



ZONTA

CLUB OF
ADELAIDE INC

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

ZEPHYR

Newsletter of the
Zonta Club of Adelaide
FEBRUARY 2026
Issue 409



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ROSIE EGAN

Welcome to 2026!

There are many Zonta activities and events to be excited about in the new year – with continued fellowship, while working towards the biennial goals of a credible and visible voice, club success, leadership and sustainability and engagement of audience and allies.

We can take our inspiration from Amelia Earhart, a courageous woman who was ahead of her time! Her leadership and vision provided opportunities for women to break barriers and pursue careers in male dominated fields. This brilliant pioneering aviator co-founded the Ninety-Nines, an organisation for female pilots, dedicated to advancing aviation.

Ninety-one years ago, in 1935, Amelia became the first woman to fly solo across both the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans.

We celebrated the life of **Amelia Earhart in Botanic Park on January 18**, sharing friendships and remembering her achievements. In a challenging world, Amelia's actions continue to inspire us. She demonstrated that 'The most effective way to do it, is to just do it.' She continuously showed bravery through her encouraging words: 'Use your fear... it can take you to the place where you store your courage.' Her compassion is revealed by her statement below, words which resonate with Zonta values: 'A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees.'

Thank you to Raema and her team for their wonderful efforts in organising such a successful event. The funds raised will go to the Amelia Earhart Fellowships, where US\$10,000 is awarded annually to up to 30 women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in the aerospace industry.

We completed last year with our annual **Christmas lunch** at the Torrens Arms Hotel, where we celebrated our achievements for the year. Thank you to all who supported our lunch and to the organising team of Desi, Louise, Margie and Deb. A wonderful time was enjoyed by all, with much merriment provided by the games and quizzes!



On Tuesday 2 December 2025, Adelaide Zontians attended the Mount Lofty Twilight Vigil, organised by the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills, as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. This powerful event honoured the women and children whose lives have been taken or impacted by domestic violence.



We have many upcoming events for 2026 – please support these!

Amelia Earhart event – 14 February at 2.00 pm, Payneham Library. Kerry Dougherty will be speaking – register now for this inspiring event organised by the Area 2 Clubs. This will be followed by **Coffee and Cocktails at 4.30pm, organised by Area Director Jenni Foreman**, for members who have joined Zonta in the last 2 years. This is an opportunity to meet with members from all our SA clubs.

SCASA event – join Adelaide Zontians at this special awards lunch at Auchendarroch House, Mount Barker on 22 February at 11.30 am.

IWD breakfast – Friday 6 March – this year's speaker, South Australian Astronaut, Katherine Bennell-Pegg, has been named the 2026 Australian of the Year. The event at the Norwood Function Centre will feature a delicious breakfast, prizes and raffles, and a livestream from the Adelaide Convention Centre. See the flyer below - TryBooking details to follow – please save the date.

Women of Achievement Awards at the Adelaide Town Hall on 11 March at 5.00pm – let Raema know if you would like to attend this amazing event!

Young Woman in Leadership Awards at Government House on 25 March at 5.00pm – more details to follow.

Area 2 Meeting – 2 May in Victor Harbor – see Flyer below.

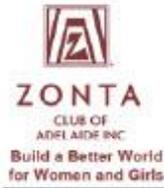
Tasks – books & flags

Volunteers are needed to take on two tasks for the club. The first is to manage second-hand books at meetings. Thank you to Jill Olifent for her excellent organisation of this initiative. The second task is the position of the Keeper of the Flags. There is a magnificent display of flags featuring all the countries involved in Zonta. Is there anyone who would be willing to look after these and bring them to our meetings?

Congratulations to Georgina Tenny, who has recently commenced a 17-week congressional internship in Washington, D.C., working in the office of US congressman Lloyd Doggett. Georgina is studying International Relations and Political Science (Honours) at Flinders University and she is concurrently studying at the George Mason University. She is using this opportunity to learn how power operates inside institutions. Her focus is on politics as consequence, responsibility, and leadership for present and future generations.

We're very proud of you, Georgina.

International Women's Day 2026



The Zonta Club of Adelaide invites you to breakfast to celebrate International Women's Day. View the proceedings from the Adelaide Convention Centre on the big screen.

6th March 2026 6:45 - 8:30 am

Function Room

Norwood Hotel

97 The Parade, Norwood

Cost \$40 per person

(includes Orange Juice, breakfast choices, tea and coffee)



The Adelaide International Women's Day Breakfast (IWD) Committee and Senator the Hon Penny Wong are pleased to announce the special guest is **Australian Astronaut, and 2026 Australian of the Year, Katherine Bennell-Pegg.**

 **ZONTA**
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 23
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
**BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**



2026 Amelia Earhart Celebration

“Hidden Figures of the Weapons Research Establishment”

Kerrie Dougherty and Heather “Human Computer” Milhench

**Zonta South Australia
Combined Area 2 Clubs Amelia Earhart Event**

Saturday 14th February 2026 2.00 pm

Payneham Library - 2 Turner St, Felixstow SA 5070

<https://events.humanitix.com/zonta-south-australia-combined-area-2-clubs-amelia-earhart-event>



Lets Celebrate!
Zonta SA Area Meeting
Saturday May 2nd 2026

 **ZONTA**
INTERNATIONAL
BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Advocacy Across South Australia



In January each year, Adelaide honours victims of violence through the "Pay Our Respects" ceremony for women murdered across Australia in 2025. On the 17th of January this year, 58 women from across the various SA support agencies, along with family and friends of the victims, stood on the steps of Parliament House and held the names of the women. Also recognised during this ceremony are children who have died as a result of domestic and family violence. This event is organised by Stacey Nelan and Gillian Lewis (BPW National President) with this years special guest, Jenna Roberts, the Assistant Commissioner for the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission

Community groups and agencies involved include NCWSA, Embolden, Zahra Foundation and many more. It is a non-partisan event with State politicians from all parties participating. Special Guest

This ceremony provides opportunities for the community to stand in solidarity, reflect and pay respects.

Representing the Club were President Rosie, Di Lancaster and Bridget Mather.



Some good news: In an effort to counteract threats of violence and the effects of climate change on women and girls, Zonta International has given US\$750,000 to UNICEF to contribute towards the cost of creating a web-based platform called Laaha for women and girls in crisis-affected regions in twelve countries. The digital space provides a safe social network which is culturally appropriate and which includes access to information and links to services. Read more about it at <https://lnkd.in/gzeNfcTW>

The Zonta says now Think Tank brings Zontians together from across Australia and overseas on the second Saturday of even-numbered months. The next Think Tank will be held on the 14th of February, 2026, and you are welcome to take part. Dr Margaret Moreton, CEO of Gender and Disaster Australia, will explain how gender-smart disaster action can shape stronger, more resilient communities. Check the Zonta says now to Gender Equal Climate Action website to join the meeting.

Something to think about: Australia's production of plastic waste is increasing and only 14% is recycled. The rest goes into landfill and leaks into our oceans. How can we reduce the use of plastic packaging?

We have started the year full of enthusiasm and are keen to have a range of activities over 2026.

Burnside Council have impressive recycling and we are keen to see this in all council areas so the plan is to write to our local councils with some suggestions. We will have a form letter that each member can use.

Earth day is 22 April and we could have the opportunity to work with other organisations to clean an area. Celebrate Plastic Free July.

16 Days of Activism

We hope to work with Campbelltown Council to celebrate, very early days, watch this space.

Happy New Year. Since the year has begun we have received several enquiries via our website. From these recent enquiries one person has responded to say that she will be attending our February meeting to find out what we are all about. Sarah, the new potential member who visited our October meeting, and who helped us at the Open Garden at Crafers in November, has not responded to my follow up. For the moment I assume she's not ready to join our Club.



When Disasters Hit, Gender Matters



This summer's heatwaves and fires have shown just how vulnerable our communities can be and that disasters don't affect everyone equally. Women, men, and LGBTIQ+ people experience crises differently, and traditional gender roles can put some at greater risk, often while caring for others.

At our Australian Think Tank on **Saturday 14 February**, *Dr Margaret Moreton, CEO of Gender and Disaster Australia*, will share practical insights from decades of research and the award-winning Lessons in Disaster training. She'll show how applying a gender lens before, during, and after crises can prevent harm, reduce violence, and build stronger, more resilient communities.

Don't miss this chance to hear from a national expert. Join us, bring your questions, and discover how gender-smart disaster action can make a real difference to you and your community.

Members and guests are welcome — and please help us spread the word by sharing the flyer [\[pdf\]](#) [\[jpeg\]](#)!
THINK TANK Saturday 14 February
SA 3.30–5.00 pm |

-
[Register for February Australian Think Tank](#)

I received this heartfelt letter of thanks from **Alison Meneaud** with whom the Service Committee volunteer team works closely every week including over Christmas. Our President, Rosie, asked that I bring this to your attention in this publication of the Zephyr.

Dear Gerry,

I am writing to you today to acknowledge the extraordinary service and support provided to clients of the Eastern Adelaide Domestic Violence Service by members of the Zonta Club of Adelaide, this year and for so many years since 2010. Since that time, members of the Zonta Club of Adelaide have sorted and delivered food from Oz Harvest, created pamper packs for women each Christmas, refurbished and stocked our women's and children's boutique, provided personal support to many of our clients, sat on our education centre committee and community garden committee, co-facilitated learning opportunities for clients, helped in the garden, provided transport and emotional support to our clients during appointments and so much more. We are absolutely indebted to your club members for their tireless support for more than 15 years.

The Eastern Adelaide Domestic Violence Service is a not for profit, non-government registered charitable organization. Our seven Case Managers work with around 80 families and single women at any one time. We apply a multi-faceted approach in the delivery of services that involves case management, crisis intervention counselling, access to extensive educational opportunities for our clients, access to short and medium-term crisis housing, advocacy and referral and the building of partnerships that will benefit our client group. During the last financial year, we provided services to 331 women and children.

In addition to the Case Management of all clients, we try to incorporate as many services as possible to come to us to provide what we call a "wrap around" service delivery model, which has proved to have significant benefits to our client group. With the onset of the Covid 19 Pandemic, our staff have been creative in adapting to the challenges of providing support services to our clients. The emerging issues resulting from this pandemic place women and children experiencing domestic and family violence at higher risk of harm and further disadvantage.

Mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, anxiety, depression, and complex trauma have all increased as well as issues stemming from the effects of substance abuse. Once single women and families are referred to our service, they can access targeted supports such as a designated Domestic Violence Case Manager, targeted housing support workers, financial counselling, Psychotherapists and Counsellors, specialist children's services, pathways to employment and study and a range of other specialist services that are specific to each individual's needs.

Our wrap around service delivery model embraces the kindness and generosity of individuals within service clubs such as yours by providing access to emergency financial relief in a range of forms that our clients would otherwise be unable to access. Access to mental health services, financial hardship and poverty issues are soaring within our client group. These issues are a direct result of homelessness, and the rising costs associated with accessing safe, affordable housing whilst escaping violence.

All the families and single women that we assist have unique and individual needs that are many and varied. Your weekly volunteer support is and always has been an absolute joy to receive. Your volunteers always go above and beyond the call of duty to meet the needs of our clients and in doing so hold up the hard work that we do every day.

It means so much to our clients and staff to know that there are individuals within the community that genuinely care for them and understand what they are going through and are willing to help to lessen the onerous burden caused by homelessness. We are so appreciative of being able access the many forms of assistance provided to us by your club members each week.

In providing such a variety of volunteer labour each week, you are also honouring the many victims of domestic violence that we assist each day as well as the staff that support them. We could not possibly provide the level of care throughout the year without the help of your wonderful members.

Blessings to you all, and your families over the Festive Season.

Yours Sincerely,

Alison Meneaud

Alison Meneaud (and all the team)

There is only one way to describe this essential service and that is to say, all of us work tirelessly. We practise respectful relationships within our team and we contribute an enormous level of supportive assistance to the overburdened case workers who never cease to acknowledge the contributions we make.

The 2025 Christmas hamper conveyor belt packing was a huge success with 50 beautiful gift packs crammed full of lovely spoil-me items.

A special thanks to **Trish Palmer** who lobbied her pharmacy and her local supermarket to reap donations that have made such a difference to our food deliveries and Christmas gifting.

You generous women are so dedicated and determined to contribute. Our Tuesdays are buoyed with laughter and friendship that make it all worthwhile. It's such a joy to have so many of you contributing to our Service cause.

Huge thanks to all of you,

IMPORTANT DATES

FRIDAY 6TH of FEBRUARY Breast care cushion sewing day

SATURDAY 7TH of FEBRUARY Breast cushion packing and delivery day at Ivanka's

FRIDAY 8TH OF MAY Breast care cushion sewing day

SATURDAY 9TH of MAY Breast care Cushion packing and delivery day at Ivanka's

AUGUST Dates to be determined

FRIDAY 6TH of NOVEMBER Breast care cushion sewing day

SATURDAY 7TH OF NOVEMBER Breast care cushion packing and delivery day at Ivanka's

AMELIA EARHART BREAKFAST

33 people attended the breakfast in January. It was a lovely day, and we beat the heat by being under the Moreton Bay fig trees and starting early. Thank you to Maxine and her 10 guests and other members for bringing along friends. Hopefully next year more members can join this relaxing morning to mingle and chat, which is harder to do at our busy business meetings.

Thank you to Maxine for organising donations for our raffle. We thank the following organisations for their donations to our club: -

A VIP Card Chester Frank House of Health Collective Adelaide
 \$50 Voucher Lisa Pisano Lucia's Fine Foods Australia
 A Book Joe Extra Newsagency Hyde Park

Thank you to Margie for organising the delicious Tiramisu Cake and assorted pastries and cake
 Coffee Crowd Lower Ground, Adelaide Central Plaza Rundle Mall

I would also like to thank the support given to me by the "pop up" working group consisting of Margie, Desi, Melissa and Maxine who organised this event. A quick, efficient and great group of women who after one short chat over coffee organised it all.

The figures for the AE Breakfast are as follows:

Total Raised **790.40**



WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CEREMONY

Club Nominations closed and the committee consisting of Wendy, Karen, Verena and Maxine have selected the awardees who are being notified and will be announced at February Club meeting prior to the ceremony on Wednesday 11th March.

The February club meeting will be last chance for club members to inform Raema whether they wish to receive an official invitation from Adelaide Town Hall.

ZONTA YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Application close on 27th February for this international award. Our club will select a winner who receives \$500 from our club before her club nomination is sent to compete at District 23 level for the US \$5,000. Thank you to Bridget and Melanie Tate for promoting this award. The club selection panel will be Rosie, Bridget and Raema. All nominees are going to be invited to attend Government House on 25th March.

SERVICE CLUBS ASSOCIATION SOUTH AUSTRALIA (SCASA) AWARDS

The Awards Committee submitted on behalf of the club the work undertaken by the club organising the Birthing Kit Assembly Days with Adelaide High School. This partnership commenced by our club member Angela Vandellis more than 15 years ago when she was a teacher/Student Counsellor at Adelaide High School. It has been a valuable partnership and in recent years the student's undertaking our club leadership program have assisted in the organising of the day's kit assembly.

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Once again, our club has participated in submitting a nomination of an outstanding young 16-year-old young woman in the category of Young Women's Community and Spirit Award. Shianne Durdin is a 16year old blind Year 11 student at Charles Campbell College. She has established an online support website to assist visually challenged people to utilise IT technology to enhance their accessibility to learning, everyday living and provide coaching support. Shianne is also active with Tea Tree Gully Council on an advisory committee and a school student representative committee.

Service Clubs Association of SA (SCASA) Inc.



Rotary
District 9510



<https://scasa.org.au>

Members , family and friends of South Australia's Service Clubs are invited to join us to celebrate the many and varied activities that Clubs have been undertaking to help assist our state at the

2025

Premier's Community Service Awards Presentation

On Sunday 22nd February 2026

11.30am for a 12 noon start

At Auchendarroch House , Mount Barker

Cost \$50 / head (alternate drop meal)

\$30 / child

**Group or Individual Bookings can be made by going to
Trybooking SCASA Community Service Awards Ceremony**

Enquiries can be directed to SCASA Chair @gmail.com

Bronwyn Heard Mobile 0417197219

bheard167@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 2026

4 Club meeting Speaker: Kate Ramsay, author of 'A Hell of a Glass Ceiling—Achieving gender equality in the workplace'

6 Breast cushion sewing

7 Breast cushion packing

14 Aelia Earhart Combined Event at Payneham Library

16 Board meeting

22 SCASA Awards Luncheon

MARCH 2026

4 Club meeting Panel of politicians planned to discuss women's issues for the State election

6 International Women's Day Breakfast

11 Women of Achievement Awards at Adelaide Town Hall

16 Board meeting

25 Young Women in Leadership Awards at Government House

APRIL 2026

4 Club meeting Speaker: Sharlene Lynch on work with survivors of domestic violence through Healing Through Love

6 International Women's Day Breakfast

16 Board meeting

MAY

2 Area 2 workshop at Victor Harbour

6 Club meeting

8 Breast cushion sewing

9 Breast cushion packing

18 Board meeting

JULY

11-14 Zonta international Convention, Vancouver

President Rosie Egan **Vice President** Desi Zed

Secretary Thelma Harvey **Treasurer** Di Lancaster

Directors Louise Stevens, Janice Watson, Yvonne Karpinski, 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.

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.

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 Linda Mackenzie, Karen Bellchambers

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



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

**We wish a happy birthday to our members
celebrating in February**

February

15 Kathy Ellis

17 Kaye Roberts-Thomson

22 Trish Palmer

23 Thelma Harvey

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

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