

MAYORAL MINUTE

Item: MM017-25 Zonta Club of Botany Bay - Young Women in Leadership Award

Mayor: The Mayor, Councillor Borg

BACKGROUND

I would like to take this opportunity to formally congratulate the finalists of the Zonta Club of Botany Bay Young Women in Leadership Award, celebrated at an inspiring event held on Tuesday 9 September at Sharkies Kareela.

Representing Georges River Council at the event were myself, Councillors Landsberry, Mort, Allison and Mahoney. Also in attendance were the Member for Barton Ash Ambihaipahar, Member for Banks Zhi Soon, and Member for Hughes David Moncrieff.

The event showcased the leadership potential of seven outstanding young women, four of whom attend schools within the Georges River LGA. Each finalist delivered a compelling presentation on how Artificial Intelligence (known as AI) may impact their chosen career paths. Their insights reflected a deep understanding of both the opportunities and ethical challenges posed by AI, with a shared belief that while technology may evolve, it can never replace humanity, compassion, or true leadership.

Council is proud of its longstanding partnership with the Zonta Club of Botany Bay, an organisation that continues to make a meaningful impact in our community. Since 2020, Council has supported Zonta through nine funded projects, totalling \$53,501, including:

- Reconnecting Young Women – \$4,850
- Behind Closed Doors – \$3,885
- Building Resilience and Confidence in Young Women by Young Women – \$5,825
- Hurstville Vintage and Collectable Fair – multiple venue hire grants totalling \$39,041

Zonta's contributions extend beyond leadership development. They are active participants in our St George Candlelight Vigil and Say No to Domestic Violence Walk. They have also led impactful advocacy initiatives such as the Yarnwrapping installation at Kogarah Town Square in 2025. This project raised awareness of violence against women in alignment with National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day.

Zonta's Behind Closed Doors campaign, supported by Council, placed framed posters with domestic violence support contacts in women's restrooms across the LGA.

Zonta also collaborates with local services such as Moving Forward DFV case management, and their executive team includes many residents from the Georges River area.

I would like to extend Council's heartfelt congratulations to all finalists and thank the Zonta Club of Botany Bay for their continued dedication to empowering young women and advocating for a safer, more inclusive community.

MOTION:

That Council:

- (a) Congratulate the finalists of the Zonta Club of Botany Bay Young Women in Leadership Award on their outstanding achievements and commitment to leadership.
- (b) Thank the Zonta Club of Botany Bay for providing young women with the opportunity to learn and grow their leadership aspirations, and for encouraging their active participation in public policy, government, and volunteer organisations.