



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

Yarra Yarns

February 2024



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President's Report

How nice it was to meet up again at our February meeting after the summer break. I began the meeting with a quick recap of our achievements in 2023. And they were considerable. Each year we make more of everything - more breast care cushions, more birthing kit events, more pamper packs, more sausages cooked! In addition to holding eleven meetings complete with guest speakers and award winners, a couple of social events, running an op shop for a couple of weeks, participating in the 16 Days of Activism walk plus social media posts, promoting advocacy within the club and beyond, we also began using our marquee and banners at Alhington Football Club. I can only reiterate - you all should be very proud of yourselves!

We can also be very proud of having Christine Fitzherbert as a club member. She was recognised in the Australia Day honours receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia for her many years of working in community organisations; just her membership of our club spans over 35 years!



Before our February meeting Julie, Sharon Nelson-Kelly and I met up with Julie Stoneham at the Carlton Football Club. Julie was our guest speaker last November and we wanted to ensure our relationship with the Carlton Football Club and their Carlton Respects program developed. The outcome is we are invited to be part of the group of women's organisations on ground at their Carlton Respects AFLW match later this year. This could only have happened because we have our own marquee, so it was particularly gratifying to announce

this at our February meeting with Jawad Beedar, Manager of the Bendigo Bank Windsor as a guest as the marquee was funded through a Bendigo Bank Community Grant.

Our guest speaker was Nan Caple, a businesswoman and chair of the community arm of the Bendigo Bank, who recounted the time when all the banks began closing their local high street branches to the despair of the local traders and the efforts she and others made to establish a Bendigo Bank in Ivanhoe main street. She also spoke of Bendigo Banks history and operating model, whereby the bank gives 80 percent of its profits to community groups! And not just one-off grants: a considerable portion of their grants are ongoing to provide a sustainable source of funding for worthwhile projects.

This very interesting and educational talk was followed by our 2023 JMK award winner, Paris Watts, a young woman studying business and working as an intern at Deloitte. Her observations on the difference in the number of women working at lower levels and the number at the partner level resonated with us all.

Jasmine Koch presented the draft budget for this coming year and it was comforting to know our finances are in good shape, with no need to raise membership fees this year. We are also to have a stand at the Brisbane Convention in June where we will be selling Zonta socks featuring a koala! More on this to come.

A new year, a new way of doing our coffee catchups. We will have informal catchups at designated cafes in a few different locations where any members can attend. This recognises that, while we meet in Richmond, our members come from all over Melbourne so this will make it easier with less travel time involved.

Wishing you all a happy International Women's Day on Friday 8 March and remember the old Spanish proverb - *To tell a woman everything she cannot do is to tell her what she can.*



Pamper Packs Packing Night (December 2023)

Ashwood Education Encouragement Award 2023 Winner

I had the pleasure of attending the Ashwood High School Presentation night (for the presentation of ZCMoY's Ashwood Education Encouragement Award on Tuesday 21st November 2023).



It was an amazing recognition of student achievement across all areas of learning and community service.

Sadly the recipient of the award from Melbourne on Yarra was unable to attend due to Covid restrictions. However I am able to tell you a little bit about her school journey.

Ella Selby writes - " For all, education is a vital part of human development, a milestone, allowing individuals to participate in society, and to live they life upon the path they choose. In 2024 I am completing 3+4 English, Health and Human Development, Physical Education, Food Studies and Art Making and Exhibiting subjects in Year 12. With my strong passion for health and sport sciences I am interested in completing a health science undergraduate, or a sports science undergraduate at Deakin University, The generous financial aid Zonta has provided my family and I will support me through my final year at school."

Upon receipt of \$750 from our club Ella wrote " I would sincerely like to thank you for this opportunity which has been given to support and assist my access to educational requirements. This will greatly support myself and my family for my final school year. I would also like to apologise for not being present to accept my award last Tuesday as I caught Covid. It means a lot to me to receive this award."

Article by Di Hillman

Calling for Applications: Young Women in Public Affairs Award 2024

Do you know young women, aged between 16-19, who are community minded and would be suitable applicants for the Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award?

Application forms and award information can be accessed at <https://www.zonta.org/> (go to: Our programs - Women in Public Affairs Award - 2024 Award information)

2023 Phoebe Bourke of Sacre Coeur College Glen Iris was winner of the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra (Award amount of \$A1000) and one of 37 international awardees (Award amount \$US5000).

Applications close 18 March. For more information, contact:

Sue Lees, YWPA Coordinator (ZCMoY)

sue.lees@inet.net.au or 0400753007



International Women's Day (8 March)

The official UN International Women's Day theme is '[Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress](#)' which acknowledging women's economic empowerment is central to a gender equal world.



There are **many free events** that you can go to in Melbourne to recognise and celebrate the achievements and contributions of women, here are a few you might be interested in:

Inspiring Girls Australia - [International Women's Day Celebration](#) (28 Feb)

International Women's Day Panel - [Women, Work and Community in Merri-Bek](#) (Brunswick Library) (7 March)

NGV [Women in Art and Design](#) (8 March)

City of Boroondara - [International Women's Day Breakfast](#) (8 March)

[Art + Feminism Wiki Edit-a-thon](#) (Richmond Library) (9 March)

Putting Women into the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

'When the rules are silent, women are not usually considered'
– Jessie Street

In 1945 Australian Jessie Street arrived in San Francisco as part of the Australian delegation for the United Nations Charter Conference. Of the 850 delegates not even one per cent were women. Jessie soon joined forces with the other female delegates and, with the support of Eleanor Roosevelt and after a tough fight, made sure 'sex' was added to 'without distinction as to race, language or religion' to the UN Charter and that the charter provides for conditions of equality in employment for men *and* women.

Soon appointed as Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Jessie quickly realised the potential for women's rights being overlooked in the drafting of the human rights' declaration when the CSW was given a lower status and less resources than the Commission of Human Rights. However, the CSW had won the right to be present at discussion on the declaration. It was startling, but not surprising, that the first draft of the Declaration opened with 'All men are brothers' and was written entirely in the male person. The rights of 'man', 'his' rights without reference to 'woman' or 'her'.

Jessie and her CSW colleagues sprang to the attack. Jessie wanted the language to be expressly inclusive of male and female, at every point. As she had always said, if you do not refer expressly to women, they will be excluded from rights. With support from Mrs Hansa Mehta of India, who sat on Commission of Human Rights, the 'brotherhood' opening was dropped. In its place, Article 1 begins: 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.'

But the victory was limited. Instead of terms such as 'everyone' and 'all persons', and with only mentioning women in a few places, the Declaration doggedly sticks to the male pronoun - 'he', 'him' and 'his rights' throughout.

Jessie and the CSW wanted women to have not only the equal right to marry, but to have equal freedom of choice in marriage and equal rights during marriage and in regard to divorce. Those points were won (Article 16) and Jessie's arguments for a provision on equal pay regardless of sex were taken up in the next (Geneva) draft and remains in the final Declaration (Article 23 (2)). Jessie also wanted the Declaration to make express provision for widows to be entitled to social security and that too is included in the final Declaration (Article 25).

Jessie argued for the Declaration recognising the right of women to freedom from violence, but this argument was lost. Ahead of her time in recognising the significance of this issue for women, the UN finally adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in 1993.

So, thanks to Jessie and her fellow female delegates, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a key Zonta campaign, begins on 25 November - the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ends on the same day the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations - 10 December.

Article by Caroline Kettle



Jessie Smith at the United Nations Conference Charter 1945



Elenor Roosevelt with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

Zonta Says Now

Virtual Art Gallery

Do you have artistic works relating to climate change: how you feel, what is happening? We would be delighted to display then in the Zonta Says Now Virtual Art Gallery.

For more information and to submit your entries (closes 29 February): https://zonta.org/Web/Causes/ZontaSaysNOW/Virtual_Art_Gallery.aspx

You can also check out the [social media video on Instagram](#).



D23 Zonta Says Now

The next meeting is via Zoom on Saturday 17 February, 4pm

The speaker is Catelyn Richards from Climate Action Nurses (<https://www.climateactionnurses.org/>).

Register for the meeting here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckce2gpzkrHNVLqD1CqERiKftyyUnCLAcH#/registration>


Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank

The next meeting is via Zoom on Sunday 18 February, 9pm

Sue Lees was the January speaker, topic was education in relation to climate change and women.

Educate women/girls well and Save the World

- Support peace, development
- In a climate emergency give agency and good education to girls and women for the most immediate results.



Register for the February meeting here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqc-Chrz4sHNwAQtkR39R-jStJsigvnWHn#/registration>



International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March)

21 March (Harmony Day) is also the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.



[UN Women Australia](#) “recognise that racism affects people of colour in many different ways, and that those at the intersection of discrimination based on race and gender are often hit the hardest. Black, Indigenous and women of colour are among the most marginalised in our society. They often do not have equal access to healthcare, education or justice systems; they are more vulnerable to trafficking and violence; suffer disproportionately from discriminatory labour practices; and are over-represented in low-wage, informal employment sectors”.

Here are some organisations in Australia that supports women from culturally diverse backgrounds through different initiatives:

- [Women of Colour Australia](#) (WoCA) is a not-for-profit organisation founded, led, and run by Women of Colour for Women of Colour. We exist to champion Australia’s Women of Colour through programs of education, community support initiatives, and advocacy work.
- [Professional Migrant Women](#) is an organisation that helps migrant women overcome employment obstacles by providing professional development, social participation, career progression, and access to leadership development
- [The Creative Co-Operative community projects](#) create spaces to amplify Women and People of Colour, directly driving anti-racism.
- Australian Human Rights Commission - [Racism. It Stops With Me](#) is a national campaign that provides tools and resource to help people and organisations learn about racism and take action to create change.

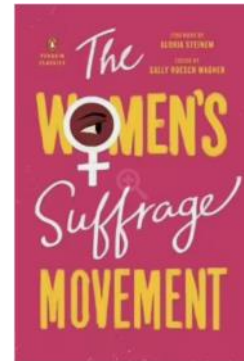


- The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights is currently running a Anti-Vilification and Anti-Racism Survey and inviting people to share your experiences to reduce racism and religious hatred (closes 29 Feb): <https://engage.vic.gov.au/anti-vilification-and-anti-racism-survey>

Recommended Reads for International Women’s Day

Park Avenue Summer by Renée Rosen

New York City is filled with opportunities for single girls like Alice Weiss, who leaves her small Midwestern town to chase her big-city dreams and unexpectedly lands a job working for the first female editor in chief of Cosmopolitan magazine, Helen Gurley Brown.



The Women’s Suffrage Movement

by Sally Roesch Wagner

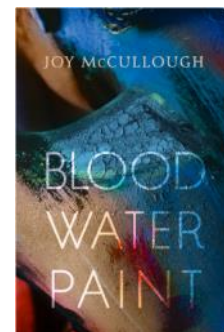
An intersectional anthology of works by the known and unknown women that shaped and established the suffrage movement, in time for the 2020 centennial of women's right to vote.

Blood Water Paint by Joy McCullough

A debut novel based on the true story of the iconic painter, Artemisia Gentileschi. Her mother died when she was twelve, and suddenly Artemisia Gentileschi had a stark choice: a life as a nun in a convent or a life grinding pigment for her father's paint. She chose paint.

By the time she was seventeen, Artemisia did more than grind pigment. She was one of Rome's most talented painters, even if no one knew her name.

But Rome in 1610 was a city where men took what they wanted from women, and in the aftermath of rape Artemisia faced another terrible choice: a life of silence or a life of truth, no matter the cost.



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



Community Bank Windsor

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