

A word from your President



When my university colleague **Jill Darby** invited me to a Zonta general meeting one Wednesday in late 2021, it never crossed my mind that I would be taking on this role some two and a half years later!

So, as this is my first 'Word from your President', please be gentle!

I begin this presidency with a mix of trepidation and excitement—trepidation because I have big shoes to fill following **Sue Pertilé's** presidency, and excitement because I get to wear the sparkly President Badge!

Joking aside, I wish to sincerely thank Sue for all her support and her 'love and affection' for all of us Zontians. Her passion and enthusiasm are infectious, and I am sure I will continue to rely on her knowledge and experience throughout my tenure and beyond!



Sue's leadership of our **YouthGuard** project is an inspiration to us all. Our correspondence to Federal and Local politicians emanating from the **International**

Women's Day event have already made an impact, and I am confident we will continue to make a difference in this key area. Sue and I are looking forward to our upcoming meeting next month with



Founder **Kayelene Kerr**, when we will discuss further steps. In the meantime, we can reflect on Kayelene's catch phrase—*"Protecting children from harm is a shared responsibility. We can all play a role in the care, safety and protection of children."*

I would also like to thank **Alison Martin**, who has been a fantastic Secretary and continues to support me and **Letitia** as we transition into our roles. I also want to mention **Irene** and **Nola**, who have helped me make sense of our monthly dinner meetings! Thank you also to our new and continuing Board members, some of whom are stepping up for a second or third time. We make a great team!

As President, I have been given the responsibility of the 'Zonta Box', which I plan to explore over the next few months and share my findings at an upcoming Wednesday dinner meeting—

especially the Zonta gavel!

On a serious note, a key role for we Zontians is our commitment to ending violence against women. Here are some stark facts from the **Government's National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032**.

With intimate partner violence increasing by 28%, from 2021–2022 and 2022–23, the issue is more pressing than ever. A central aim of the Government's plan is to reduce female intimate partner homicides by 25% per year over five years. Of course, we are already contributing to this through our work supporting survivors of gender-based violence, our allegiance with **Zonta House** and our service and advocacy projects.



The Government report also reminds us that gender-based violence is a leading cause of homelessness for Australian women, an issue we discussed last week in our **Service and Advocacy** meeting. Three of our members—**Ruth, Jan** and **Leanne**, all volunteer time to various groups providing meals and other services with a number of our members supporting them with food donations.

cont'd over..

'First-Timers' raise a glass!

Fresh back from the **Zonta International Convention in Brisbane** shown here are four of the five 'First-Timer' Club members enjoying a glass (or two) of bubbles at their 'Meet & Greet' function.

Overall there were 1725 registrations of which 550 were attending their first Convention. So it was certainly an eye opener for **Wendy, Chris, Jillian, Jill** and **Sue Sofoulis** who were blown away by the sheer enormity and atmosphere of the event. No doubt they will be thinking about heading to Vancouver in 2026!

Read more about Jillian and Jill's reflections on the next page. Jillian as a new member of PNS, spoke passionately about her experience at our July Club meeting saying how much she learnt about Zonta and how she now appreciates what a fantastic organisation it is!



cont'd from p.1

I was sad not to be able to attend the Brisbane Convention this year, but happy to enjoy the photos and stories from those who did attend at our July dinner meeting. The Convention introduced four new Zonta International biennial goals for 2024-2026:

1. **Credible and Visible Voice**
2. **Club Success**
3. **Leadership and Sustainability**
4. **Engagement of Audiences and Allies**

I plan for us to revisit these goals and see where we could strengthen our already great work in one or more of these areas.

Zonta is also of course about friendship and socialising. I am always impressed by our social and fundraising events, which are approached with fun and professionalism by our Fundraising team.

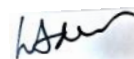
The **Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Tribute Dinner** is our next event on August 8. This will be a special evening where we can celebrate our amazing past winners and learn about their journeys and achievements to date.

I am also looking forward to our September guest speaker—**Carole Theobald** (Chair of the **Zonta Says**

NOW Working Group and member of the ZC of Perth). Carole facilitated a Workshop at Convention on **Disaster Preparedness** and has kindly agreed to present this again for our members based on the Australian Red Cross Society's Emergency **RediPlan**. As we all know, emergencies can happen at any time, but are we prepared? Each attendee will receive a **Red Cross** emergency planner booklet. Look out for further details at a later date.

I will sign off for now.

In love and fellowship



Lesley Andrew

Convention Reflections

"ZI Convention 2024 was a tremendous opportunity for 'First Timers' to appreciate the significance of being part of a positive network of women from 65 countries all focused on a 'better world for women and girls'. We have never felt more connected to a global movement, or prouder to be the ones amongst the many. We have both attended numerous conferences, with ZI 2024 a standout, providing exceptional presenters and focus to the humanitarian programs of work which our Club funds support.

The lead-in month, prior, included webinars and pre-convention workshops providing useful preparation and valuable background information to 'set the scene'. (Pre-recordings, including Keynote and business sessions are available on the Whova App for the next two months.)

Fellowship was incredibly strong with half of our club attending and included a District 23 Dine Out, 'First Timers' celebration and the launch of 'Zonta Australia'—a new structure combining all three Australian Districts allowing a collective voice.

We experienced so much friendliness of all members, especially those who acknowledged that we were first timers (flagged on our lanyards) and stopped and chatted about how we were enjoying the convention.

Southbank with 1400 Zontians all decked out in Orange marching for FV to an Aussie Sausage Sizzle destination was memorable!

Our Marketplace stall capably facilitated by Treasurer Sue, was a very



busy hub for conversations and generosity. ZI Foundation fundraised US\$211,850 (A\$317,000) from delegates, a new convention record. ZI Directors including Chair of the Organising Committee Judy Gorton (ZC of Perth), ZI President Ute Scholz (Germany) and President-Elect Salla Tuominen (Finland) worked incredibly hard, demonstrated amazing skills and were accessible and fun.

We also gained a far better insight of the work of our International Office, ensuring Zonta's profile and outcomes are met with strong governance.

The Programme was inspiring including high calibre speakers with Rabia Siddique (Human rights lawyer from Perth) shining the key ZI mission of eliminating family violence. She also provided a Master-class on 'women

leading under pressure'. Lisa Blair (introduced by Dawn) was awe-inspiring, with world-class achievements on her yacht 'Climate Action Now'. She challenged us to responsibly consume less plastics and textiles and make a difference for climate change and a fragile environment. Other valuable discussions on Artificial Intelligence impacting women; Climate Emergencies presented by Perth Club member Carole Theobald; and ZI programs in Business Sessions were engaging.

The Convention concluded with a spectacular farewell function. Thanks to Dawn, we were privileged to be seated with Lisa Blair, hearing first hand about her dedication and passion for the environment.

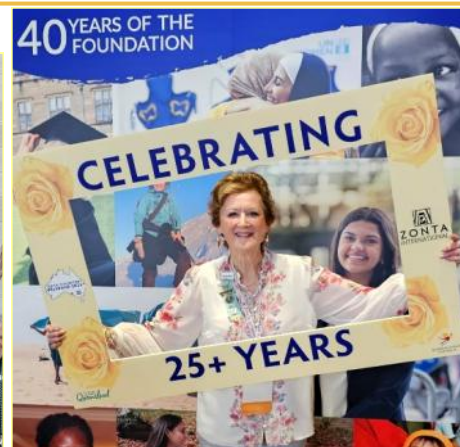
Having attended this convention has opened our eyes to this wonderful organisation, a sense of real belonging and a much better understanding. If you have the opportunity, Vancouver 11-14 July 2026 should be a great destination."

Jill and Jillian

(shown below with outgoing ZI President Ute Scholz)



more highlights from Convention



Memorial Service – District 23

- Robyn Naree Arnold
- Gay Hanrahan
- Catherine Mair
- Elizabeth Ann Marsden
- Judith Rothe
- Kristina Vonow
- Amanda Wallace



more over ..

Build a Better World for Women and Girls

more highlights from Convention—the Business side

Zonta International Board 2024-2026



Salla Tuominen
President
Helsinki I, Finland
District 20



Fernanda Gallo-Freschi
President-Elect
Milano Sant'Ambrogio, Italy
District 28



Sandra Venn-Brown
Vice President
Stanthorpe Inc, Australia
District 22



Souella Cumming
Treasurer/Secretary
Wellington, New Zealand
District 16



Ela Pandya
Director
Porterville, USA
District 9



Philippa Jacobs-Lory
Director
Christchurch-Canterbury, New Zealand
District 16



Margaret Akofio Sowah
Director
Accra II, Ghana
District 18



Ofelia "Lia" Bautista
Director
Greater Rizal I, Philippines
District 17



Christine Dersch
Director
Marburg, Germany
District 28



Unna Huh
Director
Seoul III-Nam Seoul, South Korea
District 32



Vivienne Shen
Director
Hsin Chu, Taiwan
District 31



International Project 2024-2026 - #1

ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE: A PROGRAM TO ACCELERATE GLOBAL ACTION PHASE III



GOAL

With renewed ambition toward 2030, the Global Programme will boost its actions to accelerate the decline in child marriage globally and respond to the combined effects of the polycrisis and the pushback against gender equality on adolescent girls.

FUNDING: US\$1,500,000

Fundraising Goals 2024-2026

PROGRAM	AMOUNT
International Service Project	\$3,250,000
Amelia Earhart Fellowship	\$ 552,000
Young Women <u>In</u> Public Affairs	\$ 370,000
Rose Fund	\$ 445,000
TOTAL	\$4,617,000

International Project 2024-2026 - #2

CLIMATE EMPOWER: COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE ACTION



GOAL

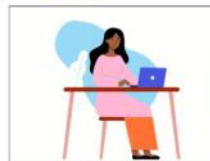
Prevent climate-induced gender-based violence (GBV) and other harmful practices through interwoven innovative approaches and community-driven interventions in Madagascar, Mozambique and South Sudan, some of the countries most vulnerable to climate change globally.

FUNDING: US\$1,000,000

International Project 2024-2026 - #3



LAAHA: A VIRTUAL SAFE SPACE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



GOAL

Laaha, the first-ever digital web-based platform created by UNICEF with women and girls, from crisis-affected regions has two primary objectives.

FUNDING: US\$750,000

ZI Biennial Goals 2024-2026—a brief overview

The following biennial goals are aligned with Zonta's mission, vision and strategic plan and outline the focus for the next biennium. They describe the most critical items for our global community to concentrate on in the next two years as we build a better world for women and girls. Alongside these are comprehensive and detailed operational plans with targets and key performance indicators for daily operations carried out by the Headquarters Team and supervised by the Zonta Board.

**CREDIBLE AND
VISIBLE VOICE**

**CLUB
SUCCESS**

**LEADERSHIP AND
SUSTAINABILITY**

**ENGAGEMENT
OF AUDIENCES
AND ALLIES**

In order to emphasise the organisation's need to operate in accordance with the strategic plan published in 2023, these have been categorised under the four major goals identified in the plan. We will hear more about these as the biennium proceeds, but in the meantime, use [this link](#) to familiarise yourself and learn more about these strategic goals that our Zonta world will be focusing on.

Build a Better World for Women and Girls

District 23 Board 2024-2026

Our **District Officers** were elected last year at the Conference in Bunbury and will now take up their roles. They are—



Debbie Schmidt—Governor
ZC of Geelong



Fiona MacDowell—Area 1 Director
ZC of Geelong



Donna Fabris—Area 4 Director
ZC of Kyneton

Wendy Quinn—Lt Governor
ZC of Hobart Derwent



Jenni Foreman—Area 2 Director
ZC of Adelaide Torrens



Jill Taylor—Area 5 Director
ZC of Hobart



Linda Berketa—Vice Area 2 Director
ZC Adelaide Flinders



Chris Frick—Treasurer
ZC of Gawler



Kimberley Robbins—Area 3 Director
ZC of Bunbury



Naidene Parry—Secretary
ZC of Bendigo

These Zontians will be supported by various Committee Chairs all of whom will be made known when these roles are finalised.

The next **District 23 Conference** is being held in **Devonport, Tasmania, September 2025**. This will be a great opportunity to holiday in the 'Apple Isle', to connect with these ladies and, for our newer members, to learn more about our own District. Make a note and plan to go!

Around the Club

Well it's been quite a whirlwind with so much happening in and around our Club, not to mention half of our membership attending the Convention! We also have several members away on leave, unwell or holidaying overseas! Nevertheless, the Club continues to operate and is busier than ever.

Those of us who went to Brisbane are still on a high. **Wendy's** been on a high all the time as shown here riding "**The Wheel of Brisbane**", although looking a little apprehensive! However, thinking about Lisa Blair's Southern Ocean incredible adventures surely would have calmed any fears she had!



We had a very successful result from our Market stall selling over \$1200 of merchandise. A huge **Thank You** to **Sue Sofoulis**, our trusty, hard-working and dedicated Treasurer who spent most of her 'break' times encouraging other Zontians to buy from our table. What a hive of activity that room was. Zontians

love their 'retail therapy', our members being no exception. There was plenty of choice from orange clothing, earrings, candles, books, and socks to bumper stickers, to name just a few. By the way, we sold 73 of our 'famous utility/shoe bags' leaving only approximately 86 in stock! They will probably go down as 'collectors items' since they were introduced in 2006! However, we've cleared \$9,500 in that time—not to be sneezed at! Could we sell these off for \$6 each and thus reach the magical \$10,000?

As we know, our **Young Women in Public Affairs Awards Tribute Dinner** is being held next month which will reflect on the 32 years our Club has been involved in this program. The dinner will feature six of these Award recipients five of whom will form a panel discussion orchestrated by **Dr Demelza Ireland**, our 1996 Awardee.

PNS have been proud of and privileged to meet these amazing young women with whom we endeavour to keep in touch as much as possible. In fact, the **2019 Awardee—Simran Vyas** was Guest Speaker at our July meeting.

Simran is aspiring to become a vet and is undertaking her degree in Sydney. She shared her five years of study so far loving every minute of it. However, there has been hard work, discipline and perseverance. "*I have gained so much curiosity and intrigue and have*

learnt camaraderie and teamwork. This career is about working together, collaborating and complementing each other's strengths and weaknesses. I've been so lucky, so early in my career, to be surrounded by amazing people and wonderful mentors."

Simran finished her talk by saying that she was very excited about this career and encouraged anyone with a passion and desire to advocate for and help animals to join her in what she is finding to be a wonderfully diverse and beautiful career.



Simran's full presentation is available if anyone would like to read it. Let me know!



more from Around the Club

Lucy Lönnqvist has been in touch as well. Since receiving her YWPA Award in 2021, Lucy has gone on to study her Bachelors Degree at Sciences Po Paris, a university based in France specialising in the study of Politics and International Affairs.



Over the course of her studies, Lucy has become heavily involved in fieldwork pertaining to refugee rights and resettlement solutions. She has spent her summers working on the Calais Refugee Camp in France's north and her weekends monitoring the release of migrants from detention centres on the Franco-Italian Border.

Lucy was selected as a researcher in her university's research institute and has been fortunate enough to fly to Israel (2023) and Cyprus (2024) for week-long trips to conduct field work investigations for her research papers. She is currently interning at the United Nations Headquarters in New York at the Foundation for Post-Conflict Development, and after this internship, she will spend the final year of her under-

graduate degree on exchange in Sweden this September.

Just amazing and how lucky are we to be associated with young women like Simran and Lucy. That's what Zonta can do for you—what can you do for Zonta?
(I've heard that phrase before! Ed.)

Someone else who deserves a gold star is one of our own 'stars' in **Liz Wason**. Liz has received recently the **Graham Peachey Award** from the **Australasian College of Behavioural Optometrists**.

Liz is one of those quiet achievers the award having recognised her outstanding contribution to behavioural education. She said in part—

"When I look at the list of previous awardees, I am humbled to be included in such an esteemed and admired group of people who have educated and inspired me throughout my career. I believe in sharing my skills and knowledge with the intent that in some capacity I may contribute to the betterment of our profession in providing exceptional patient care."

Liz has been peering into people's eyes since



1978 when she graduated from the Queensland Institute of Technology commencing in private practice soon after. She opened her own practice in Gympie from 1998-2001 after which she moved to Perth to join Steve in his practice. They subsequently opened '**EyeSense Vision & Therapy Centre**'.

These practices have been training centres for Optometrists and Vision Therapists to improve their clinical skills in advanced optometry care, attracting students from Flinders and WA universities, Auckland and France.

Liz is also a nominated mentor to optometrists studying for their ACBO Fellowship which she received in 1996 and has acted as ACBO's State Director in Queensland and WA. She worked in the Optometry Clinic at the Sydney Olympics and Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

There is much more to Liz than meets the eye! She is a Justice of the Peace, an accredited netball coach, has a Teaching Diploma for piano, loves nothing better than touring around the chateaux in Champagne country and is, of course, a dedicated Zontian!

Well done and congratulations Liz on achieving this recognition.

As mentioned previously, PNS is suffering a little from so many members being away. **Irene** no sooner returned from Ireland than she was on another flight to Brisbane and the Convention following which she and Tony jetted off to Cairns and on to Honolulu for some family time. Looks like they're having a great time—a picnic dinner one evening at Ala Moana Beach and the view from their hotel isn't bad either!



It's difficult to keep track of some of our members—someone is always heading off somewhere.

Now a little administrative information for members to note.

1. Public Liability Insurance

District 23 has a General Public Liability policy which is worldwide except for North America.

2. Voluntary Workers Cover

Under District 23's Voluntary Workers' policy, we are covered while engaged in voluntary work authorised by and under the control of the insured. This includes direct uninterrupted travel to and from such voluntary work.

3. Governing Documents

The Club is an Incorporated body, has a Constitution and Charitable Collections Licence. We need to be mindful that we comply with these authorities at all times.

4. Club Member Directory

A reminder that this will be updated for the new biennium. Please ensure that your contact details are correct. **Please send amendments to Dawn by August 7.** Thank you.

VALE Margaret Field 1933-2024

Members were saddened to hear the news that one of the Club's Charter Members, Margaret Field, passed away on 17 July. She was a real powerhouse of energy, enthusiasm and ideas for 35 years.

From the outset, Margaret was a very active member of PNS—



- * President 1986-1988;
- * In 1985 arranged valuable support for Zonta House Refuge;
- * Organised and facilitated therapeutic holiday camps for mothers and children, victims of DV;
- * Supported migrant/refugee women, obtaining grants for Migrant Women's Safety Seminars;
- * In 2003, she brought the plight of a migrant woman to the attention of the WA Attorney-General. The WA Government subsequently passed legislation declaring female genital mutilation a criminal offence;
- * From 1996 she became responsible for the Club's archives and subsequently wrote our history from 1981-1998;
- * Contributed to District committees.

Margaret was an amazing role model and leader and contributed so much during her lifetime. She will be missed greatly, especially by her family and close friends. RIP Margaret.

more from Around the Club

ZONTA
HUMANITIX
BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

You can help save the lives of mothers and babies by volunteering at our

BIRTHING KIT ASSEMBLY DAY
MORNING TEA PROVIDED



DATE/TIME: Saturday 3 August—from 8 am to 12 noon
PLACE: Sorrento Tennis Club, Percy Doyle Reserve, Cnr Warwick Road & Marmion Avenue, Duncairn
RSVP: Before Thursday 1 August by registering via this link—<https://events.humanitix.com/birthing-kit-assembly-day-2024>
ENQUIRIES: Connie 0417 184 640 "Walk-ins" warmly encouraged and welcomed!

Over 300,000 women die annually from pregnancy or childbirth-related complications. The majority in developing countries. The Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) is an organisation dedicated to improve conditions for women all over the world by providing clean birthing kits. Though each kit costs less than a cup of coffee, its simple contents provide the resources to reduce infection and fatalities.

www.bkfa.org.au www.zontaperthns.org.au www.zonta.org

If you can't make either of these days but would like to give Connie a hand to pre-prepare the kit contents the day before, please give her a ring on 0417 184 640.

Friday 2 August 9-12 noon at the Tennis Club and
Friday 6 September 1pm onwards at the Church.

Once these assembly days are completed, it is unlikely there will be others programmed for some time.

It is interesting to note that a Workshop on Birthing Kits was presented at the recent Convention to further promote and inform other Zontians about the work of the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia.

Connie has arranged 2 birthing kit assembly days—
Saturday 3 August at the Sorrento Tennis Club, and
Saturday 7 September, in conjunction with sponsor EEO Specialists, at All Saints Uniting Church in Floreat.

In all we plan to assemble 1600 kits but need plenty of volunteers. Please register via the following links if you are able to spare some time—

3 August—<https://events.humanitix.com/birthing-kit-assembly-day-2024>

7 September—[Birthing Kit Assembly Day - 7 Sept 2024 | Humanitix](https://events.humanitix.com/birthing-kit-assembly-day-2024)

Please volunteer to help save the lives of mothers and babies

BIRTHING KIT ASSEMBLY DAY

Sponsored by: **EEO specialists**



Date: Saturday, September 7, 2024
Time: 8.30am - 11am (or until completed)
Venue: All Saints Uniting Church, 60 Berkeley Crescent, Floreat
Enquiries: Call Connie on 0417 184 640
Register: Via the link/QR code before Sep 5
Morning tea provided. Walk-ins welcome.

NO WOMAN SHOULD DIE WHILE GIVING BIRTH

Every year over 300,000 women die from pregnancy or childbirth-related complications. The majority of them are in developing countries. The Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) is dedicated to improving conditions for women all over the world by providing clean birthing kits. Each kit costs less than a cup of coffee, but it provides essential resources to reduce infection and fatalities.

www.bkfa.org.au www.zontaperthns.org.au
www.zonta.org www.allsaintsunitedchurchfloreat.com.au

Feel like a nice relaxing Spring afternoon in the Swan Valley? Here's something to think aboutand the link to book tickets: [Spring High Tea | Humanitix](https://www.humanitix.com/events/spring-high-tea)

Spring High Tea Fundraiser

Lavender Bistro & Boutique
French Flair Relaxed Style
6 Cranleigh Street, West Swan

Sunday 15 September 2024
2:30 pm - 5 pm

Per Person: \$55 • Table of 10: \$520

Click here by Friday 11 September 2024 to book tickets through Humanitix

Enquiries: Shanz 0416 677 018
jam-bat@hotmail.com

All funds raised will support our service projects and programs to
Build a Better World for Women and Girls

www.zontaperthns.org.au ABN 69 616 440 942 Assn No. A1000362L
Charitable Collections Licence No. CC22522




Congratulations to Zonta International and the Team who provided us with the most marvellous experience in Brisbane. The Farewell Party was a blast. No doubt about Zontians—they certainly know how to party, like Sue above, who was celebrating the end of her Biennium as our President. But, she won't rest on her laurels as she has much on her agenda!



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