



Governor's Message June 2023

This short edition of the *Newsflash* is to alert you to several important pieces of information, which I felt could not wait!

I am delighted to share the news that two of our members each received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the recent King's Birthday Honours list. They are Jenny Weaver (ZC Adelaide Torrens) and Julie Wiltshire (ZC Hobart Derwent).

Ladies, we are proud to know you and to have the privilege of working with you to Build a Better World for Women and Girls

Jennifer Robyn Weaver



OAM citation: For service to women through a range of organisations. The efforts that earned her this recognition include:

- Birthing Kit Foundation Australia:
 - Chairperson, 2017- current and 2010-2012
 - Board Member since 2006.
 - Committee Member since 2004.

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- Zonta International
 - President, ZC Adelaide Torrens, 2018, 2012-2014 and 1993-1995.
 - Coordinator, Combined Area 2 Advocacy Committee, since 2010.
 - Vice Area Director, District 23, Area 2, 2006-2008.
 - Former Coordinator, Combined Area 2 Status of Women Group.
 - Member, ZC Adelaide Torrens, since 1992.
- Mission in Health Care and Development Australian Support Association
 - Treasurer, since 2014.
 - Co-Founder and Board Member, since 2014.

Julie Maureen Wiltshire

OAM citation: For service to the community through a range of organisations.

The efforts that earned her this recognition include:

- Zonta International
 - Zonta Club of Frankston,
 - President, 1988-1990.
 - Vice-President, 1986-1988.
 - Treasurer, 1982-1986.
 - ZC Hobart Derwent:
 - Treasurer, 2018-2022, and 2011-2014
 - President 2011-2016.
 - Zonta International District 23
 - Foundation Ambassador, 2002-2004.
 - Governor, 2000-2002.
 - Lieutenant Governor, 1998-2000.
 - Chair, Nominating Committee, 1996-1998.
 - Centurion, 1996-1998.
 - Chair, District Conference, 1994-1996.
 - Area 1 Director, 1992-1994.
 - Former President, Victorian Past Presidents Group.
- Community
 - Chair, Residents Committee, Spring Haven Lifestyle Village, since 2021.
 - Volunteer Driver, South Eastern Community Care Transport Services, 2011-2015.
 - Community Board Member, Toorak College, 1996-1998.



- Board Member and Assistant Treasurer, Frankston College of TAFE, 1984-1992.
- Mornington Peninsula Hockey Association
 - Treasurer, 1977-1979.
 - Vice-President, 1970-1979.
- Mount Eliza Women's Cricket Club,
 - Inaugural President 1977-1980.
- Mount Eliza Women's Hockey Club,
 - Inaugural President, , 1970-1980.
- Former Treasurer, Peninsula Bushwalking Club.
- Former Secretary, Mount Eliza Tennis Club.

You may well know someone – Zontian or otherwise – who deserves similar recognition. See article following to find out how to nominate them!

REMINDERS

Please make sure your clubs have lodged the following:

- International dues to ZI – due date was 1 June
- Club officer report form (details of president and treasurer) to ZI – due date was 31 May
- Club details and club officer details for District Directory to info@zontadistrict23.org.au – due date was 31 May
- Club Annual Report (including financial report) to Governor, district email info@zontadistrict23.org.au, Area Director and Vice Area Director where relevant

ZONTA SPIRIT



In late July, the ZI **Zonta Spirit** team is running a webinar for club presidents. Bronwen Haywood (D23 Zonta Spirit Liaison) and I recently attended one run mainly for district governors and found it full of good ideas for boosting morale and getting members to celebrate the 'spirit'. Highly recommended!

Presidents will receive an invitation in due course, acceptance of which will provide access to the meeting. Feel free to share the invitation with interested others in your clubs. It is being run on 25 July at 10am and 4pm CDT (Chicago time) which translates to:

- **AWST: 11pm 25 July and 5am 26 July**
- **ACST: 12.30am and 6.30am 26 July**
- **AEST: 1 am and 7am 26 July**

Keep an eye out for it!

Yours in Zonta

Kay Stewart

ZI District 23 Governor 2022-24

Australian Honours and Awards

Australian Honours and Awards

The King's Birthday Honours list was recently announced and, typically, a TV advertising campaign has been encouraging people to nominate worthy citizens.

More detailed information about the awards and how to nominate can be found at: <https://www.gq.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards>

The following overview also comes from this website:

The Australian Honours and Awards system recognises the outstanding service and contributions of Australians. Recipients come from right across the country

and from all walks of life. While some are well-known, the majority are unsung heroes.

While typically they haven't sought thanks or recognition, they deserve both. The Honours and Awards system gives the nation a chance to celebrate and acknowledge those who work tirelessly to improve local communities and to make Australia a better place.

Any Australian can nominate someone for an award. Nominations are assessed by the Honours and Awards Secretariat, considered by the Council of the Order of Australia before recommendations are made to the Governor-General.

The Australian Honours and Awards system includes:

- The Order of Australia;
- Meritorious Awards;
- Military Awards (Gallantry Decorations, Distinguished Service Decorations, Conspicuous Service Decorations); and
- Australian Bravery Decorations.



The Order of Australia insignia for all the awards feature the golden wattle flower as the central emblem. The wattle motif is also carried through the riband. An individual ball of wattle blossom has been developed into a simple convex gold disc featuring a rich texture of beads and radiating lines to accentuate the central circlet which represents the surrounding sea. The wattle flower and colours of gold, and where used, royal blue, are taken from the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

Picture is Medal of the Order of Australia

Education Awards

EDUCATION AWARDS

Amelia Earhart Fellowships

The Amelia Earhart Fellows for 2023 have been announced. The 30 recipients come from 11 countries. Congratulations to **Ying Luo from Australia**, who is undertaking her PhD studies at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

Young Women in Public Affairs Award



Phoebe Bourke, winner of the **Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra award**, was selected by D23 judging panel as the D23 winner of one of 37 winners of a **Zonta International Award, valued at US\$5000.**

Phoebe is a Year 12 student at Sacre Coeur College, Glen Iris, Victoria. Throughout her schooling Phoebe has looked for opportunities to be involved in areas of social justice and community outreach. She has used her leadership as opportunities to show empathy, respect, stewardship, and commitment. She has held leadership positions as St Vincent de Paul Captain, Social Justice Student Representative and Class

Captain and has raised significant funds for causes and coordinated large donations. She founded the 'Open Hearts Club' at Sacre Coeur to support inclusion and the acceptance of diversity and provide 'a safe space' for all students. She has used her leadership to develop a school conference about social justice and wants to continue to support this event in the future.

Phoebe has been an ambassador for the charity 'One Girl' since 2017. ('One Girl' is an organisation that aims to increase education for girls and women in Uganda and Sierra Leone.) She spoke about this at the Sacre Coeur International Women's Day breakfast in 2023 and has inspired Year 10 students to become involved. She has raised \$3700 – enough to educate 12 girls for a year. Phoebe is passionate about supporting girls and women to

improve their lives through education and assisting with fundraising to purchase school and menstrual supplies, medical items and food.

Phoebe spends Fridays after school helping at 'Friday Night School' – a long-term program which helps provide tutoring for students in disadvantaged and marginalised areas and has enabled many children to improve their education results and options.

Phoebe has taken opportunities to speak at conferences and to debate. She was selected in 2022 to attend the Australian and New Zealand conference of Sacred Heart schools and gave the opening address, talking about the importance of social justice and involving a student voice about these issues. She was involved in DAV (Debater's Association of Victoria) and her team was a state semi-finalist in 2022. She has participated in the model UN and the EVATT UN youth Competition, sponsored by the Glen Iris Rotary Club.

In 2023 she was one of three students chosen to speak at a forum organised by the Federal Member for Higgins about the coming Voice to Parliament Referendum. She spoke about the need for reconciliation with Australian First Nations people and the need to get the Voice to Parliament accepted at the Referendum. Phoebe believes that a successful 'Voice to Parliament' referendum will help First Nations women to feel more confident about voicing their problems and possible solutions. Phoebe is continuing to be involved in this issue as an advocate for 'The Voice to Parliament'.

Phoebe is involved in a myriad of activities across social justice, leadership, and public speaking. She has a genuine interest in helping others, volunteering her time, fundraising and advocacy. Her long-term goals are to continue supporting some of her current activities and to work professionally in diplomacy, international relations and/or in areas helping to protect human rights and advocating for the voiceless.

District 23 Conference will have a session showcasing **Phoebe Bourke** and 2022 Zonta International **Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship** winner **Amy Zahra** (nominated by Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs).

District Projects

Birthing Kit Project
Zonta D23 and
Birthing Kit
Foundation
Australia



**Birthing Kit
Foundation**
Australia

**Recognising Our
BKFA Champions**

The Birthing Kit Foundation Australia, BKFA, partnering with Australian Zonta Districts 22, 23 and 24a, is recognising our Zontian organisers of Birthing Kit Assembly Days. Badges identifying them as 'Champions' have been presented at Area Workshops in 2023, with Presidents receiving badges for recipients who were unable to attend the Workshop for later presentation at club meetings.

District 23 BKFA CHAMPIONS 2023

Area 1

Dianne Hillman – ZC Melbourne's East
Brenda Price – ZC Mornington Peninsular

Area 2

Angela Vandellis – ZC Adelaide
Sue Lear – ZC Adelaide Flinders
Sharon Geue – ZC Adelaide Hills
Julie-Monis-Ivett – ZC Adelaide Hills
Joy O'Hazy – ZC Adelaide Hills
Margaret Parsons – ZC Adelaide Hills
Doone Winnall – ZC Adelaide Hills
Joy O'Hazy – ZC Adelaide Torrens
Jenny Weaver – ZC Adelaide Torrens
Maggi Gregory – ZC Gawler
Sandy Nicholson – ZC Gawler

Area 3

Stella Audino – ZC Bunbury
Faith O'Brien – ZC Bunbury
Jill Lynn – ZC Bunbury
Nicki Phelps – ZC Bunbury
Jo Wittorff – ZC Bunbury

Area 4

Sharelle Knight – ZC Ballarat
Cheryl Gibbons – ZC Geelong
Jane Derrick – ZC Wangaratta
Nicole McFarlane – ZC Wangaratta

Area 5

Margaret Bird – ZC Hobart Derwent
Julie Wiltshire – ZC Hobart Derwent

Recognised as the top Zonta International District Project at the 2014 Zonta International Convention, the Birthing Kit Project, has provided 2.6 million women with a safer birth environment produced. **More than 200 Zonta Assembly Days have already been held this year.**

Congratulations to all BKFA Champions. Please wear your BKFA Champions badges with pride and start the conversations needed to expand this wonderful program as we 'Build a Better World for Women and Girls' and raise the profile of Zonta in our communities through our Assembly Days.

Tyril Houghton
BKFA Ambassador
houghton@westnet.com.au

Membership

Debbie Schmidt : D23 Membership Chair / Lieutenant Governor

Membership Matters



The Add Your Voice Campaign ended on 31 May and the results are available on the ZI website. Go to My Zonta/ Tools/ Membership Tools/Add Your

Voice. https://www.zonta.org/Web/My_Zonta/Tools/Membership_Tools/Add_Your_Voice#Leaderboard

Zonta Club of Bendigo Inc, District 23

Although the ZC Bendigo was looking good in Tier 1 large scale clubs (30 or more members), they were pipped at the post.

While District 23 did not feature in the Leader Board, we are proud to congratulate D22 (Queensland):

- Tier II mid-size clubs (16-29 members)
 - ZC Mount Isa Inc.
 - ZC Bundaberg Inc.
- Tier III small scale clubs (15 or fewer members)
 - ZC Rockhampton Inc.

Debbie Schmidt

Lt. Governor and Membership Chair 2022-2024

SAVE THE DATE

District Conference 2023



1-3 September 2023. Bunbury, WA

- **EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION** closes on **21st July 2023**. Hit the link to go directly to the Conference Booking page on

Humanitix. <https://events.humanitix.com/zonta-district-23-conference>

- **CALL TO CONFERENCE** will be sent to all Club emails and Presidents on 1st July. This is to be **shared with all members**. Clubs **must** complete their **DELEGATE & ALTERNATE** forms and return to Governor Kay Stewart **by the 11th August**.
 - **ELECTRONIC VOTING:** The Zonta International Convention 2022 approved electronic voting for Conferences and business. District 23 will use electronic voting for this Conference. We will use ElectionBuddy
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and each Delegate will be **sent an email with a link** once the voting opens at approximately 4pm AWST on 1st September 2023. This voting system worked very successfully in 2021.

- Delegates will vote for Reports, Candidates, Bylaws and Resolutions. All information will be supplied in the Call to Conference.
- **PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOUR CLUB HAS 2 VOTES- i.e. more than 30 members as at 1st July 2023 and advised by Governor Kay, YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE TWO (2) DELEGATES.**
- **All clubs will be able to vote, even if they do not have a member attending the Conference. All clubs must submit Delegate and Alternate information.** No club will need a PROXY, as with electronic voting, each club has the opportunity to vote.
- **Bylaws and Resolutions:** All information regarding Bylaws and Resolutions will be in the Call to Conference. The Bylaws and Resolutions Chair will be asking for online discussion and questions prior to the Conference (as per the 2021 Zoom Conference). Therefore all discussions on Bylaws and Resolutions will be completed prior to the Conference and Clubs can advise their Delegate how they wish to vote.
- Any **questions you may have regarding online voting** can be sent to the Conference Chair, Sandra Burns at zontad23conf@gmail.com

CONFERENCE PROGRAM @ a Glance:

Venue: Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre. (BREC)

- **Thursday Evening 31st August 2023**
 - Past District Governors Dinner.
 - **Friday 1st September 2023**
 - Registration and Credentials will open at 12 noon, followed by the 1st Business Session at 1.45pm.
 - At 2pm the **Candidates Speeches** will commence; followed by a short coffee break.
 - A wonderful **Opening Ceremony** and exciting events will welcome you to Bunbury. The Opening Ceremony commences at 3.45pm and includes the Welcome to Country/entertainment and the famous Flag Parade, as well as our Keynote Speaker.
 - Meet up with fellow Zontians at the Welcome Reception and finish off the evening with the Dine Around Bunbury.
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- **Saturday 2nd September 2023**
 - On Saturday we have prepared for you a feast of speakers including Prof. Samar Aoun and Megan McCracken.
 - After lunch you will be impressed by inspirational young leaders from WA, along with our Award winners.
 - The day will conclude with the Gala Dinner – what a way to kick up our heels!
- **Sunday 3rd September 2023**
 - Sunday will commence with the Ceremony of Remembrance, followed by an update on District Projects and the Membership Recognition Awards.
 - Young Zontians, Z/Golden Z and Young Professional members will discuss the future of our organisation.
 - District Awards, Convention 2024 and Conference 2025 announcements will conclude our 17th D23 Conference at 12.30pm.

Sandra Burns and the Conference Committee.

Enquiries: zontad23conf@gmail.com

International Convention - 27 June – 30 June 2024
Brisbane Convention Centre QLD

Zonta needs you and your ideas for the 2024 Zonta International Convention

We are almost a year away from the 2024 Zonta International Convention in beautiful Brisbane, Australia, and Zonta needs your help!

Share your knowledge and expertise with your fellow Zontians

Zonta International is seeking proposals for workshops that will provide convention attendees with insights and actionable ideas that they can take back to their advocacy and service programs at the club level and/or utilize in their personal lives. Workshops will be held on Thursday, 27 June, and Saturday, 29 June.

Learn more and [submit your proposal by 1 September](#).

Learn more about volunteer opportunities

From registration and credentials to elections, monitors and more, volunteers are essential to the success of every Zonta International Convention. Interested in volunteering or learning more about the opportunities available?

Please email zontabrisbane24@gmail.com to express your interest in volunteering and your area of interest, and the Convention Committee will contact you.





Founded in 1919, Zonta International is a global organisation of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

This is the official newsletter of Zonta International District 23.

Governor: Kay Stewart

Our email address is: zontadistrict23@yahoo.com.au

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