



12 August 2025

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AREA 3 ZONTA WOMEN IN BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

We are thrilled to announce that *Pema Chentsho* is the *Area 3 District 23 Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award (ZWBLA)* recipient! The \$1500 award money is proudly contributed pro rata by the Zonta Clubs of Bunbury, Peel, Perth and Perth Northern Suburbs—a wonderful example of collaboration to support and empower women in our communities.

The announcement was made by *Linda Tinning*, *Area 3 and District 23 Coordinator* for the Award, at our Club's dinner meeting on Wednesday, 6 August.

Pema is a telecommunications engineer, community advocate and supporter of groups which empower women. She was the first in her family, and her village in Bhutan, to pursue higher education completing a Bachelor of Engineering. She studied abroad in Portugal's University of Lisbon, a Master in Telecommunications and Informative Engineering, and recently completed a Master of Project Management at Edith Cowan University (ECU) Perth, Australia. Her journey has taken her from designing radio infrastructure and leading optical fibre network deployments to championing student leadership, inclusion, climate justice and empowerment of women in Australia and Bhutan.

Pema is a co-founder of Edith Cowan University's Women in Business (WIB) recognising the under-representation of women in leadership and will strategically support women and gender-diverse students through industry workshops, mentoring and peer networks, fostering confidence, visibility, and collaboration. Starting with minimal resources, WIB is quickly becoming transformative, empowering students to actively lead rather than wait until graduation.

Beyond the ECU Campus, Pema founded the Druk Support Network responding to policy changes impacting Bhutanese international students and organising access to legal, financial, and mental health support services for, predominantly, women navigating new environments alone.

Pema's advocacy includes climate justice. As an Enactus ECU member, Pema co-organised annual climate action festivals engaging hundreds in sustainability awareness in Perth. In Bhutan, Pema partnered with the Tarayana Foundation on projects supporting rural artisans, creating targeted promotional campaigns that expanded their access to broader markets and improved their livelihoods.

Responding to her award on 6 August, Pema delivered a moving and powerful talk entitled *"Beyond Borders: A Daughter's Journey from Sacrifice to Global Impact"*—a tribute to her mother, Ugyen Wangmo, whose sacrifices laid the foundation for Pema's success. *"She was denied an education. Worked from the age of 8. But never stopped believing that her daughter's life could be different. She moved mountains so I could rise beyond them."*

Pema also said that *"Being recognised by Zonta means carrying forward the quiet strength my mother showed when she moved us across mountains in Bhutan so I could go to school. It reflects the values she taught me—courage, empathy, and a belief in the power of opportunity. This award uplifts not only my story, but the voices of women and girls I continue to advocate for. I accept it with gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose to keep building spaces where others can thrive."*

Area 3 congratulates Pema on being the Awardee for 2025 and we wish her well in her future endeavours.



Linda Tinning (Area 3 District 23 Award Coordinator) with Pema Chentsho, winner of the Area 3 Award

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