8 March) events for a number of years now. Many country clubs run popular events in their local communities that not only celebrate IWD but also raise awareness of Zonta. Members of capital city clubs join in UN Women (Australia) events. Some clubs take the opportunity to celebrate Zonta's connection with the UN at their October meetings for UN Day (24 Oct).

I have noticed an increase in advocacy activities starting on the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 Nov) and continuing through the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, culmination on UN Human Rights Day (10 Dec).

Clubs have taken the initiative to use these opportunities to advocate for women and to raise the Zonta profile in their local communities. This is what it means to be part of an international organization. Thank you all!



Mental Health First Aid Project

Judy Rothe

Project Coordinator 2019-2020



"A pair of new studies chart a dramatic increase in stress, anxiety, depression and overall poor mental wellbeing linked to the COVID-19 lockdown"
"The studies ..start to provide answers: one suggests the number of people displaying symptoms of anxiety, stress and depression in the community have risen between 13 and 21 per cent, while the other finds roughly one person in every five is now experiencing clinically-relevant depression symptoms".

[Quoted from the Sydney Morning Herald website.](#)

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)
Australia have developed some helpful resources to support during this pandemic, which you can find here: <https://mhfa.com.au/covid-19>

We are looking forward to being able to support this increased need in the community through our MHFA project soon.

You can read more about the project by going to:
zontadistrict23.org.au

What we do /Service Projects/
Mental Health First Aid guide.

Women in need throughout our communities would appreciate D23 Zonta clubs offering the educational skills via the MHFA program.

This program will give participants the opportunity of offering support back to them by providing the knowledge and skills they received during the MHFA course.

Please refer to:
Judy Rothe
D23 MHFA project Coordinator
judyrothe8@gmail.com
0419595788

Advocacy

Christine Hepburn
Committee Chairman 2018-2020



When I read this, it seemed to speak to how effective advocacy works. When it comes down to it, we are each members of a team. Our club team, our Area team, our District team and our International team. We work best when we aspire to be the best for our team. If we think of it from the perspective of, do we want to own something by keeping it to ourselves with the aim of being the one to be right, or do we want to join with team members and make it right?

Being part of an organisation with 100 years of advocacy history means we have a considerable amount to reflect on. It also means we have an exciting future to focus on. We are living in a rapid change environment, yet, as humans, we're not hardwired to deal with change well. At times it can even feel quite overwhelming.

I would like to congratulate all clubs for your heart, resilience, determination and innovation. You have excelled in the Zonta spirit and have found new ways of awareness and action, while offering support to one another and to your communities. To quote Nelson Mandela, "a good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination." District 23 is made of leaders and members who share these two innate qualities. Thank you for all you have done through the last two years.

As we draw toward closing this biennium and welcoming the next, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Governor Jane Adornetto. Your warm, open and supportive leadership has been truly appreciated. To Lt Governor Sandra Burns, the D23 Board, Jasmine Koch, the Area Advocacy representatives, plus club representatives and all members, thank you. Thank you too, to the D24 and D22 Governors and advocacy chairs I've had the privilege of working with during this time.

As we look to the future, I offer a warm welcome to Sandra, her Board and the incoming committee Chairs and newly formed advocacy committees. I believe our next biennium is in good hands!

Advocacy is an assertive and collaborative approach to problem solving. It's using our voice and actions to champion on behalf of others. Effective advocacy is able to influence key decision-makers by moving them from a position of awareness, or understanding and empathy, to one of taking action.

Reflecting on this biennium, each one of you can be proud of your advocacy achievements.

For the Centennial Conference Service and Advocacy Awards we noticed a marked increase in the advocacy component along with the depth of what this looks like within our clubs. We received nine extremely impressive submissions where advocacy stood out. The achievements from the projects that formed these entries are inspiring, impressive, effective and in many cases, duplicable.

We saw Zonta attendees contribute to the outcomes of each of the eS4W Roundtables hosted across the States. These events have continued, although more recently via a virtual version.

To name just a few, at District level we've contributed to a Submission into the Inquiry into homelessness in Australia; endorsed the Women's Legal Services Australia's Safety First in Family Law Plan, completed numerous surveys including the Zonta International Global survey in Response to COVID-19; partnered with eS4W, Femeconomy, and ERA for various events and projects.

At combined District level, we've come together on several advocacy opportunities. It's a far more powerful message when voiced together throughout Australia, plus there's a sense of shared purpose when we draw together to bring about positive change.

Now is the ideal opportunity for us to work even more closely across the District and across Districts.

Looking at the current situation through the lens of women, it's clear it disproportionately impacts women more than men. The Government has expressed a focus on listening. They really want to hear, and this provides us with many advocacy opportunities where the doors are already open. ZI and D23 has continued to work on creating or updating resources and making them available for you, confident in our ability to look to the future, be resilient, and advocate for the positive changes we need to see in our communities, Areas, Districts and Internationally.

We all have the power within us to create change and contribute to a better, more equal future. Collectively taking small manageable actions is how we can continue to advocate for that future. As Barack Obama said, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Service

Jasmine Koch

Committee Chairman 2018-2020



I have enjoyed being the D23 Service Committee chairman for the 2018-2020 biennium and would like to thank all members for your involvement in service projects that benefit women and girls in your local communities by addressing empowerment of women and/or prevention of violence against women and girls.

It has been an honour to collaborate with the D23 Advocacy Chairman, Christine Hepburn on the End Child Marriage presentation and update the Service and Advocacy Project Guidelines and Awards documentation. I hope members have found these of assistance.

It has been pleasing to see on Facebook that a number of clubs have embraced the idea of D23 Service Projects @ Home and kept members engaged.

A strong demand for Zonta Breast Cushions continues. I am asked a lot about the number of cushions made and where they are distributed. For the calendar year ended 31 December 2019, approximately 4000 were made compared to 3000 in 2018. This is based on data reported by clubs to the D23 Breast Cushion Project Coordinators combined with an estimate based on the prior period for clubs that had not responded. I have since identified that the contact details for some of the clubs that had not responded, were incorrect.

In order to have a more accurate picture, please ensure that the D23 Breast Cushion Project Coordinator is advised of the correct contact name and email address and that reports are sent back promptly. The next report request is for six months ended 30 June 2020 and reports to be returned by mid-July. Thank you to Margaret Bird and Kerry Cameron for their contribution in maintaining the D23 breast cushion database.

The D23 Birthing Kit Project engages both members and non-members as such a simple kit reduces maternal and newborn deaths associated with childbirth in many developing countries.

In the 2019 calendar year, 21600 birthing kits were assembled by volunteers organised by D23 Zontians through their clubs, schools and other groups – a tremendous achievement! The Birthing Kit Foundation Australia has introduced Kits at Home to enable individuals to assemble lots of 40 kits in their own homes. This is a great initiative. Thank you to Julie Monis-Ivett for your dedication and contribution as D23 Birthing Kit Project Coordinator.

How do we continue to meet the cost of service projects when fundraising events have needed to be cancelled? Have an online presence. Consider providing an opportunity to donate online –equating the donation to something tangible ie \$10 pays for 2 birthing kits – \$20 pays for 4 birthing kits. Or secure a like-minded organisation to partner with to help meet costs and that will attract attendees and possible future members to say a birthing kit assembly.

A special thank you to Judy Rothe for her outstanding achievements in her role as D23 Z Club and Golden Z Club coordinator for the past five and half years. And to Julia Taylor (ZC Devonport) who took over the role from 1 January 2020. We need to build on the momentum as these clubs are our future!



Public Relations and Communications

Pru Blackwell
Committee Chairman 2018-2020



Open for Business

Since my last report, this second year of our biennium, Zonta Clubs have endured a period of contrasts, unprecedented in the lives of our Australian Clubs. The last half of 2019 saw the culmination of many Zonta Centenary celebrations and the very successful inter District conference, all of which was a time when one of the positive outcomes was the increased profile of Zonta's work. Not only did our Clubs increase their profile through an array of exciting PR and communication tools, there was also significantly increased press releases and use of print media.

This very exciting period has been an extreme contrast to where we find our activity in 2020 during the global COVID – 19 pandemic. In both instances Clubs have had to exhaust their use of PR and Communication tools to remain driven, relevant and connected. As outgoing District 23 PR and Communications Chair I wish to congratulate Clubs for their innovation and persistence during both "events".

Networking

The many Centennial events across the District were typically designed to acknowledge partnerships and collaborations that have supported Zonta Club service and advocacy programs over many years. Members and Clubs engaged with community leaders and business sponsors which heightened their profile, while building and strengthening relationships that will sustain ongoing joint opportunities.

I was privileged to be at the Area 2 Centenary dinner on November 9th 2019 at which District Governor Jane was in attendance. She presented Natasha Stott Despoja with the Zonta International District Centennial Award for her work as the Chairman of Our Watch's Board. At that dinner, and by no means an isolated event, many of the invited guests and dignitaries got "up close and personal" with Zonta and applauded our work.

Our PR machines throughout 2019, certainly strategically positioned Zonta as an organization whose objectives credibly align with many like social agendas.

PR and Communication Tools

The use of social media, print media, posters and banners, brochures and newsletters and more recently annual reports have certainly been used to full effect during this period.

The introduction of the Centennial colour palette, (which hopefully will be supported by the upcoming Convention), the ZI tools including history of Zonta Power Points and media releases were all maximized by Clubs.

Inter District Conference Brisbane – September 2019

This Conference was not only incredibly valuable for attendees, it highlighted the importance of PR and Communications in the way we operate.

Firstly it showcased the Club PR and Communication awards and I have relisted them below as they highlight the best of what Clubs are doing – which is well worth a re visit by Clubs to get ideas. They were: Zonta Clubs of Kyneton, Perth, Fleurieu Peninsula, Melbourne's East, Peel and Bunbury.

Secondly the Conference held a PR workshop, which was well attended but its focus on social media was valuable for future Club development in this area.

Z and Golden Z Club Brochure

A revised brochure outlining these two vital club types has been completed and is available from Julia Taylor, Z and Golden Z Club Coordinator, juliazaylor@hotmail.com. It has been designed to highlight their purpose and has used the same design template and colour palette as the earlier released District brochure. The contact details for each of the Clubs are listed.

(cont'd)



L—R Past D23 Gov. Jane Smith, D23 Gov. Jane Adornetto, Natasha Stott Despoja AO, Vice A2 Dir, Lynda A'Bear, A2 Dir Eronwy Edwards

PR & C cont'd**District Website**

Thank you to Sandy Nicholson for her work in keeping the website relevant and up to date with emerging issues. The website provides a valuable link for members but equally it is often the first information source for individuals seeking an understanding of Zonta's mission and work.

Now that the Zonta International website has been re vitalized, it is timely that all Clubs and/or Areas start to look at their own websites.

What are the first impressions that our website visitors glean? – do we look agile, dynamic and in touch with a changing world which our new younger members will expect when making their decisions whether or not to join? Are our Club websites adequately reflecting the newly revised Zonta International website?

Social Media

Zonta Clubs have embraced multiple social media platforms for engaging with communities on activities and advocacy. The use of these platforms during the universal 16 days of activism program has certainly showcased our role in eliminating violence against women. Clubs across the District have used social media wisely and intelligently to announce their lack of acceptance of any form of violence – congratulations to all.

By now each Club should also have social media policies in place – the District Board has samples for your use.

District 23 Facebook page has been receiving regular comments of endorsement for the articles that have been posted which have focused on emerging womens' issues usually written within Women's Agenda, UN Women postings and reputable newspaper articles.

District Newsletter

Since the start of this biennium the District has produced regular newsletters. Governor Jane and Newsflash editor Jane Smith have been highly conscious of the huge range and quantity of information that comes to Clubs. Whilst club boards filter all this information, the newsletter has endeavored to provide a one stop approach to current information. The newsletter is a member based tool to highlight and make relevant, information that Clubs need to operate effectively. It is friendly and an easy read to help members "tick off" the must do's in Zonta's very busy world. Thank you to both Janes.

Some Final Notes

- Do you have a PR and Communications committee?
- Does PR and Communications appear in your current year's work plan?
- Do you audit your PR and Communications tools regularly and are they an integrated suite?

Women in Technology Scholarship

Tyrl Houghton
Coordinator 2018-2020



This scholarship was a pilot for the 2018-2020 Biennium. It is a Goal for the 2020-2022 Biennium. After the second round of scholarships the pilot program will be reviewed with the possibility of it becoming permanent. Having attained one Australian winner in the six International recipients, it would be wonderful to aim to do that again.

The ability to understand data, problem solve in a digital world and play an active role in technology and technological developments will be critical skills for women as they strive

for equal career opportunities and leadership in technological based industries.

There was a tight timeline to source suitable applicants for the 2019 scholarships. The website now provides valuable resources to help clubs promote this scholarship. There is also a checklist for determining the winner at club level.

With 37 clubs in our District, of which 9 clubs forwarded applicants for the inaugural scholarship, it could be a goal for clubs to aim to have an applicant for 2021. If the number could be doubled that would help to generate the potential for this scholarship to be viewed as valuable and necessary for the development of future leaders in technology.

The WIT scholarship encourages women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in technology. ZIF awarded 30 district/region scholarships of US\$2,000 each

and six international scholarships of US\$8,000 each.

The nine applicants from our District 23 clubs were in the following fields: Computer Science, Civil Engineering, Geospatial Science, Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Materials Engineer, STEM educator, Data Scientist, Biomedical Physician.

The six International recipients had specific expertise in these fields Data/Computer Science, Computer Science, Learning, Design and Technology, Informatics, Computer Science, with District 24's Jessica McBroom working in Educational Data Mining. Profiles of each of these amazing women are available on the website.

I wish the next Coordinator well to promote this innovative and valuable scholarship, showcasing the way in which Zonta International continues to 'Empower women through service and advocacy'

Zonta International Foundation (ZIF)

Margaret Lynch

ZIF Ambassador 2018-2020



As I write this final report I wish to extend my thanks to Gaylene Edmondston, Ruth Thomas and Julie Wiltshire on their assistance in spreading the message in their Areas. Also to the District Board and especially to Governor Jane for all their assistance and support. The role of Ambassador is an opportunity to see more deeply into the workings of ZI, become familiar with the International projects and Awards and to connect with many Clubs and Members across the District.

The main role of Ambassador is to encourage and support Clubs and Members to contribute to ZI because without your donations the work of Zonta would cease.

As at the end of **MAY 2020** the total giving by D23 Clubs and Individuals to International Projects, ZISVAW, Awards, Scholarships, Rose fund and Endowment fund is **US\$166,820.87**

- **100% of Clubs** in D23 have donated to ZI.
- The total numbers of individual members donating has increased from 8% to **now 16%**

This is a great achievement and a testament to the ongoing commitment and generosity of Zontians in D23. On behalf of the Zonta International Foundation I extend a big thank you to each and every member of D23.

Our mission is to attend not only to the needs of the PRESENT situation BUT to build a better future for women world-wide. To support and empower them via Zonta through -

- International Service Programs
- Ending Violence Against Women Initiatives
- Amelia Earhart Fellowship
- Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship
- Young Women in Public Affairs Award

in a recognized partnership with UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women.

I continue to encourage you to show at a Club meeting any one of the short videos or reports available on the ZI website highlighting the wonderful achievements resulting from our projects this biennium.

As we move past the Convention we will have new projects and programs. Updated stories and videos will still be shared on the dedicated website pages of the international projects. Here you will also find stories regarding the site visits. There are also several Zonta Talks that cover the projects.

These tools will highlight the work which has been done and fire a passion to take forward to the next 100 years.

The world is far from being equal or fair – so it is important we still dare to dream of bettering things BUT that should not stop us from acknowledging, rewarding and celebrating the good that has already been done - as we look forward to stepping into the next 100 years.

Again, thank you for your generosity and commitment to the Zonta International Foundation.

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee

Veronika Maddock
Chairman 2018-2020



During 2019, The Bylaws and Resolutions Committee consisting of Veronika Maddock (Chairman), Dee Saunders and Liz Byce, carried out a review of the Zonta District 23 Rules of Procedures.

We looked at anomalies between the various provisions and found several rules which appeared to contradict each other. These related mainly to financial matters, proxy voting and adoption of ZI By-laws and Rules of Procedures.

We analysed each one and recommended changes to the District Board to clarify these conflicts. The District Board accepted the recommendations and they were then presented to the District 23 Business meeting at the Inter-District Conference in Brisbane in September 2019. They were all passed.

Recommendations to change ZI Bylaws and Resolutions are to be voted on in Convention business.

Jane M Klausman (JMK) Women in Business

Sharona Smith

JMK Scholarship Co-Ordinator 2018-2020



Promoting the ZI Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship

While my coordination of this scholarship at District 23 level has been short, it has been a pleasure to prosecute something I strongly believe in.

Upon reflection of my role as JMK coordinator, I feel the one important thing that still needs to be developed is the PR component in promoting the scholarship through area clubs within District 23.

Zonta International provides tools for promoting and assessing scholarship applications but leaves the drive to communicate its availability to the clubs. This is the point at which improvement needs to occur. For example, promotion of the scholarship

only binds a club to be open to providing, receiving and assessing applications to see if there is a worthy candidate, according to the JMK Scholarship Application criteria. If such a candidate does exist, then the club is obligated to submit the application to the District Governor for consideration of a district scholarship (US\$2,000) and possibly a Zonta International scholarship (US\$8,000).

In addition to clubs promoting the scholarship, there needs to be a communication link established with universities/colleges that deliver the scholarship's nine specific fields of business degrees. This is known as embedding and it would be best overseen by the Area Directors. It is encouraging to note that Areas 2, 3 and 5 have already established this vital promotional link.

Embedding provides a more effective link between the place of study and women students. For example, between Areas 1 and 4 there are nine main institutions delivering business courses. I have researched the names and contact details of the acting

business Dean or Head of these institutions. Contacting these persons to discuss the merits of the scholarship can lead to its promotion on campus. I was successful in doing a trial run of this process at RMIT and still maintain the list of other faculty leaders yet to be contacted. I suggest that the incoming Area 1 and Area 4 Directors complete this endeavour through direct contact with the other eight Victorian universities.

As I will be handing over my duties as coordinator, there is one last PR process that should be maintained. It is the recording of all past and future club, district and international recipients of the JMK Women in Business Scholarship. This record can act as a valuable resource for keeping in contact with recipients and their professional achievements. Remember, they provide a world of knowledge about business and can be called upon to speak at club meetings and IWD celebrations; provide inspirational assistance to future business students and become valuable members of Zonta International.

Thank you to District 23 Co-Ordinators

- Amelia Earhart Fellowship - Belinda Wise
- Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship—Sharona Smith
- Women in Technology Scholarship— Tyril Houghton
- Young Women in Public Affairs Award— Sue Lear
- Leadership Development— Sharon Nelson-Kelly
- Merchandise – Trish McLean
- Birthing Kits Project – Julie Monis-Ivett
- Breast Cushions Project – Margaret Bird & Kerry Cameron
- Mental Health First Aid Project – Judy Rothe
- United Nations – Kay Stewart
- Parliamentarian – Ann Horrocks
- Centurion— Judy Gorton
- Zonta International Foundation Ambassador – Margaret Lynch & Representatives Gaylene Edmonston Stott, Ruth Thomas, Julie Wiltshire
- Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign – Ann Horrocks, Liz Bice, Liz Woodgate, Carole Theobald, Julie Wiltshire, Val Sarah

Z Clubs and Golden Z Clubs

Julia Taylor
Co-ordinator 2020



FORMING A Z CLUB – THE STORY OF GEOGRAPHE BAY Z CLUB

ZC of Dunsborough's association with Busselton Senior High School began in 2017 when member Robin Furlong spotted in the local press that the school's 'Ignite' program had lost its government funding. The club has been supporting 'Ignite' financially ever since, as it targets alienated girls aged 15 to 17 who display little interest in their education and future development. The coordinator Dee Shade attends Zonta club meetings each year with 2 students. One time a visiting Zontian from Toowoomba discussed Birthing Kits and the involvement of their local High School. When Dee was driving the girls home they said "Why can't we do that?" The seed of forming a Z Club at BSHS was planted. The seed germinated in late 2018 when President Joyce, Robin and I met with the Deputy Principal, Dee and Viv Barton, the School Nurse.

The aims of a Z Club were discussed and how the collaboration might work. The Principal had already given his full support, so it was all systems go.

In early 2019 Dee and Viv called for expressions of interest to join the Z Club. They also approached potential executives from Years 11 and 12 and Directors from years 7, 8, 9 and 10. There were 28 applicants, including 4 boys. The seedling was turning into a beanstalk. Several meetings were held pre-charter both with and without Zonta members present. A Charter Evening was planned and the students chose 'Geographe Bay Z Club' as their official name. (Geographe Bay was named by French explorer Nicolas Baudin, after his ship, *Géographe*. The bay extends from Cape Naturaliste past Dunsborough and Busselton and ends near Bunbury).

Club is formed: On Friday June 15th 2019 28 members were inducted and the Board installed. About 100 people attended including the local member for Vasse, the Mayor of Busselton, and City of Busselton Councillors, members of BSHS Board, Principal of BSHS, Area 3 Director Faith O'Brien, 18 members of the Zonta Club of Dunsborough, 2 members of the Zonta Club of Perth and about 40 family

members. The Z Club set up the venue, arranged catering, welcomed guests and proudly wore their specially designed shirts. These shirts are allowed to be worn as part of their school uniform.

Since then the Z Club has been involved in:

- RU OK Day - Raising awareness of mental health by selling cup cakes.
- Share the Dignity's "It's in the bag" project providing women and girls experiencing homelessness, poverty or domestic violence a handbag full of personal hygiene products for Christmas. The club assembled over 100 bags.
- A Colour fun Run to raise awareness of White Ribbon Day.
- Taking part in and gaining sponsorship for the BSHS Tenderfeet walk to raise money for the Tenderfeet Education Centre in Nairobi which supports women and children living in poverty.
- An end of year celebration with Zonta members and the installation of the new Board.

The icing on the cake was when they won the Emma I Conlon Award in 2020 for a Z Club chartered for less than 2 years, earning them US\$250.

The tree is still young, and although not growing over the last few months, has strengthened its roots and is ready to burst into bud in spring.

Jane MOULDEN
Zonta Club of Dunsborough

Jane Moulden (left) and President Joyce Odom (right) with members of the Z Club of Dunsborough



Z Club of Dunsborough photo gallery

