



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 23

Newsflash

Biennium 2022-2024

Build a better world for women and girls.

Issue Seven February 2024



DISTRICT 23 GOVERNOR
KAY STEWART

Governor's Message February 2024

The New Year is well and truly upon us. I hope that you all enjoyed some rest and recuperation and were able to spend time with family and friends. The work of Zonta in Australia has not, however, taken a holiday. You will find information later in this bulletin about the decision for Districts 23 and 24 to withdraw the Resolution about the Birthing Kit project from proceedings at Convention and, on a more positive note, progress towards establishing a national advocacy voice through Zonta Australia, which will be launched in principle at Convention.

Unfortunately, peace and goodwill are not thriving in much of our world. War rages in Israel and Gaza, in Ukraine and many other countries. For actions to take to advocate for women and girls in conflict situations, read the Zonta International Statement on Women's Rights in Armed Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings. You can find it

at: <https://zonta.org/NewsEvents/Statements/ZontaInternationalStatementon>

[WomensRightsinArmedConflictsandPostConflictSettings](#)

Honours and Awards

We have many Zontians, and people associated with Zonta, to be proud of. Congratulations go, in particular, to **Pauline Vukelic** (Area 3 Director) on her award of the Japanese Imperial Order of the Rising Sun Gold and Silver Rays and to **Christine Fitzherbert** (ZC Melbourne on Yarra Inc), **Dianne Leggo** (formerly ZC Bendigo Inc) and **Dawn Newman** (ZC Perth Northern Suburbs Inc) for being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division in the Australia Day Honours list. See later for more details about these amazing women.

Mary Bernadette Uzelac, Geelong, was awarded Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the General Division for significant service to the community of the Barwon South West Region. She was the recipient of the Outstanding Woman of Achievement Award from the Zonta Club of Geelong Inc, 2010



Excellence in Service and Advocacy Awards



ZI is encouraging clubs (and districts) to submit entries for the above awards, showcasing outstanding service and advocacy actions benefiting women and girls in their local communities. Projects will be featured on the ZI website and social media. Six club and three district winners will be announced at Convention. Use the online Share Your Story form to submit nominations. Each submission must contain a completed Share Your Story form, with a description of the project and digital photo image/s (at

least 300 dpi) showing the activity. (Collages of photos will not be accepted.) More information can be found at [Service Tools \(zonta.org\)](#)

Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery

The deadline has been extended. Submit your paintings, poems, photographs, videos, sculptures, quilts, Music, and songs www.zonta.org/ZontaSaysNOW by **29 February**.



Share Your Story

We are still battling to reach the elusive D23 goal of having 75% of clubs contribute to Share Your Story.

Since last reported in *Newsflash*, the following three items have appeared on the ZI site:

- 18 May ZC Wangaratta, following continued success of its annual Girls' Breakfast, held the inaugural Boys' Career Breakfast, aiming to bring boys and men into the conversation on gender equality.
- 29 June ZC Bendigo hosted a Women's Flood Recovery luncheon on 23 June that brought together 100 women from the flood-ravaged community in the nearby town of Rochester.
- 11 September D23 shared their successful District Conference
- 28 September ZC Adelaide Torrens says NOW with sustainable fashion. Two Camilla Louise fashion parades were held to engage women across four generations about sustainable fashion.

I have been reliably informed that other contributions have been submitted. Given the amazing array of activities undertaken all over the place during the 16 Days of Activism, I encourage clubs to share these experiences.

Remarkable Women, Powerful Stories

November 2023 ElsaMarie D'Silva Founder of the Red Dot Foundation

February 2024 Tita V. Banks Chair, World Federation of UN Associations

Available online 29 February

Their stories can be accessed

via: https://zonta.org/Web/Web/News_Events/Remarkable_Women_Powerful_Stories This link also gives access to previous stories of remarkable women, including Australians Holly Ransom and Sue Middleton.

Zonta Spirit Webinars



Join a webinar to see how the Zonta Spirit has been successfully implemented at all levels of Zonta during the biennium. The webinars are being held on Tuesday 27 February at 10am and 4pm Central Standard Time (USA) The 4pm one translates to **Wednesday 28 February at 6am WA, 8.30am SA, 9 am Vic, Tas and NSW, 8am Qld.** See link in the 2024 Leadership

Update to register. (If you do not have access to this, ask your president or Area Director.



International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day

Many clubs will be in the throes of planning functions and guest speakers for their local communities on International Women's Day, or encouraging their members to attend functions organised by other like-minded bodies.

Don't forget that 8 March is also Zonta Rose Day. This day is encouraged as one on which clubs or individuals could donate to the Zonta Foundation for Women to give tribute to those working in the community to achieve gender equity. This can be done through the ZI website

at: https://www.zonta.org/Web/Your_Support/Foundation_Campaigns There are plenty of options for supporting Foundation projects that have not yet reached their target for the biennium:

- Amelia Earhart Fellowship 46%
- Women in Business Scholarship 27%

- Young Women in Public Affairs Award 70%
- International **Service** Programs (collectively) **50%**

So far, we are at 75% of our overall target.

Kay Stewart

ZI District 23 Governor 2022-24

Zonta Australia



ZONTA Zonta Australia
INTERNATIONAL
AUSTRALIA

Zonta Australia Launch

The District Governors of Districts 22, 23, 24 are pleased to invite you to the launch of Zonta Australia which will take place in the evening of Thursday 27th June at ZI Convention in Brisbane.

Please come along and share in the celebration of a new milestone in working together in Zonta

The "Zonta Australia" Draft document was circulated for discussion to the three Australian Districts (22, 23, 24). The District Governors and their boards were unanimous in their support of establishing Zonta Australia. On the 14th January 2024 the District Governors or representative and Lt Governors met via Zoom to discuss next steps.

At this meeting it was agreed that the committee of Zonta Australia will comprise 2 representatives from each of the Districts with District Governors as ex officio. The representative (members of the committee) will be selected by the District Governor and will potentially comprise the chair or another member of each District Advocacy Committee and one other member who has a strong interest in the area of Advocacy. The chair of this committee will be selected by the committee members. The first committee members will be identified by the District Governors prior to the beginning of the 2024-2026 Biennium and will between July and January 2025 establish the Terms and Reference, processes and potential financial costs in readiness

commencement of operations from January 2025.

Zonta Australia document development team:

Bridget Mather

Lesley Siegloff

PhD

Past District 22 Governor

District 23 Area 2

Director

Member ZC Adelaide

Member ZC

Adelaide Flinders

ADVOCACY: 16 Days of Activism - Area Reports

Showcasing Club Activities for 16 Days of Activism

Area 1

ZC Melbourne on Yarra

Three members attended the Safe Steps annual Walk Against Family Violence in the CBD and marched alongside members from ZC Melbourne's South East. The walk provided good photo opportunities and a chance to meet other like-minded clubs. The Club's Social Media postings were very active during the 16 days of Activism. In 2024, the club will seek contacts within the City of Yarra with the aim of participating in local 16 Days events.



ZC Melbourne's South East

Two members attended the Safe Steps annual Walk Against Family Violence. The club promoted and participated in Bystander Training jointly hosted by the City of Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Shire. The club has a representative on the steering committee developing new guidelines on family violence for both councils. Numerous activities were held locally with members provided with a list of events to attend.

ZC Melb West

Due to a close relationship between the club, Hobsons Bay Council and Joan Kirner House, the club is involved in inter-agency meetings and planning of 16 Days activities. At the start of the 16 Days, Hobson's Bay Civic Centre was lit orange with the club attending the opening ceremony along with the new mayor. Subsequently, orange ladies displaying a QR code linked to the club were placed in local libraries, streets and the foyer of Joan Kirner House, along with relevant information. The club has also secured a regular spot in the Council's Neighbourhood Houses newsletter.

ZC Melton



Zonta Melton members Suzanne Leahy, Lyn Hill, Sarah King, Julie Landford, Jane Sultana and president Bianca Heaney. 3/1/2024, 10/ (Orange January)

Women walking against violence

The Zonta Club of Melton is inviting the community to walk together against family violence on November 26 at Hannah Watts Park.

The free Walk With Her event will get underway at 10am and include a two-kilometre walk, a range of activities and giveaways, talks from special guests and a barbeque lunch.

The Walk With Her event will mark the beginning of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign led annually by UN Women.

It runs every year from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of

Violence Against Women, to December 10 which is Human Rights Day.

During the 16 Days of Activism, communities around the world join the call to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls.

Zonta International is an organisation that has worked to build a better world for women and girls for more than 100 years.

Zonta Club of Melton president Bianca Heaney said this in-person event aims to create a safer, more respectful and equal community and raise awareness of the prevalence, impacts and severity of family violence.

"Family violence is gendered - overwhelmingly most perpetrators are men and victim survivors are women, children and young people," she said.

"While gender inequality is the root cause of violence against women, family violence can, and does occur within a range of relationships."

"We encourage the whole community to walk together in solidarity to help change the story and to demonstrate support for all victim survivors of family violence."

Details: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/walk-with-her-tickets-734407481547?aff=oddlcreator>

16 Orange ladies were distributed to local libraries

As our last day of the 16 days of Activism our members supported the Melton Central Women's cricket team. We had a fun day out and Melton won the match. Well done and thanks to all for your support during the past 16 days.

and community centres, along with relevant information and club info, which received positive feedback from staff with a request that this happens again in 2024. The club partnered with Melton City Council and Western Health for the 'Walk with Her' walk attended by over 80 people and featured in the local press. Respect Victoria social media posts were added to the club's Facebook daily. On the final day of the 16 Days the club supported the Melton Central Women's cricket team at a match, displaying Zonta banners.



Yvonne Lockwood
Area 1 Director

Area 2

16 Days extended to 17 Days in South Australia. Each of the 10 South Australian clubs were very active ensuring that the message was very visible. We engaged in marches, vigils, special community events and luncheons; asked bakeries to put orange icing on their finger buns and cakes; put up posters and banners around various towns. There was also significant yarn bombing in one town, 57 orange shoes displayed in one library and an event where footballers painted slogans on T-Shirts. All metropolitan and close-by regional clubs joined in the inaugural Say No to Domestic Violence walk in the city of Adelaide on 25 November. This walk was initiated by the Rotary committee against Domestic Violence, which asked Zonta to partner with them.



Ready to Walk (Members of **ZC Adelaide** ready to walk: Maxine Panegyres and President Kaye Roberts Thomson) *Speeches at Women's Memorial Gardens* (ZC Fleurieu Peninsular members listening to the speeches in the Women's Memorial Gardens at the end of the walk)

It has been a pleasure to be working and collaborating with a range of like-

minded organisations such as Zahra Foundation, National Council of Women South Australia (NCWSA), Western Collaboration Against Family and Domestic Abuse, Soroptimists International, Women's Shelters, city councils and more recently Rotary. Zonta in SA continues to advocate for improvement in the circumstances that continue to put more and more women at risk, including homelessness and coercive control. Members joined with Vice Area Director Jenni Trewren, Judy Lovett (president ZC Adelaide Torrens), the SA Minister for Women Katrine Hildyard, members of NCWSA and the ZAHRA Foundation for the 'orangeing' of the bridge over the Torrens River.



Jenni Trewren & Lesley Siegloff

On Thursday 22 November, we heard of yet another woman dying as a result of partner violence. This reverberated around the community; there had been six deaths in a very short time. On Friday 24, the Zahra Foundation and Embolden asked that like-minded organisations come together on the steps of Parliament house November to call on the SA Government to hold a Royal Commission into Domestic Violence. Zonta in South Australia supported the call and asked that the government implement a Commission quickly so that the outcomes and recommendations can be acted upon and funded in a timely and positive manner. Our Vice Area Director Jenni Foreman stood with the other organisations on the steps holding the banner 'Zonta Says No to Gender Based Violence'.

Partnering with the South Australian" Rotary Says No to Domestic Violence" committee for the walk against Coercive Control. 25th November walking from Victoria Square to Women's Memorial Gardens In all there were approximately 1000 walkers. Fifty Zontians and friends registered for the walk; among the many members and friends were some of the four-legged kind. We made a great splash of orange against the purple that Rotary wore, walking behind our sign.

I was privileged to be among the seven guest speakers and be able to share the Zonta commitment to the eradication of domestic violence and to

supporting a legislation change focusing on Coercive Control. After my talk on the role and commitment of Zonta to the call for an end to Gender Based Violence, I caught up with Jenni Foreman who walked with our many members and friends.

Club Activities



ZC Adelaide Hills ran their usual Vigil to the memory of women who had suffered and or died as a consequence of domestic violence. The Seymour College Music Teacher, Iain Small, helped the club by arranging a Year12 student, Sally, to be the Piper for the Vigil. Iain who also attended was so moved by the event and the information shared, composed a piece of music. This beautiful piece is available on 'YouTube'; it can be accessed by typing **Orange Ladies Zonta Says No to Violence** Mr

Small has gifted the piece to the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills for their use.

pic: Seymour College Piper



ZC Gawler was very active in the community and were very much supported by the local Gawler Mayor and her Council and Gawler community members. The members' initiative ensured that there was orange everywhere including yarn bombing at a local park and joining with the council to erect signs around the town.

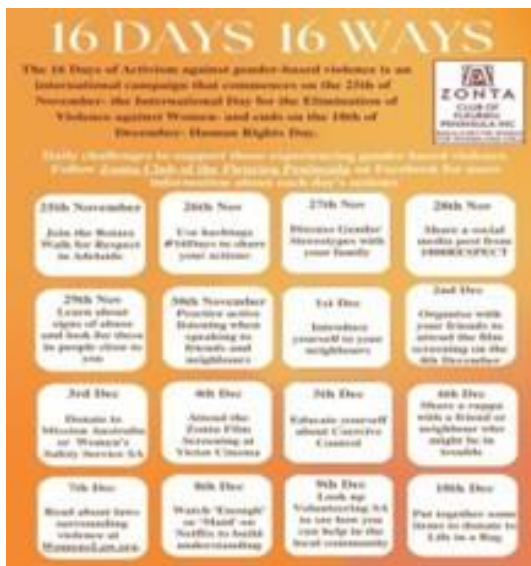
Yarn Bombing

ZC Port Lincoln held a dinner on November 25 at the Port Lincoln Hotel. The club was visited by members of ZC Lower Eyre and representatives from other local organisations and community. It was a great opportunity to collaborate on Desmond Tutu's quote "There comes a time where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."



ZC Lower Eyre is a small club with members from both Tumby Bay and Cummins. The club proudly displayed Orange Ladies in shops during the 16 Days in Tumby (2) and Cummins (3). The local bakery in Tumby Bay joined in the call for the elimination of violence against women and sold finger buns, covered in orange icing, throughout the 16 Days.

ZC Adelaide Torrens ran a very active campaign, working closely with the City of Burnside and *The Senior* newspaper as well as other clubs and community groups. The main focus of our initiative was the slogan **“57 Too Many”**. In 2023, 57 women were recorded as losing their lives through domestic violence. The club made wearable button badges displaying the slogan and gave them away to the public, they also painted 57 pairs of shoes orange and displayed them in the Burnside Library



ZC Fleurieu Peninsula created a **"16 Days 16 Ways"** daily challenges calendar that was circulated to members and other clubs as a an encouragement to engage on a daily basis to make themselves and others aware of the positive things that can be done to share the message.

Insert: 16 Days 16 Ways

ZC Adelaide Flinders held a clothesline event **“Drawing the Line”** in conjunction with West

Adelaide Football Club. It was a great opportunity to interact with the younger generation of footballers from both the men’s and women’s teams. Their message went out on display in the public areas of the Club. We were also joined by two women from Zahra Foundation and three of their clients who were very enthusiastic. Jenni Foreman (our next Area 2 Director) also

painted a t-shirt or two!



Zonta makes an

Orange Splash

ZC Para Districts Area is a small club with enormous energy and full of fabulous ideas to engage with the community. The club has formed a formal collaboration with the Rotary Club of Mawson Lakes and the Soroptimist International Torrens group. This group has been called **RoZSI's Voice** and together they set up a display at the Salisbury Hub and hosted a stall at the Mawson Centre Christmas market.

At the stall they were able to speak to many people about the issue and effects of domestic abuse and to hand out the newly developed Brochure on 'What is Coercive Control'.

ZC Adelaide created a sea of orange and partners with other clubs across Area 2 to raise the visibility of Saying No to Violence Against Women. Mindful of this message and the goal to 'Orange the World' the club accessed a number of T-shirts that were able to be purchased by members of the various clubs so that orange was very visible at every major event especially the Rotary/Zonta march.



ZC Mt Barker - Our main event was the “Walk Against Domestic Violence” - the Adelaide Hills Community Stands Up Against Domestic Violence. A crowd of approximately 200 women, men, & children attended the talk and walk organised by The

Haven, Mount Barker, Zonta Club of Mt Barker and the Mount Barker Community Centre in support of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence on Wednesday 6th December, 2023.

Courtney Hunter-Hebberman, a traditional custodian of the Adelaide Hills area, spoke about the death of her beautiful daughter, who died at the hands of her partner four years ago in the same week as the walk. Courtney also did the Welcome to Country (Peramangk land) through a smoking ceremony. Katrine Hildyard MP, spoke about the women



who have lost their lives to violence and how we were walking to honor them and in support of those who mourn them and with survivors of violence. She also spoke about the crucial work needed to prevent violence towards women.

Pay Our Respects to Australian Murdered Women, Saturday 28 January Members from **ZC Adelaide** and **ZC Adelaide Flinders** came together with members of parliament and other concerned community member on the steps of parliament house to remember the 71 women from around Australia killed as a result of Gender Based Violence in 2023. Each woman’s name was called out and one of the people standing on the steps held up her number and her information was shared with all in attendance.



Lesley Siegloff
Area 2 Director

Area 3
Bunbury

For many years, ZC Bunbury has held annual awareness campaigns to alert the community to the prevalence of family and domestic violence in the area and across the State. Club members have become increasingly disillusioned that the situation does not improve. The club decided to explore other strategies that may help to make a difference.



Schools and students were invited to participate in a **Respect Calendar** competition, which received 121 entries. The twelve students whose art was included in the calendar, their families and school staff invited to a club hosted presentation afternoon where students received their certificates and

awards, which included a 2024 calendar. The artworks were displayed in a local bookshop and featured in the social media campaign during 16 Days of Activism.

As part of outreach activities at the Bunbury Markets, shoes donated by club members were displayed to symbolise the impact of FDV, providing a talking point with members of the public. While



members were distributing the more than 2500 White Ribbons, many people gave generous donations to support the South West Women's Refuge. Since the club began promoting White Ribbon Day at the Bunbury Markets, there has been a noticeable increase in the awareness within the public as to the role Zonta plays in this program.



Z Club Responding to a request from the SW Women's Refuge, members of the Kingia Z Club developed the concept of **Escape Bags** for First Responders to give to women forced to leave a violent relationship, with nothing but what they are wearing. These are vital, especially when they need to stay in a hotel or motel

overnight because the SW Women's Refuge is full.

Dunsborough

For the first time there was a 16 Days of Activism presence in Dunsborough with several **orange female form** corflute cut-outs being displayed at the

Naturaliste Community Centre and later moved into the centre of Dunsborough to draw attention to this global awareness movement. Dunsborough Club members supported the **White Ribbon Day** ceremony and march along the Busselton Foreshore on Nov 25 which is coordinated by a former member who is also a city councillor. There was a family violence themed art exhibition by members of the Busselton Senior High School Z Club members and others, as a backdrop to several speakers on their experience of childhood bullying and violence. Coordinated by the Z Club school coordinator, attendees were given an orange felt flower with a white ribbon made by Z Club members and the presentation featured a solo vocal performance by one of their members.



Bussleton

White Ribbon Day

Peel



Unfortunately, due to the forecast of extremely high temperatures on the day, the Mandurah march was cancelled at the last minute.

Members had planned to wear their hi vis orange vests, carry a large banner and the 58 pairs of orange shoes representing the number of deaths due to domestic violence in Australia were to have been displayed at the final destination of the march.

Perth

Communications and PR (Visibility Raising) Team leader, Emily McLeish, initiated an on-line petition to help save the RUAH Safe Night Space for Women in East Perth. Over 25,000 signatures were obtained, and both Emily and club President, Vickyi Nazer, addressed a City



of Perth Council meeting on this issue. Although saved in the short-term, the Safe Night Space was eventually forced to close in late December. Emily's efforts contributed to ensuring this matter was widely publicised in the local press. It is hoped that an alternative location for the Space will be agreed upon by all relevant parties in the near future.

Perth Northern Suburbs

Whilst there were no specific activities by the club, the 33rd Perth march against domestic and family violence was promoted in the Club newsletter and some members participated in the Department of Communities Forrest Place Forum in the central Perth.

Final message of hope In 2021, a Bunbury Club member refused to give a White Ribbon Day wrist band to a man known within his community to be a perpetrator of violence toward his wife. He was furious but, after a discussion, reflected on his behaviour and went to counselling. He changed his behaviour and was given a white ribbon in 2022 and 2023 as his wife confirmed the violence had stopped as despite still having a temper, he had now learnt how to control his anger and not abuse his wife.

Pauline Vukelic

Area 3 Director

Area 4

Albury Wodonga

Our goals were to:

- Stage an impactful 16 Days of Activism against family violence across Albury Wodonga
- Attract participation by more than just service providers
- Increase media coverage
- Build awareness of the seriousness and prevalence of violence in our community and what we can do about it
- Provide men and women with an opportunity to take away new knowledge that will benefit their personal lives, their communities and organisations
- Enable women to access information on existing services, resources and assistance

ZC Albury Wodonga partnered with local police family violence units to bring awareness, assistance and advocacy to our communities. Sixteen 1m tall, wooden, orange ladies made their presence felt by a colourful contribution as well as a QR code connection to useful emergency numbers.





*Raising Awareness
Cooks*



*Police
Orange Ladies*

On the 26th of November we supplied sausages and onions to our Police who were the cooks for a crowd of around 150 people over the allotted time. We attracted good media coverage - radio, newspaper and television, and other services joined us to complete the activity with a Walk Against Violence. We repeated this in a rural town and learned that the useful little survival packs that we were supplying to our police for distribution to women on that first escape night, should also include men. In rural areas, our police find that it is safer and better to remove the perpetrator from the family home on the grounds that resources for one are more attainable than perhaps a mother and her children. So we promptly supplied packs that included a small towel, a shaver and aftershave lotion.

And because of the impact of our work, we attracted a new Zonta member! This is what we do...make the world a better place for women and girls!

Ballarat



ZC Ballarat joined with the City of Ballarat, Grampians Health and Grampians Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committees hoping to walk against family violence. Unfortunately, the Ballarat weather didn't allow us to walk; however, Mayor Des Hudson spoke about reducing the rates of family and gender-based violence needing to begin with respect. A panel of Community members spoke about their experiences in their communities, workplaces and different cultural backgrounds.

Substitute for Walk (Image - Club members Hilary Pope and Catherine Taylor)

Several members attended with our Club banner in clear view behind the panel of community members. Afternoon tea was served, which was a great opportunity to discuss Zonta Says NO and how Zonta International has advocated for gender equality over many years with various programs and how part of its Vision states that 'Zonta envisions a world where no woman lives in fear of violence'.

Bendigo



Bendigo Zontians participated in a public event to launch the 16 Days of Activism on November 27, organised by Greater Bendigo Against Family Violence. The event brought together organisations dedicated to advocating for a safer world for women and saying NO to violence against women. Zonta Bendigo, alongside The Orange Door, Anglicare, Centre for Non-Violence, Women's Health Loddon Mallee, Centre Against Sexual Assault, Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative, Bendigo Health, and Women with Disabilities, engaged in conversations,

distributed merchandise, and passionately advocated for the elimination of violence against women.

Our Club also posted regularly on Facebook for respect for women, and supported and attended an on-line event run by our Women's Health partner to promote understanding of the gendered drivers of violence. Our collective presence and involvement reinforced the shared commitment to creating a world where women can live free from violence and discrimination.

Geelong

ZC Geelong has continued to build on its 16 Days of Activism activities over the past 4 years and this year took giant steps in the support we were able to garner both from the City Council and other like-minded organisations.

The launch of the 16 days was a gathering with guest speakers and music in Johnstone Park adjacent to City Hall. Participants joined by walking to the event along several major streets, decked out in their orange clothing or with banners.

To continue the orange theme, we yarn bombed many, many trees in and around Geelong with orange knitting and our Zonta Says NO and our Zonta Says Now logos.

This year there were again several high-profile buildings and landmarks lit up in orange in the evenings. These included Deakin University waterfront campus, the local Water Board building and several City Council lighting installations.





Geelong Water Board Deakin University Geelong Art Gallery

We also distributed 'orange ladies' to all libraries in and around Geelong, all three major Barwon Health sites, all local Community Health centres, as well as having a small version of an orange lady make an appearance at a City Council meeting.

Kyneton

Below is an outline of their campaign:

- **Nov Club Meeting** - Special Guest Speaker Karla Reardon from 1800 RESPECT. Club members wore orange for the club group photo to highlight launch of campaign. Photos went into our social media campaign.
- **Club 16 Days Pop-Up Event** - Our yearly community promotion pop up education and advocacy event at the Social Foundry Café, Kyneton. Members wore orange and engaged with members of the community to highlight and educate about the 16 Days campaign.



ZONTA SAYS NO
TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

#ZontaSaysNO
#16DaysOfActivism



Zonta Club of Kyneton 16 Days Launch 2023



- **Kyneton Community Windows** static display to highlight the 16 Days campaign.
- **Macedon Ranges four libraries** - a joint project with the libraries, the static display highlighted the 16 Days campaign with books, posters and literature.
- **Kyneton Town Hall** - Orange lights to highlight the 16 Days campaign.
- **Social media campaign** - Daily Facebook and Instagram posts to highlight club activities and thoughts regarding 16 Days campaign.
- **The Fort** - A free private film screening for 100 guests to view the movie 'The Fort' made locally by The Voice of Change Charity. Themes of DV were explored. Local DV industry guest speakers addressed attendee questions at the conclusion of the film.

- ***Macedon Ranges Walk Against Family Violence*** - Club members joined community members to walk against family violence. Special guest speaker Gender Equity Commissioner Dr Niki Vincent.

Mitchell

ZC Mitchell engaged in a comprehensive yarn-bombing campaign. The trees chosen were on the main road (old Hume Highway) through Wallan, Kilmore (two trees), and Broadford (two trees). Various "Zonta Says No" messages were attached.

We also wrapped a tree at the Seymour Goulburn park, which was the finishing point of the community walk "Steps toward Change" organised by the Mitchell Shire. This included many other stakeholders, among them police, hospitals, health centres, schools and Youth Councillors. Many groups gathered at the park where information was shared and a sausage sizzle enjoyed despite the rain.

At the conclusion of the 16 days we had to take down the yarn bombs but then we had a request from Mitchell Shire Council to wrap 2 trees in the High St Pop-up Park created for the Christmas and New Year period. The park remains and so do our orange blankets!





Yarn Bombing

Orange blanket

Sausage sizzle

Wangaratta

The club was involved with 6 activities:

1. ZONTA SAYS NO! Billboard on major road leading into the township.
Message was shown frequently over the 16 Days.



Page 16 - THE CHRONICLE, Friday, December 1, 2023

Zonta Wangaratta joining in 16 Days of Activism campaign

ZONTA Club of Wangaratta has joined the global 16 Days of Activism campaign again this year, calling for the elimination of violence against women and girls.

Commenced on Saturday, and ending on December 10, Human Rights Day, the club hopes to spread awareness in Wangaratta through orange banners hanging at the Rowan Street underpass and at Merriwa Park, plus posters of awareness will be displayed in many public places, including a school display at the post office arcade. This year's theme is UNITE! calling for whole societies to work together to eliminate violence and most essentially to involve both genders in all discussions and forums.

Zonta Wangaratta president Elizabeth Wilson said the campaign calls on the local community to join forces in addressing violence against women and girls.

"Violence against women and girls is one of the most pervasive violations of human rights and is a global pandemic; coercive control and domestic abuse is more than just physical or sexual violence," she said.

"Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognised as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential."

"Already 58 women have been murdered this year, exceeding last year's toll and the year isn't even over."

"In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions with men and no woman lives in fear of violence."

Zonta Wangaratta welcomes new members and if anyone is interested you can make contact through email: zontawangaratta@gmail.com or via the website www.zontawangaratta.com.au.



TAKING A STAND: Zonta Wangaratta members (from left) Jen Kirby, Kate Jackson, Lois Knox, Lauren Begley and Elizabeth Wilson have been spreading awareness among the community during the 16 days of activism.

PHOTO: Kurt Hickling

2. ZONTA SAYS NO! Banners at the town's underpass and Merriwa Park fence;
3. 'YOU ARE NOT ALONE' Posters attached to over 50 public Women's toilet doors in the area;
4. ARTICLE published in local Chronicle newspaper.
5. POSTERS with the theme 'Domestic Violence', working with 2 local Schools. Six proformas were offered where students wrote messages about prevention and awareness. A display of 40 was presented in a public space in the shopping centre.
6. FACEBOOK posts were made regularly covering these activities.

Chris Denmead
Area 4 Director

Area 5

All clubs in Area 5 were involved in a variety of activities to support the international 16 days of activism to eliminate violence against women.

ZC Launceston: Under the banner of White , sponsored signage for the Launceston 16 Days of activism walks was obtained by the Launceston Club. The signs intended to send a deeper public message than simply 'Stop violence Against Women'. Club members strongly believe public understanding for this issue should be broadened so the message displayed highlighted some of the gender-based reasons for the status of women. The orange signs, endorsed with both the Zonta Club of Launceston and White ribbon logos were well received and made a big impact on the walks.



ZC

Launceston partnership walk
march

ZC Launceston 16 Days of Activism

Zonta Club of Cradle Coast: organised for displays at the Bendigo Bank, and local businesses and community venues.

Devonport Club: partnered with the Soroptimist and Inner Wheel clubs as well as the Devonport council to establish a 'Walk the Talk' event on Nov 26 in Devonport . The event involved over 80 attendees, wearing orange, and displaying banners from their clubs. Guest speakers from engender Equity were inspiring and challenging.



ZC Devonport

Walk the Talk

Hobart Club: Organised a campaign of regular, relevant social media posts on Facebook.



Hobart Derwent Club: Hosted an Advocacy Breakfast on Nov 24th to launch 16 days of activism. This event was partnered with Citizen Tasmania and included 73 attendees. The guest speaker, Emeritus Prof Kate Warner, former Governor of Tasmania, challenged attendees to explore

strategies that go beyond legislative reform as that has simply not worked as borne out by key statistics.

Insert: ZC Hobart Derwent Advocacy breakfast (Area 5 Director Wendy Quinn, Emeritus Prof Kate Warner, President Dr Silvana Bettiol and Citizen Tasmania Deputy Director, Pratiti Amin)

Wendy Quinn
Area 5 Director

Education Awards

Amelia Earhart Fellowship

Applications for the 2024 Amelia Earhart Fellowships are closed and we are

eagerly awaiting announcement of the recipients in May 2024. In the meantime, some clubs held events or invited guest speakers to their meetings to celebrate Amelia Earhart Day (11 Jan). We commemorate the records she broke on this day in 1935 and celebrate her contributions to the aerospace industry and her empowerment of women in science.

Geelong

The Zonta Club of Geelong held an early evening get together in the Pevensey Gardens in Geelong near a bed of Zonta Roses. Club members gathered, with appropriate wine and cheese, and heard about Amelia and some of the background to her aviation and her membership of Zonta.

Melbourne's West and Ballarat

On Sunday 21st of January, these two clubs held their 2024 Celebration of Amelia Earhart event at the B24 Liberator Museum in Werribee. What an iconic memorial from Australia's wartime history, filled with three renovation projects including of course a B24 Liberator. The attendees, some of whom travelled a long way to attend, participated in guided tours led by the museum's knowledgeable volunteers. They got to hear stories about the training locations and activities that took place in Werribee during those WW2 years, about the restoration projects currently underway, and had the opportunity to read through the myriad of memorabilia on display.



(Amelia Earhart Display)





(Faye Juetz with Cathy Carrington)

The guest speaker for the event, was Cathy Carrington, a NZ aviatrix who volunteers at the museum. She kept us enthralled with her story of how she achieved her childhood dream and became the first woman to fly across the Tasman Sea solo – there and back. Her courage and willingness to just keep going, despite all the barriers thrown her way, demonstrated her strong Amelia Earhart Spirit.

The event included a treasure hunt with bonus points if you could locate Amelia Earhart hidden amongst the many displays, and afternoon tea. All funds raised at the event and through the online raffle, will be donated to the AE Fellowship. The online raffle will be drawn at the Area 1 & 4 Meeting on 16 March. You can still buy tickets using the following

link: <https://www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=v9m7r>

Bendigo

ZC Bendigo celebrated at their 5 February meeting, with Guest Speaker Kathy Mexted who is a pilot and the author of *Australian Women Pilots*. In the book she attempts to write women back into Australian aviation history. Ten female pilots are surveyed including Nancy Bird Walton and Mardi Gething, who fulfilled their flying dreams during the 1930s and 1940s. The book also profiles Deborah Lawrie (née Wardley), who famously took Ansett to court in 1979 in a bid to work as a pilot. Kathy describes the 1970s as ‘A woman in Ansett’s world was at home, in the office or until they were married serving onboard meals as air hostesses.’ Lawrie fought



and won her right to fly for that airline, and was inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame.

NOTE from the author:

We live in an amazing world where technology has advanced enough to facilitate a possible sighting of Amelia Earhart's plane, 86 years after she went missing, and 16,400ft below us on the ocean floor. The mystery of her disappearance, and the media storm this new possible sighting created, highlight that the world still loves Amelia Earhart! Here's hoping that a new generation of girls could be inspired to follow her path.

Kal Vassilopoulos
AE Fellowship Coordinator

Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship

Winner of the 2023 scholarship was Pearl Pyae, nominated by ZC Perth Northern Suburbs.



Pearl was born and raised in Myanmar. Since completing her Computer Science undergraduate degree from the University of Information Technology (UIT) in Yangon, Myanmar, Pearl followed her passion for technology and entrepreneurship by building an e-commerce business.

She migrated to WA in 2022 to pursue a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Edith Cowan University. By pursuing an MBA in Australia, Pearl hopes to build experience, knowledge, and skills to further strengthen and expand her business. She has a strong work ethic and believes in resilience, having overcome significant hardships as a result of ongoing instability in Myanmar, studying full-time, working part-time in Perth and also managing her e-commerce business in Myanmar.

She loves volunteering and engaging in various volunteer roles in both Australia and Myanmar.

Currently, she serves as the Marketing Director at ECU Women in Business. Making contributions to the Myanmar community is hugely important to her, and her ultimate goal is to become a successful entrepreneur and to motivate and empower young women to pursue their dreams.

Materials for the scholarship are available on the ZI website: https://zonta.org/Web/Web/Programs/Education/Women_in_Business_Scholarship

There you will find:

- A poster to advertise the scholarship
- A description of the scholarship
- The scholarship application form
- Privacy policy and publicity authorization form
- Recommendation letter cover sheet

Please send the poster out to your networks and social media. On the poster, please include the deadline 24 May for applications to reach clubs, and the club's contact information.

Linda Tinning

JMK Women in Business Scholarship Coordinator

Women in STEM Scholarship

4 NEWS

bunburyherald.com.au

Bunbury
Tuesday, December

Scholarship lifts STEM education

OLIVER LANE

South West educator Beth Thompson has won a \$5000 Zonta Women in STEM scholarship.

She is one of 30 scholarship winners from 20 countries, with Ms Thompson claiming the scholarship from the WA, SA, NT, Tasmania and Victoria zone.

Ms Thompson is active in the South West maths scene and is the regional ambassador for mathematics for the Mathematical Association of WA as well as secretary of the South West Mathematics Association.

She is furthering her studies at Edith Cowan University after studying secondary teaching at ECU and Murdoch.

The scholarship aims to increase women's participation in a historically male-dominated field. The money goes towards furthering the recipients' studies to push for representation and leadership positions.

This was the third time the scholarship had been given out with funds awarded in 2019 and 2021.

Previously the grants were known as the Women in Technology scholarship before expanding to STEM to reflect the diversity of options in the area. According to Zonta spokesperson Jo Wittorff, Ms Thompson's nomination almost didn't happen.

"It was interesting because Beth actually came along to one of our birthing kit making days ... we were talking about the scholarship and how no one had applied from our club and how we were a bit disappointed and she said 'well I'm doing a STEM subject, tell me about it,'" she said.

"She's very keen to use it not just with students but also with First Nations people."

Ms Wittorff said the scholarship was important in order to further women in male-dominated areas.

"It's important to give women more options," she said. "It is getting to be more normal for women but it's just encouraging more to take up study in this area so that they can be role models and get the word out there that women are able to study these subjects."



Kerry Kerr and Beth Thompson, who was one of 30 scholarship recipients around the world.

General information about the **2024 scholarship** is available on the ZI website: https://zonta.org/Web/Web/Programs/Education/Women_in_STEM_Scholarship

Materials for the 2024 round are not yet available but, keep an eye on the website in the near future.

Clubs need to individualise the publicity poster and the application form with a date for receipt of applications and contact details of the club. Suggested date is 2 August. This will allow time for judging applications prior to submitting club winners' applications to the district for judging, as the district winner is due to ZI by mid-September.

Dr Prue Cowled
Women in STEM Coordinator

Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) District 23 Award – a gentle reminder.

School has returned - have you commenced or finalised your club YWPA Award applications?

Clubs should choose their YWPA Winner by mid-March (or earlier depending on your club's schedule), in order to meet the district deadline of 1st April 2024. Please make sure your applicants send you all the required documents and signatures as this will save you time chasing them later, as it is essential these documents are in order when you send your club winner's application to me. Applications containing all the necessary documents as well as your club cover sheet with President's signature should be sent as a single PDF file to email: pincombej7@gmail.com by 1 April 2024.

All documents for 2024 are available on the ZI website. If you need any help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Julie Pincombe
YWPA Coordinator 2023-2024

Awards



Order of Australia Medal

Dianne Leggo



Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division. Mrs Dianne Leggo, Runaway Bay QLD. For service to women through Zonta International.

Zonta International / District 23:

Co-Chair, Membership, Organisation and Extension Committee, 2000-2002

Chair, 1998-2000

Member, 1994-1998.

Namesake, Dianne Leggo Honour Roll, since 2019.

Area Director, 1990-1991.

District Centurion 1992-1994.

Clubs:

- Chairman, Golden Z Club, Griffith University Gold Coast Campus, Qld, 2023-current.
- Member, Zonta e-Club of Queensland, 2022-current.
- Member, Zonta Club of Paradise Point Qld, 2017-2022.
- Treasurer, Zonta Club of Bundaberg. Qld, 1990-1994.
- Organiser, Zonta Club of Bundaberg, Qld, 1990.
- President, Zonta Club of Bendigo, Vic, 1986-1988.
- Treasurer, Zonta Club of Bendigo Vic, 1984-1986.

Christine Fitzherbert

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division Ms Christine Lempick Fitzherbert, Mentone VIC. For service to the community through a range of organisations.

St Kilda Police Citizens and Youth Club

- Chief Executive Officer and General Manager, since 2016;
- Board Secretary.

Health

- Chair, Australian, New Zealand and Asian Creative Arts Therapies Association, since 2020.
- Executive Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development, Melbourne Health, 2007- 2016.
- Executive Director Human Resources, Southern Health (now Monash Health) 2001-2007.
- BreastScreen Victoria • Board Member, 2012-2016. • Member, Governance, Performance and Remuneration Committee, 2016-2017.
- Women's Health Victoria: Chair and Deputy Chair, three years; Former Treasurer. Board Member 2010-2019.

St Peters Anglican Church, Brighton Beach

- Parishioner, over 30 years.
- Churchwarden and Parish Council Member.
- Former Senior Lay Leader.

Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra

- President, 2012-2014.
- Vice-President, 2004-2006, and 2010-2012.
- Director, 2000 and 2014-2017.
- Secretary, 2016-2019.
- Member, since 1987.

Zonta International District 23

- Chair, Bylaws and Resolutions.
- Area Director Southern and Eastern Victoria, District 23 Board, two years.

Professional - Other

- Principal, Fitzherbert and Associates Consulting.



- Former Director, Human Resources Management Group and former Director Workplace Reform, RMIT University.
- Fellow, Australian Institute of Company Directors.
- CAHRI, Australian Human Resources Institute.

Dawn Newman



Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division Ms Dawn Newman, WA. For service to the community through Zonta International, and to cricket.

Zonta International

- Chairman, Public Relations and Communications Committee, 2004-2006.

District 23, Zonta International

- Member, Centennial Anniversary Committee, 2016-2020.
- Member, Nominating Committee, 2008-2010.
- Member, Public Relations and Communications Committee, early 2000s.
- Area 3 Director, 1994-1996.

Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs

- Board Director, 2017-2021.
- President, 1990-1992.
- Editor, *The Zontapreneur* newsletter, since 2006.
- Member, since 1985.

Cricket

- Member, Past Players Group, WA Cricket, current.
- Player, Australian Women's Cricket Test Team, 1968-1969.
- Player, Western Australian Women's Cricket Team, 1963-1964.

Awards and Recognition:

Certificate of Recognition, Department of Communities, Western Australia, 2019

Conferment of the Japanese Imperial Order of the Rising Sun Gold and Silver Rays upon Ms Pauline Vukelic



On November 3rd, 2023, the Government of Japan announced the conferment of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, upon Ms. Pauline Vukelic, in recognition of her outstanding contributions in enhancing interregional exchange between Japan and Australia through the promotion of sister-city exchange. The Order is awarded by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

As President of the Busselton-Sugito Sister City Association and former President of the former Bunbury-Setagaya Sister Cities Committee, Ms.

Vukelic has played a vital role in the association and the committee for over 30 years, laying the foundation for the strong and active sister-city exchange that continues to this day. Her activities over the years, such as the student exchange visits, have led to cross-generational community exchange and contributed greatly to the promotion of people-to-people exchange between Australia and Japan.

The Consulate-General of Japan offers its congratulations and sincere appreciation to Ms. Vukelic for her exceptional efforts and achievements. Her many contributions will continue to benefit the ties of both countries profoundly for many years to come.

The award will be conferred on the 23 February, the birthday of the Emperor of Japan, at the Consulate-



The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays (5th class)

General official residence in Perth.

District 23 Projects

Birthing Kit Project

**ZONTA/BKFA
Resolution and
Workshop,
Convention
2024**



**Birthing Kit
Foundation
Australia**

A decision has been taken to withdraw the following Resolution before the 2024 Convention:

‘That Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women support the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia’s work in supplying clean birthing kits and education projects into developing countries for the biennium 2024–2026.’

As well as the Resolution from Districts 23 and 24, the Zonta/BKFA sought to hold a workshop at the 2024 Convention to introduce more Zontians to the practical assembly of kits.

The decision to withdraw the Resolution was reached by the Zonta/BKFA Ambassadorial group following discussion in consideration of information received from the ZI Bylaws and Resolutions Committee that ‘The Zonta International Board could not accommodate...a workshop if there is a Resolution in front of the Convention. It would give the air of campaigning for a cause’.

The Ambassadorial group met with Mary Ellen Bittner (ZI Bylaws and Resolutions Committee) and Judy Gorton (2024 Convention Chair) to discuss the options. The group had worked to produce a more succinct rationale for the Resolution but missed the deadline of 180 days to submit this. A motion was then passed by the full Ambassadorial group:

‘That after great discussion it was decided that moving forward the preferred option is to support a Birthing Kit Workshop at the 2024 Convention and withdraw

the Resolution currently pending.'

Two workshop sessions have subsequently been confirmed. This approach will enable us to raise awareness of the project and work in the next biennium to refine a Resolution to put to Convention 2026.

Birthing Kit Workshops at Convention

The Birthing Kit Foundation Australia, BKFA, partnering with Zonta Districts 22, 23 and 24 in Australia, is showcasing Birthing Kit Assembly Days at our forthcoming Convention. Two workshop times are available on Thursday, 27th June, 9.00-10.30am and 1.30-3pm. Are you going to Convention? **Please register for these workshops and volunteer to help to support the production of kits**, thus spreading the word on how easy these kits are to assemble. We aim to have 200 people per session and your help would be appreciated.

Breaking News

You can have your Club's Assembly Day at Convention

If your club has never participated in an assembly day before, or you would like your effort at Convention to be included in the data registered to your club, order the kits either using the MyCause process or by direct payment to BKFA, and state you want them to be assembled at Convention. Zontians from around the world can then see how it is done, make them, and your club will be credited with these kits.

Phase Three of BKFA recognition is for non-Zonta Birthing Kit Champions.

As mentioned at our District 23 Conference, clubs were asked to nominate community groups and clubs, schools, Z-clubs and Golden Z clubs, former Zontians, friends of Zonta, sponsors, corporates and other supportive businesses who had participated in Assembly Days. At Area Workshops, certificates will be presented to these wonderful supporters of this program; if they are able to attend.

Missed nominating for Phase Three?

If your club missed the deadline, you can still nominate but recognition will not occur at the 2024 Workshops. You are also welcome to nominate your current champions AS WELL AS champion supporters way back to 1999 when The Birthing Kit program was a newborn!

Assembly Days Data for 2023



Twenty-nine assembly days were held in with 15,700 kits produced. Let's see if we can increase the numbers in 2024.

At the Zonta International Convention held in Orlando 2014, the Birthing Kit Project, was recognised by Zonta International for providing women with a safer birth through access to these clean birthing kits.

Gaining Sponsorship and Donations to Fund Kits - How to do It?

Corporate networks seeking tax deductible donations can

1 – Make a tax deductible donation direct to your Zonta Club through BKFA.

BKFA will provide a tax deductible receipt on request.

2 – A Zonta Club can set up a MyCause page and a link to the corporate body or others as required.

Donations can go direct to the specific project as **specified by your Zonta Club**

Find out more [at the BKFA website here.](#)

Where Does My Donation Go and How Does it Help?

Your tax-deductible donations will support the work of BKFA and our priority areas of maternal and newborn health.

Zontians and Zonta Clubs AS BKFA members

\$70 for an individual membership. A wonderful gift for any person who shares our vision. Is your club a member of BKFA?

Forging partnerships to fund and assemble kits is rewarding. Please share your success stories and promotional activities, and email me photos of your assembly days. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any queries by email on houghton@westnet.com.au or 0400252076

Wear your BKFA Champions badges with pride and at Convention. Start the conversations needed to expand this wonderful program as we 'Build a Better World for Women and Girls' and continue to raise the profile of Zonta in our communities via Assembly Days.

Tyrl Houghton

D23 BKFA Ambassador

houghton@westnet.com.au

Breast Care Cushions Project

What a busy start to the year!! It seems the demand for our cushions is ever increasing.

At times like this, it's great to have the help of friends of Zonta, our networks and the wider community to meet the demand, as we want all mastectomy patients to receive a cushion to assist with their recovery.

Based on the club reports received from 26 of the clubs participating in the project, approx. 2600 cushions were made during the six months ended 31 December 2023. This is a great achievement!

You may recall from my last newsflash article that there are variations in the straps, types of fabric used and packaging, across the district. As part of the 6-month report, I requested additional information regarding straps, fabric and packaging. I have summarised it below indicating the number of clubs for each variation.

Strap		Fabric		Packaging	
Bow & Elastic Loop	10	Satin only	10	Cellophane bag	11
Encased elastic	9	Cotton/blends	6	Plastic bag/zip lock bag	7
Two straps that tie on shoulder	6	Mixture	6	Wrapped in cellophane	3
Velcro & Elastic Loop	1	Mainly satin	2	Plastic ziplock bag with drainage bag no strap	1
total	26	Cotton only	2	Cellophane bag with drainage bag	1
		total	26	Drawstring bag with/without crossbody strap	2
				Gold tissue paper	1
				total	26

I also received photos from clubs of their finished products. Thank you to all clubs for providing this useful information. Although there are variations, the final products look fabulous and the recipients are always delighted and appreciative of our efforts.



Jasmine Koch
D23 Breast Cushion Project Coordinator

Mental Aid First Aid



We live in a world where 1 in 8 people live with mental illness. Therefore, one of the most important conversations you may ever have could be with someone facing a mental health crisis. Most people are familiar with physical first aid and the idea that when you attend a physical first aid course you learn the skills and knowledge required to recognise and respond to life-

threatening emergencies and provide a first aid response to a casualty across a range of different situations.

Mental Health First Aid training adopts a similar approach. MHFA training courses serve as a bridge to professional care by guiding individuals on how to offer support and connect a friend, family member, co-worker or someone they know to appropriate resources and support, by teaching the skills you need to help someone you're concerned about.

The Zonta D23 MHFA project has been going since 2019. Many Zonta clubs have

already assisted in sponsoring and or running a MHFA course in their community. If your club is considering sponsoring or running a MHFA course and you would like to know more about how to do it, please see the club MHFA resources on the District 23 website; <https://www.zontadistrict23.org.au/what-we-do/service-projects/mental-health-first-aid/> or contact our District 23 Donna Fabris at donna.zonta@bigpond.com

Donna Fabris
MHFA Coordinator

Membership

Debbie Schmidt : D23 Membership Chair / Lieutenant Governor

Membership Matters

As you are reading this article, I will be in America to undertake Governor Training. I will be dreaming of our Australian summer and warm weather, but my reality will be jackets, cold and/or snow. But what an experience I expect to have.

I am unable to provide our membership data report at this time as there has

been a hiccup with the ZI database which, prior to my writing this article, had not been fixed but I look forward to presenting my membership report to members at the upcoming Area Meetings.

Reminder: New members who join between 1st April and 31st May automatically are considered fully paid until 31st May 2025.

Be energetic and deliberate about growing and retaining membership!

Add Your Voice





Have you prepared your membership campaign to compliment your International Women's Day activities? The Add Your Voice membership toolkit for 2024 has not yet been updated on the Zonta International website but you can still utilise the tools used from previous campaign

Good news from the 2023 campaign, the following D23 clubs in Tier III (15 or fewer members) have been recognised for increasing club membership by at least 20%: ZC Cradle Coast, Area 5. ZC Geelong, Area 4

Debbie Schmidt

Lt. Governor and Membership Chair 2022-2024

UN Notes

UN Newsflash Notes

I attended the January Zoom meeting for Zonta International UN Committee members and UN District Chairs with Pamela Morgan, focussing on CSW68. Many of us will be attending virtually so a very useful and worthwhile tool is the Advocacy Toolkit. Find it here and use it!

ngocsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/NGO-CSW68-Advocacy-Toolkit-compressed.pdf?mc_cid=29c161bc36&mc_eid=5becc9b75a

We then discussed the CSW Systems reform – a confronting but constructive document that Pamela described as 'a push forward against the push back'. I am sure that Zonta International will play a big part in taking urgent measures to adopt and action the recommendations! It is a large document but because of its importance, I will forward a copy of this ***Independent Review of the UN System's Capacity to Deliver on Gender Equality*** to all Area Directors. Please contact your Area Director if you would like to read it (122 pages).

Alwyn Friedersdorff

UN Chair

Climate Change: Zonta Says NOW

How climate change contributes to violence against women



During the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, the Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank explored how climate change contributes to intimate partner violence, sexual violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, and child marriage. Check out the 17-minute [video](#) and these [slides](#) that contain links to key studies.

Many studies found that violence against women increases with extreme weather events. For example, did you know that a 1°C rise in annual temperature was [connected](#) to more than a 6% rise in physical and sexual domestic violence? Or that every 10% increase or decrease in rainfall correlates to a 1% increase in child marriage.

A new [report](#) from the University of Newcastle found that during the 2022 floods in NSW, women were subjected to violence and sexual assaults, yet it was the women who led the shorter and longer-term recovery efforts when government and emergency services failed.

Are you and your community disaster-ready? Internationally, Zonta Says NOW is developing a series of Disaster Ready leaflets to support the [Disaster Preparedness and Response Action Guide](#). The leaflets will inspire Zonta clubs to find out more about their community's disaster preparedness and response plans, how the plans meet the needs of women and girls, and how clubs can best support their community, before, during and after a disaster. Find out more at www.zontasaysnow.org.au

Carole Theobald
Zonta Says NOW

SAVE THE DATE

A promotional banner for the Zonta Convention Brisbane 2024. The background is a photograph of the Brisbane city skyline with the word 'BRISBANE' in large, colorful, 3D letters in the foreground. Text overlays include: 'Join Zontians from around the world' and '27 June—30 June 2024' in white script; 'REGISTRATION NOW OPEN' and 'Early bird price ends 15th March' in yellow; 'ZONTA CONVENTION BRISBANE 2024' with a map of Australia logo in the top left; and contact information at the bottom: 'Volunteers are still required—email zontabrisbane2024@gmail.com' and 'Visit www.zontaconvention.com for all convention information'. A 'Queensland' logo is in the bottom right corner.

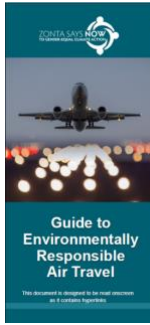
Join Zontians from around the world
27 June—30 June 2024

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
Early bird price ends 15th March

ZONTA CONVENTION
BRISBANE 2024

Volunteers are still required—email zontabrisbane2024@gmail.com
Visit www.zontaconvention.com for all convention information

Queensland
Travel for Good



2024 ZI Convention

A Guide to Environmentally Responsible Air Travel

has been produced and will go online at zonta.org soon. The Zonta International Convention is one of the highlights of membership and members may like to reduce their environmental impact when making their travel choices by following the simple tips in the leaflet.

Zonta Says NOW Think Tank

17 February

1.00 pm – 2.30 pm in WA

3.00 pm – 4.30 pm in Qld

3.30 pm – 5.00 pm in SA

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm in Vic/Tas.

Our guest speaker will be Catelyn Richards from Climate Action Nurses.

Members can register on the [D23 Think Tank page](#).

Area Meetings 2024

Areas 1&4 16 March in Bendigo

Area 5 23 March in Devonport

Area 2 20 April in Adelaide

Area 3 4 May in Dunsborough

2024 Board Training Day

SAVE THE DATE – 18th May, 2024 via Zoom

District 23 will be running zoom sessions for any Zonta Club member who has been elected to undertake a Board position in their club, or who is in the middle of their current role or who is looking to take on a leadership role in the future.

Three sessions will be offered, and we invite all members to Zoom in and participate in the appropriate session – as they are being held at different times, you may attend more than one session.

More information about this day and zoom invites will be available early April, 2024.

Days to Note

24 January	International Day of Education
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
20 February	World Day of Social Justice
22 April	Earth Day



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: info@zontadistrict23.org.au

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