

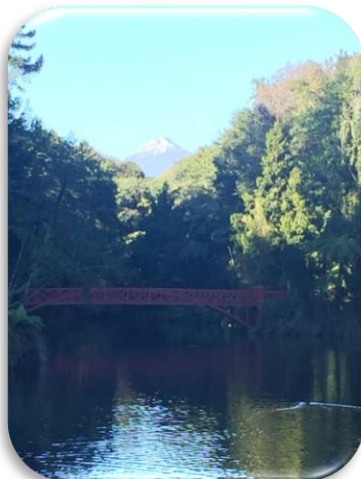
*Issue 6, 2018-2020 Biennium  
May-June 2019*

Dear Fellow Zontians,

This month Zonta International President Dr Susanne von Bassewitz has met a panel of experts at the UN headquarters in Vienna, Austria to discuss forced and early marriage. It was the platform to introduce the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. This program is present in 12 countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia and is made possible with the support of Zonta International, the first private sector donor to the Programme. In Australia, New South Wales and Victoria have the most reports of this violation of human rights. Clubs are encouraged to discuss and be informed about the state laws in this area.

During the September conference we will have the privilege of listening to Dr Susanne von Bassewitz and speakers from Good Shepard Australia New Zealand and Queensland University discussing Forced Marriage with an Australia New Zealand perspective.

Growing up in New Plymouth, New Zealand has some special memories, such as beautiful Pukekura Park in view of spectacular Mount Taranaki. Equally, having spent most of my adult years in Sydney I have the absolute pleasure of attending performances in the Sydney Opera House; one of favourite past-times. Memories are very special to all of us as we remember the people we were with and the activities we participated in. I invite you to come and share the special memory for the Zonta 100 conference in Brisbane. Four newsletters have been sent out to all members and interested parties so far. However, if you are missing out the special items of news, please update your details on the Zonta International member login, which the district uses to make contact with you.



I have been out and about this month with a very special ceremony of induction of the Strathfield Girls Z Club who are intending to venture north and come as a group to the conference. Any other Z Club members are strongly urged to join the group as we welcome the youth members to the conference, sharing their views and experiencing the wider Zonta world. I travelled to Melbourne for the e-Security for Women Alliance annual meeting where the project of surveying the Caring Economy was discussed; the role of carers, many of whom are women in early childhood, disability and aged care to name a few.

I attended the Zonta club of Melbourne on Yarra dinner meeting where I met fellow District 23 Governor Jane Adornetto and members of the club. It was lovely to meet past District 24 Canberra Breakfast member Sharon Nelson-Kelly, who is the D23 Leadership coordinator and who will be working with D24 coordinator Deb Maes to run the conference Leadership workshop with lots of good vibes and fun planned.

I drove south from Sydney on 18 May, to attend the AGM of the of the energetic team Zonta Club of Goulburn, recuperating from their successful Bunnings cake stall. The land is extremely dry, and it was a worthwhile reminder of how different our rural Zonta clubs are affected by the climate.

Last week, I joined past-Governor Dr Janette Curtis at the 2-day meeting of the Equality Rights Alliance where the group planned for continuing advocacy on the major policies affecting women in Australia concerning gender equality, women's leadership and women's diversity.

Lastly, I remind clubs to send in your club nominations of the Centenary Award to Chair Amanda Gibson so we can recognise those fabulous women in your communities.

Yours in Zonta,

*Sharyl*

Sharyl Scott  
Governor, Zonta International District 24 Inc



## Lieutenant Governor's Message

I am sure you have all been busy with club changeovers and for most clubs, this means a chance for a few new faces to join the board. It is also a time when many members choose not to renew their membership.

Please remember to offer these people the opportunity to become individual members of Zonta, particularly those who resign due to time commitments or relocation to a place without a club. There is a transfer form on the Zonta International website – just copy and paste this link or search “individual member application”



<https://www.zonta.org/Portals/0/Membership/Tools/MembershipTools/Individual%20Member%20Application%20Form.pdf?ver=2019-04-17-145614-030>

District 24 is progressing well with membership, as at 30 April we have 65 new members and our total numbers are 523, down 6 from 31 May 2018. This means we are tracking well towards achieving the goal of having more members at 31 May 2020 than 31 May 2018. Australia is also leading the way with more Young Professional members than any other country in the Zonta world.

Remember to register for District conference and choose a workshop to attend. The membership workshop will have an external speaker and a panel of diverse Zontians with a representative from each District. Please read the conference newsletter to learn more as conference approaches.

Stay warm!

*Karen*

Karen Tromp  
Lieutenant Governor, Zonta International District 24 Inc

## Useful Links

### Zonta District 24 website and Facebook

[www.zontadistrict24.org](http://www.zontadistrict24.org)

[www.facebook.com/zontadistrict24](https://www.facebook.com/zontadistrict24)

### Zonta 100 Years website

[www.zonta100.org](http://www.zonta100.org)



## Australia New Zealand 2019 Conference

**Brisbane 6-8 September**

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Brisbane Conference & Exhibition Centre

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=479031&>

Registrations are open – Earlybird pricing closes 30<sup>th</sup> June!

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.

## Z Clubs Report

### Zonta Club of Sydney West Charters Strathfield Girls Zclub!

What a privilege District Governor Sharyl Scott and I had attending the charter of this new Zclub!

The enthusiasm, professional and outstanding support shown by the students and school leaders will make this a most rewarding and empowering group in the school.

The school principal spoke of the opportunity this club offers and her expectations of the students but also offering the support of the school and hoping to send a representative to Brisbane!

Congratulations to Lorna Parker, Diana Humphries and club members for giving the students this great opportunity.



**Zclub at St Mary College, Wollongong** held a Biggest Morning 7 May. Each tutor group baked cupcakes biscuits & brownies. It was a fantastic event they raised \$500 for the Cancer Council.

Z Club is planning for the Birthing Kit Assembly Day 18 May at the College. The event is being hosted with Zonta Club of Wollongong.

**Mackellar Girls Zclub** coordinated the packing of 1800 Birthing kits at the school!

A lot of work and A great effort! The girls are very keen to follow the journey of the kits and enjoy the presentations from BKFA.

Vice President laid books-"a living wreath" at the school ANZAC Day service.

*Margaret*

Margaret White  
Coordinator

## Service Chair Report

My role as D24 Service Chair so far has been coordinating Breast Care Cushions requests and the ZI D24 Women of Achievement Award applications.

There are many Service Projects that our clubs are involved in such as Kookaburra Kids, Birthing Kits, Days for Girls, drought relief in rural areas and support for Refuges. I would like to highlight in my next report the service projects that your club has been participating in to empower women so please contact me so I can put them in the next Voice report.

In regard to Breast Care Cushions, I have on average 5 enquires per month and I post approximately 3 cushions each month. My stockpile of cushions which ran very low recently was topped up thanks to Zonta Club of Botany Bay. Thanks also to Zonta Club of Macarthur for supplying cushions and I'm looking forward to other clubs in D24 contributing if they can.

The requests for breast cushions come from women nationwide and overseas. Some requests are not for them personally but for a friend or relative or in some cases their cushion has been so loved they need a replacement. In many cases I'm able to advise them in regard to cushions being supplied at the hospital they are attending or contact Zonta Clubs interstate or locally that can ensure they receive a cushion.

The majority of the requests come from the information they receive from Breast Care Network, the My Journey Book. Via that contact the requests come to D24 and me. All the women who contact me think they have to purchase the cushion.

***I would like to update my spreadsheet regarding the lists of clubs supplying breast cushions to what hospital as there have been some recent changes. Could the contact person for each club please let me know what hospital your club is supplying cushions to and also how many cushions your club supplies each year.***

Looking forward to hearing from you and seeing some of you at the Brisbane Conference.

The photo I have included in my report is a cushion stuffing day at Club Central Menai earlier this year. ZCBB is fortunate to get Club grants that help fund our Breast Cushions.

*Margaret*

Amanda Gibson  
gibsonah@yahoo.com



## Financially Fit Females campaign

Economic Security4Women has partnered with Bauer Media's major campaign designed to empower and educate the nation's more than 12 million women about their personal finances and financial abuse.

The campaign, entitled *Financially Fit Females*, is running across Bauer's 36 media brands, including *ELLE*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *The Australian Women's Weekly* and *Woman's Day* with a combined readership of some 7.5 million.

Over the course of the next six months Bauer Media will feature key issues and eS4W will partake in their media campaign raising awareness and features on the campaign's website.

Key issues are:

- Financial and economic abuse; what it is and how to recognise it
- Savings and investments
- Maximizing super
- Being paid appropriately
- Navigating separation and divorce

For more information:

<http://btyb.financiallyfitfemales.com.au/financiallyfitfemales/p/1>

Please distribute the campaign link through your networks and on social media to assist Bauer Media's commitment to reach over 1 million actions that build financial literacy.

# *Area 1*

## *Botany Bay*

As with many Clubs, our AGM has come and gone and new volunteers have been endorsed – we wish these volunteers in every Club the best as they contribute to the advancement of women, and to the directions of their Club in the year to come.

ZCBB has been again busy with fundraising for our many and varied projects. We ran a Bunnings BBQ at the new Taren Point store which proved more successful than we imagined...still selling sausages at 4pm!

Many members have also been hard at work preparing applications for the local ClubGrant rounds, which opened at the beginning of April. We have high hopes that our Club will again be successful here, as these Grants ease the burden of Club fundraising significantly.

Another successful packing day for Kookaburra Kids camps, and for students at our upcoming Birthing Kit Day at Bankstown Senior College, was held in early May. The need here is great and we have had seven extra KK camps to pack for – a total of 400 bags were collated on this day!

Our upcoming events will see the next couple of months very active as we prepare for our Vintage and Collectibles Fair in Hurstville on June 30th, and our rescheduled Golf Day on July 28th. Both these days are fabulous and not to be missed – check our Facebook page for details – everyone is welcome to participate. With a visit to Vivid and a Movie Date, our social arm is planning for us too – it is great to be a Zontian!



## Central Coast



On 4<sup>th</sup> May Zonta CC hosted a very successful dinner at Breakers Country Club to celebrate our local Women of Achievement. Three inspirational women participated in a lively panel discussion providing thought provoking insights into their lives, challenges and successes.

Talara Freeman is one of Barang Aboriginal Alliance's Pelican Emerging Leaders, who

continues to be an active community member, supporting Indigenous young people. Liesel Tesch is a local MP, teacher, a Paralympian and has also established the not-for-profit Sport Matters, providing sporting opportunities for people with disability. Tricia Fortier has volunteered with The Humour Foundation since 2006, helping to bring fun and laughter to children in hospital through the Clown Rounds initiative.

Entertainment was also provided by Coastal a Capella, a wonderfully musical group of talented local women.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May Terrigal-Wamberal Lions Club President, Mr. Terry Ebert presented a very welcome cheque for \$5000 to the Zonta CC group at their Annual General Meeting. This generous amount of money will be used to provide assistance to the women and children supported by our local women's refuges. Zonta CC's current and projected areas of support for women's refuges include starter packs for women moving into independent accommodation and include bed linen, quilts and pillows, kitchen requirements, saucepans and small appliances. Personal care products and Christmas packages are also provided for women and children entering women's refuges.



Congratulations are in order for seven of our hard working Zonta members who received Certificates of Service at our recent Annual General Meeting. Molly, Marie, Gael, Wilma, Liz, Denise and Janet have worked tirelessly to support programs of service and empowerment for women over a number of years with individual contributory years totalling between 15 and 34 years. A terrific effort!

## *Hornsby Ku-ring-gai*



In April we were pleased to put together the Area 1 Workshop with our Area Director, Kristiane Molloy. Attendees at the workshop enjoyed a wide range of interesting speakers, discussions, fellowship and celebrations. Key-note speaker, Saba Vasefi, had everyone enthralled with her personal story of growing up in Iran. Now an Australian citizen, she works as a tertiary educator, writer and refugee advocate. Saba presented through her own poetry, singing and filmmaking.

Our club enjoys getting together for breast care cushion making. We recently spent a Saturday afternoon with friends of all ages - cutting, sewing, ironing and stuffing. Thanks to everyone who got involved.



# *Northern Beaches*

## Avalon Beach RSL Sub-branch Anzac Day Commemoration Service – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April

On an unusually very hot morning this year 6 members proudly marched behind our banner for this annual event. Local community groups, including local Army, Navy and Air Force representatives, Scouts, Rotary, local schools, are invited to join this annual



march through the streets of Avalon, finishing at the Avalon Beach RSL Sub-Branch where the service is held. The band from Barrenjoey High School ably provided accompaniment to the singing of traditional hymns and the National Anthems: God Save the Queen, Advance Australia Fair and God Defend New Zealand – Maori Aotearora.

The guest speaker was Jennifer Wittwer CSM, RAN Rtd who delivered a wonderful speech highlighting the involvement and achievements of women in the services, the true meaning of the name Anzac and the reason for the date of 25<sup>th</sup> April for commemoration services in Australia and New Zealand.

Evelyn Whittaker, Treasurer of our Club, laid books on our behalf at the Book & Wreath Laying Ceremony.



## Birthing Kits Packing day – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Mackellar Girls High School

Along with several members of our Club, ZClub members and 100 Year 11 students 1800 kits were packed in 3 hours. Prior to the packing the girls are shown a video explaining the necessity of the birthday kits, the reason for such hygiene whilst

packing and the final destination of the kits. Previously the kits have to gone to sub-Saharan Africa courtesy of the Birthing Kit Foundation of Australia.

It was a big effort undertaken by all concerned - well done girls and our members! The girls will now track the kits to their destination.

## *Sydney Breakfast*



In honour of International Women's Day and Zonta International's Centennial Anniversary, our Club's partner Calmar Corps hosted the second annual "Sassy Cussy Sisters Show" featuring a star-studded cast of the funniest and most fabulous female comedians at the iconic Sydney Comedy Store in Moore Park!

All proceeds from the March event are being donated to Zonta International to fund service and advocacy projects. Off the back of the success of this year's event, Calmar Corps has booked a new venue in the Sydney CBD for next year to support a bigger crowd with more fundraising potential!

In April, our Club delivered 106 breast care cushions to St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney's East. We had a lovely morning stuffing, sewing and packaging while hearing from Ann Selle OAM on her recent progress in Sri Lanka with breast care and health! "Thank you to Ann for joining us and sharing your updates."



## *Sydney East*

The meeting in March was a very special one for our Club – we were celebrating Zonta East Club's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday as a chartered club and were privileged to have Sharyl Scott, District 24 Governor as our special Guest Speaker.

The synergy re the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Zonta's founding in the US this year to be marked with a joint Australia/New Zealand conference in Brisbane from the 6 – 9<sup>th</sup> of September meant there was much to hear from Sharyl and enjoy. We hope several of our Club will sign up for this special conference and occasion this year.

Sharyl spoke to us about the beginnings of Zonta in the US and the establishment of Zonta in Australia. It is known that Dorothea Mackellar was President at the first Sydney Club commencing in 1930 and that members included Thea Proctor however records for that early period are not well documented- it is pleasing to know that record keeping has become a basic operation for all our chartered clubs now, contributing to a strong history.

Ann Hannema who has been a member of Zonta Sydney East for 35 years responded by saying that she has a love for Zonta. There were about 40 members in the group when she became a member – “an absolutely charming group of women” and Ann adds that she is proud to have attended 10 international Conferences.



## *Sydney Hills*

A successful Bunnings sausage sizzle and a birthing kit assembly day (BKAD) have kept the members of the Zonta Club of Sydney Hills pretty busy in the last month.

On Saturday 11 May nearly 1000 (superior quality!) sausage sandwiches were sold at Bunnings, Castle Hill by our club members ably assisted by our great “Friends of Zonta” team who regularly turn up to club events to give a hand. This time the team included two enthusiastic Year 12 students from a local school who had also attended our 2019 IWD event and wanted to do more to support Zonta.

Two weeks later members teamed up with the generous staff from Teachers Mutual Bank (TMB) at Homebush to run a birthing kit assembly day. A total of 1200 kits were assembled thanks to excellent coordination plus the valuable assistance of club member Sidrah Haneef who works at TMB and effectively liaised between the Bank and the club to ensure a successful outcome on the day.

One of the strengths of our small but active and hardworking club is the ability to partner with other individuals and organisations to run successful events whose proceeds go to further the work of Zonta. Thanks go to members, our tireless volunteers and the staff of TMB who all worked hard to ensure a successful outcome for both events.

Both events were an opportunity to raise our club’s profile and the ongoing work of Zonta.



## *Sydney West*



President Diana Humphries, can tick off two of her goals for 2019:

- a Z Club and
- a Safe Room refurbishment in a busy courthouse.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Strathfield Girls High School Z Club was chartered in the presence of Governor, Sharyl Scott, and the ceremony expertly performed by Z Club Chair, Margaret White. Vice President, Lorna Parker, Z Club mentor, is delighted that the Z Club has chartered after two years' gestation and that we are the first club in D24 to reach this Centennial Goal.

Seventeen Year 10 students are keen Charter Members. Principal, Angela Lyris, gave an impassioned address about the value of service, while Sharyl Scott spoke of the history of the Z Club movement.

The three young men are pictured in the Safe Room at the Burwood Courthouse in front of the setup which allows victims and witnesses, including children, to give evidence in trials without having to confront a perpetrator. Bassam, (right), the winner of one of our Club's 2019 Awards to Young Men Standing Strong against Domestic Violence, is joined by Tim (left) and Zaim (centre), all from Homebush Boys High School, who raised funds to supply much needed items, furniture and comforts for the Safe Room. Great role models!



# *Area 2*

## *Blue Mountains*



Setting up the new club has been an exciting and busy task. Our membership is growing every month and we have had some small, but profitable ideas which have generated income for our first Birthing Kit assembly day.

We are busily preparing for our first major fundraiser – a Trivia Night – in July and are heartened by the community support for this. We are anticipating this will set us up for other projects in the coming year.

Our response to Blue Mountains City Council Business Papers in April, saw an amendment to the Gender Equity Policy, and an invitation to ‘sit at the table’ when developing new policy and the supporting programs – very pleased to be advocating for our local women.

Research is being collated to support local women and families affected through incarceration in the criminal justice system. A visit from the Zonta Club of Sydney gave insight into the impact, and possible solutions, to the many societal problems resulting from incarceration.

## *Berry*



The Zonta Club of Berry were very excited to welcome three new club members in April. These ladies have already been very active in the club assisting with our community projects and fundraising ventures such as the "Pre-Loved Clothing Sale" which was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May.

What a great day this turned out to be, and whilst it rained, it certainly did not deter from what was a very enjoyable and successful event. It was lovely to see some return customers who knew from experience the wide range of quality clothing and accessories that was offered for sale. This is one of our annual service fundraiser events and is always much anticipated by members and the community.

On a more serious note, as Australian's gathered to commemorate our fallen, our club joined our local community in the Anzac Day march and wreath laying service. This year we made our own wreath, which really added to the significance of the day.

This month we will be gathering for a breast cushion sewing morning. For some of our new members this will be the first such day they will have attended.



## *Canberra*

The Club has had a busy time over the last few months. On Saturday 30 March we hosted two functions on the same day – the Area 2 Workshop and and Canberra Club's 50 Year Celebration Cocktail Party

### **AREA 2 WORKSHOP**

Our main guest speaker was Chris Shortis, from St Vincent de Paul, who outlined the many services offered by her organization in Canberra and surrounding districts. Half the profit made will be sent to Zonta International and the other half to St Vincents' Street to Home service.



### **50 YEAR CELEBRATION COCKTAIL PARTY**

We celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our club at the Bookplate restaurant in The National Library. We were joined by many current & previous members, representatives of D24 & Area 2 boards and fellow Zontians from as far away as McKay. Past International President, Lyn McKenzie came over all the way from New Zealand to help us celebrate.

## *Cumberland West*

Club members have once again got together in a production line assembling birthing kits for Birthing Kit Foundation Australia. It became a great social event and a fun day. It's a wonderful feeling knowing that we can help women and their newborn in developing countries avoid mortality due to unhygienic conditions. We will continue to fund raise for this cause.

Our club continues to support domestic violence services with funds that will enable them to run therapy and trauma groups and women's personal development courses. We believe they are a vital part of the process for women and their children to move forward and back into society with increased confidence and self-esteem.



## *Macarthur*



Six of our members travelled to the Canberra Area Workshop on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March. It might have been chilly outside, but the enthusiasm and warmth of the presenters was inspiring.

A successful fundraising event was again held at Bunnings, Casula NSW on Saturday 4 May 2019. The fabulous group of volunteers and members worked hard on the day and did a great job promoting Zonta.

Our Club is looking forward to hosting Anne Selle's informative talk on Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup> about the Breast Care Cushion Project and will warmly welcome other Zontians and members of the community.



## *Nepean Valley*

Since the last issue of The Voice our club has been privileged to hear from two inspirational guest speakers. In March we heard from Shelley Whittington who is the Community Partnership Manager at Destiny Rescue. Shelley is passionate about educating the community about the issues of child trafficking and slavery. Shelley told us about her recent trip to Thailand where she saw this issue first-hand. Our club subsequently made a generous donation to this worth cause and Shelley has now become a member of ZCNV.

Jo Burton, a Nurse Practitioner Primary Care with Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network addressed the club meeting in April. Jo works in prisons across NSW and is considered an expert in primary care nursing in the Network and the wider nursing community. The title of her talk was 'Indigenous Intergenerational Trauma and its Impact on the Social Determinants of Health'.



May has been a busy month for the club. We were fortunate to receive a Volunteer Grant from the Federal Government that will be used to purchase some computer software and other equipment to assist our members in their volunteer work. A group of our club members attended a morning tea hosted by Senator Marise Payne at Nepean Rowing Club to celebrate the success of the grant application.

The Zonta Club of Nepean Valley has been assembling birthing kits every year since 2004. This year was no exception. On Sunday 19 May another 1,000 kits at a cost of \$3,000 was added to our tally, taking our overall contribution over 16 years to 17,200 kits at a total cost of \$32,400.



# Orange

## **Zonta Orange 35<sup>TH</sup> Annual Zonta Antique, Jewellery & Vintage Fair 14-16 June**

The Orange Zonta Club's Antique, Jewellery and Vintage Fair is on again from its opening gala on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June until Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019. This is a fantastic opportunity to come, see and buy - fine estate, period and costume jewellery; French, English and Australian Colonial furniture; fine porcelain and crystal and a whole range of collectibles and beautiful antiques.

"Whether you are a serious collector, someone looking for that unique piece of jewellery for yourself or a loved one or need something special to add to your home this is the place to find it," said Ms Kerry Ferguson of the Zonta Club of Orange.

"The fair only happens once a year and brings traders from across Australia to your doorstep so you can see and choose from the very best."



"You will also be helping Zonta Orange to provide support to women and families across Orange and internationally as this is our major fundraising event of the year."

"Last year with the money raised we were able to provide scholarships for students from the Central West studying fine arts and healthcare (please confirm) and raised awareness of help for by placing advertisements on local buses and provided assistance to local providers of domestic violence support services. We also put together 700 birthing kits which were sent to Sulawesi in Indonesia after their devastating earthquake and

tsunami last year," said Ms Ferguson.

The fair is at the Orange Function Centre, Eyles Street Orange, and opens on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of June with a catered Gala night from 5:30pm – 8:30pm for \$25 per person. The entry is \$7 per person on Saturday 10am – 5pm and Sunday 10am – 4pm.

There is an on-site café open from 11am to 3pm if you want to meet friends for lunch or afternoon tea and also a coffee cart.

You can either buy your tickets online or at the door and for more information see our Facebook page at Facebook: [@zontaorange](https://www.facebook.com/zontaorange) or [zontacluboforange](https://www.facebook.com/zontacluboforange).

Zonta Orange has dinner meetings the second Tuesday of every month please come along if you are visiting Orange details are available on our website.

## Wollongong



On 31<sup>st</sup> March we held our annual T-Shirt and Knickers Day when Zonta members packaged just under seventy packs of clothing for women and children. These were delivered to the Women's shelter and gratefully received.

As well as the packing we enjoyed a morning of fellowship and shared a delicious lunch.

Our AGM was held in May and a new committee elected. Thanks were given to outgoing committee members for their valuable contribution to the club and a farewell given to Sue Deverson who has resigned from the club because of other commitments. Early in June the new Board will meet and decide on a date for our planning day as we look to the year ahead.

A very successful Birthing Kits packing day was held on 18<sup>th</sup> May and we put together 1200 Birthing Kits. We had a very good representation from our St Mary's Star of the Sea Z Club as well as staff and other students from the school. We also welcomed a group of young men from Edmund Rice College and a large number of volunteers, family and friends. Thanks to Heather, Vicki, Cecilie, and Julie for their organization and careful preparation.

Finally: Save the Date! We are holding a High Tea on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July. Please join us!



# *Area 3*

## *Workshop Photos .....*



## *Armidale*



### **Club Young Indigenous Women's Award**

This year's award recognises Alyssa Armstrong who is a proud and strong Aboriginal woman keen to learn her indigenous language - Gumbayngnirr. She was also Highly Commended in the District Awards.

She is proud to be the first Indigenous School Captain of Armidale Secondary College. She has put her energy into the Student Representative Council, especially with fundraising; is a Peer Group Leader for Year 7 students; presents the Acknowledgement to Country at school assemblies; and coaches and referees netball in the town competition. Her aspirations are to finish Year 12 followed by University study in either teaching, business management or psychology. Her strong, loving and supportive family are behind her all the way.

### **Birthing kits**

Our club gives an annual donation for birthing kits to one of the rural medical student groups at UNE, ASPIRE. They pack kits as part of a maternal skills weekend held the weekend of Mothers' Day. It's always a fun activity interacting with students and listening to their playlists!



## *Coffs Harbour*

The past few months have been busy with service projects.

75 plastic folders have now been assembled and delivered to The Nth Coast Cancer Institute at the Coffs Harbour Health Campus. The folders, which are given to patients at the Breast Cancer Unit for their appointment and information papers, are greatly appreciated by Lee Millard, Breast Care Nurse.

Members also shopped for laundry and kitchen goods to fill ten 'exit baskets' which were handed on to the Warrina Women and Children's Refuge, Coffs Harbour. The baskets are an annual project, and a useful and practical way to support the women at the refuge. The exit baskets are given to women when they leave the refuge to set up in new accommodation.



The Uplift Bra Project finished at the end of April with another large amount of well-loved bras being collected. After sorting, the bras have been delivered to the Uplift co-ordinator in Sydney, who will arrange transport to countries in need. Thank you to Liz Donnan for driving the bras to Sydney.

Zonta Club of Coffs Harbour received promotion when our Secretary, Jenny Wiseman, was interviewed on local community radio station 2AIRFM. We were able to promote Zonta International, the Zonta Centenary, and our own local Zonta activities.

Our funds were given a boost when we filled a BBQ vacancy at Bunnings. Even though it was one of the wettest and windiest days we had seen in Coffs Harbour for quite a while, we had fun and were well supported by customers. They probably felt sorry for the bedraggled crew trying to keep sausages cooked in between the downpours.



## *Hunter Newcastle*

The ZONTA Hunter Newcastle Club hosted the Area 3 meeting in April, and it was with great pleasure we welcomed a large number of members from across our Area. Sunny skies, and a beautiful location chosen by our Area Director, and it was certainly lovely to see the smiles on the faces of our country members, when commenting on the lake and the greenery, which is a little foreign to those in drought affected areas. Wonderful guest speakers, and overall a fantastic weekend of enthusiasm, participation and friendship.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, with a fitting Star Wars lucky door prize, our birthing kit day went off without a hitch, assembling 1600 kits on this occasion. We were so thrilled to see not only members attend, but many interested ladies who are not members of the Club (not yet anyway!). On this occasion we benefited from a donation towards some of the kits by our local Lioness Club, compliments of a short talk given at one of their meetings by our VP Wendy Muskin. The word about ZONTA Hunter Newcastle is certainly spreading! May also saw two of our representatives, our President Karen Wilson and Jess Salvador attend a Remembrance Ceremony along the banks of the River at Maitland in honour of those women who we have lost to Domestic Violence. It was a moving ceremony hosted by Carrie's Place, one of the refuges we assist, and there was strong attendance across their community sectors.

Our refuge work continues with great energy, seeing over 40 quilts donated through our connection with Quirky Quilters, and 60 amenities bags donated to 3 refuges at our last dinner meeting.

Of course, May sees the installation of our new Board, and we welcome 3 new members to the Board for the upcoming year, and we are certain those members will provide a great contribution to our growing Club.



## *Port Macquarie*



We enjoyed a visit from Lt Governor Karen Tromp at our May Changeover dinner. Karen is pictured inducting 3 new members: Venessa Deguara, Hilary West, Petriea Skitek.

Our golf afternoon fundraiser, held at Emerald Downs on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, was a great success. Pictured here are the winners (l to r) Miki Collins, Nikki Bailey, Shannon Miller, Tracey Crowe. Ladies from the Port Macquarie golf club were very supportive, and we are grateful to Cassegrain Winery for providing the prizes. Funds raised will support our Birthing Kit Assembly project and Young Women in Public Affairs Award. Fran Scutts franchisee of KFC Port Macquarie, who was a team sponsor, is pictured receiving her certificate of appreciation.

The Young Woman in Public Affairs awardee, Xanthia Hughes of Camden Haven High School, was presented with her cheque at a school assembly held on May 6, by Vice President, Charlotte Gillespie.



## *Tamworth*

Job Link, committed to equity, has supported Zonta for a number of years. This collaborative relationship has now created an opportunity for furthering the Leadership Development opportunity of awardees of the District Award; Young Indigenous Woman.

The \$5,000 sponsorship enables Awardees of the D24 Young Indigenous Woman and a support person to attend the 2019 Zonta 100 conference in September. The successful applicants have the opportunity to personally meet conference speakers, and Zontians of renown from around the globe, developing networking skills during the conference, building confidence and benefiting their future careers.

This is an inspiring example of how collaborative partnerships with like-minded organisations can aid both Zonta and community organisations to achieve equity for young women in Australian communities.

