



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

Yarra Yarns

May 2023



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The Award for Women Taking Climate Action went to Emma Cutting for The Heart Gardening Project establishing 70 street gardens helping to 'green' Melbourne! School student Phoebe Bourke is the winner of the Young Woman in Public Affairs Award and will be speaking to the Club in August. University student Ansi Aggarwal won the Women in Technology Award, sponsored by Lockheed Martin & is passionate about helping women to excel in STEM.

The Club also hosted the Areas 1 & 4 conference earlier in the year with very interesting topics complete with some belly dancing!

With that lightweight note, I am signing off. Congratulations to new President Caroline Kettle and the new Board for volunteering their services and expertise & for a good Zonta journey. And thank you to all the ZCMoY Club members ... we sometimes forget the members are all volunteers and do an amazing job! Well done ...and Good Luck!

Gillian Wilton, President

President's Report

This is my last Yarra Yarns as President. The Zonta year has gone by quickly and the Club has flourished with a brief high of 35 members, partly due to transferring members from the now defunct Zonta Club of Melbourne East. We warmly welcome them and thank them for choosing our Club! Social activities continue with the "Coffee Meetups" and held on Zoom, our book club, which always has lively discussion. Our present read is "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks.

The Iranian Women's Forum held recently at Ivanhoe Library was very successful with 105 attendees. Thank you to all who helped to organise, particularly Sue Lees. Kylie Moore Gilbert, the author of "The Uncaged Sky: My 804 days in an Iranian prison" also attended.

Unfortunately, the demand for Breast Cushions is increasing. Our Club supplied over 600 to local hospitals last year. The sewers in our Club have been busy and we have already had two Breast Cushion Assembly Days. The Club would like to extend thanks and acknowledge the help from the CWA ladies in Hampton who diligently sew beautiful bags into which we put the Breast Cushions and which also serve as 'drainage bags' holding the surgical drainage bottles. The Club receives many letters of thanks from grateful patients.

Our new Zonta Marquee has arrived, so watch out for photos in the next edition of Yarra Yarns. This has been kindly funded by the Bendigo Windsor Community Bank.

Although Zonta is an International Service Organisation helping to empower women & girls from all walks of life, our Club has a very strong local bias. Our Local Service Award went to the Richmond Girls Club which provides creative & educational opportunities for girls living in public housing. Some of the Art will be entered for the Young Archie Award!



Grants from Bendigo Windsor Community Bank



Areas 1 & 4 Conference



March Awards Night



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



Standing strong
 against family
 violence



Community Bank
 Windsor



Movie Fundraiser - Book Club: The Next Chapter

When: Wednesday 17 May 2023

Where: Hoyts Cinema Victoria Gardens, Burnley St/Victoria St, Richmond

Time: 6.30 pm (to be confirmed closer to date)

Tickets \$25 each (incl. 'Lucky door' prize)

Book tickets and pay online – by Monday 15 May 2023

Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000

A/C Name: Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra

A/C 162221642 (Reference: Movie & your surname)

NB: Tickets will be distributed on the night and no door sales.

4 hours free parking validated at the box office.



About the movie: The highly anticipated sequel follows our four best friends as they take their book club to Italy for the fun girls trip, they never had. When things go off the rails and secrets are revealed, their relaxing vacation turns into a once-in-a-lifetime cross-country adventure.

Zonta District 23 Conference – Bunbury, WA (1 – 3 September)

The 17th District 23 Biennial Conference dates is rapidly approaching. Registration is planned to open in May and there will be an early bird price to save you a few dollars.



There is a great line up of outstanding women speaking at the conference, some of them are:

- Professor Anne Poelina, Co-Chair Indigenous Studies and Senior Researcher at the Nulungu Institute Research University of Notre Dame. She's a Kimberley, Nyikina Warrwa Indigenous woman and Chair, Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council. She's also an advocate for ensuring the Voice represents people in remote communities and wants to help create a bi-cultural conversation that brings people together at the local level.
- Professor Samar Aoun - Researcher and advocate for end-of-life care, bereavement and grief support.
- Megan McCracken - Non-Executive Director with Pacific Energy and the Chair of the Freight and Logistics Council of WA. Megan is a long-time advocate for gender balance in historically male-dominated industries.

Keep up to date via the District Conference newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/4bb849c6d568/district-conference-2023-newsletter-15363610?e=0e8751f94a>

The Voice to Parliament

What is the Voice to Parliament?

Constitutional recognition through a Voice to Parliament is a body enshrined in the Constitution that would enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to provide advice to the Parliament on policies and projects that impact their lives.

A Voice to Parliament gives the Australian Government the opportunity to make policies with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, rather than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. – *Uluru Statement from the Heart*

Why is it important?

A Voice to Parliament will give Indigenous communities a route to help inform policy and legal decisions that impact their lives. Giving people a say will lead to more effective results.

Embedding a Voice in the Constitution would recognise the special place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia's history, but importantly would also mean that it can't be shut down by successive governments. – *Reconciliation Australia*



Resources to help you understand the Voice to Parliament

Reconciliation Australia: A First Nations Voice to Parliament protected by the Constitution is a key element of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation/support-a-voice-to-parliament/>

The Uluru Statement: <https://ulurustatement.org/>

From the Heart: 15 minute module that educates and quizzes you on the Voice.

<https://fromtheheart.com.au/education/#/>

Together, Yes: This campaign has been created by the Victorian Women's Trust to enable many thousands of Australians from all walks of life to play a positive role in securing a YES vote in the 2023 referendum on the Voice to parliament.

<https://togetheryes.com.au/>

The Voice to Parliament Handbook: All the Detail You Need

<https://www.booktopia.com.au/the-voice-to-parliament-handbook-thomas-mayo/book/9781741178869.html>

Multicultural Australia for Voice: Multicultural Australia for Voice is an initiative of multicultural community organisations who want to showcase their support for the Voice to Parliament.

<https://www.multiculturalforvoice.org/>

Australian Government website on the Voice:

<https://voice.gov.au/>

Women In Iran Forum (5 April)

105 people attended the women in Iran forum at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Centre – certainly an impressive turn out, with almost \$2000 raised for Zonta International overseas projects.

Why the enormous interest? As Zonta International has said:

'A threat to the rights of women anywhere is a threat to the rights of women everywhere. Let's lift their voices and demonstrate our support for the Women in Iran, in communities around the world'.

And that is what we did. The women of Iran, from Iran, of Iranian descent and associated with the forum have been delighted that we enabled them to have a voice to Australians, to explain their issues and to feel the solidarity of women around them. This helps them keep moving forward in what is undoubtedly a 'bloody', necessary revolution.

It seemed to start with the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman arrested by morality police in Tehran September 2022 for allegedly violating Iran's strict rules requiring women to cover their hair with a hijab, or headscarf. For Iranians, it was the straw that broke the camel's back, after suffering discrimination and abuse for a long time. In an unprecedented show of support, school girls have also been demonstrating in playgrounds and on the streets. Men and teenage boys have also participated in large numbers and backed the women's demands. There have been demonstrations around the world.



Forum Chair: Nicki Lees, is a social justice lawyer at Maurice Blackburn with extensive experience dealing with female Iranian asylum seekers and women's issues.

Forum speakers:

- Nos Hosseini : Iranian Women's Association. Nos is an Iranian/Australian lawyer, secretary and spokesperson for the Iranian Women's Association, which has existed since the 1990s to promote issues facing Iranian women.
- Nazanin: Feminista Melbourne – spokesperson for a group of young Iranian and Australian people dedicated to promoting the issues for Iranian women through art. Which they did on the evening, explaining their arguments and actions through traditional/contemporary art and design, art on the streets and videos.
- An Iranian asylum seeker explained why she and others have chosen to come to Australia. What it was like growing up as a female in Iran? Why they are not able to return to Iran and why they will not take their daughters back to Iran?

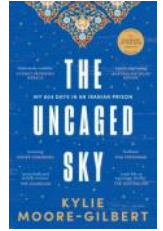


The audience was awakened to the plight of women in Iran, educated about the reality of existence for women in Iran and horrified that in the name of Australia, asylum seeker women

were living without the basic rights we accept as women in Australia, because they are denied access to citizenship.

As well as the panel, another Iranian asylum seeker shared her art - done to signify the horrors she had experienced in Nauru as an asylum seeker, the hopes of freedom she had, and the reality of her existence now as an asylum seeker.

Kylie Moore-Gilbert joined the audience. Kylie, an advocate for Women in Iran after her experience of being detained in women's prisons in Iran, was delighted to be able to be present (due to her close to delivery date!) and signed copies of her book 'The Uncaged Sky' (sold by Fairfield Books on the evening).



Linking the plight of women in Iran with that of Women in Afghanistan (forum held September 2022) was Farkhondeh Akbari, who had also spent time in Iran as a refugee.

Farkhondeh's charity ODS (Organisation for Development Solutions) is selling Afghan handmade rugs, and these were for sale on the evening. (A catalogue will be available soon for the rugs and ZCMoY members will be advised when it is ready).

Supporting the forum were a group of Year 11 students from Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar school. These girls had created the posters, social media posts, helped present the forum speakers and had a dedicated question time. The Year 10 Human Rights class from Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School attended. These young women were involved because the power of young women is one of the single greatest assets that our future world will have. The intelligence – academic and emotional, the concern and understanding of young women, has the power to help other women and other issues across the world. The result of the students' involvement was that they did feel empowered and motivated, awakened to concerns of women around the world by hearing lived experiences. An unexpected outcome was how thrilled the audience were to see the young women involved, how it gave them hope for the future and invigorated their own interest in the issue.

In fact, what we saw for the evening was the power of young women in Iran, from Iran and in Australia – and how exhilarating and positive that was!

Article by Sue Lees

YWPA Award 2023 Winner

The Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra Young Women in Public Affairs Award winner for 2023 is Phoebe Bourke, Year 12 of Sacre Coeur, Glen Iris. Phoebe deserves the award for her dedication of time and interest to a number of areas of social justice, particularly indigenous issues, and support for disadvantaged young people to have access to educational assistance. We look forward to welcoming Phoebe, her family and school staff to the Awards dinner Thursday 10 August and presenting Phoebe the award at a school assembly Thursday 22 June.

Once again, the applications were outstanding and a difficult task for the judges. Thank you to Christine Fitzherbert, Gail Neil, Bev Devidas and Debra Maiden for judging.

Kara Family Violence Service Information Evening

In March, the Kara Family Violence Service (formerly Kara House), invited their supporters/donors to an information evening at Box Hill Golf Club. Jane Davies was invited as President of the Zonta Club of Melbourne's East who have supported Kara House in former years. Julie Pincombe also attended representing ZCMOY. Jane and Julie both wore two hats for this evening, representing The Mont Albert North Probus club as well as Annie Wysham, a passionate supporter of Kara House representing MANProbus.

Kara FVS is a not-for-profit, specialist domestic and family violence service in the eastern metropolitan region of Melbourne. It is part of the Victorian women's refuge service system, offering a range of programs, including temporary refuge accommodation, transitional housing, and outreach support. Their clients are women of all ages, often with young children and come from 46 linguistic and 38 cultural backgrounds.

Shelley Tung, Kara FVS Board Chair, welcomed all donors and organization representatives and thanked them for their ongoing support. We heard from Dr Angela Spinney, an experienced researcher specializing in the marginally housed, social and affordable housing and the housing consequences of domestic and family violence. We also heard from a brave young mother, Geraldine Bilston, another Board member and a victim-survivor of intimate partner violence. She provided a personal insight into the specific needs of the clients.

Chair for the evening was Veronica Coleman, Kara FVS Manager. Veronica shared a presentation featuring the impressive new refuge complex which was built with support of the Victorian State Government and private donors and opened in July 2022. It includes office and meeting spaces, accommodation (including a disability unit), team sleepover area, multipurpose room and kitchen. Children have access to a library and art therapy area. A splendid outdoor space with a BBQ, herb planter boxes, seating and dining area. It includes state of the art security system. Clients usually stay up to 6-8 weeks before given permanent safe placements in the wider community. Overall, this facilitates a better-quality service for the Kara FVS clients in need.

For more information <https://karafvs.org.au>

Article by Julie Pincombe



L-R: Annie Wysham (MAN Probus), Julie Pincombe & Jane Davies.

WATCH: 'Asking For It' with Jess Hill

SBS's ground-breaking new documentary series Asking For It explores the sexual revolution we're all living through: one that's taking us from the 'sexual liberation' of the 1960s and '70s to the era of 'enthusiastic consent'.

Journalist Jess Hill (See What You Made Me Do) returns to SBS with Asking For It, reigniting a national conversation about the epidemic of sexual violence impacting millions of Australians.

From schools to universities, aged care, same-sex relationships, in institutions and at the highest level of government – this series asks: how can we change our rape culture into a consent culture?

<https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/tv-series/asking-for-it>

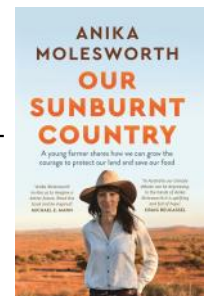


READ: Our Sunburnt Country

Written by Anita Molesworth, a farmer, a scientist and a storyteller of a better future, *Our Sunburnt Country* is a book on climate change and the food system - and it explores both the challenges and the solutions.

Bringing together stories and ideas from farmers, nutritionists, climate scientists, chefs, and social entrepreneurs, the book aims to deliver a compelling vision for improving the food system.

<https://www.anikamolesworth.com/author.html>



LISTEN: Undefeated - Book & Podcast

Undefeated is a collection of 118 stories from 90 migrant women, who against all odds, overcame the challenges and barriers of living in a foreign land, speaking a different language, and being singled out for the wrong reason. It is also a celebration of their journey, their power, and their contribution to a multicultural Australia.

<https://professionalmigrantwomen.com.au/product/undefeated/>



The podcast unfolds the stories of the Undefeated Book - from migrant women, who, against all odds, overcame the challenges and barriers of living in a foreign land.

<https://undefeatedthepodcast.buzzsprout.com/>