



Newsflash

Biennium 2024-2026

Build a better world for women and girls

Issue One August 2024



District 23 Governor
Debbie Schmidt

Governor's Welcome...

Welcome to Zonta Biennium 2024-2026.

How lucky were we to have the 66th Zonta International Convention in Australia. A huge thank you to Past International Director and Past Governor Judy Gorton for her leadership as Convention Chair and to Past District Governor Jane Adornetto for the enormous amount of work to make this Convention fabulous. With 154 members of District 23 in attendance there were plenty of familiar faces and many new connections made both within our District and with other members worldwide.



With permission, I republish reflections from two Young Professionals from the Zonta Club of Bendigo, also first-time attendees at a Convention.

Convention Report - Jess

Last month Tiff, Ann, Sue, Naidene and I were lucky enough to be able to attend the International Convention, which we will be sharing a bit about at our next meeting. For me, this convention really opened my eyes to the inspirational work that Zonta does worldwide and how we are contributing to it. The "Zonta Spirit" was alive and well - everyone was willing to share ideas, chat freely, share presents from their countries, and welcome a first-time convention attendee! The Convention felt a bit like going to Disneyland and I left feeling inspired, motivated and with a host of new friends. I would highly recommend anyone who has the opportunity to try to attend a Convention in the future!

Convention Report – Tiff

Reflecting on my first Zonta International Convention, many feelings and emotions come to mind and warm my heart. Signing up for this exciting new adventure, I wasn't sure what to expect but knew it would be amazing. Good news, I haven't been disappointed and quite positively overwhelmed by the incredible 'Zonta Spirit'. Do you really understand the true meaning of the Zonta Spirit until attending an International Convention? I am not so sure anymore.

Looking at all the attendees from more than 60 countries, everything could divide or separate us: our languages, cultures, traditions, religions, backgrounds, borders and distances between our countries, professions, industries or even our ages. So many factors but we were all united and standing together in Brisbane for one purpose only, creating a better world for women and girls. Isn't it powerful?

I had the immense honour of sharing 5 days with more than 1,700 incredible humans and I say human because exceptional men were present too. I have

learned many things but if I can only keep one thing it would be this strong feeling of safety, knowing that thousands of people, worldwide are sharing our same values and fighting toward a better world as we do in Bendigo. We are not alone, we have a network and we are in good hands. I left Brisbane, happy, inspired, empowered and feeling like a superwoman, able to achieve anything with my fellow Zontians. I cannot wait to share my experience and present with Jess at our next meeting and hopefully inspire you all to attend the next convention.

Thank you, Jess and Tiffany, – your words inspire me to renew our dedication to build a better world for women and girls.

Now for some more news:



We welcome our Zonta International Board Liaison, Christine Dersch from the Zonta Club of Marburg in Germany. I have already had one Zoom meeting and believe that Christine will be a great resource for our District. The District Board and I look forward to meeting her via Zoom at our board meetings and in person at our Conference next year.

There has been a change within the District Nominating Committee. As you are aware, Pru Blackwell, Lesley Siegloff and Faith O'Brien were elected to the District Nominating Committee at Conference last year. As a result of accepting positions as District Advocacy Chair and committee member on Zonta Australia and discussions with me, Lesley has stood down from the Nominating Committee. I am happy to announce that Christine Denmead from the Zonta Club of Geelong has agreed to join the Nominating Committee for the 2024-2026 Biennium. More from this Committee later in the Newsflash.

I have had the opportunity to meet with our Committees, Project and Education Co-ordinators via Zoom or email and this has been a great opportunity to discuss plans and expectations for this biennium. Thank you to everyone who has put their hand up to be a part of the team, some continuing in their roles and those new to the role.

The District Board will be conducting our District Annual General Meeting via

Zoom on the 15th September 2024. In the non-Conference year Clubs provide their proxy to their Area Director and I thank all Clubs for their prompt attention to this. This will be a short meeting to ensure our legal requirements are met. On the weekend of 11-13 October 2024, the Board will meet face to face in Portarlington, Victoria for a full weekend of fun with purpose where we will be planning for the biennium ahead and working on our Strategic Plan. The Board have already been working hard to create our District Biennial Goals for 2024-2026. They are now complete and can be found on the District Website. I encourage Clubs to work on their own goals if you have not already done so.

The District Brochure has been updated and is also on the website for Clubs to download. We will be printing a limited number of copies, and each Club will receive a small amount via their Area Director in the coming months.

I would like to wish our e-Club of Central and Southern Australia a very happy first birthday which they celebrated in August. We have a few Clubs celebrating significant birthdays in the coming few months so embrace your Zonta Spirit and celebrate in style.

During my recent trip to Hong Kong, I had the privilege of catching up with fellow Governor Winnie Wong from District 17. Her District covers Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Our District may have 3 time zones but at least we have the same language.

Please read on for more news and events happening in our District.

Debbie Schmidt
Governor 2024-2026

CLUB NEWS

More comprehensive Area News will be in the next edition, however a few announcements and some news to share.

CLUB NEWS - AREA 2

Collaboration is key to the success of Zonta in South Australia, with excellent collaboration both internally between our clubs and externally with like-minded

organisations.

Our first SA Leaders meeting was held in July, and we discussed:

- “Filling our Shoes” – how do we use member feedback to grow membership.
- Aspirational Branding – brand for what we want to look like, not who we are.
- SA Royal Commission into Domestic, Family & Sexual Violence
- Walk for Respect – collaboration with Rotary
- Advocacy Advisory Panel – collaboration with Rights Resource Network SA
- Young Women in Leadership – collaboration with Girl Guides SA

As always, our clubs are doing great things to help make the world a better place for women and girls.

Zonta Club of Fleurieu Peninsula:

A \$70,000 collaboration has provided the foundation for an innovative new project to help address homelessness in the Fleurieu.

Spearheaded by a consortium comprising the Fleurieu Community Foundation; Zonta Club of the Fleurieu Peninsula and Bendigo Community Bank Fleurieu, the Fleurieu Accommodation Project involves social enterprise Junction signing as the head lease on local private rental properties in the region. The organisation will then sub-let the homes to people who are experiencing, or at risk of rough sleeping.

Single women aged over 55 are over-represented in terms of those who present or contact Junction. They also know there are many more who, for different reasons, haven't reached out but desperately need help. As a result, the first property will support people in this demographic.

Junction provides housing for more than 700 people across the Fleurieu including Strathalbyn, Goolwa, Victor Harbor and Kangaroo Island. Last year, the organisation supported 420 people through homelessness and domestic violence services across the region.



Zonta Club of Para District Area:

The Zonta Club of Para District Area has collaborated with the Rotary Club of Mawson Lakes and Soroptimist International Torrens to create RoZSI's voice. They received a community grant from the Salisbury Council and used the funds to develop a logo, Facebook page and marketing materials. Events held have included a Bystander workshop where the MATES program run through Griffith University was highlighted as a model and a Coercive control workshop run for 30 service providers.

To prepare for the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual violence they have formed the Northern Adelaide Community Collaboration (NACC). RoZSI members have been joined by some other community members with an interest in stopping domestic violence.

Jenni Foreman
A2 Director

CLUB NEWS - AREA 4



CLUB NEWS - AREA 5

Area 5 was well represented at the recent Zonta International convention. For many members it was the first time they had attended an international convention. Reports from clubs indicate that those who attended have come back with a greater perspective of the work of Zonta and were particularly impressed with the quality of the guest speakers.

Clubs report an array of different activities over the past couple of months ranging from linking with like community groups through to planning for the District 23 conference to be held in Devonport from 5-7 September 2025.

Specifically, the Co-President and the Secretary of the Hobart club attended a morning tea at Kennerley Children where the CEO was presented with a grant from the club. The grant, which was the proceeds of a fundraising cocktail party, is to provide educational assistance to girls who are supported by Kennerley as they are unable to live at home but are committed to continuing their education. The Launceston club has coordinated a meeting with representatives of other community groups to explore ways in which those organisations can identify and work together to enhance women's issues in their local community.

During missing persons week, Hobart Derwent held an event at a local garden at Margate, near Hobart, where they tidied up and planted some natives. Members who attended were fortunate to meet with the Behren family including Christine, whose father has been missing since 1989. Christine said that she often visits the garden.

The Cradle Coast club has been focusing on increasing the visibility of Zonta in its community through a range of activities including identifying community connections and have successfully arranged for free radio advertising.

In March this year, the Zonta Club of Devonport in conjunction with the Devonport City Council introduced Dress for Success in the North-West coast. This program benefits many disadvantaged women by assisting them with appropriate clothing and as well as pre-employment advice as they enter or re-enter the employment or training environment.

Jill Taylor
Area 5 Director



EDUCATION AWARDS

Amelia Earhart Fellowship:

The 2025 Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowships are now open. Established in 1938 in honour of Amelia Earhart, famed pilot and Zonta club member, the AE Fellowships are awarded annually to women pursuing a Ph.D./doctoral degree conducting research applied to aerospace engineering or space sciences.

The Fellowship will be awarded to 30 recipients annually, worth USD10,000, and may be used at any university or college offering accredited post-graduate courses and degrees.

For more information, please use the following link: <https://zontainternational.awardspring.com/>

Amelia Earhart was, and still is, one of the world's most celebrated aviators. Her passion, dedication, and bravery in the male dominated world she lived in, demonstrated just how much women can achieve. Let's all aim to find one in our own Aussie backyard and encourage them to apply.

I wanted to share with you an amazing photo taken at the 2024 Zonta International Convention in Brisbane,



showcasing some amazing talent of AE Fellows.

From left to right: Ha Tran (2021), Holly Anderson (AE Fellowship Committee Chair), Dr. Bianca Isabella Schuchardt (2013), Kaliopé Vassilopoulos (1994),

Sharon Langenbeck (1977 and 1978) and Nicolle Zellner (1999 and 2000).
Kaliopé Vassilopoulos
District 23 AE Fellowship Coordinator
Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award

Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award:

Zontians will now be aware that the former Young Women in Public Affairs Award has been renamed the **Young Women in Leadership Award**. This proposal put forward by the Bylaws and Resolutions committee recently at the Brisbane Convention, passed overwhelmingly. No critical changes were necessary but renaming the award makes it now more universally understood and accessible.

All information for this program including the 2025 Application form is now easily attainable for Presidents and Club YWL Award coordinators at website www.zonta.org/YWLA.

If your club requires further support or advice please don't hesitate to email me as your new District Coordinator.

More than ever Zonta needs to focus its energies on encouraging more young women to aspire to take on leadership responsibilities and be recognised in their communities. Your club can be the stimulus following these actions:

- Visibility for the YWL Award – consider Facebook Community page advertisements and press releases. Two opportunities for recognition at Club and District level.
- Access – send out emails to school Principals, Yr 12 Coordinators and Counsellors with follow up phone calls and guidance for application form requirements.
- Reach out to other youth and community organisations to find applicants e.g. Rotary and Lions' Youth groups.
- Material – the poster on the YWLA website above is available for use in advertising.

The 2024 winner of the Young Women in Public Affairs Award was Lilly Correll from Bendigo and the outstanding highlights of her application can be seen below and we thank past D23 Coordinator Julie Pincombe and her committee for their hard work over the last biennium.

Joanne Metzger
D23 YWL Award Coordinator



After careful deliberation the committee nominated Lilly Correll from Zonta Club of Bendigo, Victoria, a Year 12 student attending Bendigo Senior Secondary School. Lilly has been volunteering for four years with the City of Greater Bendigo and the wider community. Last year she was elected the youngest Deputy Youth Mayor, and this year, she was elected the youngest Youth Mayor for the City of Greater Bendigo. She takes great pride in this role and aims to better the community through her Youth Mayorship.

In 2023, she was invited to speak at the State Parliament's WE LEAD Women in Leadership event, as a panellist and youth representative. This program aimed to inspire young women to participate in local politics and discourage the imposter syndrome that many young women feel in leadership roles.

Lilly was a member of the Greater Bendigo Youth Parliament team in 2023, where she drafted and debated a bill titled Increasing Public Safety in Regional and Rural areas. The bill successfully passed the program and was given to State Government ministers. Lilly has also previously been a member of the Bendigo Sustainability Group Committee of management, a local not-for-profit community organisation that aims to increase positive environmental outcomes in the community. She is currently a member of Coliban Water's customer advisory committee, Greater Bendigo's local water authority.

In early 2024, Lilly was invited to participate in the Women in Gold Exhibition. She provided a quotation for part of the mural that featured numerous powerful local women and six artists for International Women's day.

She wants to ignite passion in the generations after her, to fight for what they believe in and create positive change in their community. Lilly truly believes that everyone, no matter their background, deserves to be empowered to make the most of life's opportunities. She hopes to pursue a career in the public service after studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship:

The Zonta Foundation for Women awarded the first Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships in 1998 to women pursuing degrees in business leading to a business management career. Jane M. Klausman was a member of the Zonta Club of Syracuse, New York, USA, and the 1990-1995 Zonta International Parliamentarian. During her career, Ms. Klausman was a professional secretary, parliamentarian and entrepreneur.

Zonta International will, retire the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship after the first year of the 2024-2026 Biennium, at which time Zonta will introduce its new **Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award**

Currently the processes are well under way in District 23 by the Judging Panel to select the District 23 JMK Women in Business International winner who will be the recipient of the US \$5000 Award.

We received applicants from the following Areas and Clubs who each had multiple applicants.

1. Area 3: Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs – each of the five Clubs made a pro rata contribution for the \$1,500 award.
2. Area 5: Hobart / Derwent Club – five Clubs in Tasmania contribute \$100 each for the \$500 Award.
3. Bendigo Club – awards \$750
4. Melbourne on Yarra Club awards \$1,000

The announcement of the 2024 District recipients will be made by Zonta International in November. I also write to thank the students to who have submitted unsuccessful applications and give them feedback from the Judging Panel. Thank you to all of the Clubs who have been involved in the JMK Women in Business Scholarship as it is a time consuming effort, but rewarding for the successful students at Area and Club levels and of course at District level.

As usual it is a pleasure to connect with my fellow Zontians across District 23, students and Universities which support the JMK Women in Business Scholarship as we support our future and encourage our future Business leaders. I will advise Clubs when information, including detailed eligibility criteria and an application timeline is available for the Zonta Women in

Business Leadership Award.

Linda Tinning BA,BEd,MEdMan.
Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs Inc.
District 23 Coordinator

Zonta Women in STEM Award:

As agreed at the International Convention in Brisbane, the Zonta Women in STEM Award has been introduced from the 2024-2026 biennium.

Zonta International will present 16 awards of USD10,000 each, and each international winner will be offered a complimentary one-year supporting membership in Zonta International for the next financial year.

I will let Clubs know once more information has been provided by Zonta International as to eligibility criteria and application timelines.

Elizabeth Wilson
Zonta Women in STEM Award Co-ordinator

District 23 Projects

**Zonta Birthing
Kit Project:**

**BKFA
WORKSHOPS
AT**



**Birthing Kit
Foundation
Australia**

CONVENTION -

I am so proud to be a Zontian and your District 23 BKFA Ambassador. Thank you to everyone who participated to spread the word of how effective these tiny kits are to provide a sanitary birth for women less fortunate than ourselves. Did you find yourself in the photo? The Birthing Kit Foundation Australia, BKFA, partnering with Zonta Districts 22, 23 and 24 in Australia, showcased Birthing Kit Assembly Days at our Convention. Two thousand kits were assembled in the two workshops. It was wonderful to receive the feedback from Zontians from overseas as well as from people who had never attended an assembly day. They were inspired

to join us in our mission.

HINTS FROM THE DAY.

- a) ENSURE THE PLASTIC SHEET IS PREFOLDED AND IN THE BAG.
- b) STRING TO BE PRECUT AND PLACED IN LOTS OF THREE.

Breaking News – FUNDING KITS.

The BKFA website is a valuable resource. Check it out to find out how to develop the MyCause process so that your fundraising is saved for other projects and corporates engage with your club to pay for assembly days. Community involvement often leads to an increase in your membership too, as potential members identify with this worthy cause. 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. Your club can become a member of BKFA. Place it in your budgets please.

BKFA RECOGNITION

Please consider nominations in our three phases ready for the 2024 Workshops.

Phase One – Club Champions - the movers and shakers driving your assembly days.

Phase Two – Clubs who have reached major milestones ready for Conference 2025.

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

D23 had only ONE recipient. These are 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. Champion supporters go way back to 1999 when The Birthing Kit program was a newborn! Who are they?

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

BKFA Champions badges start conversations. Expanding this wonderful program helps 'Build a Better World for Women and Girls' raising the

profile of Zonta in our communities via Assembly Days.

Tyril Houghton
D23 BKFA Ambassador



Zonta Breast Care Cushions:

A lot has been happening in the world of the Zonta Breast Care Cushion Project!

There was a Breast Cushion Project display at the Brisbane Convention to showcase the project that all three districts in Australia have endorsed as a District Service Project. We gave away free patterns and chatted to many Australians who already knew about the project and were interested in the grosgrain strap variation. All commented on the increase in demand for cushions. We were hoping for more interest from international Zontians as it is a good "Fun with Purpose" activity but some parts of the Zonta world focus on other matters and don't do hands on activities.

Six monthly reports to 30 June 2024 were received and tallied – around 3000 cushions were distributed and the total for the 12 months to June 2024 it is 5800. This is a great achievement! As a matter of interest, D22 and D24 distribute approx. 8800 and D24 6600 in a year. So over 21000 **Zonta** cushions distributed across Australia.

The ZC of Melbourne on Yarra held a successful pilot sewing afternoon with a group of Rovers Scouts (18–25-year-olds). I know many clubs partner with other community organisations and hold community working bees, but I wanted to share this with you, as it was such an enjoyable and invigorating experience. Not only were cushions stuffed and stitched, we taught various stages from cutting out cushions and drawstring bags, sewing techniques, threading ribbon, through to completed cushions and

drawstring bags. The energy and enthusiasm of youth is contagious. And one of the Rovers is taking whatever was cut out on the day to her local unit for them to hold a sewing night!!

Rovers Scouts units are located across the country and may be able to help or at least provide a venue for a community sewing/stuffing afternoon.

Jasmine Koch
D23 Breast Care Cushion Project Co-ordinator



BCC Stall at Convention

Rovers Sewing Afternoon

Mental Health 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/>





Donna Fabris
District 23 MHFA Coordinator, on donna.zonta@bigpond.com
Zonta Club of Kyneton

Women Taking Climate Action Award Project:

The Women Taking Climate Action Award recognises women whose climate actions significantly contributes towards mitigating the negative aspects of climate change and their climate action engages with women.

Clubs have recently been emailed information regarding the 2024 Award and how to participate in this District Advocacy Project.

Applications are open to residents of District 23 and applications for 2024 will open 1 September and close 21 October.

The link for the application is: [here](#)

There will be an award night at Amora Hotel Richmond, Victoria in March 2025. The award presentation will be Zoomed so that participating Clubs can attend if they are unable to do so in person.

Please encourage your club members to approach women or organisations who could apply for this award.

Suzanne Lees
D23 Women Taking Climate Change Award Project Co-ordinator

Zonta Says NOW to

WOMEN TAKING CLIMATE ACTION

an acknowledgement award



Presented by the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yar
supported by District 23

ZONTA AUSTRALIA



After a wonderful launch of Zonta Australia at the recent International Convention by outgoing International President Ute Sholtz and incoming International President Salla Touminen (you can't get a better endorsement than that!), the committee met for the first time on 8th August.

At this inaugural meeting the Terms of Reference were endorsed, the chair & secretary elected and more broadly we started the planning and embedding process. The immediate administration issues include the setting up/refresh of a *Zonta Australia* website and zontaaustralia.org.au emails. Sandra McLean was nominated as Secretary and Bridget Mather Committee Chair with meetings scheduled monthly.

Although the next couple of months will focus on the setting up, the committee has already had the first opportunity to advocate to the Commonwealth government. Last week a letter went to Minister Bill Shorten and Senator Katy Gallagher noting that in the proposed NDIS reforms the classification of menstrual products as a lifestyle item was completely inappropriate!

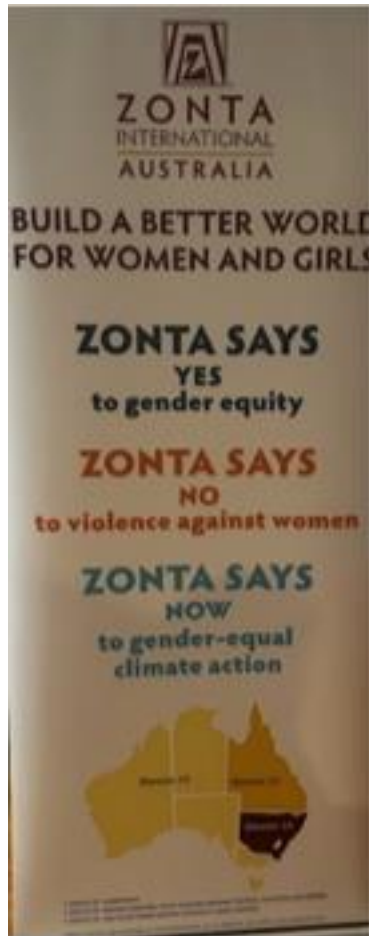
The intention generally will be that letters/submissions of advocacy go to the relevant Ministers from Zonta Australia and for clubs to send the same letter to their local federal members. In this way, local members will be kept informed of the issues important to Zonta from the local level through to the national level. I'm sure there will be no lack of opportunity to advocate either through written submissions or participation in national discussions.

There is also an immediate opportunity to congratulate Micaela Cronin, Commissioner Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission ([DFSV](#)) on the release of the [first annual report](#) to Parliament last week. A [snapshot](#) is also available and I would encourage you to table it at your club meetings for discussion.

The Zonta Australia committee consists of the Advocacy Chairs of each district, a DG nomination and the three DGs has ex=officio members. The committee members are:

- D22 - Sandra McLean (Brisbane); Nyree Johnson (Rockhampton) and DG Petra Ladwig (e-Club of Qld)
- D23 - Lesley Hills Siegloff (Adelaide Flinders); Bridget Mather (Adelaide) and DG Debbie Schmidt (Geelong)
- D24 - Janette Curtis (Wollongong); Jill Davis (Central Coast) and DG Bernie Guy (e-club NSW/ACT)

The committee is ready and keen to go and we look forward to representing Zonta at the national level on issues that are critical to building a better world for women and girls across Australia.



Bridget Mather PSM
Chair Zonta Australia

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of our Zonta Clubs is the lifeblood for the work that we seek to do in making the world a better place for women and girls. Without members we are not able to engage in our service projects, get involved in advocacy for the issues we care about, raise money to support these efforts, or indeed properly experience the fun and fellowship that should be part of the joy of our membership.

Like many voluntary organisations we face increasing challenges in growing and retaining our membership.

At the beginning of this biennium, District 23 has 620 members in our 32 Clubs spread across our 5 Areas. In contrast to the last biennium, we have seen a decrease (at this stage) of 64 members and two Clubs despite the injection of

37 new members in 2024 and the establishment of our new E-Club.

Finding ways to grow our membership and retain the members that we already have is clearly vital work if we are to continue our important work for gender equity at local, regional and international levels.

As your new Lieutenant Governor, I have been invited by Governor Debbie to chair the District 23 Membership Committee. This biennium we are going to do things a little differently through this Committee. We are creating a coalition of the key people with roles that connect to membership so that we can approach this in a more coordinated and supported way.

The new Membership Committee will include the Area Directors/Vice Directors as advisors, as well as the District /Area Coordinators for roles of Club Creator, Zonta Spirit, Z Clubs and Golden Z Clubs. I look forward to the privilege of working with everyone over the next two years and finding new practical ways to support all our Clubs revitalise our membership and truly experience The Zonta Spirit.

Wendy Quinn
D23 Lt Governor
Chair of the Membership Committee



District 23 Z Clubs and Golden Z Club:

What makes an active and engaged Z Club or Golden Z Club?

1. Effective communication between the sponsoring Zonta Club, the school and the potential members of the club. Who are the key contacts within our Zonta Clubs? Have they moved on? Can another member in the sponsoring club step up and help when time pressures occur?
2. An enthusiastic and committed school liaison, often a teacher and/or Zontian.

3. Ongoing and consistent mentoring from the sponsoring club to encourage members to expand their horizons.
 4. A spread of ages within the Z Club from 7 to 12. Enables all to participate within their time limits allowing for continuity and study pressures as students enter Senior School.
 5. Zontians committed to support these young people on a regular basis.
- This is not easy to do with the current teaching crisis, so making meetings short, effective and purposeful is critical. Having a project and a specific goal engages our future leaders.

SHOWCASING A Z CLUB:

Please let me know what your club is doing so that I can showcase your great work.

Kingia Z Club - sponsored by Zonta Club of Bunbury raised \$300 for the Bunbury Soup Vans to help those members of their community experiencing homelessness by running a sausage sizzle and hot chocolate stall on the last day of Term 2 and folded 600 plastic sheets prior to BKFA Assembly Day in May as well as participating in this event.

Tyril Houghton
Z and Golden Z Club Co-ordinator

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

I'm extremely grateful to Governor Deb for appointing me as the District 23 Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chair for this biennium. In this role I'm supported by a great committee:

Area 1 & 4	Christine Fitzherbert - Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra
Area 2	Sandy Nicholson - Zonta Club of Gawler
Area 3	Jo Wittorff - Zonta Club of Bunbury
Area 5	Veronika Maddock - Zonta Club of Hobart

What does the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee do?

The Zonta International District & District Conference Manual (November 2023) advises duties of the committee include (abbreviated, full list can be found in the manual) :

- Review and, if appropriate, suggest revisions to the bylaws and rules of procedure for the district.

- Revise district bylaws based on amendments voted on at convention or the district conference.
- Review and comment to the board on clubs' suggested amendments to district bylaws or ROP or Zonta International Bylaws or Rules of Procedure before these are submitted to the district conference.
- Assist clubs and the district board with resolutions to the district conference.
- Assist clubs in amending or revising club bylaws.
- Communicate with the International Bylaws & Resolutions Committee on questions raised by the governor, district board, or clubs.
- Promote awareness of the district bylaws and the Bylaws of Zonta International and their importance among clubs in the district.
- Promote awareness of the Bylaws of Zonta International amendments made at each convention and their consequences.
- Provide information about the procedures necessary to propose amendments to the district bylaws and the Bylaws of Zonta International at district conferences.

As members and clubs, we all have the ability to propose changes to the district constitution and rules of procedure, and international bylaws and resolutions.

As this process takes time, now is the time to start discussions at club level as to whether the club has any suggested changes. Once clubs have approved proposed changes, they are submitted to me, as chair of the committee. Deadline – 28th February 2025 to janeadornetto@gmail.com
The committee then analyse these changes and present them to the District 23 Board to recommend or not recommend they be adopted. Even if the board does not recommend a change, the proposal will be submitted to the voting members at the District Conference in September 2025.

The committee and I are available to assist any club who wishes to propose changes to district or international governing documents. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any queries.

Jane Adornetto
By-Laws Committee Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pru Blackwell, A2 Faith O'Brien A3 and Christine Denmead A4 are your incoming District Nominating Committee members for this biennium 2024 - 26.

The role of the Committee is to seek nominations for all the District and Area leadership positions to be elected at the District 23 Conference in 2025. The call for nominations for leadership positions for the 2026 - 28 biennium and will be circulated to all clubs. A slate of candidates will be then compiled in preparation for an election at Conference.

Leadership in Zonta is vital to the success of clubs. Whilst any leadership role comes with responsibilities and expectations, it is also a very rewarding and a great learning experience. Club members with previous experience are always willing to help new club and area members in newly elected roles. Job descriptions and resources are available as well. In the meantime, our committee are preparing promotional material and forms.



Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have queries.
Pru Blackwell

UNITED NATIONS

The 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30) will be commemorated in 2025. I will keep you informed as UN Women plan to engage governments, Women's Rights Groups, feminist civil society and young people, including girls, and the UN system in the Beijing+30 mobilization to advance accountability, recommitment, and resources through

communications, public engagement, and advocacy campaigns. The vision is to deliver the promises of the Beijing Platform for Action through well resourced, high-impact actions in countries; with galvanized civil society, women's and youth movements and a resolute multilateral system committed to deliver for gender equality, women's and girls' rights and empowerment. This includes Zonta!

Under the overall umbrella of UN Women's Strategy for Beijing+30, UN Women's Civil Society Engagement Strategy will guide UN Women's engagement with civil society partners for Beijing+30, with a particular focus on young women and girls under 30.

Gearing up for CSW69 is happening now! The Beijing +30 Calendar includes information on the Summit of the Future which is a high-level event, bringing world leaders together to forge a new international consensus on how we deliver a better present and safeguard the future. [Summit of the Future website - EN | United Nations](#)

Zonta D23 has thought about these questions:

- How can we effectively facilitate dialogue and mutual learning across generations and movements to use Beijing Platform for Action to reclaim rights?
- What are 2-3 concrete ideas that you have to support young women and girls to use Beijing+30 to reclaim their rights?
- What are your plans for Beijing+30? And what are opportunities including events for collaboration, coordination, and partnership for mobilization and advocacy for Beijing+30 at country, regional, and global levels?

Alwyn Friedersdorff

District United Nations Chair 2024-2026



SAVE THE DATE

DISTRICT CALENDAR

Area Meetings

Area 1 & 4 22nd March 2025

Area 5 29th March 2025
Area 3 12th April 2025
Area 2 17th May 2025

Club Officer Training - Zoom

24th May 2025

Zonta Says NOW Australian Think Tanks

The Australian Think Tank will meet on the second Saturday of 'even-numbered' months, unless otherwise indicated. [The list of meeting dates and links for the 2024-2026 biennium can be downloaded here.](#)

Tasmania invites you to D23 Conference 2025



The Zonta Club of Devonport invites you to come to the spectacular NW coast of Tasmania, where the D23 Conference will be held in the unique paranapple Convention Centre, on the banks of the Mersey River and with stunning views over Bass Strait.

Getting to Devonport is easy! Qantas provides daily flights or, you may prefer to come via The Spirit of Tasmania, with your car and/or caravan, to extend your stay and explore Tasmania at your own pace. Please note, that caravan bookings need to be made early!

Book: <https://book.spiritoftasmania.com.au>

In our first newsletter there will be information about accommodation with conference discount rates.

To learn more about Devonport and its surrounds, please visit the link below.

Visit: <https://tasmania.com>

SAVE THE DATE



JULY 2026



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: Debbie Schmidt

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