



ZONTA
CLUB OF
ADELAIDE INC
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Charter 0627 on 17/4/1969
District 23 Area 2

ZEPHYR

Newsletter of the
Zonta Club of Adelaide
NOVEMBER 2022
Issue 388

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Firstly, my thanks to Colleen for managing Club business in my absence. Holidays in Western Australia and Tasmania were a boost after COVID lockdowns.

There are busy weeks ahead. We have an Open Garden on November 5 and 6 in Highgate. Mary has generously decided to organize this one but will need plenty of help from members. Please reply to her email requesting help to fill the roster. It is an enjoyable time.

The film *Brazen Hussies*, a documentary about the women's liberation movement in Australia, will be shown at Mitcham Girls' High on Sunday November 27. This is an occasion when we can invite family and friends to enjoy our hospitality.

One concern I have is that all of us are getting a bit older, and many of our members have enormous experience in running events and programs. It is important that we document the processes required to undertake these events and programs so that they are more readily picked up by other when necessary. Considering succession planning as part of our normal organizational approaches is also an important part of our planning. The Board will be considering this issue in the new year.

Christmas is coming up quite quickly. Please make sure that you have December 3 at 11.30 for 12 in your diary for a relaxed and social Christmas lunch at the Edinburgh Hotel in Mitcham. It will be a celebration of our work this year and would be a good opportunity to bring a friend or family member. Deb Lodge is taking orders for Christmas hampers in two sixes. These would make great Christmas presents. Deb will be taking orders at our November meeting.

We will be pleased to welcome Dr Malinda Steenkamp (a former member) to speak at our November meeting.

Her topic is 'Women and girls in disasters - the need for advocacy and action'. The Board welcomes suggestions from members for speakers for Club meetings. Please contact me with your ideas.

Kaye Roberts-Thomson
President
Zonta Club of Adelaide

Empowering women and girls through Service and Advocacy
by 27,000 members in 62 countries worldwide

SERVICE**Co-Convenors: Gerry Sanderson and Angela Vandellis**

Not a huge response from club members to the request for participants at the **Quiz Night** benefitting the EADVS.

However, I sincerely thank Desi, Jenni and Mary for accepting the invitation and I have managed to organise a full table by inviting personal friends to increase the number up to the requisite 10.

It is still possible to form a second table for those club members who would like to come but have not replied as yet. It's always a fun evening and an important gesture in consolidating our strong relationship with the EADVS.

St Andrew's Hospital has requested another **30 breast cushions** to be provided prior to our construction day on Friday 4th November.

Many, many thanks to Mary Burford, Ivanka and, willing helper, Wendy Bruce, for giving up their time to honour this urgent request. I have finished 158 breast cushion straps ready for the sewing bee with the Silent Sewers, while Ivanka, Mary and Wendy have been constructing both completed and semi-completed cushions to facilitate the conveyor-belt construction process when we all meet again in early November.

I think we will all understand the reasons that Mary Burford has made the decision that the November **Open Garden in Highgate** will be the last that she will organise.

Mary's recovery from Covid has been slow and she no longer feels that she is able to dedicate the required effort into organising the Open Garden events.

None of us wishes to tax Mary further after her magnificent management of this very profitable fundraising project. We communicate our admiration of her for her unflagging efforts that have financially enabled the club to meet so many of our priorities.

A new development concerning Mary Burford is that she has unfortunately contracted shingles. I thank Kaye, Bev and Deb for alerting the club that Mary will, understandably, be unable to proceed with the management of the Open Garden event on the coming weekend. Helen Pertsinidiis has circulated an appeal to club to fill the gaps in managing the Devonshire Tea stall and I'm happy to report that a number of us have been able to extend our support to fill in roles to ensure that this significant fundraiser goes ahead as planned.

Regarding our Open Garden fundraising involvement which has been so instrumental in providing substantial funding for our club projects, I have received a call from Kate Chataway, our **Open Gardens** contact via the **Silent Sewers**. She is aware that Mary has expressed a concern regarding her continuation of this role and has approached me to step into Mary's shoes.

There is a proposed Open Grden event at Mt George, near Verdun, planned for May the 6th and the 7th in 2023. I have agreed to meet with Kate and the garden host Nigel Scott on Wednesday the 2nd of November to inspect the site and discuss how the flow of our Devonshire tea table will logistically work on the property.

The main concern here is that **Mary's vital role in the liaison and organisation of Open Gardens should be**

put to the club so that the management and organisational factors related to this important role be decided. I think all of us value the proven benefits and need to decide how we manage this opportunity. **I am happy to continue in Mary's role for the 2023 OG, but I also recognise that others in the club may wish to express an interest in either a joint or solo management.**

In regards to the **Graduating Midwives Retreat** on the 11th of November at UniSA, I met with Kassie Whitworth on Thursday the 27th of October to inspect the Brookman Hall layout. In addition to the three presenters: Erica, Angela and me; Ivanka, *Thelma and Louise* (Don't you just love that!) have been kind enough to offer their assistance in conducting the breast cushion packing activity which will wind up the Zonta presentation.

I also need to report that Kassie is utterly thrilled with our proposal for the presentation and she has told me that she feels that the topics we have agreed to cover, are totally in line with an strong relevance to the profession of midwifery. **Kassie feels that this could be an exciting tradition involving our club and she plans to consider extending this invitation to us in ensuing graduation retreats.**

I have also put in train **Louise Stevens' clearance applications** in order for her to qualify for a volunteering role at the EADVS. We look forward to Louise bringing her energy and resolve to our EADVS involvement.

Finally, I apologise for the length of this report but it has been a very busy month.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Erica Majba

Thanks to committee members: Raema, Janice and Margie, we now have a Membership Support Program in place.

Our committee wishes to take on responsibility to assist new members and to be available and to existing members who wish to discuss their personal, work or Zonta journey in a confidential way. Each of us has a group of members to contact either regularly or occasionally by phone, email or coffee meetings, depending on the wishes of the individual member.

Some meet often through committees or service and may not feel the need to catch up, but the offer is there.

The program has been well received, in fact Ivanka has told me that this was her idea when she joined the club.

Steph Steensma has agreed that I may share her latest venture. She and husband JJ have sold their house and are moving to Kangaroo Island in November to lead a pre-retirement life. She needs a break and will be considering what she wants to do going forward. JJ as usual, already has his plans in place to provide support to the their

new community while still having some regular connections with his old life.

Steph will remain a member of our club until March 2023.

She enjoys reading the Zephyr and following Facebook to see what is happening in the club. She feels sad that she has been so consumed by work and life events that she has been unable to be as active in the club as she would have liked.

FINANCE REPORT

Erica Majba (Convenor) /Desi Zed (Treasurer)

The Finance Committee has completed a six month review of the club's budget.

I thank Desi and Helen J. for their input. This was presented at the October Board meeting. I will present the important features at the November club meeting.

For correct finance record keeping, it is best for payments and reimbursements to be made within the month they have been incurred.

So just a reminder, that If you have any Zonta receipts which require reimbursement please try and send them through to me ASAP, utilising

the Zonta Reimbursement form with your receipt attached.

This will be much appreciated.

COMMUNICATIONS

Convenors: Tasia Pertsinidis/Maxine Panegyres

Members of the Zonta Club of Adelaide should forward their reports by the third week of the month.

Remember, it is your

Zephyr and getting information in early allows people in the Communications Committee to read it, If also gives Beverley adequate time to put the Zephyr together.

Thank you for your support, and to date as well.

We value it.

The Zonta Club of Adelaide in conjunction with the National Council of Women SA invite you to a special viewing of the film *Brazen Hussies* to mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (25 November to 10 December)

Venue: Mitcham Girls High School, Kyre Avenue,
Kingswood SA 5062

Date: Sunday 27 November 2022
at 2pm for 2.30 screening

Cost: \$20 per ticket
(includes a glass of bubbly on arrival & a raffle ticket)

Tickets can be booked via [Trybooking.com](https://www.trybooking.com)

Link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CDQMM>



Standing together
For a stronger voice

**OUR CHISTMAS MENU WITH MANY THANKS TO
DEBORAH LODGE FOR PROVIDING THESE DETAILS:**

Date: 3 December 2022

PRICE \$55 per head

Please arrive at 11.30am for 12.00 pm start



Menu

- ENTREE -

HOUSE MADE DIPS, MARINATED LOCAL
OLIVES, TOASTED BREADS, DUKKA AND
EVOO

- MAIN COURSE -

ALTERNATE DROP

ALDINGA SMOKED TURKEY BREAST, CHAMPAGNE LEG HAM,
ROASTED PUMPKIN, CRANBERRY & ORANGE RELISH (GF)

ROAST RIVERINE PRIME SIRLOIN, CHERMOULA ROASTED
VEGETABLES, HARISSA (GF)

VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE

- DESSERT -

CHOICE OF

ARTISAN CHRISTMAS PUDDING, CINNAMON SPICED
CHERRIES, BRANDY ANGLAISE

MERINGUE, VANILLA CREAM, SEASONAL BERRIES,
MANGO COULIS, TOASTED ALMONDS (GF)



Happy Birthday

We wish a happy birthday to our members during
November 2022:

21 VAL BALDWIN

23 DEZI ZED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Reminders

November 2022

- 5 9 to 11am
Packaging of Breast Cushions, Ivanka's House
- 5/6 Open Garden, Highgate, SA
- 18 Packing Birth Kits at the Adelaide High School
starting at 9.30am. (Angela Vandellis)
- Quiz Night (Proceeds to the EA Domestic Violence Service)
To be held at the Athelstone Football Club at 6.00pm for a
6.30 start. Please advise Gerry Sanderson if you wish to
attend.
- 27 Mitcham High School
Film, "Brazen Hussies"

December

- 3 Zonta Club of Adelaide Christmas Lunch

January 2023

- 22 (Sunday) Amelia Earhart Breakfast

- September District 23 Conference

June 2024

- Zonta Conference, Brisbane, Queensland



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

2022-2023

| | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|
| President | Kaye Roberts-Thomson | Vice President | Colleen Tomlian |
| Secretary | Helen Pertsinidis | Treasurer | Erica Majba |
| Directors | Thelma Harvey; Di Lancaster; Deb Lodge; Erica Majba | | |

COMMITTEES 2022-2023

Membership

Convenor: Erica Majba

Raema Mahony; Janice Watson; Margie Glover

Advocacy

Co-Convenors: Jill Olifent; Verena Colby

Kathy Ellis; Bev Gum; Colleen Tomlian; Miriam Zhu

Service

Co-Convenors: Gerry Sanderson; Angela Vandellis

Mary Burford; Margie Glover; Thelma Harvey; Ivanka Jovanovich; Jenni Thomson

Awards

Convenor: Raema Mahony

Catherine Alcock; Leanne Longfellow; Maxine Panegyres; Margaret Peters; Stephanie Steensma

Communication

Co-Convenors: Maxine Panegyres; Tasia Pertsinidis

Di Lancaster; Beverley Newberry; Lina Rogers

Finance

Convenor: Erica Majba

Helen Joraslafsky; Desi Zed

PUBLIC OFFICER

Colleen Tomlian

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN SA

Maxine Panegyres; Colleen Tomlian

VISITORS BOOK

Val Baldwin

SCASA

Bev Gum

ARCHIVIST/ HISTORIAN

Beverley Newberry

VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY FOR SA

Val Baldwin

We're on the Web! Zonta Club of Adelaide Inc

Club, International and District Box 3132 PO, Norwood 5067

www.zontaclubofadelaide.org.au zontaadelaide@gmail.com

www.zonta.org (Member ID)

www.zontadistrict23.org.au

Zonta Club of Adelaide



“Law is an area where you want Justice” – Claire O’Connor SC

Reporter: Tasia Pertsinidis

In speaking to the Zonta Club of Adelaide, Barrister and Senior Counsel, Ms Claire O’Connor, explained that Australia’s Legal Profession incorporated Senior Counsels, Queens Counsels and Kings Counsels and added that the profession was “Victorian in the way it punished people.”

Ten years ago, when Ms O’Connor was appointed to the Bar, barristers could elect to become either a Senior Counsel (Ms O’Connor’s title) or a Queens Counsel but the “minute Queen Elizabeth 11 died all Queens Counsels became Kings Counsels.

Women and the Justice System

Ms O’Connor who does family law, criminal law, refugee law, and civil law, then spoke about some of the difficulties of being a female lawyer, and about women facing the justice system.

She said that the legal profession had a high number of men in it and that the men were more highly paid than female lawyers.

“Wages in the profession reflect the wages of men, so if the number of men is low, the wages in the Legal Profession is low,” Ms O’Connor said.

But women gained ground by achieving academically, and soon, 70 per cent of legal graduates were female.

“It is the first week ever when we also have more female High Court Judges than male,” Ms O’Connor said.

Large wage difference at the Bar

“But the worst place to be is at the Bar, where I am – you go to court or you advocate,” Ms O’Connor said.

Ms O’Connor added a large disparity existed between the wages of female Barristers (\$60,000), and a male Barristers’ wage (about \$180,000).

She said that 25 per cent of Barristers being female was “unusual”.

Ms O’Connor said that female Barristers experienced “bullying” with the Judge saying to them “where’s your file? Go and get your file?”

About ten years ago the legal profession noticed many females were leaving the legal profession.

A National Attritition Study was done about this which revealed the women were not leaving to have babies but because of bullying, sexual harassment, and oppression!

In the law, in the first year, women make \$59,000 and a male would make \$64,000.

This not only dissuades women from achieving but it is bad because it is creating an environment which lacks diversity.

Ms O’Connor herself was brought up before the Legal Conduct Board for expressing an opinion about this problem.

Nepotism exists in the profession as well, and that legal appointments were done by the Attorney General’s Department, the Judiciary and the Law Society.

With vacancies, if you apply you get a diverse bench but if a Judge says “go, and the appointment of a male is made, then there is no diversity,” Ms O’Connor said.

“It doesn’t matter if you are good at arguing your case, if a Judge does not support your case, it’s bad,” Ms O’Connor said.

Ms O’Connor said that almost all cases of domestic violence are women and most rape victims are also women but there have been more men on the High Court than women for a long time.

Justice and the Law

“Law is an area where you want Justice.”

“If my colleagues can’t get justice, what does that say about female lawyers,” Ms O’Connor said.

“The number of women in the Legal Profession who experience sexual harassment is about 60 per cent,” she said.

And, Ms O’Connor has become a member of the Law Society Council in a bid to change gender quotas.

The Law Society Council is a place where she can clearly see that women refugees, women who have experienced domestic violence and women who approach the justice system are generally still not getting justice.

“There has been a change in reporting sex crimes. Previously, you could punish women on their previous sexual history but these days it is very hard to do that,” Ms O’Connor said.

“There was one instance where a seven year old victim had to sit on a pile of books to give evidence in court. Now children go on video.

Easy to get an acquittal on sex crimes

But sex crimes were still one of the easiest crimes for which to get an acquittal, Ms O’Connor said.

“Victims services, women’s groups, balance it so that false allegations can be defeated,” Ms O’Connor said.

Women’s prisons

The situation in women’s prisons is particularly bad and they are not funded as well as men’s prisons.

Ms O’Connor said that out of 110 women prisoners, 95 per cent were victims of serious sexual violence before 15 years of age.

A group named Sisters Inside advocates for female prisoners.

Ms O’Connor said that “Australia was Victorian in the way it punished people.”

When a crime is committed, what can the law do – punish the individual; reform the individual; set a sentence; deter the individual from participating in the community; deter the individual from committing another crime (by giving her or him a 5 year prison sentence).

“Many women in prison have children. What are they doing to the next generation by bringing children into the prison,” Ms O’Connor said.

A large number of the perpetrators are teachers, uncles and other who know the victim.

“There is not a time limit on when one can sue and if the perpetrator has assets you can sue them. Superannuation can’t be touched.

“Remember the man who sexually assaulted his daughter. In her forties she sued and got compensated.

“There are a number of teachers who sexually assaulted students and when the students wanted to sue the teachers they said ‘she wanted to date me.’ She was only thirteen,” Ms O’Connor said.

Family Law

Ms O'Connor, who also deals with family law, said 50 per cent of people in the Family Law Court were women, and that the financial cuts to the Family Law Budget "were appalling" because the female partner generally has less money than their spouse or ex-spouse.

"I have mediated debts owed – lawyers do mediate for clients.

"Mediation can occur through the court system or independently, said Ms O'Connor, (who also has mediated industrial and commercial matters during her career).

Further Information Source

Ms O'Connor said that the audio "The Secret Barrister" (about what's wrong with the Legal Profession) was worth listening to.