

Newsletter

Volume 22, April 2024

What's New at Zonta Club of Botany Bay

Upcoming Dates:

Monday, 20th May

Time marches on and we're about to celebrate ZCBB's 30th birthday. I'm sure a number of the members are reminiscing about 30th birthdays..... So long ago! However, it's a significant milestone as our Club grows it's membership and looks forward to continuing to support service activities within the community that *build a better world for women and girls.*

Sunday, 21st July

Vintage & Collectables Fair at the usual location—Marana Hurstville, Hurstville

Tuesday, 10th September

Planning for 2024's *Young Women in Public Affairs and Woman of Achievement Awards* has commenced and the winners will be announced at the annual dinner this year. Stay tuned for further event information.

On the 15th of each month

A coffee get together for members will take place at Café Y, Menai. This activity combines an opportunity for socializing and supporting inspirational Project Youth activities including Project Educate.

Imagine a world where women and girls are not exploited, and have equal opportunities to be educated, work, and simply walk down the street. Well, that's what Zonta is. We do this through advising the UN, and working with local and global communities, through hands on volunteering, fundraising, and advocacy. And... doing it all with a lot of fun and inspiration with an amazing group of women and friends

SERVICE PROJECTS :

◆ **Young Women in Public Affairs Award—September 5, 2023 at Gardens on Forest:**

Once again, ZCBB YWPA Committee sent out correspondence to all high schools in the St. George and Sutherland Shire areas, inviting Year 11 and 12 students to participate in the YWPA Award, 2023.

Online applications were received from 12 applicants at 8 schools. Each applicant described the initiatives they had introduced, within their school and out in the community, and the challenges and successes they had experienced through their leadership roles. Applications were reviewed by a panel of three and 6 applicants were selected as ZCBB finalists.

The winner, runner up and finalists of the YWPA award were announced at the Club’s annual Awards Presentation Dinner. The winner and runner up received a monetary prizes; certificates were presented to all finalists. Over 90 people attended the event, including students, teachers, school principals, special guests, parents and club members.

Claire McGuire from The Jannali High School was the winner. Claire will represent ZCBB at District level.

It was rewarding to receive positive feedback about the YWPA program from students, teachers and parents.

The combined YWPA/WofA Awards Dinner was, once again, a very successful night.

Our thanks again to Sonia and the Gardens on Forest Team.

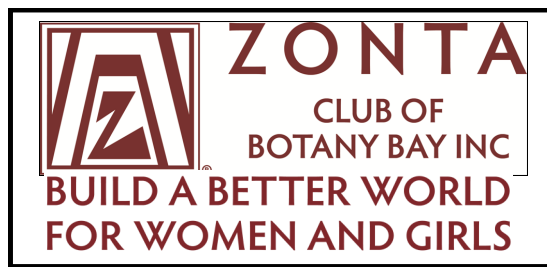


YWPA Winner—Claire McGuire with Ann Selle, Club President & Bernadine Guy, Lt. Gov. D24

YWPA 2023—The group of Finalists from: Beverly Hills GHS, Kogarah HS, Healthcote HS, Jannali HS, St George GHS



YWPA Runner up—Lillian Kassiri



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♦ Woman of Achievement Award

At the ZCBB awards night in September The Woman of Achievement award was presented to Annette Brodie of the Reconnect Project, Annette established the Reconnect Project in 2020 with a simple straightforward mission *To give pre-owned mobile devices a new life by providing them to people in need.* A runner up award was presented to Ashleigh Daines of the Family Co whose purpose is *creating safe and positive communities where women, children, youth and families can build capacity to take on life's challenges and realise their best futures.*

In May this year the WoA committee will start surveying the residents and businesses in the three LGAs we work in to ask for nominations for this year's award. The nominee will be a woman who lives or works in our area and who makes the community a better place to live through her efforts.

Winner—Annette Brodie
The Reconnect Project



Runner Up—Ashleigh Daines,
Family Co



◆ **Tertiary Scholarship Award**

Our 2024 Tertiary Scholarship Awardee is Ranya Mousselaman.

- ⇒ Ranya was vice captain at Kogarah high School.
- ⇒ Ranya’s strength in communication and leadership skills, helped her to use her voice in the community and within her school, to organise events to raise money for Men's Health week, Leukaemia Foundation, Ukraine, Ronald McDonald House.
- ⇒ Ranya also volunteers at the Lakemba Mosque, works with and coaches young children in the game of OZ Tag in the St. George area.
- ⇒ Ranya advocates strongly on empowering women through service and advocacy, promoting gender equality and address challenges faced by women on a daily basis. She has instigated and organised a multi cultural program (PAT) to bring together young women from surrounding High Schools, to learn and discuss different cultural and customs, share experiences and skills.
- ⇒ As an inspirational leader, Ranya was selected to welcome students from the Ukraine, to assist them in their way around the School and beyond.



In the Principal's recommendation letter, she describes Ranya as a young lady with remarkable leadership skills, an excellent student leader and mentor, dedicated to her responsibilities.

Ranya has commenced her tertiary studies at University, to become a Primary Teacher, and has her sights on becoming a Principle.

Ranya was presented with her Award Certificate at the February/24 meeting and she spoke briefly of where she is heading. We wish Ranya all the best in her future endeavours.

◆ **Smith Family Student Sponsorship**

We received a lovely letter and drawing from our sponsored student, Ariella just before Christmas. She is 9 years old, now in year 4 and lives in Queensland. This is the third year we have contributed to her education costs through the Smith Family Scheme, and it was great to read that we are making a difference. We have sent her gift vouchers for her birthday (July) and Christmas as well.



◆ **Breast Care Cushions**

⇒ Each year we produce over 700 cushion and we have benefitted from support of members of Sri Sai Baba organisation who supplied 250 cushions specifically for Prince of Wales and St Vincents Hospitals. Our cushion supply for St George and Sutherland hospitals have again been funded by Club Central Hurstville. We are eternally thankful for this grant. This year we have modified the design to make it simpler and easier to sew the cushions by removing the strap and bow and adding ribbons that can attach the cushion to the patient's straps.



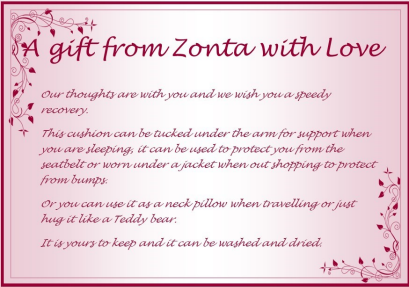
⇒ **Breast cushions at the ZI Conference, Brisbane** – Ann has arranged with cushion coordinators in two other Zonta Districts in Australia to have a stand in the market area to display breast cushion at the International Conference later this year. She is hoping other countries will take on breast cushions as a club/District project. She has designed an advertising brochure, a downloadable pattern and instructions for cushion construction all of which she hopes to link it to a QR code.

⇒ On Monday 18th March a cushion stuffing morning was held at the Georges River 16ft Sailing Club in one of their function rooms. With a contingent of 40+ volunteers from our club, club members' friends and Sailing Club employees, on the day 305 cushions were made ready for delivery to hospitals. A big thank you



to Club Central for their support and for supplying a lovely morning tea. Thank you also to friends of Zonta members for helping us on the day.

⇒ A new card has been printed for inclusion with wrapped cushions.



◆ **Moving Forward**

⇒ In November/23 the Club's Moving Forward Project Team attended the AGM. It was noted that MF supported 180 clients (they are funded to support 80 clients), 61.1% of whom spoke a language other than English at home. Most clients (63%) are renting privately, 18% own or are buying property, 11% are living with family and the remainder (8%) are in community housing, emergency refuges, transitional housing or boarding houses. At the meeting, vouchers for \$1,000.00 were presented to MF on behalf of ZCBB and MF presented its donors with framed certificates.



⇒ On 20th March Pam Lancaster and Pam Lohse visited Moving Forward Case Management at Hurstville and presented \$750 in \$50 vouchers to two case managers.



◆ Kookaburra Kids

Another very successful and enjoyable packing day was held at Judy Bendl's on 11th January. Nineteen ladies were able to attend and enable assembly of toiletry bags for Kookaburra Kids first five camps of 2024.

This work was also extended to include Family Co at Jannali and 40 bags were assembled for this organisation.

As always, this day provides an opportunity for socializing over lunch and thanks to Judy for once again hosting at her house which is a wonderful venue for this day.



◆ Days for Girls

Our Club continues to support Days For Girls via our talented stitcher/club Secretary Marilyn. With funding from ZCBB she purchases fabric and underwear to use for the kits and volunteers at Strathfield DFG sewing and packing washable menstrual products for girls and women who are experiencing period poverty. (The UN estimates there are 50 million women worldwide who do not have the means to manage their periods). Last year our kits went to women and girls in Papua New Guinea and Bhutan. DFG have distributed more than 3 million kits in the last 12 years. ZCBB have helped make many hundreds of these.



◆ PLATFORM 9

Zonta Botany Bay is proud to liaise with KingswayCare to support Platform 9, a refuge for homeless women and children and victims of domestic violence. Following is an excerpt from a letter from the General Manager of KingswayCare:

"The grants received from the Zonta Club have allowed us to enhance the quality of life for our clients in numerous ways. Firstly, the funding towards Exit Packs has been instrumental in ensuring that our residents have the essential items they need as they transition out of our facility and into independent living. These packs not only provide practical necessities but also offer a sense of security and comfort during what can be a challenging time. Additionally, your support towards procuring linen and kitchen appliances for our clients has been invaluable."

We hope to partner with Platform 9 and KingswayCare well into the future to enhance the status of the women who use this service.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY:

◆ TRIVIA NIGHT



What better night to hold a trivia night than Friday 13th.

Ninety people attended the 2023 Zonta Trivia Night with many teams dressing up for the evening in their best black outfits and/or decorating their tables with some very spooky and odd decorations. The competition was fierce from the outset with no team reaching an unassailable lead until the final round, as the audience

wrestled with questions about music from the 80's; movies; sports ball brands; food; boats and famous faces to name but a few. Along the way there were plenty of laughs with some very entertaining but wrong answers. The evening raised approximately \$1750 - a figure which was helped along by the efforts of one of the "witches" from the coven at the back of the room using his large witches' hat to gather additional donations – thanks Glenn.

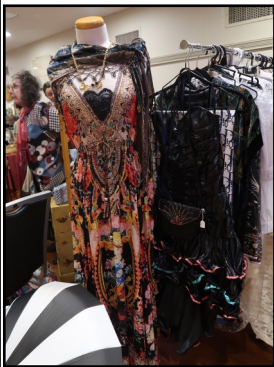
The Zonta Trivia Night **will** return this year - in either August or early November. Questions for this years' challenge of the brain cells are already being researched!



FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY:

◆ Vintage and Collectable Fair, February 2024

The first Vintage and Collectable Fair for 2024 was held on Sunday 4th February and again has been very successful. There were 40 traders filling the 70 tables and all left the Fair very happy.



From vintage clothing, telephones, books, porcelain, and Bakelite items were sold.



The other stand out is fabulous retro music that pumps all day and the customers are seen bopping and singing to the hits of the past. Thank you Paul Lowder for supply of all things musical!



The traders love coming to our Fairs because we have our Hon Zons (partners) helping them unload their cars and load them back up again in the afternoon. This service plus the free coffee and raisin toast for all traders makes our fair stand out.



Our Café Zonta is renowned for its home baked goods—thanks to all our members who have slaved over the stove to do that.



Social media, and posters on poles have attracted over 1050 visitors to this fair. Funds raised have boosted our service funds and allowed Zonta to provide funds to Project Educate and support our tertiary scholarships that are awarded each year.

Our next fair is on Sunday 21st July 2024.

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After a long collaboration with the outgoing Principal of St Ursula's, Kingsgrove, Mary Leask, our Botany Bay Club was delighted to install 22 Year 10 students into their newly formed ZClub in September, 2023. The girls are delightful young women who are committed and eager to learn about all things Zonta!

In just a few short months, they have learnt to stuff breast care cushions, planned and held a birthing kit workshop and are busily preparing for their upcoming Girls Night In. We've spent time putting together toiletry packs, while chatting about Zonta International and the aspirations of what the students hope to achieve in their ZClub.

They kindly invited Therese Abela-King to speak on IWD to the whole school cohort ... keen for the rest of the school students and teachers to learn more about Zonta.



We very much look forward to achieving great things together, as the students learn more about Zonta and discover ways of using their social justice ethos to improve the status of women and girls, both locally and internationally.



◆ **MEMBER NEWS**

◆ **Membership:**

- ⇒ ZCBB now has forty members with the induction of Chris Mitchell who is to be inducted in April. We welcomed Margaret McDonald who transferred from Zonta Club of Cumberland West. Membership includes one honorary and five young professional members.
- ⇒ In April the club will celebrate its thirtieth birthday and we are especially proud that three members are of the original charter member cohort— Bronlyn, June and Ann.
- ⇒ Sadly, some members or family members are not keeping as well as we would all wish. Our thoughts are with -

Amanda, who we hope is responding well to treatment and back on her feet in the near future;
 Sonia, who is almost recovered from hip surgery;
 Judy and Hans Bendl—hoping your recovery continues well Hans. Goodness we miss one of our super Hon Zons!
 Sue and Allen Lowe—our thoughts and well wishes are with you both in this difficult time.
 Chris Mitchell—looking forward to her full recovery after having a fall.

◆ **Social Activities**

Our social activity team, Wendy and Kerry, do a wonderful job organizing events for members .

Our last social gathering for 2023 was the Christmas lunch at Cronulla Golf Club. This was well attended and enjoyed by members.



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AND THERE IS STILL MORE:

Other activities that various members participated in since last newsletter

- ◆ Area 1 Workshop—held at Club Central, Hurstville
- ◆ Various International Women’s Day events where our members, Diane McInerney and Marilyn Lowder were acknowledged for their Zonta and community work.
- ◆ 16 Days of Activism—DV walks on 24/11/23 at Kogarah and Cronulla and on 3/12/23 a silent walk across the Harbour Bridge



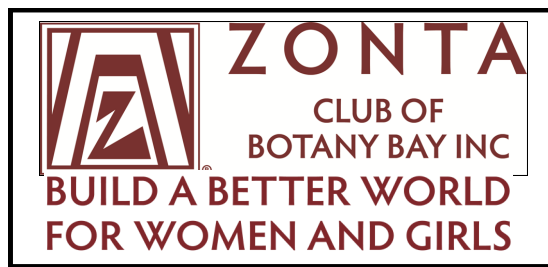
◆ **Dinner meeting guest speakers:**

Thank you to Gayle for organizing some very interesting speakers, including:

- Ashleigh Daines—The Family Co/WofA Runner-up 2023.
- Farhat Kohistani— Afghan refugee
- Marisa Moliterno—CommunityREstorative Centre, Miranda Project
- Lisa Havilah—CEO PowerHouse Museum

Future speakers this year will be:

- In May—a spokesperson for a Nepalese project “Every Daughter Matters”
- In June—Moving Forward
- In July—Madeleine Reid, Tuthill & Elliott—Estate Planning
- In August—Sallyanne Faulkner—CEO Ramsgate RSL and Bayside Womens Housing



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RamsgateRSL Ramsgate RSL Club—Grants for Platform 9 exit baskets & linen supplies



Club Central—Grants for Breast care cushions and information booklets
Platform 9 Exit bags and linen
Waiver of room hire for meetings and Young Women's Event.



Georges River Council—
Grant for Venue Hire, 2024 Vintage & Collectable Fairs



Taren Point Bowling Club—Grant for Platform 9 for linen and bedding



Kingsgrove RSL—Grant for Moving Forward household supplies - LOGO

Thank you and congratulations to members who lodged these grant applications.





ZONTA

CLUB OF
BOTANY BAY INC

**BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

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CALENDAR UPDATES - 2024

- ⇒ **Dinner Meetings: Location—Club Menai**
- ⇒ 4th Tuesday of the Month at 6.30pm for 7.15pm start
- ⇒ **Board Meetings: Location-Woolooware Shores**
- ⇒ 2nd Tuesday of the month
- ⇒ **Coffee Get Together at Café Y, Menai**
- ⇒ 15th of every month (except on weekends)
- ⇒ **Birthing Kits at Sylvania High School**
- ⇒ 7th May at 9am
- ⇒ **30th Anniversary Celebration at Oatley Hotel**
- ⇒ 4pm 20th May
- ⇒ **Walk & fish/chips at Watsons Bay**
- ⇒ 22nd May. Time and details TBC
- ⇒ **Zonta International Conference Brisbane**
- ⇒ 27-30 June
- ⇒ **Garvan Institute Tour**
- ⇒ TBC—June
- ⇒ **Vintage & Collectable Fair at Marana Hall, Hurstville**
- ⇒ 21st July
- ⇒ **Historic Cockatoo Island Visit**
- ⇒ 19th August Time and details TBC
- ⇒ **Cronulla Arts Theatre**
- ⇒ 23rd October
- ⇒ **Retford Park National Trust Visit at Bowral**
- ⇒ 8th November—Car pooling
- ⇒ **Christmas Lunch at Little Snail, Darling Harbour**
- ⇒ 13th December.

Zonta Club of Botany Bay
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Websites: www.zontabotanybay.org

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.

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