

***Issue 9, 2018-2020 Biennium
November 2019***

Dear members,

Firstly, it's been very scary to watch the news over these past weeks as the destruction of lives, property, wildlife and natural landscape continues with these devastating fires. More land and property have been lost in the past few weeks than for the past three years. There will be families linked to our members who are now struggling emotionally, financially and physically. On behalf of the district board and members of district 24 we share concern and I know will support where we can.

I have had messages and offers of support from District 23 and if you are supporting efforts or families please make contact so I can put you in touch with the southern clubs.



Day of Delegations

This month many District 24 clubs have focussed on face-to face advocacy with great success. 12 District 24 clubs have been involved in the *Day of Delegations*, meeting local Federal politicians and senators, about the severe implications of *Newstart* on women and their families. The statistic that the number of women on *Newstart* are over 45 years of age is increasing is frightening. This initiative, coordinated by Equality Rights Alliance, a group of 64 Australian women's groups, of which the three Australian districts are members, was strongly supported by District 24. Thank you to the terrific coordination by Advocacy chair and Past Governor Janette Curtis for this important advocacy project. If your club was unable to take part this month, please consider the two other opportunities for training and taking part in February and March 2020.

I encourage members to look at the websites of the ERA and eS4W with current submissions on women's economy, welfare and finance policy. As well as the important other advocacy projects currently being reviewed area the submissions on the Caring Economy, a 5 – point plan for changes to Family Law authored by Rosie Batty and Women's Legal Associations and submissions on women and mental health. Your voice in these submissions is important and the board welcomes your opinions.



100th Celebrations Continue

What an exciting month it has been as we celebrate the 100th birthday of Zonta International, 8 November. I have had the pleasure of attending the very special functions organised in Armidale, Sydney, Canberra and Port Macquarie. The last 18th months of talking about the big birthday started to be truly celebrated during the Brisbane Conference 6-8 September. It has been a whirlwind of events and fellowship.

Cutting the cake at the Zonta Club of Sydney West's celebration with Governor-elect Karen Tromp, Area 1 Director Kristiane Molloy, and Sydney West President Diana Humphries.

Finally, during this birthday month I have shared the celebratory address sent by Zonta President Susanne von Bassewitz which I have asked by many to send to them. Here it is.

Centennial Speech -Zonta International President Dr Susanne von Bassewitz

Let's go exactly 100 years back in time.

A group of educated and professionally active women in Buffalo and the Northeast United States were preparing to charter an organization of women executives called Zonta. It would officially start on 8 November.

It has become a story of pioneers, of courage and of innovation.

Among the founding members was one of the first women in the U.S. that made a living from being a newspaper journalist: Marian de Forest.

Right from the start, these women had the vision that their new organization would be part of a worldwide movement for gender equality. 76 years later, First Lady Hillary Clinton would make a speech in Beijing that is often quoted with only one sentence: "Women's rights are human rights." It is documented that, for the first Zonta members, this was already their conviction.

Another remarkable fact is that they chose the name Zonta for this new organization. The word was taken from the language of an indigenous tribe that, in 1919 United States, was regarded as second class as African American citizens – and women. Back then, this decision was an act of solidarity with other underprivileged parts of the population that certainly did not prompt applause.

Zonta's bold vision appears all the more courageous as, back in November 1919, women in the United States were not even allowed to vote in federal elections. The amendment to the Constitution that would finally give women the right to vote had only passed the U.S. Congress in June, and that it would be ratified one year later was not at all certain.

But the founding mothers did not only have civil rights in minds. They saw the strive for gender equality as a crucial contribution to a world that would enjoy sustainable peace and prosperity. With such aims in mind, the first Zonta members were aligned with many people and movements in the entire post World War I world: In 1919, the founding of the League of Nations, the predecessor of the United Nations, and the charter of the International Labour Union are just two examples.

Zonta's history is closely linked with that of the United Nations: A Zonta member was present at the charter ceremony in 1945. It would take about 35 more years before the United Nations had their first female Assistant-Secretary-General. It was Helvi Sipilä, a lawyer from Finland who had just served as Zonta's International President. Helvi Sipilä was instrumental in organizing the first ever world conference on women that took place in Mexico City in 1975.

But Zonta had not only members who became famous as agents of civil society.

Another pioneer was Amelia Earhart, the first woman who had flown an aircraft over the Atlantic. After she had disappeared in the Pacific Ocean in 1938, Zonta created a fellowship program for young women who wanted to embark on a career in aeronautics. At that time, studying in this area literally meant to reach for the sky.

More than 75 years after Amelia Earhart's disappearance, women are still not equally represented in important positions that can shape politics, economics and the sciences - to the detriment of their societies.

Our founding mothers would probably become a little impatient. When will equal opportunities for women and men be a reality?

We don't know. But precisely because we don't know, there is a lot for us to do in Zonta's second century. Let's work together on this.

Please look at the youtube.com:

100 Years of Zonta International for President's Susanne video message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZnfl7NU0R8&feature=youtu.be>

Yours in Zonta,

Sharyl

Sharyl Scott

Governor, Zonta International District 24 Inc

Lieutenant Governor's Message



I have been tripping about the District this month enjoying many 100 birthday celebrations including with my club at Saumarez Homestead Armidale, at NSW Parliament House and with Sydney West. I am sorry not to have been able to accept the many other invitations I received, but I am sure you had lots of fun.

Zonta Says No campaign is in full force, and I hope this brings the opportunity to showcase the great work we all do in advocating for change in the domestic violence arena. This is a perfect membership opportunity, and I would challenge every club to aim for 1 new member before Christmas, taking advantage of the 50% cost for dues.

I am very excited to be booking my flights for Governor training in Chicago in mid-February, and I am trying not to think about the freezing temperatures at that time! I am also about to register for convention 2020 – the link is open, and I encourage all of you to book early and save \$\$\$ using the earlybird rate.

Our district has been hit particularly hard with bushfires and the drought this Spring – Summer is still a week away. If your club wishes to help women in rural areas doing it tough at present, I suggest you partner with an existing organisation already providing assistance to farmers, like CWA or Salvation Army. Both have websites where you can make a cash donation.

Our e-club (Zonta E Club Australia 1) has compiled pamper packs to distribute, so if you wish to do a similar project, contact Dorothy Koukari tkoukari@ozemail.com.au for details of how they plan to distribute their goods. You can check it out on their Facebook page.

Finally, I wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas Season, please travel safely and we will be ready for an exciting 2020.

Karen

Karen Tromp
Lieutenant Governor, Zonta International District 24 Inc

Zonta Convention – 2020



Saturday 04 July – Wednesday 08 July 2020 Chicago

International President Susanne von Bassewitz, 2020 Convention Chairman Sally Bean and District 6 Zontians invite you to the 2020 Convention in Chicago.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5iTOJatIn8&feature=youtu.be>

Registration for the 2020 Convention is now open. Check your inbox for your official invitation to convention registration email. To gain access to the room block website and reservation information, you must first register for the convention.

Registration - <http://convention.zonta.org/Registration/Convention-Registration>

- **Early Bird Rate: US\$410 ends midnight CST 12 February**
- **Second Period Rate: US\$470 ends midnight CDT 03 May**
- **Final Registration Rate: US\$530 ends midnight CDT 15 June**
- **Onsite: US\$590**

Once you register, you will be provided the link to book your room at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, the convenient location of the 65th Zonta International Convention. This is the only way you will receive the special convention room rate.

Do you have questions regarding the registration process? Please reach out to: Conference Direct, Zonta International's event management company for the 2020 Convention at zonta@conferencedirect.com.

To learn more about the program, special events and more, please visit convention.zonta.org.

Centenary Report

HONOUR AND EMPOWER



100 Years of Empowering Women

We have now celebrated the actual centenary birthday of Zonta International on 8 November 2019 with Clubs celebrating in many different ways – A couple I was privileged to attend were the District 24 celebration on the day with a lunch at Parliament House Sydney hosted by the Zonta Club of Sydney, and the delightful celebration held by Zonta Club of Sydney West on the following day where the members showcased the amazing work they do in their community.

The celebrations however are continuing and I would again refer members to the Centennial Celebration Tool Kit for ideas on the Zonta International Wbsites www.zonta100.org, pr@zonta.org.

Please consider sending your story to pr@zonta.org and use the many Public Relation Tools provided by International

I trust Clubs are looking for appropriate women in their community to honour with a contribution to the Foundation (and perhaps presentation of a Zonta Rose at a function).

The celebrations will culminate at the International Convention in Chicago 14-18 July 2020 for which registrations are now open. It will be a great event and I would encourage everyone to at least think about attending.

Joanna

Joanna Quinn
District Committee Chair

Centenary Luncheon

On Friday 8th November 2019, the 100th birthday of Zonta International was celebrated in style by members of District 24 at the Zonta International Centenary Luncheon. Held in the Strangers Function Room at NSW Parliament House and hosted on behalf of the District by the Zonta Club of Sydney, a delicious lunch was enjoyed by 120 guests.

From the very beginning, with the Australian National Anthem sung beautifully (and for two verses) by Belinda Thomas and an inspiring Welcome to Country given by Aunty Ann Weldon the stage was set for a wonderful afternoon. Our MC, Philippa McDonald entertained us all while still keeping the running times on track, and current District Governor Sharyl Scott toasted to Zonta as well as reading a speech from International President, Susanne von Bassewitz.

I think all present would agree that guest speaker Professor Kristy Muir gave an inspiring and heart felt speech, and many tears were shed when she first described the life of Brian, a man she met on Sydney's streets and then also shared with us her own personal story of loss and heartbreak.

All in all, a wonderful event where the fellowship found between Zontians shone through. A chance to connect and reconnect with old friends and new, and to raise a toast to the 100 years of advocacy and service for women and girls across the globe.

If anyone is interested in looking at the photographs for the day, the link to the gallery is here.

<https://gallery.communityphotography.org/p118530453> Our great thanks to Michael from Community photograph who took the images and has allowed us to share these images amongst the members of Zonta District 24.

A big thanks to Marilyn Smith and the organising committee for the luncheon, and thanks also to all who were able to attend and make this event such a success.

Nerida Croker
PR Chair, ZCS



Z Clubs Report

Motto:

"Future Leaders Building a Better World Today through Service and Advocacy."

**Challenge —A Service Project for your club in 2020
Form a Zclub or Golden Zclub**

Armidale: Vicki Shannon Zclub Mentor

Chloe Brown, Secretary and Georgia MacMahon, President, handed over some very welcome care packages to Wendy McCarthy from the Armidale Women's Shelter. Wendy said that many families were doing it extremely tough at the moment with the ongoing drought and now the fires that are so close to many of our little communities in and around Armidale and the surrounding region. Some of our own members are spending time with their families preparing their properties, clearing in the case of imminent threat of bushfire as well as carting water and feeding stock in this relentless drought.

We hope our city counterparts can appreciate some of the struggles that so many people are going through at this time.



Mackellar Girls Campus: Charlotte - President

3 girls and their families attended our Advocacy /Centenary Dinner

"We really enjoyed the dinner — all 3 generations! And we haven't stopped talking about gender equality ever since."

Preparation is underway for the 16 days of activism at the school. We are using Instagram to play a daily message as well as one on school screen saver. A display has been designed for the library.

Next meeting, we are stuffing Breast Cushions

The talk from the CEO of Refuge was most informative, and she was very grateful for the 20 dignity bags we donated.

Strathfield Girls: Lorna Parker - Zclub liaison

3 members attended the club Centenary Information afternoon and the President addressed the audience impressing everyone including District 24 leaders present!

While they are making bigger plans for 2020-with an explosion of ideas and a great level of enthusiasm, they are currently responding to "Share the Dignity" drive.

Planning is underway for a school-day event with fun activities learning about Zonta to involve Y7-10.

St Mary's Wollongong: Sheldri Weston - Zclub Mentor

During their Foundation Day celebrations, the Z club decided to create an advocacy display against domestic violence and looking at women who inspire them. A pizza day was held 12 November to raise money to assist the purchase of birthing kit equipment.

Only 2 more z club meetings before school finishes Friday 6 December!

photo of student sayings

Reminder -Do collect the personal email of Y12 members before the school one closes!

Margaret

Margaret White
Coordinator

Women in Technology Scholarship 2019

District 24 has had success in the inaugural Women in Technology Scholarship!

Like the already established Amelia Earhart Fellowship and Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship, we were seeking young women of exceptional academic achievement in a male-dominated field. For Women in Technology this means study in the fields of Computer Science or Information Technologies.

Not only did we find a great candidate for District 24, but she has also been awarded one of the six Zonta International scholarships for a total prize of USD10,000.

The 2019 District 24 Women in Technology winner is Jessica McBroom, a PhD student at the University of Sydney. Highlights of Jessica's application include:

- High Distinctions in computer science units of study including programming, artificial intelligence and IT security
- Supervised by two senior female academics at the School of Computer Science
- Researching gender inequality in computer programming education using data mining techniques
- Outstanding tutor award winner
- Voluntary tutor at Girls Programming Network (free, quarterly workshops for teaching high school girls to code)
- Already published in top journals / conferences
- Will use the scholarship to attend and present at international conferences in 2020

Thank you to all the Clubs who took part in the Women in Technology Scholarship in its first year. I will provide individual feedback to you about the award and how to be more competitive in the future. I look forward to introducing Jessica to the Zonta community in person over the coming months.



Photo: L to R: A/Prof Irena Koprinska (supervisor), Jessica McBroom (awardee), A/Prof Kalina Yacef (supervisor), Nicola Davies (Zonta D24 Coordinator)

D24 Project – Keeping Women out of Prison

At the combined Australian/NZ Zonta Conference on Friday 6 September, District 24 Clubs approved a new Project for the next Biennium. This Project will join the highly successful Breast Cushion and Birthing Kit District 24 projects and is called ***Keeping Women out of Prison - or KWooP***.

According to the Committee for Economic Development in Australia - “.. *at least half of all prisoners in 2017-18 had been imprisoned as adults previously. Without a greater focus on rehabilitation, the cost to society, both economic and social, will continue to grow unchecked*”.ⁱ

BOCSAR statisticsⁱⁱ indicate that at June 2018 there were 1067 women in NSW prisons; 36 in the ACTⁱⁱⁱ.

The KWooP Position Statement launched at the 2018 ‘Empowering Women, Changing Lives’ Breakfast at Parliament House noted that from 2011 to 2017 –

- The number of women in prison increased by almost 50% while the number of Aboriginal women increased by 74%.
- There was no commensurate increase in crime over this period.
- 60% of these women have children.
- There are high numbers of women cycling in and out of our prison system on short sentences.
- 58% of women are in prison for under 6 months.^{iv}

One of the questions Clubs have asked is – “How will this Project work?”

It’s a fair question since both the Breast Cushion and Birthing Kit Projects have an item which identifies their project, ie a cushion or kit. The KWooP Project doesn’t have such an item – yet. But, the Sydney Club is working on it!

What the KWooP Project does have is an abundance of creative ideas for Club projects, advocacy and volunteering.

Essentially, the Project asks Clubs to work in partnership with the not for profit organisations which support women affected by the criminal justice system through Club projects, personal advocacy and volunteering.

Understanding this group and their needs starts by engaging with the NFP organisations supporting them. But, be prepared to feel a sense of outrage that many of these women have been forgotten or dismissed by their families and communities.

Suggestions for Club projects and contact details for NFP organisations for the District Clubs were provided at all Area meetings and at the Centenary Lunch at Parliament House. If your Club hasn’t received a copy, please contact me at lorraineo@iprimus.com.au

The organisations supporting these women, which include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island organisations, offer mentoring programs, services and programs for the children of prisoners, legal advice, employment, assistance with clothing, drug and alcohol rehabilitation and assistance with mental health plans.

NSW Corrective Services run excellent programs for the women while they’re incarcerated, but on leaving the system the task of addressing health issues, re-gaining custody of their children, finding accommodation and employment can be overwhelming. It’s a huge task for anyone; many women don’t make it and return to prison.

Some of the D24 Clubs are already engaging with the NFP organisations and are well on the way to supporting this group of women stay out of prison. By supporting them, we support their families and the whole of the community.

Lorraine Orfanidis
Chair, Advocacy Committee
Zonta Club of Sydney Inc

¹ (<https://www.ceda.com.au/Digital-hub/Blogs/CEDA-Blog/July-2019/Australia-pays-the-price-for-increasing-rates-of-imprisonment>)

¹ https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_media_releases/2018/mr-NSW-Custody-Statistics-Jun-2018.aspx

¹ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-08/female-prisoners-in-canberras-jail-have-no-privacy-from-males/11192060>

¹ *Keeping Women out of Prison Coalition Position Statement 2018.*

Area 1 - Botany Bay

Busyness seems to surround our Club always, and the past two months have been no exception. After a very successful YWPA Program in September, we welcomed 2018 YWPA participant, Mahika Dave, to speak at our September Dinner Meeting, about her participation in the Luminosity Youth Summit at Port Macquarie. From all accounts, this was extremely worthwhile for all who attended, and Mahika stated that she had learned so much, forged new friendships and has been able to network very successfully with both participants and presenters. We will look to sponsor a student to this event again.

October saw another packing day for Kookaburra Kids where we were delighted to welcome Anita Kenny, the Marketing and PR Manager for Kookaburra Kids to help us and see what the process is that makes these bags happen – she was suitably amazed and most grateful! October also saw another successful Bunnings BBQ, with a great profit made of over \$1700...other people's money certainly helps to support our many projects.

Early November saw a "Slam" Movie night at Hurstville Council Theatrette, where an art house movie was shown and enjoyed by many, with canapes and drinks served by our ever busy Zontians.



Our premier event in November was the celebration of our Club's 25th Anniversary, which coincided perfectly with the 100th Anniversary of Zonta. Some foundation members and many members past and present came together to celebrate over a lovely lunch at the Georges River 16 Foot Sailing Club, Sandringham. We had many recipients of our funding come and speak of the impact Zonta's support has on their services – a very satisfying but humbling event for our Club, as we see the reality of the projects we undertake and seek to make a difference in the lives of women.



Central Coast

Fashion Parade

ZCCC held the last fundraising event for the year on the 8th November and it was an outstanding success. Cinta Collections at East Gosford hosted the evening, and provided the beautiful clothing worn by our very professional Zonta models. The Cinta Collections owners and staff are wonderful supporters of our projects and have volunteered to collect and store donations towards our Christmas gift giving and personal items for the women and children in our local refuges. Additionally, Mel and Lisa donated a percentage of their profit from sales on the evening to Zonta projects. A big thank you to the tireless members of our Fundraising Committee who contributed to the evening in so many ways.



ZCCC 40th Anniversary and ZI Centenary Anniversary

Zonta members past and present put on their party finest to celebrate the dedicated support and advocacy provided by Zonta International to women and girls on the Anniversary of their Centenary year, and to jointly celebrate ZCCC 40th Anniversary since inauguration.

Members and guests were privileged to hear about the evolution of ZCCC over the years and enjoyed the recollections of past ZCCC Presidents and long-term members.

Wendy Malonyay was presented with her Woman of Achievement Award from D24 for her tireless work in support of victims of serious crime.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of study grants to seven wonderful young women from the senior years in our local high schools. It was inspirational to meet these focused young people and to hear about their aspirations for the future.



Domestic Violence Awareness Events

ZCCC members are currently supporting a number of events on the Central Coast to encourage awareness of domestic violence and its impact. A number of organisations in our area are working together to provide a range of activities in various locations.

Activities include:

- A stall at Erina Fair Shopping Centre on 19 November. Ribbons, pens, shopping bags and wrist bands are available, and any donations received will go to the 'Central Coast Against Domestic and Family Violence' initiative.
- A display of light boxes containing information and real-life stories will be placed in Terrigal.
- Inclusion in The Entrance Walk, a walk with a school's focus.
- A 'Walk in My Shoes' display at the Connections Conference. This is an annual conference about domestic violence issues and will be held on 25 November.

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai



The members of the Zonta Club of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai returned from the Combined Districts Conference inspired to pack more service and advocacy into 2019.

At our October meeting, our guest speakers were from "Room to Read" a global organisation focused on educating young children and adolescent girls. We were interested to learn that their projects closely aligned with some of our Zonta International biennium goals. For example, they are providing educational services to the children in Syrian refugee camps in Jordan and they are also focused on educating adolescent girls and providing them the support needed to resist pressures for enforced early marriage.

Three of our members took part in the Day of Delegations initiative, meeting with MP for Berowra, Julian Lesser. Although sympathetic to our advocacy on behalf of unemployed women in our community, he was unfortunately adamant the Government would not be budging on its stance of no increase to the Newstart allowance.



Our November meeting was a special celebration of Zonta's 100th anniversary. DG Sharyl attended and delivered ZI President's centenary message to us all. Guest speaker, Sallianne McClelland (Directory of Development, Women's Community Shelters) updated us on Sydney refugees and their recently opened Beecroft House which provides housing and support for homeless women over 55. Our recent fundraising events including a movie afternoon (we enjoyed seeing "Ride like a Girl") allow

us to make another donation to the Women's Community Shelters initiatives.

North Sydney Breakfast

The second half of 2019 has been very busy for the ZNSBC. In August we held our annual Sip and Stuff afternoon with 40 Volunteers completing 170 Breast Care cushions. We welcomed a speaker from the Women's Justice Network who provided an overview of the services and programs of the group. Some club members attended the WJN breakfast at Parliament House.

In September 4 members of the club attended the Zonta Conference in Brisbane. A great time was had by all listening to inspiring speakers and hearing about the activities of other clubs and international projects. On October 16th we held a movie night at the Cremorne Orpheum. The movie screened was 'I am a Girl' directed by Rebecca Barry. This movie illustrated very clearly how where you live in the world makes a huge difference to the type of life you live.

We combined the movie night with our celebration of Zonta's 100-year anniversary with a cake which was ceremonially cut by one of our club's founding members, Marie Dayton. The cake was shared by the audience. Applications for our Young Women in Med Tech program were, and 3 girls were chosen to participate in the scheme. We look forward to hearing about their experiences at our November meeting.

We continue to work with 'Days for Girls' and 'Share the Dignity' organisations as well as a successful collaboration with Willoughby Girls School making up Birthing Kits. The Club participated in the Seniors Expo at Lane Cove and we will meet our local MP, Trent Zimmerman as part of the 'Day of Delegations'



Northern Beaches

Wonderful Centennial Celebrations - Advocacy Dinner 21st October - Celebrating 100 years of Zonta Advocacy

Many thanks to everyone who supported the dinner making it such a wonderful event. We can be proud as a Club of the professionalism displayed by all members and the effort made to be dressed representing the period! We had many dignitaries from Local Government, Zonta D24 Board, District Governor Sharyl Scott, past DG Janette Curtis, Area Director Kristiane Molloy and representation from a number of Zonta Sydney Clubs.

Jane Caro was the guest speaker with an interesting, entertaining and stimulating talk. Our club was delighted to present Ann Wilson with the Northern Beaches Centennial Community Award in recognition of her long-time commitment to the local community and her support of Zonta international ideals and projects.

At the November club dinner meeting we will have a birthday cake and club celebration. The cake will be cut by the recipient of one of our Centennial Grants and our longest serving member Ana Deleon whose birthday is on the day. A Veterinary Student, who the club has supported with textbooks and clothing for her time at university will be presented with a Centennial Grant of \$500. This is one of 4 the club has presented to students, with the other 3 being Year 12 students in local schools.



16 days of Activism

The club will be participating in 16 days of Activism by holding information stands in local shopping centres, joining the council Northern Beaches Says No to Domestic Violence walk in Manly, being part of the Northern Beaches Domestic Violence Network organising the breakfast on 4 December, 2019 at Long Reef Golf Club, 7-9am, and Facebook posts each day.

The Mackellar Girls Campus Z Club will be having displays in their library, gender equity sayings on the electronic noticeboards, a presentation at assembly, participating in the walk and posts on their Instagram page.



ZONTA

CLUB OF
NORTHERN
BEACHES INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

invites you to save the date

Wednesday 4 March 2020

**Pittwater International Women's Day Breakfast
at Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, Newport**

7am to 9am

Bookings open mid January

Speaker – Lucy Brogden AM

Chair & Commissioner, National Mental Health Commission

For Details – contact Susie on 0413 623 392

Sydney

The Zonta Club of Sydney has had a busy couple of months since our last entry. Recent guest speakers have included Digby Hughes, Senior Policy Officer at Homelessness NSW, and Margot Roberts, winner of our scholarship enabling her to live in Women's College, University of Sydney while studying a Bachelor of Science and Advanced Studies. Our own Kerrie Bigsworth also spoke about the UN and in particular, Zonta International's involvement in various councils and commissions.

Previous months have seen a focus on preparations for the Zonta International Centenary Luncheon. Special thanks to Marilyn Smith, and club members who assisted her, for planning and organising to ensure a delightful afternoon in the Strangers Room at Parliament House on November 8th. The luncheon brought Zontians and guests together in a festive mood, with gracious MC Philippa McDonald adding warmth and humour. We were enthralled by keynote speaker Prof Kristy Muir, Professor of Social Policy at UNSW, and inspired by long serving Zontians, while enjoying laughs and fellowship during an elegant meal.

The coming months bring the following events, so please contact the club if you would like to attend and support our service initiatives:

- Chair Yoga by ex-member Sharon Shields at Ryde - 24th November 2019
- Annual Fundraising at Abbeys Bookshop, York St, Sydney, where 5% proceeds go to our service funds –27th November 2019 6.00pm (entry fee \$10 includes supper supplied by ZCS)
- Annual Christmas Dinner at Women's College, University of Sydney, December 12th, 2019

Details please email: zontaclubsydney@gmail.com



Sydney Breakfast

Since 2002, ZCSB has partnered with the University of Technology Sydney on our Women in Engineering & Information Technology Award. The 2019 finalists were: Maruah Taleb, Georgia Kirkpatrick-Jones, Carmela Espinosa, Dakota Harkins and Claire Grimbale. This year's award winner was Vanisha Singh. Our keynote speaker was Dr Eva Cheng from UTS.

ZCSB celebrated Zonta's Centenary Anniversary and acknowledged the International Day of the Girl Child with a screening of the documentary "On Her Shoulders". ZCSB partnered with Calmar Corps, and together, we supported The UN's Sustainability Goals #10, #16 and #17. We further raised \$1,460 to be split across ZI and ZCSB Service Projects.

With nearly 40 volunteers, 600 birthing kits were assembled in just over 90 minutes! Special thanks to Helen Murphy, St Ambrose School, and especially Calmar Corps for their generous donation of funding the kits.



Sydney East

Our June Dinner meeting guest was Kristiane Molloy, Area 1 Director, who inducted our new President, Jean White and new Office Bearers, Menaka Cooke – Vice President and Janice Hall – Secretary. Certificates of recognition for service to Zonta were presented to Jill Hill and Patricia Harrison both celebrating 15 years of service. Kristiane spoke about workshops conducted with local Zonta clubs and discussed 3 types of clubs: Conservative, Comfortable and Charged. Zonta Sydney East aspires to be a *Charged club* with innovative and inclusive practices, creative approaches to fund raising and a generous, ongoing commitment to the service of women and girls.



Our July Dinner meeting guest was Amanda Gibson from Zonta Botany Bay and Service Chair District 24 who spoke about two critical Zonta programs, Birthing Kits and Breast Care Cushions. Amanda encouraged Zonta East to participate to stitch and stuff cushions on a regular basis and our Club will discuss further at future meetings.

In August we had a “Where to from Here” Workshop facilitated by our new President and other members. It was a fantastic opportunity to brainstorm and share ideas about the path forward for our Club for the next two years.

Our September dinner meeting was a fantastic occasion. Our Guest Speaker was Lisa Gulesarian who is a M.Phil/Ph.D candidate at Sydney University working under the supervision of Prof. Marian Baird AO and who was the recipient of the Jane M Klausman Award for women in business.

In October we held a very successful fund raiser with Ingrid Van Kampen and Veducci. A lovely afternoon was spent at Patricia Harrison’s apartment enjoying the view and treating ourselves to lovely new outfits for summer as well as raising money for our projects.



Sydney West

Sydney West has been focused recently on Zonta's 100th birthday: three members attended the lunch at Parliament House in Sydney on the 8th of November, and the Club organised a free event in Kingsgrove on the 9th. We were pleased to welcome leading Zontians: DG, LG and AD, and many other guests: Zontians from clubs far and wide, parishioners from the church - our venue - and community members.

In a cafe setting with a continuous afternoon tea, we listened to Detective Chief Inspector, Paul Albury, Campsie Police Area Command speak passionately about preventing violence against women. We heard from our charity partners, our Z Club President and Award winners. District YWPA winner from Sydney West was inspiring beyond her years. Sarah al Helfy appears in the attached photo with DG Sharyl Scott and Sydney West President and Vice President.

The Lakemba March "NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE" will be held on the 29th November. The March is now a regular annual event, attracting community members from many cultures and faiths, a tremendous showcase for peaceful partnerships.

Our annual Musicale will be a highlight as usual, promoting local talent (including club members!) and raising funds for our activities.



Area 2 - Blue Mountains

Reclaim the Night, 25th October:

Our club supported this event through the provision of the local hall where some powerful, inspiring, evocative women shared their stories of love, strength and survival. We marched, with about two hundred women, through the streets of Katoomba. The number of young women participating was inspiring – the future looks positive.



Zonta Centenary Luncheon, 8th November:

Helen Grimson, President and Marea Murray, virtual club member met up with State Member for the Blue Mountains, Trish Doyle, while attending this celebration at Parliament House.

Our membership is steadily increasing with two new members joining us in November.

The end of the month will see us at The Mid Mountains Festival sharing the work of Zonta and meeting with our community.

We are about to start a sewing circle to make *Bosom Buddies* for breast cancer surgery patients.

Human Rights Day, 10th December, is being acknowledged through a daily countdown of 30 articles of the Declaration of Human Rights through our social media pages.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS are HUMAN RIGHTS

We are in the early planning stages of a Women's Wellness event to be held in March 2020 and are feeling very excited!

Berry

The Zonta Club of Berry have had a wonderful few months.

In September, five members attended the Zonta Centennial Inter-district Conference in Brisbane and returned inspired and informed through the range and quality of speakers at this event. Sharing friendship and purpose in Zonta is central to our own club and experiencing this on what really was an international level was wonderful. It was especially fabulous to see the passion and knowledge young women have in STEM and advocacy areas – we are very proud to be part of such a wonderful organisation.



Following this the club celebrated our 18th Birthday, enjoyed a visit by our D24 Director Deb Carroll and awarded our Inaugural Woman of Inspiration Award to Elyssa Sykes-Smith. This award has been established in recognition of Zonta 100 years and recognises a woman of inspiration who inspires others in service and/or advocacy. The recipient this year is Elyssa Sykes-Smith who is a local artist using sculpture as a medium to raise awareness of domestic violence and women's rights as human rights. Elyssa has had her large community art works installed in the Shoalhaven and is currently studying a Master of Fine Arts in London. The award will assist Elyssa with her educational costs.

In October, Berry Zonta assembled 97 birthing kits which were then distributed in 5 countries, held a breast cushion sewing morning, and another Trivia night, this time with a Gatsby theme in celebration of Zonta 100 years. We welcomed Anne Mowatt into the club as a new member and progressed planning for the 16 days of Activism which is another very successful advocacy project our club progresses in the Shoalhaven.



Canberra

BIRTHING KIT ASSEMBLY

Zonta Club of Canberra held a very successful birthing kit assembly with some of the students from ANU on Saturday 16th November. We held this event at Wright Hall, the newest student residences on the ANU campus. Many students helped out and after we explained some of our other projects (breast cushions, toiletries packing) they were keen to help out again in the future.



ZONTA's 100th Birthday Celebration in Canberra

Several of our members joined with the Canberra Breakfast Club to celebrate Zonta's 100th birthday with a dinner at the Commonwealth Club. Our guest speaker was the delightful Virginia Haussegger, ACT's current Australian of the year. The cake was cut by a representative from each of the clubs - Margaret Aston (from Zonta Canberra) who was the longest serving Zonta member present (45 years) & Shelley Yin, a representative from Zonta Canberra Breakfast, who as a member for 2 months, was the shortest serving Zonta member present.



Canberra Breakfast

The last couple of months have continued to be full of activity for the club, as I would image have most of you with the Centenary Celebrations!

The combined Zonta Clubs of Canberra hosted a Centennial Dinner at the Commonwealth Club on Saturday the 16th of November 2019. Virginia Haussegger AM was the keynote speaker, speaking on The Century of Women and the Gender Agenda. The event was interesting and engaging with great feedback from those who attended. Well done to the organisers.



We have now turned our attention to the 16days of Activism with a series of events planned to raise awareness of Gender Based Violence under Zonta says No. A screening of the Movie- Little Stones- documenting four women's journeys on 25th of November begins our campaign.

We have also set up orange paper flower displays in 2 of the libraries in Canberra, with the

names and ages of each of the 49 women who have been killed through Domestic Violence this year so far in Australia. One of the displays will also include 49 pairs of empty shoes to represent the women.

We are lighting up the Captain Cook Memorial Fountain on Lake Burley Griffin in Orange on Friday the 6th of December. (will include images next newsletter). And we will also be co-hosting with Rotary, a ceremony at the Nara Peace Bell on December 10. The bell will be rung once for each of women and their names read out, and the bell will ring once for all of the children and once again for all of the men. We have invited politicians and media.



Normal club activities also continue. We were fortunate to have Mirjana Wilson, CEO of DCVS address the November meeting. Her address was informative outlining how care for women in domestic violence environments is changing and delivering supportive solutions to all of the parties involved. There is a pilot program where the men are removed to community housing where they commit to counselling and rehabilitation support and the women remain in the home, and in contact with their established support networks. The average amount of time spent in this program is 12 – 24 months. This is community healing community challenges. The program is currently funded until 2022.



We have also inducted 3 new enthusiastic members in the past 3 months. Always lovely to welcome new women and new skill sets. And as you know... many hands make light work. We also hosted another Sip, Stuff and Sew event and have started receiving and sorting donations for next year's Pre-Loved Fashion Sale.

Wishing you all success for the 16 Days of Activism

Cumberland West

Cumberland West has been preparing for our big yarn bombing project for months now. This project is our contribution to the 16 days of activism and has been in partnership with Blacktown Council. Yarn bombing involves knitted and crocheted pieces being wrapped around tree trunks to get attention in order to spread a message. The project takes place over 2 weeks from 23 November until 1 December. Our photos illustrate it best.



Blacktown Council provided the venue (and pizzas) for 5 yarn in(s) so different members of the greater Blacktown community could come and knit and crochet and talk. 1100 knitted and crocheted squares were created. Blacktown Council also assigned us 4 workmen to get up and down ladders and help us with the installation and provided the refreshments at our unveiling ceremony.

Our unveiling ceremony took place on Friday 22 November and was a wonderful occasion. The Lord Mayor spoke passionately against domestic and family violence and we were able to explain what Zonta is, how the project grew, how we oppose domestic violence and how DV rates are not decreasing. We also had a DV survivor's story and a poem written especially for the occasion. The ceremony closed with the Deputy Mayor adding her voice to the project.

Of particular poignancy was the 63 orange knitted ladies who represent the 63 women killed through violence in 2018.

We have had 2 members of our club present at a stall every weekday to tell passers-by about the project and to hand out information re DV agencies as appropriate. We noticed many members of the public taking photos and reading our signs. Of course, advocacy outcomes can be hard to measure but we feel we have got the message out there that this is a continuing and much needed campaign.



Macarthur

The Club supported the successful *Reclaim The Night* event, held on Thursday 31 October 2019 at Campbelltown Arts Centre. The purpose of the event was to keep the issue of sexual violence against women on the agenda. It was an initiative of the Campbelltown Domestic Violence Committee. The free event was also well supported by Campbelltown City Council, the local community and businesses.

The Zonta Club of Macarthur has been successful in gaining approval from Campbelltown City Council to plant Zonta Roses in Mawson Park, Campbelltown to commemorate the Zonta International Centennial 2019, and recognise the contributions of the Club to the community since 1993.

Four Macarthur members and one partner attended the ZI Centenary Luncheon on 8 November 2019 at NSW Parliament. It was a very inspirational event and a great celebration to mark the centennial in District 24.



On 11 November 2019, Refat Murshed, Sharyl Scott and Yvonne Stapleton met with Dr Mike Freeland, Federal Member for Macarthur as part of the Equality Rights Alliance *Day of Delegations* initiative to look at Newstart through a gendered perspective. Dr Freeland indicated he has spoken about the need to increase Newstart and shared some of these news articles. He was quite ready to listen and continue to talk to Caucus and colleagues. He has been concerned about the impact of the system on young families and children who he had seen in his paediatric practice. He spoke about the high impact on women and said women needed to have a bigger voice on this issue.

The Zonta Club of Macarthur is currently working with organisations from the Campbelltown Domestic Violence Committee, to have displays in the four community libraries in the Local Government Area to support the *16 Days of Activism* from 25 November 2019.

Members have also been busy collecting resources for the local women's refuge service that will be used for exit packs to assist women leaving the service, to re-establish themselves in the community. These packs and resources are formally handed over at our annual special dinner function to support the elimination of gender based- violence against women and girls on Wednesday 27 November 2019, at WESTS Leagues Club, Leumeah, NSW. Sherin Fishwick, Volunteer and Donations Coordinator from Dignity Ltd, will be a special guest speaker at the function.

Nepean Valley

For our club the months of October, November and December mean awards presentation. Our school academic awards are presented at our October Dinner Meeting.

The Award for a Young Woman in the graduating class of St Marys Senior High school recognizes a student who has been active in school activities, leadership and community service and who has an awareness of national and global issues affecting women's lives. This award has been running since 2007. The club's STEM Award commenced in 2016 to encourage a year 11 or 12 female student from Blaxland who is most improved in any of the S.T.E.M. subject areas (Science, Technology, engineering and Mathematics).

Nepean Creative and Performing Arts School Zonta Award commenced in 201. This award recognizes a young woman who is an outstanding student in the Performing Arts Department in the Senior Years. Any of the disciplines are eligible – Drama, Dance or Music.

The He for She Campaign is a solidarity campaign for the advancement of gender equality, initiated by UN. Our club awards recognize men in the western Sydney / Blue Mountains area who have made a significant contribution to Women's rights in the areas such as justice, equal opportunity or health. We presented four awards this year our November meeting.

The Christmas Dinner is always a highlight of the club's calendar of events. This year we will present three prestigious awards: The Woman of Initiative Award to a woman who has initiated a program / event / activity in the community, which has touched and changed many lives in that community; The Nepean TAFE Award for a woman who has overcome adversity to achieve success in her studies; and The Women in Technology Scholarship, initiated by ZI this year, to a candidate from Western Sydney University who is an outstanding student academically and has demonstrated a relevant volunteering and community service background.



Orange

Birthing Kits Assembly Day

Orange Zontains along with friends and family spent a Sunday afternoon in October at the Orange City Bowling Club making over 600 birthing kits to be shipped overseas. Each kit contained a plastic sheet, soap, cord tie, sterile blade and gloves. This is to help reduce the maternal death and infant mortality rates in underdeveloped countries.



Patricia Logan 35 Year of Service

Patricia Logan Celebrated for 35 years of membership of Zonta. Patricia has been an active member of the club for 35 years holding a number of senior positions and travelling to international conferences and meetings.

Zonta 100 Years Celebration

Deb and Louise Carroll celebrated Zonta's 100-year Birthday at a Lunch at Parliament House

Zonta Says No 16 days of Activism

- Zonta Orange has a number of activities planned between 25th November and 10th December to campaign for the end of violence against women.
- Key activities include
- Bus Advertisement around Orange
- Participation in March down Summer Street Orange 25 November to recognise and remember the 58 Australian women and 21 child who have lost their lives to violence in 2019
- Social media campaign 25th November to 10th December



Wollongong

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 enthusiastic membership of their club.

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



100th anniversary celebration

We celebrated ZI's 100th birthday locally with afternoon tea at Saumarez Homestead, focusing on "Women in Action" then and now. Karen Tromp spoke about the women who lived at Saumarez in the early 20th century and their work in the community; guest speaker and former long-time club member, Judith Ross-Smith OAM, gave some of the history of the Armidale club and highlighted work that still needs to be done to empower women and girls. We recognised

Meg Georkas, Armidale co-ordinator for the Days for Girls program, as one of our local Women of Achievement.

Film fundraiser

We co-ordinated with the local cinema for a special viewing of "Anne Frank: Parallel stories". It was an opportunity to fundraise for a birthing kits packing day being planned for early 2020.

Dinner meeting speaker

The recent NSW Youth Summit, sponsored by UNICEF, brought together over 80 young people affected by drought. It was a great opportunity for UNE student, Becca George, to engage with others, network with decision-makers, come up with a plan of action and learn some advocacy skills.

Club members were interested to hear about Becca's "girls" and the strategies being used to maintain their breeding stock as best they can under current conditions on the family farm.



2019 Day of Delegations

As part of the Equality Rights Alliance "Day of Delegations, representatives from Armidale and Tamworth clubs met with Member for New England, The Hon Barnaby Joyce PM, to discuss issues around Newstart, and how these are, in particular, having an impact on women. Barnaby is on record supporting an increase to the Newstart payment and is very aware of issues that particularly affect those living in rural areas.

External award

Our club was delighted to hear that our nomination of Ebony Adams for an Australian College of Educators (NE) award-the Cynthia Briggs Empowerment through Education Award- was successful. A number of supporters joined Ebony for the presentation dinner.



16 Days of Activism

Our Zonta says No campaign focuses on 'Put yourself in the picture'. Photos were displayed on the support notice board at the local markets with campaign information, orange lady bunting and our club 'dunny door' stickers, giving relevant crisis contact numbers. On a map of NSW, we featured one orange lady for each domestic violence death in 2019, all designed to promote discussions with men and women about domestic violence. We have a short ad on child marriage showing at the local cinema during the 16 Days period.



Coffs Harbour

ZONTA Club of Coffs Harbour have been busy **B's** with **bras**, **barbecues**, **birthing kits** and **bushfires**. We've had a great response to our Autumn collection of bras for UPLIFT. Some were transported via courier to Brisbane as there were too many to fit into Liz's car for delivery to Sydney. The small town of Woolgoolga (Woopi) also exceeded its record of donated bras. A great community response. We don't mind getting a reputation as The BRA ladies, it's all for a good cause.

We had a reasonably smokeless fundraising event at Bunnings on Sunday 17th Dec. After the serious bushfire disruption earlier that week we weren't sure how the rest of the week would unfold! It was a good effort with everyone able to help as planned.

We've had our second of three planned Birthing Kit Assembly's at a local high school on Thursday 19th Nov. Two hundred kits were enthusiastically assembled by delightful female students. Earlier in the week our local schools were closed due to bushfires. Unfortunately, this meant one school missed an opportunity to participate in BK fundraising. Due to the significant increase in birthing kits we're encouraging participating schools to actively raise funds towards the cost of the kits.

To celebrate 100yrs of ZONTA our Facebook page has featured regular changes of images and quotes associated with women. We were all set to meet for breakfast together, but we couldn't have chosen a worse day. Tuesday 12th Nov proved to be an anxious time for many people due to the brushfire emergency here in the Coffs region. Three of us were able to meet up at one members home for coffee. By the end of the day most of us had bags packed in case we needed to evacuate. Fortunately, this was not required. We are all safe.



Hunter Newcastle



ZONTA Hunter Newcastle have been as busy as Santa's elves over the past few months, and we are proud to announce that we have inducted 3 new members to our Club at our last dinner meeting, Steph Gorham, Tricia Eldridge and Barbara Gibbon, who was previously a member of Northern Beaches some time ago. Welcome Ladies! We also had a wonderful representation at the 100th birthday celebration luncheon at Parliament House in Sydney. It was decided not to pop 9 Zontians in the quiet carriage on the train, impossible task, but we enjoyed the train trip down very much, and the lunch and guest speaker was truly amazing. A great day

thank you Zonta Club of Sydney!

In line with our 16 days of activism, we have formulated an advertisement which is currently running at Event Cinemas Kotara across all 6 theatres. Whilst it is a short 15 second commercial, we believe it packs a punch, and we have included the link for you.

Our last meeting of the year will be a Xmas Dinner Dance and we welcome members, guests and fellow Zontians should you wish to attend! This will coincide with our annual Back to School Drive for our local refugees.

Earlier this year, we donated \$1,000 to a very impressive young woman by the name of Dr Jazmin Daniells, for her Leadership expedition to Antarctica, and we have had wonderful news she is about to arrive safe and sound. We look forward to hearing about her adventures and Leadership training on board. This trip is part of a journey with 99 other young women from around the world, and we wish her every success.



Port Macquarie



Birthing Kit Assembly Day

More than 60 volunteers came together on Saturday 26th October 2019 to assemble 800 birthing kits.

The Zonta Club of Port Macquarie Inc. and Year 9 students of MacKillop College partnered to make the project possible.

Zonta purchased the birthing kits and Year 9 did the pre-packing day preparation.

The club raised funds to purchase the kits via a Major Raffle, local donations and a \$1,000 Grant from Charles Sturt University. The Charles Sturt University's CUP - Rural and Regional Health and Wellbeing Grant – allowed us to partner with and engage young people in the project, and for them to learn about safe birthing, and to practice volunteerism.

Garden Party to celebrate Zonta's 100th birthday

Will be held in the grounds of Charles Sturt University on Sunday 24th November from 2pm until 5pm.

Zonta Club of Port Macquarie Inc.

You're Invited!



Join us for our 100th birthday party!

Sunday afternoon Garden Party on the lawns of CSU top quad with break-out sessions of interest to young and old

- Where:** CSU campus
- When:** Sunday 24th November 2019
- What time:** 2pm to 5pm
- What to bring:** your friends and family
- RSVP:** reply to email by 20/11/19
- There is no cost: **A donation box will be available**



Empowering Women through Service and Advocacy 1919-2019



PO Box 1490, Port Macquarie 2444

Email: portmacquarie@zontadistrict24.org

Tamworth



September meeting, we were thrilled to have Lieutenant Governor, Karen Tromp and Area Director, Jill Maclachlan, visit. Karen present 'Years of Service' certificates to members Trudi Martin, Maree Ham and Anne Jacob AND induct a new member, Jenny Butler. We joined a local cultural festival, Fiesta La Peel, raising \$700 and showing ourselves active and supportive community members.

And in November celebrated Zonta's birthday with an oriental theme and a nice cake.



ⁱ (<https://www.ceda.com.au/Digital-hub/Blogs/CEDA-Blog/July-2019/Australia-pays-the-price-for-increasing-rates-of-imprisonment>)

ⁱⁱ https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_media_releases/2018/mr-NSW-Custody-Statistics-June-2018.aspx

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-08/female-prisoners-in-canberras-jail-have-no-privacy-from-males/11192060>

^{iv} *Keeping Women out of Prison Coalition Position Statement 2018.*