



ZONTA

CLUB OF
MELBOURNE
ON YARRA INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

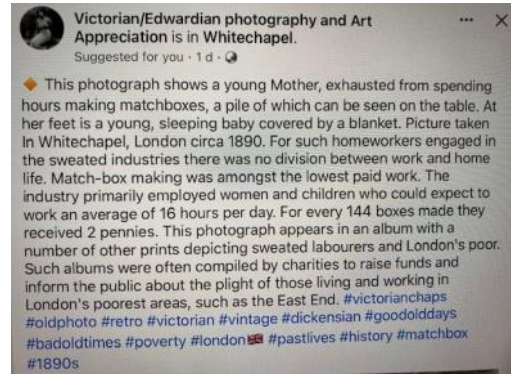
Yarra Yarns

Autumn 2023



In this issue:

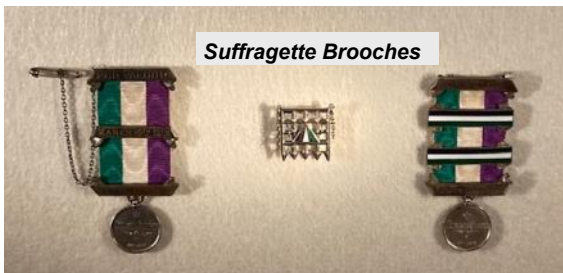
- President's Report
- Upcoming Events & International Women's Day
- No Words Required
- Sister Works "Hire Her" Campaign
- Applications Open: Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award 2023
- Zonta Breast Care Cushion Project
- Coercive Control related to Family Violence
- Photo Gallery
- AYLA (Afghanistan Young Leaders Assembly)
- ZI International News
- Listen & Read



President's Report

Recently, I visited the National Gallery of Victoria to see the Global Life of Design Exhibition. A friend of mine had drawn my attention to the Suffragette Brooches. I was fascinated that these brooches were given in England to Members of the Women's Social & Political Union (1903-1917) on their release from prison. The silver bars represent periods of hunger strikes and the enamel bars (black & white bars on the RHS brooch) represent the periods of forced feeding!

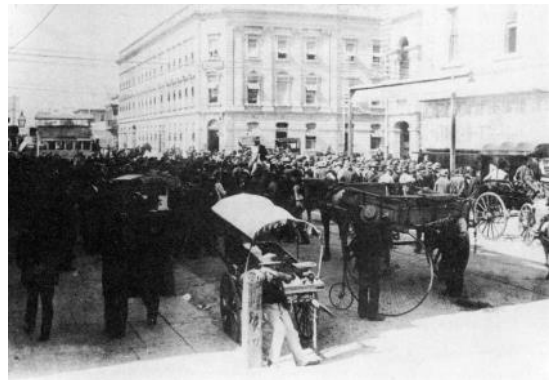
With International Women's Day on March 8th. We need these poignant reminders of the extreme actions these women undertook in order to gain suffrage for their sisters.



Look at the picture of the young mother, working from home in London, circa 1890, exhausted from making matches for a pittance and the young child underneath, asleep! We women have come a long way since then ... but still more to go, with many women and girls in the world having so little freedom as we in Australia are privileged to have!



Here In Australia, in the 19th century, women had very few legal rights. Married women surrendered all property to their husband plus any wages earned. Suffragettes were very active in Australia, notably the two Marys ... Lee & Cotton plus Catherine Helen Spence. I thought Australia was one of the first countries to give the vote to women in 1902, but New Zealand was the first self-governing colony in 1893 to grant women the vote. Australia was quick to follow suit with South Australia in 1894 and Western Australia in 1896. Britain took a longer time giving some women the vote in 1918 and universal suffrage in 1928!



Election day in Adelaide, 25 April 1896 – the first Australian election and referendum in which women could vote

So, when you celebrate on March 8th, take time to ponder on those brave women whom we tend to forget!

Gillian Wilton, President

Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra would like to thank the following for their support:

Community Bank
Windsor



SAFE+ EQUAL

Standing strong
against family
violence



Upcoming Events - Save the Date

18 March Area 1 & 4 Workshop @ Ivanhoe Library
<https://events.humanitix.com/area-1-and-4-meeting-2023>

5 April "Women in Iran" forum @ Ivanhoe Library

1 - 3 Sept District 23 Conference – Bunbury



International Women's Day 2023

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

The UN Women Australia's International Women's Day theme for 2023 is 'Cracking the Code: Innovation for a gender equal future'.



You can find various events here: <https://unwomen.org.au/get-involved/international-womens-day/events/>

No Words Required...



SisterWorks "Hire Her" Campaign

SisterWorks, a previous ZCMOY Local Service Project Award Winner, kicked off their 'Hire Her: Migrant and Refugee Women' campaign with the launch of the 2023 Yarra Trams Community Partnerships Program sponsored tram. The Hire Her campaign seeks to broaden awareness of SisterWorks as a not-for-profit social enterprise and highlight its mission to enable migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking to have the opportunity to be confident, independent and learn new social and vocational skills to improve their economic outlook.

<https://sisterworks.org.au/partnerships/yarratrams/>



Applications now open for Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award 2023

The Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award recognises young women (aged 16 to 19 years old) for their commitment to volunteerism, volunteer leadership achievements and dedication to empowering women worldwide. Application closes 20 March.

To locate a club near you and download an application, please visit: zonta.org/YWPAAward.

Zonta Breast Care Cushion Project

Every six months clubs are asked to report to the D23 Breast Care Cushion Project Coordinator how many cushions have been completed and delivered in the period and a rough estimate of costs.

The following numbers represent how many cushions were delivered during the 2022 calendar year:

	Dec 22	Jun 22	TOTAL
Area 1	741	762	1503
Area 2	1326	1238	2564
Area 3	324	482	806
Area 4	346	376	722
Area 5	105	79	184
	2842	2937	5779

ZC Melbourne on Yarra's contribution for the year was **593** – that's just over 10% of the total! Quite a significant contribution – well done to everyone involved.

Article by Jasmine Koch, D23 Breast Care Cushion Project Coordinator 2022-2024

Coercive Control related to Family Violence: Awareness to Actions

The Zonta Club Melbourne on Yarra (ZC MoY) in their advocacy work, together with Areas 1 and 4 are focused on Coercive Control related to family violence as the first quarter 2023 advocacy theme.



What is coercive control?

Coercive control is an act or pattern of ongoing acts of assaults, threats, humiliation and intimidation that is used to harm, punish, frighten, degrade, exploit, oppress victims and inevitably control that person. Emotional and psychological abuse is inevitably perpetrated. This has a cumulative effect which chips away at a person's/victim's sense of safety, autonomy and independence. For many victims, it feels like they are constantly walking on eggshells, at a minimum.

What behaviours are associated with coercive control?

- Isolating a person from their family and friends.
- Monitoring a person's activities and movement.
- Controlling a person's finances, choice of clothing.
- Limiting or denying a person's access to education opportunities.
- Denying a person's access to their passport.
- Humiliating a person with intention to degrade.
- Threatening to destroy or harm family pets.

This list is not exhaustive. Coercive control is an undercurrent of many family violence situations. It has been identified as a precursor to family violence deaths. Some groups maybe more at risk than others of CC. For example, women with disabilities, and women for whom English is a second language.

Coercive control is/was not a crime in Australia and unless a perpetrator breached an intervention order, they are unlikely to be detected or punished.

The Justice System has not always identified Coercive Control as a factor. The law in Victoria recognises Coercive Control as family violence, and it is a central feature of Victoria's Civil Law Family Violence Prevention Act 2008.

What Legislation is in place?

In Queensland and NSW, Bills for legislation were presented to make coercive control a criminal offence as opposed to a Civil offence. Offenders who are found guilty of subjecting their spouse/partner (as a victim survivor) to physical, sexual, psychological or financial abuse, may face imprisonment up to 7 years.

- NSW- 16 November 2022 legislation was introduced to parliament stating that Coercive control was a stand-alone offence. The legislation was drawn from recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control drawn from 200 written submissions, 30 stakeholder roundtable discussions. implementation period of 14-19 months before laws commence. This is to allow time for training of professionals and support workers to develop services to support victims of family violence including coercive control. It has been identified that victim survivors will need support during the legal proceedings to minimise their trauma of the experience. An additional \$70 million has been allocated to resource these plans.
- Queensland-in October 2022 a first round of legislative reforms was introduced as a Bill to strengthen Qld government's response to coercive control and lay the foundation that it will be a stand-alone offence for coercive control. Other legislative amendments together with system wide reform will occur before a criminal offence of coercive control will be passed with an anticipation date before the end of 2023. Queensland has also planned that law enforcement and other government bodies will undergo extensive training to ensure they can identify, and thoroughly investigate acts of coercive control and will be trialled by police in conjunction with specialised services. An additional \$100 million has been allocated to resource these plans.

What services are in place, and what additional services are needed?

- Family violence services that exist for women and their children, as well as men's change services have a multi focus to address coercive control including therapeutic, support, legal advocacy, housing and health when they work together with women, children and men;
- In promoting change related to family violence and in particular coercive control, the education of women and men and their behaviour is imperative. In promoting attitudinal and behavioural change it is important in our adult behaviour we model the importance of safe, respectful relationships to our children- sons, daughters and grandchildren;
- That the educational curriculum in pre-school, primary and secondary schooling provides learning for children and teenagers as to gender, roles and safe, respectful relationships;
- That we become attuned and aware of community education programs focused on family violence funded by the various levels of government namely Federal, State, local and non-government, in order to educate ourselves and recommend to family and friends.

What can Zontians do to advocate or raise awareness?

- Advocate through writing letters to local MP's for introduction of legislation for laws to criminalise behaviours related to coercive control with the aim to reshape the way that authorities understand, and respond to gendered violence and better hold perpetrators to account;
- The A1 and A4 Advocacy group have developed posters focused on coercive control; it is planned for Zonta clubs and Zontians distribute the posters through their community networks, personal contacts and social media links;
- Advocate by inviting a guest speaker(s) who work in this area and have knowledge of coercive control to speak and inform Zonta members as to this issue at a Club or Area.



Additional Resources

Peak Bodies

- National Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence Counselling Service - 1800RESPECT
- Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)
- Domestic Violence Vic and the DV Resource Centre have united to form 'Safe and Equal' which is Victoria's peak body for family and gender-based violence
- Our Watch [our watch.org.au](http://ourwatch.org.au)
- Safe Steps is Victoria's 24/7 FV Response Centre
- No to Violence, a men's change referral service - ntv.org.au
- Our Watch and Victorian University have partnered in a 5-year plan to help address systematic issues around gender inequality and violence (Nov' 22).

Relevant Groups

- Family Violence Reform Advisory Group provides advice to the Minister for prevention of FV and to relevant departments to realise the vision set out in the FV Reform Act Plan 2023-2023
- Local governments in Vic are required to have prevention of FV in their social policy
- Dept of Health has a 10 year FV Plan
- DVNSW is the peak body in NSW. This group is working to eliminate Domestic and Family Violence through leadership of the specialist DFV sector and NSW policy environment promoting best practice response and primary prevention.

Suggested reading

- 'Not Now Not Ever' edited by Julia Gillard
- 'See What You Made Me Do' Jess Hill
- The Age article 'Command and Control' 11/11/22

Article by Glenda Lapsley and Bev Devidas

Photo Gallery

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle (28 January)



Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted to pull off another successful fundraising/ PR event at Bunnings Hawthorn.



The Bunnings BBQ is a part of this Dad's Saturday morning routine and he was grateful to see the BBQ back after the Christmas holidays.

Breast Cushion Sewing & Stuffing (12 February)



100 breast cushions completed!

AYLA (Afghanistan Young Leaders Assembly) - Go Fund Me

Batol Gholami, a guest speaker for the "Women in Afghanistan" forum, founded AYLA, a volunteer-led organisation that provides online educational courses to university-age women in Afghanistan. Under the Taliban's new regime, most universities, schools and learning centres have closed and women are no longer permitted to attend educational institutions.

AYLA has responded to this challenge by moving to an online school initiative. To support AYLA's work so that current and future female students can continue having access to the classes, donate at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-afghan-girls-get-back-to-education-ayla>

Zonta International news

Engaging Girls on Climate Change in Madagascar

Zonta has supported girls' education in Madagascar since 2016 through the Let Us Learn Madagascar program. For the next two years, Zonta International has committed US\$500,000 to UNICEF USA to support girls and a generation of children and adolescents by providing environmental education in Madagascar through child-friendly schools.



The program's main objectives are to:

1. Enable children to learn in safe and inclusive environments and empower them to take actions to build climate-resilient communities.
2. Support Madagascar in meeting water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sustainable development goals (SDGs), while also contributing to improving the quality of children's education, especially girls, through environmental conservation and education initiatives.

Find out more here: https://zonta.org/Web/Programs/ISP/Engaging_Girls_on_Climate_Change_in_Madagascar

Amelia Earhart Fellowship

The 85th anniversary of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship has taken flight, starting with Amelia Earhart Month!

Watch the panel discussion with three Fellows to explore the connection between climate, energy and the aerospace industry here: https://zonta.org/Web/News_and_Events/Zonta_Videos/Web/News_Events/Zonta_Videos.aspx

LISTEN: The Persian and The Poet

The Persian and The Poet is a series of live-stream events and is a podcast where Cameron Semmens and Ramak Bamzar share poems of love and wonder in English and Farsi!

[Ramak Bamzar](#) is an Iranian-Australian fine art photographer passionately exploring the impact of patriarchy and male desire on the female body and female identity. She has always had a love for poetry and moved to Melbourne from Iran 12 years ago.



[Cameron Semmens](#) has 31 years' experience on the stage and the page, with 27 books to his name. As well as being relentlessly poetic Cameron also does book design, well-being facilitation, and is an undergraduate counsellor.

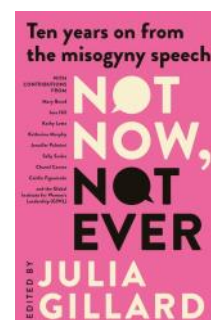
Listen to the podcasts: thepersianandthepoet.podbean.com

READ: Not now, Not ever

On 9 October 2012, Prime Minister Julia Gillard stood up and proceeded to make all present in Parliament House that day pay attention – and left many of them squirming in their seats. The incisive 'misogyny speech', as her words came to be known, continues to energise and motivate women who need to stare down sexism and misogyny in their own lives.

Julia Gillard explores the history and culture of misogyny, tools in the patriarchy's toolbox, intersectionality, and gender and misogyny in the media and politics. Kathy Lette looks at how the speech has gained a new life on TikTok, as well as inspiring other tributes and hand-made products, and we hear recollections from Wayne Swan, Anne Summers, Cate Blanchett, Brittany Higgins and others of where they were and how they first encountered the speech.

Proceeds from the book will go to the Global Institute for Women's Leadership (GIWL).



READ: The Mother Wound

Amani Haydar suffered the unimaginable when she lost her mother in a brutal act of domestic violence perpetrated by her father.

Five months pregnant at the time, her own perception of how she wanted to mother (and how she had been mothered) was shaped by this devastating murder. After her mother's death, Amani began reassessing everything she knew of her parents' relationship. They had been unhappy for so long - should she have known that it would end like this?

A lawyer by profession, she also saw the holes in the justice system for addressing and combating emotional abuse and coercive control. Writing with grace and beauty, Amani has drawn from this a story of female resilience and the role of motherhood in the home and in the world. In *The Mother Wound*, she uses her own strength to help other survivors find their voices.

