

Newsletter

Volume 17, December 2020

2020 IN REVIEW

The (??) fun was just beginning when our last newsletter went to print. Who would have thought (in April) that we would still be experiencing the effects of COVID-19. What an incredible year it has been. However, we have adapted to our changed circumstances (being the Zontians we are) and still managed to create opportunities and continued to provide ongoing support where possible.

Sadly, so many service and fundraising activities had to be cancelled. Just to name a few:

- ⊗ Bunnings BBQ's,
- ⊗ Annual Calderwood golf day; and
- ⊗ The Vintage and Collectable Fair. However, a number of dealers have indicated they will be back next year.
- ⊗ Our packing days for Kookaburra Kids Foundation—all camps had to be cancelled.
- ⊗ Our Birthing Kit assembly days at local High Schools

BUT on a more positive note —

- ☑ Our board and dinner meetings have continued thanks to ZOOM!!



Our April AGM/Dinner Meeting was the first dinner meeting conducted remotely using ZOOM and our election results of the incoming Board were announced:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| President | Ann Selle |
| Vice President | Thana Akkari |
| Treasurer/Public Officer | Sue Smith |
| Secretary | Marilyn Lowder |
| Board Members | Judy Bendl, Pam Davidson, Sue Lowe, Bronlyn Schoer |



Returning Officer, Bronlyn Schoer thanked the retiring board members—President and Past President Robyn Fague, and Amanda Gibson and Elaine Brus.





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☑ **Where are they now?** At our August and September ZOOM dinner meetings, we had the pleasure of having some prior years' YWPA finalists accept an invitation to join our meetings and bring us up to date on where they are at since participating in YWPA. To hear them speak reinforced to us all that these girls were indeed amazing YWPA candidates.



Daniella Mraovic (winner 2012) - Completed a Bachelor of Dietetics and Nutrition and worked as a research dietitian. She is now retraining and doing a masters degree in Diagnostic Radiology.



Rachel Ridge (winner 2013) - Rachel now lives in Bathurst. Trained as a social worker and still works in this field with her current role in management of child protection. She also does casual counselling with Bathurst Hospital.



Athena Savvas (winner 2014)—Athena now lives in Queensland. She has multiple business interests at both community service and commercial levels.



Daniella Luchi (winner 2015) - Daniella lives in the Sutherland Shire and works for a local NFP. Daniella joined our Club this year and has been instrumental in establishing our web page.



Mia Castagnone (winner 2017) - Studying Media and Communications and Chinese Studies at U of S. She is hoping to pair her degree with journalism. Mia speaks fluent Mandarin and did an exchange to China.



Winola Su (winner 2018) - Studying International Business at U of S and will graduate next year. She will then begin her Masters Degree. She has worked part time in a variety of roles using her language skills and has joined the Georges River Council Youth Advisory Committee.



Mahika Dave (runner up 2018) - currently in her second year at University doing a combined Arts and Science Bachelors Degree majoring in psychology and performance studies. She aims to become a clinical psychologist. Mahika has set up her own tutoring company and is mentoring HSC students at Engadine High.



Emma Gaston (winner 2019) - Studying at UTS, double Degree in Law and Communication. She has created an initiative 'Lead Her' that trains young women to mentor other young women.

☑ Our website was created and is now live. Again, this was in part due to being able to conduct ZOOM meetings. A big thankyou to one of our young tech-savvy members, Daniella Luchi. We have had very positive feedback about the content.

<https://zontabotanybay.org>

SERVICE PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

◆ **Breasts Care Cushions**

Four separate “stuffing days” at members’ houses were organized, with limited attendees, to comply with social distancing requirements. This enabled us to stuff and stitch a total of 390 cushions whilst enjoying a catch-up.



Our thanks to Thana, Pam D, Judy and Ann for having space to allow this to happen.

◆ **Kookaburra Kids and/or women’s refuges**

Ann and Pam D received toiletries donated by The Hon. Linda Burney, MP for distribution to KK or refuges.



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◆ **Simba Global at Taren Point** (who supply high quality Manchester to various businesses) contacted our Club. They had samples they no longer required. A small group of members collected and sorted the items to find we had approximately -

- 50 blankets
- 5 Doonas/20 doona covers
- 70 towels
- 60 handtowels and washers
- 40 bathmats and 12 luxurious bathrobes



- 17 pillows &
- 50 pillow slips
- 120 sheets



Platform 9, Project Youth and a Bayside Council refuge were the beneficiaries of this wonderful donation.

Dandelion Support Network also received baby items, washers and handtowels.

Two very large bags of towels not suitable for the refuges went to a local vet.

Additionally, a part of this bonanza were king-size sheets and doonas. Our sewing extraordinaires, Ann and Marilyn, remodelled these over-sized items, creating a further 10 single bed sets, 12 queen bed sets, 6 doona covers, 23 cot sheets and 53 pillow cases. These have now been packaged and will be included in exit packs for the Platform 9 refuge.



A huge thanks to Simba Global for this generous support which has enabled all the above contributions by our Club to our various service projects.



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GRANTS:

We consider ourselves very fortunate that applications lodged with Clubs NSW for grants have had a degree of success for our service projects:

Ramsgate & Brighton RSL Clubs—grants for Moving Forward (\$1200 each)



Club Central—grants for breast care cushions and exit packs for Platform 9 (\$3000 and \$4000 respectively)



Taren Point Bowling Club—grant for Platform 9 exit packs (\$4000).

Given our inability to fundraise this year, these grants take on even greater significance than previously.

Thankyou and congratulations to members who lodged these grant applications.





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YWPA 2020:

Once again, COVID-19 changed the way our YWPA Committee conducted this annual event. For the first time, all interaction with the schools and applicants were electronic. The result has been a resounding success with 21 applications from 10 schools. Of course, this meant an enormous amount of work for the committee to read, cull and assess a final outcome when all applications were of a very high standard. However, the Committee arrived at the following outcome:

Winner	Jayde Jensen	Woolooware High School
Runner-up	Hannah Higgins	Endeavour Sports High School
Highly Commended	Ashleigh Dean	Lucas Heights Community School
Finalist	Sofia De Bellis	St. Ursulas College
Finalist	Madeleine Olney	St. Andrews Cathedral School
Finalist	Stephanie Dongas	Woolooware High School

Girls are pictured from L-R in order of placement. Unfortunately, Stephanie was unable to be at the presentation.



The presentation was held at Taren Point Bowling Club and we were delighted that mums of Jayde, Ashleigh, Sofia and Madeleine were able to attend as well as the Principal of Endeavour High School. Our thanks to you all as well as TPBC for supporting this event. We look forward to being able to resume our traditional dinner event in 2021. Congratulations and thank you to all schools and all applicants.

It would also be remiss to not say a huge thank you to our YWPA Committee, - Thana, Sue L, Sue M and also Daniella L—for achieving a successful 2020 event under extraordinary circumstances.



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OUR MEMBERSHIP:



At our **lunch meeting** on October 21 we said farewell to one of our long-time members, Sue Smith. During Sue's time with the Club she has actively contributed on many levels, and held both committee and Board roles. In addition to Zonta, Sue also volunteered at Dandelion Support Network. Sue has decided to leave Sydney and return to her roots in the country. Good luck Sue! You will be missed!!



At the same meeting two new members were inducted into the Club— Silvana Hourcade and Beverly Barrett.

Our guest speaker at this meeting was D24 Area 1 Director, Bernadine Guy who was elected to this position in June this year.



AWARDS—In November, our Club and one of our founding members were acknowledged with two separate awards



Banks Volunteer Award 2020— Bronlyn was nominated and received a Community Volunteer Award in the Banks electorate, presented by The Hon. David Coleman, MP. A well-deserved award—congratulations Bron.



On behalf of the Club, Ann and Robyn F received an **Oatley Community Award** which was presented by The Hon. Mark Couré,





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MEMBERS' REFLECTIONS

Following is a compilation of some members' thoughts on COVID's impact on their lives:

- √ A positive that has emerged is that I found I don't need the gym for fitness.
- √ Everyone has HAD to slow down and be so mindful of their health
- √ Many people have been so resourceful, introducing new business ideas
- √ Watching primary and early high school grandchildren quickly adapt to working from home rather than going off to school each day
- √ Read books I had no time to read before COVID
- √ Learned that I am happy with my own company and that loneliness is failed solitude.
- √ Planned the next NSW road trip rather than lamenting this year's cancelled overseas trips
- √ A 'new school year' to me -learning new technologies and how they can work for you.
- √ I have made masks, and completed 15 jigsaws! But I still haven't cleaned out those cupboards, which was on the To-do List.
- √ I did clean out those cupboards and took advantage of ZOOM to catch up with overseas friends. Also discovered the joy of Netflix—and makes me wonder if cinema will make it back.

Without a doubt, top-of the "negative" list

- ⊗ **The biggest negative change has been lack of contact with my family. A consistent comment particularly for those with near and dear living interstate and overseas.**
- ⊗ Challenge to do a three hour tertiary tutorial online to take into account variable IT access, language difficulties, interest levels and the lack of personal interaction so necessary to generate discussion.
- ⊗ Cancelling pre-booked travel and wondering if/when the credits received will be able to be used. However, in the bigger picture, is this really worth worrying about??



Our Zonta club members find a positive attitude to what has become our "new norm".

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Although social distancing prevailed, we managed to get together thanks to Kerry's and Wendy's efforts .

A lunch on Gardens on Forest



A walk and lunch at Kurnell

A walk and lunch at Dolls Point

And our final get together for 2020, a year that will surely go down in history!

Our lunch at Royal Motor Yacht Club, Burraneer , on 3rd December.....





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A word from our President: After a year that we would like to forget, but probably won't, I am optimistic that we will be able to carry on what we love doing, i.e. unite to empower women, be it ourselves or other women who may need some help to achieve a goal or a more positive outcome in life. In this unusual year, we have managed through our own resourcefulness, as well as the generosity of ClubsNSW, to support more women in refuges, young vulnerable girls, those with breast cancer and, of course, our YWPA participants.

In 2021 our Club looks forward to organising a seminar for our young, inspirational women and having the inaugural Woman of Achievement Award. I thank all members for their support of each other as well as the fundamental principles of Zonta making ZCBB a great club of which we all should be proud.


Stay safe, healthy and happy throughout the festive season



Calendar Updates—2021

- ⇒ **Dinner Meetings:** **Club Menai**
26/1/2021(TBA), 23/2/2021, 23/3/2021, 27/4/2021 (AGM), 25/5/2021, 22/6/2021, 27/7/2021, 24/8/2021, 28/9/2021, 26/10/2021, 23/11/2021.
- ⇒ **Board Meetings:** **Locations to be advised**
12/1/2021, 9/2/2021, 9/3/2021, 13/4/2021, 11/5/2021, 8/6/2021, 13/7/2021, 10/8/2021, 14/9/2021, 12/10/2021, 9/11/2021
- ⇒ **Thursday, 14/1/2021** **Cushion Stuffing Day @ Club Menai**
- ⇒ **Sunday, 7/3/2021** **Young Women Seminar @ Gardens on Forest**
- ⇒ **Sunday, 27/6/2021** **Vintage & Collectable Fair**
Marana Hall, Hurstville
- ⇒ **Saturday, 10/7/2021** **Annual Golf Day,**
Calderwood Golf Course

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Zonta International www.zonta.org
 District 24 www.zontadistrict24.org

Board & Dinner Meetings held on 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month respectively.

Dinner Meetings are held at Club Menai unless otherwise advised.

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 Account details: Westpac BSB 032-003 Account: 257860