

A word from your President



Hi everyone!

Spring has finally sprung and although we are still experiencing changeable weather it is wonderful to see flowers in bloom and to hear the birds early in the mornings—it is a lovely change after what has been a very wet and cold winter.

Our August dinner meeting was a wonderful night celebrating the **Area 3 Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award**. The event was attended by many guests and a big thanks must go to **Linda Tinning** for all the work she puts into making this Award a reality. This event was covered in full in our **August 'Zontapreneur'**.

Prior to heading to Devonport for the **District 23 Conference 5-7 September**, I enjoyed 5 days in Melbourne with one of our sons and his wife and 3 grandchildren aged 17, 15 and 12. We saw a lot of the city and surrounds and managed to watch our grandson play an AFL semi-final game (a loss) but a win in his semi-final basketball game. We were thrilled that they won the final!

I rendezvoused with **Irene, Dawn** and **Elaine** at Melbourne Airport on the Wednesday and we flew to Tasmania that evening. On the Thursday prior to the Conference, Irene and I hired a car and took Dawn and Elaine out with us for a day touring some of the beautiful Tassie countryside. We were going to visit **Cradle Mountain** and do a good walk but with a weather forecast of snow and 2°C it was a no-brainer to give that a big miss! Instead, we visited the delightful seaside town of **Penguin** then onto the **Leven Canyon** area where Irene and I managed a brisk hike down one of the tracks. With the low temperature and wind chill it was bitterly cold so we

were happy to return to the car which Elaine and Dawn had kept warm for us! No frozen assets for them!! We then ventured onto **Sheffield**, known for its beautiful murals. Despite the chilly conditions, it was a great day filled with good food (the best coffee in Penguin), wind, rain, snow, a little sunshine and friendship—apart from the friendships, mostly something quite unusual for we West Aussies!

On behalf of our club I would like to thank the Conference Committee for the huge amount of work that went into

mechanical engineer, passionate about building a better future blending technical expertise with strategic leadership, and is dedicated to supporting women in STEM.

Attending conventions and conferences certainly opens up opportunities which might not otherwise be available, Lisa and Jane being just two examples. These forums also provide a much wider perspective on how Zonta operates both globally and locally.

The Program was extensive, running to a tight schedule, with a mix of business,

interesting presentations, learning 'cafes', club awards, and time to mix and mingle, especially at the market place! A big thank-you to our **Treasurer Sue** and **Leanne** for manning our stall and raising valuable club funds.

Our members were thrilled that **Dawn**, along with ZC of Bunbury member, **Jo Wittorff**, were presented with a **"Governor's Award"** and added to the **'District 23 Heide Taylor Honour Roll'**.

In 1969 Dr Heide Taylor became a Charter Member of the ZC of Adelaide. She was an amazing Zontian, often referred to as 'Mother Zonta'. She held almost every position on her Club's Board, served at District and International levels and became a consultant to the ZI Organisation and Extension Committee. During her time in office Heide travelled widely with twenty new clubs being added to Zonta International.

The Honour Roll recognises individual Zontians who have personified the ideals of Zonta at club level through

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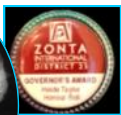


organising and providing us with a great program and some wonderful guest speakers.

It was exhilarating, once again, to hear **Lisa Blair OAM** speak of her amazing journey around Antarctica as she had at the ZI Brisbane Convention last year, but we all agreed it was even more entertaining and passionate this time.

We also heard from inspirational young women, both recent and past awardees, and were privileged to hear **Dr Jane Sargison** speak. Jane, a **Rhodes Scholar** and **Amelia Earhart Fellow (2001)**, is a

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their support and promotion of local projects and Zonta International. The award is not specifically linked to years of service but rather focuses on the quality of the member's contribution to Zonta. It was fitting to know that both Dawn and Jo knew and met Heide at a District conference many years ago. As a highly respected and loved Zontian, sadly, Heide passed away in Adelaide in 2011.



The Conference dinner was a fun and enjoyable affair with a fabulous band and lots of dancing—the only downer being the Dockers lost by one measly point that night so a few of the purple army were rather disappointed!

Adding to the evening was the formal presentation by **Christine Dersch, ZI Director and D23 Liaison**, of **Zonta International Honorary Membership to Lisa Blair OAM**. How proud our club is of being involved with this recognition.

The **Novotel Hotel** was well situated with beautiful river and ocean views and conveniently situated across the road from the **Paranple Convention Centre**. Dining out and around Devonport was fantastic—I found the Tasmanians to be very warm and hospitable. There's more to read and see further in this newsletter, especially for those unable to attend the conference.

September 26 and 27 will see many of us involved in the **Birthing Kit prep and**

assembly days. I encourage you to bring a friend—it is a very uplifting experience and a good chance to be involved in one of our very worthwhile projects.

I look forward to our **1 October United Nations** themed evening when the amazing **Carole Theobald** from the **Zonta Club of Perth** will share her experiences after attending in March the **69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women**.

I do hope you can find time to wander out yonder to see some of the State's abundant wildflowers this spring. The **Kings Park Festival 12-29 September** also showcases the thousands of blooms and is always worth visiting. We are so lucky to have this recreational and wonderland of native flora on our city's doorstep.

"Spring teaches us to bloom with grace, even when the roots have struggled." (Anonymous)

Wendy

New District 23 Officers

The newly elected **District Officers**, shown at right, will take up their roles from July 2026 following the Zonta International Convention in Vancouver (11-14 July).

Members elected to the **Nominating Committee** were, L-R below—

Jane Adornetto (Chair), ZC of Geelong; **Kimberley Robbins**, ZC of Bunbury; and **Donna Fabris**, ZC of Kyneton. These are all experienced Zontians charged with seeking suitable candidates for the 2028-2030 biennium. Their task is one of the more important roles and carries much responsibility as it relates to making sure the best people are nominated and our District remains strong.



L-R: Julie Hallifax (Vice Area 2 Director), ZC of Adelaide Hills; Naidene Parry (Area 4 Director), ZC of Bendigo; Kerry Kerr (Area 3 Director), ZC of Bunbury; Carolyn Kettle (Area 1 Director), ZC of Melbourne on Yarra; Jenny Kerr (Treasurer), ZC of Kyneton; Jennifer Foreman (Lt Governor), ZC of Adelaide Torrens; and Wendy Quinn (Governor), ZC of Hobart Derwent.
(Robyn Page (Area 2 Director), ZC of Mt Barker was absent and no nominations were received for Area 5 Director)



Thank you to all Zontians who stepped up and nominated for these positions. There were more than one nomination for two of the Area Director roles which is always a healthy sign. However, for the members who missed out this time there will always be other opportunities to represent Zonta in some way.

In her Report, Governor Debbie Schmidt said—
".....the District is well positioned to build on our successes. Sustaining strong clubs, investing in leadership development, and embracing new opportunities for service and advocacy will be our priorities. With the dedication and passion of our members, we can be confident that Zonta's future in District 23 is bright."

Let us stand together in Zonta Spirit remembering that our mandate is to **Build a Better World for Women and Girls!**

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The **Paranaple Convention Centre** was an excellent venue, easy to access, with well laid out spaces and convenient round tables for the conference plenary sessions.

The conference commenced on Friday with the usual Welcome to Country, Flag Parade and **D23 Governor, Debbie Schmidt's** welcome. This was followed by the **Hon. Jo Palmer, MLC** who spoke and greeted us on behalf of the Tasmanian Government.

As the theme for this year's conference was **'Sustainability, Spirit and Standing up for Human Rights'**, it was fitting that our first guest speaker was **Professor Kate Warner AC** whose topic was **'Speaking up for Human Rights'**.

Professor Warner, with a distinguished career in law, has held many eminent roles during her professional life. She taught at the University of Tasmania and in 1992 was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Law and later appointed Head of the School of Law (the first woman to hold these positions at the University of Tasmania).



In December 2014 Professor Warner was appointed Governor of Tasmania after which, in 2016, she was made a Companion of the Order of Australia for her significant service to law. She has received many other honours during her long career. Currently she is working on a national project on judicial well-being and a new edition of a sentencing text. Her presentation was both interesting and thought provoking as she shared many anecdotes relating to Human Rights.

Saturday's program was launched by the **Mayor of Devonport—Cr Alison Jarman** who welcomed us warmly to her city mentioning that her community closely reflects the same values as our

theme. She further commented that—



"We're a city of resilience, innovation and social conscience—principles that mirror Zonta's global mission."

As is customary, Zonta International always sends a welcome message to each District conference. **ZI Director and D23 Board Liaison, Christine Dersch** (right) from the ZC of Marberg, Germany, delivered this on behalf of President **Salla Tuominen** (below). Her message was one of encouragement; sharing and listening; standing strong for



more below



education equality, women in decision-making, climate justice and for ending gender-based violence; continuing to speak up for human rights; and taking action. She sent her heartfelt thanks for our invaluable contributions to Zonta and wished us a fulfilling and uplifting conference experience.

Christine also spoke, saying, inter alia—

"I am honoured to be at your District Conference.....It is such a pleasure to work closely with your Governor Debbie and to learn so much about your District."

The strength of our Zonta organization is built on relationships and collaborations. The District Conference provides an opportunity to share your club activities, successes and future plans. Our impact is great when we work collectively.

Your mottoreminds us that a fair and liveable future is only possible if we think of ecological responsibility and social justice as interconnected. Sustainability is more than environmental protection—it also means creating fair living conditions for all people, today and for generations to come. A central aspect of this is the commitment to women's rights."

Christine also encouraged us to think about attending the **67th ZI Convention in Vancouver 11-14 July 2026**.



Information has already been disseminated regarding registration, flights, accommodation options, and much more. If you're planning on attending, it would be worthwhile checking out airfare discounts through the Preferred Airline Partner—Air Canada. There is a lot more information on ZI's website [here](#).

So who were our other guest speakers? We have already mentioned **Dr Jane Sargison**, former **Amelia Earhart Fellow** and mechanical engineer who, like Zonta, is passionate about building a better world. She's one of our 'home grown' awardees who lives in Tasmania!



What a role model for science students. It seems the world is your oyster if you're a STEM enthusiast as it would appear science can lead you anywhere! In Jane's case, from jet engines to developing community spaces!

Catelyn Richards, also a Tasmanian, was another keynote speaker who captured the audience with her address linked to sustainability. Catelyn is a proud registered nurse, humanitarian and passionate advocate for regenerative ecology. She is **President of Climate Action Nurses** and has presented on **Carole Theobald's 'Zonta Says NOW'** platform.

Catelyn was not always passionate about environmental sustainability and climate change, but as her nursing career evolved, she became more and more aware of their impacts. Earlier this year, she was appointed the **Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation's (ANMF) first Climate Change Officer**. She said—

"As the largest health workforce, nurses are in a prime position to lead the way in mitigating climate impacts."



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This role will entail connecting with stakeholders ensuring that nursing has a voice in the formation of national health policies. She will also focus on providing opportunities for nurses and other health-care workers to up-skill and engage in climate-related advocacy.

There is far more to write about Catelyn than this newsletter allows, but would add, in 2022, she was a Westpac Future Leaders scholar and has completed a Master of Leadership (Health and Human Services).

No doubt you will agree Catelyn is one amazing young woman! It would be worth accessing the ANMF's website [here](#) for more information about her climate advocacy journey.

Another amazing guest speaker was Zonta's latest **International Honorary Member—Lisa Blair OAM**! Although many of us heard Lisa speak about her first solo sail around Antarctica at the Brisbane Convention last year, she 'tweaked' this for us and presented it in a slightly different way. The audience, again, were completely immersed on

the edge of their seats as she animatedly related anecdotes around her sheer resilience, determination, mental agility and courage, interspersed with a number of 'take-away' messages, like—

"What's your Antarctica?" When passion meets purpose, anything is possible.
"Fear + Action = Courage." *"Who is the MUM in your story."*

As we heard at the Gala Dinner when she was presented with her IHM, Lisa is now working on a new venture to solo sail around the Arctic in a new yacht

built from volcanic lava! You can read more about this [here](#).

We must thank Lisa for making time in her exceptionally busy life, to overnight and join us in Devonport. However, I'm sure she was very happy to meet more Zontians and be able to sell around 50 of her book '*Facing Fear*'.

By the way, if you were a conference attendee and would like to send a testimonial regarding Lisa's presentation, she would love to hear from you.

Contact — Lisa Blair Sails the World



Lisa would also be keen to hear from anyone interested in sponsoring one of her projects, especially '*The Arctic Impact*' one. This is a bold mission to protect our oceans, drive innovation, contribute to science and inspire further action.

Something else if you haven't seen her documentary—'*Ice Maiden*', which premiered around the globe in 2024, it is showing on SBS OnDemand [here](#).

more below

One of the highlights of any conference is meeting recent Awardees who give us an opportunity to hear their stories and learn about their future aspirations, two of whom were—

* **Nicolette Chen**

Nicolette was one of the last Zonta International **2024 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship** awardees.

This award celebrated the collective pursuit of equality, and empowered women to overcome the barriers that they still faced from the classroom to the boardroom.

Winning this award reduced the financial pressures associated with Nicolette's studies which allowed her to direct more focus on other areas in the Tasmanian society, while developing skills and leadership qualities that Zonta champions. The JMK Scholarship has now been re-badged the **Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award**.



* **Lilly Correll**

Like the JMK Scholarship, the former **Young Women in Public Affairs Award** has been renamed the **Zonta**

Young Women in Leadership Award.

After winning the Bendigo District YWPA Award, this led Lilly onto being one of the 2024 International YWPA Award recipients. Previously she volunteered as a Youth Councilor with the City of Greater Bendigo and held several leadership roles. In 2024 she was elected as the youngest Youth Mayor in the City's history. She has spoken at the State Parliament's '*We Lead*' **Women in Leadership** event.

There is no doubt Lilly is a born leader and will continue to ignite passion in the generation after her, to fight for what they believe in and create positivity in her community.

We wish these young women all the best in whatever careers they choose. Our District is certainly proud of them and their achievements thus far.

Interspersed with these presentations were segments of business, elections, various reports, years of service and birthing kit champions, and Zonta awards in relation to the Heide Taylor Honour Roll, Greater Visibility, Service & Advocacy, 'Share Your Story' recognition and a Z Club presentation.

Congratulations to all those clubs and individuals who received either awards or recognition.

When one hears about these activities en masse, we realise how much voluntary work goes on in the District behind the scenes. Despite our membership numbers declining, we still manage to maintain the momentum and keep our focus on Zonta's Mission, Vision and Values.

Participants were also invited to register for one of the three '*Learning Cafes*', facilitated by Zontians. These were—

- * **Advocacy—Amplifying our Voices;**
- * **Unlocking Club Success in Zonta; and**
- * **Zonta Says NOW Climate Emergency Preparedness Plan.**

These work like round-table think tanks where members pool their ideas and come up with strategies for improvements. The results of these will probably be shared at a later date.

For those of us not so familiar with **Zonta Australia**, this body was launched at the ZI Convention in Brisbane in 2024. It is a collective voice for advocacy at a national level with representatives from the three

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Australian Districts (22, 23 and 24) with more than 2000 members. ZA is thrilled and honoured to have the Patronage of **Her Excellency The Honourable Sam Mostyn AC—28th Governor-General of Australia**. Her support underscores the national significance of Zonta's mission.

The Zonta Australia Committee has a key role to connect international and district advocacy priorities by—

1. **regular updates to Zonta International, and**
2. **regular updates to District and Club Advocacy Chairs.**



Bridget Mather PSM from the Zonta Club of Adelaide Inc is the current Chair. She gave us an up-to-date report on the activities of ZA so far and an outline of future endeavours.

For further information and make-up of the committee, link [here](#). It is also very worthwhile taking a look at Bridget's **2024-2025 Report** which can be downloaded through [this link](#).

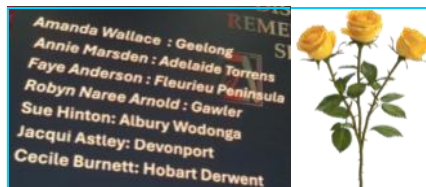
The Gala Dinner is always a fabulous affair when Zontians don their evening attire and glitter. Here we have L-R, **Sue, Margie** (friend of Linda), **Wendy, Linda** and **Alison** all looking very suave!



Of course the band always makes the night buzz along and **'The Opportunists'** were no exception. It didn't take long for the dance area to liven up.



As is customary in the Program on a Sunday morning, we remember those Zontians who are no longer with us. It is always a solemn occasion but a time to reflect on the contributions and friendships these members have made.



A yellow rose is placed in a vase by a representative from each club.

But these conferences have their fun moments. Events such as Friday's **'Dine Around Devonport'** and Saturday night's **'Gala Dinner'** being two such occasions when Zontians relax and have fun! The list of dining venues around Devonport was extensive and mostly very close to our accommodations. One of these was Molly Malones Irish Pub.

With a nose for Guinness, it didn't take long for the twins to make double-trouble with a pint, or two—great for one's iron intake, complexion and demeanour, they believe, which this pic confirms, wouldn't you say!



They dined at Molly's the night before, found the food and staff to be tops and consequently were so happy to return for their dine around with other Zonta friends—as seen below. The group had a lot of laughs and were well sated, in all respects, by the end of the evening!



Shown at left is **Vicki Nazer** from the ZC of Perth with **Alison** enjoying a break from proceedings at the Gala Dinner, and below **Letitia** and **Ambrose**.

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The **'Market Place'** is always the centre of activity when clubs display their wares as Zontians love nothing more than a little retail therapy! There was plenty on offer and fierce marketing from stall holders to entice would-be-purchasers to buy their unique items.

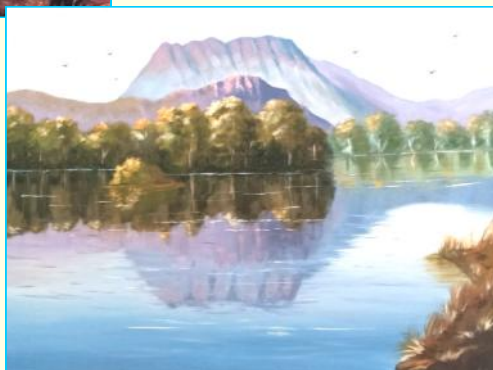


first time at the 'Market Place' and ran an art raffle. Elaine, with the luck of the Irish, won 1st Prize—an original of Cradle Mountain by artist and member of the e-club, **Carolina Gartner**. This is now displayed in one of Elaine's rooms, a lovely memento from the conference.

Before the Gala Dinner our members took the opportunity to have a group photo with Lisa as our club feels intrinsically 'attached' to her! We hope, now that she has been awarded a Zonta International Honorary Membership, and has spent time in our company, she will feel part of us as well!

Our stall was kindly managed by Sue and Leanne (*above*) selling and raising over \$320, the biggest seller being our utility (shoe) bags! Can you believe it, we only have 31 left out of the initial 3,000 we ordered. Maybe we'll keep these as antiques, auction them off at some stage and raise a lot more \$\$\$\$s!

The **e-Club of Central and Southern Australia** was represented for the



Two of our members—Irene and Linda, in their District roles of **Chair of the Greater Visibility Committee** and **Coordinator of the Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award**, respectively, gave reports. Both spoke very well and particularly Irene who is unaccustomed to speaking in public and whose task it was to announce the Category winners of the PR Awards. Our Club was very pleased to receive a **Highly Commended Award for Category 2—**

more below

Club Success. Our entry covered the **Young Women in Public Affairs Tribute Dinner** which was held in August 2024.

the Handbook. This certainly saved a lot of time and will allow delegates to take this information back to their clubs for further discussion.

Overall the conference was very enjoyable with a varied and full program which, remarkably, ran to time. The speakers were exceptional. What a coup being able to engage these inspirational women and listen to their experiences. **Thank you to our District Governor Debbie, her Board, the Conference Committee and members of the Zonta Club of Devonport for hosting this conference.**

The biennium isn't over just yet as there is still work to be done before the newly elected Officers take up their roles after Vancouver. Our members look forward to working with you all to keep our District strong and vibrant.



The District's business was handled efficiently with reference to most matters and lengthy reports detailed in

It was heartening to see so many **'First Timers'** at Devonport—30 in all out of 134 registrations. Total numbers were disappointing, but that seems to be a sign of the times with many members having to prioritise their time with family and other commitments. Perhaps there will be a better response at the Bendigo Conference next biennium, especially since the 2021 event was cancelled because of COVID. Members of the ZC of Bendigo invited all of us to plan ahead and join them in 2027. Sounds like a plan!



Not yellow roses but our beautiful wattle!

Around the Club

As our September dinner meeting clashed with many of our members attending the Conference, and with others travelling and on leave, this was cancelled. Needless to say, we're now chasing ourselves a little.

We have a number of activities coming up, including **birthing kit prep and assembly days** this weekend, our **ZI United Nations association** recognition meeting on **1 October**, a **High-Tea Fundraiser** on **12 October** and then the important **YouthGuard open free public forum on 27 October**. Here are the links to all of these events—

1. [Birthing Kits](#)—26/27 September
2. [UN Dinner Meeting](#)—1 October
3. [High-Tea Fundraiser](#)—12 October
4. [YouthGuard Forum](#)—27 October

We hope these will be well supported as they represent a cross-section of our **Service and Advocacy** portfolios. Please take a look at the above links and consider joining us to help....

Build a Better World for Women and Girls.



We have been asked to put our thinking caps on in relation to the following two awards, closing dates for which are not long away—

WA Women's Hall of Fame

Nominations are now open for 2026 and will **close on 8 December 2025**. This year the focus will be on celebrating **Western Australian women: City to Country**. Chairperson, Fiona Read said—

"It therefore seems very apt that our Champions are women who have worked and maintain a presence and connection in both regional and metropolitan WA, illustrating the connections we share with each other across this great State".



Click on the Hall of Fame logo above for further information and nomination form as I'm sure we can find someone from our community who fits the criteria and deserves this recognition.

Zonta Women in STEM Award

If members or any of our readers know of any woman 18-35 years of age at the time of application, who demonstrates groundbreaking research, pioneering discoveries and/or exemplary contributions to advancing knowledge and innovation in a science, technology, engineering or mathematic field of study or industry, please let us know.



Zonta aims to inspire future generations and foster inclusivity and diversity in the world of STEM. 16 international awards of US\$10,000 each and a complimentary one-year supporting membership in Zonta International for the next financial year.

Applications must be made through our Zonta Club **well before the District's closing date of 14 November 2025** after which a finalist will be selected and forwarded to ZI for consideration. Click [here](#) for more information and application form.

On the travel front, several of our members are flicking around the globe at the moment. **Marion** and **John** have been away for a month! Over the last few weeks they have been on an amazing adventure in Alaska and Canada. Here's a little taste—

"Scenic flight in a Piper Navajo to Wiseman, a tiny settlement north of the Arctic Circle, where a local resident told us about his preparations for the coming winter. He was harvesting his vegetables, which only have a 4 month growing time when the

ground isn't frozen, and preparing to go hunting for elk or moose which he will skin, butcher and freeze. Temperatures will drop below zero from October to April, averaging -25deg in January!



Visited a gold dredge, panned for gold (we got about \$USD20 each!) and heard about the history of the controversial 1288km Alaskan oil pipeline. Completed in 1977, built in just over 2 years, overcoming many engineering challenges due to the harsh environment.

Our tour group has been one of the last for the season in Alaska and tourist facilities were preparing to shut down as we left. Hotels turn off water and blow all water out of pipes, and mattresses are stood on end to reduce the risk of mould as they thaw after being frozen for 6 months. Most staff leave for warmer places until next April. We met one shop owner who lives in Thailand for 6 months!"



M&J will be rendezvousing with **Liz and Steve** in France shortly and we all know what that means—a rather bubbly trip around as many chateaux as they can find! Well, Steve does have to keep his nose on next season's bouquets!

Far from the northern hemisphere is this pic of a penguin, in Penguin, Tasmania! As you can see, it was almost as cold as the Arctic!



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