

*Issue 8, 2018-2020 Biennium
September 2019*

Dear Fellow Zontians,

What an exciting month it has been! The inter District 2019 Zonta Conference in Brisbane held at the Convention Centre on Southbank - 158 D24 members and guests joined the other Australian districts and New Zealand into what was a wonderful event, full of friendship, inspiring speakers, exciting entertainment and a magnificent venue to join together in celebrating the 100 years of Zonta. The important celebration of our Zonta history 'Down Under and Across the Ditch' was recognised by the presence of Zonta International President Susanne von Bassewitz, the liaison from the Zonta International Board, whom many of you met and have I'm sure a photo of.



There has been a flurry of social media comments about the conference and many photos. I encourage you to keep posting and commenting as a great way to link in with the other districts and feedback to the committee your personal evaluations. There will be a Survey Monkey evaluation survey sent to attendees soon from the committee.

The important business of the district was completed in the one day thanks to the preparation beforehand by District Treasurer, Donna Fraser who had answered many questions about the District budget. The By-Laws session went quickly, and I recognise the work to ensure protocol was followed by Chair Diana Humphries and Parliamentarian Christine Magner. However, we did run out of time as we were rushed from the room to prepare for the Opening Ceremony with the impressive flag ceremony to announce the next district board, so I have included it below.

I have the pleasure in announcing the incoming board for 2020-2022 commencing July 2020 at the end of the Chicago Convention:

Governor Elect:	Karen Tromp, Zonta Club of Armidale Inc
Lieutenant Governor elect:	Jean Dally, Zonta Club of Goulburn Inc
Area 1 Director elect:	Bernadine Guy, Zonta Club Northern Beaches Inc
Area 2 Director elect:	Rita Sullivan, Zonta Club of Berry Inc
Area 3 Director elect:	Deb Maes, Zonta Club of Tamworth Inc
Treasurer elect:	Marilyn Smith, Zonta Club of Sydney Inc

The 2020-2022 elected Nominating Committee is:

Chair:	Sharyl Scott, Zonta Club of Macarthur Inc
	Jill Davis, Zonta Club of Central Coast Inc
	Donna Fraser, Zonta Club of Sydney Hills Inc

I know all clubs' delegates will be providing more detailed reports of the speakers and district projects at their club meetings.

D24 Honorary Zontians

Two of the women recognised by clubs for their achievements in advocacy were honoured as Honorary Zontians of District 24 for 2019-2020. Carol Hardings has worked in the counselling and supporting women through her work in the Hills Women's shelter and Sisters of Mercy services over 25 years and Anyier Youl who has become a strong advocate for refugee women, human rights and inclusion in education. Both women were honoured and are very humble about the impact they have had on other women's lives. They were both supported by District 24 and the affiliated clubs to attend the conference.



Young Zontians Inspired

I have to share another two photos. One is the photo of D24 's 2018 YWPA International winner Jorga Attard and D24's 2018 District JMK winner Helaina Narvaiza. Both young women were sponsored to attend the conference and have strong intentions in continuing their links with Zonta.



The other photo is of the Z club members with President Susanne. Our district supported all but 7 Z club members to attend. The Z club members are already planning their next fundraisers after seeing the New Zealand club's Share Your Story idea of a Rose Run. I wish to thank the Armidale, Northern Beaches and Sydney West clubs for their support for these young Zontians.

The next district board meeting will be on 8 – 9 November as we are all gathering for the Centennial Lunch at NSW Parliament House (see flyer in this Voice). If you have any questions for the District Board - please direct them to your Area Director before this date.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the luncheon or at some of the other district functions over November.

Yours in Zonta,

Sharyl

Sharyl Scott
Governor, Zonta International District 24 Inc



Lieutenant Governor's Message

For all those members who did not attend the Membership workshop at conference, I will try to summarise some of the main points for you to discuss at your club meetings/planning days.

Guest speaker Belinda Moore shared some of her insights built from over 20 years researching membership organisations.

Strong clubs are facilitators of tribes. That is, they encourage groups of motivated people to pursue their passion.

Successful clubs excel at creating strong pathways that engage members more creatively. They foster an atmosphere of "Community" as opposed to "Clique". They make new members feel welcome and give them time to road test the relationship by attending lots of functions and events before joining. We need to understand the difference between "Join" vs "Belong". Clubs need to be generationally friendly.



The number 1 reason people do not join an organisation – Nobody asked me!

Of course, there was a lot more and everyone will have gleaned different insights from the session.

District 24 was excellently represented on the discussion panel by Ebony Adams, a young professional member of Armidale club, and the panel of 4 were very open and honest in answering the questions posed by Belinda.

The organising committee set up a Facebook page Zonta 100 Membership Workshop which a closed group has been but is now a public page so all can share their insights and questions on the topic of membership. I encourage you to join the chat.

I will be forming a working group to review the results of our anonymous exit survey so we can share the information with all clubs at Area meetings in 2020.

Finally, if you have members who are thinking of **not renewing** their membership in 2020, please have a conversation about whether they might prefer to join the e-club or become an individual member of Zonta International.

E-Club contact www.zontaaustralia1e.club

Individual Member – zonta.org and search Individual member

Wishing clubs all the best for their Zonta Says No activities and Centennial Celebrations.

Karen

Karen Tromp
Lieutenant Governor, Zonta International District 24 Inc

Z Clubs Report

Zclub Members from 3 clubs attended Centennial Conference and Met Zonta International President Susanne!

Georgia MacMahon from Armidale carried the Torres Strait Islanders flag at opening ceremony!

Empowered! Overwhelmed! Grateful for opportunity! Inspired!

Comments from the Students of Armidale, Strathfield and Northern Beaches.

“The opening ceremony was so powerful!”

“I heard Professors, Dames and the International President speak!”

“I went to an Advocacy Workshop and the Gala Dinner!”

“It was a life changing experience!”

“We saw 800 passionate women share their ideals!”

We heard speakers from Dame Quentin Bryce to passionate activists and outstanding young achievers in their field.

Members interviewed various Conference participants (including the International President which was quite a coup!!) and questioned them as to how they were inspired and messages they would take away from the conference.

Airlie Chapman shed a light on the need for women's roles in the STEM field and how female contribution can improve global sustainability.

“Young Women Speak Out” Forum gave us many ideas.

President Susanne told us of her visits to Zambia and Jordan to see firsthand the ZI projects. Workshops on leadership and advocacy were attended.

- Listening to the panel of young women who were talking about their experiences and voicing their personal opinions on world issues was definitely a highlight of the Conference.
- I loved meeting the other Z Club members and Zonta members. We also got to meet the International president of Zonta and we got to hear her vision, which was so inspiring.
- I enjoyed attending the District meeting and observing how District 24 works. I think we felt more included in the District especially when the international president recognised our Z Club. I enjoyed learning about Zonta as an organisation. It was also fascinating to learn about the president's mission: to end child marriage.
- I enjoyed attending the youth awards as we could relate more and get inspired by them. Also seeing the international president's presentation about our mission: end child marriage, which provides an insight of Zonta's goal. Also talking to members of other Z Club members and learning about their goals and what they are doing. Talking to one of the youth award winners as well and learnt about how she found Zonta and her achievements.
- I personally enjoyed the panel of the different young women and their thoughts and perspective on various current issues and how they would combat these problems. Having women of a similar age to me was also helpful as it made it more personal.

- I enjoyed attending several sessions, talks and meetings. I found the last day extremely inspiring and educational. I found their stories inspirational, being a woman in a largely male-dominated society. The international president was extremely concise and informative on her topics.

A very special thank you to Zontians:

- Vicki Channon and Jennifer Miller from Armidale
- Diana Humphries and Lorna Parker from Sydney West
- Sue Benson from Northern Beaches

There was a lot of organisation getting the students to Brisbane!

And Sheldri has a lot of messages to take to her girls in Wollongong who are in the middle of their exams! We wish them all the best!



Margaret

Margaret White
Coordinator



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CENTENARY LUNCHEON

FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2019

THE STRANGERS DINING ROOM

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, MACQUARIE ST, SYDNEY

11.30AM FOR 12 NOON TO 3PM

As part of the Zonta International Centennial Celebrations & on behalf of District 24, Zonta Club of Sydney Inc is hosting a luncheon for members, supporters & friends of Zonta.

Guest Speaker will be Professor Kristy Muir, CEO of the Centre for Social Impact

Numbers are strictly limited so prompt booking is strongly recommended.

This is a once in a lifetime event & not to be missed.

Early bird: **\$120.00** per person if booking before 5 pm Friday 11 October.

\$130.00 for bookings after this date.

Register and pay by COB 25 October 2019

Book through Trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/BAYAT>

All Enquiries to: zontaclubsydney@gmail.com

or Marilyn Smith: marilyn.smith.zonta@gmail.com M 0407 263 783

Update on ZI Statement on Women's Reproductive and Sexual Health

As President of the Zonta Club of Central Coast, I have been approached by other D24 clubs about the progress of our campaign for the amendment of the ZI Women's Reproductive Health Policy. We were proposing a Motion to the D24 AGM in Brisbane on 6 September. This was subsequently withdrawn.

In April this year, the ZI 2018-2020 Board announced that, following a review and update of governing documents, the Women's Reproductive Health Policy issued in October 2014 was retired. It has been replaced by a "Statement on Women's Reproductive and Sexual Health", based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights, CEDAW and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) agreed in March 2019. The Declaration recognises *"that the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on all matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, as a contribution to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and the realization of their human rights."* A full copy of the new Statement can be found after login to the ZI website: Tools\Advocacy\Advocacy Policies and Guidelines\Advocacy Resources.

As a result of this change, we welcome the endorsement by D24 that Zonta clubs can actively participate in public advocacy campaigns in support of women's rights eg the current actions to decriminalise abortion in NSW.



Susanne von Bassewitz, President Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation, acknowledged the role of advocacy in the development of the new Statement in conversation with Jill Davis, President and Sue Johnston, Treasurer, Zonta Club of Central Coast at the Centennial Anniversary Inter-District Conference in Brisbane.

Jill Davis
President
Zonta Club of Central Coast

International Day of the Girl Child
Screening of the film “On Her Shoulders”

On Her Shoulders tells the story of Nobel Peace Prize Winner Nadia Murad, a 23-year-old lifeline to the Yazidi community.

A survivor of the 2014 atrocities against the Yazidi in northern Iraq, Nadia escaped sexual slavery at the hands of ISIS and witnessed the murder of those closest to her.

With the love of her people propelling her forward, Nadia is determined to turn her pain into international action. She now shoulders immense burdens as a key public figure whose supporters are pushing her further into the spotlight – from testifying at the United Nations Security Council and having endless meetings with government officials, to giving soul-baring media interviews and emotionally draining speeches.

Funds from the screening will go to Zonta International, a global organisation dedicated to advancing the status of women and envisioning a world where no woman lives in fear of violence.

To view Zonta International advocacy and service projects that work to prevent violence or support victims of violence see: <https://zontasaysno.com/>

To buy tickets to this charity screening on Friday 11 Oct at Lendlease, Sydney click: <https://events.humanitix.com.au/international-day-of-the-girl-child-screening-of-the-film-on-her-shoulders>

Special Guest Speakers:

Olivia Sarah-Le Lacheur, Former District 24 Governor & Zonta Sydney Breakfast Charter President.

Maria Calibo-Sales, Founder & CEO Calmar Corps

Area 1 - Botany Bay

Our July Dinner meeting guest was Kristiane Molloy, Area 1 Director, who enlightened us with stories and facts about Australian women who were instrumental in the establishment of Zonta in our country.

Later that month, with the weather gods shining, the ZCBB Annual Golf Day went ahead after a cancellation in May. 66 golfers had a superb hit out and the food and prizes made it a great experience for all, with our Zonta Team on the go from 6am! Bring on next year!

In that same week, our Club sponsored a young student, Mahika Dave, to the Luminosity Youth Summit. We look forward to hearing from her at an upcoming meeting.

August saw our wonderful YWPA Team, headed by Thana Akkari, collect and cull this year's YWPA Applications and then interview the nominees – a very rigorous and time-consuming task. We were delighted to have 7 finalists from 6 of our local schools coming to attend our YWPA Dinner on September 17th.



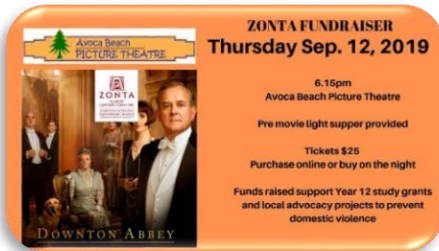
September 6th to 8th saw 6 members travel to Brisbane for the Zonta International Australia/NZ Conference, celebrating 100 years of Zonta. Reports from this Conference were excellent, and many new friendships and contacts were forged. Of special importance to ZCBB was the presentation of the Woman of Achievement Award to Anyier Youl, a young Sudanese refugee whom we have been supporting for many years, and the showing of a video depicting the Breast Education project with Sri Lanka pioneered by ZCBB Member Ann Selle.



Central Coast

Zonta Club of Central Coast members and visitors welcomed a very special guest to our September dinner meeting. Kristiane Molloy, D24 Area 1 Director, spoke very warmly about the recent Australian and New Zealand Zonta International Conference held in Brisbane earlier this month. It was inspiring to hear the about the buzz generated by 750 women and girls working towards a common purpose, enjoying the collegial nature of the occasion.

Movie Night

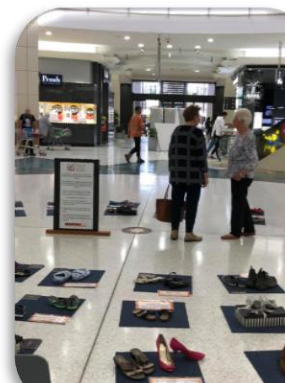


Another successful movie night was held in September at Avoca Beach Theatre. The premier of Downton Abbey attracted 119 guests and it was clearly a very enjoyable evening. A number of guests dressed in period clothing adding to the fun atmosphere. Our guests also enjoyed a delicious supper provided by ZCCC members prior to the movie. The money raised by this event will assist in the provision of study grants, and to further our commitment to the prevention of Domestic Violence.

Walk In My Shoes

A heartfelt thank you to Westfield Tuggerah for hosting the Domestic Violence 'Walk in my Shoes' display. This display was developed by the Zonta Club of Central Coast with the purpose of increasing awareness of the impact of domestic violence on families. Quotes next to each pair of shoes from women who have experienced domestic violence gave cause for passers-by to stop and reflect. The display was held in Centre Court from Monday - Thursday September 16 - 19.

As always, the display was very moving and elicited a number of responses from current victims, past victims, family & friends of victims and many grateful they had no experience of DV. A number of male victims came forward this year so when planning future displays, we are looking to ensure that support and information is available to all victims of family violence.



Northern Beaches



Annual Trivia Night

The trivia trivics comprising Club members, friends and supporters, once again attended our annual fundraising event – this year the theme being “Centennial Sensations” (with a nod to Zonta International’s Centenary). Our Quizmaster, Steven, had all 130 of us using our little grey cells to find answers to some quite tricky but interesting questions. We had included some questions relating to events happening in 1919 and the formation of Zonta. An enjoyable evening was had by all with the raffle prizes being generously donated by local businesses and the total funds raised was \$4722.00 – a wonderful effort by all concerned. These funds will be used to assist our Club in our local projects.

Birthing Kits Packing Day – Community Event

This community event held at Barrenjoey HS was a resounding success. Once again over 120 members of the community, including past male students from the school, current students, a member from Z Club Mackellar and recipients of Zonta grants awarded to local students all chose to spend their Saturday afternoon to help this worthwhile cause. 2000 were packed by this enthusiastic group and donations of just over \$1000 were collected on the day.

Well done to a very supportive community of the ZCBN projects.



The **Advocacy Dinner, celebrating 100 years of Zonta advocacy’ is coming up**

Monday 21st October 2019

6.45pm for 7pm

Dee Why RSL, 932 Pittwater Rd, Dee Why

Guest Speaker – Jane Caro AM, Journalist, Social Commentator and Author

Cost - \$80pp

RSVP 7th October 2019

Proceeds support projects of the Zonta Club of Northern Beaches supporting women in need

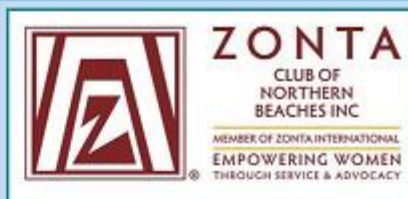
Enquiries to zontanb@gmail.com or Marg 0416 182 393



Jane Caro AM is a Walkley Award winning Australian columnist, author, novelist, broadcaster, advertising writer, documentary maker, feminist and social commentator. She was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of her "significant service to the broadcast media as a journalist, social commentator and author".

Jane has published twelve books, including three novels "Just a Girl", "Just a Queen" and "Just Flesh & Blood", a trilogy on Elizabeth Tudor, and a memoir "Plain Speaking Jane". She created and edited 'Unbreakable' which featured stories women writers had never told before and was published just before the Harvey Weinstein revelations. Her latest book "Accidental Feminists" her book on the life story of women over 50 was launched in February.

Jane appears frequently on The Drum, Sunrise & Weekend Sunrise. She has created and presented 4 documentary series for ABC Compass. She writes regular columns in 'Sunday Life' and 'Leadership Matters'.



invites



you and your friends to attend

Zonta Club of Northern Beaches Advocacy Dinner

'Celebrating 100 years of Zonta advocacy'

Monday 21st October 2019

6.45pm for 7pm

Dee Why RSL, 932 Pittwater Rd, Dee Why

Guest Speaker – Jane Caro AM

Journalist, Social Commentator and Author

**** Early Bird – by 21st September \$75pp ****

after 21st September - \$80pp

**** RSVP 7th October 2019 ****

**Proceeds support projects of the Zonta Club of Northern
Beaches supporting women in need**



We thank the Dee Why RSL for their support of our student support program

Enquiries to zontanb@gmail.com or Marg 0416 182 393

To BOOK

Make your payment by direct credit to Zonta Club of Northern Beaches Inc
BSB 062108 Acc 00902072 Reference your name

Please confirm/advise your direct credit payment, attendee names and any dietary requirements to Zonta Club of Northern Beaches at zontanb@gmail.com

Once payment has been received your reservation is confirmed.

Please note that cancellations after 7 October 2019 cannot be refunded.

Sydney Hills

Temporary Breast Forms (TBFs) for Cancer Patients Leaving Hospital



Background:

The first TBFs were designed in 2003 by Club Member, Shirley Purser, and Colleen Newton (a former Prosthesis Fitter at Myer).

Both were members of a Discharge Planning Project Committee at the NSW Breast Cancer Institute (BCI) now known as Westmead Breast Centre (WBC). The committee worked to develop a temporary prosthesis known as a temporary breast form (TBF). The forms were to be given to mastectomy patients with a Breast

Care Cushion (BCC) along with literature in a special Discharge Pack. This was supported by the Zonta Club of Sydney Hills Inc., Myer and the WBC. Our Club pays for the sewing of the forms and the WBC pays for the tontine, fabric, brass pins, and organza bags that hold the forms.

Distribution:

The TBFs are distributed to seven hospitals in the Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) for inclusion in the patient's discharge pack after surgery and are very well received by all. Working bees are held at the WBC in the Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre at Westmead Hospital.

A total of two working bees were held during 2018-19 the first being on the 27th June 2018 and the second on the 29th May 2019 with a total of 370 TBFs being completed by Club Member, Shirley Purser and three volunteers.

This year Ann Selle from the Zonta Club of Botany Bay travelled with a breast surgeon and breast care nurse both from the WBC to Colombo in Sri Lanka. The doctor wanted to take some of the TBFs and over 40 TBFs and patterns for them were taken. Unfortunately, there were not enough for the number of medicos and nurses who attended the training for special care methods conducted by the doctor and nurse. However, the Zonta Club of Columbo II has the pattern for the TBFs and it is up to them to decide what to do with it. If members/clubs are interested in further information re the TBFs, Shirley will be happy to talk to you about them – please email: sjpurser@tpg.com.au with your name and phone number etc.



Brisbane Conference:

Photo of our ZCSH Members at Conference that appeared on the front page of the Courier Mail:
L-R: Shirley Purser, Barbara Horsfield, Joan Smith, Beverley Rooney, Karin Regel, Donna Fraser & Brenda Bradbery

Sydney West

Four members of Sydney West and 15 members and two teachers from our Z Club (Strathfield Girls High School) attended the wonderful, inaugural “Australasian” Conference in Brisbane recently. See their feedback on the event elsewhere in the edition.

We were all impressed with International President Susanne von Bassewitz’s mission, passion and willingness to listen to grassroots Zontians as well as District Officers, in an inclusive and collegial manner. It was great to have young people from Z Clubs engaging with Suzanne and other international leaders from Lisa Harvey-Smith to Quentin Bryce.

In local affairs, Sydney West will be hosting its own 100 Year Celebration on Saturday 9th November with an afternoon tea and information session at Kingsgrove. All welcome including current and emerging (we hope) Zontians.

Our popular Musicale and full-scale afternoon tea on the heritage verandahs of President Diana’s Lidcombe home will be held on Sunday afternoon 24th November with items covering the centuries.

We mourned this week the passing of one of our great supporters over the years, HonZon Steve Wilcockson, who has donated countless bags of breast cushion stuffing with his wife and business partner, Kate, who is a regular with her sewing machine at breast cushion workshops. We will, with you Kate, miss him very much.

(Photo: Strathfield Girls High School ZClub members and ZSW mentors – Brisbane Conference)



Area 2 - Blue Mountains



We have completed our first major fundraiser – a Trivia Night - and have raised enough money to fund our first Birthing Kit assembly day; support 'Reclaim The Night' by paying for the venue hire; pay for printing of Information Cards for Coalition Against Violence and Abuse; and look into supporting a local legal service provided free for women. We were overwhelmed by support from our community and participants. Well done team!



Two members attended the Blue Mountains Women's Health and Resource Centre for the Day of Action Against Sexual Assault where we gained very specific data about the nature of assaults and the services provided to victims.

Four members met with Suzi Feickert from Zonta Club of Houston, Texas on her visit to explore our part of the world – great to make connections and see that Zonta truly has international values and systems.

Sunshine Me Day with the Cancer Wellness Support service in Leura was held in September and we were pleased to hold an information stall and make connections with other agencies/services in the community.



Canberra

TRIVIA NIGHT

A 3rd very successful trivia night was held in July in support of Femili PNG.

Femili PNG is a local NGO (run out of the Crawford School at the ANU) but working in Lae & Port Moresby running Case Management Centres to assist survivors of family and sexual violence.



WARM TRACKSUITS for St Vincent de Paul

Our club purchased a dozen or so new warm tracksuits & donated these to the St Vincent de Paul Society Street to Home project – St Vinnies give these out to women living in their cars or on the street here in Canberra – a particularly harsh environment during winter. The proceeds used for this were earned at our latest Bunnings BBQ at which several St Vinnies staff helped out.



Canberra Breakfast

Over the last 6 months, the Zonta Club of Canberra Breakfast has been focused on our main event – The Birthing Kit Packing Day.

We have been fundraising to support the Birthing Kits through successful Movie Fund Raisers, Market Stalls where appropriate; and our main fundraiser, The Pre-Loved Fashion Sale (PLFS). This year's PLFS in April was a great success, thanks to all the preparation, quality control and organisation from Club Members, as well as an arising awareness in the general public of the environmental footprint of fashion.

Our goal this year was to pack 4000 Birthing Kits. The Birthing Kit Packing Day was held on July 27th, 2019. We successfully attracted the funds and volunteers to pack 4000 kits. Yippee!



Megan Evans and Judy Pejovic
ZCCB Members and Main organisers of Birthing Kit Packing Day 2019

The Club continues to distribute Kitchen Packs, linen and toiletries to women leaving Domestic Violence Refuges.

The Kitchen packs include:

- A Microwave
- Starter Set of Pots, Pans and basic Kitchen Utensils
- Crockery Set
- Cutlery Set
- Kettle
- Mugs and Glasses
- Linen and Towels
- Bedding and quilts (if available)

If there are children, ZCCB also include a toy or book which is funded by an external grant, so the children leave the refuge with something new.

These are well received, and we are finding demand is increasing for this service.

We have also held a breast cushion “Sew, Sip and Stuff” Day, with another coming up soon. Again we have received appreciative feedback on this service.

The club also engaged with Sarah Richards, a local indigenous Artist, to create a design for our new club scarf. The design features turtles on a cyan silk scarf. It is beautiful, always attracts positive comments and is a brilliant conversation starter. Megan and Judy are wearing the scarves in the above image.



ZCCB Member, Christine Wagner and Artist Sarah Richards

10 ZCCB Members attended the Centennial Conference in Brisbane. All enjoyed meeting other Zonta members from other Districts and International Zontians and hearing the enthusiastic and empowering speakers who presented at the Conference.



ZCCB Members, Jenny-May Rendell, Jessica Cameron, Megan Evan and Leanne Elliott with Zonta International President Susanne von Bassewitz

Goulburn



Zonta Club of Goulburn has been busy over the past 2 months. Guest speakers at our July meeting were Jade and Annabelle from Shine for Kids - supporting children and their families with a parent / family member in the criminal justice system, operating in NSW, Victoria, Queensland & the ACT. This is a great organisation helping children with school, social activities, mentoring and guidance in their everyday life.

Two members attended the Centennial Anniversary Inter-District Anniversary Conference 2019 in Brisbane, first timer Robyn Bonham (our Secretary) and Jean Dally (our President) who came back with wonderful stories and coverage of the outstanding guest speakers, presentations of stories by clubs, inspiring award winners and various examples of creative Zonta merchandise.

We congratulate Jean on being elected as incoming District 24 Lieutenant Governor for the 2020-2022 biennium.



At our September meeting we held a successful Birthing Kit Assembly Day with a number of community volunteers where 300 birthing kits were assembled.

Macarthur

The Zonta Club of Macarthur conducted a successful Information Stall at Narellan Town Centre on Saturday 10 August 2019 to promote Zonta. Members talked enthusiastically about Zonta projects and activities and handed out information to shoppers and families.



We were pleased to have Sana Al Ahmar, from the Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative (MDSI), Campbelltown, as guest speaker at our Dinner Meeting on Wednesday 28 August 2019. Sana is the Acting Community Engagement Team Manager. Her program supports the settlement of newly arrived migrants and refugees through the implementation of a wide range of community development initiatives and the provision of casework, information, referral and linkages into mainstream services, including domestic and family violence services. Sana's presentation was extremely interesting and informative.

We were delighted that nine Club members were able to travel to the Interdistrict Conference in Brisbane, 5 - 8 September 2019. The Conference was very stimulating and thought provoking. Members unanimously agreed that the Conference was a huge success and have commended the organisers on all the effort put into the event!

The Club's Annual Awards Dinner was held on Wednesday 25 September 2019 and we presented the following awards:

Achievement Award for a Young Indigenous Woman:

Winner: Ema Holder, Sarah Redfern HS

Runner Up: Tayla Stevenson, Elizabeth Macarthur HS

Jane M Klausman, Women in Business Scholarship:

Sabrina Magill, Western Sydney University.

Women in Technology Scholarship: Rozsa Csipke, Campbelltown TAFE

We will also be recognising three wonderful local women from the **ZI District 24 Women of Achievement Award 2019**: Carolyne Hutchinson, Anita West OAM and Sarah Winter.

Nepean Valley

As with many clubs, I'm sure, our main focus in this edition of 'The Voice' is the ANZ Centennial Conference in Brisbane. Our club was represented by nine members, two of whom were first timers. We all agreed that it was a fabulous conference in a wonderful venue, with inspirational speakers, sensational catering and meticulous organization. Congratulations and many thanks to the organizing committee!



One of the highlights of the weekend for us was the presentation of 25-year service certificates to five of our club members by ZI President, Susanne. We have 3 more similar certificates to present to club members who were unable to attend the conference later in the year at our Christmas Dinner.

We shared a table in the marketplace offering Zonta aprons, made by one of our club members, for sale at \$20 each. We were happy with the outcome, but still have a lot left over. If any clubs in District 24 are interested in purchasing some, please contact us. It was a thrill for all of us when the representatives of the small Zonta Club of Longreach, Queensland with a membership of only 8, bought 10 of our aprons!!



Our school academic awards event is fast approaching and will take place at our October dinner meeting, followed by our November meeting when we present our HeForShe awards as part of our Zonta Says No initiative.

Orange

Antique Fair proceeds distributed to local projects

- Sexual misconduct and consent. Brent Sanders, a former police officer, provides insight and advice into consent and sexual misconduct with a particular focus on the law with the aim of educating attendees about their rights and responsibilities to high school students.
- Orange Family Support
- Breast Cushions
- Hospitality Students Canobolas High School
- Birthing Kits

Talk highlighting the digital disconnect between the old and new as Zonta Orange learns to embrace social media.

Melanie Pearce ABC radio journalist and communications officer with Local Land Services.

Lobbying NSW Senators to vote for an unamended abortion bill

Letters were sent to all NSW Senators asking them to consider the unique issues faced by women and girls in rural and remote communities:

- Limited education opportunities
- Limited employment opportunities
- Rates of ice and other drug addictions
- Limited access to medical services
- Limited access to support networks and services
- Intergenerational poverty

In summary women and girls already lacking support and assistance to achieve self-reliance are further disadvantaged by poor access to medical and support services. The current law disadvantages them far more than women in urban areas.

Zonta Australia and New Zealand Centennial Conference

Attendees Frances Young, Deb Carroll, Sue Fardell,

Welcome new member

Michele Tredinnick



Wollongong



enthusiastic membership of their club.

Our club held a very successful High Tea fundraiser in late July at Murphy's Bar and Grill. This is the restaurant we use as the venue for our monthly meetings. We thank them for great service and excellent food. We had a fashion parade with clothes from Paula's fashions as part of the event with some of our members looking very stylish on the catwalk.

At our August meeting we were introduced to the newly elected President and Vice President of the Z club from St Mary Star of the Sea College, Tahnee Chandler and Kiara Bazaz. The girls spoke confidently about what they hope to achieve in the year ahead and we were delighted to hear they have a large and

Five of our club members attended the Brisbane Conference and all were impressed by the range of excellent speakers and the fellowship of meeting so many Zontians.

This month we welcomed Rose Cullen as a new member. Deb Carroll our Area 2 director was visiting us for our September meeting she was able to officially welcome Rose to the Zonta family.

Also, at the meeting we listened to an entertaining talk and reading from poet Ali Whitelock. Her writing is open, often funny but honest and tender as she draws on memories of her early difficult family life. We enjoyed the Glaswegian accent too.



Area 3 - Armidale

Sixty members and friends took part in an interesting fundraiser recently when we taste tested samples of lamb and rated them. This is part of an on-going research project at the University of New England which will ultimately provide data and analysis to MLA and farmers on meat from paddock to plate.



Club members knitted squares for a rug which we raffled at our market stall at the Brisbane conference. We get lots of help with this project from the mother of one of our club members who not only knits squares but also crochets them together for the beautiful rug. This years was won by Cath from the Bowen Club. It's going to be on loan to her mother who lives in Toowoomba where the weather is much more conducive to using a blanket!

Two young Armidale leaders were part of the opening ceremony at the Brisbane Conference: Ebony Adams, a member of our club, carried the Indigenous flag, and Georgia MacMahon, from the [O'Connor Catholic College Z Club](#), carried the Torres Strait Islander flag. Ebony was also a part of the panel discussion on membership at the conference.



One of our recent dinner speakers was Fay Harris, staff member at Drummond Memorial Primary School where they run a homework centre. Volunteers assist refugee children and others with English as another language, such as children of UNE lecturers or international students. There are 29 million refugees worldwide and 41.3 million who are internally displaced due to race, religion, and fear of persecution. Ten percent per year of Australia's total migrant intake is refugees of which 31% are children. There are now 400 Ezidis settled in Armidale from Iraq and we are investigating ways we can assist.

Coffs Harbour



This month we launched our sixth Bra collection on behalf of UPLIFT. This is proving to be popular with our local women, so we've settled into a regular pattern of spring and autumn BRA collections. We have two collection sites, one at Coffs, one at Woolgoolga. The green bra bins are available for a month and we collect approximately 600 bras each time.

September provided a good opportunity for some of our members to catch up with fellow Zontonians as they travelled through Coffs to and forth from the Brisbane International conference. It was great for Jenny Wiseman and Kathy McDowell to have a coffee and

post conference chat with Margaret Bateman and Joanna Quinn. Jill Maclachlan spent time exchanging news with Stephanie Burnip and Kathy McDowell in the delightful seaside town of Woolgoolga.

Our club is assembling birthing kits with three local high schools this yr. In August we packed 200 kits with 7 year 12 students at Toormina High School. Schools are invited to participate in fundraising towards the cost of the birthing kits which have increased from \$3 to \$5 each. They thoroughly enjoyed the session and gained a lot from the experience.



Hunter Newcastle



ZONTA Hunter-Newcastle has had such a frantic time since our last edition, with two major fundraising events, firstly our inaugural Trivia Night! We had a group of near 100 attending and a great time was had by all. We raised approx. \$3,700.00 which was amazing! Congrats to our winning team, headed by Suzanne Carswell and Helen Blackbourne and commiserations to the wooden spooners who proudly took home a box of toilet paper! No one left empty handed!

Our second event, which is a must on our calendar is one of our famous movie nights, with the premiere of the Downtown Abbey film. A large crowd of 205 and a supper to rival the banquets held in that era! A massive effort by our members to

keep up the standard that has been set in previous evenings, and funds raised approximately \$4,700.00!

Our President has been busy conducting guest speaking sessions across many likeminded organisations such as Rotary, Probus and the Women's Shed. The Women's Shed have come on board with us, to provide us with 500 beautifully made bags to donate to the 5 refuges we support, so children can have something to pop their things in, and with one of the refuges filling the lovely bags with goodies for the children such as colouring in books and pens. We have been popping all over Newcastle to collect lovely knitted comfort toys, toiletries, new clothing and more from ladies who have contacted us, and local businesses. The word is out!!! We are gaining more and more presence in our community every month!



From our scholarship perspective we have selected our TAFE candidates and we are pleased to be able to welcome them to our meeting next month for their presentation. We also have confirmed two new members who we will be inducting in November! Eight of our members attended the Conference and loved every moment!



Port Macquarie

District 24 Conference

A fabulous event, attended by club delegate Petriea Skitek, President Joy Whiting and Margaret Bateman. Here we are at the Gala Dinner with Joanna Quinn, President ZC Sydney.



Women in Service luncheon – held on Wednesday August 21

At Panthers' Renaissance room is an annual celebration of organisations making a difference for women in the local area. The Zonta Club of Port Macquarie Inc. was the host club this year.

We took the opportunity to celebrate Zonta's Centenary and presented a Women of Achievement award to Marine Rescue Port Macquarie. Pictured is Marine Rescue's Alison Cameron Brown receiving the Zonta District 24 Women of Achievement award, presented by Margaret Bateman on behalf of Zonta International. They do so much in the Port Macquarie community and, with a table of x10, it was Marine Rescue's first attendance at the Women in Service luncheon.



Tamworth

Birthing Kits

We had an industrious day putting together 1000 birthing kits and we were able to raise awareness about our work through the local media. See the link below for a news clip on our project.

<https://www.facebook.com/Prime7NewsNorthWest/videos/701517930297116/?t=9>

Fashion Parade

A fun afternoon was had as Zonta members waltzed down the catwalk at a fundraising fashion parade. Organised by our Advocacy Chair Deb Hubbard (seen below striking a pose) a percentage of the day's takings were donated to Zonta by the owners of the Tamworth Blue Illusion store.



Queen Quest

Tamworth Zonta also launched the opening of applications for the 2020 Queen of Country Music Quest to be judged in January. Zonta organises this popular annual event with an emphasis on upskilling local young women in public speaking, styling, media training and dealing with people as regional ambassadors. It is a joy to watch these young women grow in confidence and skills throughout the quest. For more information on what the Queen Quest entails, refer to this link:

<https://www.tcmf.com.au/queen-of-country-music-quest---purpose>



Zonta District Conference

The Tamworth club participated in the District Conference recently held in Brisbane. Our contingent can be seen in the photo below (from left) Deb Maes, Sharon Draper (President) and Maree Ham. Congratulations to Deb Maes on being elected as District 24 Area 3 Director!