

A word from your President



"People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day!" - Winnie the Pooh

The theme for the 17th Biennial Conference held in Bunbury in September was "**A Better World**." A great aspiration; however, one that seems insurmountable at times!

When one looks around the world one must ask is change possible? Is it worth the effort when one sees so much working against us?

Then we meet **Phoebe Bourke, Bella Burgermeister, Alexis McDonald** and members of the **Kingia Z Club Bunbury**, and say **WOW**— maybe we can build a better world— that these inspiring young women will be able to make a difference and insist on a better world: to stand up, to start a conversation and be heard.

I was so proud to be part of our Club and to share the Conference moments with the other thirteen PNS members who attended. Of particular note was the **Highly Commended** certificate presented to **Irene, Chair of our Greater Visibility Committee**, who on our behalf, entered six of the PR Award Categories, the only D23 Club to do so. Well done Irene—you are a legend!

We were privileged to have the **D23 Governor—Kay Stewart**, speak at our September dinner meeting. Our members and guests seemed to enjoy the futuristic dialogue she presented, focussing on the survival of Zonta over the next 100 years! We need to adjust, to adapt and start a conversation about how we stay relevant in this century.



The Bunbury Conference may be over, but our **International Convention** awaits us in **Brisbane 27-30 June 2024**. As only the third time a ZI Convention has been held in Australia since 1919, this will certainly be an event not to be missed. Not only that, having Zontians from 62 countries will make this a pretty spectacular event and an opportunity to welcome, meet and make new International Zonta friends. If you're planning on going, don't wait too long to book your flights and accommodation, all of which are filling up!

A huge thank you to **Jill Darby** for sourcing sponsorship from the **City of Stirling** which allowed us to run another two-day **Mental Health First-Aid Train-**

ing course on September 9 and 16. All participants received a certificate which will facilitate their accreditation. Once again, our gorgeous **Rosemary** did a superb job facilitating the course with the much appreciated assistance of **Anne Polley**, Lecturer in Public Health at Edith Cowan University.

This grant also enabled us to assemble another 500 Birthing Kits on September 23. It was fantastic to see so many Councillors and other community volunteers turn up to help at the Osborne Park Community Hub.

Our October dinner meeting saw the wonderful Perth Club member and **Zonta Says Now 'founder'** and **'advocate'**, **Carole Theobald**, speak about—and stress—the urgency of action on climate change. We have the skills and knowledge; however, vested interests are thwarting the necessary action required to address this issue. Time is running out! If we don't save the world, how can we make it better!?

We had a number of visitors at this meeting who commented on how they loved the buzz and energy they felt in the room.

Next month (1 November) we will be presenting another **Lucy Bohan Bursary** to an ECU student nurse. See you there!

Love and affection,

Sue Peckitt



The Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame will be holding its AGM in the State Library's Geographe Room on Tuesday 24 October 5.30 for 6.00 pm start. Some of our members may like to attend.

They are delighted to have **Librarian Catherine Monk** as their guest to talk about the **State Library of Western Australia's Oral Histories project** — "**Stories from the WA Women's Hall of Fame**".

Following the meeting, they would love everyone to stay for an informal celebration of the year that has been (drinks and nibbles will be provided). If you decide to attend please ensure that you RSVP to—

wawomenshof@gmail.com

Do you know any 'inspiring' women in your community or workplace who have made a significant contribution to this State? You might like to consider nominating them for the 2024 WA Women's Hall of Fame. Nominations are now open in the categories of: **Health, Community, STEM & Technical Trades, Culture, Education, Arts, Sport, and Business**. Nominations are also welcome for the **'Roll of Honour'** to be inducted posthumously.

All nominations close 11.59 pm on Sunday 3 December 2023.

ZI, Climate Impacts & Actions



As mentioned, we were delighted that **Carole Theobald (ZI Chair 2022-2024 Zonta Says NOW Working Group)** was able to address our recent meeting.

As an active Perth Club Zontian for over 20 years and passionate about gender equality and climate justice, when Carole realised how badly the climate crisis impacted women and girls, she just had to do something! The result is—

Zonta Says NOW to gender-equal climate action

Carole has degrees in environmental health and sciences communication, and has worked in the UK, Australia and Indonesia. Her career has covered sewage chemistry, environmental health, food safety and major transport projects. Most recently, she coordinated programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in WA's transport sector.

Globally, due to systemic gender inequality, women have fewer resources and opportunities than men,

making them more vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis. Yet women are key to creating a sustainable future. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 is Zonta's main focus—**"Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"**. Carole's focus, in her current role, is about SDG13—**"Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"**.

In June 2021, Zonta International published their **'Statement on Climate Change—a gender equality issue'**. This document is well worth reading and can be accessed [here](#). Its main points are—

- * **Envisioning a sustainable and gender-equal future.**
- * **Climate change is an issue of human rights.**
- * **Women's involvement is needed.**
- * **Girls' education is key.**
- * **Equal economic opportunities are needed.**
- * **Climate change has a detrimental effect on health and safety.**
- * **Raising awareness is critical.**

Zonta International has asked governments who have not signed the **Paris Agreement** to sign this Agreement.

In addition, ZI has asked governments who have signed the Paris Agreement to actively take into account human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in defining and implementing their national climate action plans, including gender-responsive measures that are more effective and respectful of human rights.

ZI has also called for governments and policymakers to uphold the principles of climate justice agreed to in the Paris Agreement and ensure that the most marginalized groups do not bear the brunt of the climate crisis.

In her presentation, Carole shared real life examples of how women and girls will be affected by climate change. These stories inspired Carole to set up—



cont'd below...



Sudan—drought. Nine year old Dabor walks further for water, fuel and food and has no time for school.



Australia—extreme heat. This elderly lady, who has a heart condition, is worried about surviving over the hot summers as she cannot afford air-conditioning.

Mozambique—floods. Eleven-year-old Aayan, was sold into marriage when her family's crops and home were destroyed and they became destitute.



Marshall Islands—sea level rise. Wailani aged 17, cannot sleep for fear of drowning in her bed.



Nigeria—floods. Ralia saw her market livelihood wash away. How will she feed her family?

Zonta has called on its membership to—

- **Increase its own awareness of climate change and on its gender-related consequences and raise awareness locally.**
- **Include gendered climate change advocacy actions in its advocacy plans.**
- **Support the inclusion of women at the national and local tables of decision-makers on environmental sustainability.**
- **Promote girls' education and the inclusion of climate literacy in schools, as well as to promote girls' science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) studies to increase gendered scientific and technical contributions to climate change mitigations.**
- **Advocate for national policies that take into account women's economic opportunities and ensures their full and equal participation in the economy.**

Climate is changing and we need to change too!

How 'disaster ready' are you and your family? Tap into [Leaflets, Presentations and Information – Zonta Says NOW](#) and take advantage of the plethora of helpful pamphlets that can be downloaded. Australia has so much that is worth protecting for future generations. We can all individually do our bit to save our planet. As **Mary Crooks (Victorian Women's Trust)** said at the 2021 D23 Conference—

"If we don't stop the planet from burning, we can forget about gender equality!"

ZI, Climate Impacts & Actions cont'd

"Engaging Girls on Climate Change in Madagascar"—Project Update

The Goal of this project is to support girls and a generation of children and adolescents by providing environmental education in Madagascar through child-friendly schools. ZI has contributed US\$500,00 to help UNICEF USA to enable children, particularly girls, to learn in safe and inclusive environment and empower them to take actions to change and to build climate-resilient communities.

Another specific objective is to support Madagascar in meeting water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sustainable development goals (SDGs), while also contributing to improving the quality of children's education, especially girls, through environmental conservation and education initiatives.

In August our *International President, Ute Scholz*, visited Mozambique to



witness the initiatives that are being implemented to prevent child marriage. She was truly impressed by the programs that are a part of our **Ending Child Marriage international service project**.

However, she was concerned to learn that a main driver for child marriage in the country is climate change. When homes are destroyed by cyclones, girls are in danger of being sold to a "husband" so their families have money to rebuild. Despite hearing this, Ute was

encouraged and happy to learn that the participants recognized the importance of ending this practice. They responded by saying that ending child marriage would benefit their community as a whole. Through education, girls and women could develop skills and give back to their villages and community.



Click on this [link](#) to read more about the Madagascar project and on this [link](#) for further details on the Ending Child Marriage Project.



Taking Action—don't know where to start?

Never fear—you will find the following website an excellent starting point.

[Zonta Says NOW – to gender-equal climate action](#)

Select **THINK TANKS** and then **INTERCONTINENTAL THINK TANK** to add your name to the mailing list. You will be informed of the latest news and dates for future on-line meetings.

The next *Think Tank* Zoom meeting is on **Sunday, 22 October—1.00-2.30 pm WA time** (not 15 October as originally scheduled). Guest speaker Amy Steel

was an international netballer, now a climate advocate and researcher.

Many Zonta clubs are already taking action like those in District 25 (India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) who were motivated to enter a presentation explaining why Zontians needed to take climate action.

This is the title of the Zonta Club of Colombo III's winning **PowerPoint**.



You are encouraged to take a look.

Readers may also be interested in the following links.

Katharine Hayhoe podcast—

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1qfGHYxBzk7ggnDwrekVAe>

Climate Council video—

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/lets-go-for-gold-on-climate-action/>

We can all take some form of action!

If not now, when? Don't procrastinate—do something! In the words of Lisa Blair (sailor extraordinaire, climate activist and one of the keynote speakers at our Brisbane Convention in 2024)

"Just do, because the world is changed by doers!"

New Executive Director Announced

Our *ZI President, Ute Scholz* has announced the appointment from 1 October of a new **Executive Director** in **Megan Radavich**. Megan has been a



dedicated member of the Headquarters team since 2009 and has acted in an interim capacity as ED since May this year. She brings a wealth of knowledge about Zonta and extensive experience in association management, governance, communications,

fundraising, advocacy and program administration.

Here's a little of what Megan said upon accepting her new position.

"It is an honor to be named executive director of Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women. I am inspired on a daily basis by the Zontians I meet and the work they do to support gender equity around the world. In my new capacity as executive director, I look forward to continuing to work with our members, partners and

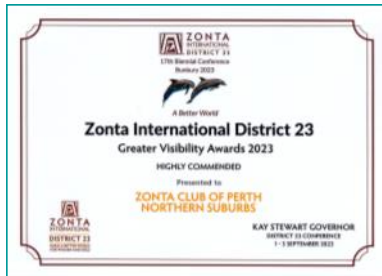
other stakeholders and to welcoming new individuals and organizations to join us in our efforts to build a better world for women and girls."

Megan is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago; and, in 2022, she received her Certified Association Executive credential from the American Society of Association Executives and is well credentialed in developing organizational membership and fundraising strategies to support Zonta's goals.

We look forward to working with Megan to progress the goals of Zonta.

Bunbury Conference Snips

It was very encouraging to receive recognition for the work of our **Greater Visibility Committee**, especially **Irene** who spent considerable time on our Club's entry to this District Award.



As mentioned by Sue, we were the only club to enter all six categories and thus were presented with the above special **Highly Commended** certificate.

Congratulations to those clubs who won specific categories.

Fourteen Club members attended the Bunbury Conference in September. Four of our members—**Lesley, Jill, Wendy** and **Sue Sofoulis**, were 'First-Timers', joining the other 30 which was great to see. No doubt these Zontians will have whetted their appetites for the ZI Convention in Brisbane June next year. We hope so.



As is customary at conferences, we had an opportunity to meet our District's **International Liaison—Annika Bränström** from the **Zonta Club of Sundsva, Sweden**. Annika gave an excellent update on our International Programs and Projects and spoke about the future of Zonta International. Here she is in the middle of our 'mob' at Saturday's Gala Dinner.

Participants were treated to some very good speakers including **Natalie Isaacs** (Founder, 1 Million Women), **Megan McCracken** (Non-Executive Director with Pacific Energy and Chair of the Freight and Logistics Council of WA), **Professor Samar Aoun** (WA Australian of the Year 2023), **Kristi McVee** (Youth Safety advocate) and **Amy Zahra** (D23 2022 Jane M. Klausman Women in

Business Scholarship Awardee as well as other Youth Leaders, mentioned in Sue's message on page 1.

Several **recognition awards** were made by the **Birthing Kit Foundation**, one being our Club's 18 assembly days since



1999. Sadly, **'Kit Queen' Connie** was not able to attend the Conference but received the certificate at our meeting on 4 October—here she is all smiles.

cont'd below...



There were also a number of **'Years of Membership'** Awards. **Dagmar** was one such recipient (25 plus years), although unable to be at Conference to receive her award. Like

Connie, we pinned her at our recent dinner meeting.

These District and International meetings are a great place for some 'retail therapy'. The Bunbury Conference was no exception with a great array of 'no bounds to the imagination' useful and quirky items.

With 'Sales Assistants' like **Ruth** and **Lesley** (below), and our trusty and hard-working **Treasurer Sue** with her 'square reader' on call, we did very well. Over the two days we raised \$661.37! **So, thank you to all the Zontians who helped top up our coffers!**



And to all those longer-standing members, we are still selling shoe/utility bags!! **Yes**, but we are down to our last 200! A

recent reconciliation shows that since we introduced 3000 of them at the 2006 Melbourne Convention, we have, so far, made a clear profit of \$9,084! \$10,000—here we come!!

There were several information stalls, one of which related to the **Zonta Foundation for Women**. As **D23 Foundation Ambassador, Alison** (shown at right with **Annika**) was on hand

to enlighten attendees about the work of the Foundation. Did you know that since 1923 Zonta International has provided more than US\$46.3 million to build a better world for women and girls and expand their access to health care, education, economic opportunities and safe living conditions?

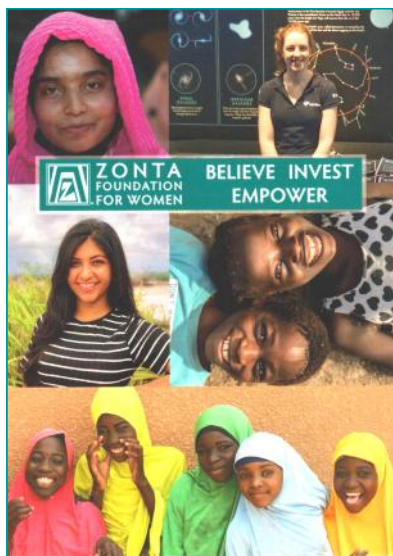
Through donations to the Foundation, Zonta improves women's lives, their children's lives and the communities in which they live and work. **100 percent of all donations to the Zonta Foundation for Women go directly** to program support. Click on this [link](#) for further information, or to donate.

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Well done Alison! If Zontians took the time to visit your table, they will be much better informed about the work of the Foundation.



One of the delights of attending these conferences is being able to mix and mingle socially with other Zontians. This was catered for admirably by Friday night's '*Dine Around Bunbury*' event. No less than 11 venues were listed covering all manner of styles and tastes.

Saturday night's *Gala Dinner* was another lively occasion to meet and enjoy the company of other members and their partners. The foul weather that evening didn't dampen our spirits with much frolicking and fun on the dance floor! What is it with Zontians?!

Over the weekend there was plenty of District business to conduct from the Flag Parade to Election of Officers for the next biennium. We will have some new faces after next year's Convention when these Zontians take office.

Governor
Lt Governor
Treasurer
Area 1 Director

Debbie Schmidt
Wendy Quinn
Chris Frick
Fiona MacDowell

Area 2 Director

Vice Area 2 Director

Area 3 Director

Area 4 Director

Area 5 Director

Nominating Committee

Jennifer Trewren-Foreman

Linda Berketa

Kimberley Robbins

Donna Fabris

Jill Taylor

Pru Blackwell,

Faith O'Brien and

Lesley Siegloff

In the meantime we congratulate and thank all candidates for stepping up and their preparedness in taking on these very important administrative roles. Our Club will give its full support to this new Board and particularly look forward to working with our **Area 3 Director, Kimberley Robbins** from the Zonta Club of Bunbury.

Overall, despite participant numbers being down (a sign of current economic times perhaps), it was another enjoyable Conference. We must **thank the Conference Committee** for all their work in providing an interesting, well run and timely program.

Around the Club

Member **Rosemary**, who has 20 years' experience in the mental health sector, has run another very successful **Mental Health First-Aid Training** course.

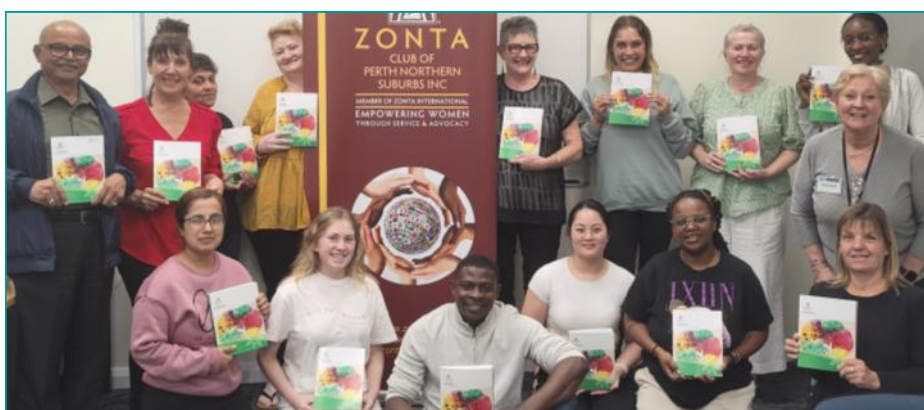
Rosemary has developed an in-depth knowledge of the issues and stigma that surround many in society who have mental illness. She has a passion for promoting social and emotional well-being as well as continuing to increase awareness in the area.

The recent two-day educational course, covering practical first-aid skills, was sponsored by the City of Stirling. Some of these skills provided participants the know how to—

- * **Recognise common mental health problems.**
- * **Provide initial help using a practical, evidence-based Action Plan.**
- * **Seek appropriate professional help, and**
- * **Respond in a crisis situation.**

The benefits of such a course are -

- **Improves knowledge of mental illnesses, treatments and first-aid actions.**
- **Increases confidence in providing first-aid.**
- **Decreases stigmatising attitudes.**
- **Increases the support provided to others.**



Above—participants in the **Mental Health First-Aid Training** course looking very pleased with themselves after having received their Mental First-Aiders Accreditation Certificates. Front row second from left is our Club's 2023 Young Women in Public Affairs Awardee Amalea Halls.



Here we have another happy group who assembled 500 birthing kits on 23 September at the City of Stirling's Osborne Park Community Hub. Again, Amalea supported this and can be seen in the front row second from the right with her Mum on the end.

More from around the Club



The cricket season has well and truly started and so 'Yours Truly' has been sneaking out of her 'Zonta Office' to watch a game or two at the WACA! On Monday 9 September she met **Wendy** and her grandson Xavier, also cricket fanatics, to watch the WA men beat the Vics handsomely in a 50-over match.



Connie, Ruth, Alison and their friends and rellies made up a table of 8 for the recent

Rotary Club of Northbridge's Quiz Night. Proceeds from the evening will help to support **StreetLaw Centre WA Inc**, a free homeless persons' legal advice clinic. Sounds like a wonderful community organisation.

On 8 October, amidst a crowd of over 10,000 participants, **Irene** completed her second 21km half-marathon of the year. The **Perth Running Festival** kicked off at 8 am from the iconic Optus Stadium and concluded inside the same remarkable venue.

Despite a relatively cooler morning than the day before, she couldn't escape the scorching UV rays which reached their peak about two hours into the race, largely due to the later start. Other runs usually begin at 6:30 am, allowing a comfortable finish before 9:30 am. Starting late presented a different set of challenges as the sun's intensity became a formidable opponent.

In the face of this adversity, she pressed on and, although the race did not unfold as smoothly as she had hoped, she was able to muster the determination to cross the finish line as planned. This held special significance, not just as a mark of her perseverance, but also the point where she received her well-earned finisher's medal.



"Grit is the stubborn refusal to quit." — **Jonah Lehrer**

Well done Irene. You are a champion of Telethon who has benefited from this event.



Jean heads the Club's **Service & Advocacy Committee**. Kaye has been serving since the end of 1984 while Jean joined in 1990—two very dedicated Zontians.

Kaye, left, and **Jean** below, were both recognised for the work they do in our Club. Kaye is our **Archivist** while



Jan thanking **Carole** on 4 October for her most interesting and thought provoking presentation.

Following on from page 3 and the article on **'Taking Action** here's another way you might like to express how you feel about climate change, gender equality and any other climate-related topic. Zonta wants to set up a **Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery** and is calling on members to share their artistic talents **before 15 December**.

Interested? Read more about this idea [here](#). There is a Submission and Permission form to be completed. Maybe our Club could contribute to this. What a great idea!

Calling all creative Zontians!

Share your artistic talent in the **Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery**

Submit your artwork in digital format with a short description **before 15 December 2023**

What type of artwork?

- Written word
- Drawings, paintings
- Photographs
- Short videos, films
- Sculptures, textiles
- Music, songs
- ...and much more!

Express how you feel about climate change, gender equality, and any other climate-related topic.

Guidelines and submission form are on the Zonta Says NOW page at zonta.org



Plenty of birthdays to celebrate over October and November. We even have another Octogenarian in our midst! Yes, **Kath** qualified

for an **Over Blooming Eighty** last week!

Kath	10 October
Liz	16 October
Kaye	18 October
Wendy	21 October
Palma	3 November
June	13 November



Our Best Wishes to you all for a joyous and happy time on your special day!

Another of **Jonah Lehrer's** quotes—

"And so we keep on thinking, because the next thought might be the answer."



ZONTA
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PERTH NORTHERN
SUBURBS INC
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EMPOWERING WOMEN
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