



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

Yarra Yarns Vol. 8 Autumn 2022

Free to explore!



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Notes from the President

Autumn already and chilly mornings but considered the best months in Melbourne. We haven’t experienced a “Winter Freedom” for two years and I’m looking forward to wearing winter clothes and boots at lots of Zonta Events in person.



In March we were notified that our three Zonta clubs in Eastern Ukraine were requesting assistance to help refugees fleeing from the war.

ZCMOY raised \$925 and combined with the Mont Albert North Probus Club donations of \$575, we sent \$1500 to help Ukraine.

Zonta members have helped with Birthing Kit assembly days at Ivanhoe Girls’ Grammar School and at Mirvac in the city and a planned event in June at Xavier College. The club has also purchased 600 kits to be assembled at three separate events during May at member’s homes. In March MOY took part in the inaugural Festival of Women event held on the Richmond Estate with a display table. We are hoping to expand our display next year as the festival was very well attended.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in April and the new Board was approved, comprising President Gillian Wilton, Vice President Caroline Kettle, Treasurer Jasmine Koch, Secretary Celia Chang, Correspondence Secretary Gail Neil and Directors Julie Pincombe, Sue Lees, Wendy Cameron and Devika Fernando. Our guest speaker at the General Meeting was MOY member, Sue Lees. Sue spoke about her journeys through many countries all with different expectations, difficulties and results and the amazing women she has met along the way, from Australia, Asia, Africa, and back. This experience emphasised how important it is to educate women and invest in women as they see the big picture and are constant thinkers and problem solvers.

Delegate Jennifer Marriott and Alternate Jasmine Koch were approved by members to represent the club at the Zonta International Hamburg Convention in June 2022.

New member, Sally Caruana was inducted at the April meeting. Sally spoke about empowering women in the building and construction industry and her role with SHEforce.



District 23 Governor, Sandra Burns was welcomed into the club as a transferring member from ZC Perth WA. Sadly, we are farewelling two members Connie Honaker and Margie Cutler. We wish them well and when the timing is right, we hope to see them again as MOY members.

A generous donation was again received from Debby Blakey to be put towards the Women Taking Climate Action Award as well as other club education awards. Debby’s earlier donation for the 2022 YWPA award went to Mia Salomon from Ivanhoe Girls’ Grammar and will be presented to Mia at an assembly in May. Many thanks to Debby for her continuing support.

As President, on behalf of members, I wrote to candidates for the Federal Election in the Electorates MOY is mostly active. I asked for their position on key issues affecting women such as affordable housing, stopping men’s violence, wage justice, first nations voice enshrined in the constitution, climate change, affordable child care, treatment of asylum seekers, integrity and accountability of elected officials.

The May meeting for 2022 saw the induction of the new MOY Board for 2022-2023. We were also very pleased to welcome as our guest speaker for the evening, our own member, Jennifer Ray who spoke about her quilting expertise, experiences and the many different quilting styles from all around the world. Jennifer and Wendy Cameron brought along several quilts to display their wonderful work. Members were asked to bring to the meeting any US dollars they may have left over from overseas trips to be collected for Atauro Island, Timor Leste. This amount will be delivered through the Zonta Club of Albury via Libby Hosking, Justice Group Albury.

A fellowship event is planned for Sunday 22nd May to visit the Johnston Collection with a high tea afterwards at the Pullman on the Park.

After two aborted attempts during the pandemic we have at last locked in our ZEDx Interior Design Masterclass with Queensland based Interior Designer, James Robertson. The event will be held on Saturday 16th July, 10.30-4.30 pm at the Mount Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Road, Mount Waverley. Please spread the word as this is a great opportunity to unleash your creativity. More information and flyers to be sent out soon.

On behalf of the club members, I would sincerely like to thank our Editor for the past several years, Kay Stewart, for producing excellent newsletters with lots of added interesting articles. Kay will soon transition into her role as ZI District 23 Governor (and welcome to Celia Chang as our new editor). Finally, thank you to all members who have supported me in the role as President for the past two years and best wishes to Gillian and her executive team for 2022-2023.

Julie Pincombe, President

Upcoming Events

- June 4** Birthing Kits (folding plastic) - Jennifer Ray
- June 10** Birthing Kits Assembly with Xavier College
- June 11** Birthing Kits—Sharon Karasmanis
- June 25-29** Zonta International Hamburg Convention
- July 16** ZEDX Interior Design Masterclass with James Robertson
- August 27** Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Mirvac National Community Day Volunteers Pack Birthing Kits

Every year, Mirvac hosts a National Community Day where staff pause their day-to-day work to bring some energy and effort to help a wide variety of causes.

This year, on the 4th of May, Mirvac's Melbourne based Build-to-Rent team decided to spend their Community Day assembling Birthing Kits with Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra. Yvonne, Julie and Caroline went along to assist. The team, all in blue Mirvac volunteer polo shirts, quickly mastered string cutting, plastic folding and birthing kit packing. They managed to pack 400 kits in total.

They learnt about the difference a Birthing Kit makes to women in developing countries and about the work Zonta does. Yvonne, Julie and Caroline learnt about Mirvac's support for volunteering and their National Community Day when they provide unlimited, fully paid volunteer leave for employees as well as about Mirvac's workplace culture and its inspiring approach to flexible work, and putting the employee first. In 2022, Mirvac is ranked No.1 globally for Gender Equality by Equileap, as well as a winner of the AFR BOSS 2022 Best Places to Work.

This was a great way for our club members to meet some of the Mirvac team, and equally for the Mirvac team to connect with a local Zonta club, forming a long-term relationship.



P.S—the young volunteer (second on the right) is Yvonne's granddaughter Sienna!

Young Women in Public Affairs Award 2022

The 2022 YWPA award for the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra is **Mia Salomon** from Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School.

Mia was chosen because, according to the YWPA criteria, she had the strongest application according to leadership, particularly proactive leadership and taking opportunities to support and benefit others. Mia has undertaken an international exchange in Laos, spending time with amputees and teaching English. Mia is particularly involved in lifesaving and has already committed to improving the community perception of female lifesavers and encouraging young women to have the confidence to become lifesavers. Mia has already shown that she is prepared to act on her concerns in a number of areas.

We had applications from access different school sectors – private schools, high schools, Catholic schools and a Muslim school. Each application was excellent and it is inspiring to get to know some of these young women who will undoubtedly be great leaders of the future. Thank you to judges – Bev Devidas, Christine Fitzherbert and Gail Neil for tackling a difficult but exceedingly worthwhile task, to evaluate all the applications.

Sue Lees attended a school assembly Monday 16 May to talk about the YWPA award. We also look forward to Mia speaking to the club at the August Awards dinner.

'We love Zonta'

The 'Yarra Riverkeeper' is an important conservation/ environmental position in the community. "They advocate for the river: for green spaces, for water quality, for biodiversity, for the birds, animals, insects and reptiles along the river, for good planning decisions, for the tributaries, for the parklands, for appropriate recreation; and for an understanding of our river and its role in the life of the city of Melbourne. They lobby governments and educate the community. They tell the story of the river."

(The back-story to this article's title: Sue was at a conservation event with Terri, Kate and Charlotte - we were having photos taken and I asked for one with these 3 amazing women, telling them that I would like to publish the photo for Zonta Says Now and Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra. The response was - led by Terri - "Of course - we love Zonta").



From Left to Right: Terri Butler - Federal Member for Griffith Qld & Shadow Minister for Environment & Water; Sue Lees - ZCMoY member; Kate Thwaites - Federal Member for Jagajaga; and Charlotte Sterret – who has just been appointed first female 'Riverkeeper' of the Yarra (Birrarung).

Birthing Kit sessions at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School

On 4 and 11 March, Sharon Karasmanis, Julie Pincombe, Yvonne Lockwood and Sue Lees helped the Year 12 students at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School to complete 600 kits.

Preceding the assembly sessions was an information talk on Wednesday 16 February. Dr Debbie Langford, a GP with specialist gynaecology training and Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School past student, spoke via Zoom from Karratha in Western Australia, to the girls about her experience using birthing kits in remote Nepal to help deliver babies, and how important access to a clean, sterile birthing kit was for the chances of survival for mother and child.

For these students this combination of information and activity provided very effective education about the reality of giving birth for many women in the world, and showed that small individual actions can have great outcomes - one kit can improve at least 2 lives directly and many others indirectly.

Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar is embedding the birthing kit sessions into their VCE program with Year 11s fundraising and then, as Year 12s, completing the birthing kits.

We look forward to working with the Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School students and staff again in 2023.



Sue Lees explaining birthing kits to Year 12 students at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar.

Zonta International news

Let Us Learn Madagascar continues to empower girls through education

Let Us Learn is designed to empower the most vulnerable girls in Madagascar through equitable access to quality learning opportunities. The program targets children who are transitioning from primary to lower secondary school and supports them to complete lower secondary school.

Through Let Us Learn, which Zonta International has supported since 2016, UNICEF works with communities, governments and partners to remove barriers to girls' education and promote gender equality in education in the country's most challenging regions.

Find out more at:

https://www.zonta.org/Web/News_Events/Articles/Let_Us_Learn_Madagascar_continues_to_empower_girls_through_education.aspx

Mother's Day Proclamation for Peace by Julia Ward Howe 1870

Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or of tears! Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies, our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause.

"Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says, "Disarm, disarm! The sword is not the balance of justice." Blood does not wipe out dishonour nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each learning after his own time, the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.



MOTHER'S DAY
PROCLAMATION
by Julia Ward Howe

International & Australia

27 May - 3 June	National Reconciliation Week
5 June	World Environment Day
20 June	World Refugee Day
3 - 10 July	NAIDOC Week

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

Financial Literacy for Women

Financial literacy is the ability to understand and effectively use various financial skills. Financial education to promote economic sustainability for women, will empower women and girls to manage their financial future, and their quality of life.

There are many resources on financial wellness available through women's support agencies. These resources are attached to a service that are tertiary, that is reacting to the plight of women, **rather than primary, or preventative.**

Women are being alerted to these resources as a result of their contact with these services, rather than knowing of their existence **prior to crisis situation.**

Many banks have a lot of information on their websites about financial wellness, and assistance in times of crisis whether it is due to relationship breakup, extended illness, elder financial abuse or family violence. Area Advocacy committee looked at how easy is it to find such information? Many bank websites were reviewed with regard to ease of finding information on joint accounts, elder abuse, financial resources, are there links to other organisations, support in a crisis, or whether they had a quick exit button which also removed the search history?

Some banks refer customers to other bodies such as 1800respect, WIRE but on some bank websites. Some banks have a link from their "home" page, and that is if you think to click on 'Learn More'! Others required up to 16 clicks before you found information on helping people in a crisis including Family Violence.

I believe that Zontians can have a role in advocating and educating women and girls on the impact of financial literacy on their independence throughout their lives.

1. How do we make women more aware of these resources?
2. How do women protect themselves from financial abuse?
3. What happens when you give access to your accounts to others?
4. How can you protect yourself, a friend, or your older self from elder financial abuse?



Discussions around money, religion and politics are generally consider not polite. Indeed, in the opening lines of Podcast titled **Money Power Freedom** produced by the VWT, broaches this topic in the opening lines. I encourage you to listen to the Podcast, hosted by comedian Cal Wilson and journalist Santilla. Through the series, they interview women of all ages, from many backgrounds both culturally, and levels of education. The Podcast explores the lives of women at different stages of their lives and how they react to money, and their own well-being.

Summary of potential actions for Zonta Clubs.

1. Write to head office of banks, and CEO Australian Banking Association, currently Anna Bligh to suggest key wording that makes a search easier to access information, suggest alternate language and languages.

2. And have a quick exit button, and to clear search history.
3. Collaborate with peak bodies like VWT, WIRE to establish those words. Something simple like "Women + money."
4. Lobby for regulation on credit facilities to cover BNPL platforms. See Article in Age on 17th March 2022.
5. Support financial literacy and wellness programs for women of all ages, let's have the conversations. For example, every time a woman opens a bank account, they could be given information on the implications of giving access to their accounts to another person, and information on organisations which offer free services. Workplaces also have a role to play in providing information pathways to financial counsellors.
6. Circulate a poster on key contacts, to stimulate thoughts on financial literacy.

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?

I believe Zonta has a role in drawing women's attention to sources of information about Financial Literacy.

Beverley Devidas, Chair Area Advocacy Committee

Fellowship and a Day Out to The Johnston Collection (Sunday 22 May)

Janet Townsend from the Membership committee organised a visit to the Johnston Collection with 12 Zontians attending. After an introductory cup of tea with fine china, we toured the house in groups of 4, each with a guide. The tour ended in the amazing gift shop, where most of us could not resist buying something. The lovely afternoon was beautifully capped off with a High Tea & a glass of bubbles at the Pullman on the Park. The collection is well worth a visit: (johnstoncollection.org).



wooden antique cheese wheel



Glenda in the hallway

A message from our Fran Quinn Arts Encouragement Award Winner Izzy Skinner:

Hope all is well!

I finished my bachelor VCA degree in jazz in the pandemic and I'm now in my honours year. I released a contemporary violin album a month or two ago and I was wondering if y'all could help me spread the word? It was created in the lockdowns to help keep me sane and I have a professional album review from divide and conquer which will be published on the 23rd of June! I also have some vinyls being made/ approved soon. It's available on Spotify, bandcamp, and most other streaming platforms through Ditto, 7/8 tracks are originally composed and I would love any help or advice you have :)

<https://izzyrskinner.bandcamp.com/releases>

https://open.spotify.com/album/6wK2Ovc2MPSSQAztvs42Q6?si=jwU4Su0_SqyZONXY5IK7AA