



Newsflash

Biennium 2022-2024

Build a better world for women and girls.

Issue Eight May 2024



DISTRICT 23 GOVERNOR
KAY STEWART

Governor's Message May 2024

Feedback from the recent UN Commission on the Status of Women meeting (CSW68) highlighted the sad fact *that 'Gender inequality [inequity] may be a current conversation, but gender parity is projected not to happen for 130 years.'* As if that weren't challenging enough, it seems that **Zonta Says NO** and **Zonta Says NOW** have never been more relevant.

In the first four months of 2024, there was a sharp increase in the incidence of women dying due to male violence. This includes not only domestic and family violence but also the fatal stabbing of five

ZONTA
SAYS NO
TO VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN

women in a Sydney shopping centre by a man with mental health problems, who clearly targeted women as his victims. Whereas the rate was previously one woman a week (Shocking!), the statistics show that 26 women died in the first 114 days of 2024 – or one woman every 4.38 days.



This triggered candlelight vigils, rallies, and protests around the country. In the City of Ballarat, hundreds of residents of Ballarat and surrounds marched through the streets of the city on 12 April calling for action on violence against women following the deaths of three local women in separate incidents between 4 Feb and 5 April.

On 28 April, hundreds of men and women, including fifteen members of **ZC Bendigo**, attended the rally 'What were you wearing?' Centre for Non-Violence CEO, Margaret Augerinos, said police in Central Victoria responded to 4,500 incidents of domestic and family violence last year. She called for more accountability, law reform and national action. "These men are not monsters. These men are here. They live with us, work with us, play with us," she said.

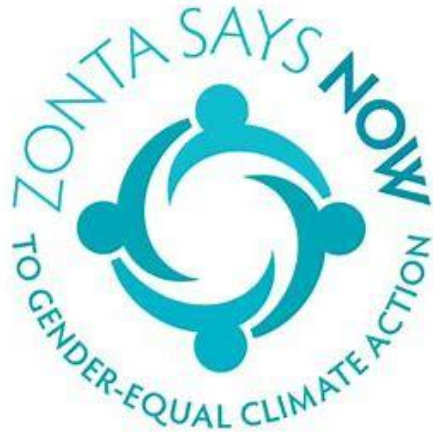


Bendigo "What were you wearing" Rally

On 1 May, tens of thousands of Australian men and women gathered in cities and towns around the country, to rally against gender-based violence.

Commonwealth and state governments have swung into action responding to the call of 'If not now, when?'

In the few months since the start of 2024, Australia has suffered a number of extreme weather events – cyclone, floods, bushfires and even a tornado – an unusual event in Australia. The tornado hit Bunbury in Western Australia, the site of the 2023 District 23 Conference. Many members will fondly remember it as a friendly and beautiful city.



Bunbury tornado

Zonta International Foundation for Women

Clubs mostly held their AGMs in April, and the new boards are being installed. This is an opportune time to reiterate the goal of each club donating one-third of their fundraising funds to ZI Foundation projects. In the May 2024 Leadership Update from ZI, the fundraising goal for the biennium was only at 86% of target. Hopefully the end-of-year donations will help to improve on this.

Zonta Foundation for Women 2022-2024 Giving Totals*



Amelia Earhart
Fellowship

51%

US\$286,808.87
US\$560,000.00



Women in Business
Scholarship

34%

US\$124,156.68
US\$370,000.00



Young Women in
Public Affairs Award

74%

US\$208,246.22
US\$283,000.00



International Service
Program

57%

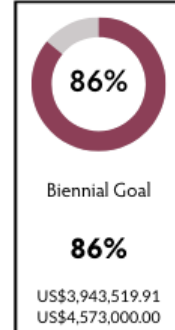
US\$1,835,623.22
US\$3,200,000.00



Rose Fund

930%

US\$1,488,684.92
US\$160,000.00



*As of 31 March 2024

Many clubs are clearly invested (literally!) in YWPA, as it strikes a chord with members at the local level. While the Rose Funds can be used to top up any areas that are depleted, it is disappointing that apparently some clubs do not take enough interest to channel their funds into specific areas. This is particularly so in relation to the International Service Program, which had received such positive endorsement in a recent ZI survey to ascertain members' priorities. (Funds can be allocated into more than one category.)

New Governor General of Australia

In early April the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, announced that Samantha Mostyn AO would become Australia's 28th Governor General on 1 July. She will be the second woman to hold the position, following Dame Quentin Bryce (2018-2014). Ms Mostyn is currently chair of the federal government's Women's Economic Equality Taskforce and has previously served in a range of roles,



including as an AFL commissioner.

In making the announcement, Mr Albanese described Ms Mostyn as a modern and optimistic leader who was deeply respected in the business world. "Her leadership reflects our enduring Australian values of equality, fairness and a responsibility to build a better future for the next generation," he said. She has also been described as an advocate for gender equality, women's safety and climate change action.

Reading her biography, I was impressed by the parallels with what Zonta is all about. On behalf of Australian Zontians, the Governors and Lt Governors of Districts 22, 23 and 24 wrote to congratulate her on her appointment. Quentin Bryce was made an Honorary Member of Zonta International and a nomination will be put forward in the next biennium for Samantha Mostyn to be granted the same recognition within Zonta.

That got me thinking about Australians who have been recognised in this way. We have certainly punched above our weight, with eight Australians in the list of 43:

- **Kay Cottee AO** - First woman to complete a solo, nonstop and unassisted circumnavigation of the globe by sea.
- **Gaby Kennard OAM** - Successfully retraced and completed Amelia Earhart's flight by circumnavigating the world solo in a single-engine aircraft.
- **Dr Fiona Stanley AC** - Specialist in children's health, particularly focusing on the Aboriginal people of Australia.
- **Helen Caldicott FRACP** - Humanitarian leader in medical and nuclear education, and public advocate for nuclear disarmament.
- **Dr Catherine Hamlin AC** (deceased) - Gynecologist and co-founder of a hospital in Ethiopia that treats outcast women suffering complications from fistula and obstructed childbirth.
- **Quentin Bryce AD** - First female Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
- **Prof Shirley Randell AO** - Leading expert in public sector and institutional reform in developing countries, gender mainstreaming and human rights for women.
- **Dr Anne Gallagher AO** - Director-General of the Commonwealth Foundation; former Special Adviser to the UN High Commissioner for

Human Rights and former President of Ireland; award-winning activist on human rights and human trafficking.

Share Your Story

Five more items from D23 have appeared on the ZI website since the February *Newsflash* update:

- 8 March: ZC Adelaide launched a young women's leadership program to address the significant barriers women still face in achieving leadership positions compared to their male counterparts.

This Young Leaders program, an award winner at the D23 Conference last September, is going from strength to strength. This year, the Governor of South Australia, The Honourable Frances Adamson AC, was guest speaker and presented certificates to participants on completion of the program.

- 8 March: ZC Adelaide Hills, believing in a world where all women have access to a clean and safe birth, has distributed 2.8 million clean Birthing Kits to 30 countries since 1999.
- 23 March: Kingia Z-Club organized a bake sale at Bunbury Senior High School to raise awareness of International Women's Day and celebrate the amazing women at the school.
- 26 March: ZC Bunbury paid tribute to and celebrated five local women, dubbed 'Hidden Gems' at their International Women's Day Breakfast.
- 19 April: ZC Melbourne on Yarra hosted forums on women's issues in Afghanistan and Iraq and raised funds to help students from non-English speaking backgrounds.



Great Girls Meet Great Women

The third generation of this mentoring program is under way. This program helps participants develop future mindsets, attitudes and skills, connectedness, ideas and solutions for concrete professional and/or private challenges. Learn more

D23 Team for 2024-6

Vacancies – District 23 Team for 2024-2026

I am still looking for members to join our wonderful District Team. Please email me on debschzonta@gmail.com . No District board can be successful without the support of a team of Zontians filling the roles of committee chairs and committee members. I feel strongly that working as a team provides greater results, spreads the workload, and ensures we all have fun while doing the valuable work we do. Being part of these committees provides another layer of understanding and collaboration.

I am still looking for members to join the following teams – preferably at least one from each State:

- Bylaws and Resolutions
- District Parliamentarian – do you love process and procedures? You will be mentored in this role.
- Advocacy
- Club Creators
- Z & Golden Z Clubs
- ZI Awards and Scholarships
- Zonta International Foundation Ambassadors
- Greater Visibility Team – seeking members interested/experienced in social media, advertising, marketing, and all areas that can raise our Zonta profile.

Thank you all for your Zonta service and I look forward to hearing from members from across our whole district, including members who would like to join the District team for the first time and those who have been a team member before.

Yours in Zonta service

Debbie Schmidt

Governor Elect 2024-2026

Zonta International District 23

ADVOCACY

Advocacy

We have recently seen a subtle shift in activity around domestic violence. This is not the time to step back and take a breather from Advocacy or politically. It is time to take a deep breath and regroup as Zonta Australia is giving us one voice, a cohesive voice driving and sustaining the need for interventions that are not a “one solution fixing everything”.

- Use the leverage to be gained from pushing for a more proactive implementation of the National plan to violence against women and children.
- Advocate for more education and regulation of industries engaged in harmful commercial behaviours.
- The time has passed for candle lit vigils and passion fuelled marches.

My term of Office is coming to an end.

I look forward to future Zonta Australia as an active proponent advocating and supporting change.

Thank you for the opportunity to support advocacy.

Lesley Sweetman
Chair, Advocacy Committee

Community Service Opportunity (*DV Safe Phones*)

DV Safe Phones

The District Board and several individual clubs have been contacted by DV

Safe Phone – <https://dvsafephone.org> – to ascertain interest in supporting their project of collecting, repairing and distributing used mobile phones free to victims of domestic and family violence through a network of more than 350 agency partners. Already Australian Zonta clubs have played vital role in advocating and supporting the work of this organisation.



As domestic violence continues to rise, access to emergency hotlines and online support are crucial. Many victims have phones that are monitored, or have their phones taken from them, leaving them helpless. In the last four years, DV Safe Phone has delivered more than 8,000 phones to domestic and family violence victims. In doing this, the organisation has contributed to sustainability by diverting two tonnes of e-waste from landfill.

Clearly, DV Safe Phone's mission is aligned with Zonta – both Zonta Says NO and Zonta Says NOW. Is your club looking for like-minded community partnerships? This could be your perfect match!

Clubs can contribute by:

- **Collecting phones:** Many of us have working mobile phones in drawers at home. Encourage your communities to donate these phones to DV Safe Phone. Dedicated DV Safe Phone Collection Boxes (\$85) can be placed at events or in local businesses to create awareness and support a drive to collect phones.
- **Managing Phone Drop Locations:** Assisting in managing registered phone drop locations in your local areas and coordinating the delivery of phones to our headquarters in QLD.
- **Fundraising:** The service is free to the community and relies on donations and grants.

Contact: Nikki Firmin, Head, Community & Corporate Partnerships, DV Safe Phone. Mob: 0419 776 226 email: nikki@dvsafephone.org

Education Awards

Applications for the 2024 **Amelia Earhart Fellowships** have closed and we are awaiting the announcement of the awardees in July.

The Zonta International winners of the **Young Women in Public Affairs** awards (who are also the district winners) will be announced in July. Julie Pincombe, D23 Coordinator, and her team have chosen the district winner from a total of 25 applications submitted by nine clubs. The application and accompanying paperwork have been submitted to ZI. The successful candidate's name and profile are embargoed until the July announcement.

Promotion of the US\$5,000 **Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship** is underway. Hopefully clubs are working towards the **28 June** deadline to receive applications. Clubs will then make their selections and submit the fully completed and collated applications to D23 Coordinator, Linda Tinning, by **15 August**. When the judging panel has completed their assessment, the winning applicant's name and application will be presented to the Governor, who will submit the information to ZI by **15 October**. The ZI awardees will be announced in December. A couple of points about eligibility requirements (more on ZI website). "The winning students must be enrolled in at least the second year of an undergraduate program through to the final year of a master's program at the time the application is submitted to the local Zonta club. Applicants must still be in school at the time the scholarship funds are disbursed and must not graduate before April 2025." Also, International students in D23 are eligible to apply.

Coordinator Dr Prue Cowled advises that general information about the **2024 Women in Stem Scholarship** is available on the ZI website:

https://zonta.org/Web/Web/Programs/Education/Women_in_STEM_Scholarshi
[p](#)

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.

Congratulations to ZC Adelaide

Their Young Leaders program, an award winner at the D23 Conference last September, is going from strength to strength. This year, the Governor of South Australia, The Honourable Frances Adamson AC, was guest speaker and presented certificates to participants on completion of the program.

Convention



Convention 2024 is coming up very quickly. Registration is still open, and we hope more District 23 Zontians will take this very rare opportunity of attending a convention in Australia.

Why Convention?

- Only the third time in Zonta's 104 year history the convention has been held in Australia.
- No international airfares to pay.

- Experience Zonta at a global level – it's where we, through our delegates, make decisions on what we do and how we do it. (Bylaws will not be a full day)
- Opportunity to meet Zontians from all over the world – new friendships, new ideas, education, fellowship and fun!

The Convention Committee looks forward to seeing you in Brisbane, for what will be a memorable event!

Any queries, please contact zontabrisbane2024@gmail.com

District 23 Projects

Birthing Kit Project

**DISTRICT 23 BKFA
AMBASSADOR
REPORT - REVIEW
OF 2024 AREA
WORKSHOP
PRESENTATION**



**Birthing Kit
Foundation**
Australia

All Zontians in District 23 should be proud of producing kits at Assembly Days, and developing Champions in three categories: Zontians, Clubs and Non-Zontian/Corporates/Community groups. Please continue to nominate in these categories - it is **an ongoing procedure**.

Phase 3 Champion.

Congratulations to **ZC Perth Northern Suburbs for nominating Frances Sala Tenna** as their Phase 3 Champion. The Birthing Kit Foundation Australia awarded this honour to Frances for '**assisting your Zonta Club in supporting Clean Birth Kit Assembly days contributing to a world in which all women and girls have access to a clean and safe birth**'.

A reminder that in 2023 we produced per District the following,

- **Zonta District 22.** 30 Assembly Days for 16,300 kits
- **Zonta District 23.** 29 Assembly Days for 15,700 kits
- **Zonta District 24.** 23 Assembly Days for 17,300 kits



Preparing for Assembly Day -Kingia Z Club helping Tyril Houghton BKFA Ambassador, Bunbury Zontians Carol Carter, Almarie January (Kingia Z Club Liaison Teacher) and Marina Quain with pre-folding the plastic for an 600 kit assembly day on 18th May.

MyCause fixes this the funding issue. Remember MyCause means you do not need to use your precious fundraising to purchase kits. Gain support from Corporates (tax deductible) and Community groups using this process.

Countdown to Convention- Deadline to order kits is 16th May. Order in lots of 100 with CONVENTION and your club's name. Kits will be sent direct to Brisbane for assembly but credited to you.

I am excited to be meeting Champions at the Convention and hope your clubs may choose to use this as an opportunity for an Assembly Day at the **Convention Birthing Kit Workshops** where we will showcase to the world how to make these precious items.



Tax Time - Where Does a Donation Go? (Use this statement to gain those donations.)

BKFA provides support to women, babies, and young girls around the world. Our approach is two-fold, with the supply of Birthing Kits to support improved maternal and newborn health and a commitment to longer term solutions to complex health issues in remote and disadvantaged communities. **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 – An individual membership is \$70, or suggest your club becomes a member of BKFA.

Let's continue to 'Build a Better World for Women and Girls', recognise our Birthing Kit Assembly Day Champions raising the profile of Zonta in our communities.

Tyrl Houghton

District 23 BKFA Ambassador 2022-2024

houghton@westnet.com.au

0400252076

International Women's Day Highlights

Highlights from International Women's Day/Zonta

Rose Day

Celebrating International Women's Day has become a fixture on club calendars. Many clubs in regional areas hold functions to celebrate the day, either alone or in partnership with like-minded organisations. This is more difficult in major cities, where Zontians often attend large functions organised by UN Women Australia.



Each year for the past 20 years, a breakfast has been held in Adelaide for IWD. This year's event at the Convention Centre was chaired by Senator Penny Wong and attracted 2000 attendees. The guest speaker was Annabel Crabb, TV presenter and political journalist. **ZC Adelaide** arranged for proceedings to be streamed to the Norwood Hotel, where another 90 people were present.



A small pilot program of cooking onsite and providing a healthy meal was undertaken at the Olga Fudge Lodge by **ZC Adelaide Flinders**. Olga Fudge provides fully supported accommodation and assistance for young aboriginal women with children. And provides advocacy and referral to appropriate agencies. Each woman was presented with a yellow rose and a small gift.

ZC Bunbury sponsored Year 12 leaders from Greater Bunbury to attend their event, which attracted around 200 attendees. The guest speaker was Flt Lt Sue Freeman, a RAAF fighter pilot. Five community recognition awards were made to 'Hidden Gems'.

ZC Dunsborough welcomed 140 to their event, where they heard Sabrina Hahn, gardening media personality, speak on thriving both in life and in her career despite her violent childhood. Five scholarships were awarded to girls nominated by each of the local high schools for their community contribution and leadership.

ZC Fleurieu Peninsula celebrated with an afternoon tea at the RSL in Port Elliott, which was organised with Bronwyn Lewis from the Australian Local Government Women's Association (SA Branch). The club sponsored a number of women and local high school students to attend, as well as a group of women from the Phoenix Program that meets regularly at the Goolwa Community Centre.

In partnership with View Club, Girl Guides and the Country Women's Association, **ZC Gawler** celebrated with a breakfast. The guest speaker was Franke Agenbag, who has achieved accolades across the globe for her work in space engineering. Her story of hard work, related with enthusiasm and joy proved to be an inspiration to the six students from local secondary colleges who were being awarded club scholarships.

In partnership with the White Ribbon Committee, **ZC Launceston** launched an appeal to the public – and especially to politicians – to sponsor a message to be displayed on the side of Metro buses about the genesis of gendered violence. This is an attempt to provide the public with deeper understanding of why sexual and family violence against women occurs and to encourage cultural change. The Examiner newspaper featured this on their front and second pages on 5 March.

ZC Melton partnered with the Melton Women's Phoenix Soccer Club for an event that featured author and humourist Kerry Cue.

ZC Bendigo hosted 219 members and guests with keynote speakers: author Amy Doak and Bendigo Bank CEO Marnie Baker. Both Marnie and Amy inspired with their personal stories and advice for how women can aspire to achieve the goals of being “counted in”. A highlight of the evening was the announcement and presentation of the winners of the club’s Women of



Achievement Award and six education Scholarships including *Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award* won by Year 12 student *Lilly Correll* who had just been elected as Bendigo's youngest Youth Mayor.

ZC Mt Barker was joined by the Mt Barker Community Centre (an ongoing relationship) in hosting Walking Netball, which is a modified version of netball at walking pace that reduces the risk of injury while promoting a safe, non-threatening environment for play. This was accompanied by breakfast, with 40 women attending, and a display of information for women.

Guest speaker Catherine Ide from the State Solicitor’s Office spoke on her 22-year career to the 143 attendees at the ZC Peel function. The club presented a Woman of Achievement Award and a number of sponsored scholarships and awards:

- Five STEM awards to local students (Alcoa)
- Young Woman of Peel Award (Cox Legal)
- Education Award (City of Mandurah)

More than 80 people attended the **ZC Perth Northern Suburbs** event and heard Dr Kim Farrington speak on the availability of online pornography to young people and the detrimental effects it has. This is subject is an advocacy priority for the club. A highlight of the event was the presentation of the Zonta International certificate to ZI Jane M Klausman Scholarship winner Pearl Pyae.

ZC Port Lincoln welcomed members of **ZC Lower Eyre** to their IWD brunch, where a Woman of Achievement was announced.

United Nations

Take-Home Messages from the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Meeting

(from 'Zonta News' 21 March 2024)

- Include men in the conversation. As one speaker said '50% of the world is women, but to make a change, we need 100% participation.' Positive masculinity is the key.
 - Climate change is a human issue and a gender issue. There is a strong direct connection between gender-based violence and climate change. To ignore it would be to ignore a huge increase of gender-based violence against women worldwide. Take action now by using the resources available at: www.zonta.org/ZontaSaysNOW
 - To change globally, we must act locally. While gender inequalities may seem far from where you live, they could be, in fact, at your doorstep. Speak up to local legislators to move issues. An example is child marriage. Fact: 39 American states do not have child marriage laws in place. And if there is a law in place, do they follow it?
 - Fact: In Australia, child marriage is illegal. This includes a child being sent overseas for the purpose of marriage. Forced marriage is unacceptable, and Australia takes it seriously as a violation of human rights.
 - Artificial intelligence (AI) is a crossing the barriers of gender inequality. Speak up and report it when you see gender violence on social media and within technology. The world is consistently turning and growing. As we grow, we need to make sure women's voices are at the table when making these monumental decisions and technological advances. As one speaker said, 'An orange cannot speak on what it means to be a lemon.'
 - Gender inequality may be a current conversation, but gender parity is projected not to happen for 130 years. As such, a large part of this movement is in the hands of younger generations, and they need to be included and heard. As one speaker said, 'The movement needs to go 20 times faster than it is today.' To do this, invite and encourage
-

members of all ages to attend Zonta or student club meetings. Form one if there isn't one in your area..

Alwyn Friedersdorff
UN Chair

Climate Change: Zonta Says NOW

Zonta Says NOW Update

In April, the Zonta Says NOW District 23 Think Tank transformed into the Zonta Says NOW Australian Think Tank, embracing inclusivity for Zontians across Australia. This shift will empower us to delve into discussions on climate justice, impacting us locally and nationally. We also launched the international [Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery](#) on Mother Earth Day (22 April). Take a look! (**Gov's note:** It is inspiring!)



[Australian Think Tank](#)

The April Australian Think Tank meeting featured Dr Diane Kraal talking about her book on climate justice, which triggered a fascinating discussion – if you missed it check out the video. The next meeting on Saturday, June 15, will feature Alana Mountain, an inspiring environmental activist and Women Taking Climate Action Awardee (1 pm WA, 2.30 pm SA, 3 pm Victoria and Tasmania).

[Intercontinental Think Tank](#)

Many thanks to the Zontians from around Australia who co-hosted the April Intercontinental Think Tank – the first hosted from 'down under'. See Prof Anne Poelina's marvelous talk about the importance of us all connecting with country and replacing 'me' with 'we' in our conversations. The next Intercontinental Think Tank will be on Sunday, June 23, at 6 pm in WA, 7.30 pm in SA and 8 pm in Victoria and Tasmania. It will be hosted by Zontians from Europe and Africa and will explore women's health and disasters.

[Zonta International Convention](#)

We have three engaging Zonta Says NOW Events tailored for registered attendees. More information is available on the Brisbane Convention 'Whova' app.

- **Pre-Convention Virtual Workshop** on Friday, May 24. This session, titled *Uniting for Climate Justice and Equality*, will be held at 9 pm in WA, 10.30 pm in South Australia and 11 pm in Victoria and Tasmania
- **Brisbane face-to-face Workshop** on Thursday, June 27, titled *Are You and Your Community Disaster Ready?*
- **Climate Justice Panel Discussion** on Sunday, June 30, featuring [Lisa Blair](#) (sailor and climate activist), [Dipisha Bhujel](#) (former International YWPA winner and social business entrepreneur), and Carole Theobald (International Chair of Zonta Says NOW Working Group).

Looking for Zonta Says NOW publications?

International resources may be found here: <https://zonta.org/zontasaysnow>

Australian resources may be found here: <https://zontasaysnow.org.au/>

If you have any questions about Zonta Says NOW, please email info@zontasaysnow.org.au We look forward to seeing you at a Zonta Says NOW event!

Carole Theobald

Zonta International Chair 2022-2024, Zonta Says NOW Working Group - [link](#)

Zonta District 23 Coordinator, Zonta Says NOW - [link](#)

SAVE THE DATE

2024 Club Officer Training Day

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. Remember, all of you have the

potential to be leaders! And there are plenty of mentors to help! Details have been circulated previously.

26 June – D23 gathering prior to commencement of Convention. 6.30pm, The Charming Squire. No further vacancies available.

27 June – launch of Zonta Australia 1.00-1.30pm Southbank Park (on the lawns adjacent to the Sausage Sizzle – known as the Flow Space). Everyone welcome – no registration required to attend.



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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