



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

Yarra Yarns

February 2025



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President's Report

Welcome back to another active club year.

Looking back to the last few months of 2024, I like to acknowledge our successful 16 Days of Activism thanks to the many members who helped make it so, particularly Veena Barsiwal's N.O.A.B.U.S.E campaign as well as those members who curated and posted so much social media content over the 16 Days.

In December, we then had yet another highly productive and enjoyable Pamper Packing evening, with plenty of products to pack thanks to members' donations, goods donated by Berlei and Natio and those purchased through a generous grant from Yarra City Council.

While our club did not host an Amelia Earhart event in January, some members attended the Zonta Club of Melbourne's West Amelia Earhart Celebration starting with a visit to the Point Cook RAAF Museum followed by afternoon tea. Funds raised support the Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowships.

We started our 2025 club activities with a sausage sizzle at Bunnings on Australia Day, organised by the ever-capable Wendy. Then we had our first breast care cushion assembly day in February, which was a record-breaker with over 170 cushions produced. And so timely, as the demand has increased from all the centres we supply, and we now also supply Monash Breast Care at Moorabbin Hospital.

Our first club meeting for 2025 was in February and it was lovely to see so many members again. Our guest speaker, Dr Deb Langford, spoke of her work as a GP specialising in obstetrics in remote areas of Nepal. Among the many things we learnt from Deb, one was how important the birthing kits we and others make are for a safer and cleaner birth for both mother and child.



L-R: Caroline Kettle, Guest Speaker Dr Deb Langford, and Sue Lees

Coming up we have a membership event already scheduled for April. This is a visit to the Immigration Museum and follows on from last year's tour of the State Library and visit to the Johnston Collections Inspired by Women exhibition. Thanks to membership committee for organising these events.

And of course, we have another round of awards to look forward to. We'll get to meet our 2024 Women Taking Climate Change winner and 2024 JMK Women in Business Award winner at our March meeting. Our 2024 Frances Quinn award winner can't attend this meeting (as rehearsing with the MSO takes precedence) but she and her cello will open one of our meetings soon.

Meanwhile the Young Women in Leadership Award (previously the Young Women in Public Affairs) is open and there's a few more awards to come. Thanks to all who help promote our awards plus help select the winners, which is never an easy task.

All our committees do a great job, but I also like to acknowledge club members who also hold additional Area and District roles: Christine Fitzherbert who is the D23 By-Laws and Resolutions Committee Chair, Jasmine Koch who is the D23 Breast Care Cushions Project Coordinator, Yvonne Lockwood who is the D23 Area 1 Director and Deborah Maiden who is our Area 1 Club Advocacy Representative: the extra efforts made by these members is much appreciated.

I've now been a Zonta member for 10 years and the time has gone by very quickly and enjoyably. I never thought I ever get my head around the many Zonta byways and bylaws but I beginning to see the light!



Caroline Kettle (L) receiving her Long Service Award (10 yrs).

I always look forward to our meetings and the March awards night is always a special one. While it's not being held on International Women's Day, we're going to celebrate by dressing in the suffragette colours so see you there in purple, green and/or white on the night!

The colours of the suffragette movement

Purple: Symbolized loyalty, constancy, and dignity



White: Symbolized purity and the quality of purpose



Green: Symbolized hope and spring

Caroline Kettle, President

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

At our Bunnings Sausage Sizzle fundraiser held on Australian Day we were able to witness and share in the delight, happiness and kindness conveyed by several people who purchased our sausages:

- The partner of a young couple announced he was purchasing for his partner her first Aussie sausage to celebrate just becoming an Australian citizen. She said Aussie sausage sizzles were the best with real white bread, sauce not ketchup and complete with onions. We were just as excited to hear of their news as they were; with great fun and laughter, numerous photos were taken between ourselves and the couple as memories of the day.
- Another buyer of our sausages was a Bunnings employee who announced he had gotten married the night before and was looking forward to his obligatory sausage as a married person (we were amazed he was at work rather than on his honeymoon but I guess work sometimes has to take first place).
- We were also able to witness the kindness of a purchaser pay for a sausage for a person who was struggling to get

his phone to link to the 'white box' and also whose first language wasn't English. The offer to pay by the next person in the queue was an especially kind gesture and it also being on Australia Day- possibly a representation of our multi cultural society and kindness and respect of and towards others.

Contributed by Glenda Lapsley

Zonta D23 Service Project – Breast Care Cushions

As D23 project coordinator, I ask clubs to provide me with breast cushion production and distribution information on a six-monthly basis. I am happy to say that 26 of the 26 clubs participating in the project submitted a report for the six months ended 31 December 2024.

Approximately 3000 were distributed for the period.

That makes it close to 6000 for the calendar year ended 31 December 2024.

I really appreciate the fabulous support this project receives, and I know the recipients of the cushions are very grateful. As a club we receive lots of great feedback and generous donations to support the ongoing production of cushions.

It also a great fellowship activity. Jenny Ray's record-breaking sewing day with her golf friends is a testament to that. Wendy Cameron, also a member of the golf group, mentioned to me that this activity gave the ladies a sense of community and great satisfaction.

I have set out below the totals by Area with a comparison to the prior year.

ZC MOY was the most prolific, making 963 cushions for the year. That's AMAZING!

	Jan-Jun e 2024	July - Dec 2024	TO- TAL 2024	Jan-Jun e 2023	July - Dec 2023	TO- TAL 2023
Area 1	787	959	1746	752	659	1411
Area 2	1066	1221	2287	989	1142	2131
Area 3	612	366	978	419	521	940
Area 4	430	392	822	342	486	828
Area 5	102	47	149	95	67	162
TO- TAL	2997	2985	5982	2597	2875	5472

Note: Effective 1 July 2024, ZC Geelong 120 cushions included in Area1 total. Previously it was included in Area 4.

Contributed by Jasmine Koch, D23 Zonta Breast Care Cushion Project Coordinator

Zonta Says Now

Zonta Says Now Australia benefits from having a strong contingent of Zonta Australia executive members. This means that Zonta Says Now and Zonta Australia can make sure that goals of the two subsets of Zonta International remain closely aligned.



At the February Think Tank, we discussed the upcoming 2025 Federal Election and the issues that Zonta Says Now members would consider important to advocate in the election period.

Zonta values advocacy. It is partisan. Not aligned with any political party but strives to influence political decisions to be areas concerning women. This means that the issues do not only have to be just issues that directly affect – they can also be areas of society, economics and politics that cause concern for women.

From this criterion the major areas of concern for Zonta Says Now during the 25 Federal election campaign:

Gender-Based Violence

A core component of Zonta advocacy already, it is still a societal problem that increases when there are extra stresses caused by climate change, such as natural disasters and rising temperatures. December speaker Dr Catherine Trundle particularly outlined the effects of increased heat.

- [Meeting video](#) [1:14:02] (with Dr Catherine Trundle, medical anthropologist specialising in heat stress and climate justice from 6:41)
- [Slides](#) [pdf]
- [November Update](#) [pdf]

The wellbeing of future generations

That we need a legislative framework that ensures that intergenerational equity and wellbeing are considered in government and other public decision-making. That there is a duty on government and public bodies to consider the long-term impact of their decisions in terms of climate change and future well-being on our present and future young people. That there is an independent statutory commissioner for future generations to make sure everything this act is trying to achieve is achieved.

- [Meeting video](#) [1:11:46] (with Anjali Sharma, Climate activist, lead litigant in Sharma vs Minister for the Environment from 5:58)
- [Slides](#) [pdf]
- [September Update](#) (pdf)

Dr Sophie Scamps is supporting Anjali's generation and now trying to get support for a bill to protect future generations.

Homelessness

Homelessness is particularly an issue for older women and is a subject of concern for many Zontians. When women lose accommodation through natural disasters etc they often have less financial capacity than men to recover financially.

Other updates:

International Women's Day meeting for Melbourne on Yarra 7pm Thursday 13 March

One of the speakers will be Jane Baker, winner of the District 23 Women Taking Climate Action Award.

Zonta Australian Think Tank

The Australian Think Tank will usually meet on the second Saturday of 'even-numbered' months, unless otherwise indicated. If you would like to join the Australian Think Tank mailing list, please click here: [JOIN](#).

The April meeting will be Sunday 13 April.

Our guest speaker will be A/Professor Carly Cook, Head of the Conservation Management Research Group at Monash University.

Please note your meeting times:

1 pm -2.30 pm in WA

2.30 pm-4.00 pm in SA and NT

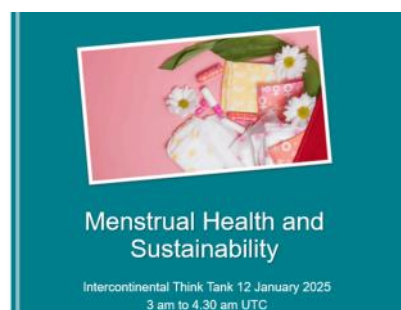
3.00 pm-4.30 pm in Qld, Vic, Tas, NSW, ACT

[Register here for Sunday 13 April meeting](#)

Intercontinental Think Tank

In the 2024-2026 biennium, meetings will be held in every 'odd-numbered' month. [Download pdf of meeting dates and registration links](#).

The January Intercontinental meeting was a fascinating presentation about the problem of sanitary items being difficult to dispose of, particularly in Global South nations – such as Nepal and what can be done to create sustainable menstrual products than can break-down in the environment.



Virtual Art Gallery

Zonta Says Now is asking for submissions for the Virtual art Gallery. If you have photos or artistic items that can be associated with climate change, you are encouraged to put in a submission. [Link to Virtual Art Gallery](#).

Contributed by Sue Lees

ZCMOY Sponsored \$500 Science Award

In December 2024 before the Christmas holidays began, I had the honour of attending the [Worawa Aboriginal College](#) end of year celebration and graduation ceremony, to present the 2024 ZCMOY sponsored \$500 Science Award to the winner Akia-Marie Lake (Year 9 student). The Science Award was one of 12 awards presented by sponsors, to students who had either excelled or shown potential in the nominated field.

Our winner Akia-Marie (age 15) is from the Kalano community in Katherine, NT, and is fortunate to have her younger sister Akeima (age 13) attend the College as well. Both girls were extremely excited to have their proud parents and younger brother travel down from Katherine, to attend the event and the graduation of four senior students.

Thanks to ZCMOY club member Sue Lees and her vast community and education-related connections, we announced at our September ZEDx First Nations Women's Hear their Voices forum, that our club would support this award.

Worawa Aboriginal College is Victoria's first and only Aboriginal school, which originally opened as a co-ed school in Frankston in 1983. Over the years the school decided to transition and specifically cater exclusively for girls. This was in recognition of the limited availability of educational programs tailored to meet the needs of Aboriginal girls within the education sector at large.



Akia-Marie (L) and Auntie Lois Peeler (R)

Since 2010, the College provides a holistic education and boarding experience for young Aboriginal women (Years 7-12), who come from Aboriginal communities in urban, regional and remote Australia. Over the years the College has been transformed and the curriculum strengthened under the guidance and love of former leader [Auntie Lois Peeler \(now Elder in Residence\)](#). From 2023, the passion and expertise of Executive Director/ Principal Tanya Peeler leads the College to grow, support and empower up to 35 young Aboriginal women, to flourish in a bi-cultural, learning environment.

It was a privilege and up-lifting experience, to see how education in a supportive, culture-led, learning environment, has helped shape the future of these young Aboriginal women. You go girls – chase your dreams and help others in your community to flourish.

Contributed by Sharon Nelson-Kelly, Chair Fundraising ZCMOY

Ashwood Education Encouragement Award

On Thursday 28th November I had the pleasure of attending the Presentation Night at Ashwood High School. It was a wonderful recognition of student achievement across all areas of student learning and school participation.

The award of \$1000 from the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra went to Maddisen Rado. This award is presented to a female year 11 student who displays high academic aspiration and effort, to assist with educational requirements for her final year of study.

Maddisen was also presented with the Year 11 Academic Award for demonstrating the greatest dedication, commitment, perseverance and effort across all areas of her studies. Maddisen also received two year 11 subject awards for achieving the highest level of academic achievement in both Health and Human Development and Psychology.

The evening concluded with Maddisen being presented with the House Champion Trophy for her House of Flynn.

As evidenced by these awards, Maddisen was a most worthy recipient of our award and assured me it would be of great assistance in Year 12. She asked me to pass on her sincere thanks for making the award possible. Dr Brett Moore, school principal, also sincerely thanked the club for this very generous offer.



L-R: Di Hillman, Maddisen Rado

Maddy has very proud parents and a younger sister who is also at Ashwood High School. She enjoys cheerleading and dancing in her spare time and spending time with friends. Maddy plans on going to University after year 12 and would love to study health sciences and eventually become a dietician. Her favourite subject at school is Health.

It was a delight to meet Maddy and congratulate her on such wonderful achievements.

Contributed by Di Hillman

Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award 2025

Do you know any young women aged between 16-19 who would be a good candidate?

Application forms and award information can be accessed at <https://www.zonta.org/YWLA>

Application deadline: Monday 17 March 2025

For more information, contact

Sue Lees YWLA

Coordinator sue.lees@iinet.net.au 0400753007

Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra



2025

ZONTA YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

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

1 APPLICATION, 2 OPPORTUNITIES

Club award AU\$1,000 37 international awards US\$5,000 each

Applications must be received by the applicant's local Zonta club's deadline. To locate a club near you and download an application, please visit: [zonta.org/YWLA](https://www.zonta.org/YWLA).

CLUB DEADLINE:
Monday 17 March 2025

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:
Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra
info@zontamelbourneonyarra.org.au

The Young Women in Leadership Award is a Zonta International program funded by contributions to the Zonta Foundation for Women. Zonta International is a leading global organization of individuals working to build a better world for women and girls.

Zonta ZEDx: Women in Africa

Fighting Poverty with Education – Gemma Sisia in Tanzania

Founded by Australian humanitarian Gemma Sisia in 2002, The School of St Jude is one of the largest charity schools in Africa, providing free scholarships to 100% of its 1,800 primary and secondary school students every year.

The Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra is excited to share the enormous impact that has been achieved at the school and to host a wonderful female leader. Gemma's vision and effort have enabled improved opportunities and lives for many young people and families, particularly helping to build a better world for women and girls in Africa.

Gemma and a graduate of the school, John Stanley – now an environmental conservationist in Tanzania, and Winnie Nemes – now working at the school, will be joining us to share firsthand the incredible impact the school has had on students, the local

community and Tanzania.

The school not only provides education but plays a significant role improving economic, social and health outcomes for families. The school supports the local community through jobs, where 98% of all staff are Tanzanians. St Jude's graduates who have committed to a year of community service have taught more than 112,000 students at local government schools.

6.00pm – 8.00pm Monday 24 February 2025

Venue: Theatre, Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Centre

275 Upper Heidelberg Rd Ivanhoe

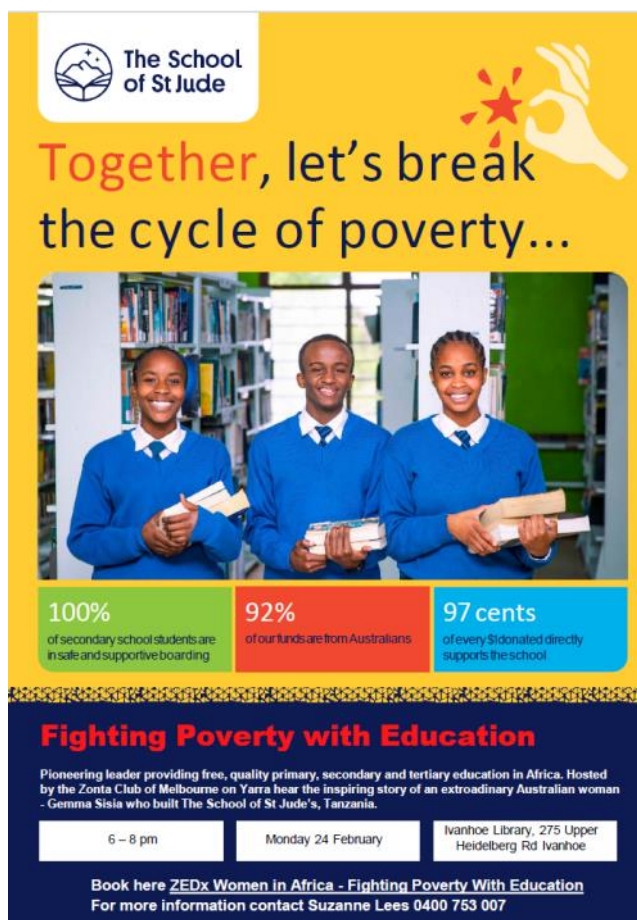
Tickets \$25 adult, \$15 student

Book here: <https://events.humanitix.com/zedx-women-in-africa-fighting-poverty-through-education-gemma-sisia-in-tanzania>

Funds raised support The School of St Jude's

Enquiries: Suzanne Lees 0400753007

For more information about Zonta and a ZEDx: <https://zontamelbourneonyarra.org.au/wp1/events/>



The School of St Jude

Together, let's break the cycle of poverty...

100% of secondary school students are in safe and supportive boarding

92% of our funds are from Australians

97 cents of every \$ donated directly supports the school

Fighting Poverty with Education

Pioneering leader providing free, quality primary, secondary and tertiary education in Africa. Hosted by the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra hear the inspiring story of an extraordinary Australian woman - Gemma Sisia who built The School of St Jude's, Tanzania.

6 – 8 pm Monday 24 February Ivanhoe Library, 275 Upper Heidelberg Rd Ivanhoe

Book here [ZEDx Women in Africa - Fighting Poverty With Education](https://events.humanitix.com/zedx-women-in-africa-fighting-poverty-through-education-gemma-sisia-in-tanzania)
For more information contact Suzanne Lees 0400 753 007

International Women's Day - 'March Forward'

UN Women Australia has announced its official theme for International Women's Day 2025: 'March Forward'.

Held on 8 March each year, International Women's Day in 2025 will commemorate 30 years since 189 countries unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for gender equality in 1985. It is considered a key global policy document on gender equality.



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:

- Art+Feminism Wiki Edit-a-thon (Richmond): This event will address the critical issues surrounding the visibility of female and female identifying artists and their contributions within in the arts. Participants will learn editing skills and contribute to Wikipedia articles, using library and archival resources to support the editing process. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/artfeminism-wiki-edit-a-thon-tickets-1106785919479>
- Zone Red by Yandell Walton – Art Exhibition (Edinburgh Gardens): Zone Red confronts the urgent reality of climate change by visually embodying the countdown to a critical moment in our planet's future. This artwork embodies a duality: it is a call to action rooted in the alarming realities of climate science, yet it also carries the promise of hope, underscoring the potential for human ingenuity and collective effort to create meaningful change before it is too late. <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/arts/events/zone-red-yandell-walton>
- Darebin Libraries (Northcote): Join us for live music from Kimberly Atkinson followed by a screening of the film Emily (2022). <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/international-womens-day-celebration-tickets-1235293950459>
- City of Boroondara International Women's Day Breakfast 2025 (Hawthorn): Hear from one of Boroondara's first female sports Lifetime Achievement Award winners, the founder of You Matter an organisation supporting women who have experienced family violence, and a young community leader. The panel will be led by Communications Consultant, Evelyn Ek, to discuss how these women are breaking down barriers and their thoughts about what more needs to be done to achieve gender equality. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/international-womens-day-breakfast-2025-tickets-1156251612699>

- Women Can Roar Workshop (Camberwell Library): Reflect on the journeys of women and what creates a sense of meaning and wellbeing. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/women-can-roar-workshop-marching-forward-together-tickets-1117190449709>

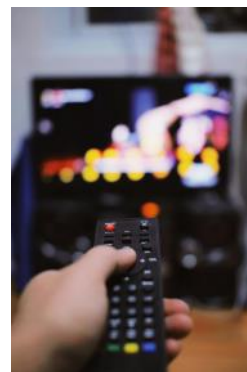
Contributed by Celia Chang

Recommendations

Until I Kill You (UK)

Iview series - True story drama how Delia Balmer survived a series of violent attacks by her boyfriend, John Sweeney, who evades the law.

Delia rebuilds her life until seven years later confronts Sweeney in court after he is captured for a previous murder. But what makes Rosemary's journey so remarkable is not just how she survived, but also how she came to find joy: an infectious joy that she has gone on to share with countless others.



Snow Girl

Netflix series - a Spanish mystery thriller. Young journalist Miren investigates a missing child however the storyline delves into her own assault and underworld pornography.

Contributed by Julie Pincombe

Dangerous Coats

Someone clever once said
Women were not allowed pockets
In case they carried leaflets
To spread sedition
Which means unrest
To you & me
A grandiose word
For commonsense
Fairness
Kindness
Equality
So ladies, start sewing
Dangerous coats
Made of pockets & sedition

Sharon Owens

Anonymous contribution (or rather, the YY editor lost track of who sent this!)

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



Community Bank
Windsor

