



ZONTA

CLUB OF MELBOURNE ON YARRA INC

BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



ANNUAL REPORT 2024 – 2025



Members of the ZC of Melbourne on Yarra Board 2024 – 2025

President	Caroline Kettle
Vice President	Debra Maiden
Secretary	Janet Townsend
Treasurer	Melinda Young
Directors	Julie Pincombe, Devika Fernando, Sandra Burns

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The club is supported by:



President's Report

On behalf of the Board and members of Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra, I am pleased to present the 59th Annual Report 2024-25.

Looking back over the previous Zonta year, the highlight must be the Zonta International Convention in Brisbane. As a first timer, it was an extraordinary experience, seeing so many wonderful women from so many different countries gathered together, made even better by so many of our club members being there too. I learnt so much about Zonta International and the work they (and other clubs) do, and all the voting needed to ensure we're well placed for the next Biennium. Plus, it was at the Convention that Zonta Australia was launched, marking the start of a more cohesive national approach to advocacy that we are now beginning to see in action.



Each one of our club meetings over the last year was an event, starting with our May meeting where Dr Janice Kreltshheim from Wise Choices for Life gave a fascinating talk about their partnership with Ugandan communities to improve reproductive health literacy. It was also at the May meeting that we welcomed Trish McLean, who transferred from Zonta Club of Melbourne's Southeast and inducted a new member, Alex Meagher.

In July we established a club connection with another Victorian advocacy group, Women with Disabilities Victoria, following a presentation by the then CEO, the remarkable Nadia Mattiazzo.

Last year for the first time we gave two Young Women in Public Affairs awards. Both the winner, Charlize Chow, and the runner up, Shahez Singh, spoke at our August Awards night with the awards being presented by our sponsors, Calan Choke and Janrene Leong of Calan Wealth.

August also saw members again 'manning' our marquee at the Alphington Football Club. Having appeared there a few times, we were made to feel very welcome and having giveaways of stickers and wrist bands certainly drew the players to the marquee.

In September we were again 'on ground', this time at the Carlton Football Club for the Carlton Respects Event with members again promoting Zonta and providing Zonta giveaways. This went very well and certainly added to our club visibility, so we hope to do it again this year.

Also, in September we held our 2024 ZEDx - Hear Their Voice: 'Deadly' First Nations Women forum at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar. This was a great success with over 150 people attending and a panel of stellar women: Aunty Lois Peeler, former principal of Worowa Aboriginal Girls' College, Magistrate Rose Falla, who specializes in Koori Court work, Allira Dryden, Community Engagement Officer for the First People's Assembly of Victoria and Alana Ryan, an Australian History teacher at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar.

There was no guest speaker at our October club meeting as instead we packed 400 birthing kits in record time.

In preparation for our 16 Days of Activism, our speakers for the November meeting were Jacquie O'Brien from Respect Victoria and our very own Veena Barsiwal, who presented her N.O. A.B.U.S.E approach, which then featured in our 16 Days social media campaign.

And no year would be complete without hearing a Christmas song from the lovely Cindy Kline of the Salvation Army's Supported Accommodation and After-Hours Crisis Response Services. Her colleague, Ruby Vadiveloo, also spoke of the women they support and how grateful they are for our annual supply of pamper packs and other useful items.

At our first 2025 meeting in February, our guest speaker was Dr Deb Langford, who took us on a journey retelling her experience of delivering a baby in a remote area of Nepal and how having a birthing kit to hand really matters!

February was also when we held our 2025 ZEDx: Women in Africa - Fighting Poverty with Education at Ivanhoe Library with speakers from The School of St Jude, a pioneering leader in free education in Tanzania. including Gemma Sisia, the founder and John Stanley, alumni of the school. The over 70 people who attended were inspired by the story of the school, its tremendous success and its future plans.

In March we were joined by eight members from the Zonta Club of Central Goldfields who came to listen to guest speaker, Jane Baker, from Mrs Baker's Distillery: our 2024 District 23 Women Taking Climate Action Award winner as it was the Zonta Club of Central Goldfields that persuaded Jane Baker to apply for the award.

While our other speaker for that night, our 2024 Jane Klausman Award winner Lily Benavides, was unwell, Debra Maiden spoke on her behalf about Lily's considerable achievements. We look forward to meeting Lily at a future meeting.

Also in March, several club members attended the combined District 23 Area 1 and Area 4 meeting in Melton where we exchanged ideas on attracting and retaining members, managing our social media platforms and received updates on Zonta Australia and Zonta International.

To keep up with demand, we continued to make more breast care cushions than ever, and I would like to recognise the members of the Cressie Golf Club who have contributed considerably to our cushion production over the last couple of years.

We also held breast care cushion making sessions with the Rover Scouts in July 2024 and at Korowa Anglican Girls' School in April 2025.

I would like to acknowledge the support we receive from the Waverley Patchworkers who not only supply fabric but also make regular financial donations to our club. Also, in July 2024, members attended the Waverley Patchworkers quilt show and their quilts were amazing.

Thanks also to the City of Yarra who contributes to the costs of both breast care cushions and pamper packs.

As I come to the end of my two-year presidency, I must thank my fellow Board members and the Committee Chairs for all the help and guidance they have provided. And I would like to thank all of you for the support you have given me during this time and for all the work you do that makes our club so successful. It has been an honour to serve as President for a club so productive and enjoyable as ours.

Yours in Zonta Spirit

Caroline Kettle

President

PR and Program Committee Report

Committee: Gail Neil (Chair), Melinda Young, Celia Chang, Jasmine Schuijers, Amritaa Singh, Christine Raw, Jane Davies, Caitlin Johns, Alex Meagher, Glenda Lapsley

It gives me great pleasure to present the Public Relations and Program 2024-2025 committee report.

The PR & Program committee all contributed to the activities and responsibilities of the committee. In addition, some of our members have important roles in the club and on the Board.

Gail Neil took on the Chair position from Melinda Young for this year. Thanks to Melinda for all her service to this role in past years.

Yarra Yarns, our club newsletter, launched in 2016, is now in its ninth 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. This newsletter has grown and expanded with various inputs from club members.

Melinda continues the role of webmaster with Jane Davies keeping our Zonta website updated on club, District and Zonta International events and news. Melinda also prepares this annual report which is circulated to members, supporters and sponsors. Additionally, Melinda developed and printed the new club brochures.

Gail continues in the role of organising members to present the Zonta Vision and Zonta Thanks recitations at our meetings and also arranges presentations of Toast to Another Club and Behind the Badge as required. She is currently working on a Zonta Quiz to be held in the next few months.

Jas Schuijers has undertaken the primary responsibility for social media and flyer development. The posts have proved to be very engaging with our audience and Club members have remarked on how they enjoy the information. After a hack of our Zonta Instagram site, the committee (and especially Melinda) has been busy setting up the new site - Zonta.moy. Jas is now being ably helped by Caitlin and Melinda. Our Facebook page continues to be very popular, with links to our events, awards and information on how to book our events.



Chris Raw has taken on primary responsibility for speaker coordination, with Alex Meagher and Glenda Lapsley forming a sub-committee to put new templates and processes in place. Melinda continues to set up media for our guest speakers and presenters (using our club laptop and projector to provide AV services required).

Caitlin Johns played the lead in our Carlton Respects collaboration with the Carlton Football Club and organised club members to attend the match in September 2024. Alex Meagher played the lead in our 16 Days of Activism campaign culminating in the annual walk Against Family Violence. This work included many social media posts related to the 16 Days of Activism.

Thank you to all members of the PR and Program Committee. We look forward to supporting club activities in the upcoming Zonta year.

Gail Neil

Chair P&PR Committee

Fundraising Committee Report

Committee: Sharon Nelson-Kelly (Chair), Wendy Cameron (Deputy Chair), Jasmine Koch, Julie Pincombe, Debbie Grinter, Sandra Burns

Many thanks to the fundraising committee for organising several events during the past Zonta year.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

The Bunnings Sausage sizzles continue to be a winner for Fundraising, the simple formula of a sausage and slice of bread, with or without onions and the addition of some sauce assist the bottom line of the fundraising funds. It also gives the Club an opportunity to link with the people, sharing Zonta aims and enjoying how iconic the sausage fundraiser has become, with strangers buying a sausage for strangers, new citizens celebrating with a sausage and stories of good fortune among customers over a sausage. Thanks to our relationship with the Hawthorn Bunnings Coordinators, club members and helpers, we hosted two sausage sizzles during the year which raised record breaking profits for the Club.

Lion's Opportunity Shop

The Lion's Opportunity shop in Mount Waverley seeks support from other Non-for-Profit Organisation to man the point of sales for the shop and in return the organisations receive a percentage of the profits for the week. We again assisted for 2 weeks, while this fundraising effort doesn't break down to make monetary sense (we do make a small profit), it succeeds in so many other ways particularly supporting the ageing members of the Lions and the shops customers. Zonta donations to the opp shop also tick the reuse, repurpose, recycle, and reduce Zonta objectives!!

Socks Fund Raiser

The Fundraising Committee designed and purchased 500 pairs of koala/cockatoo socks for the Brisbane Zonta International Convention held over three days at the end of June 2024. Those of our members who flew up to Brisbane managed to squeeze into their luggage several packages of socks, whilst another load arrived via car. A great marketing plan was launched prior to the date and we also made use of the Convention's Whova App to advertise during the convention. Thanks to all those members who helped at the market stall, enabling us to sell all of our stock with a very healthy profit

The members approved another purchase of 150 of our club socks in March 2025. We successfully sold 24 socks at our Area 1 and 4 meeting held on 22nd March and we plan to sell the remainder at the District 23 Conference in September 2025.

Wrist Bands

The club has purchased orange "Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women" and blue "Women in Climate Action" wrist bands. We are using these bands as promotional material as well as a fund raiser when appropriate. The wrist bands sold at the Area 1 and 4 meeting and will be available for sale at the District 23 Conference.

Collaboration with Service and Advocacy and Donations

Donations to Breast Care Cushions

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 receive donations, one of these being the Waverley Patchworkers who continue to support the Breast Care Cushions project with fabric and cash donations.

New First Nations Young Woman's Award

Over the past few years, ZCMOY has started each club meeting with an Acknowledgement of

Country. In April, club members approved the proposed ZCMOY First Nations Young Woman's Award as a tangible demonstration of our support for Indigenous women in our community. In collaboration with Service and Advocacy a ZEDx fund raising forum, "Hear Their Voice", was successfully held in September. At the March 2025 general meeting, the members approved the motion for this award to be given to a student from Worowa Aboriginal School. The club will continue to raise funds for this annual award.

Young Women in Leadership Award (formerly Young Women in Public Affairs).

The Fundraising committee obtained a grant for the first time for this award from Calan Wealth. Calan Choke and Janrene Leong attended the August meeting to present the award.

We sincerely appreciate the ongoing support from our members, families, friends, and the community in helping raise funds for our club awards, service projects, and international initiatives, all dedicated to creating a better world for women and girls. We eagerly anticipate another year of success and collaboration.

Julie Pincombe and Wendy Cameron

On behalf of Chair: Sharon Nelson-Kelly

Membership Committee Report

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

Coffee Shop Catchups

Coffee catchups have continued, however they were changed to the fourth Saturday of the month at 10.30 am so that they are between club meetings. Although attendance is low, they are still considered to be a valuable opportunity for members to meet outside club meetings. Venues have been increased to provide three options.



Social activities

The committee has been looking at ways to increase our membership levels and to keep existing members (for example having more smaller group social activities).

Several social activities have been organised by the Committee.

The tour of the state library was enjoyed by the twelve members who attended, with members meeting before or after for lunch at Mr Tulk. We learnt a lot about the history of the library and why the café is called Mr Tulk.

The 'Inspired by Women' tour of the Johnson collection on Saturday 9th Nov was attended by seven members and a guest. The Johnson collection never fails to impress, it is a fabulous collection of furniture and artifacts. Lunch afterwards was close by at Laurent.

A visit to the Immigration Museum, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne was attended by four members.

Those who attended enjoyed the visit, particularly the interactive display about the building, and rebuilding, of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris that was almost destroyed by a catastrophic fire in 2019.

International Women's Day is held on 8 March each year, with events and activities taking place across the globe. There were many events held throughout Melbourne that members attended. To celebrate with our club, members attending our March meeting wore something that reflected the International Women's Day theme colours - purple, green and white.

Membership

The Club currently has 34 members with the departure of Jane Davies, who will be greatly missed. A number of potential new members are being followed up.

Jennifer Marriott

Chair

Service & Advocacy Committee Report

Committee Members: Suzanne Lees (Chair), Devika Fernando, Sharon Karasmanis, Debra Maiden, Jennifer Ray, Leslie Dixon, Veena Barsiwal, Pam Sloss, Caitlin Johns

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 2024-5 year of \$3000. This money allows us to buy fit for purpose 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 again increased. For 2024-25, 972 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, as well as family and friends of Zonta members. These friends have been invaluable in their sewing output, which has enabled us to keep up with the increasing demand from hospitals.

The breast cushion sessions of both the northern and southern suburbs 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, Monash Health, Box Hill Hospital and Maroondah Hospital.

For the first time we ran breast cushion production sessions with a Rover Scout group and with Year 11 students at Korowa Girls' School.

Birthing Kits

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



August 2024, we had a club birthing kit session at a club meeting. 400 Birthing kits were completed.

Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School students produced 600 kits and had the purpose of the kits explained to them by Dr Debra Langford who had used the kit in Nepal, in her work as a GP specialising in obstetrics. Debra also spoke to students at Camberwell Girls' Grammar School where 200 kits were completed, and at the Feb 2025 ZCMOY meeting. Xavier College held its third birthing kit session and completed 600 kits. it is great to have the boys involved. All these events were supported by Zonta members.



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.

Following a 2024 meeting presentation about the Carlton Respects program, in 2025 ZCMOY attended a women's football match with the ZCMOY marquee. Thanks to Caitlin Johns for the organisation.

The 2025 Zonta says No to Violence campaign was organised by a cross-representative committee and Veena Barsiwal ably represented S&A, helping to develop an excellent social media campaign.

Members took part in the Walk Against Violence which met at Parliament House.

Support for the Salvation Army Family Violence Refuge and Kara Family Violence Service 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 provided a \$1000 grant which was used to buy Natio products for the pamper packs. As well, Nation donated items and Hanes donated 300 pairs of briefs. Members collected items and 202 pamper packs, plus many boxes of everyday items, were delivered to the refuge.

Forum: Hear Their Voice: First Nations Women

The third forum in the series of Women of the World. Following on from the Women in Afghanistan forum in 2022 and the Women in Iran forum in 2023, this forum held in September 2024 offered an opportunity to hear the voices of exceptional First Nations women of Australia. Developed in collaboration with the Fired-Up reconciliation group at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School this was an educational opportunity for the students and community. Over 150 members of the community and school attended the event. Participants commented on the event offering an open, honest discourse. Funds raised from the evening are being used to develop an award for a young indigenous woman, to be available late 2025.

Forum: Women in Africa – Fighting Poverty Through Education: Gemma Sisia in Tanzania

The fourth forum in the series – Women of the World. Over 70 people attended this forum, held in February 2025. The forum showcased the work of an exceptional Australian female leader who has built the School of St Jude in Tanzania. The school started with 3 children in 2002 and now has 3 campuses with one campus being solely for girls. All campuses offer females a path out of poverty and improved opportunities such as supported school and university education.



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. \$1,000 was awarded to cellist Mahalia Shelton

Local Service Project Award

Friday Night School in Richmond, an educational support program for disadvantaged students, was awarded \$2,000 over 2 years, thanks to a grant from Bendigo Bank. The second payment was made in 2024.

Women Taking Climate Action Award

This award of \$1000 is now, in the current biennium, a District 23 award - administered by ZCMOY. District 23 clubs voluntarily contribute \$50 towards the award. The award for 2024 was made to Jane Baker of Baker's Still House in Elmhurst Victoria. Jane runs an all-female distillery using low-impact, sustainable methods. Her business sources botanicals locally, operates on 100% solar power, and reflects the alignment between sustainability and economic viability. Jane spoke at a Zonta Says Now meeting in 2024 and at a ZCMOY awards dinner March 2025. We were delighted that 10 members of the Zonta club of the Central Goldfields, who had encouraged Jane to apply, came to the award dinner also.



Young Women in Leadership Award (was Young Women in Public Affairs)

This award of \$1,000 goes to a young woman 16-19 who is already contributing to society as a leader. The award winner for 2024 was Charlize Chow from Camberwell Girls' Grammar school. We were delighted to be able to present Charlize her award at a school assembly and at the August award dinner. In 2004 a runner-up award of \$500 was made to Sahez Singh of Aitken College. Both girls spoke eloquently, from their hearts, about women's issues around the world at the award dinner. We thank Calan Wealth for supporting this award and enabling us to be able to offer 2 awards now.

Women in Business Leadership Award (was J M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship)

This award of \$1,000 was won in 20024 by Lily Benavides, currently studying at Deakin University.

Ashwood High School Award

An award of \$1,000 is made to a Year 11 student for whom the award will act as an encouragement to undertake Year 12. The award for 2024 was made to Maddison (Maddy) Rado.

Area Advocacy 2024

Debra Maiden was the ZCMOY representative for the Area 1&4 Advocacy Group. The group collated clubs' campaigns for the 16 Days of Activism, contributing to a collation of activities by District 23 and distributed a survey to clubs to gauge present and future advocacy interests.

Suzanne Lees

Chair Service & Advocacy Committee

Treasurer's Report 2024 - 2025

ZONTA CLUB OF MELBOURNE ON YARRA INC

ABN 75 413 093 525

FINANCIAL REPORT for the financial year ended 31 March 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	NOTE	31/03/2025
		\$
Cash at Bank - Bendigo Bank		
Fundraising Account	1	26,589.09
Administration Account	2	11,506.19
		<u>38,095.28</u>
Term Deposit - Bendigo Bank	3	22,711.84
Deposit paid	4	828.00
Total Assets		<u>61,635.12</u>
LIABILITIES		
Sundry creditors	5	2,545.00
Income in advance	6	6,070.00
Funds held in Trust	3	22,711.84
Total Liabilities		<u>\$ 31,326.84</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>\$ 30,308.28</u>

NOTES to the FINANCIAL REPORT 31 March 2024

NOTE 1: Cash at Bank - Fundraising

	\$
Opening balance 1 April 2024	24,766.55
Income	
Fran Quinn Interest	1,080.67
Merchandise sales - socks	8,320.09
Bunnings BBQ	4,838.63
ZedX forums	4,605.00
Breast Care Cushion donations	1,880.00
YCC grants	4,000.00
D23 club contributions to WTCA	1,100.00
Other donations	1,779.28
Interest	498.84
	<u>28,102.51</u>

Expenditure

Birthing Kit Fdn (400 Kits)	2,000.00
Breast Care Cushion supplies	2,910.96
Bunnings Sausage Sizzle	1,164.91
Merchandise - socks	6,233.15
Pamper Packs	1,895.12
ZedX room hire	140.00
Total fundraising expenses	<u>14,344.14</u>
Fran Quinn Award	1,000.00
YWPA awards	1,500.00
Friday Night School	1,000.00
Anglican Overseas Aid (Uganda)	500.00
Jane M Klausman Award	1,000.00
Worowa Science Award	500.00
Women Taking Climate Action Award	1,000.00
Education Encouragement Award	1,000.00
Kara House Step Forward Grant	500.00
Remote Op Shop Donation	500.00
St Judes School donation	2,125.00
Donation to ZFW for 2023-2024	1,310.83
Total award payments and donations	<u>11,935.83</u>
Total expenditure	<u>26,279.97</u>
Closing balance 31 March 2024	<u>26,589.09</u>

NOTES to the FINANCIAL REPORT 31/03/2025 continued

NOTE 2: Cash at Bank - Administration

	\$
Opening balance 1 April 2024	11,919.60
Income	
Subscriptions & joining fees	6,355.00
Name badges	73.68
Dinner	10,545.00
Fellowship activity	287.60
Area 1 & 4 Workshop ticket sales	3,190.00
	<u>20,451.28</u>
Expenditure	
ZI - international dues	4,485.31
D23 - district dues	1,340.00
Dinner	11,448.00
Fellowship	279.50
Grant expenditure - banners etc	0.00
Badges and pins	107.00
Copyright fee	280.00
Subscriptions - Zoom, IT	931.61
Bank charges	1.40
D23 board contribution	100.00
A1 & 4 meeting reimb/donation	105.00
D23 Conference delegates	1,103.83
Speaker gifts etc	144.75
Printing and production	440.29
	<u>20,766.69</u>
Closing balance 31 March 2024	<u>11,604.19</u>

NOTE 3: Frances Quinn Arts Encouragement Award Funds

Held in trust by the club

Term Deposit matures 20/07/2025	
Opening balance 1 April 2024	\$ 22,711.84
Interest received	1,080.67
Transfer to account #162221642	1,080.67
Closing balance 31 March 2025	<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 2025	\$ 828.00
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NOTE 5: Sundry Creditor

Funds held for Area Workshop	2,545.00
	\$ 2,545.00

NOTE 6: Income in Advance

CM Bridgart Estate Bequest	4,000.00
2025-2026 member annual dues	2,070.00
	<u>\$ 6,070.00</u>