



# ZONTA CLUB OF ADELAIDE INC

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



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2025-2026**



## **OUR MISSION**

Zonta International is a leading global organization of individuals working together to build a better world for women and girls.

## **OUR VISION**

Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognised 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.

No woman should live in fear of violence.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Zonta Club of Adelaide follows the Values of Zontians - of Global Community, Friendship, Equality and Inclusion, Respect and Integrity and we adhere to the Zontian Code of Conduct. We work together to advocate for women's rights and to build a better world for women and girls.

Fundraising efforts support our programs, including Young Women in Leadership and Awards, scholarships, recognising Women of Achievement, making Breast Cushions and Birthing Kits and providing support for a DV Centre.

The Women Artists Talks, organised by Erica Majba and held in August 2025, raised funds for our projects with a series of fascinating presentations.

Maxine Panegyres and her team planned The Billabong Walk along the River Torrens on 9 November, with funds targeting scholarships and the Young Women in Leadership program.

The Amelia Earhart breakfast, held on 19 January 2025, financed the Zonta International AE scholarships in the aerospace industry.

Our International Woman's Day breakfast at the Fullarton Living Choice Auditorium on 6 March featured an inspiring livestream of UN Women Australia's event at the Adelaide Convention Centre, presenting Katherine Bennell-Pegg: space engineer, qualified astronaut and director of space technology at the Australian Space Agency. Funds raised went to UN Women Australia.

In November 2025, two Open Garden events provided the club with the resources for continuing our programs.

Our club continues from strength to strength, with numbers around 50, and many positive enquiries for future memberships. Our committees continued to dedicate their efforts towards creating a better world for women and girls.

In the Advocacy Committee, led by Bridget Mather and Bev Gum, Zonta says No and Zonta Says Now Campaigns remained a strong focus throughout the year. We participated in the October 11 Walk for Respect, walking from Victoria Square to Festival Plaza, where speakers including The Hon. Katrine Hildyard MP spoke about the SA Royal Commission into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence.

At the January Pay Our Respects ceremony for women murdered across Australia in 2025, we joined other groups including BPW, NCWSA, Embolden and the Zahra Foundation to stand together on the Parliament House steps and remember those women and children impacted by this violence.

I represented our club at the Our Watch Change Starts With Us panel at the Adelaide Convention Centre on 3 February 2026 to speak about Zonta's role in addressing domestic violence in organisations and communities, highlighting Zonta's long-standing commitment to gender equality and the elimination of violence against women and girls.

At the SCASA Awards for the Service Clubs Association of SA, held at Auchendarroch House on 22 February, the Zonta Club of Adelaide was well represented with three awards:

- **Community Education Award - Safe Beginnings Project – Zonta Club of Adelaide**
- **Social Inclusion Award - Working with Women in Crisis – Zonta Club of Adelaide**
- **Allan Sloan Young Citizen Award - Georgina Tenny – Zonta Club of Adelaide**
- **Gerry Sanderson was a Zonta Club of Adelaide nomination for the Heide Taylor Community Service Medal.**

The Awards Committee, led by Raema Mahony, organised a range of programs, including the Women of Achievement Awards, hosted in the Adelaide Town Hall by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Dr Jane Lomax Smith. A total of seven women were recognised for their outstanding contributions to their fields.

Students from Adelaide High School and Mitcham Girls High School were involved in the Young Women's Leaders Program, organised by Raema Mahony, led by Melanie Tate and mentored by Zonta members.

Bailee Phillips organised the students' presentation night, while Lucy McDonald was the MC. Adelaide MP, Lucy Hood, presented their awards at the September 2025 meeting.

Scholarships were awarded to senior secondary students at Mitcham Girls High School and Adelaide High School.

The Young Women in Leadership Award Ceremony at Government House on Wednesday 26 March 2026 featured applicants from four clubs. The SA Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adams, presented the awards, which focused upon the applicant's leadership, achievements and commitment to building a better world for women and girls. Area 2 Director Jenni Foreman organised this event. We welcomed our applicants at our April 2026 meeting.

The recipients of club sponsorships, Shamsia and Shaqeyeq Ikhlas, attended the National Leadership Forum in Canberra in August and spoke about this experience at our October 2025 meeting.

The Service Club, led by Gerry Sanderson and Angela Vandellis, supports the Eastern Area Domestic Violence Service, as well as organising Birthing Kits and Breast Cushions. Volunteers meet four times a year to sew breast cushions. Members assist in the DV Centre clothing centre as well as packing and delivering food from Oz Harvest. The team also collated donated Christmas gifts for the DV Service.

We completed last year with our annual Christmas lunch on 6 December at the Torrens Arms Hotel, where we celebrated our achievements for the year.

Maxine Panegyres and the Communication and PR Committee have raised our social media profile through Facebook and LinkedIn posts, with informative posts by Lucy McDonald. Our new banner reflects our club's mission.

Treasurer Di Lancaster and the Finance committee, led by Convenor Erica Majba, have continued to accurately organise and monitor our funds.

Guest speakers throughout the year have included Erfan Abidi, who spoke about schools for girls in Afghanistan.

Member Vonney Karpinski, spoke about her work in the funeral industry, while Professor Anna Chur-Hansen explained Health Psychology and the benefits for women and girls. Katrina Ellis outlined aspects of superannuation impacting women. Kate Ramsay, author of A Hell of a Glass Ceiling, summarised achieving gender equality in the workplace. Sharlene Lynch explained her on work with survivors of domestic violence through her organisation Healing Through Love.

Three politicians, The Honourable Katrine Hildyard MP, Minister for Women in the South Australian Parliament, The Honourable Michelle Lensink MLC, Shadow Minister for Women and Ms Katie McCusker, SA Greens Candidate, spoke about how their party's policies impacted women.

In conclusion, thanks need to go to the Members of the Board, the Committee Convenors and to each member of the Zonta Club of Adelaide for their ongoing commitment and enthusiasm for our club's projects. This energy ensures that our club can continue to empower women and girls and advocate for gender equality.

**Rosie Egan**

**President**

### Walkathon Fundraiser

Our Billabong Walk was held on November 9<sup>th</sup>. It was a lovely morning walking along the Linear Park under the shady trees.

We were supported with donations of fruit from Joel and Peter Brockhoff, hills orchardists, as well as Tony and Mark's Fruit and Vegetable people. We thank them for their generosity and donations of fruit for our walkers.








Thanks also to Margaret Lynch who posted our way with orange ribbons along the trail so we didn't get lost. This year Awards and PR and Communication committee organised the walk with support from Thelma and Melissa.

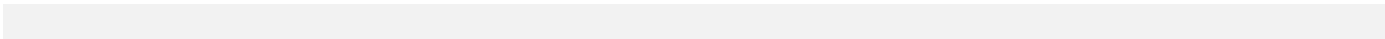


members o



**BOARD**

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
 <p data-bbox="108 571 244 607"><b>Rosie Egan</b></p>	 <p data-bbox="459 571 564 607"><b>Desi Zed</b></p>	 <p data-bbox="810 571 962 607"><b>Di Lancaster</b></p>	 <p data-bbox="1161 571 1347 607"><b>Thelma Harvey</b></p>
Directors	 <p data-bbox="459 1003 643 1039"><b>Louise Stevens</b></p>	 <p data-bbox="810 1003 1007 1039"><b>Colleen Tomlian</b></p>	 <p data-bbox="1161 1003 1337 1039"><b>Janice Watson</b></p>



**Club Members**

			
<b>Catherine Alcock</b>	<b>Val Baldwin OAM</b>	<b>Karen Bellchambers</b>	<b>Annette Brock</b>
			
<b>Wendy Bruce</b>	<b>Verena Colby</b>	<b>Aileen Connors AM</b>	<b>Kathy Ellis</b>
			
<b>Margie Glover</b>	<b>Bev Gum</b>	<b>Helen Joraslafsky</b>	<b>Ivanka Jovanovich</b>
			
<b>Melissa Klenke</b>	<b>Michelle Lensink</b>	<b>Deb Lodge</b>	<b>Daina Long</b>
			
<b>Leanne Longfellow (on leave)</b>	<b>Linda McKenzie</b>	<b>Raema Mahony</b>	<b>Erica Majba</b>

			
<b>Bridget Mather</b>	<b>Isabella McCulloch</b>	<b>Lucy McDonald</b>	<b>Jude Murphy</b>
			
<b>Beverley Newberry</b>	<b>Cody Obst</b>	<b>Jill Olifent</b>	<b>Trish Palmer</b>
			
<b>Maxine Panegyres</b>	<b>Helen Pertsinidis</b>	<b>Bailee Phillips</b>	<b>Mara Rains</b>
			
<b>Kaye Roberts-Thomson OAM</b>	<b>Gerry Sanderson</b>	<b>Carol Summers</b>	<b>Melanie Tate</b>
			
<b>Georgina Tenny</b>	<b>Angela Vandellis</b>	<b>Jan Wood</b>	<b>Miriam Zhu</b>

## **TREASURER'S REPORT for financial year 1 April 2025 -31 March 2026**

It is with pleasure that I present the unaudited financial statements for the year 1/04/2025 – 31/03/2026 which has been another successful year for the Zonta Club of Adelaide Inc.

Fundraising has been successful enabling the club to provide scholarships to Adelaide High School and Mitcham Girls High School student and to continue delivering the Young Women leaders Program to both schools. We have also been able to provide donations and sponsorship to enable Women and Girls to obtain education and self-development opportunities to build themselves a better world.

We have also held successful Amelia Earhart and International Women's Day breakfasts to raise funds for the Amelia Earhart Fellowship fund and for UN Women Australia.

At club level, our Open Garden catering, Walkathon, Women Artist Talks Series fundraisers in addition to donations received will enabled us to continue our current programs and projects for the next financial year.

I would like to thank the Finance Committee for their support during my time as Treasurer and wish the incoming Treasurer all the best in the role.

**Di Lancaster - Treasurer**

**Zonta Club of Adelaide Inc**  
**Statement of Income and Expenses**  
**for the Year Ending March 31, 2026**

<b>Opening balance of working account as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025</b>		<b>\$22,225.60</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
ADMINISTRATION		
Membership ZI Fees	\$6,635.00	
Membership D23 Fees	\$1,800.00	
Membership Club Admin Fees	\$2,250.00	
Bank Interest	\$0.04	
Miscellaneous Admin (eg External Bank)	\$272.57	
Merchandise - T-shirts, Caps, Aprons	\$791.00	
Miscellaneous Meeting Sales & Raffles	\$495.05	
Amelia Earhart Breakfast	\$895.40	
IWD Breakfast	\$3,256.00	
Xmas Lunch	\$1,278.75	\$17,673.81
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>		
Open Garden - Kinclaven	\$2,401.85	
Open Garden - Kinclaven - Gate Takings	\$2,600.00	
Walkathon	\$893.50	
Breast-care Cushion Donations	\$788.00	
Women's Artist Talks	\$1,225.52	
Young Women Leaders Program	\$3,400.00	
Other Donations	\$1,950.00	
Return of UniSA Scholarship Funds	\$3000.00	
Scholarship Donation	\$500.00	\$16,785.87
<b>TOTAL INCOME =</b>		<b>\$34,432.68</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>		
ADMINISTRATION		
Membership ZI Dues	\$6479.63	
Membership D23 Dues	\$1,820.00	
Room hire – Board meetings	\$66.00	
Bank Fees	\$2.00	
Tyro fees	\$124.51	
Printing	\$86.40	
Merchandise - T-shirts, Caps, Aprons	\$1,875.15	
Miscellaneous Gifts, Flowers, Storage unit, Membership badges	\$3,636.74	
Amelia Earhart Breakfast	\$1,896.00	
IWD Breakfast	\$4,640.00	
Xmas Lunch	\$1,420.00	
Donations	\$50.00	
D23 Conference Delegate Fees	\$210.00	\$22,306.43
FUNDRAISING		
1/3 of Fundraising to ZI	\$3,271.76	
Open Garden - Kinclaven -	\$262.33	
Walkathon	\$46.00	
Scholarships – MGHS 2026/27, AHS 2025/26	\$4,000.00	
Breast-care Cushion Donations	\$2,108.75	
Women's Artist Talks	\$133.04	
Young Women Leaders Program	\$5,685.48	
YWLA (Formerly YWPA)	\$542.00	
Other Donations or Sponsorships	\$1,950.00	
Miscellaneous supplies for fundraisers & events – cups, plates etc	\$3000.00	
Birthing Kit Assembly - AHS	\$1,000.00	
Women of Achievement Awards	\$541.00	\$19,759.13
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE =</b>		<b>\$42,065.56</b>
<b>Opening balance of working account as at 31 March 2026</b>		<b>\$14,592.72</b>
<b>Other Cast Assets</b>		
Term Deposit Account	\$10,946.23	
Cash Float	\$150.00	
<b>Total Cash Holdings</b>		<b>\$25,688.95</b>

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Finance Committee has completed its role to support the Treasurer. Members stepped up to take payments at functions when the Treasurer was unable to attend. We met face to face, used Zoom and also communicated by email, to discuss the budget and review the financial status of the club at various times during the year.

The Committee recommended that membership fees be reduced for the year due to the good financial position of the Administration funds.

The club had a successful year both in managing fundraising to meet our commitments of scholarships and projects. Sales of merchandise were lower than the previous year as most members had already purchased T-shirts and Hats. Storage expense continues to be a drain on club resources. Both balances in Administration and Fundraising remain healthy.

Thank you to Treasurer Di Lancaster, Desi Zed, Carol Summers and Helen Joraslafsky.

**Convenor: Erica Majba**

## ADVOCACY

### *Advocacy & Engagement*

**Co-Chairs:** Bev Gum, Thelma Harvey, Bridget Mather

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

### Overview

The 2025–26 year has been one of consolidation, alignment and strengthened advocacy impact for the Zonta Club of Adelaide. The Club has embedded the strategic priorities of Zonta International into its local program of work, with a clear focus on amplifying its voice through partnerships, visibility and coordinated action.

This has marked an expansion from only activity-based engagement to influence-driven advocacy, positioning the Club as an active contributor to gender equality efforts across South Australia and beyond.

### Strategic Alignment and Capability

The Club has supported Zonta International’s global priorities, particularly in advancing gender equality, women in leadership, ending violence against women and girls, and strengthening climate advocacy through Zonta Says NOW.

Members have built advocacy capability through participation in Zonta International training modules and through engagement in global forums, including participation—both in person and virtually—in Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70).

### Election Advocacy – A Two-Pronged Approach

A key focus of the year was a coordinated advocacy strategy in the lead-up to the 2026 South Australian State Election.

The Club hosted a candidate panel at a dinner meeting, enabling direct engagement on priorities and commitments to gender equality.

In parallel, a set of policy questions and priority positions was developed and shared with members to support engagement with local candidates. This ensured consistent and informed advocacy across the membership.

### Partnerships and Collective Impact

Partnerships have been central to the Club’s work. Collaboration with other Adelaide-based Zonta Clubs, including Adelaide Hills, and with National Council of Women of South Australia has strengthened a coordinated advocacy voice.

### Key Advocacy Activities

The Club contributed to the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, delivering a coordinated advocacy effort that included a targeted social media campaign, participation in the Mount Lofty Vigil, and direct engagement with local government.

As part of this effort, the Club wrote to local government Mayors across South Australia encouraging them to illuminate public buildings and facilities in orange, reinforcing community awareness and solidarity in ending violence against women.

Members maintained a strong presence at major events including Reclaim the Night, the Walk for Respect (October 2025), and public rallies advocating for an end to violence against women.

The Club also engaged in International Women’s Day, including participation in events streamed from the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Climate Advocacy – Zonta Says NOW

Climate advocacy continued to grow, led by committed Club members and engagement in the Zonta Says NOW Australian Think Tank. Activities included promoting practical sustainability actions, sharing evidence-based resources, and supporting member participation in advocacy efforts.

Members were encouraged to take part in lobbying initiatives, including engagement with federal representatives on climate risk and resilience, recognising advocacy as a key lever for change.

Community Engagement and Systemic Advocacy

The Club participated in key advocacy and remembrance events, including the January vigil at Parliament House Adelaide and the April Rally Against Violence.

Members attended community consultation sessions following the South Australian Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. Club President Rosie represented Zonta at the Statewide Leadership Forum. Designed as a space for learning, reflection and collective action, the forum underscored the generational opportunity to drive lasting change and ensured Zonta’s voice—and the role of civil society leadership—was clearly visible.

Impact and Outlook

Throughout the year, the Zonta Club of Adelaide has strengthened its role as a visible, collaborative and informed advocacy organisation. The Club is well positioned to build on this momentum, continuing to deepen partnerships, strengthen advocacy capability, and align local action with global priorities to drive meaningful change.



**Bridget Mather and Bev Gum, Co-convenors**

## Zonta says now on climate change

I have been fortunate to work with a team of inspirational women, Bridget Mather, Wendy Bruce, Bev Gum and Kaye Roberts-Thomson, who, along with me, are aware that the climate crisis is a human rights crisis and a women's rights crisis. Throughout the year, we have used **Zonta International's five step plan** for taking action and becoming agents of change.

### 1. We gathered the facts and informed the club:

- a) Of environmental success stories, for example that Sally Quinn, who established Green Collect, was the winner of District 23's Woman taking climate action award.
- b) About actions taken by Zonta International, for example, Laaha: a digital safe space for girls in climate affected areas in twelve countries, which was funded by Zonta International.
- c) about **Earth Day**, celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026. At our meetings and via our newsletter and flyers, we encouraged members to avoid the use of plastic.
- d) about community and government actions to ease climate change, such as the development of biofuel.
- e) about the opportunity to join the Zonta Says Now Think Tank held on the second Saturday of even-numbered months.
- f) About the fact sheets obtained from the Zonta says now on climate change website.
- g) About the work done by groups such as the Climate Council and Greening Australia.
- h) By seeking guest speakers on the need for climate action.

### 2. We led by example:

- a. By providing tips and information at meetings and in the monthly newsletter.
- b. By organising raffle prizes which promote a circular economy and the need to eliminate plastic.
- c. By encouraging members to reduce, recycle, refuse, repair, remake, restore and reuse
- d. By encouraging members to bring along items they no longer need, in order to swap them for something else.
- e. By offering to be a collection point for items like batteries and then delivering them to a recycling centre.

### 3. We used our voice in our club and in the wider community.

- a. By taking part in Environment Expo, 2025, organised by the Burnside City Council. We made visitors aware of the impact of climate change on women.

### 4. We advocated and encouraged our members to advocate:

- a. Wendy Bruce provided a link to a BBC article by Jocelyn Timperley called "Worried about climate change? It stressed the value of lobbying.
- b. At a recent meeting of our Zonta says now on Climate Change group, Bridget compiled a list of groups for our members to lobby and some sample letters.
- c. We forwarded Bridget's letter from Zonta Australia re Zonta says now on Climate Change to Norwood and St Peters Council, our State MPs and local Federal MPs.

### 5. We Collaborate:

- a. We circulated newsletters from groups such as the Climate Council and Greening Australia to our members.

According to Zonta says Now on Climate Change, there were 32 million climate refugees in 2022 and this number could increase in the future. Statistics show that a one degree rise in average temperature was associated with a 6% increase in violence against women. We hope we can continue to play a part in bringing about change.

## **SERVICE COMMITTEE**

### **BREAST CUSHIONS**

The production of Breast Care Cushions has been an active focus for the Service Committee, now entering our 26<sup>th</sup> year, to support the comfort and well-being of women recovering from breast cancer surgery. At our side is an amazingly efficient group of women sewers (over 40 of them) self-named the Silent Sewers who work together with Service Committee members to produce up to 763 cushions annually. This was our record-breaking output in 2017.

Since our beginnings in 2010 we have produced over 12,367 breast care cushions. We salute our long-term member Ivanka Jovanovich for initiating and sustaining this venture over the journey. Her expertise and guidance have led this project to becoming a flagship Service activity.

We receive many requests, both internationally and locally for us to mail cushions to recovering breast cancer patients.

Many thanks also extend to our wonderful members who attend Ivanka's home and assist with gift packing and delivery to St Andrew's Hospital.

### **BIRTHING KITS**

Birthing Kit production has increased significantly over the last year. In November 2025 Angela Vandellis, assisted by other members, supervised students at Adelaide High School to assemble 400 Birthing Kits that were shipped to Nigeria.

Campbelltown Rotary group collaborated in the assembly of 100 Birthing Kits.

Last year we worked with 100 Mormon Churchwomen to assemble 1000 Birthing Kits and in May this year we have been asked to, again, guide the assembly of an ambitious 2000 Birthing Kits.

These portable kits are responsible for saving the lives of women and their babies in developing countries where poor hygiene presents a significant barrier to their survival.

### **THE EASTERN ADELAIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE**

The EADVS is an NFP, non-government registered charitable organisation. Seven case workers work with around 80 families and single women. The Service applies a multi-faceted approach in the delivery of services that involve management, crisis intervention, counselling, access to extensive educational opportunities and access to medium-term crisis housing. Added to this is the advocacy and referral of partnerships that will benefit the client group. At least 331 women and children are helped each year. 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.

Targeted supports include a designated Domestic Violence Case Manager, housing support, financial counselling, psychotherapists and specialist children's services.

This description of the EADVS wrap-around services is only the tip of the iceberg in this far-reaching program. For the last 16 years the Zonta Club of Adelaide has offered help and support by attending the EADVS each Tuesday. One team packs food donations from Oz Harvest, all carefully managed by reviewing culture, as well as cooking and refrigeration facilities provided in the motels where many of the women are housed.

Our volunteers then deliver the bags of food to various motels situated around Adelaide.

We also have a second team that organises the clothing and donation shed within the property, to ensure that the clothing on display is suitable, clean, in good repair, and attractive for our younger clients.

Zonta has established a lasting supportive relationship with the staff at the EADVS in honouring the many victims of DV.

*"We could not possibly provide this level of care throughout the year without the help of your wonderful members."*

## FUNDRAISING

The Service Committee has worked diligently to ensure we do our share of fundraising for the club. Our Breast Cushion supplies are not cheap, and we are conscious that we need to contribute to, not only our essential purchases, but to support the other Zonta projects we value.

We have a close relationship with SA Open Gardens in catering at gardens when they're open to the public. Occasionally we benefit from receiving half of the gate takings if the owners choose to nominate Zonta as the chosen charity. This generosity enabled the service Committee to raise nearly \$5,000.00 at the last OG in Crafrers.

### Gerry Sanderson Co-convenor



## PR and COMMUNICATION

**Membership** of this committee includes Kaye Roberts-Thomson, Miriam Zhu, Trish Palmer, Lucy Mc Donald, Isabella McCulloch and Melissa Klenke with Maxine Panegyres as convenor.

We farewelled Andrea Flynn D'Arcy and thanked her for work developing our social media strategy.

### Social Media

Lucy Mc Donald has taken on our strategy and we thank her for work increasing our social media presence. We also thank Bridget Mather and Bev Gum who post information relevant to Zonta Australia and relevant women's issues.

### Zephyr

Kaye Roberts-Thomson has continued with the Zephyr supported by Maxine Panegyres when needed.

### Website

Melissa Klenke has undertaken a critical role updating the website in conjunction with Erica Majba and Maxine Panegyres. We thank Melissa for her work and her willingness to do so.

### Club Pamphlet

Kaye Roberts-Thomson and Maxine Panegyres worked on updated content for the pamphlets with Lucy Mc Donald finalising the style.

It has been a pleasure to work with this committee gathering advice and opinions to get the work done. I would like to thank members for their contributions.

### FACEBOOK DATA (Courtesy Lucy McDonald)

<b>Total Followers</b>	1,138	<b>Age groups</b>	
<b>Total Views in 2026</b>	33.3k	18-24 years	2.2%
		25-34 years	8.6%
<b>Female</b>	93.2%	35-44 years	19.2%
<b>Male</b>	6.8%	45-54 years	23.2%
		55-64 years	20.2%
		65+ years	26.6%
<b>Location</b>			
Australia	92.8%		
USA	4.1%		
Germany	0.7%		
Italy	0.5%		
New Zealand	0.5%		
<b>Within Australia</b>			
Adelaide	64.6%		
Melbourne	1.6%		
Sydney	0.9%		
Top rated post	Women of Achievement	Views 2,640	Likes 71

**Maxine Panegyres Convenor:**

## AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Awards Committee enjoyed a productive and inspiring year, strengthening our commitment to empowering young women across our community. Through scholarships, leadership programs and recognition awards, the committee supported young women to develop confidence, leadership skills, and pathways for future success.

### Supporting Young Women Through Education

The club has continued to award two scholarships at both Mitcham Girls High and Adelaide High Schools. These annual secondary school scholarships helped the students pursue their academic goals during critical senior years.

Adelaide High School scholarship holders for 2026 are Year 12 Sophy Crowley and Year 11 Vani Shan

Mitcham Girls High School scholarship holders for 2026 Year 12 Hollie Knott and Year 11 Sharneeka Ferguson

### Empowering Young Women to Lead

The Club successfully delivered its sixth Young Leaders Program in 2025, marking an important milestone with **120 graduates** to date. The program continued to empower young women with leadership skills, confidence, and community connections.

Melanie Tate facilitated the program, assisted by Bailee Phillips. Strong mentoring support came from club members Kaye Roberts-Thomson, Erica Majba, Maxine Panegyres, and Raema Mahony. It was pleasing to welcome Lucy McDonald, Louise Stevens, Yvonne Karpinski as mentors in this year's program. They were an asset to the program and valued support from the other mentors.

The program concluded with a graduation ceremony held in September, to celebrate the achievements and growth of the participants. The Hon Lucy Hood was guest speaker.

### Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award

We had many excellent applications by referrals from our partners, Mitcham Girls High School, Migrant Resource Centre, and Puddle Jumpers. Shreya Madhan Raj was our club winner, and her application forwarded to District 23 to compete for the Zonta International Award. After completing its judging, the panel forwarded our unsuccessful applicants to other clubs as they had limited applicants for their club award. We were thrilled to see two of these young women receive awards at Adelaide Hills and Mt Barker Zonta clubs.



Club members and applicants to our club for the award.

### Amelia Earhart Breakfast

Once again, the Annual Breakfast in the Botanic Park occurred in mid-January 2026. There was a particularly good turn out and the club was able to send a generous contribution to the Zonta International Amelia Earhart Scholarship Fund.

## International Women's Day event at Adelaide Town Hall

The club entered Shianne Durdin into the category of Community and Inspiring Young Women 16 to 30 years. Shianne has been active in her school community SRC, on her local council Youth Advisory Committee, founded an online advisory service for other blind people to assist with digital technology. She recently competed in Japan for the Australian Blind Women's Football team. At our April club meeting Shianne, Shreya and Sharneeka spoke at the meeting.



Shianne, Shreya, and Sharneeka presenting to the club

## Celebrating South Australian Women at 2026 Women of Achievement Award Ceremony

The City of Adelaide Lord Mayor generously hosted this ceremony at the Adelaide Town Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Over seventy guests attended and had the opportunity to hear the Lord Mayor Dr Jane Lomax Smith deliver her speech. The guests were able to meet the awardees and mingle and had the opportunity to tour the building with the Lord Mayor as the guide.

The awardees were: -

**Science and Health**, Associate Professor Wendy Ingman

**Advocacy for Women and Girls**, Fiona Dorman

**Business Innovation**, Dr Katherine Christ

**Medicine**, Dr Fariba Behnia-Willison

**Youth Voice**, Amber Brock-Fabel

**Indigenous Women**, Vicky Welgraven AM

**Community Service**, Linda Fisk, and Anna Kemp



The Awards Committee thanks all partners, mentors, and members for their continued support. Together, we are proud to champion the achievements and potential of women and girls in our community, and we look forward to building on this success in the coming year.

**Raema Mahony Convenor**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership Committee: Melissa Klenke, Jan Wood, Raema Mahony, Margie Glover, Annette Brock, Janice Watson.

Our club currently consists of 47 members. Our most recent inductees are Jude Murphy, Linda Mackenzie & Jan Wood. Miriam Zhu has resigned her membership.

This year I am new, not only to the Club, but as Membership Convenor, and so I am still 'learning the ropes'. There have been many visitors to our meetings, but we haven't inducted any new members since I took over the role.

We organised a Welcome Coffee information session on Saturday 18th April and invited those who had enquired through our website and also four prospective members who have attended at least one meeting with members of our club. At this informal event we discuss Zonta and its role, internationally, nationally and locally.

Each member of the committee still takes on the responsibility of keeping in touch with existing members. The committee also looks after new & prospective members to match them with their passions and find out what interests them about our Club.

We received the Zonta District 23 Membership Committee document entitled: Membership Issues - Ideas for Consideration in your Clubs. Key points are How to Involve Everyone in Your club; How to Attract New Members; How to bring new members into an older well-established Club; How to get 30-40 years olds involved.

Our committee continues to discuss these ideas and where they may be helpful or relevant for our Club. We ensure that the significant birthdays of our members are acknowledged and celebrated. We present them with a bouquet of flowers and our decorated birthday hat. The hat is to be worn for one meeting. This past year, we celebrated significant birthdays for Lucy McDonald, Ivanka Jovanovich, Verena Colby, Aileen Connon, Desi Zed and myself.

**Melissa Klenke Convenor**

**FRIENDS of ZONTA**

The Zonta Club of Adelaide would like to acknowledge and thank the many Friends of Zonta who have actively supported us during the past year.

These people are non-members who have contributed to our club activities in many ways. Some for many years. Some are business entities who have donated to support our scholarships and projects.

Thank you:

- Mary Burford for continuing to support the EADVS, making and packing breast cushions as well as packing Birthing Kits.
- Silent Sewers coordinated by Dymphna Sprod.
- Print Junction for printing Breast Cushion Cards at no charge.
- Lucia's Café for voucher for Amelia Earhart Breakfast raffle.
- Peter and Joel Brockhoff Orchardists with donations for our walkathon.
- Tony and Mark's Fruit and Veg with fruit donation for walkathon.
- House of Health Collective with a voucher for Amelia Earhart Breakfast raffle.
- Pretty Petals Florist for supporting our club with yellow roses at lower cost.
- Barbara Wing for her generous donation to support scholarships.
- Kerry Condous for donations for fundraising events.
- Heather Luke for contributions to Open Garden