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The Zontarpreneur

Volume 25, Issue 12 - January 2026

Welcome to a brand-new year!

Welcome to a brand-new year and the first edition of The Zontarpreneur for 2026!

I hope we all enjoyed a calm and joyful holiday season. As we step into the year ahead, I want to thank everyone for the energy, kindness, and commitment we bring to our club. 2026 is a year of thoughtful action, strong advocacy, and meaningful connection. It's also a year to celebrate our shared gifts and to lift up our community and beyond.

This year, we look forward to building on that momentum. With new projects on the horizon and continued support for our local and international priorities, we have the opportunity to make a lasting difference in our community. Our goal is to be welcoming and impactful.

I am also very excited about bringing a dinner experience at a "Five Element" attending from a Cambodian organization in recognition of their ongoing support and the club's hospitality they since is hosting our monthly Zonta Club meetings.

It was unbreakable that Clean Form **Zonta Hoose** inspect every quality and are indeed ready to welcome our guests. Thank you to everyone who helped with the deep cleaning last year. Nevertheless, our Club's £1,000 donation was made to **Zonta House**.

Kirsty thank you also to **Lotte** who kindly coordinated member Christmas gifts for our Zontarians and Zontarians who unfortunately were unable to attend our annual Christmas Dining Out Social evening.

A heartfelt thank you to our Club Board for bringing this wonderful celebration together, and to all members for your generosity, spirit, and continued support. ❤

Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women

Members of our club proudly took part in the 17th World Against Violence and Policy Forum of United Cities and Towns, on November, on the first day of the 16 Days of Activism against Violence.

Standing alongside community organisations, councillors, advocates, and allies, we reaffirmed Zontarian shared efforts to amplify the call for safety, dignity, and accountability for women and girls across our local and international communities.

Violence against women and children is not inevitable—it is preventable. Collective action matters. Awareness matters. Showing up matters.

Thank you to everyone who walked with purpose and solidarity. Together, we can **do** this.

❤ Kirsty Kent-Ko Kitchen
Zonta Club President 2026

After the march, some members continued the day with a relaxed lunch at The Aviary, which was such a nice way to unwind.

Amelia Earhart Day - 11 January

Zonta continues **Amelia Earhart Day** on 11 January to honour a defining moment in aviation and women's leadership. Earhart's 1932 solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean remains a lasting symbol of courage, skill, and boundary-breaking achievement. It is a day that reminds us how far we have come and how much more there is to do so women and girls everywhere can take a great journey.

Zontians around the world will gather in Zontian barrows and wheelchair Zontian colours of orange and purple to celebrate Amelia Earhart's legacy and the ongoing work of the **Amelia Earhart Fellowship**, which supports women pursuing doctoral-level research in aerospace science, engineering, and related fields with the potential to drive innovation.

Amelia Earhart Day is an opportunity for Zontians worldwide to celebrate her contributions and to recommit to supporting women in STEM.

Fundraising Committee Update

The 2026 fundraising calendar has now been finalised. It shows more details of the full plan of fundraising activities ahead.

As part of our fundraising efforts, the Committee will be selling three bucket baskets at the Farmers Market on the last Saturday of each month. Each bucket is available for raffle tickets, allocated as follows:

- **Aprons & Advocacy** - Aprons for the Gourmet Hamper
- **Wellness & Wellbeing** - Wellness Hamper
- **Gift Certificates and Merchandise** - Item for the Garden Hampers

Members, please bring your hamper donations to the February meeting.

Thank you in advance for your generous and continued support of our fundraising initiatives.

Service & Advocacy Committee Update

New Committee Member

We are pleased to report that newly recruited Club member **Julie Kendall** will be joining our committee. We look forward very much to welcoming her to our team.

Zonta Club of Sutton Coldfield Dinner Dance

The Hillstone Suite has been completed, and we are delighted to report that these outstanding finishes have been selected:

We are also pleased to announce the confirmation of three Silver Sponsors: **Emily Moran from Marquee Wills and Estates**, a long-standing supporter of our Club who has kindly sponsored our Christmas Dining Out Social for many years; **Sutton Coldfield Innovation Management Services**, founded by **Marie Thomas** (husband of Club member **Ruth Thomas**). In addition, we are honoured to have the backing of **Degman Electrical**, a family-run business with a strong reputation for quality and reliability. It is a professional control of craftsmanship and a passionate advocate for women's leadership, making it a fitting partner for our Zonta Club.

The Awards evening will be held on **Thursday, 26 March** at the **Mynton Anything but Regular Club (MAR)**. Members are warmly encouraged to bring friends and guests to what is always an enjoyable evening and a wonderful opportunity to raise vital funds for our Club and to celebrate those serving community members.

EVENT DETAILS:

DATE: Thursday, 26 March 2026
TIME: 6:30 PM to 9:45 PM
LOCATION: The Hillstone Suite, Dunedin Close, Wilnecote Lane, Sherrardon
COST: Tickets £45 per person (incl. Wines extra)
RSVP: Thursday, 12 March 2026

Register here

Membership Committee Update

Best wishes to all members for a happy, healthy, and fulfilling 2026.

We are pleased to advise that The Zontarpreneur has been contacted to confirm our meeting dates for the year, which remarkably mirror the dates we have enjoyed in recent years.

Our meetings will continue to be held on the third Friday of each month (except in December), from 10:00 to 12:00 noon.

Our meeting venue will continue to be Zonta House, 1 Wilnecote Lane, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5RJ.

We are also delighted to advise that our Club has received an invitation from the **4th Zone Government Department of Communities** to submit nominations for the **4th Volunteer Service Awards 2026**.

- **Nominations close:** 27 February 2026
- **Certificate presentation:** May 2026

Nominations from the **Membership Committee** will shortly contact volunteer members to invite their contacts. Members will be asked to provide the following information:

1. Title (Mr/Mrs)
2. Name
3. Date of birth
4. Postal Number
5. Email Address
6. Mobile Number (Pri.)
7. Contact person

Greater Visibility Committee Update

New Committee Member

We are pleased to welcome **Christina Cole** to our committee and look forward to her joining our team. Christina's skills in social media and her creative flair will be a valuable asset as we bring our GV actually around to our committee and club.

NHS 8 Rose Day Breakfast Guest Speaker

Our Club's Rose Day Breakfast event on Friday 6 March. The great speaker will be announced soon confirmed.

Wednesday Daily Meet Ups

Our **Wednesday Daily** meet ups have added to our website to provide easy access to information about our upcoming meetings. Members are encouraged to bring friends and additional items you would like to see included, please let me know. Access is available via our website, and the password will be displayed at the February meeting.

Around the Club

Supporting Local Farmer: Zonta PMB's Ongoing Commitment

Zonta Club of Pietermaritzburg (PMB) has been actively supporting local farmers through initiatives of international partner Food Bank for Young Farmers (Food Bank). These farmers, distributed by the dedicated school staff, were received with deep gratitude and joy. The impact of this support is clear, as they continue to thrive and feel genuinely financially relieved.

Recognising the benefits of the project, the Food Bank has agreed to continue the project until at 2030. These gifts have made a real difference to women in rural and peri-urban community - sandwiches in ease we may never fully realise. Zonta PMB continues to stand with these farmers, demonstrating unwavering support and a lasting commitment to their growth.

Heartfelt thanks go to all members for their generosity and a special mention to **Jan McHaugh** for supplying the laundry baskets.

Six members have been on the long Christmas/New Year break. many have taken the opportunity to travel. Here are a few snapshots.

Exploring New Zealand's Southern Wonders by Helen

Celebrating on the organising **Sir Edmund Hillary Explorer** Jean and Peter set out on a journey to discover the breathtaking landscapes of New Zealand's South Island, spanning five scenic train trips, each offering its own unique charm and unforgettable experiences.

Travelling aboard luxury rail services operated by Kiwi Rail, they began with the Coastal Pacific, an iconic journey connecting Picton to Christchurch. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the majestic Kaikoura Mountains, the Coastal Pacific offers breathtaking views of dramatic coastlines, rugged peaks, and charming seaside towns. The journey showcases the region's natural beauty, including dolphin encounters and stunning coastal scenery, making it a perfect introduction to the South Island's diverse landscapes.

The journey also brought Jean and Peter face-to-face with the magestic Tasman Glacier, one largest in New Zealand, stretching approximately 27 km. Travelling across a vast glacial lake, which only formed after 1990 due to rapid ice melt, they witnessed the dramatic impact of climate change on this iconic landscape.

Throughout their travels, Jean and Peter were continually amazed by the friendly and hospitable nature of the people remainder of Western province and Hagley.

The journey concluded with a visit to the Christchurch Botanical Gardens, a tranquil oasis offering a peaceful conclusion to their adventure, leaving them with lasting memories of New Zealand's natural heritage.

Christina's Cruise Odyssey from Singapore to Brisbane

I have cruising and so far more than a year had looked forward to seeing on Royal Caribbean's Ovation of the Seas. I had booked a cabin with a balcony and was looking up over Ocean. As luck, and by a clear Chester, I crossed together to the Ovation of the Seas in Singapore. The ship was fantastic, the food was great, the cabin and drinks Beach sailors leaving the ship in Brisbane where it will home port until April. A wonderful experience, I would like to thank my Zontarian friends for their support and wishes which helped me travel at Zontarian by the Way. Children would enjoy the Beach at Sentosa.

Onboard the ship, I had planned to join in some of the many activities as I normally would. However, I discovered no need for group sailing and I realised that I enjoyed the ocean go by from the comfort of a deck chair.

My sister and I enjoyed the theme nights which included Elvis, 70s, 80s, and these were fun, enjoyable times, plus the allows from an ice-skating extravaganza in the darkness of the night. The ship's entertainment was excellent and I enjoyed the shows and the dance lessons. The cruise included the food, the buffet, and we felt very spoil which the day came to disembark and return to the real world.

From Harbour to Plants: Tania Corrie New Zealand

Group photography as Jean and Peter were visiting TeOra Rua Native **Dawn and Elaine** left at 7 December for their 10-day NZ cruise on the Riverina holiday one week before Christmas. Unfortunately, Elaine was unwell and had to disembark the ship mornning one day, pretty sick and with a condoling on her.

However, there were better days ahead. Much to their delight she visiting the Bay of Islands, Tauranga, Napier, Wellington, Dunedin, Milford Sound. They were greeted with a sunny welcome by Wellington's Dawn and the Bay's. The journey ends in Auckland, where they will spend a few days before returning home. Dawn is very sad to leave.

Travelling anti-knockjaw, their points of sale were Dunedin, Greenhaunch, Wellington, Tauranga, Bay of Islands, Milford Sound, Hobart, Perth. They visited and Dine on Bay a premium 80 day Uniworld tour in 2025.

It was interesting to see the development in Christchurch following the earthquake. Dawn said the Botanical Gardens, the Arts Centre, the Cathedral Square and Sumner Esplanade were amazed well, and everything had come along nicely and looked fantastic. Dawn said the Cathedral Square was a very pleasant place to be, with the unusual heritage trees, some of which had been planted by visiting 'royals', gorgeous and alive, and with good shade and a lovely atmosphere.

In Wellington they visited Zealandia Sub Antarctic, a world-first, fully fenced, 500-acres sanctuary for native birds and the iconic kiwi, protected by 9km of 2.5 metre high fence. Dawn said it was a very pleasant place to be, with a lot of birdlife, and there were more than 100 species! It was difficult to spot the kiwi in the thick canopy and to identify the birds, but Dawn said it was very pleasant to be in the forest and listen to the birds' calls.

The official excursions out of Napier to Cape Kidnappers was the highlight of our Zontarian's tour. Dawn said it was a 4-hour tour, and it was very pleasant to be in the open bending their chinos, all amazing sight and ground superbly well. Dawn said the Gannet Colony was very large and very noisy and there were many chicks. It was made 50 life on the grassing sand (one was very scary and black as they rented their nests and protected their chicks, and they were very aggressive). Dawn said it was a very pleasant day and there were spectacular views of the coast and the cliffs and many other native wonderfully like kiwi and seabird profiles and an amazing experience. Dawn said she had never actually seen a kiwi.

Gisborne, Tauranga, Waitangi and Auckland were and also ports where they found Zontarian friendly and welcoming. Dawn said the Waitangi Treaty Grounds were amazeless. Of course, she wanted to visit the Hobbit and visit, and the Waitomo Glowworm Caves.

In Auckland the "Revolution" practically brilliant in the harbour's main street and an it was very pleasant and very well run. Dawn said it was a very fun tour and cruise. **Beaver Tours** was very good, and Dawn said she would use them again. Dawn said she looked forward to the Day Tours in Fiji and Bali Bali Resorts in a 360 km's over view of the city, and Bali Bali.

A Gall day stay in the City of Islands considered the cruise, Dawn said it was very pleasant to be in the City of Islands, and the Gallery was very pleasant to be in and the opposite is what they left. The "Revolution" is a very comfortable cruise ship with good food and good service. Dawn said the entertainment was very good and the staff were very friendly and helpful. The entertainment was excellent and the staff are very friendly and helpful. Dawn said she had a wonderful cruise and an amazing experience. Dawn said she had visited Australia and Fiji.

ZI and District Announcements

2026 EMBLA Ambassadorial Recipients

The outstanding women were selected from 35 exceptional applicants across 20 countries for the 2026 Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award (EMBLA). Each ambassadorial recipient will receive a complimentary membership to Zonta International, contributing 1 Club EMBLA Research Engagement, will be published on the Zonta International website by the end of January 2026. In the meantime, a list of these recipients can be accessed here.

While we congratulate the successful recipients, we also acknowledge that our District and Zone EMBLA Ambassadorial Recipients, who have demonstrated the spirit of Zonta, also consist of Fiona and her ambassadorship, and that the selection as our 2026 nominee reflects the high calibre of talent in our District.

2026 EMBLA District Applications

Information about the 2026 Award will be released by Zonta International in February 2026.

February Planning Meeting

This meeting will focus on longer-term planning for our 2026 events, programs, and service commitments. It is an important opportunity for us to ask ahead with purpose, ensuring that our resources align with Zontarian interest to support the projects and advocacy work about which we are passionate.

Your insights and ideas are invaluable, and we hope you will bring the energy and enthusiasm of your club into the coming year.

EVENT DETAILS:

DATE: Wednesday, 4 February 2026
TIME: 10:00 AM
LOCATION: The Greenwood, 384 Warwick Road, Greenwood
COST: Bill for a pre-course meal, drinks are extra
RSVP: Thursday, 29 January 2026

Register here

Zonta International Convention - 11 to 14 July 2026

Register now

Event details

2026 Dates to Remember

Wed, 4 Feb – February Planning Meeting
Fri, 6 Mar – Zonta Rose Day & International Women's Day Breakfast
Thu, 26 Mar – Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award Presentation Dinner
Wed, 1 Apr – Dinner Meeting
Sat, 18 Apr – Area 3 Workshop
Wed, 6 May – Dinner Meeting
Wed, 3 Jun – Dinner Meeting
Sat-Tue, 11-14 Jul - Zonta International Convention in Vancouver, Canada
Wed, 8 Jul – Dinner Meeting
Wed, 5 Aug – Dinner Meeting
Wed, 2 Sep – Dinner Meeting
Wed, 7 Oct – Dinner Meeting
Wed, 4 Nov – Lucy Bohan Nursing Bursary Presentation
TBC Nov – Founder's Day Luncheon, Woman of Achievement Award Presentation and Zonta Young Women in Business Leadership Award Presentation
Wed, 2 Dec – Christmas Party

Annual Days of Recognition

Sun, 11 Jan – Amelia Earhart Day
Sat, 24 Jan – International Day of Education
Sun, 8 Mar – International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day
Wed, 11 Mar – International Day of Women and Girls in Science
Sat, 21 Mar – National Close the Gap Day (Australia)
Wed, 22 Apr – Annual Earth Day
Tue, 26 May – National Sorry Day (Australia)
Fri, 18 Sep – International Equal Pay Day
Sun, 11 Oct – International Day of the Girl Child
Sat, 24 Oct – United Nations Day
Wed, 25 Nov – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
Thu, 10 Dec – Human Rights Day

Survey

Let us know what you think of your new look *Zontapreneur*!

Start Survey

Quick Links

The Zontapreneur Archives
Club Annual Reports
News and Media
Zonta International Core Values
Zonta International Code of Conduct 2024-2026

A note from your Editor

Dawn Newman OAM

After producing our newsletter for around 25 years using 'Publisher', which will no longer be supported by Microsoft's Windows 11, your GVC team have found it necessary to switch to a different publishing package. We have chosen MailChimp which has a number of benefits when it comes to managing distribution of our news! Needless to say, your 'octogenarian' editor, is once again, having to shake up her 'grey matter' and add another skill to her repertoire! Thank goodness she has a first-class mentor in Irene!

So, here you are my friends, the first issue of our new look ***'The Zontapreneur'***! You will be able to read this on your PC or mobile and we hope this transition will work for you. In any case, we'd love to hear your thoughts. **Please take a moment to complete the short survey included above** and let us know what you think. Your feedback will help us fine-tune and improve future editions.

As previously, we will continue to keep you connected with international, district and club news, upcoming events, advocacy updates, member highlights, and the many stories that showcase the impact we make together. Each issue will celebrate our achievements, shine a light on the work ahead, and provide a space for members to share ideas and contributions. If you have suggestions, items of interest, photos, or reflections you'd like to see included, please feel free to reach out—the GVC team would welcome your input.

Thank you for your support, your enthusiasm, and your ongoing commitment to Zonta's mission. I look forward to journeying through 2026 with all of you, and I hope you enjoy this first issue of your revamped newsletter.

Cheers, catch you next time!

FOLLOW OUR IMPACT

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