

WE HAVE A ZONTA INTERNATIONAL YWPA WINNER!



CONGRATULATIONS to our District 23 Young Women in Public Affairs Winner and one of only 10 Zonta International winners.

Eloise Amirtharajah is from Ballarat, Victoria and her application was submitted by the Zonta Club of Ballarat.

Eloise was a student at Ballarat Clarendon College and the Head of Senior School and her teachers, say that during her time at the school she consistently demonstrated a commitment to participation and contributed to the development of a positive school culture.



Eloise stood out amongst her peers because of her unwavering commitment to the broader community. Throughout her time at the school she has sought to be involved in the school's community service initiatives, including; tutoring students from refugee backgrounds on a weekly basis through both Uniting Care and Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Homework Clubs, visits to Nazareth House, an aged care facility, being a key driver in the school's Sustainability Committee and involvement in fundraising initiatives. As a result of her prestigious record in this area, Eloise was appointed to the role of Community Service Leader for 2020.

In this role she has sought to expand the school's community service involvement, for example, through volunteering at the Food is Free project, and planned a Bushfire relief concert. Most importantly she has galvanised others to engage in community service, and sought innovative ways to keep contributing and maintain links to the broader community during lockdown.

Eloise's commitment to the community goes far beyond the confines of the school. Through her role on the Ballarat Youth Council she established a Green Wardrobe event in December 2019, and has also taken part in the YMCA Ballarat Stand up Youth Summit on Mental Health. She has also sought to highlight social issues and had an article published recently highlighting the history of interracial marriage. Eloise is committed to raising awareness and giving a voice to groups that are marginalised. She has invested significant time and effort into learning more about the experiences of diverse ranges of people and is fully aware of her own privilege.

Fundamentally, Eloise is a young woman who is secure in her values and ensures that in every setting her behaviours are congruent with these values. This trait enables her to have a consistently positive impact in a broad range of areas. Her leadership experience and participation in a broad range of community service activities marks her as a positive contributor to the broader community.

Eloise's application certainly not only impressed the Zonta Club of Ballarat members but impressed our District YWPA Coordinator Yvonne Lockwood and her judging panel.

Currently Eloise is studying International Studies, focusing on development, at RMIT University, Melbourne. In this course, she is exploring the ethics behind international aid and migration and how global processes have impacted these changes. She has particularly focused on gender development and how intersectional aspects of identity impact both individual and collective experiences. She has also chosen Spanish as her language to accompany the core course work. Outside of studies she is also organising a clothes swap called Our Shared Wardrobe, to encourage young people to exchange clothing in an accessible format which does not require any money and promotes sustainable fashion.

Join us in Bendigo where Eloise will present to the Conference on her Award and where her future lies. Eloise will receive from Zonta International \$US 1,500 (District Award) and \$US 5,000 as her Zonta International Award.