



ZONTA

CLUB OF ADELAIDE INC

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District 23 Area 2**

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Newsletter of the
Zonta Club of Adelaide

APRIL 2026

Issue 411



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ROSIE EGAN

The values of Zonta International continue to drive our actions as we work to advocate for women's rights and to build a better world for women and girls. We maintain an organization where each member is valued, and the friendships and bonds that develop within the club are appreciated by all. It's wonderful to see the sense of fun alongside the hard work of our members. Respect for others and kindness in relationships ensure that we can work together in a productive and courteous manner.

March has been a very busy month, beginning with the panel of invited politicians at our Club Meeting. The Hon. Katrine Hildyard, Labor Minister for Child Protection, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence and Women, the Hon. Michelle Lensink MLC, Shadow Liberal Minister for Planning, Housing, Human Services, Women, and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence and Katie McCusker, Greens Candidate for the Legislative Council, each shared their perspectives on women's issues ahead of the upcoming state election. It was so encouraging and uplifting to see the collegiate nature of their discussions and their positive relationships.



Each speaker delivered a six-minute presentation outlining their party's priorities before engaging in a lively Q&A session with our members. The discussion covered a wide range of important topics, including domestic and family violence prevention and recognition, increasing the number of women in trades, improving equal opportunities in workplaces, addressing homelessness, and ensuring equitable access to healthcare.

Thank you to our speakers for sharing their time and insights, and for their commitment to advancing outcomes for women within our communities. Congratulations to Kaye for organizing the event and to Bridget for moderating the interactions.

The International Women's Day breakfast was held on 6 March in a new venue, Living Choice, with catering by Nature's Providore. 2026 Australian of the year, Katherine Bennell-Pegg presented an inspiring talk to the 73 attendees. Space engineer, qualified astronaut, and Director of Space Technology at the Australian Space Agency, Katherine shared her incredible journey from an ambitious school student to working at the forefront of Australia's space sector.

The event also reflected on the 2026 International Women's Day theme, "Balance the Scales." As highlighted by UN Women Australia, this theme is "a promise that every woman and girl, regardless of background or identity, should be safe, heard, and free to shape their own lives."

Funds raised from the morning will go towards supporting the important work of UN Women Australia. After costs, we raised \$640.00 for this wonderful cause. Thank you to everyone who attended and to the IWD team of Kaye, Di, Desi, Deb, Vonney, Thelma and Louise.



Congratulations to Raema and the Awards team for the very successful Women of Achievement Awards at the Adelaide Town Hall on 11 March. With the Lord Mayor, the Right Honourable Jane Lomax Smith presiding, eight exceptional women were recognised for their outstanding achievements in their field, and for the way they mentor and assist other women. Scholarship recipients from Adelaide High School and Mitcham Girls High School were also honoured.



Sophy and Vani AHS scholarship winners and the 2025 graduates ZYWL program. Principal Natasa Parhas, Leanne Davies, Mireille Le Doledec

We can be rightly proud of two of our members who are currently overseas.

Bridget Mather is at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York. She represented Zonta Australia at the CSW70 Parallel Event on Bridging the Justice Gap: Feminist Approaches to Access to Justice across Multi-Level Governance Systems. As UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres states, 'Not a single step forward for women's rights has ever been given – it has been won'. Thank you for your fantastic representation, Bridget.

Georgina Tenny is continuing her work as a Congressional Intern in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington with Senator Lloyd Doggett. In her congressional research project in Washington, D.C., she is examining legislative approaches to stabilisation and international policy. Georgina recently received a Certificate of Excellence for achieving the highest mark in POLI2026: Research Methods and Data Analysis at Flinders University. Congratulations on your wonderful achievements, Georgina! We look forward to hearing about both of their experiences when they return to Adelaide.

Congratulations also need to be extended to Lucy McDonald, who recently was admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Psychological Science from the University of Adelaide. This achievement represents many years of dedicated studies. We are very proud of your achievements, Lucy.

The month finishes with the Young Women and Leadership Awards at Government House on 25 March. Raema has been pivotal in organising the applicants, while Area Director, Jenni Foreman, has worked with the Government House team to make this event come to fruition.



The Service Committee is in the process of restructuring some of our main sub committees to spread the load in the 4 major areas of our heavy responsibilities:

Firstly, the **SAPOL and Working with Children clearances** that the Service Committee initiates and manages on behalf of not only our own volunteers at the Eastern Adelaide Domestic Violence Service, but also for other committees who work with students. For example, wonderful award -winning programmes like the Young Women Leaders' Programme that also demands active clearances as an essential part of the requirements needed for member participants.

I am currently managing 25 of these and we now have an unforeseen current complication because of unanticipated staff turnovers at the Women's Safety Services. Hopefully this will work out because our Zonta records are meticulously kept but the responsibility will now be shared within the Service Committee to ensure that all the accountability does not lie with just one person.

Individual tasks in **Breast Cushions** are now being streamlined courtesy of Mara, Ivanka and me and some of my generous sewing friends.

There is a lot of partial sewing preparation that needs to be done before our official group sewing day and Ivanka has taken huge responsibility for this over 25 years and we still benefit from her guidance in organising the purchase of fabric, filling and elastic. Added to this, Ivanka has organised another pattern cutter when her friend Vesna retired. Mary Burford has also been the main backstop by pre-sewing up to 60 breast cushions to be completed to various stages to keep the conveyor belt fully occupied and at maximum efficiency on sewing days.

The Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills, particularly Sharon Gue, has generously undertaken to gift us 40 breast cushions (20 completed, 20 need attention) This is because Ashford Hospital no longer performs breast surgery. Sharon's team now supplies hospitals with lung cushions

Over the last couple of years, fundraising activities like the **Open Gardens** have also formed a committed group, including Friends of Zonta women to ensure that all of us have a closely committed responsibility to ensure successful management. Sewing day will be on **Friday the 8th of May**

Bev Gum has confirmed that the Birthing Kit assembly day at the Mormon Church will go ahead with an ambitious target of 2,000 kits to be generated. The date is **Saturday the 9th of May**.

I hope that there will be a team of Zonta members who can help us on the day and hopefully Bev will be able to repeat the plea at the April club meeting and that there will be a positive response from club members.

The Breast cushion packing day will have to be shifted because there is a clash of dates so the breast cushion managers will have to establish an alternative date.

Almost forgot. The EADVS has now provided a space for us to store items for the Christmas Hampers for the EADVS clients. I'm very grateful for this because I can now access my walk-in-wardrobe. It's amazing how much we already have thanks to Trish Palmer and other generous donors who are already thinking ahead.

Zonta International's five step framework for taking action.

- We will gather the facts,
- lead by example,
- use our voice in our club and in the wider community, and
- we will advocate and
- collaborate.

Some good news: With the war in the Middle East creating restrictions on our access to fossil fuel, it is heartening to know that last year the Commonwealth Government made available a \$1.1 billion fund to stimulate private investment in the biofuel sector. Biofuel is a low-carbon, reliable fuel using organic waste products such as grains, forestry material, agricultural waste and cooking oils. There are biofuel refineries in Queensland, Victoria, WA and NSW. Why not SA?

April 22nd is Earth Day and at our April meeting, we will focus on ways to reduce the use of plastic. Only 14% of plastic is recycled. Plastic bags and plastic bottles are big contributors to the waste stream. If we can avoid using both, we will have made a contribution.

SA NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Meeting held 12/2/26 6pm at St Peter's College (*Omitted from last newsletter*)

Guest speaker was to be Katrine Hildyard who was going to be speaking on DV Royal Commission with Primary Prevention to be in the forefront. Unfortunately Katrine had to cancel at the last minute.

As there were a number of representatives from different organisations attending it was decided the meeting would go ahead but under a different format. The first half of which was networking between these organisations.

The Deputy head of Saint Peter's College Jasmine Taylor spoke of how it is important to make the boys aware of Domestic Violence and how they are cultivating humanity.

Amanda Martin from the Zahra Foundation also spoke on family and domestic violence and their current focus on Pathways to Empowerment. She also mentioned and encouraged all those that can, to join in the walkathon "The next Steps" which commemorates Zahra Abrahamzadeh. To be held on 15/3 walking between Grange and Henley Beach. It was good to hear that a jazz band formed by boys from St Peter's College volunteered to play at the walkathon yearly.

NCW will be electing a new President this year and nominations are open for anyone interested.

Reminder that the Women's Expo is to be held Victor Harbour 12/3 and Mitcham 28/3

Bridget informed of upcoming Zonta local meeting with panel of four politicians including Katrine.

International Women's Day 10/3, the committee is asking for nominations for awards from all organisations, so if you have someone in mind please nominate them.

Meeting closed and members advised no meeting for April

This year is already flying by. I have managed to schedule a membership committee meeting, as everyone is so busy, in March to discuss in more detail the D23 Membership Committee Membership Issues Ideas. We'll hopefully be able to implement some of those ideas. In April there is a Welcome Coffee Information Session where prospective members will hear about what Zonta Club of Adelaide does. A number of people have been invited who have expressed interest in the last 6 months either via the website or attending a meeting/event. I hope to have a good turnout and also want to thank committee convenors and Rosie for their support.



**WELCOME COFFEE
INFORMATION SESSION**

Would you like to find out more about our club in an informal setting?

Date: Saturday 18th April 2026

Time: 10.00 - 11.30am

**Venue : The Lion Hotel,
161 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide**

Please RSVP to zontaclubofadelaide@gmail.com

The announcing of our 2026 Women of Achievement Awards was a relaxed event with 60- 70 attending. The room set up this year enabled more mingling with the guests, and many reported this provided attendees the opportunity to meet the awardees. The Awards Selection Panel of Verena, Karen, Wendy and Maxine did an excellent job choosing such worthy women.

On Wednesday 25th March the Government House event for the Area 2 applicants for the Zonta International Young Women in Leadership Award was held. Our club had five applicants and after selecting our club winner we sent the other excellent applications of two young women to Director Area 3 to distribute to the clubs, who wished to participate in the event but had not received applicants. This provided these young women with a second chance to be chosen by a club to receive \$500 and be forwarded to the District23 for judging. We were proud that our club winner Shreya Madhan Raj a student at MGHS was announced. Our other applicants Monica Lian and Sophia Hewett were also in attendance. A description of their achievements is below: -

Shreya is a young Year 12 leader who has mentored over 200 debating students, served on local government youth advisory body and lead initiatives in partnership with UNICEF and United Nations Young Ambassadors program to advance youth voice and gender equity. Through strategic leadership in debating, community advocacy and policy engagement she is attempting to create an impact locally and the broader community. Her ambition is to study International Relations and Political Science to contribute to public policy.

Monica Lian has demonstrated outstanding leadership and compassion through her advocacy work with the HEAL Chinland Project, her volunteer service within the Chin community, and her commitment to improving healthcare access for women in underserved regions of Myanmar. She has also shown strong personal initiative in her studies, leading church media and youth programs, and dedicating herself to a future career in radiation therapy to address global health inequalities.

Sophia Hewett has been recognised by Puddle Jumpers Volunteer Awards for her numerous leadership roles as a Mentor, Team Leader, and Camp Coordinator. She has combined this volunteering role with her employment at an Outside School Hours Care program, where she undertakes numerous leadership and caring roles with the children.

Our club is fortunate to have Melanie Tate and Puddle Jumpers supporting this award by promoting and recommending so many of her young women to participate by submitting their applications. The two applicants which were forwarded to other clubs were fortunate to be win club awards. They were Stella Hockham Adelaide Hills and Charlotte Ellison Mt Barker clubs.



Our Club winner Shreya Madhan Raj with the Governor and Jenni Foreman Area 2 Director

More photos from Government House

All the Zonta club winners with the Governor and Jenni Foreman



Our Club members and awardees

The crowd at Government House



Women of Achievement Winners



Advocacy for Women and Girls
Fiona Dorman and the Lord Mayor



Medicine
Dr Fariba Behnia-Willison and the Lord Mayor



Indigenous Women
Vicky Welgraven, the Lord Mayor and Rosie



Youth Voice
Amber Brock-Fabel, the Lord Mayor and Rosie



Community Service
Anna Kemp, the Lord Mayor and Rosie

More winners



Science and Health

Dr Wendy Ingman with the Lord Mayor and Rosie

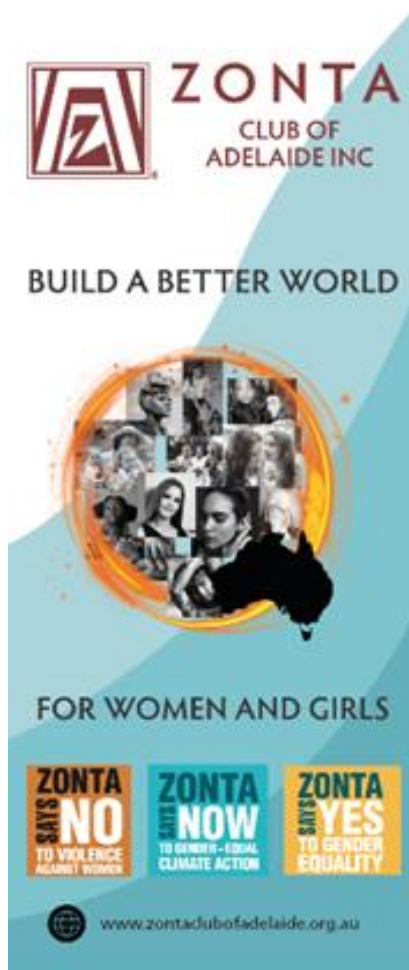


Business Innovation

Dr Kathryn Christ and the Lord Mayor

PR and COMMUNICATION

Maxine Panegyres



Our club has a new banner! The final artwork was designed by Area 2 Director, Jenni Foreman. District 23 has supported each club with \$200 to purchase one, and this has been approved.



Zonta South Australia - 2026 Workshop

Jenni Foreman, Area 2 Director, in conjunction with the South Australian Zonta Clubs, invites you to attend the 2026 Area 2 Meeting on Saturday May 2nd 2026 at Victor Harbour Christian Gospel Centre.

The theme for the workshop is **“Let’s Celebrate”** and we will spend the day celebrating all that is amazing about Zonta – the programs & the people.

Our keynote speakers for the day are:

“Celebrating – Making the World a Better Place for Women & Girls”

The Village Co

” Celebrating – Zonta Says NO”

Tammy Elvin – Junction Housing

“Celebrating – Young Women in Leadership”

Eleanor Elferink - STEM STUDENT

District 23 Governor Debbie Schmidt and Lieutenant Governor Wendy Quinn will also be attending the workshop.

Don’t forget there will be a raffle and trading tables – come prepared to spend a little or a lot!

The funds raised from the raffle fund Zonta SA advocacy workshops and events for our members. Your registration fee includes 3 raffle tickets – you are very welcome to purchase additional raffle tickets at the event.

DATE: Saturday May 2nd, 2026

TIME: 9.30am-4.30pm

WHERE: Christian Gospel Centre Victor Harbor 2 George Main Rd, Victor Harbor

COST: \$50.00 (Includes morning tea, lunch & 20th Birthday Cake)

BOOKINGS: <https://events.humanitix.com/zonta-south-australia-area-2-workshop-9sq4qhxm/tickets>

APRIL 2026

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

Presentation of the slate of nominations for Board and position for 2026-27

16 Board meeting

18 Membership information session over coffee

MAY

2 Area 2 workshop at Victor Harbour

6 Club Annual General meeting

Bridget Mather and Fiona Dorman to speak on their international experiences representing Australia

8 Breast cushion sewing

9 Birthing kit assembly at Mormon Church.

TBC Breast cushion packing

18 Board meeting—handover

JUNE

3 Club meeting. Induction of new Board.

15 Board meeting

JULY

1 Club meeting

11-14 Zonta international Convention, Vancouver

20 Board Meeting



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 April**

April

18 Bev Gum

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.

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