

*Issue 5, 2018-2020 Biennium
March-April 2019*

Dear Fellow Zontians,

At the beginning of February, I met the other Governors of D22, D23 and D16 in Brisbane with the task committee of the Australia New Zealand September conference. How exciting. The venue is superb, close to transport, hotels, restaurants and cultural venues. The District 24 Facebook page and the Australia New Zealand Zonta 100 website has released some of the speaker profiles and updates for the conference. The Brisbane Festival follows the conference, so perhaps you can plan to spend more cultural activities after three days of Zonta! Please look out for news of the Women in Achievement Award and Share you Story which clubs can participate in.



This month the Commission on the Status of Women conference has held over two weeks in New York. The theme this year was social policy and women's rights. Zonta International presented on the devastation to communities of the practice of early marriage. Please visit www.zonta.org to read the reports of CSW63 and listen to the words of our youth Observer to the U.N. Aysha Emmerson, a 2018 YWPA awardee.

This month many celebrated the Zonta Rose Day or International Women's Day on 8 March, but one given a special surprise was the Zonta Club of the Northern Beaches. They received The Women of the Year Award, by the Pittwater Council for their long years of contributing to their community in service and in advocating for women. A very proud moment for the club members.

I travelled up to the first membership dinner of the reinstated Zonta Club of Blue Mountains, joined by Area Director Deb Carrol, to meet the new members and share a lovely meal at the quaint 20 Mile Hollow Café, Woodford.

I attended the Zonta Club of Sydney West IWD breakfast and presented their 2018 JMK in Business Award winner, Helaina Narvaiza with her District 24 certificate. Helaina told of the support the Zonta Award provided as she was able to continue her studies in Switzerland. I also congratulate the Zonta Club of Sydney West for working tirelessly in forming a Z Club. The Strathfield Girls High School Z club has been officially approved. Congratulations Sydney West.



I look forward to seeing you at the area meetings in the next few weeks and celebrating the Canberra Clubs 50th year on the 30 March at their fabulous cocktail party in the National Library *Bookplace*.



Sadly, this month we are also joining together in compassion and solidarity to support the New Zealand nation in their darkest hour. On behalf of all members I have sent a special message to the District 16 Zonta Governor, as we all join together in peace to support our communities.

Yours in Zonta,

Sharyl

Sharyl Scott
Governor, Zonta International District 24 Inc



Lieutenant Governor's Message

Here we are in the season of Area Meetings and club elections. Many of you will be pleased to pass the baton on to new officers and are looking forward to a slower pace of Zonta. Not for long!

Past club officials can be the best membership ambassadors of a club and recounting to prospective members the many highlights of club life can both inspire the newcomer and reinvigorate the slightly worn out board member. Invite prospective members to your changeover dinner and also consider inviting those members who have chosen not to renew their membership with the club. It is a good opportunity to thank all members for their service and to encourage others to participate as fully as possible during the coming year.

No doubt the increase to fees through the International component has caused some discussion at club level. Please remember that the International fee covers the cost of administration for the Foundation, ensuring that 100% of all donations are used to support the various projects and District and International Awards paid each biennium.

I hope to visit clubs around the District before our conference in Brisbane in September, starting with the newly re-launched club of the Blue Mountains. I encourage all of you to visit another club when you can, as Zontians are all very welcoming, and all clubs are slightly different.



Karen

Karen Tromp
Lieutenant Governor, Zonta International District 24 Inc

Useful Links

Zonta District 24 website and Facebook

www.zontadistrict24.org

www.facebook.com/zontadistrict24

Zonta 100 Years website

www.zonta100.org



Australia New Zealand 2019 Conference

Brisbane 6-8 September

Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September 2019 – Brisbane Conference & Exhibition Centre

www.facebook.com/Zonta-100-Australia-New-Zealand

Registration is now open!

Please register as soon as you can so the committee can adjust our requirements in room sizes at the convention centre, if required. Newsletter #3 is printed. Every member should be receiving each newsletter as we are using the Voice email list to send information out. If not receiving the updates, please contact District Secretary Brenda Bradbery to update you details.

Share your story

Clubs are invited to submit a Share Your Story to the District Board to be included at the conference. We require 1 advocacy and 1 service project to showcase. Applications can be sent by District Secretary, Brenda Bradbery.

Please see attached information.



2019 Brisbane Centennial Conference

SHARE YOUR STORY GUIDELINES

Inspiring Advocacy and Service 'stories' from clubs are sought to share at our Brisbane Conference.

Clubs selected to participate will have maximum **five minutes** to deliver a lively presentation of the story to the audience.

If your club has such a story or project to share, please fill in the details below and submit your story/project to your Governor by June 30th, 2019. Please include a relevant photo.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Club Name _____

Title _____

Category: _____ Local Advocacy Initiative

_____ Local Service Project

_____ Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Action

Summary – in one sentence

Description (No more than 200 words)

Centenary Committee

HONOUR AND EMPOWER

We are presently rocketing towards Zonta International's Centenary with our Combined conference looming in September 2019. I hope you are all getting ready to travel to Brisbane. It will be an event that you will not wish to miss.

I have not received anything from Clubs by way of celebration except Sydney Club Centenary Luncheon. I attach an Invitation to all Members, former members, supporters and friends of Zonta and I hope festivities will be discussed at the Area meetings which unfortunately I will be missing

I trust Clubs throughout the District are considering or have considered either setting up or revivifying Zonta Rose Gardens and/or encourage members to grow the Zonta Rose in their own gardens or give them as presents

As a reminder the supplier in Australia is Ross Roses who originally developed the rose for Zonta International and the rose itself is a very pretty and remarkably hardy yellow rose which can be seen on the Ross Roses Website

If interested please contact Maureen Ross on (08) 8556 2555 or admin@rossroses.com.au (Attn Maureen Ross) directly to advise how many roses you or your Club may be interested in purchasing so she has an idea of how many to propagate – I understand that packaging is different for individual roses or group roses (for civic gardens) and that the roses will be available next winter the cost being approximately \$15-\$20 a rose.

As many of you will also know International is promoting Centennial District, Country and Club awards – for people or organisations outside Zonta who have made significant contribution to the empowerment of women – certificates and roses rather than money are suggested as awards and the Guidelines on the Centennial Website www.zonta100.org

Honour and Empower

Joanne

Joanne Quinn
District Committee Chair



Z Clubs Report

I am delighted to advise that new Zclubs are in the making!

- Macarthur Club is speaking to Sara Redfern High
- Strathfield Girls Club is ready thanks to Sydney West
- Armidale are planning their second club.

Jennifer will be giving an update on Armidale at the Area meeting in Newcastle, I will speak in Canberra and Sydney.

Mackellar Girls attended IWD Breakfast when ZCNB received the Pittwater Women of the Year Award presented by the Minister for Education-Rob Stokes. The guest speaker Di Westerway presented the girls with a copy of her book for the school library.

Following this win I attended the NSW Women of the Year Awards and then addressed the Zclub with the message from the Minister for Women
“Never Say I am **JUST**....”. Be proud of your achievements, acknowledge them-Go for gold”.
The girls created a large display in the library for IWD with the theme **Balance for Better**.
Next meeting the girls are stuffing Breast Cushions.

St Mary's Star College Wollongong

Zclub organised a celebration breakfast for IWD and sold purple ribbons. The speakers were two outstanding school Alumni. The President (a nominee for YWPA) presented a Zclub report at YWPA event. There is a membership drive underway and a Birthing Kits Packing day planned for May 18.

Margaret

Margaret White
Coordinator

Women in Technology Award

Encouraging women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in technology

The world economy, industry and sciences are becoming increasingly digitized, and these developments are disrupting society and familiar social processes. Women, however, are still largely underrepresented in technology fields. To create a world in which men and women have equal opportunities, women need to have an active role in technology and technological developments. Zonta International is pleased to offer its new Zonta International Women in Technology Scholarship to encourage women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in technology.

Eligibility

Women pursuing a technology degree or closely related program, who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field, are eligible to apply.

Women not enrolled in a university are also eligible as long as they submit:

- Evidence of completed trainings and outstanding performance.
- Description of current job with information about path that led to that job.
- Employer confirmation and recommendation or client testimonial supported by evidence.
- Reason for applying and description of desired career.
- Evidence of educational project plan (e.g. proof of course opportunities).

Golden Z club members may apply.

Classified members (club members and individuals with direct membership with Zonta International) and employees of Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation, and their family members (ancestors, descendants, adoptees, siblings, nieces or cousins, and those of their spouse or co-habiting partner), are not eligible to apply.

For more information, visit the Zonta International website

Birthing Kit Report - March

Who would have thought that in 2019:

- we would have distributed over 2 million kits to women in remote regions of over 30 countries. At least 1 million made by Zonta, resulting in tens of thousands of women and double that number of babies being alive today
- we would have trained over 12,000 Traditional Birth Attendants. Education is everything
- a 4-year accredited nursing school would evolve in DRC from a BKF funded train the trainer program and that last year 10 nurses would graduate. All have gone back to their remote communities.

The BKF has now expanded into literacy education programs at high schools in Uganda to impact on attitudes to child marriage, which ties in with Zonta's child marriage platform.

What is the vision for the future of the Birthing Kit Foundation?

The BKFA has just completed its Adaptive Strategy for 2019 – 2021. It is on our website.

Our goal is to reach 1.5 million people around the world in the next 3 years

How will we achieve this?

1. By being a key partner in 3 large scale global collaborations.
2. By being a recommended partner of Australian individuals
3. By being a recommended partner across business, social and government spheres.
4. By growing in size, capacity and revenue
5. By innovating new solutions and our business model in response to global need.
6. By being a recognised social innovation and human-centred design organisation.

The challenge: Around 300,000 women and over 3 million newborns die each year at the time of birth. This is preventable, and this is why we exist.

Our Adaptive Strategy is a document of vision and will take us into the future as a leader in women's care at childbirth worldwide.

We have made the decision after discussions with our field partners to make two changes to our essential birthing kit

1. To improve the quality of our kits as well as the experience of the women who use them by supplying a piece of standardised and professionally sourced soap to our kit (individually wrapped). This change will also improve the ease and experience of those who assemble our birthing kits.

2. To improve the sustainability of providing, delivering, assessing and supporting our birthing kits by increasing the price of each kit to \$5.

This will be our first price increase in seven years. During those years we have not been immune to the pressure of continuously rising costs meaning that an increase in price is inevitable and necessary.

We wanted to communicate with all of you as early as possible and with full transparency, as these changes will come into effect for all kits assembled from 1 July 2019. If you have already made a booking after this date, the \$3 price will be honoured.

No one receiving or making our kits will dispute the value of these kits at \$5.

We plan to make over 200,000 kits per year to distribute. There is still a huge demand.

So, the challenge to all our kit makers is to maintain or grow their kit making capacity.

We understand clubs will need assistance to do this and we will work on strategies to help our kit makers be more innovative in raising funds while improving their PR exposure.

I am immensely proud of where we started, our journey, and I am excited about where we are going into the future.

Who would have thought that at our Zonta 100 conference in September, it will coincidentally be exactly 20 years since the first kits were made! Serendipity.

Julie

Julie Monis-Ivett OAM
National coordinator of Zonta District Birthing Kit Project
Zonta Club Adelaide Hills Inc.
BKFA Director



The women who receive our kits

Area 1

Botany Bay



The Zonta Club of Botany Bay continues to flourish and move rapidly forward, with many of our projects and programs ramping up as the year unfolds. Early February saw a very successful packing day for Kookaburra Kids, where members assembled toiletry bags for the young people who attend their camps. 250 bags were packed – a mammoth effort.

In that same week, our social arm had a lovely outing, with a ferry trip to Bundeena followed by a leisurely lunch at the Bundeena RSL, proving a time of fun, fellowship and laughter.

Later in February, member Ann Selle, who designed the Breast Care Cushions Zonta distributes, flew to Sri Lanka. She took with her a breast care nurse and a physician and together, and with the help of the Zonta Club of Columbo, ran an Australian Breast Cancer Nursing Workshop for originally 38 Sri Lankan nurses. As it turned out, the initiative was so well received that 48 nurses attended, plus 4 doctors and many Ministry of Health employees. Following the workshop, the head of the National Cancer Council of the Ministry of Health put forward several recommendations including the establishment of Breast Care centres, nurse empowerment and the development of client literature to name but a few. Watch this space!

Mid-March was to be our Annual Golf Day at Calderwood Gold Course, but the weather gods had other plans – we have had to reschedule to July 25th. With the Area 1 Workshop, more social outings, Bunnings BBQ's and our Antiques and Collectibles Fair on June 30th, this first six months look to be busy and productive - just the way our Club likes it.!



Central Coast

There was certainly a happy buzz at our recent Birthing Kit Assembly Day. Two hundred and thirty enthusiastic volunteers and Zonta members worked together to pack an amazing 5000 birthing kits for mothers and babies in Western New Guinea, Uganda, DR Congo and Nigeria. Central Coast Grammar School generously hosted our packing day on 9th March, and a number of willing students and staff also contributed their time and energy to this worthwhile project. This was an inspiring community event bringing the local population together for a united purpose.



For the past five years Zonta Central Coast has had a pivotal role on the local International Women's Day Committee. Working in partnership with Soroptimists, CWA, Women's Health, BPW and University of Newcastle, The Festival of Women published a calendar of 16 local women's events. On 2nd March ZCC facilitated a Women's Expo at Erina Fair, showcasing 20 local women's services and providing entertainment for the local community. The expo was a fun and informative day, supporting health and wellbeing for the many women, girls and extended families attending the event.



Each year ZCC has the great pleasure of awarding study grants to young women sitting for the Higher School Certificate. Local high schools nominate possible recipients and following an interview process the successful students attend a ZCC dinner meeting to be congratulated for their efforts. In 2019 six students are being assisted with their educational expenses and have the option of participating in mentoring if they wish. These young women are inspiring, and we wish them every success in the future.

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai

An exciting week for ZCNB.

At the Northern Beaches Council, Volunteers Award Night, ZCNB was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for their work at the Australia Day Breakfast. Evelyn Whittaker accepted the award on the club's behalf.

This was followed by the annual Pittwater International Women's Day Breakfast held at the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club on 6 March 2019, a sold-out event with 210 attendees. At this event the Hon Rob Stokes announces "the Pittwater Woman of the Year, and this year the Zonta Club of Northern Beaches was announced as the winner of the award. The look of surprise and amazement on the faces of club members was so special. Club President Bernardine Guy accepted the award on behalf of the club and members were each presented with a yellow rose.

This is the media release from Hon. Rob Stokes office:

2019 Pittwater Woman of the Year Volunteer members of the Zonta Club of Northern Beaches were today acknowledged as the first ever joint-recipients of the Pittwater Woman of the Year award. The annual award, which recognises the outstanding achievements and contributions of local women, was accepted on the group's behalf by Club President Bernardine Guy. "This is one of the most energetic, passionate and effective volunteer groups in our community," Rob Stokes said today. "With the loyal assistance of countless supporters throughout our community – the group has been able to directly assist women in our local area, as well as in remote corners of the world. "There's no time wasting or hidden agendas with this group – they simply raise funds, raise awareness and provide support. "The work they do to fund, prepare and dispatch birthing kits to women in developing countries is not only inspiring – it's also a powerful way of connecting communities at opposite sides of the world. "This award is a great way to acknowledge their inspirational efforts and the positive messages they spread throughout our community," Rob Stokes said.



Sydney

On 24 January 2019, Anita Fowler received her Zonta Club of Sydney – Nursing Award as part of the NSW National Council of Women's Australia Day lunch at NSW Parliament House. With an early career as a physiotherapist, and experience as a foster carer, Anita has been inspired by the impact good midwifery care has upon women's capacity for empowerment, especially during pregnancy, childbirth, and transitioning into parenthood. So, she has now chosen to study for her Bachelor Midwifery at UTS. Anita's passion to enable women to realise their potential despite disadvantage is truly inspiring!



At our February club meeting, our guest speaker Kristiane Molloy, D24 A1 Director, spoke about Zontian trailblazers - including ZCS's early member, Dorothea Mackellar. Fittingly, the club then awarded Life Membership to two members for their outstanding, long term dedication to Zonta – Marcia Seymour-Dane OAM and Hilarie Lindsay OAM.

March has been eventful!

- On 3 March, club member Sharon Shields conducted a session of Chair Yoga, to stretch and challenge us.
- On International Women's Day, club members and friends enjoyed a delicious breakfast at Walsh Bay to hear Sophie Bejek describe her journey to Australia as a refugee from Syria, arriving in 2018. Sophie now manages an Inner West program to assist newly arrived women refugees to meet new people and gain employability skills in cooking and food safety.
- To top it off, the club's major fund-raiser, a jazz evening in the crypt of St. James Church, Sydney, was on 30 March.



Sydney East



New Year celebration, January meeting and fundraising

After a busy year of meetings and activities in 2018 we had two very successful gatherings for New Year's Eve and Australia Day, 2019. These were both hosted by our long-term member Patricia Harrison at her Circular Quay apartment. As usual they were well attended, enjoyable occasions and most importantly for our Club raised a good sum for our wide range of activities in support of women and girls – from support of a Local Women's refuge to encouragement scholarships for young women achievers in year 10/11 at the Alexandria Park High School in the Redfern and inner City area along with several other local and overseas activities including of course, Zonta International causes.

February Meeting

After the regular matters were decided and future plans outlined, a Surprise of four speakers was introduced. The "Surprise" was arranged by Patricia Harrison and President Jane Ciabattini. The speakers were four members of our club who had joined as new members over the last year or so. They are Jan Rayner, Janice Reid, Menaka Cooke and Juju Kalek who are pictured here. Each of them spoke for around about 5 to 10 minutes on aspects of her life which led her to feel at one with the aims of Zonta and join. We are so lucky. They bring talents, ideas and ideals built around concern for the rights, wellbeing and opportunities for women and girls and the need to address inequities and improve conditions accordingly including education, work opportunities and social equality. Zonta East is delighted to give them a home and to gain from their energy and abilities. There are other brilliant members who have joined in the past 12 months or so who we look forward to hearing from accordingly. It was great to pause from an often-over-busy agenda to hear these talks and be inspired again.

Sydney Hills

The 26th Western Sydney IWD Breakfast (one of our club's projects) was held on 8 March 2019 at the Novotel Sydney Parramatta. A delightful addition to this year's event was the presentation of the Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award. The YWPA Award has been in existence worldwide for over 25 years but 2019 was the first time that Zonta Sydney Hills had offered the award to local schools since early in 2000.

In Mid October 2018 the principals of forty-eight schools in Western Sydney and the Hills District were individually contacted by email asking their school to publicise the award and encourage senior female students to apply. Following the lengthy process of a second mail-out and phone contact with the schools, our Club's YWPA Committee was pleased to receive four applications that were considered to be of a high standard from James Ruse Agricultural High School (3 applications) and Cerdon College (1 application).

The panel (Donna Fraser, Shirley Purser and Kaye Amies) decided that these four candidates deserved to be finalists with one candidate, Aneesa Abdu from JRAHS, being selected as the winner. All four candidates were sent correspondence advising them that they were award finalists and outlining arrangements to assist them to attend the WSIWD Breakfast as our club's honoured guests, including the requirement to deliver a short 3-minute address should they be announced as the winner. They all attended the event together with a parent and a school representative.

Finalists received certificates and a \$50 book voucher whilst the winner received a cheque for \$500 and the winner's certificate. The opportunity to introduce the four finalists and announce the winner at the IWD event enabled all those involved in the Award to enjoy the event even more than usual! Several students attending the breakfast asked for further information about the award, so our club is expecting an increased interest in the next YWPA round that is due to commence mid-year. This time, though, we will be sending out the information to schools as soon as possible after it appears on the ZI Website so we can get the responses happening a lot earlier. Aneesa's successful application from our club's YWPA Award will be submitted to the Zonta District Awards (NSW and ACT) by the due date (1st April) and we will look forward to hearing how everything goes with that round of awards.



Sydney West

The Zonta Club of Sydney West's 18th International Women's Day breakfast on March 8th was a feast of awards and speakers: Year 10 Girls' Citizenship Awards, Young Men Standing Strong against Domestic Violence Awards, Young Women in Public Affairs Awards, a District J M Klausman Award winner, and an inspiring speech by Lee de Winton, CEO of Sydney Metro Airports.

Held in the stunning Ballroom at Bankstown Sports, more than 250 people, mainly senior students from the 18 public high schools with whom Zonta Sydney West has a partnership, were impressed by girls as young as 17 speaking eloquently about gender equality and other women's issues which are important in today's world.

The presence of eleven young men from boys' and coed schools, chosen by their schools for their stance against domestic violence, embodies Zonta Sydney West's vision of an emerging solution to domestic violence through collaboration not enmity.

Helaina Narvaiza, winner of the District 24 JM Klausman Award, spoke of her study opportunities at London School of Economics. District Governor, Sharyl Scott presented Helaina with her Award.

Lee de Winton spoke eloquently of her life story, including her service as a Wing Commander in the Royal Australian Air Force. Her conversational delivery won many admirers, and her call to the young people to be aspirational was compelling and well received.



Area 2

Blue Mountains



In March 2019, the newly formed Zonta Club of the Blue Mountains held our first public meeting. We were honoured to be welcomed to the area by the local member for the Blue Mountains, Ms Trish Doyle and by our D24 Governor, Sharyl Scott, Area 2 Director, Deb Carroll, and by visiting members of both Nepean and Orange clubs – certainly was wonderful to see so much support!

Two members have transferred in to the club and we have four new women are awaiting membership in April. Great to know that Zonta has a place in this community.

Our club has received some funds from D24 to help us get established, as well as a small grant from Blue Mountains City Council, via councillor Romola Hollywood.

Our club has begun planning our first major event, whilst also making our first impact into the community through supporting the *Coalition Against Violence and Abuse* team through funding their information cards; organising to prepare Birthing Kits with two of the local high schools; and discussing *Achievement Awards for Young Indigenous Women* across our seven local secondary schools.

It seems we have come a long way in a short time and are heartened by the support women from other clubs, organisations and our local community are showing.



Berry

The Zonta Club of Berry celebrated International Women's Day at the Nowra Golf Club beside the beautiful Shoalhaven River. 108 people attended, enjoyed a scrumptious breakfast, heard all about Zonta and listened to two very interesting talks on gender equality. Isha Knill shared how women can co-author gender equality in their own homes, while Ebony Bennett shared a broader perspective on the socio- political context of gender in Australia.



We received several Zonta membership enquires and much discussion was promoted. Of note was the ability of our club to invite 38 community members to share the day thanks to the very generous contribution of our sponsor partners on the day, how fabulous to gift a beautiful morning to these precious community members while promoting the service and advocacy of Zonta.

Macarthur



On 6 February 2019, seven members from the Zonta Club of Macarthur joined Quotarians and other community representatives, at a celebratory Combined Quota Club Dinner for their 100 Year Anniversary at The Hermitage Restaurant, Leumeah, NSW. It is marvellous to know that two very worthwhile organisations are centennials in 2019. Discussing on the night how both organisations began in the same year we drew a conclusion that the end of World War One brought about many changes for Women.

Zonta Macarthur inducted and welcomed our newest member Elaine Dixon at our Planning Meeting on 9 February 2019. We all enjoyed Refat Murshed's hospitality as we did our planning for 2019.

Our service projects and activities are now well underway. Many members have indicated that they will be attending and Area 2 meeting in Canberra on the 30th March and the Brisbane conference this coming September.



Nepean Valley

Following the transfer of six of our members to the re-established Blue Mountains Club, we are very pleased to say that our club membership still numbers 42 after welcoming two new members. Eight of the women who joined the club when it was formed in 1993 still remain as active club members, celebrating almost 26 years of continuous membership.

At our February meeting we endorsed the club's plan for 2019 that confirmed our objectives for the year and planned many of our service and advocacy projects and activities.

Our breast cushion project continues to thrive with a constant supply cut and ready for production. We are very grateful to the ZC Cumberland West for the offer to donate fabric to our club purchased from a grant that they obtained for that purpose.

Our annual Birthing Kit Assembly Day has been planned for Sunday 19th May when we will assemble 1,000 kits at a cost of \$3,000. We will also continue to contribute kits to the 'Days for Girls' project.



International Women's Day is of great importance to our club members and we always try to support functions occurring in our local area. For some years now we have supported the IWD function organized by the Penrith Women's Health Centre and supported by Penrith City Council. Ten of our club members attended this year's function at St Marys Memorial Hall on Wednesday 6 March where we were able to set up a stall displaying many of our club projects.

Orange



Australia Day Speech and Gifts for New Citizens

Kerry Ferguson and Francis Young represented the Zonta Club of Orange at the Australia Day Celebrations and Citizenship Ceremony Cooke Park Orange. Patricia Logan arranged for jars of jam to be handed out to 36 new Australian's. Kerry Ferguson provided gave a summary of Zonta and its history in Australia.

Art Scholarship Recipient Isobel Coady-Jears Solo Exhibition planned for December 2019

Zonta Club of Orange Art Scholarship recipient Isobel Coady-Jears gave an impressive talk about her art and aspirations. She is planning her first solo exhibition in December in Orange. We will keep you posted in the meantime you can find her work at Percy's Bar & Kitchen Orange and follow her on Instagram and Facebook.

Representatives Attended Council Meetings to Support Housing Plus Development Application the Orchard

Deb Carrol and Anne Eastwood attended the Orange City Council meeting to support the Housing Plus Development Application for the Orchard. The Orchard is a state-of-the-art refuge for victims of domestic violence. The development application was approved for a second time 20 February 2019.

Awareness Raised at Welcome New Residents to Orange Lunch

Francis Young and Kerry Ferguson raised awareness of Zonta at the welcome new residents to Orange lunch. Frances and Kerry met with a number of potential new members and discussed Zonta aims with representative from the council and NSW Member for Orange Mr Phil Denato.

The Zonta Club of Orange has a dinner meeting every second Tuesday of the month. We would encourage anyone passing through Orange and to come along. Please contact Frances Young francesyoung5@iinet.net.au.

Wollongong

Our club held a very successful event in March to award our Young Women in Public Affairs winners and finalists.



Our YWPA winner this year is Mary Bul, an outstanding young Australian born in a refugee camp in Kenya, the daughter of a South Sudanese mother widowed by the civil war. She is the school captain of her school, excels academically and makes a major contribution to her school and the wider community. Her ambition is to study medicine and eventually specialize in Ophthalmology, with the hope of returning to South Sudan and other areas of the world needing assistance. A worthy recipient of the award.

Our event was a lunch attended by over fifty people with an inspirational guest speaker Nichole Sullivan. Nichole has worked as a psychologist for 14 years and has experience in workshop facilitation, change management and leadership. Nichole was the first in her family to attend university and faced significant challenges in her adolescence, including the loss of both her mother and brother, teenage pregnancy and homelessness. She is now an ambassador for the David Martin Foundation providing support for disadvantaged people. Her speech was inspiring and a perfect one for the occasion.



St Mary of the Sea Z Club



On the 8 March the Z club organized the celebration breakfast for International Woman's Day at the College selling purple ribbons to fund raise on the morning. There were 2 outstanding speakers from the school Alumni, Dr Elizabeth Clingan, Nuclear Medicine Physician & Felicity Skoberne, Landscape Architect Wollongong City Council.

The Zonta club of Wollongong held their YWPA event on 10 March & Vice President Z Club and YWPA finalist Bethany Burjarski presented a report on the Z Club activities.

The girls are also starting a membership drive and presenting a promotional video at the College Assembly which will include advertising for the Birthing Kit Assembly day 18 May.



Area 3

Armidale

The start of this year has been a busy one for our Club. We've had an association with the local branch of "Days for Girls" since its inception, and recently members helped make bags and kits which will be sent to PNG.

We publicised the Club's projects at UNE's Lifesaver Day for new students and provided information about Club, District 24 and ZI scholarship opportunities.



ria Alkhouri was introduced as our Young Woman in Public Affairs winner and she spoke at a dinner meeting about her involvement with the O'Connor Catholic College Z Club as well as her engagement in social justice issues. Deb Maes also gave a short presentation on the Zonta Leadership Program.

Club members and O'Connor Z Club supported the International Women's Day Breakfast organised by Quota. Guest speaker, Nicola Taylor, Principal of PLC Armidale, spoke about how the IWD theme of #BalanceforBetter was relevant to her life and other local and international situations.

We held a successful garage sale, raising money for our local and international projects. The day also provided opportunities to talk to people about Zonta and for Club members to interact in a less formal situation.

Coffs Harbour

IWD Breakfast

International Woman's Day was celebrated with a breakfast, and close to 370 guests, in the Grand Auditorium, C.ex Coffs, where the achievements of our local women and girls were applauded.

Our Zonta YWPA winner, Olivia Watts, and Alexandra Rook, the Pat Funnell Award winner, spoke passionately, and were extremely well received. David Funnell was in attendance to present the Pat Funnell Award. The Keynote Speaker, Dr Angela Jay, a White Ribbon Advocate and survivor of domestic violence, received a standing ovation for her inspiring speech. The Coffs Coast IWD Woman of the Year was Shelley Lowe, a fitness instructor who, over many years, has led women and girls of the small town of Urunga to empowerment through exercise and social interaction. Shelley is evidence that small beginnings can lead to great things. Scholarships were also awarded on the morning for females in Performing Arts and Southern Cross University Graduate and Postgraduate studies.

This year a second 'In Conversation with Dr Angela Jay' morning tea was held. The Coffs Coast IWD Breakfast is a joint venture between the Zonta Club of Coffs Harbour Inc, Business and Professional Women (BPW) of Coffs Harbour and the Coffs Coast Business Women's Network (BWN). This partnership is extremely rewarding. Thank you to Area 3 Director, Jill Maclachlan and fellow Zontian Suzanne Carswell, for coming and celebrating with us.



Uplift Project

We are collecting second hand, or new, bras again for the Uplift Program. This has been very well supported by the Coffs Coast community and is our 3rd collection. Bras, and new underwear, can be dropped into collection bins at The Hope Chest, Coffs Harbour, and Asian Imports, Woolgoolga, until the end of April. Once sorted into sizes, the bras are forwarded to the Uplift collection centre in Sydney for distribution to one of 11 Asia Pacific countries.

Hunter Newcastle



ZONTA Hunter- Newcastle have had a busy time over the past few months! A fantastic movie night was held at Event Cinemas Kotara with a very appropriate film on our cause "On the Basis of Sex". The title certainly raised some eyebrows, but resulted in a massive result in fundraising of \$5,500.00. Our members have the legendary supper down to a fine art, and the night was a fantastic success, breaking all previous records.

We have had the pleasure of wonderful guest speakers including Kathy Edwards, a very accomplished poet, who recited a number of them to us on the night, she was humorous and a great addition to the meeting. Sister Diana Santleben joined us this month and received the first Club standing ovation for her presentation on the Women's Refugee Centre, Zara's House in Jesmond. Some of our members were privileged to attend the opening of the centre, assisting primarily Moslem women immigrating to Australia, with very little English and literacy skills. We believe it may be the start of a great relationship with our Club!

Our annual IWD breakfast was once again a success with a 30 strong choir, Women of Note Chorus and an amazing guest speaker in our new female Harbour Master for Newcastle Captain Jeanine Drummond, who is making waves, excuse the pun, in a very male dominated industry.



Port Macquarie

Zonta District 24 Centennial Anniversary Women of Achievement Award

We have circulated details to some 40 women's service organisations in the Port Macquarie Hastings area and we hope to receive some nominations for this award.

Golf Day

Our Zonta Golf Day at Emerald Downs will be held on Thursday 2nd May. Volunteers are needed to sell raffle tickets, serve lunch etc.

The Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering

Has put out a video YouTube on behalf of #BeTogether. Find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8JDfBc59Ps> Worth a look!

District 24 Conference – Brisbane 6-8 September

Joy Whiting and Margaret Bateman have registered for District Conference in September. Our club's YWPA winner last year, Jorga Attard is one of the keynote speakers!



Young Woman in Public Affairs award

We are currently interviewing 2 candidates and will be providing \$500 to the winner and sponsorship to Luminosity Youth Summit to the runner-up.

Zonta Achievement Award for a Young Indigenous Woman (AAYIW)

We have received positive response to this award and anticipate Bronlyn will receive applications from schools in the Hastings/Macleay.

Two new members

Will be joining our club, one of whom is involved in STEM subjects and has contacts at Charles Sturt University. Hopefully, we can attract Women in Technology scholarship applicants.

International Women's Day breakfast - Sponsored by the Hastings Business Women's Network

Over 300 ladies in attendance - Zonta had a corporate table and we got a mention! Great advocacy. Proceeds of some \$16,500 went to **Liberty** (renamed) domestic violence refuge Port Macquarie.

Tamworth

The Tamworth Zonta Club has enjoyed a busy few months both prior to the Festive season and into 2019! The club began with our third year hosting the 2019 Queen of Country Music Quest. Thirteen young women embarked on the journey in October 2018 with a six-week professional development program before the 2019 Tamworth Country Music Festival kicked off where the entrants were apart of many activities. The new Queen and Princess were awarded at our crowning Gala dinner on the final day of the festival, a lovely evening of 150 guests attended the Tamworth Jockey Club to celebrate the entrants, see below some of the excellent photos taken by sponsor Town Life Northwest.

The evening concluded with the 2019 Queen Crowned as Rebecca Hunt, 2019 Princess as Casey Skewes, Miss Congeniality as Emerie Anonical and Miss Social as Lauren Foley. Rebecca and Casey will represent the Tamworth Region and the Tamworth Club over the next year with many events already planned in the girl's schedule.

During February dinner meeting Rebecca and Casey were welcomed to the club and shared their experience thus far. We look forward to sharing our club activities over the next year. Followed close behind our second large event of the Club, International Woman's Day.

In 2019 we have teamed up with Tamworth Regional Council and the 2340 Big Band to present Leading Ladies on the 9th March, a sold-out evening of musical celebration of Woman of the ages whilst also acknowledging woman in the community through the annual Zonta Club of Tamworth Empowerment Awards. A fabulous evening to celebrate the Tamworth region, with proceeds from the event going to our local woman's refuge.

Two huge events done and dusted its now time we focus on our smaller activities of 2019 and look forward to our next club friendship event for past, present and future members.

