

ZONTA

CLUB OF
ADELAIDE INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

ZEPHYR

**Newsletter of the
Zonta Club of Adelaide
SEPTEMBER 2021
Issue 387**

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District 23 Area 2**

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Once again the world's attention is turned to Afghanistan. Media reports and video footage show the horrors of citizens trying to escape the ghastly events that have unfolded in the last few weeks. Women and girls are particularly fearful for their futures with a return to a regime where education and employment were denied to them in the past.

Women employed in the court system in Afghanistan are fleeing and hiding. They are being targeted because of the sentences handed down to extremists in the past decades. Many others (men and women) are fearful for the support offered to allies.

What can we do as Zontians?

Once again we will look to Zonta International for ways to support women and girls during this unfolding tragedy.

At last weekend's Combined Advocacy meeting Area Director Chris Frick informed the group that collecting and sending money was not a viable plan as many have suggested.

You may remember being asked to send money to support Women in Lebanon after the Beirut Port explosion just one year ago in August 2020.

Many Zontians did this with approximately \$10,000 raised. Chris explained that because money could not be sent to Lebanon directly, ZI is holding this money with the fees for Zonta Club of Beirut members being paid from this until it is expended. A practical way to support the Beirut club as they try and move forward after that human tragedy.

The situation in Afghanistan caused me once again to reflect on why Zonta is an important organisation and Zonta's Vision:

Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential.

In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men.

THE ZONTA CLUB OF ADELAIDE INC

MEETING to be held at HOPE'S CAFE

**1 SEPTEMBER 2021
6.00pm for 6.30pm**

Speaker: Elaine Attwood AM

**Empowering women and girls through Service and Advocacy
by 28,000 members in 63 countries worldwide**

In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.



Congratulations to:

Gerry Sanderson for the organisation and success of the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle in early August. Thanks also to the many Zontians and friends of Zonta who assisted with the many tasks, not only on the day but also prior to the day. We were lucky with the weather and once again it was a pleasant day with great camaraderie amongst the volunteers obvious.

Thank You

Many thanks to Beverley Newberry for spending so much time following up with photos for the website. As we needed originals I had to call on Beverley to find photos as I trawled through Annual reports and Zephyrs. Thanks Beverley.

Breast Cushions

Once again we thank Ivanka Jovanovich for the use of her home for breast cushion packing last weekend. Several members turned up to assist with the packing and Mary Burford and I delivered 175 cushions to St Andrew's Hospital as a result.

Advocacy

Thank you to Kaye Roberts-Thomson who has written letters to various politicians during the last short while seeking answers to questions about issues facing women about homelessness,

seeking answers to questions about issues facing women about homelessness. Kaye is also working with other clubs for the 16 Days of Activism and will provide information about this to members.

D23 Conference

As you are aware the conference will not go ahead as planned in Bendigo but a virtual event will be held for those wishing to attend.

As delegates, Kaye Roberts-Thomson and I will attend to ensure club views are presented,

Leave - Margaret Peters

has taken leave from the Club for a period of six months initially. We will miss her contribution during this period.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next dinner meeting

MEMBERSHIP REPORT **Convenors: Raema Mahony and Aileen Cannon**

The Membership Committee welcomes Margie Glover to our club.

Margie will be officially welcomed at our September meeting as a transferee from the Port Lincoln club.

A friend of our member Thelma Harvey, Margie has been

introduced to our club meetings in recent months.

Margie has been a member of Zonta International for 16 years and held numerous positions in the Port Lincoln club. These included Secretary, President & IWD Brunch Chairperson, Board Member, and club member of Fundraising,

Services & Membership Committees.

Please welcome Margie to our club She will be a great asset to our club Service Committee

YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COURSE UPDATE **Raema Mahony**

The 5 club members, who have taken on the role of mentoring a group of students undertaking a community project, have commenced their sessions.

The Mentors are meeting via Zoom with their students except for a few initial meetings for some mentors.

Each group comprises of 3 students with a mix of year group and schools.

This is a challenge for the girls to organise their study times and to either meet in a convenient place or timetable a Zoom meeting.

Despite this challenge the groups now seem to be settling into a pattern of regular meetings. They have completed a Project Plan and submitted their first project progress report. These reports have been

emailed to Catherine Alcock who is collating all the reports into a final document about the overall groups progress.

The next 2 months will be busy for the student groups and their Mentors as they work to finalise their projects for an end of project meeting at the end of October.

Kathy, Desi, Erica, Maxine, Catherine and Raema

SERVICE REPORT

Convenors: **Gerry Sanderson/Angela Vandellis**

Our second Sausage Sizzle fundraiser was held at Bunnings Mile End on Saturday the 7th of August.

We enjoyed a magnificent contribution from all the volunteers who worked with dedicated skill and gusto. It was a happy day with enthusiasm at the fore.

We're getting better at this and I thank each of the 20 Zonta members, some with family and friends, who made such a success of the day.

We made \$1,080 on the day beyond expenses despite smaller demand from customers. We also had to pay \$108.00 extra for COVID compliant sausage serving trays. Meat prices have sky-rocketed as well but we did manage to source cheaper high-quality sausages from Slape and Sons which saved us half of the cost quoted from other suppliers.

We received high praise from Dina Mitsios of Bunnings so our competency rating is now sky high.

There was a **breast cushion packing session** at Ivanka's on the morning of Saturday 21st of August. 175 breast cushions were delivered to St Andrew's Hospital.

Another fine effort from all of those wonderful members who attended the session.

Angela has announced a date change for the **Birthing Kit assembly** to be held at Adelaide High School. It will now be held in September.

ADVANCE NOTICE SATURDAY 23rd and SUNDAY 24th of OCTOBER OPEN GARDEN

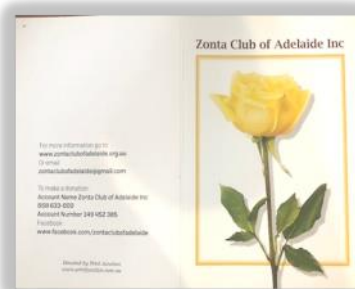
Mary Burford has firmed up the proposed **Open Garden** fundraiser at Stirling.

The Zonta Club will serve scones, jam and cream with tea or coffee. We won't be able to have a raffle this year but we will be able to organise a table to sell our fabulous market products. All proceeds raised go to Breast Cushions.

A brilliant initiative Mary. Last year we made more than \$4,000.00 over the two days.

Helpers needed so put it in your diary.

LOOK at our beautiful new breast cushion cards



At last, we have a fresh new design to accompany our exquisitely packed Breast Cushions on their journey to St Andrew's Hospital.

The professional finish is a joy to behold and the carefully worded text gives recipients the information they need should they wish to thank us, or make a donation to help us to purchase materials to put towards production.

We thank the **Print Junction** www.printjunction.com.au for their donation of this valuable service to us. Yet another example of the positive response we often receive from grateful patients who receive our breast cushions to afford them some comfort following breast surgery.

The high-quality card paper and more modern graphics and layout make a significant difference to the professional way we connect with the community.

We thank **Print Junction** for their generosity and encourage all of our members to support **Print Junction** for their printing requirements.

ELAINE ATTWOOD AM

One woman's journey as a consumer Advocate

Elaine has been an advocate for consumers well over forty years working in a variety of areas as diverse as Food Standards, Food labelling, Gene Technology, Women's issues, Children's welfare, Disability, Education, Conservation, National standards, and Nanotechnology. She has pursued these interests through Federal and State governments and non-governmental organisations. Her work has been recognised both nationally through the granting of an AM in the Australian honours and Internationally for her work in the International Standards Organisation where she was the first consumer advocate to receive this honour in nanotechnology.

Elaine has been married for 60 years to husband Brian. They have two sons, one who lives in the USA and they have raised a grand daughter. Present hobbies include looking after Australian animals, outings with a vintage car club, reading, seeing friends and family, and when possible, travel.

ADVOCACY REPORT

Convenor: **Kaye Roberts-Thomson**

Advocacy committee met on Thursday August 12. We can report that a letter re the decriminalization of sex work was sent to the Attorney General and the Opposition spokesperson.

We discussed again the issue of homelessness among older women and our frustrations at the difficulty to effect change. The new approach is to use alliances to manage services but the detail and how the alliances are to be evaluated is not clear. We wrote to Michelle Lensink as the responsible Minister, asking for information on how and when the alliances were to be evaluated and how reporting to the public would occur.

The Advocacy Committee is faced with potentially

responding to a wide variety of issues relating to women.

We have concentrated on those relating to domestic and family violence and homelessness among older women.

It would be helpful to receive input from Club members as to their views on the priorities we should address.

Sometimes one or more Club members raises an issue for us to address. We are happy to discuss such issues, but it would be helpful if members raising the issue would draft a letter as a starting point for the committee.

We have begun planning for the 16 Days of Activism in November. It seems likely that through the National Council of Women and other Zonta Clubs

that the Adelaide Town Hall and possibly the Adelaide Oval will be lit in orange.

Our initial thoughts are to ask to place Zonta banners in the Adelaide Town Hall and to try to get some press coverage by contacting a journalist from the Advertiser or the Sunday Mail and the Eastern Herald.

At the Area 2 Advocacy meeting last Saturday activities in Rundle Mall were discussed.

We will distribute the details when they are finalized. Also discussed at that meeting was action suggested in preparation for the State Election next March along with a helpful video on the difference between 'political' and 'partisan'.

AWARDS REPORT

Convenor: **Leanne Longfellow**

Margaret on Leave

Unfortunately, Margaret, our wonderful co-chair, has needed to take up to six months leave from Zonta.

Margaret has been instrumental in leading the Awards Committee as she can expertly manage anything that comes her way. Also, Margaret has been a very supportive and caring mentor for Leanne. We will very much miss her wise leadership and wish her all the best during her leave.

Welcome to Stephanie Steensma

We extend a warm welcome to Stephanie, who has recently joined our committee.

Fundraiser:

The Philosopher's Café

On Thursday, 16th September, at 5:30 pm for 6 pm, the Awards Committee will be holding

another Philosopher's Café fundraiser.

Dr Jessica White will facilitate this philosophical discussion on how to amplify the voice of those who are silenced, hidden or neglected.

She will share her motivation for writing her award-winning novel *Hearing Maud*, a hybrid memoir that entwines her voice with Maud Praed's, the deaf daughter of 19th century Queensland expatriate novelist Rosa Praed.

She and Maud were born a century apart, and their lives went in radically different directions — Jessica travelled overseas to do a PhD, while Maud had a breakdown and was committed to an asylum — but their experiences of deafness in many ways were the same.

Through uncovering Maud's story, Jessica began to understand her own experiences of deafness and how they

contributed to her emotional landscape, relationships, and career.

Dr Jessica White is the author of the novels *A Curious Intimacy* (2007) and *Entitlement* (2012) and a hybrid memoir *Hearing Maud* (2019), which won the Michael Crouch award for debut biography and was shortlisted for four major literary awards.

Her short stories, essays and poems have appeared widely in Australian and international literary journals, and she has won awards, funding and residencies.

She is currently Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing and English Literature at UniSA, where she is writing an ecobiography of Western Australia's first non-Indigenous female scientist, 19th-century botanist **Georgiana Molloy**.

The Awards Committee encourages you to bring your friends and family to this fundraiser. It is only \$20 per person, and you can book online or let Leanne know you wish to attend.

Survey for Future Philosopher's Café Fundraisers

Members were recently sent a

link to a survey to suggest the names of speakers for future fundraisers.

If you have not contributed your ideas yet and prefer to contact Leanne directly, please do so via email.

Young Women in Public Affairs

The Young Women in Public

Affairs Award is now open, and we are very grateful to Lina, who has taken the lead in promoting this award.

Lina is developing a database of contact people at several schools to build connections to promote the award and the work of Zonta.

Our Membership Committee is joining with Advocacy Committee to organise a movie fundraiser.

The movie: **Death on the Nile** an Agatha Christie movie has been booked for Sunday 13th February 2022 at 2pm for a 2.30pm movie start at the Regal Cinema on Kensington Rd Tusmore.

Raema Mahony

Happy birthday wishes during September to



6 Daina Long
21 Wendy Bruce
26 Margaret Peters



Zonta International is a leading global organisation of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1919, Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence. Its Objects are:

- To improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health, and professional status of women through service and advocacy.
- To work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of members.
- To promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- To be united internationally to foster high ethical standards, to implement service programs, and to provide mutual support and fellowship for members who serve their communities, their nations, and the world.

ZONTA CLUB OF ADELAIDE INC BOARD 2020-2021

<u>President</u>	Maxine Panegyres	<u>Vice President</u>	Kaye Roberts-Thomson
<u>Secretary</u>	Colleen Tomlian	<u>Treasurer</u>	Desi Zed
<u>Directors</u>	Leanne Longfellow; Raema Mahony; Helen Pertsinidis; Deb.		

COMMITTEES 2020-2021

Membership

Raema Mahony
Aileen Connon

Val Baldwin; Wendy Bruce; Di Lancaster

Advocacy/UN

Kaye Roberts-Thomson

Kathy Ellis; Jill Olifent, Colleen Tomlian; Miriam Zhu;
Helen Pertsinidis; Verena Colby

Service

Gerry Sanderson
Angela Vandellis

Ivanka Jovanovich; Janice Watson; Thelma Harvey,
Jenni Thomson; Mary Burford; Margie Glover

Awards

Margaret Peters
Leanne Longfellow

Catherine Alcock; Raema Mahony; Lina Rogers;
Beverley Newberry; Stephanie Steensma

PR/Program/Website

Beverley Newberry

Daina Long; Akhter Rahman; Tasia Pertsinidis;
Di Lancaster

Finance

Erica Majba

Carol Summers; Sue Watchman; Desi Zed;
Helen Joraslafsky

Website

Maxine Panegyres

Erica Majba; Lina Rogers; Wendy Bruce

PUBLIC OFFICER

Colleen Tomlian

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN SA

Maxine Panegyres; Wendy Bruce

VISITORS BOOK

Val Baldwin

SCASA

Bev Gum

ARCHIVIST/ HISTORIAN/

Beverley Newberry

VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY FOR SA

Val Baldwin

FACEBOOK

Wendy Bruce; Bev Gum

We're on the Web!

Club, International and District

www.zontaclubofadelaide.org.au

www.zonta.org (Member ID)

www.zontadistrict23.org.au

Zonta Club of Adelaide Inc

Box 3132 PO, Norwood 5067

zontaadelaide@gmail.com

Zonta Club of Adelaide





How to amplify the voice

of those who are silenced,
hidden or neglected



THE PHILOSOPHER'S CAFE

Dr Jessica White will facilitate this philosophical discussion on how to amplify the voice of those who are silenced, hidden or neglected. She will share her motivation for writing her award winning novel *Hearing Maud*, a hybrid memoir which entwines her voice with that of Maud Praed's, the deaf daughter of 19th century Queensland expatriate novelist Rosa Praed. She and Maud were born a century apart and their lives went in radically different directions — Jessica travelled overseas to do a PhD, while Maud had a breakdown and was committed to an asylum — but in many ways their experiences of deafness were the same. It was through uncovering Maud's story that Jessica began to understand her own experiences of deafness and how they contributed to her emotional landscape, relationships and career.

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WHEN: 16th September at 5:30 for 6pm

WHERE: Goodwood Hotel

COST: \$20

[YOU CAN BOOK HERE](#)

This is a fundraiser for Zonta projects.

Marjorie Fitz-Gerald OAM

Reporter Tasia Pertsinidis

One only has to look at the life of Ms Marjorie Fitz-Gerald to see a trailblazer in action.

Ms Fitz-Gerald's started her working life in a humble job at General Motors Holden, in South Australia, working for a mere twenty eight shillings per week.

Not long after that, her mother became ill and her father asked Marjory if she could take care of her mother and a household of fifteen people!

However, that did not prevent Ms Fitz-Gerald from doing her intermediate year at school (where she gained six credits), overcoming Rheumatic Fever, and later gaining a better job.

"Books were my whole life. We had a Webster's Dictionary and I wore it out. I wanted to learn everything," Ms Fitz-Gerald told me.

Interestingly enough, Ms Fitz-Gerald's family is related to Samuel Johnson, the writer of the first English Dictionary in the 1800's who also was a friend of English author, Charles Dickens.

Her dedication also was apparent while Ms Fitz-Gerald worked at Dolton's Tie Manufacturers as she managed to sew two hundred ties in a day!

"They were difficult to make because the ties need to be sewn on the cross of the material," Ms Fitz-Gerald explained.

While she was there she also "fell madly in love with the cutter" who lived around the corner from her place in Semaphore, someone she wrote to constantly.

But it was not to be. Kevin, the young athletic man who won the Bendigo 1,000 foot race, was a Catholic and Ms Fritz-Gerald's father would not permit a marriage between them.

"Kevin's father was a bookmaker and that was like a red bull to my father," Ms Fitz-Gerald said.

Ms Fitz-Gerald finally did marry a man by the name of Brian Vincent , whose family is connected to the House of Gerald, and they had five children (now between 58 and 68).

In 1981, she joined the Zonta Club because she believed in its principles.

"Zonta was similar to Rotary in that it had a certain balance of professions.

"The range allowed for diverse views and the development and for the education of interesting and talented young women," she said.

While her magnificent contribution to the Zonta Club of Adelaide will always be remembered it was not where Ms Fitz-Gerald's amazing story ends.

She went on to establish Carclew which introduced those under 26 to the Arts and she became the 'Mother of our Fringe Festival' (the biggest of it's kind in the world) after Mr Frank Ford held the top position.

When Ms Fitz-Gerald took over the Chairmanship of the Fringe Festival 60 years ago, it's budget was a paltry \$40,000, and last year it brought in a staggering \$97,000,000!

As a fundraiser, it is obvious that Ms Fitz-Gerald is so many steps ahead of many others in that field.

She is also good at picking a a good opportunity.

Ms Ftiz-Gerald told me how she heard former South Australian Premier, Don Dunstan, speak at a public event when he was 27 years old and thought he was good so she organized another talk by him along with tea and cake, for 30 neighbours in his electorate.

That led to Dunstan asking her if she would door knock for him, which she did for 20 years!

Her fundraising efforts included holding barbeques, which were accompanied by a smorgasbord, in her back yard for 1,000 Greeks on one occasion and for 500 Italians on another.

She ensured Drama became a subject at the University of Adelaide, was instrumental in increasing No Smoking Areas within theatres and other public organizations.

In total she held positions on at least thirty organizations.

But her biggest achievement involved her driving around South Australia to encourage women to become involved in Local Government.

For that Ms Fitz-Gerald received an OAM for Service to Local Government and the Community.

As we talked, an 89 year old Ms Fitz-Gerald enthusiastically told me about the latest project she was involved with; raising funds for the Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation.

South Australia would not be the place it is today if it wasn't for the contributions of people like Ms Marjory Fitz-Gerald.