

# Zontact



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## Zonta Club of Bunbury Newsletter – Zontact #116 Spring 2025

EDITORS: Elizabeth Hovey & Jo Wittorff



### International Friendship Day

### ACROSS THE MILES TO OUR TWINNING CLUB!

On 30<sup>th</sup> July we celebrated International Friendship Day with Zonta Clubs across the world. We all joined Zonta to provide service and advocacy to build a better world for women and girls, and a fabulous outcome of Zonta membership is that we end up with life-long friendships locally, nationally and globally.

It was wonderful to see photos of other Zontians participating in a display of fellowship and showcasing their special part of the world – all with happy smiles and symbolic hand heart gestures. A fantastic way to unite across the cultures and distances that separate us.

We hope our twinning club, the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva got to know us a little more through the video we sent to them on this special day: <https://youtu.be/IASOavzvYxA>

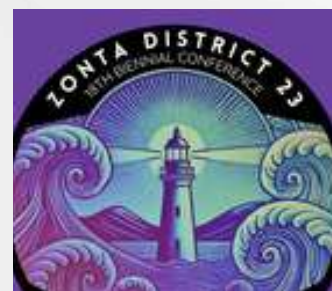
### New-look Newsletter

Thank you to members who responded to the newsletter survey. We now have two editors and we are trialling a new format. Let's know what you think! Elizabeth & Jo



### Thank you SMS!

We are really looking forward to partnering with Site Management Specialists (SMS) and greatly appreciate their generous offer of annual sponsorship.



### District Conference

The District Conference in Devonport is drawing near and the nine members attending are excited. Have a great time everyone!

### PRESIDENT'S POST



Amanda Whittle  
Club President  
2024-2026

Dear Zontians and friends – Spring is here and with it, its promises of new beginnings, fresh starts and transformations. The garden may have been dormant over winter, but not our members, who have been busy getting ready for conference, organising breast-cushion cutting, selecting worthy recipients for our community grants, writing advocacy letters and spreading the word of our awards and Respect Calendar just to name a few projects our members have been working on.

I am also delighted to announce that we have entered into a partnership with Site Maintenance Specialists (SMS) – a local mechanical shutdown services company, who heard of our good work and offered to provide a generous, yearly sponsorship – thank you SMS! Please enjoy reading this new-look, spring-fresh Zontact and be in touch with your feedback!

Yours in Zonta Spirit, Amanda

Build a better world for women and girls

# MEMBERSHIP & PROGRAM

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The guest speaker for our July meeting was **Julie Byrne-King** from Peer Based Harm Reduction WA, a consumer-led organisation that provides health and harm reduction services for people who use drugs. It is a part of the national network of Australian drug user organisations and is the state's largest Needle & Syringe Program provider, operating fixed-site, mobile, and outreach (home delivery) needle & syringe exchanges.

**Almarie January**, a member of our Bunbury Club, was our guest speaker for the August Meeting. Almarie grew up in South Africa as a Cape Coloured during the Apartheid era (1950-1994), which meant living in a world where division was enforced and dignity was something she had to fight for every day. Opportunities for women of colour were limited, but she overcame all obstacles and became a teacher as she sees education as a tool of liberation.

In 2013, Almarie and her family migrated to Western Australia, where she teaches her students, opens their minds, creates safe spaces and shows young people – especially girls – that their voices matter.

Almarie facilitates and mentors the Kingia Z Club at Bunbury Senior High School. She is truly inspirational and embodies the Zonta spirit.



## Zonta Spirit and Core Values

At our August Meeting, President Amanda presented an activity on Zonta Spirit and Core Values, where each member wrote down their reasons for joining Zonta and why they stay. We then circulated to share our answers.

Our reasons were numerous and varied but a common thread came through – that of friendships forged and commitment to Zonta's mission of making the world a better place for women and girls.



## Members Answer the Call

Almarie January sent out an SOS from the Kingia Z Club requesting bags with zips from our members and was delighted with the generous response.

The Z Club will add necessary items, such as those in the picture and send the completed escape bags to the SW Women's Refuge for distribution.



# SERVICE & UNITED NATIONS



President Amanda delivering books in 2013, when she was project coordinator

**International Literacy Day Sept 8 – celebrating 25 years**  
25 years ago, International Literacy Day (ILD) was established as a club project and since then we have been celebrating ILD and donating books to local children during Literacy Week . This year, International Literacy Day will be celebrated under the theme of *"Promoting literacy in the digital era."* We will be donating books and reading to excited young readers at the Carey Park Child and Parent Centre.



## Breast Cushion Project

Members came together at the Breast Cushion Cutting Day on on 27<sup>th</sup> August in preparation for our next Community cushion making day. Thank you to Chris Durrant for her expert coordination of the morning.

Our District 23 total of breast cushions distributed for Jan – Jun 2025 was 2,891.

## Zonta Women in Stem Award – open

The goal of the Zonta Women in STEM Award is to uplift and recognise the incredible work being done by women in STEM fields and inspire other women to pursue education, careers and leadership roles in STEM fields.

Zonta Club of Bunbury closing date: **1<sup>st</sup> November 2025**

[Read more](#)



## Award applications – being assessed

This Zonta Club of Bunbury Award is designed to encourage and provide financial support to assist women to continue and complete their studies in a non traditional trade or traineeship.

Applications closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> August and we look forward to introducing the recipient in the next newsletter.



# FUNDRAISING



## SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE

FR Committee will need lots of support please –  
roster to be circulated at our September meeting!

**COMING IN NOVEMBER  
WINE FUNDRAISER**  
Sales start: 18 October  
Sales Close: 17 November



## LOCAL PROJECTS RECEIVE CLUB GRANTS

### Foster Families SW

The grant of \$1,365 will be used to purchase 60 Modibodi Period Pants for 20 teenagers in Foster Care.



### SW Women's Health and Information Centre



A total of 30 x \$50 grocery vouchers will be provided for women in need from the grant of \$1,500.

### Doors Wide Open

\$1,200 grant will be used to supply tents/sleeping bags for families leaving domestic violence situations.



## PR & COMMUNICATIONS



### Plastic Free July

Thank you to members who participated in 'Plastic Free July', and shared images on our Facebook page. Although July is over, let's aim to continue to refuse to use single-use plastic.

[Read more](#)



### Respect Calendar Entries

Respect Calendar entries close on the 11<sup>th</sup> September. The committee is looking forward to receiving entries from students to select the artwork to be included in the 2026 Students' Respect Calendar.

[Read more](#)



### Hidden Gems

The committee is seeking nominations for our 2026 Hidden Gems.

Members, please forward the names of women in our community who have not been acknowledged for the extraordinary volunteer work they do and who would be worthwhile nominees.

Build a better world for women and girls



# ADVOCACY



## Dress for Success

21st October in Busselton and 22nd October in Bunbury. Members are encouraged to set aside suitable wardrobe items for donation to women re-entering the workforce or needing a new outfit. Please hold donations until closer to the dates – collection point details will follow.

*All sizes welcome, with a high need for size 16+.*

## Sexual Assault Project 113 Update

Tyrl contacted Dr Katrina Stratton, who has succeeded Dr Sally Talbot as our representative in the WA Legislative Assembly. The issue of consent is still under review. Eventually, WA legislation will be amended so that a person who is drugged or intoxicated cannot legally be considered to have given consent—addressing this serious gap in the current law.

## United Zonta Action

Our club, along with other Zonta clubs across Australia, has been invited to join a united advocacy effort addressing the growing homelessness crisis in the country. The Advocacy Committee is currently preparing information on this initiative to present to members.

## Letter to our local member

Mr. Ben Small MP was elected as the Federal Member for the electorate of Forrest. As we did not receive a response to our initial correspondence prior to the election, a follow-up letter was sent in August to introduce our organisation and pose four key questions regarding issues affecting women and girls. We are currently awaiting his response.

# Z CLUBS

## New Z Club to be chartered!

Zonta Bunbury is excited to be sponsoring a third Z Club! The **Manea Senior College Z Club** will be Chartered on the 18<sup>th</sup> September. We are grateful to Susan Main for taking on the role of the School Liaison contact. More information will be distributed soon.



**Kingia Z Club** members have been busy filling escape bags and as mentioned above, needed more bags with zips. Due the great response from Bunbury Zonta members, they will be able to continue with their Escape Bags project.

Kingia members have also been involved in preparing white ribbons in readiness for the 16 Days of Activism campaign in November.



## Geographe Bay Z Club

**Geographe Bay Z Club** at Busselton SHS had a busy NAIDOC Week running rock art, bracelet making and helping with Damper making for the Kangaroo Stew cook up. This week they also attended Horse Vision Equine Centre to help with a Busy Bee. This involved cleaning out store rooms, cleaning horse gear and water troughs and caring for the horses.



# AREA & DISTRICT NEWS



Pema with Linda Tinning, D23 & A3 Award Coordinator.

## AREA 3 ZONTA WOMEN IN BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Pema Chentsho** is the Area 3 Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award recipient.

Pema is a telecommunications engineer and passionate community advocate dedicated to empowering women. The first in her Bhutanese village and family to pursue higher education, she holds degrees in engineering from Bhutan, Portugal, and Australia. As co-founder of ECU's Women in Business and Leadership Association, Pema has led major tech projects and champions student leadership, inclusion, climate justice, and gender equality in both Australia and Bhutan. Thank you to Award Coordinator **Linda Tinning** for her work to select the winner and **ZC Perth NS** for hosting the presentation night.

## NEW WOMEN IN ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

The ZONTA Clubs of Peel and Geelong in conjunction with the Alcoa Foundation are excited to offer ten \$1500 scholarships to women studying Engineering. Governor Debbie informed us of this partnership with Alcoa at the Area 3 workshop in April.

Full details are included in the package but please contact Peel's coordinator [Sherrel O'Neil](#) if you have any questions.

It would be appreciated if members would share this wonderful opportunity with possible applicants. **Applications close at 5 pm, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

**[Women in Engineering Application Package](#)**: click to download



# INTERNATIONAL



## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Celebrate diversity. Connect across generations.

The Zonta Cross-Mentoring Program brings together the Zonta community from around the globe to build lasting relationships, share experiences and exchange ideas. Whether you want to give back as a mentor or learn and grow as a mentee, this program strengthens connections across cultures while empowering future leaders.

Apply today to join this inspiring network!

<https://bit.ly/3HjVGdM>

For updates on current activities, what we do and how to join, go to:  
[bunburyzonta.org.au](http://bunburyzonta.org.au) **or** email [zontabunbury@yahoo.com.au](mailto:zontabunbury@yahoo.com.au)

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