

Zontact



bunburyzonta.org.au | zontabunbury@yahoo.com.au

Zonta Club of Bunbury Newsletter - Zontact #117 December 2025: Summer Edition



Welcome to Manea SC Z Club

18th September 2025

The celebration of Manea Senior College's charter presentation was a significant occasion for the Zonta Club of Bunbury, now proud sponsors of three Z Clubs.

[READ MORE](#)



President's Report

It is at this time of the year we ask incredulously, 'where has this year gone??' For some of our members and friends it has been an incredibly challenging year on a personal front, whilst for many it has also been rewarding and fulfilling. One thing is for sure – as your President, I have continuously been humbled and proud of all of you!

Our final meeting of the year was a celebration of our club and what it stands for: another busy, fun, and productive year working to build a better world for women and girls. I thank members for their dedication and contributions throughout 2025, particularly while balancing busy lives.

I acknowledge the work of the Advocacy Committee during the 16 Days of Activism, and the many ways members supported the campaign, along with this year's theme, *Play Your Part*. Highlights include donations of Christmas boxes to Women's Refuge Harbour by the Kingia Z Club at Bunbury SHS, the Public Relations Committee's work on the Respect Calendar and social media, the distribution of 500 white ribbons in Bridgetown, participation at the Bunbury Markets, along with members wearing orange to raise awareness of gender-based violence.

Key achievements for the year include the chartering of a new Z Club at Manea Senior College, attendance by nine members at the District 23 Conference in Devonport, recognition of long-service award recipients, two club publicity awards, and Jo Wittorff's receipt of the Governor's Award: Heide Taylor Honour Roll. Seven new club members were also welcomed, including Fiona Owen, newly inducted in December.

I highlight the importance of fundraising, and extend my thanks to the Fundraising Committee, members, families, supporters, and International Women's Day and other sponsors and grant providers. Funds raised enabled the club, under the leadership of the Service & UN Committee, to present awards to Isabella Chalker, Sophie Reeve-Dougherty, and Liliiana Nicholls, and to support initiatives such as birthing kits, breast care cushions, and local community grants.

Thank you to the Membership Committee for their organisation of meetings, guest speakers, and celebrations, and I note that Darryl Reynolds from Every Daughter Matters was a particularly impactful speaker. Many thanks to all members for 'playing your part' and contributing to a rewarding year made possible by your commitment and enthusiasm.

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas as well as a happy and safe New Year.

Amanda Whittle
President 2024–2026

ADVOCACY



Bunbury Markets



16 DAYS IN WA

'Playing Our Part' in Busselton



Taking the Pledge



Ingrid in Bridgetown



Kingia Z Club & Advocacy members
'Playing their Part'

Bunbury Markets



This year, our club joined the WA Government's Department of Communities 16 Days in WA campaign, embracing the theme "Play Your Part."

Sadly, Bunbury did not host a White Ribbon Day march this year, so Advocacy members Bronwen and Tyril travelled to Busselton to play their part and lay our club's wreath.

Club members also showed their support at the Bunbury Markets on 6 December, with Ingrid continuing the effort in Bridgetown on 7 December. Together, they distributed white ribbons, shared resources, and engaged in meaningful conversations about how we can all contribute to a future free from violence.

Thanks to the generosity of the community, \$387 in donations was accepted and delivered to Harbour Refuge to support food vouchers for survivors of family and domestic violence.



Donations to Harbour

Our November club meeting focused on the 16 Days of Activism



16 Days in WA
25 November-10 December

Stopping Family and Domestic Violence:
#PLAY YOUR PART



MEMBERSHIP & PROGRAM

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Anne Foyle

Anne has a nursing background and was our president's 'boss' back in 2001 when Amanda joined the public health system! Anne was introduced to Zonta by Ingrid Hilario, and was inducted in September by Area 3 Director Kimberley. She has joined the Service and UN Committee.



Tanya Princi

Tanya is no stranger to Zonta, having attended many of our events over several years. She expressed her interest in membership via our online form and was inducted in October by Nan. Tanya has joined the Fundraising Committee. She recently returned to work as a bookkeeper.



Lindsey Richmond

Lindsey was introduced to Zonta by Ali Hooper and inducted in October along with Tanya. New to Bunbury, Lindsey was pleased to accept an invitation from fellow cancer nurse Ali to come along to a Zonta meeting. Lindsey has joined the Service and United Nations Committee.



Fiona Owen

Fiona became interested in joining Zonta after meeting Lee Mead through cycling. Fiona is psychotherapist and hopes her involvement with Zonta will bring new friendships & opportunities to contribute, including sharing her professional knowledge and experience in the DV area as a member of the Advocacy Committee.

GUEST SPEAKERS



Kerry Kerr
Conference Report

October: Club delegate Kerry Kerr presented a comprehensive report on the 2025 District 23 Conference in Devonport. She urged members who have not been to a district conference to aim to attend one in the near future to experience the global reach of our organisation.



Darren Reynolds
Every Daughter Matters

October: Darren spoke about his role in rescuing Nepal's vulnerable girls from Human Trafficking, to stop the abuse before it begins. It was a powerful and heart-wrenching story that touched everyone present.
Read more at:
everydaughtermatters.org.au



Melody Birrell
Coercive Control

November: Mel is a Senior Project Officer at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre at King Edward Memorial Hospital. Her inciteful presentation on Coercive Control provided us with knowledge, understanding and strategies to help to address it.



Michelle Doake
Professional actor, singer & voice over artist

December: Michelle and her family recently made the move from the Blue Mountains to Bunbury, and we are so glad they did. What a wonderful bonus for our performing arts community. Michelle shared her vast and varied journey in an inspirational and entertaining way. It was a light-hearted and perfect way to end the year.

SERVICE & UNITED NATIONS



Carol Carter and Dot Unstead reading to children at the Carey Park Child and Parent Centre

[Read more](#)



International Literacy Day Sept 8 - celebrating 30 years (not 25!)

Oops, we didn't count correctly. It's been 30 years since Literacy Week has been a valued club project, so a celebratory cake was in order!

Image: Members involved in the project (Coordinator Carol Carter, Dot Unstead & Janine Charles) cut the celebratory cake at our September meeting, with President Amanda looking on.

Congratulations to our Award Winners



A Zonta Club of Bunbury Award:

2025 Women in Non-Traditional Training Award

It was a pleasure to welcome our 2025 award recipient **Sophie Reeve-Dougherty**, from Margaret River, to our November meeting. Sophie is an apprentice plumber who pursued this career after exploring several other pathways, and she hopes one day to establish her own plumbing business. She shared words of advice for other young women considering an apprenticeship – find an employer you can trust and who will support you. She spoke about the strong sense of independence she has gained through her trade.

Image: Service & UN Chair Jennifer, Sophie & President Amanda

2026 Zonta Women in Stem Award

Lilijana Nicholls, was selected as the Zonta Club of Bunbury's 2026 Women in STEM recipient. Lilijana is an outstanding young woman who is presently studying Medical, Molecular and Forensic Science at Murdoch University as part of a Doctor of Philosophy degree (Environmental DNA). Her interest and experience in STEM led her to found The Australian STEM Project, a not-for-profit with the mission to inspire young people and ignite a passion for STEM at a nationwide level.

Lilijana's application was forward to the D23 Coordinator for district judging and we have recently learnt that there was a highly competitive field of club nominees to district and Lilijana was unsuccessful at this level. (See 'District' News below to read about our district winner.)

We thank Lilijana for submitting a STEM application through our club – we hope to hear more of her in the future.



2026 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award

Congratulations to **Adoley Mensah**, an exceptional young woman attending Busselton Senior High School who has been selected as the recipient of our club's 2026 Young Women in Leadership Award.

Adoley's application will now be forwarded for district judging, which occurs in April. Zonta International offers 37 international awards of US\$5,000. International winners are announced on the 1st July, so quite a long way off!

Adoley has been invited to our International Women's Day breakfast on March 8th so we can acknowledge her success and present our club's certificate to her. By then, she will also have received our \$500 club award.



FUNDRAISING

9TH OCTOBER Bunnings Sausage Sizzle



A great success and a lot of fun! Thanks to members for your time and effort to make it so.

For more information and great images, click on Read more, below.

[Read more](#)

November Wine Fundraiser



Another successful fundraiser!

Many thanks to Kerry for coordinating, everyone who purchased, and Elizabeth and Brian for picking up orders and offering their home as the distribution point. Legends!

Our appreciation to Willow Bridge Estate for making this fundraiser possible.

Bunnings Christmas Family Event



Our members helped to spread Christmas cheer while showcasing our club! Thank you to Kerry, Lesley, Bronwen and Ali for representing our club at the Bunnings Christmas Family Event on December 4th.

Chefs Long Table Charity Lunch Application successful!



Keys to Freedom!

We were excited to learn that our club's submission to the CLTCL to be a minor beneficiary in 2026 was successful.

We will receive \$3,000 to assist Nathan Reed's 'Keys to Freedom' project that provides roadworthy cars to women at the Harbour Refuge escaping domestic violence.

PR & COMMUNICATIONS



16 Days in WA

The PR&C Committee used the resources provided by the WA government's Department of Communities, to provide daily social media posts during the 16 Days campaign.

Strategies were offered on how to 'play your part' in stopping family and domestic violence. Click on 'Read More' for details.

[Read more](#)



Respect Calendar Project

Sponsored by Australind Pre-mix

The 2026 Students' Respect Calendar presentations were held on November 6th. Twelve excited children enjoyed the event with their families, school staff and Zonta members.

We thank and are overwhelmed by the **Bunbury Forum Shopping Centre's** offer to showcase the calendar's artwork together with the 'why' and 'how' of the project. This display will occur from **12th January to the 1st February 2026**. Don't miss it!

2026 Josephine Spaul Performing Arts Scholarship

Applications are now open. The application form is available on our website; deadline is **23rd January 2026**.

[Read more](#)

Z CLUBS



Manea Senior College Z Club is featured on page one, with a link to the article about their Charter presentation day. The club is presently in recess until next year.



Playing their Part

Kingia Z Club members have been busy 'playing their part' during the 16 Days of Activism. Together with the Advocacy Committee they have worked hard to produce 2000 white ribbons to distribute in Bridgetown and at the Bunbury Markets.

We acknowledge the ongoing support and mentoring provided to the Kingia members by **Almarie January**, the club's coordinating teacher. Thank you, Almarie!



Kingia donations help at Christmas time

Kingia Z Club members have also been busy putting together Christmas packages containing essential items, as well as small gifts and messages of kindness. These were presented to a Harbour Refuge representative last week to distribute to women spending Christmas at the refuge.

The Kingia Z Club also raised funds through bake sales and a sausage sizzle each term as their community projects and donated \$700 to the Bunbury SOUP VAN and \$700 to Doors Wide Open Inc.



Geographe Bay Z Club

White Ribbon March

Geographe Bay (GB) Z Club members at Busselton SHS attended Busselton's White Ribbon march in Busselton during the 16 Days of Activism to play their part. The image below shows Z Club members together with the Busselton SHS student council at the march.

Artwork displayed are images by Busselton SHS students depicting their portrayal of what family and domestic violence looks like to them.



Welcome Packs

Geographe Bay Z Clubbers have worked hard to put together 'Welcome Packs' for incoming year 7 students at their school. This wonderful project helps students entering high school feel welcome and thus less daunted in the new high school environment.

We acknowledge the fabulous support given to the GB Z Club by the school's Z Club advisor **Dee Shade**. Thank you, Dee!



GB Z club members Lily, Jorja, Hailery, Mandy and Dallas putting together the Year 7 Welcome Packs, ready for the 2026 school year.

AREA 3 NEWS

SAVE
the DATE

Area 3 Workshop Saturday 18th April 2026



Vale Liz Woodgate PDG

We were saddened to learn that Past District Governor Liz Woodgate, a member of the ZC of Peel, had passed away. Our club has worked closely with Liz, over the years.

Liz was governor in 2003, when the District Conference was held in Bunbury (image is Governor Liz at the Bunbury Conference.)

Fiona Brockman was Conference Chair and Nan Martella was Area 3 Director at that time, serving on the D23 Board with Liz.

Tyrl Houghton recalls Liz's wonderful guidance as an Area Director, when she was new to Zonta.

Jo Wittorff reflected on the strong leadership provided by Liz as Convention 2006 Committee Liaison (People's Protocol Committee).

Nan, Jo and Ellen were on this committee and attended several planning meetings at Liz's home.

She served Zonta with distinction.

REST IN PEACE LIZ.



2026 DISTRICT STEM RECIPIENT

Congratulations to **Dr Kate Johnson** who is District 23's 2026 Women in STEM award winner. Kate was nominated by the Zonta Club of Hobart.

Originally from the north-west coast of Lutruwita/Tasmania, Kate has built a distinguished career dedicated to understanding how plants withstand climate extremes such as drought and freezing. She completed both her BSc (Hons) and PhD in Botany at the University of Tasmania and has since contributed significant new insights to global plant resilience research.

Kate's application will now be forwarded to Zonta International for consideration for one of the 16 awards of US\$10,000 on offer.



INTERNATIONAL

POWERFUL WIN FOR TWINNING PARTNERSHIPS

A survey conducted by the ZI Twinning Program team showed the incredible impact Twinning is already having:

- Successfully exchanging sustainable project models
- Strengthened clubs' sense of belonging to the wider international Zonta community
- Plans to meet at ZI Convention in Vancouver
- Twinning has inspired members to "think globally, act locally, and stay connected with the wider Zonta network"
- Sharing ideas for celebrating International Women's Day

Twining Progress Check: What has been learned and where can improvements can be made?

- Some clubs face low or inconsistent responses from their twin partners.
- Time-zone differences and language barriers make communication challenging.
- Clubs need more support in initiating and building relationships with their twinned partners.
- Strong demand for clear guidelines, including How to Get Started, Meet-Up Ideas
- Ideas and practical guidance to help maintain engagement



New resources are now available

To further assist, a resource document has been published to help clubs get started and make the most of their Twinning partnership.

Our club's 'twin' is the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva and members attending convention are looking forward to meeting their members who will be in Vancouver for the convention.

GOOD NEWS & MAGIC MOMENTS!



2025 District 23 Conference in Devonport

Christine, Almarie, Sue, Kimberley, Beth, Tyril, Elizabeth, Jo, Kerry



Kerry - elected Area 3
Director 2026-28



Kimberley - elected D23
Nominating Committee
2026-28



Jo receiving the Governor's
Award from Gov Debbie.
(Congrats to Dawn too!)



D23 Greater Visibility
Award Winners



Tyril delivering Z &
Golden Z Club Report.



Sue & Almarie selling
our glasses holders!

Celebrating Membership Milestones



Sept: Beth Trainer
15 years



Oct: Carol Carter
5 years



Nov: Lola Arnold
20 years