



ZONTA

CLUB OF
MELBOURNE
ON YARRA INC

BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 2024



Members of the ZC of Melbourne on Yarra Board 2023 – 2024

President	Caroline Kettle
Vice President	Debra Maiden
Secretary	Janet Townsend
Treasurer	Jasmine Koch
Directors	Julie Pincombe, Devika Fernando

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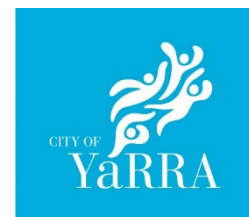
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The club is supported by:



Community Bank
Windsor



President's Report



While preparing this opening message to our annual report I realised, because our club has done so much over the last twelve months, it was too difficult to pick out just one or two highlights. However, a constant and important part of each club year is helping young women achieve more with a variety of scholarships and the past year was exceptional in this regard.

Our 2023 Young Women in Public Affairs winner was a Year 12 Sacre Coeur student, Phoebe Burke, who went on to win the District 23 award as well as a Zonta International award, presenting not only to our club but also being a key speaker at the 2023 Bunbury District 23 Conference.

Elle Selby, an excellent student at Ashwood Secondary College, received a club scholarship to assist with the costs of her final school year.

As the most talented female Year 12 student at the Victoria College of the Arts Secondary School, Chiara Kelle received our Frances Quinn Arts Encouragement Award and displayed her virtuoso cello playing at our November meeting before heading abroad for further study.

For the first time in some years we gave a JMK Women in Business Scholarship. This went to an outstanding University of Melbourne commerce student, Paris Watts, who truly appreciated our contribution to meeting the cost of her studies.

We also enjoyed excellent dinner speakers over the year, beginning in May with Faye Leeder's entertaining 'Confessions of a Trailing Spouse', recounting her role as a diplomat's wife. In June we heard from Dr Helen Reid, Chief Commissioner Girls Guides Australia, on the work her organisation is doing to modernise the movement while remaining a safe space for girls to develop life skills. Megan Bourke from ACRATH, the anti-slavery organisation, spoke at the August meeting on ACRATH's efforts to prevent human trafficking and its support for victims of modern slavery. We then began what has turned out to be the start of an ongoing relationship with Carlton Football Club following Julie Stoneham's talk at our November meeting about the club's school respectful relationships program.

In February 2024, our speaker was Nan Caple, Chair of the National Council of Bendigo Bank. Our club banks with the Bendigo Bank and has received grants from the local Windsor branch, but it was a surprise to hear just how well this bank supports our local communities with 80 percent of its profits used to fund community projects. The Windsor Bendigo Bank manager, Jawad Beedar, also attended this meeting and it was gratifying to share with him the news that the marquee and banners purchased through his bank's grant had established our club's presence at Alphington Football Club and resulted in an invitation to have our marquee on ground at Carlton Football Club's 2024 Carlton Respects match.

At the March awards meeting we presented not one but two D23 Women Taking Climate Action awards, thanks to an additional private donation, and our 2023 Local Service Project winner, the Friday Night School, was awarded financial support for two years.

We continue to be an industrious bunch of women: packing birthing kits, pamper packs and making more breast care cushions than ever. I would like to acknowledge the City of Yarra's support through their grants that has made both pamper packing and breast care cushion production sustainable over the last couple of years.

Our partnerships with others also makes our service work more sustainable as we continue to partner with schools to pack birthing kits, with members of the Country Women's Association who make breast care cushion casings and bags, and with volunteers from Cressie Golf Club who assemble cushions. We truly appreciate their willingness to assist us.

In 2023, we farewelled two long serving members: Stephanie West, a member for over 30 years, and Kay Stewart who has transferred to the new Zonta e-club after many years holding many roles within our club.

And our club welcomed three new members: Christine Raw, previously a member of the Zonta Club of Melbourne East, Elisa Luu who transferred from the Zonta Club of Central Goldfields and Caitlin Johns who transferred from the Zonta Club of Brisbane. We look forward to getting to know you three better over the coming year.

I am extremely grateful to the Board members and committee chairs whose experience and advice helped me during my first year as president. I am still on my president P-plates but feel confident heading into my second year because of their support.

This annual report recognises the work of our club committees whose achievements would not have been possible without the commitment of our members so thank you all.

Caroline Kettle

President



PR and Program Committee Report

It gives me great pleasure to present the PR and Program 2023-2024 committee report.

The PR & Program committee comprising Celia Chang, Jane Davies, Caitlin Johns, Gail Neil, Chris Raw, Jasmine Schuijers and Amritaa Singh all contributed to the activities and responsibilities of the committee.

Melinda has been the chair of the committee for this Zonta year and will be passing the role on to Gail Neil for the upcoming year.

Yarra Yarns, our club newsletter which was launched in 2016 is now in its eight year. Many thanks to Celia Chang for producing such a valuable communication tool throughout the year. The newsletter provides broad information on Zonta and current issues and events relating to the empowerment of women and children, including items of interest that relate to our guest speakers or updates from other Clubs. It is distributed to club members, other clubs in the District and our Friends of Zonta.

Melinda takes the role of webmaster and attempts to keep the website updated on Club, District and Zonta International events and news. She also prepares this annual report which is circulated to members, supporters and sponsors.

Gail continues in the role of organising members to present the Zonta Vision and Zonta Grace recitations at our meetings and also arranges presentations of Toast to Another Club and Behind the Badge as required.

Jasmine Schuijers has taken on the primary responsibility for social media and flyer production. She's very creative and her posts are proving to be very engaging with our audience.

Chris Raw has taken on primary responsibility for speaker co-ordination which is of great assistance.

Our Facebook page continues to be popular. We have reached over 1000 people in the past 28 days alone.

Facebook now also holds details of our events and club meetings with links to obtain more information or to make bookings directly through Trybooking.

Melinda sets up media for our guest speakers and presenters and we use our club laptop and projector to provide AV services as required.

The committee also assists in setting up the venue for club meetings held at the Amora Riverwalk Hotel.

Thank you to all members of the PR and Program Committee.

We look forward to supporting club activities in the upcoming Zonta year.

Committee: Melinda Young (Chair), Celia Chang, Jane Davies, Caitlin Johns, Gail Neil, Chris Raw, Jasmine Schuijers, Amritaa Singh



Fundraising Committee Report

Reflecting on the past year, it is amazing how much we have all acclimatised to the new norm of how we 'eat, work and play' differently in our lives, since the impact of the pandemic three years ago. Like everyone else, the Fundraising Committee have had to continue to re-think new, old and innovative ways to raise funds for club projects.

Particularly, when a reliable, movie fundraiser took a dive, as the Hollywood script writers' strike continued for longer than anyone ever expected and greatly affected the quality and quantity of movies available to cinemas. While we did manage to host one movie night and make a profit of \$415, the reality of the film industry moving to streaming platforms like Netflix, Stan, Disney, Binge etc. has resulted in cinemas being reluctant to commit to any film bookings and cancelling several of our planned movie night fundraisers.



We are however, grateful that the general public still fancies a sausage at Bunnings! Thanks to the assertive efforts of Wendy Cameron, to maintain our relationship with the Hawthorn Bunnings Coordinator. Club members and 'master chef' helpers pitched in to host two sausage sizzles during the year and we raised a bumper total of \$3,385.

While the efforts of the 'Service and Advocacy' Committee secured grants to purchase materials to meet the increasing demand for our Breast Care Cushions project, we also received donations of \$3,323 from both grateful recipients of our club efforts and from others, who appreciate the service we provide to women.

In March 2023, as part of the Community Bank of Windsor's 20-year celebrations we received \$2,000, and the Friday Night School (FNS) in Richmond was the winner of our 2023 Local Service Award. FNS provides a tutoring program for students from refugee families in Richmond and beyond. At the same time FNS provides an 'English for Parents' (women's) program, so they can help their children with their schooling and learn new skills to ultimately gain employment to support their families. The FNS application strongly supported Zonta's aim to 'Build a better World for Women and Girls'. It was agreed to fund FNS for two years, with \$1,000 in 2023 and \$1,000 in 2024.

Following the ZEDx 'Women in Afghanistan' event in 2022, which raised \$1,966. A similar ZEDx 'Women in Iran' forum was held in April 2023 and this event generated considerable interest and support from Ivanhoe Girls Grammar students. The funds raised were donated to the Zonta Foundation for Women for international service projects.

A \$1,000 grant from the Bendigo Bank, Community Bank Windsor, was used to purchase a club marquee and supporting equipment. The objective was to utilise the marquee at outdoor community events, where we could raise awareness of Zonta and share information regarding our club projects and awards.

In July, the marquee had an inaugural outing when we collaborated with the Alphington FC for girls and boys, to participate in 'Football Her Way', Football Victoria's Vision for women and girls. A key aim of their strategic plan is to 'promote and encourage women supporting women's networks', to help nurture them to reach their full potential. Despite the cold, mid-winter weather, the day was a success all round, as we shared information re our projects and the Junior 11 Girls played in a higher division than usual and excitedly won their game. Having established this relationship with the Alphington FC we were invited back with our marquee, for a repeat performance for the Senior Girls game in August.

Thanks to a club member, in early September we secured sponsorship of \$1,000 from 'Calan Wealth Management', a boutique financial planning firm and the donation supported our 2023 Young Woman in Public Affairs Award (YWPA). Our award winner is one of the FNS tutors and is further acknowledgement of the important work that they do.

Late September our club supported the past efforts of the former Melbourne East Zonta Club, who for 10 years raised funds by regularly supporting the Mount Waverley Lions Club Op Shop with sales, and in return received a percentage of the sales for that period. We encouraged members and friends to spring clean, so we could collect donations of surplus items of clothing and household goods, to add to the Op shop stock.

This relatively effortless fundraiser raised \$1,095 and is scheduled again for May 2024.

In November, the Fundraising Committee began to explore the possibility of raising funds at a marketplace stall at the 2024 ZI Convention in Brisbane. Members agreed to the concept and the Fundraising Committee are currently working on product design and a marketing campaign, to ensure a successful fundraising effort for our club.

As always, the Fundraising Committee is hugely appreciative of the effort, time and energy of members, family and friends to support our endeavours to fund raise and enjoy fellowship along the way. We are resilient if nothing else, as we strive to do our best to create fundraising opportunities where we can all work together to deliver our projects and contribute to the ZI vision to 'empower women and girls through service and advocacy'.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sharon Nelson-Kelly (Chair), Deb Grinter, Jasmine Koch, Julie Pincombe, Olivia Wilkes, Sandra Burns, Wendy Cameron



Membership Committee Report

- The Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra currently has 34 members. One new member (Chris Raw) was welcomed into the club. We have had eight transfers into ZCMOY (Elisa Luu, Central Goldfields; Caitlin Johns, Brisbane; six transfers from ZC of Melbourne's East -Jane Davies, Di Hillman, Debbie Grinter, Veena Barsiwal, Olivia Wilkes and Pam Sloss). It is hoped that they also feel welcomed.

Unfortunately, two members (Sally Caruana and Carolyn Armstrong) have resigned, citing family and work responsibilities and one member, Dr Kay Stewart, has transferred, having moved interstate. A number of prospective members are being followed up and sent club information.
- Our October meeting, organised by the Membership Committee, was held at The Savage Club, in central Melbourne, with 29 attendees. Although the Savage Club is a members' only club we were allowed to attend as guests. The club was a very interesting venue, with a long history and many notable artworks and artifacts. Long Service certificates and badges were awarded. Kay Stewart was farewelled with a cake and flowers as this was her last meeting.

The Membership Committee will no longer organise the October meeting, as the original suggestion was to organise a lower cost meeting. It is increasingly difficult to find an alternative venue to accommodate our increased membership in an area where we can have a meeting, and most alternative venues are not less expensive.
- A social brunch at Montsalvat was organised for November 12th 2023 and was attended by twelve members and two husbands. Those who attended had a pleasant brunch together and most people spent time exploring the Monsalvat grounds and buildings afterwards.



4. The committee has reorganised responsibility for maintaining various club lists.
 - a) Frances Gentle, who maintains the list of current members, will take on the additional responsibility for updating the list of member resignations,
 - b) The Committee President will maintain and manage the Long Service Award list,
 - c) The Friends of Zonta list has been revised and updated and is currently being managed by Christine Fitzherbert.



5. It was proposed that we change our monthly coffee catchups to an informal coffee morning at designated cafes in two or three locations on the first Saturday each month, where any members can attend and would also be welcome to bring a friend to introduce them to Zonta.

The first Café catchup was held on March in four locations. Five members the café in Ivanhoe, Three in Camberwell, three in Mt Waverley and two in Brighton. This trial arrangement will continue until after winter and will then be reviewed.

Committee: Jennifer Marriott (Chair), Frances Gentle (Deputy Chair), Yvonne Lockwood (Deputy Chair), Bev Devidas, Christine Fitzherbert, Di Hillman, Kay Stewart, Janet Townsend, Gillian Wilton

Service & Advocacy Committee Report

I would like to thank the service and advocacy members for their participation and valuable contribution of ideas, information, expertise, and commitment.

Breast Care Cushions



Breast cushions provide important relief and support for women who have had breast surgery related to breast cancer.

Breast care cushion production has increased again this year.

We successfully applied for a City of Yarra grant for the 2023-4 year of \$3000. This money allows us to buy good material, stuffing and sewing items. Thank you to Sharon Karasmanis for her work in applying for the loan and acquittal.

Hospitals and organisations wanting a supply of breast cushions has also increased, which will mean that we will have to work out methods to continue to cope with the growing demand and cost. For

2023 709 cushions and bags were made. We have been grateful to recipients of the breast cushions who have helped by donating. We have also been supported by members of Cressie Golf Club and CWA volunteers with sewing, as well as family and friends of Zonta members.

This year it has been decided to develop 2 sets of working bees: northern and southern suburbs. The breast cushion sessions of both have been well attended and we thank you the hosts for providing venues.

Another major task is to deliver the breast cushions which is done by a very efficient team. The bulk of the breast cushions were delivered to Epworth hospitals – Richmond and Freemasons, but also Box Hill hospital, Think Pink Foundation and Maroondah Hospital.

Birthing Kits



Birthing Kits help provide a safer and more hygienic birth for women in developing countries.

August 2023, we trialled having a club birthing kit session at a club meeting, and we will repeat that in 2024. 400 Birthing kits were completed at the meeting and another 200 by members at home.

Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School students produced 600 kits and had the purpose of the kits explained to them by an Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar past student who had used the kit in Nepal, in her work as a GP and obstetrician. Xavier College held its second birthing kit session and completed 600 kits. It is great to have the boys involved. Both these events were supported by Zonta members.

The Club received a birthing kit production award at the 2023 District 23 conference.

16 Days of Activism

A campaign that aims to raise awareness of the negative impact of violence and abuse on women and children and tries to find ways to reduce the occurrence.

The November meeting speaker was from Carlton Football Club- Carlton Respects program. Julia Stoneham spoke about the community programs run under the banner of Carlton Respects and particularly the school program – Road to Respect. A continuing association with the Carlton Football Club and Carlton Respects is now being developed. Members took part in the Walk Against Violence which met at Parliament House Victoria. State MP Matt Fregon for Ashwood joined the group briefly to show his support. Support for the Salvation Army refuge also occurred in this period.

Support for The Salvation Army Family Violence Refuge

This annual event consists of collecting items designated by the refuge staff and producing pamper packs for Christmas presents to the women needing to use the service. Before packing Salvation Army staff explained why the refuge is so important and what the support means for the organisation, the women, and families.

Companies donated items such as underwear and personal care. City of Yarra Council provided a \$1000 grant which was used to buy Natio products for the pamper packs.

Members collected items and 205 pamper packs, plus many boxes of everyday items, were delivered to the refuge.

Women in Iran forum

Following on from the Women in Afghanistan forum in 2022, a Women in Iran forum was held in April 2023 to educate Australians about the situation in Iran for women. The forum speakers all had former and existing connections to Iran. They spoke about the realities of existence for females and their personal stories. Over 100 members of the community attended the event, and it was also supported by students and staff at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School.

Women in Afghanistan forum

The original forum was held in 2022. Consequently, there were requests from other organisations to also hold the forum and the panel members were able to oblige, and 2 other forums were held. As well, Year 9 school students had a separate information session where they learnt about the issues around education for girls and then wrote letters of support to girls in Afghanistan.

#NOEXCUSE



UN WOMEN

UN Women Rights Australia

2023 Awards

Frances Quinn Arts Encouragement Award

This award goes to a female music student at the Victorian College of the Arts and is a bequest from Frances Quinn and the Quinn family.

\$1000 was awarded to Chiara Kelle, cellist who delighted us at the November club meeting by playing pieces for us which were written or transcribed by women.

Local Service Project Award

This award of \$1000 is given to a local organisation which supports women in some way. The 2024 award has gone to Friday Night School in Richmond, which is an educational support organisation. The award specifically goes to buy reading books for the Parents Learning English program which largely teaches women. Due to an extra grant from Bendigo Bank Windsor another \$1000 will be paid to Friday Night School in 2024.



Women Taking Climate Action Award

This award of \$1000 goes to a woman/women who are taking positive climate change action which involves women. For 2023 there were 2 winners – Alana Mountain, who has been involved in the successful campaign to stop native forest logging in Victoria, and taught women to tree climb to gather data to support the legal case.

Dr Anne Poelina from the Kimberley was also a winner for her work locally and internationally in water management and encouragement of First Nation women to become involved in protecting their environments.



Young Women in Public Affairs Award

This award goes to a young woman 16-19 years of age who is already contributing to society by volunteering and leadership activities in their schools and beyond.

The 2023 winner was Phoebe Bourke from Sacre Coeur. Phoebe was the club winner and received \$1000. She was also named as an international winner and received \$US5000. Phoebe was a wonderful ambassador for her school and Zonta, speaking at the Club and the District 23 conference.

Jane M Klausman women in Business Scholarship

This award of \$1000 is for a second year or more tertiary student of a business-related course. The 2023 winner was Paris Watts who is currently studying

Commerce at the University of Melbourne.

Area Advocacy 2023

Debra Maiden took over the position as the club's nominee on the Area Advocacy Group. Campaigns have been about:

- Non-Disclosure Agreements which particularly often hamper women from disclosing sexual/gender related trauma.
- Female Genital Mutilation – aim is to raise awareness of this issue, particularly that women from African communities may still need support in Australia.
- Awareness of accommodation issues for older women.

Suzanne Lees

Chair Service & Advocacy 2023-4

Committee Members: Glenda Lapsley (Co-Chair), Sue Lees (Co-Chair), Devika Fernando, Sharon Karasmanis, Debra Maiden, Jennifer Ray, Leslie Dixon, Veena Barsiwal, Pam Sloss

Treasurer's Report 2023 - 2024

ZONTA CLUB OF MELBOURNE ON YARRA INC
ABN 75 413 093 525

FINANCIAL REPORT for the financial year ended 31 March 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<u>ASSETS</u>	NOTE	31/03/2024 \$
Cash at Bank - Bendigo Bank		
Fundraising Account	1	24,766.55
Administration Account	2	11,919.60
		<u>36,686.15</u>
Term Deposit - Bendigo Bank	3	22,711.84
Deposit paid	4	660.00
Total Assets		<u>\$ 60,057.99</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Sundry creditors	5	1,305.35
Income in advance	6	13,779.80
Funds held in Trust	3	22,711.84
Total Liabilities		<u>\$ 37,796.99</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>\$ 22,261.00</u>

NOTES to the FINANCIAL REPORT 31 March 2024

NOTE 1: Cash at Bank - Fundraising

	\$
Opening balance 1 April 2023	24,239.90
Income	
ZEDx - Women in Iran forum	2,240.00
Bunnings Sausage Sizzle	1,929.65
YCC Grant - 2024 BCC	3,000.00
YCC Grant - Pamper Packs	1,000.00
Movie Night income	635.00
Lion's Waverley op shop	1,094.94
Donations - BCC	3,323.46
Donations - Other	1,267.37
Sponsorship for awards	2,500.00
Entertainment commission	131.00
Interest	497.41
	<u>17,618.83</u>
Expenditure	
Birthing Kit Fdn (600 Kits)	3,000.00
Breast Care Cushion supplies	4,674.09
Bunnings Sausage Sizzle	112.05
ZEDx - Women in Iran forum	177.55
Movie Night ticket cost	220.00
Pamper Packs	1,195.81
Total fundraising expenses	<u>9,379.50</u>
Ashwood High Scholarship	750.00
WTCA Award (2 winners)	2,000.00
Local Service Project	1,000.00
Donation to ZFW - WIA forum surplus	1,966.90
Donation to ZFW for 2022-2023	1,995.78
Total award payments and donations	<u>7,712.68</u>
Total expenditure	<u>17,092.18</u>
Closing balance 31 March 2024	<u>\$ 24,766.55</u>

NOTES to the FINANCIAL REPORT 31/03/2024 continued

NOTE 2: Cash at Bank - Administration

	\$
Opening balance 1 April 2023	16,009.19
Income	
Subscriptions & joining fees	10,370.00
Name badges	40.00
Dinner	9,502.00
D23 Eclub subs	921.00
	<u>20,833.00</u>
Expenditure	
ZI - international dues	4,955.90
ZI - D23 Eclub dues	921.00
D23 - district dues	1,360.00
Dinner	11,262.75
Grant expenditure - banners etc	2,035.90
Badges and pins	227.00
Miscellaneous	115.00
Subscriptions - Zoom, IT	421.62
Bank charges	0.70
Award winners	2,000.00
A1 & 4 meeting reimb/donation	690.72
D23 Conference delegates	432.00
Transfer to fundraising account	500.00
	<u>24,922.59</u>
Closing balance 31 March 2024	<u>\$ 11,919.60</u>

NOTE 3: Frances Quinn Arts Encouragement Award Funds

Held in trust by the club

Term Deposit matures 20/07/2024	
Opening balance 1 April 2023	23,190.06
Interest received	521.78
Transfer to account #162221642	- 1,000.00
Closing balance 31 March 2024	<u>\$ 22,711.84</u>

NOTE 4: Deposit Paid

Refundable deposit paid to Amora Riverwalk as per the contract to secure club meeting booking from February to December 2024	<u>\$ 660.00</u>
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NOTE 5: Sundry Creditor

1/3 of 2023-24 fundraising profit to be donated to Zonta Foundation for Women in April 2024	<u>\$ 1,305.35</u>
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NOTE 6: Income in Advance

D Blakey - Sponsorship for Awards	1,500.00
CM Bridgart Estate Bequest	4,000.00
Community Bank Windsor - Local project grant	1,000.00
ZC Melb East - Ashwood Scholarship	750.00
Yarra City Council - 2024 Breast cushion grant	2,079.80
2024-2025 member annual dues	3,450.00
Calan Wealth Sponsorship for YWPA	1,000.00
	<u>\$ 13,779.80</u>