



Newsletter

Volume 18, September 2021

What's been happening in 2021

Zonta Botany Bay has still been providing service and keeping up with business, although we have suffered an extended Covid 19 lockdown.

We started the year with some new and exciting programs for young women and a Woman of Achievement Award.

Young Womens Networking Event

In March this year to celebrate International Womens Day, we had an inaugural Young Womens Networking Event which was organized by our young professional members led by Athena Savvas. This event brought together young women from 18 to 25 years old from our past YWPA entrants and members of Z clubs from Wollongong and Sydney West.

The topic for the workshop was "Choose to Challenge".

The guest speakers were Athena Savvas who ran the first session on Networking and confidence building, followed by Cathy Ngo, an inspirational speaker who spoke on diversity. In the afternoon, Daniella Luchi led a panel discussion involving Anyier Yuol, Maria Calibo-Sales, Shereny Selim & Cathy Ngo.

The attendees gained so much from the session and put thought provoking questions to the panel. A big thank you to our young members for a fantastic day. Looking forward to another workshop in 2022.



Woman of Achievement Award

This year we held our inaugural Woman of Achievement Award and were thrilled with the response we had. Our committee, Marilyn Lowder, Jeannette Werda, Sue Munro and Robyn Cameron were involved from the starting point of setting up the award, advertising through to the assessment the applications. Our winner this year is Emily Brown.

Emily serves as a volunteer at St George north Anglican Church, leading two separate programs for children in her local community. Her passion for working with others and supporting children is evident in the way she engages with the community.

Congratulations Emily





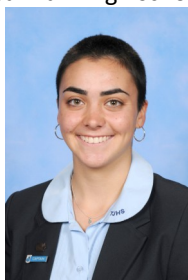
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YWPA 2021:

Once again, COVID-19 changed the way our YWPA Committee conducted this annual event. For the second year in a row, all interactions with the schools and applicants were electronic. The result has been a resounding success with 14 applications from 10 schools. Of course, this meant an enormous amount of work for the committee to read, cull and assess applicants submissions as all applications were of a very high standard. However, the Committee arrived at the following outcome:

f Winner is Paris Alcorn
The Jannali High school



Runner Up is Lara Proctor
Engadine High School



Highly Commended
Ashleigh Dean
Lucas Hts C H S



Finalist Sofia De Bellis
St Ursulas College



Finalist Roaa Ahmed
Beverly Hills Girls High



Finalist Madeleine Guevarra
Beverly Hills Girls High



The Award presentation was held on Zoom and 5 of the finalists presented a short speech on where they hope to be in 5 years time. Congratulations to all applicants and thank you to all schools and teachers for their support. Unfortunately Madeleine was unable to attend.

It would also be remiss to not say a huge thank you to our YWPA Committee, - Thana, Sue L, Sue M and also Daniella M—for achieving a successful 2021 event under extraordinary circumstances.



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In April, the AGM was held and the Board was elected

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



Walk & Talk In May, our Walk & Talk group headed to the Royal Botanical Gardens and were led by our resident expert, Amanda Gibson on an amazing journey around the Gardens. Everyone who attended came back with new interest



in all things botanical!
Thank you Amanda for making the visit so interesting.

Bunnings BBQ

At the end of March we returned to Bunnings at Caringbah for a sausage sizzle BBQ brilliantly organized by Jeannette Werda. It was fun to meet up in a Covid-safe environment and raise money for our service projects, making it a financially and socially successful day.





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SERVICE PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

◆ **Breasts Care Cushions**

At the end of April we were fortunate to hold a cushion stuffing day at Club Menai. With the help of members and friends and the volunteer staff from Club Menai we managed to stuff over 400 cushions. This project continues whether we are in lockdown or not as unfortunately Breast Cancer does not follow the rules of lockdown. Our Zonta club provides cushions for St George and Sutherland hospitals as well St Vincent's Public hospital and Royal Womens Hospital. In total we provide approximately 950 cushions per year.





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Birthing Kit Assembly

On 8th March this year we have been able to arrange the assembly of 600 birthing kits at **Sylvania High School** with the Student Representative Council but with only 3 Zonta members due to Covid-19 restrictions. It was a very successful day.



At **Bankstown Senior College** forty-five students packed 800 kits on 15th June. This annual community project gives these mature-aged students from diverse backgrounds the chance to understand the value of community service. Our members gain an insight into their challenging journeys and their determination to gain qualifications so as to enter the workforce. Many have come to Australia via refugee camps and have undertaken responsibilities and experienced dramas and traumas along the way. We wish them all well in their educational endeavours.



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Moving Forward

Each year, with grants from Ramsgate & Brighton Le Sands RSL clubs, we pack household bags for women in domestic violence situations through the organisation of Moving Forward. Since Covid in 2020, the service has dealt with 3 times as many families as previously. The kits and vouchers, are pictured below.



Platform Nine

With ClubsNSW grant funding from Club Central & Taren Point Bowling Club, we have been able to provide exit baskets for women leaving the womens refuges and setting up in a new homes. Some funds have been able to purchase linen for them as well. Unfortunately this is an ever increasing need for this type of support for women who are homeless or impacted by domestic violence.





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Fundraising Events

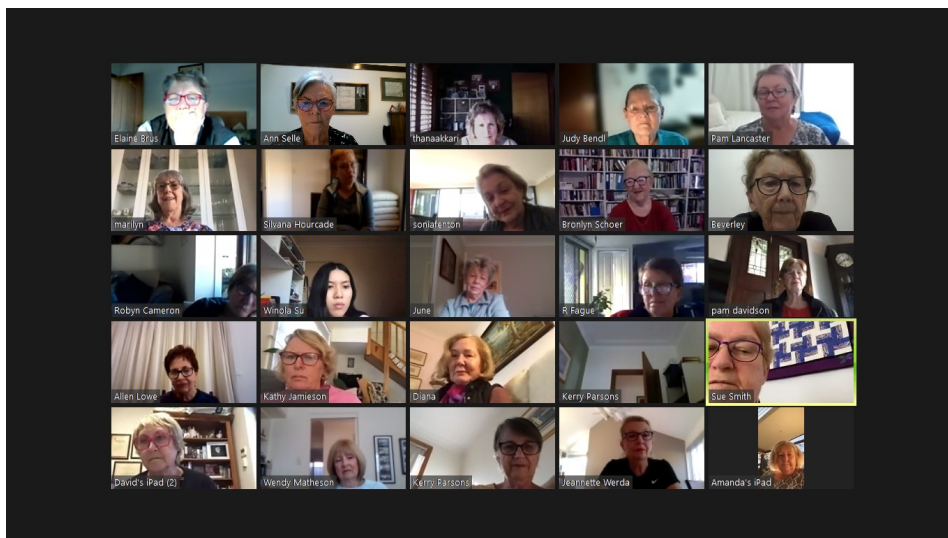
In June, our members were really busy preparing for the Annual Vintage and Collectable Fair which provides substantial funding for our service projects. Posters were put up on telegraph poles and fences, our social media was in full flight with regular new posts, and advertising for the first time in a Chinese newspaper. Thanks to Winola Su for arranging that. Recipes ready for the cooks to start their home baking, new signage made for the café, tablecloths ironed and decorations ready. All to no avail as Covid lockdown was announced the day before the Fair. The next Fair will be on Sunday 30th January 2022 .

The lockdown also cancelled our Golf Day at Calderwood Golf Course, which is always fun. The next Golf Day is booked for Saturday 25th June 2022

Knocked down, but we get up again and start all over again in 2022!

OUR MEMBERSHIP:

Our Zonta club members find a positive attitude to what has become our “new norm”. Making the most of technology during lockdown, Zoom has enabled continuing connection of members, both for meetings and social contact, swapping stories and having a laugh.





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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 (\$4400)



Club Central—grants for breast care cushions and exit packs for Platform 9 (\$3600 and \$6000 respectively)



Taren Point Bowling Club—grant for Platform 9 exit packs (\$6000).

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.

Calendar Updates—2022

- ⇒ **Sunday 30th January & 17th July** **Vintage & Collectable Fair**
Marana Hall, Hurstville
- Sunday 6th March** **Reconnecting Young Women**
- ⇒ **Saturday, 25th June** **Annual Golf Day, Calderwood Golf Course**

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 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.

ABN 23 605 031 194 Fundraising Authority CFN/21448
 Account details: Westpac BSB 032-003 Account: 257860