



**ZONTA**

CLUB OF  
MELBOURNE'S  
EAST INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

**EMPOWERING WOMEN**  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Zonta Club of Melbourne's East is very pleased to announce that the winner of it's inaugural Woman of Achievement Award 2015 is Michelle Gates, Chapter Director – Ferntree Gully/Victorian Co-ordinator, **Days For Girls International**. Michelle has won a cheque for \$1000. This was presented to Michelle at the Club's General Meeting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March to coincide with International Women's Day.

Days For Girls International is a not-for-profit organisation believing every girl in the world deserves education, safety and dignity. It enables girls to gain access to quality, feminine hygiene items and hygiene awareness, by direct distribution of sustainable feminine hygiene kits. Thanks to a global grassroots network of thousands of volunteers and supporters it has now reached women and girls in more than 75 countries on 6 continents. [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org)

Michelle stated "I want to express my deep gratitude to you and the whole Zonta Club of Melbourne's East for the honour and support you have given myself and Days for Girls by awarding me the Woman of Achievement 2015 Certificate and the \$1,000 prize. I am so encouraged by your support personally and the opportunity this award will give to promote the work of Days for Girls in Australia and around the world".

It is hoped that Timor Leste will benefit from this award, as their communities are very much in need of support, with the aim of teaching local women to sew Days for Girls Kits for their communities, so the \$1000 donation will assist with purchasing equipment and materials required to do that.

Zonta President Pam Sloss stated that the Club initiated this award to draw attention to women in the community who are making an enormous contribution towards implementing positive change for women and girls, and who would otherwise go unrecognised. 'Days for Girls International is making tangible, practical steps to help women and girls across the globe have access to quality, sustainable and hygienic kits to assist in managing menstruation'. 'Michelle is one of several unsung heroes in our community dedicating time and effort to ensure that every female, no matter where she lives, has access to feminine hygiene education and assistance available to her and is not excluded from society or deprived of educational opportunities. Our Zonta Club is proud to commemorate this success with its inaugural Woman of Achievement Award,' she said.

The Zonta Club of Melbourne's East has been established for over 30 years and is a member of Zonta International, a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. The Club meets for Dinner (usually with guest speaker) on the first Thursday of the month at Gateway On Monash, 630 Blackburn Road, Notting Hill at 6.30 for 7pm. Visitors welcome. For bookings and further information please visit our website [www.zontamelbourneseast.org.au](http://www.zontamelbourneseast.org.au) or contact Pam on 0411 297 452