



ZONTA

CLUB OF
MELBOURNE'S
EAST INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

**AREA 1, DISTRICT
23 CHARTER DATE 10
October 1978
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ZONTA Matters

August 2016

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Di's Diary

Convention Report



I am frequently asked "What does Zonta stand for?" It was at the 63rd Zonta International Convention in Nice that I truly understood what it means to stand for Zonta and in doing so, to more fully discover what Zonta stands for.

I stood with many other proud Aussie Zontians as the Australian flag was presented at the opening ceremony.

I stood to acknowledge the remarkable work of past International President Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard as she concluded her welcoming speech.

I stood to honour the 2014 Jane M. Klausman recipient Jelena Bauer and her efforts to have women recognised.

I stood to honour Camille Bilger and recognise the impact Zonta has had in providing her with an Amelia Earhart scholarship. Please vote for the Amelia figurine!

I stood to welcome and affirm the members of the 2016-2018 Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation Boards.

I stood to acknowledge District 23's Anne Horrocks take her place on the International Nominating Committee.

I stood (and sang "We are the Champions") in recognition of the efforts to ensure membership growth across the world.

I stood with Zontians from all over the world as we acknowledged the new clubs chartered in the past biennium.

I stood with the whole auditorium (many of us with tears in our eyes) to pay tribute to 2015 YWPA winner Anna Rukko who told us her story of survival and stressed, "no one is too young or too insignificant to create a change".

I stood as the approved International Service and ZISVAW projects were announced.

I stood as meritorious service awards were presented to Margit Webjorn and Carol Beaver.

I stood to acknowledge the generous giving by members at the convention - a total of \$162, 958 as at end of Day 5.

I stood in a moving Memorial service to remember those Zontians who had passed away in the past biennium.

I stood to welcome Sonia Honig Schough as the International President for the 2016-2018 biennium.

In standing for all of these recognitions, my understanding of what it means to belong to a worldwide organisation, whose single goal is to empower women and improve their lives, deepened and intensified. It is impossible to put into words the emotion felt at many of those "standings".

I realise that I am not just a part of ZCME, but a huge organisation that has a strong and powerful voice across the world and we need to make every endeavor to use it. What Zonta stands for is clearly imprinted in me

Now for some details!

The number of clubs represented at Convention was 752 (out of 1184). The total number of registrations ranged from 2323 on the first day to 2287 on the last day. There were 11 members of International Board present, 7 PIPs, and 31 Governors.

The number of delegates voting ranged from 1414 to 1432. We had personal voting devices and Maria Jose controlled the business sessions most capably, and often with some humour.

The bylaws and resolutions passed will be on the ZI website soon and you can read the details there. The motion from District 23 regarding the nominating committee was withdrawn, as a similar motion from District 12 had been submitted with improved wording. Although the motion failed, many are confident that success will be achieved at the next Convention.

The resolution that the campaign "Zonta says No to Violence against Women" be carried into this biennium was carried.

The resolution on a pilot project on a Youth Membership Category was debated heavily and with many amendments. The scheme is for 2 years and is designed to encourage younger members by offering reduced fees. This will apply to individuals younger than 30 but older than the age of majority in their country.

The new Boards are listed in the first edition of the Convention report from ZI. I am very impressed with new president Sonia Honig Schough and it was clear that she and Maria Jose had worked closely to ensure a smooth transition from one biennium to the next.

The budget for the 2016-2018 biennium was presented as US \$ 5,376,000 for the four projects, The Educational Programs and The Rose Fund. Our giving to ZI is a vital part of our responsibility and a crucial investment in women's empowerment.

The total number of members worldwide is 29, 677 involved in 1184 clubs. There have been 20 new clubs and 3 new e clubs in the past 2 years.

I attended a session for Presidents entitled Tips, Tricks and Traps. There were approximately 200 members present and we all learnt something valuable. It was a great time of sharing and acknowledging that many of us face the same challenges, no matter where in the world we are. It was also great to recognize that we are all striving towards the same goals

While business sessions were operating, a series of roundtable workshops were offered to non-delegates. The general feeling was that these were worthwhile and well attended.

Over 40 people attended a District 23 dinner that was a time for great fellowship. The men who had accompanied some of the women had a chance to catch up and organise time together during the days ahead. Margaret Lynch hosted an informal drinks gathering to honor Anne Horrocks and her achievement.

Robyn and I attended the final night banquet in the huge ballroom at The Acropolis. We enjoyed delicious food and wines and further opportunities to again make new friends. The Hand Over ceremony was the highlight of the night as dignitaries from both bienniums met on the stage and gave and received the badges of office.

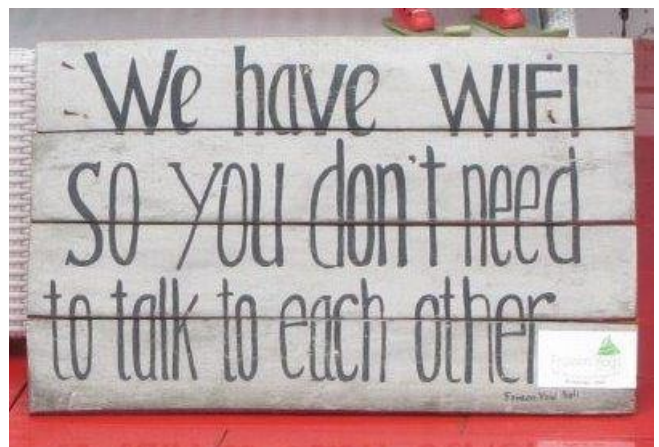
For me, the Convention was a truly unforgettable experience and one that I thoroughly enjoyed. I was honored to be your delegate and thank you for allowing me to represent you. I have come back with a stronger commitment to Zonta's ideals and to ensuring that our club does all it can to live up to the expectations of Zonta International.

The next Convention in July 2018 will be in Yokohama Japan, so start planning!

*Di Hillman
Club President
Zonta Club of Melbourne's East*



Di Hillman, Judy Gorton the new District 23 Governor and Robyn Scholes at the Convention Banquet



A sign of the times from outside a café in Bali

SERVICE and ADVOCACY REPORT

Young Women in Public Affairs

I think we all still have smiles on our faces thinking about our candidate **Nandini Karthikeyan** from PLC. Nandini attended and spoke at our April meeting with her coordinator Kim Watkins. We were so impressed with her poise and her ability to articulate her story so clearly and enjoyably.



Nandini's YWPA application went on to District for judging where she was chosen as the District 23 winner, which is an amazing achievement when so many young women are considered. Subsequently her application was forwarded to ZI where she was awarded one of the ten awards available. What an amazing outcome for us all! What a privilege for us to be able to foster, in some small way, the future of an outstanding young woman. Thank you to Club members for supporting Dorothy Jenkins and I in our first venture into the YWPA

We look forward to Nandini attending our September meeting with Joanne Metzger the YWPA District 23 Chair speaking to us about YWPA.

Our Community Conversation, "Family Violence Prevention: Changing Attitudes, Changing Behavior" was held on a wet and windy evening in May. Despite the weather we had a supportive and interested audience who were challenged by the speakers and the panel.



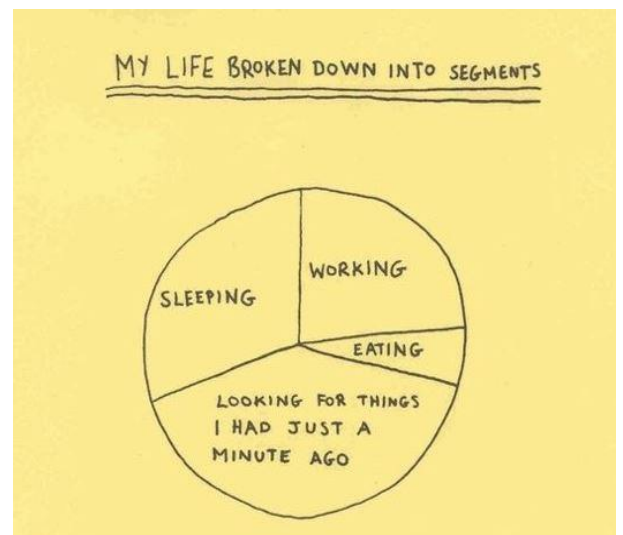
Our Chairman, Erica Majba (ZI District 23 Governor) ensured that the proceedings went smoothly and the panel session allowed for a variety of questions to be asked. Our keynote speakers were Assistant Police Commissioner, Dean Mc Whirter and Helen Kroger, a former Senator. Each presented a different aspect of Family Violence establishing the basis for the panel session later on. The panel, which also included Kristine Olaris and Alex Mills covered many aspects looking towards how we can make a change. As this was the first function of this type that our Club has organized, the Committee comprising of Dorothy Jenkins, Di Hillman, Dorothy Doherty, Sylvia Kolarik (and myself) is to be thanked for the time and effort each committed to ensuring its success. Club members assisted so much with promotion and a hundred and one other aspects and are to be thanked as well.

June saw many members, under the guidance of Pam Sloss, attend Avila College to assemble 1000 **Birthing Kits**. We have developed a great relationship with Avila College and this is a wonderful example of how we work within the community in an effort to improve the lives of women less fortunate than ourselves. Thanks to all involved.

Also thanks to Gina Cantarella, Sylvia Kolarik, Debbie Grinter and Stevie Robbie, who have developed and produced the booklet **"The Gift of Life"**. Each contains 20 Birthing Kit vouchers for members to sell and will subsequently finance a **Community Birthing Kit Assembly Day**. What an interesting and innovative way to raise the necessary funds!

Within the next few weeks our program for Service and Advocacy will be in place for the next twelve months. If as challenging as the last year we have a lot to look forward to.

Robyn Scholes
Chair Service and Advocacy





President DI Hillman with the Zonta Goals banner



Zonta and UNFPA empower girls in Niger to say NO to child marriage

Zonta International contributed 1 million US Dollars to UNFPA from 2014 to 2016 to support efforts to reduce early marriage and early pregnancy in Niger, a country where 75 percent of girls are married by the age of 18 and 36 percent are married by the age of 15. Last week, the Zonta International Convention voted to continue its support for this project with an additional contribution of 1 million US Dollars. Watch this video from What Took You So Long? to see how Zonta and UNFPA are empowering girls and young women in Niger to realize their rights and be in a stronger position to say no to child marriage.

WHAT'S ON

Block Arcade 18th August

Blue Illusion 25th August



Many thanks to **Connie at the Fernwood Gym in Clayton** and to **Rosemary from Simone Perele Lingerie** in Hawthorn for so generously providing vouchers to use at our Blue Illusion Fashion Parade this month. Your support of our club is greatly appreciated!

Our 39th Birthday 10TH October

98th Birthday ZI 8th November

Peridot Theatre 17th November

Christmas Dinner 1st December



Voices against violence training workshops have produced their own national training plans. As a result there are action plans in 35 countries



African Women's Clinic Project Stage 2.

ZCME has been involved in this project from the beginning and we are delighted to be able to assist with the next stage.

Some members have very generously offered to sew drawstring bags which will be filled with appropriate items for the women to take home after their hospital visits.

The bags will be identified as coming from the Women's Hospital and Zonta International District 23.

The RWH African Women's Clinic is the only one of its kind in Australia and the project has been a combined effort by Areas One and Four. A very worthwhile Advocacy commitment.



Find us

Website:

www.zontamelbourneseast.org.au

Email

infor@zontamelbourneseast.org.au

Our Dinner Meetings

**Are held on the first Thursday
of the month
6.30pm for 7pm**

**At the Gateway on Monash
630 Blackburn Road
Mount Waverley**

See you in Yokohama in 2018

Before the close of the last business session, Convention attendees were treated to a traditional Japanese dance performance as District 26 Zontians welcomed them to the 64th Zonta International Convention in Yokohama, Japan, in 2018.



BIRTHING KIT PROJECT UPDATE



Further to the briefing from our Annual Report, here is some additional information for those of you who may not be aware of developments that have occurred over the last year or so.

The Birthing Kit Foundation has continued to go from strength to strength, with a new Program Manager and the addition of a Fundraising & Marketing Manager, Catriona Neil-Dwyer to strengthen marketing to potential supporters.

Between November 2015 and the end of January 2016, the incredible staff at 4 Fullife pharmacy stores in Melbourne invited customers to purchase a Birthing Kit. Thanks to their unfading commitment and enthusiasm the campaign was a great success, with the outcome being an incredible \$31,356 raised!

Whilst it will be quite awhile before we can sell that many of our vouchers, as more opportunities to engage with the general public become available, this should give us a good kick-start. We might also be able to partner with our local community pharmacy!

In late February, SBS came to film an Assembly Day at the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills to meet & interview board directors & volunteers – the result of which was a fabulous news story (15 March 2016) which you can see and with it, a surge of interest in supporting the Foundation.

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2016/03/04/birthing-kits-save-lives-thousands-mothers>

2016 marks the 10th anniversary of the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia and to mark the occasion a book is being produced which will recount the history of the birthing kit project since the very beginning.

Contributions from clubs are welcome. Many groups choose to hold assembly days to coincide with International Women's Day and of course Mothers Day.

Val Sarah, our past ZI President, is now the Foundation Ambassador, which will hopefully further highlight their work in other local regional areas. The Foundation newsletter is received by supporters to help keep everyone up to date with the Birthing Kit Projects.

Some of you may recall at the 2015 Area Workshop Kay Stewart organised Dr Michelle McIntosh to speak on the new powdered form of Oxytocin applicator Monash Uni was researching. Oxytocin is the gold standard to stop haemorrhaging at birth, however, it only came in liquid form which had to be injected and refrigerated. This is not possible where there is no power for a fridge and no trained person to inject a woman in a remote place. So the research to produce a stable and effective version of Oxytocin in a powdered form that can be absorbed quickly is a huge benefit for a birthing woman in a developing country.

This very exciting research that is being done and trials to determine the safety and efficacy of the powdered form of Oxytocin will take place with two of the BKFA partner organisations.

“From this introduction Valerie Browning our BKFA partner in Ethiopia and Dr Luc Mulimbalimba Masururu from DR Congo has individually met with the Monash Uni team and they are planning to do their trials in Ethiopia and possibly DR Congo.”

“This is all of our organisations working together to enable research with reliable partners in some of the most desperate countries. It is such an exciting development and Zonta brought the individuals together.” This drug has the capacity to save many more women's lives after childbirth, so we will eagerly await the results.

Although we will not be doing an assembly at PLC this year, there may be opportunities to partner with other schools....so watch this space and keep a pack of vouchers in your car should an opportunity present. Thank you all for your interest and support,

Pam Sloss, Assembly Coordinator



Libby Cartwright

2nd August

Beverley Manzie

14th September

Emily Fiske

5th October

Di Hillman

30th October