



**ZONTA**  
 CLUB OF  
 MELBOURNE  
 ON YARRA INC  
 MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
**EMPOWERING WOMEN**  
 THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## Yarra Yarns vol. 7.1 Summer 2022



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## Notes from the President

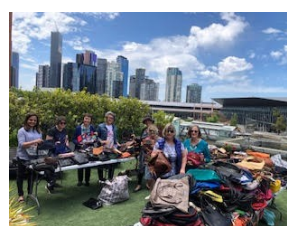
Welcome back to a new year in which we hope to forge ahead with our service and advocacy to help empower women and girls. Fingers crossed that the more positive 2022 approach to coping and living with COVID-19 sees a more active year for all Zonta members and club activities.

We ended 2021 with a very successful **Pamper Pack** meeting in December, delivering 157 pamper packs, fashion scarves, socks, briefs, sanitary items, knitted children's teddy bears, books and 100 plus pre-loved handbags and travel bags direct to the Salvation Army. Our thanks to Yarra City Council for their grant of \$1000 and thanks to Sharon Karasmanis for the paperwork to make this happen. Also, thanks to Natio, Berlei, Chemist Warehouse, East Ivanhoe Pharmacy, Raffal and donations from members and friends of Zonta.



Sharon also worked her magic in applying for, and the club ultimately receiving, \$3,500 which will be spent for all the materials required to make our annual 600 plus **Breast Care Cushions** for women recovering from breast surgery.

Our first 'Stuff & Stitch; breast care cushion working bee will be held at the home of Frances Gentle on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2-5 pm. Meanwhile our sewers and acquirers of all materials have been busily spotting bargains and spending the grant from the Yarra City Council. We are so lucky to have such enthusiastic members who put so much time into this project which of course is very rewarding for all.



**Pre-loved bags**—On Sunday 5 December, eight members gathered at Sharon Nelson-Kelly's Docklands apartment to sort and select a total of 500 bags, toilet bags, totes and luggage. These were the stored remnants for over

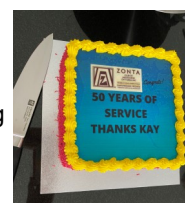
two years (Lockdown), from our previously successful Pre-Loved Bag Sale Fundraisers. The collection has gone to 5 local women's groups, and two Zonta Clubs. The weather, lunch and fellowship made for a great day. Thank you Sharon, it was a lot of hard work during this period and successful at the time. We now move on to new horizons.



The club also held an end of year **Christmas party**, organized by the Membership Committee, at the home of Jennifer Marriott. There was a lot of delicious food consumed, a little bubbly and wine and great chatter and fun, as well as a "Famous Women Quiz". Thank you, Jennifer, your home is a real entertainer's delight.



This was also an occasion to celebrate Kay Stewart's 50 years as a Zontian. Thank you, Kay, for your many years of service and we look forward to supporting you in your upcoming role as District 23 Governor for 2022-2024.



At the end of January, we were fortunate enough to be able to hold a **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle** at Hawthorn. The weather was perfect, after a week of searing heat and many thanks to Wendy Cameron for organising and captaining the four shifts over the whole day. Thanks to all members who manned the stall and to our honorary Zontian helpers. We banked \$1247.75.

Our **first meeting** of the year was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February and our guest speaker was Katie Riceputo, Education and Engagement Officer, Office of the Public Advocate. Katie spoke about taking control of your decision-making by planning ahead and preparing your Enduring Powers of Attorney, Advance Care Directive and appointing a Medical Treatment Decision Maker. This talk supported the Victorian Area Advocacy theme of Financial Literacy for the quarter to March 2022.

In March we will hold an **Awards Night** to celebrate our 2021 winners of the Awards announced in the previous edition of Yarra Yarns:

- Women in Technology – Rifat Shams (sponsored by Lockheed Martin)

- Women taking Climate Action – Margaret Hender founder of Citizens Owned Renewable Energy Network (CORENA)
- grant for a service project to Shakti Australia.



The **Interior Design Masterclass** with designer James Robertson which was disappointingly cancelled last year due to lockdown has now been tentatively rescheduled for 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> July.

The club is also hoping to recommence our **Movie Night** events at the Kino Cinema, Collins Street. More details to come on our proposed events for 2022.

I encourage all members to participate in our events for 2022, of course in a COVID safe manner and I look forward to seeing you involved in whatever capacity you feel that you can contribute to ZCMOY.

Julie Pincombe  
President

## Length of Service Awards

At the February meeting, President Julie presented the following recognition awards.

Club certificate for 35 years service to Christine Fitzherbert

D23 badges for 35 years to Gail Neil, 20 years to Gillian Wilton and Melinda Young.



35 years



20 years



## Upcoming Events

- Feb 27th** Breast Care Cushions 'Stuff and Stitch'
- March 10th** Monthly Meeting—IWD and Award Presentations
- March** Birthing Kit Assembly Day with IGGS
- March 19-20** Area 1 & 4 Workshop—Atura Albury
- April 14th** Monthly Meeting—Amora: AGM
- May 12th** Monthly Meeting—Amora :Board Induction
- 16 or 17 July** Design Masterclass (TBC)



**25-29 June 2022**  
**ZI Convention**  
Congress Centre, Hamburg  
Hamburg, Germany

## Birthing Kits

We are again planning a Birthing Kit Assembly event in conjunction with Fire Services Victoria. As last year, it will most likely be done in small groups around Mothers' Day.

We are also planning to assist two secondary schools with their Assembly Days. The first of these will be in March with Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School.



### What's in a Birthing Kit?

Birthing Kits are now environmentally friendly.

Each \$5 'Earth Kit' includes a biodegradable sheet and bag that leave no chemical footprint. 100 trees are planted for every 200 kits made. Each kit contains:

- Soap to wash the birth attendant's hands and the mother's perineum
- Plastic sheet to prevent the mother and newborn coming into contact with the ground or an unhygienic surface
- Gloves to cover the birth attendant's hands and provide protection from infections such as HIV for carers and recipients
- Gauze to clean the mother's perineum prior to giving birth and to wipe clear the newborn baby's eyes
- Cord ties to cleanly tie the umbilical cord



## Young Women in Public Affairs Award

Recognising young women for their commitment to volunteerism, volunteer leadership achievements and dedication to empowering women worldwide

### 1 APPLICATION, 3 OPPORTUNITIES

Club award: \$1000; 32 district awards US\$1,500 each; 10 international awards US\$5,000 each



We are seeking applications for the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra Young Women in Public Affairs Award. 2022. If you know a young woman between the ages of **16 and 19** who has demonstrated leadership qualities, please encourage them to apply

To download an application, please visit: [zonta.org/YWPAAward](http://zonta.org/YWPAAward). Submit application to :

Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra c/- Suzanne Lees 507 The Boulevard East Ivanhoe 3079 [sue.lees@inet.net.au](mailto:sue.lees@inet.net.au) 0400753007

Applications to the club must be received by **18th March**, The successful application will then be forwarded to the district panel.

## Zonta International news

### Convention 2022

Register now for the Convention in Hamburg **June 25-29**. International Conventions are a life-changing experience! An opportunity not to be missed. **Earlybird rates end 28 February**. Go to [www.zonta.org/convention](http://www.zonta.org/convention) to register. Virtual attendance is an option if you are reluctant or unable to travel at that time.

### Zonta Rose Day—8 March

Consider making a donation on Rose Day to the Zonta Foundation for Women. You may like to do this to honour an inspiring individual in your life, Donations to the Service Fund support the following projects:

- Delivering survivor-centred response to gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste;
- Adolescent girls' health and protection in Peru;
- Let Us Learn Madagascar;
- Ending Child Marriage.

### CSW66—14-25 March

The 66th meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women is available to attend virtually. If you are interested, register via <https://ngocsw.configio.com/pd/6/>. There is no cost for this event.

### Remarkable Women Powerful Stories

If you want to be inspired, follow this series on the ZI website via News and Events—Remarkable Women Powerful Stories.

Recent presenters include **V. Renee Cutting**, chief philanthropy officer for UNICEF USA and **Laura Ballerini**, who is pursuing a Master of Philosophy in Development Economics at the University of Oxford and is chairwoman of the Forward Incubator Student Ambassador Board.

The speaker in February (24th) will be **Lindsey Tulloch**, who is pursuing her Masters degree in Computer Science as part of the Cryptography, Security and Privacy (CrySP) lab at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

### Breaking glass ceilings one JMK Scholar at a time

Get to meet the women who are paving the way for the next generation of women business leaders. Click here to [Read about the 2021 JMK Women in Business Scholars today](#).

### Access Zonta on Your Mobile

The Zonta mobile app will be available on 1 March. The app will be fully fully connected to the ZI iMIS membership database. Take advantage of the features offered to members, e.g. a dedicated newsfeed, easy access to member resources, a member directory with instant private and group chats and a calendar of Zonts events.



## Zonta Says Now

The Think Tank will meet next on Saturday 19th Feb and will hear from three interesting speakers:

- Dr Helen Brown, Director of the WHO Centre for Health and Impact Assessment
- Pia Hultgren, Meteorologist, President ZC Lidingo, Sweden
- Dr Janice Dudley, Honorary Fellow, Sir Walter Murdoch School of Public Policy and Interbational Affairs, Murdoch University (individual member of Zonta)

Discussion from the Think Tank will most likely be available at: <https://zontasaysnow.org.au/think-tank>



## ZI Statements

The following statements are now available on the ZI website:

- ZI statement on the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM 2022
- ZI statement on International Day of Education 2022

## United Nations Days

20 Feb	World Day of Social Justice
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day (Health Care)
8 March	International Women's Day / Zonta Rose Day
7 April	World Health Day
12 April	International Day of Human Space Flight

## 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.

## Advocacy Matters

An Area 1 Advocacy committee was set up in August 2020 with support from D23 Chair of Advocacy, Christine Hepburn, Area 1 Director, Trish McLean, and Area 2, (which has been undertaking advocacy for many years).

The Area 1 committee set itself the following goals:

- Educate ourselves and our Clubs on Advocacy. Committee members were to present a Power Point titled "From Awareness to Action: the importance of Collective Advocacy".
- Share resources between A1 clubs.
- Create a speakers list to include both Zontians and non-Zontians.
- Select 4 themes for the Zonta year and create a peak body list for each theme. Where possible, identify an action related to the selected theme for that quarter.

After the combined Area meeting in May 2021, Area 4 & Area 1 decided to join to create the **Area 1 & 4 Advocacy Committee**. We discussed what had worked, and what could be done differently going forward. Some Clubs reported that members were not fully accepting of some advocacy activities, such as completing online petitions.

The topics covered so far include Climate action, Girls Not Brides, and every club participated in several activities associated with the 16 Days of Advocacy.

The Power Point Girls Not Brides was revised and shared with all Area 1 & 4 Clubs.

In the months leading up to the 16 Days of Activism, Areas 1 and 4 were able to share resources, and in some cases, support each other's activity. A full report is with each Club and an Area report published in NewsFlash.

Our current topic is financial literacy for women.

**Financial Literacy** is the ability to understand and effectively use various financial skills. Financial literacy is the foundation of your relationship with money, and it is a lifelong journey. In a discussion paper by Economic Security for Women (ES4W), it stated that many of the problems identified in women's financial security are linked to financial literacy.

Area Advocacy committee has identified many age groups which are vulnerable to financial crisis. These include School age to first job, 18–25-year-olds, motherhood and superannuation, mature aged working women, and seniors. Women in a financial crisis includes causes such as health, loss of work, relationship breakdown and family violence.

Many peak bodies who care for women in Domestic or Family violence crisis have a program to assist with financial education.

There are considerable resources available for women and girls to access on the topic of Financial Literacy, including on banking websites and partner organisations such as MoneySmart.gov. Many of these resources are attached to services which are tertiary (that is reacting to the plight of women) rather than primary (preventative).

There are many types of domestic and family violence. They could include physical violence as well as emotional abuse and financial abuses. Financial abuse is a form of domestic and family violence where the abuser uses money or finances to control the other person.

Women are being alerted to these resources as a *result* of their contact with these services, rather than knowing of their existence *prior* to a crisis. A major focus of this issue is to empower women and girls through financial awareness and education.

- How do we make women more aware of these resources?
- How do women protect themselves from financial abuse?
- What happens when you give access to your accounts to others? And for seniors, how can you protect yourself from elder financial abuse?
- Can Zontions advocate for government policy related to banking, credit card misuse, and Buy now Pay Later (BNPL) regulations?
- Can Zonta be a leader in promoting the conversation around women and girls having access to information on women's full financial empowerment and wellbeing?
- Can Zonta partner with another organisation to spread the message?

This topic will be continued.

Beverley Devidas

Chair, Area 1 & 4 Advocacy Committee.

## Something to watch

**Books that Made Us** ABC iView, 3 episode

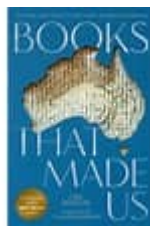
Acclaimed actor Claudia Karvan embarks on an extraordinary literary adventure to explore the stories that have shaped our nation's identity.

In a 'who's who' of Australian storytelling, Claudia meets some of our most beloved and brilliant writers, finds out their secrets, and experiences Australia through the place, its people and the power of our stories.



## Something to Read

**Books that Made Us** Carl Reinecke



**A cultural history of Australia told through our fiction.**

Australia's novels lie at the heart of the country. Capturing everyday lives and exceptional dreams, they have held up a mirror to the nation, reflecting the good and the bad. In this companion book to the ABC TV series, Carl Reinecke looks at the history of Australian culture through the books we have read and the stories we have told.