



ZONTA

CLUB OF
MELBOURNE
ON YARRA INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

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Spring 2021

Free to explore!



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Notes from the President

How wonderful it was to be able to meet in person for our General Meeting in November at the Amora Hotel. We had 19 members and our guest speaker attend as well as five members on Zoom. Great to be able to walk around the room and have a lengthy chat without the usual "zoom defects".

The club has been very busy over the past few months accepting and assessing applications for various awards and a local service project. Thanks to all those members who have participated in this process. More details further down!

We continue to enjoy inspiring guests at our monthly meetings. In **September** we heard from Zalyann Peishi, Jennifer Marriott's daughter-in-law. She was able to Zoom in from Canberra. Zalyann has been working in the humanitarian sector since 1997 and been involved in various roles at different NGOs. Currently with



the UN World Food Programme (WFP), Zalyann provided an overview of a WFP study which sought to explore how Cash-Based Interventions (CBIs) can contribute to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

We were very fortunate that Stephanie Woollard OAM, the Founder of Seven Women, agreed to speak with us via Zoom for our **October meeting**. We realised this was a wonderful opportunity to raise funds for her organisation and invited Zontians and their friends from all districts to join our general meeting.



It was a very successful evening, and I would like to thank all those who generously gave a donation, raising \$690.

We were pleased to invite one of the few younger female parliamentarians to speak at our November meeting, Kate Thwaites MP, Federal House of Representatives (ALP) member for Jaga Jaga since 2019. Kate spoke on the fragility



of women in politics, the brave voices of Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins, making workplaces safer for women and questioning the culture of men in Parliament. Kate has written a book called "Enough is Enough" with former MP and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Jenny Macklin.

Our participation in the 16 days of Activism will commence 25th November, International day for the Elimination of Violence against Women with a free ZEDx webinar. Please see details on how to register in the Newsletter.

ZCMOY will join ZC Melbourne's East in a Walk Against Violence on Saturday 27 November, starting at 10.00am to 12.00 pm. Meeting at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, corner of Warrigal and Dandenong Roads. We will be crossing at the intersection lights (always with the green icon), holding up Club banners/homemade signs etc. If possible, wear an orange T-shirt or orange accessories.

Our usual annual pamper packs for Salvation Army's Mary Anderson Family Violence Women's refuge has evolved into a more expanded operation with a \$1000 grant from the Yarra City Council which will help the club purchase sanitary products wholesale from Cottons, beauty/body products from Natio as well as further initiatives. Thanks also to Hanes underwear who are donating 350 Berlei briefs towards our "Project Brief" enterprise to be delivered to the refuge. Remaining money from the grant will be spent purchasing items suggested by the Salvation Army as most needed, such as socks.

As our planned October fellowship meeting to be held at Jennifer Marriott's home was cancelled due to COVID restrictions, the club has decided to organise a special **Christmas party** to be held on Sunday, 12th December and thanks again to Jennifer for offering her lovely home. This is a celebration to acknowledge our resilience of two years coping with many long lockdowns and the hope that 2022 will be a much better year in all respects. Also, this will be a delayed celebration to congratulate Kay Stewart for her 50 years of service to Zonta International. Although postponed, this will give us a wonderful opportunity to thank her for all her previous years' work as well as giving her our support and best wishes for next year when she will take on the role of ZI District 23 Governor for the 2022-2024 Biennium.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to all these extra activities that are planned for November and December in a COVID safe manner. Best wishes to all for the festive season.

Julie Pincombe
President

Nominating Committee 2022-2023

The Nominating Committee was elected at the October meeting and comprises Christine Fitzherbert, Jasmine Koch and Melinda Young.

Upcoming Events

- Nov 25** ZEDx Webinar for Zonta Says NO
- Nov 27** 16 Days of Activism walk with ZC Melb's East
- Dec 5th** Handbag sorting working bee at Sharon Nelson-Kelly's home
- Dec 9th** Monthly Meeting—Amora—Pamper Packing
- Dec 12th** Christmas Party at Jennifer Marriott's home
- Jan 29th** Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, Hawthorn
- Feb 10th** Monthly Meeting—Amora
- Mar 17th** Birthing Kit Assembly with Bialik College

25-29 June 2022

ZI Convention

Congress Centre, Hamburg
Hamburg, Germany



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (25 Nov—10 Dec)

Launching our 16 Days of Activism 2021 - be there!

Join us at 7pm on the 25 November as we mark the start of the 16 Days with our free ZEDx talk - Changing ♂ Violent Behaviour Towards ♀. We have an excellent line-up of speakers for what will be an enlightening and engaging discussion with experts working on changing men's behaviour to keep women and children safe.

Register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/zedx-changing-mens-violent-behaviour> and you'll be sent a link to the Zoom event. We look forward to seeing you there!

Walk Against Violence

On Saturday 27 November, we will join Zontians from the ZC of Melbourne's East (10am to 12 noon) at the corner of Warrigal and Dandenong Roads, Oakleigh, to march back and forth across the intersection (with the lights!). If you wish to join in, please RSVP to jed22m@gmail.com. **Wear something orange!**

Pamper Packs

In December, we will again be preparing Pamper Packs for distribution to women through the Salvation Army Mary Anderson Centre. As well as the generous donations detailed in the President's Notes, we also have these gorgeous teddy bears knitted lovingly by a friend of Yvonne Lockwood.



Wine! Wine! Wine!

Purchase quality wines online by clicking the link below for details of the wines and the order form. The wine will be delivered to your door. <https://prospectwines.com.au/product/zonta-club-of-melbourne-on-yarra/> Delivery before Christmas cannot be guaranteed at this point, but a crisp whitw would go down well in January! Thank you for helping us raise funds for our work supporting women and girls.

Birthing Kits



Our next Birthing Kit assembly session will be assisting students of Bialik College on 17th May, as part of their Purim celebrations.



Awards And the winners are...

At least COVID has not stopped us rewarding great women or delivering their awards.



First mention goes to **Margaret Hender**, winner of our inaugural Women Taking Climate Action Award. This award supports Zonta Says NOW and was open to any woman from Zonta District 23.

The \$1,000 award was funded by monies raised through our first ZEDx webinar: Climate Action.

Margaret is the creator of CORENA (Citizens Own Renewable Energy Network Australia) based in South Australia, and is Australia's first solar revolving fund. CORENA has successfully loaned \$800,000 to fund 44 projects so far, generating, almost \$200,000 in savings for not-for-profits including child care centres, specialist schools, housing associations for the disabled and community resource centres throughout Australia.

Our 2021 Local Service Project Award winner is **Shakti Melbourne**, where migrant and refugee women of Asian, African and Middle Eastern origin experiencing family violence can go for counselling and practical help. This organisation does great things for women in our community during difficult times.



Along with our \$1,000 grant, Shakti will receive donations made by registrants for our second ZEDx webinar on 25 Nov.



It was difficult to pick the winner of our 2021 Women in Technology Award. We received many strong applications but both judges did agree on the best - **Rifat Ara Shams**, a final year Ph.D. researcher under the Department of Software Systems and Cybersecurity and the Faculty of Information Technology at Monash University where she is conducting research to empower marginalised and vulnerable women through technology. An outstanding student, Rifat is delighted to receive her \$1,000 award, sponsored by Lockheed Martin.

Breast Care Cushions

In continued lockdown, small pods of us have still been busy making breast cushions. And receiving feedback from satisfied recipients:

"I have just returned from hospital having had surgery for breast cancer and I was given one of your cushions. I wanted to thank you and those involved in this wonderful initiative. The cushion has made a big difference already and I am very grateful." (S)

"I recently spent time at Epworth Hospital to have lumps of cancer cut out of a breast, and as I made my way to the room (somehow), I was given a bag with a cushion. This was just amazing. I didn't realise at the time, but as the night went on and I was clutching ice to my side whilst wearing the bag to contain and constrain the tubes and bottles of yuk that surrounded me. So fantastic and useful. And practical! Thank you so much." (T)



Zonta International news

Convention 2022

Register now for the Convention in Hamburg June 25-29 2022. International Conventions are a life-changing experience! An opportunity not to be missed;. Go to www.zonta.org/convention. Virtual attendance is also an option if you are reluctant or unable to travel at that time.

A call is out for proposals for the workshop series 'Inspiring Intelligent Impact', Please share your thoughts with President Julie ASAP with a view to submission.

Zonta Says NO Summit

Marking the 10th year of the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign, a one-day online summit will be held on Tuesday 30th November. Register via 'Events' on the ZI website. Cost is US\$10. Each registration will provide access to three different sessions, spanning multiple time zones. Proceeds will go to the Zonta Foundation for Women. Participating members will have their donation recognised as part of their 'Every Member Every November' giving total,

Statements

The following statements are now available on the ZI website:

- ZI Statement on International Literacy Day
- ZI Statement on Trafficking in Persons
- ZI Statement on United Nations Day 2021

Updated resources

Check out these updates on the ZI website:

- Zonta Says NO Toolkit
- Child Marriage Toolkit and Advocacy Guide

Zonta Says Now

Many of you will have heard the panel presentation on climate change at the recent D23 Conference, ably led by futurist, Carole Theobald., the driving force behind this project.

Discussion from the October meeting of the Think Tank is now available at: <https://zontasaysnow.org.au/think-tank>



United Nations Days

- 25 Nov International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women
- 10 Dec Human Rights Day
- 25 Nov— 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
- 10 Dec
- 6 Feb International Day for Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation
- 11 Feb International Day for Women and Girls in Science
- 20 Feb World Day of Social Justice

Zonta Mission & Vision

Mission:

Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Vision:

Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential.

2020-22 Theme:

Transitions, Change and New Opportunities—Accomplished Through Teamwork

Objects of Zonta International

To improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women at the global and local level through service and advocacy.

To work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of members.

To promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

To be united internationally to foster high ethical standards, to implement service programs, and to provide mutual support and fellowship for members who serve their communities, their nations, and the world.



Something to Read

Enough is Enough *Kate Thwaites and Jenny Macklin*

What is it about the culture and structure of Parliament House that has allowed sexual violence and harassment to flourish? The number of women in the Australian Parliament has increased, but unfortunately, they are still not being heard. And tragically, they are not always safe. We believe in the power of politics to do good, and we recognise that politics is about power: getting it, holding onto it, and using it to improve citizens' lives. Women wielding power in Parliament House, women fighting for equality and an end to discrimination across our country, have made their mark and they have caused change. But the underlying problem of men's attitudes towards women, of men believing it is their right to assault or harass women, remains. For this to change, men will have to give up some of the harmful ways in which they use power - in the parliament and in our community. In *Enough Is Enough*, Kate Thwaites and Jenny Macklin call for actions to have consequences, for an end to a culture of political impunity, and to make sure that women are not just in the room, but that they are safe there. .

Remarkable Creatures *Tracey Chevalier*

An historical novel that follows the story of Mary Anning and Elizabeth Philpot, two 19th century fossil hunters who changed the scientific world.

On the windswept, fossil-strewn beaches of the English coast, poor and uneducated Mary learns that she has a unique gift: the eye to spot ammonites and other fossils no one else can see. When she uncovers an unusual, fossilised skeleton in the cliffs near her home, she sets the religious community on edge, the townspeople to gossip, and the scientific world alight. Read the book before seeking out the film "Ammonite" as the film is very loosely based on the book with a completely different direction.



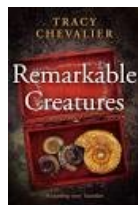
Something to watch

Maid Netflix (10 episodes)

Based on the memoir from Stephanie Land, titled *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*.

The story of single Mother, Alex, fighting to provide for her three-year-old daughter after fleeing an abusive relationship.

The thing that makes *Maid* stand out in an era of outstanding television is that it tells the stories of women's lives in complex, fully formed detail. It depicts women's friendships as protective, kind, and independent of their romantic entanglements with men.



It is interesting to see how Alex does not actually see herself as in the same position as someone who has been physically abused and how this storyline develops.

You Can't Ask That ABC iView, Season 4, Episode 1

'Why don't you just leave?' Eight interviewees tell their personal stories of experiencing domestic and family violence.

While this episode is of particular relevance to what Zonta is about, all six series of this program are worth watching.

Australia Uncovered: Strong Female Lead

SBS on Demand

An exploration of the gender politics during Julia Gillard's term as Australia's first female prime minister, including the response and tone from media commentators, the Australian public and within parliament itself.

For many, Julia Gillard's elevation to PM in 2010 was a time to celebrate that finally Australia had a woman as Prime Minister'. She was very popular, and seeing our first female Governor General, Quentin Bryce, swear in Julia as Prime Minister was a potent image for little girls—women can lead!



We know that in Australia, women politicians are hyper-scrutinised on their appearance, on what they wear, whether they have or plan to have children in comparison to male politicians. As Prime Minister, the sexist, often misogynistic media abuse that Julia Gillard experienced was on another level. As shown in this documentary, this was often rank abuse, disrespect and rudeness which was evidenced everywhere—online, on the radio, television, in comedy sketches and at public rallies.

When Julia Gillard finally responded to Tony Abbott's continued disrespectful behaviour and gave what has become known as her 'misogyny speech', this was swiftly picked up internationally as inspiring and barnstorming, while being largely ignored by Australian media. Julia Gillard concluded, "This Parliament should think seriously about the role of women in public life and in Australian society, because we are entitled to a better standard than this".



Combining two of her quotes: "Smashing through a glass ceiling is a dangerous pursuit; it is hard not to get lacerated on the way through...[though] What I am absolutely confident of is it will be easier for the next woman and the woman after that and the woman after that. And I'm proud of that."

Food for Thought

Mr and Mrs Churchill – sourced from 'Flinders Facts', Newsletter of the ZC Adelaide Flinders

One day, the Churchill couple walked through a posh neighbourhood in London. People greeted and exchanged words with the Prime Minister.

A street sweeper, on the other hand, greeted Mrs Churchill in particular, and the two stayed aside for a while in familiar conversation.

Churchill then asked his wife what she had to discuss with a street sweeper for so long. 'Ah...he was in love with me a long time ago' she said.

Churchill smiled and said 'You see, if you had married him, you would be the wife of a street sweeper today.'

Mrs Churchill looked at her husband in amazement and said the legendary words 'But no, darling. If I had married him, he would be Prime Minister today'.