



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
ADELAIDE INC

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

# **ZEPHYR**

Newsletter of the  
Zonta Club of Adelaide  
**AUGUST 2025**  
Issue 405



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** **BRIDGET MATHER & ERICA MAJBA**

On behalf of President Rosie and the Board, I extend our heartfelt condolences to our dear friend and fellow Zontian, Thelma, on the passing of her beloved husband, Ashley, last Thursday. Thelma is being kindly supported by fellow Zontian Margie, and I am sure many of you have already reached out with the kindness and solidarity that so beautifully defines our Zonta sisterhood—thank you. Special thanks also go to Verena, who has generously stepped back into the Secretary role during this time, and to Erica, who thoughtfully arranged for flowers to be sent to Thelma on behalf of the club.

At the recent Zonta SA Leadership Meeting—a gathering of all Club Presidents from across South Australia—Area 2 Director Jenni Foreman welcomed new leaders and acknowledged those concluding their terms. One of the key themes of the meeting was club recruitment and retention. I'm pleased to report that the Zonta Club of Adelaide continues to do its part, with new members joining and enriching our Zonta community - adding to our club's capacity to amplify our voice in building a better world for women and girls! There were several important agenda items.

Planning is already underway for the 2026 Area Workshop in May, which will be hosted by the Zonta Club of Fleurieu Peninsula. We'll share more details as they become available. Meanwhile, across South Australia for the rest of 2025, advocacy remains a strong focus. The Walk for Respect is scheduled for Saturday, 11 October 2025. Please save the date and get your orange shirt and cap ready. It would be wonderful to see as many club members there as possible—nothing provides more visibility to the "No to Violence" message than a sea of orange.

Nominations for the Service Clubs Association of SA (SCASA) Awards will open on 1 August. Clubs are encouraged to put forward nominations and we will discuss this further at the next Board meeting. If you have suggestions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. In addition, members are reminded that the updated Code of Conduct and Conflict Resolution documents are now available and are worth reviewing.

Preparations are also progressing for the 2026 Amelia Earhart Combined Event, which promises to be a significant and inspiring occasion for Zontians across the region. The next Zonta SA Leadership Meeting will be held on Thursday, 25 September 2025, and I will ensure to share any further relevant updates with you all.

A particularly special milestone is fast approaching. The Birthing Kit Foundation Australia (BKFA)—originally founded by the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills—will be holding a National Birthing Kit Day on 2 May 2026 to celebrate the creation of the 3,000,000th birthing kit. This is an extraordinary achievement and certainly a cause for celebration. There will be more to information to come as the details of such an important milestone are still be worked out.

And finally—**Devonport Calling!** Join us this September for the Zonta District 23 Conference, a weekend of inspiration, connection, and shared purpose. If you haven't registered yet, there's still time. Let's represent Adelaide proudly and be part of this exciting event ....If you have never been to an Area Workshop...now is the time!

Erica and Bridget....your stand in Presidents while Rosie and Desi are holidaying.

**Zonta says now on Climate Change**

At our next meeting, we are turning to you for help in planning future activity. We hope to do this with a round table discussion. So far, we have endeavoured to raise awareness about the R's: recycle, reuse, refuse, repair, and reduce and to share how *Zonta says now to gender-equal climate action* with a five step framework:

1. We gather the facts
2. We lead by example
3. We use our voice
4. We advocate in our clubs

We collaborate with like minded organisations as we did with the Burnside City Council

In order to progress, we need to decide on a focus for our endeavours. Hence the round table discussion. We encourage you to visit [zonta.org](http://zonta.org) to view Zonta's International Strategic Plan. We will again have copies of a *Fact Sheet: Zonta says now on climate change* available for you to take away so that you can find out more at your leisure.

DID YOU KNOW: The Byron Bay Solar Train is the world's first fully solar-powered train

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Erica Majba

Traditionally our club and others around the world send 1/3 of their fundraising surplus to the Zonta Foundation for Women to support projects/programs to which Zonta International has committed.

At the August club meeting I will distribute voting forms for members to select their ONE choice of projects or scholarships. Members who are not present may email me (within a week) with their choice. I will tally the votes and let members know the club preferences to support the various areas. Then Treasurer, Di will then make the donation on behalf of the club.

The choices are:

International Service Fund (all service projects are bundled together for the donation)

Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund (we send to this fund the surplus of our January event – Amelia Earhart Breakfast in Botanic Park)

Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award Fund (new)

Rose Fund (unrestricted – this means the funds can be used to top up the other education funds)

Amelia Earhart Fellowship Endowment Fund (only the earnings can be used)

Endowment Fund (only the earnings can be used for projects or education purposes)

For further detail on any of the options please refer to the website. I will speak briefly about the options at the club meeting.

- ☐ No meeting in July as many away
- ☐ Women in Business information and closing date of 15th August re circulated to our stakeholders. Up dated info to show club prize money for our Club Winner increased to \$500
- ☐ 6 Club Mentors busy with students in their project work for the Young Women Leaders program
- ☐ Confirmed 3rd September booking for Graduation with Norwood Function Centre. Bailee to sort out flyer, Try Booking and guest list. Raema has provided her with a draft flyer, guests list names and contact with function centre to organise catering now over to her

**COMMUNICATION AND PR COMMITTEE****Maxine Panegyres**

Work is continuing with the review of the club website being undertaken by Erica, Melissa and Maxine with assistance from club members. Raema and Maxine have reviewed and are updating the Awards and Scholarships pages as part of this process.

Kaye and Maxine will continue to update pamphlets.

**Zephyr**

Kaye Roberts-Thomson and I are seeking a club member to write a brief report about our guest speakers each meeting. Tasia Pertsinidis undertook this role in the past and as she is no longer with the club, we have missed this feature. This could be a shared role among members so that it doesn't fall to the one person each time. Please speak with Kaye or Maxine if you can help.

**REPORT ON RECENT TRIP****Lucy McDonald**

I recently participated in the International Psychology Study Tour to Indonesia, an immersive program that integrated academic learning with cross-cultural engagement across Denpasar, Malang, and Jakarta. In Denpasar, academic sessions focused on gender roles, climate psychology, and sustainability, complemented by experiential learning through temple visits, traditional purification ceremonies, and cultural exchange with local university students. In Malang, we engaged with themes of cross-cultural psychology through lectures, museum visits, and participation in Javanese cultural practices. A key professional experience included emceeding a formal event at the Australian Consulate General in Surabaya. In Jakarta, we explored mental health stigma, disability awareness, and regional history through group discussions and site visits. The program concluded with critical reflections and a farewell ceremony. This tour extended beyond conventional academic study, offering opportunities for personal and professional growth, and deepening my understanding of psychological practice in diverse sociocultural contexts.

# Young Women **LEADERS PROGRAM** Graduation



Innovative

Adaptive

Celebrating female Leaders from Mitcham Girls High and Adelaide High Schools graduating from Zonta's leadership training.

The Course Facilitator was Melanie Tate, CEO Puddle Jumpers and 6 Zonta Mentors have supported the students in their skill development.

Inspiring

Norwood Hotel, The Parade  
Norwood (enter Osmond Tce)  
3rd September, 2025  
6.00pm - 8.00pm

SPEAKER: Ms. LUCY HOOD MP  
Member for Adelaide

Successful

Authentic



*Scan here to book  
your tickets by the  
28th August.*





The committee members have been supportive in response to my questions through a number of emails. These discussions will help us work out what is the best way forward to support our club members.

I have spoken to one potential new member who has decided at the moment she is unable to join due to personal issues. She would like to attend other meetings and I advised that she is welcome and if she has any questions to contact me.

One highlight of our last meeting was the presentation of a birthday card and flowers to Aileen Connon, who turned 95 this month. She had a considerable response of best wishes on Facebook due to her photo being posted.

New member, Jan Wood, is interested in joining the Membership Committee. I have contacted her and will follow up with a chat.

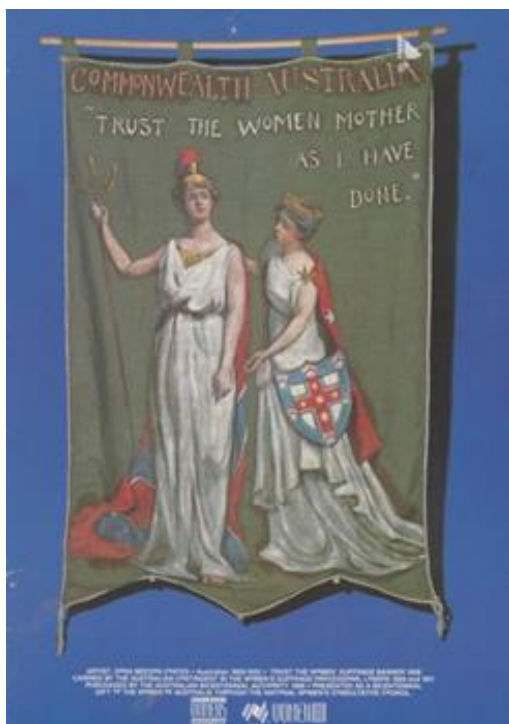
## ZONTA WOMEN ARTISTS FUNDRAISER

Thank you to the members who are organizing this fundraiser – Maxine, Thelma, Annette, Carol and new members Jan Wood and Linda Mackenzie. Also, thanks to Lucy for the promotional work on the club Facebook. We now have a link to Trybooking to make this easy for booking.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1414471>

Hope to see you there with your friends or family. A scrumptious morning tea will also be provided.

Dora Meeson is one of the artists to be covered on 7 August. She was an Australian Impressionist artist and suffragist. She worked to get women the vote through peaceful means as opposed to a suffragette who employed more militant tactics. Following the success in South Australia of women gaining the right to vote and stand for parliament in 1984, she along with several other Australian women went to London to help British women gain the right to vote. She designed and carried this banner in a 10,000 strong women's march to London's Albert Hall in 1908. The banner now hangs permanently in Parliament House in Canberra. She has an interesting story.



At the July meeting of NCWSA, Isabella Mc Culloch was the guest speaker as last years' recipient of the Ruth Gibson Memorial Award.

Isabella (Bella) works with the Australian Space Industry Centre based at Lot 14 North Terrace and put her award to great use travelling to the USA and other places to work with like minded people to further her knowledge of her chosen career and to build worldwide networks.

Isabella's interest and passion in space started as a young child and has continued to this day. She enthusiastically spoke about her studies and the numerous connections and opportunities she had while overseas. She visited NASA to see where the heart of the space industry sits as well as attended other forums in the science space field.

Bella engaged us as an audience by asking how we believed space impacted us on earth and then explained the many ways space does impact in day-to-day ways, the phone, skin care, ear thermometers.

Bella also answered questions from the audience with one particularly relevant to South Australians now about the Algal bloom. Can space assist with this? Bella believes the science and space program can certainly assist with tracking and treatment.

Bella's enthusiasm for her field was infectious and it was refreshing to know that this young woman's career while just starting will make a positive difference in future years. Not only in South Australia but the global community in practical everyday matters as well as the larger picture.

I believe she was a very worthy recipient of the Ruth Gibson Memorial award.

We are also very pleased that Bella is Zonta Club of Adelaide member.



The June meeting of NCWSA featured a talk from Mike Feszczak CEO of Grandcarers SA.

Mike's talk explained the very important and too often not acknowledged role that many grandparents play in the care of children and young people in need of support when parents do not have that role.

Mike gave statistics about the number of children in informal care (7000) saving the state millions of dollars each year compared with the number of children in formal and residential care. In residential care he cited \$1.5 million per child per year.

Grandparents who take on the caring role for their grandchildren are not provided with the monetary support that others get making it difficult for children at school to attend excursions and camps etc that other children can attend. He explained that many grandparents have spent their retirement funds and taken out loans to support their grandchildren. All at a time when they thought they might be able to enjoy a different lifestyle.

Mike requested that members of NCWSA write to politicians requesting increased and much needed funding to assist with these grandparents supporting their families.





This month Ivanka Jovanovich will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and 32 years as a member of our club. She has been a tireless worker for our club still contributing to the Service Committee and organising the sewing and packing Breast Cushions sent to St Andrew's Hospital.

Ivanka was born in Yugoslavia (now Croatia) where she was a child in WW11. She feels she did not feel the burden of the war due to her mother 'caring and sheltering her and her siblings.

Her one vivid memory was when she was 7 years old and her mother would not let her go to school. She heard later that evening that her school was raided and all 15 students and their teachers were killed and the school burnt down. When she was 10 years old the country came under communist rule, she can remember many freedoms being taken away. At 13 years she started her trade as a seamstress, doing 4 Hours practical and 4 hours schooling. Her first experience of travel was at 21 years when she travelled to Venice, where she was overwhelmed with all the shops and Italian fashion. Since then, she has had a passion for fashion and has been fortunate to travel to many countries and experience different cultures.

At 23 years she came to Australia to join her girlfriend who was working and was introduced to her boss who became Ivanka's husband. She married and went on to have 2 children. Ivanka's early years in Australia were difficult with no English but her determination to learn meant that all day when her husband was at work, she listened to English programs on the radio.

Initially Ivanka worked in the family business, Silver Fleece, on the factory floor however the Factory Manager resented her presence as she had been there for a long time and felt challenged by Ivanka's skills. This victimisation undermined Ivanka's confidence. However, when the business had some difficult financial times, it laid off this manager and other staff. Ivanka then took over as Production Manager. The company under her and her husband supplied David Jones with school wear for 37 years and made the Australian Cricket Team jumpers since 1977 and other jumpers for many sporting clubs.

In 1976 her husband had his first heart attack and was unable to take on any stress or pressure from the business. This resulted in Ivanka taking on the responsibility of the company and continuing even after his death, 11 years later.

On joining our club, Zonta was introduced to the value of a breast cushion for women recovering from breast surgery. Ivanka organised for our club to supply these by having the breast cushions cut at her factory and then organising a team of her women acquaintances to sew the cushions. Packing of the cushions were then done by club members at her house assisted by sustenance from her gorgeous cakes. After 32 years she still continues to organise the club's production of cushions which are provided to St Andrew's Hospital. A total of 12,000 to 13,000 cushions has been produced. Just recently Ivanka has been able to negotiate a professional woman cutter to cut enough cushions for our club, to cover the rest of the 2025 breast cushion supply to the hospital. She is hopeful this will continue in the following years. Ivanka states this has left her with "such Joy in my heart" and it is "such a relief". At 90 years she now feels she can step back from her massive contribution to this aspect of our club.

Ivanka has been a valuable member of our club and her work ethic and determination to assist other women in need has been an inspiration to our members.

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Ivanka!

We were delighted to congratulate and celebrate Aileen Connon's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday at our last club meeting. Aileen has been a member of our club since 1988 and has made significant contributions to the community with a focus on women and children. (*The April 25 Zephyr has a lengthy article about Aileen's background and career*).

Aileen has been a member of various club committees over the years such as advocacy and membership and thought it useful for members to change and try different committees.

Aileen has organised fundraising events for club members as well as social gatherings. Of note are the musical afternoons with the Adelaide Youth Orchestra's String Quartet and Wind Quartet held in the acoustically beautiful Burnside Uniting Church. Aileen used her contacts with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra to make these events possible.

A memorable and interesting fellowship morning organised by Aileen was a talk by Pamela Rajkowski about the Afghan Cameleers and their contributions and place in the history and development of the southwest corner of Adelaide. This was followed by a walk around the area pointing out the places of significance.

Aileen has taken particular interest in the club's University Scholarships and awards. Recipients of the awards have provided the club with a copy of their theses which Aileen has always read with interest.

Aileen's current role with the club is Advisor bringing her experience, knowledge and skills to this task. Club Members wished Aileen a very Happy Birthday for 24<sup>th</sup> of July.





# DIARY DATES

## AUGUST

6 Club meeting Speaker: Professor Anna Chur Hansen on Weight Stigma

6 Breast cushion sewing

7 Breast cushion packing and delivery

7, 14, 21, 28 Women artists

18 Board meeting

## SEPTEMBER

3 Club meeting Young Women Leaders Graduation Lucy Hook MP speaker

5-7 District 23 Conference in Devonport Tasmania

15 Board meeting

## OCTOBER

1 Club meeting Speaker Erfan Abidi on schools for girls in Afghanistan

20 Board meeting

## NOVEMBER

5 Club meeting Speaker: Katrina Ellis on matters related to superannuation

7 Breast cushion sewing

8 Breast cushion packing and delivery

9 Awards Committee 2025 Fundraising Activity Walkathon in the Linear Park

17 Board meeting

## DECEMBER

6 Club Christmas celebration

**President** Rosie Egan **Vice President** Desi Zed

**Secretary** Thelma Harvey **Treasurer** Di Lancaster

**Directors** Louise Stevens, Janice Watson, Yvonne Karpinsky, Colleen Tomlian

## **COMMITTEES 2025-2026**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Convenor: Melissa Klenke**

Members: Annette Brock, Raema Mahony, Janice Watson, Margie Glover, Daina Long, Jan Wood.

### **ADVOCACY GROUPS**

**Convenor: Bev Gum, Bridget Mather**

Members: Kathy Ellis, Colleen Tomlian, Helen Pertsinidis, Jill Olifent, Wendy Bruce, Thelma Harvey, Carol Summers, Mara Rains, Kaye Roberts-Thomson, Georgina Tenny, Jude Murphy.

### **SERVICE**

**Co-Convenors: Gerry Sanderson, Angela Vandellis**

Members: Mara Rains, Margie Glover, Thelma Harvey, Ivanka Jovanovich, Louise Stevens, Wendy Bruce, Vonney Karpinski, Melissa Klenke, Annette Brock, Linda Mackenzie.

Deb Lodge, Karen Bellchambers - assisting with birthing kits.

### **AWARDS**

**Convenor: Raema Mahony**

Members: Maxine Panegyres, Colleen Tomlian, Karen Bellchambers, Louise Stevens, Verena Colby, Lucy McDonald – helping with ZYWLA & Mentor on leadership projects

### **COMMUNICATION AND PR**

**Convenor: Maxine Panegyres**

Members: Miriam Zhu, Trish Palmer, Isabella McCulloch, Melissa Klenke, Lucy McDonald, Kaye Roberts-Thomson, Cody Obst.

### **FINANCE**

**Convenor: Erica Majba**

Members: Di Lancaster, Helen Joraslafsky, Desi Zed

### **ADVISORS**

Aileen Connon, Val Baldwin, Catherine Alcock, Deborah Lodge

**PUBLIC OFFICER** Verena Colby

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN SA** Maxine Panegyres, Colleen Tomlian

**VISITORS BOOK** Maxine Panegyres

**ARCHIVIST/ HISTORIAN** Maxine Panegyres

**VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY FOR SA** Val Baldwin

Actively involved across a number of committees - Bailee Phillips, Mel Tate



**We wish a happy birthday to our member  
celebrating in August**

**AUGUST**

**9 Beverley Newberry  
14 Raema Mahony  
18 Vonney Karpinski  
25 Ivanka Jovanovich  
27 Bailee Phillips**

**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.

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

**Club, International and District Box 3132 PO, Norwood 5067**

**[www.zontaclubofadelaide.org.au](http://www.zontaclubofadelaide.org.au) [zontaclubofadelaide@gmail.com](mailto:zontaclubofadelaide@gmail.com)**

**[www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org) (Member ID)**

**[www.zontadistrict23.org.au](http://www.zontadistrict23.org.au) Zonta Club of Adelaide**

