



# ZONTA

## CLUB OF ADELAIDE INC

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

# ZEPHYR

Newsletter of the  
Zonta Club of Adelaide

## JUNE 2026

Issue 413



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### ROSIE EGAN

The past two years have been tremendously rewarding, as I have developed new skills and gained knowledge as a Zontian leader. I have loved the opportunity to work with strong, like-minded women towards our shared goals.

As President, I am immensely proud of our club and its achievements over these two years as we continue to build a better world for women and girls.

I would like to sincerely thank the Board for their hard work and support, in particular Vice President Desi Zed, Secretary Thelma Harvey and Treasurer Di Lancaster. Thanks also to Board members Colleen Tomlian, Louise Stevens, Janice Watson and Vonney Karpinski. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to new President Colleen Tomlian and Treasurer Erica Majba, as well as Desi and Thelma, who are continuing as Vice President and Secretary respectively. Welcome also to new Board Directors Deb Lodge, Lucy McDonald and Georgina Tenny. The club is in excellent hands as we move into the 2026-2028 Biennium.

Area Director Jenni Foreman will be inducting our new board at our Club Meeting on 3 June.

It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of our lovely Adelaide Zonta member, Daina Long. A dear friend and a wonderful Adelaide Zonta member, Daina embodied the spirit of Zonta. Trustworthy, calm and loyal, her quiet presence had a powerful impact on others. Daina saw the positive in everything and everyone. She actively supported others through her work in a range of roles and mentoring new members. Always stepping up when needed, Daina served as Vice President, on the Board, the Membership Committee and the Nominating Committee. She provided many wonderful silent auction prizes from her workplace and managed the club collection of books for sale for many years. We will miss her calm personality and her beautiful smile.

Her funeral will be held on Wednesday, 3 June at 1:30pm at Partridge House, 38 Partridge St, Glenelg.



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I'd also like to acknowledge the passing of Pauline Glover. She was a past president of the Zonta Club of Adelaide Flinders, as well as Area 2 Director and District 23 Lieutenant Governor. Pauline co-founded Rugs With Love, donating 3232 hand-knitted rugs over 20 years and generously contributing funds to Zonta clubs, including the Zonta Club of Adelaide. Vale Pauline Glover – you will be greatly missed.

The club sends our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Aileen Connon, Val Baldwin and Catherine Alcock who have been recovering from recent health issues. We hope that these valued club members will be up and about very soon.

A large group of Adelaide Zontians attended the Area 2 Workshop in Victor Harbor on 2 May. District 23 Governor Debbie Schmidt and Lieutenant Governor Wendy Quinn were present at the event. The inspiring program included speakers Amanda Blair, Christie Smith from The Village Co, Eleanor Elferink representing Young Women in STEM, Charlotte Ellison and Mary Tyrer from Young Women in Leadership, and Caroline Munday highlighting Zonta Says No.



The Birthing Kit Foundation Australia celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday at the event, with our club receiving a Certificate for 40 Assembly Days. Thank you to Angela, Bev and Melissa and your teams for your on-going leadership in this area. Last year BKFA reached a milestone of making 3,000,000 kits! Thank you to Jenni Foreman and all involved in the organisation of the workshop.

Congratulations need to go to the following members on their years of Zonta service.

5 years – Catherine Alcock, Leanne Longfellow, Jill Olifent, Helen Pertsinidis, Colleen Tomlian, Desi Zed, Miriam Zhu.

10 years – Kathy Ellis, Michelle Lensink, Deb Lodge, Raema Mahony, Maxine Panegyres, Kaye Roberts-Thomson, Gerry Sanderson, Carol Summers.

15 years – Wendy Bruce, Di Lancaster, Janice Watson, Thelma Harvey, Angela Vandellis.

ZI keyrings were presented for our five newest members – Linda MacKenzie, Jude Murphy, Cody Obst, Georgina Tenny and Jan Wood.

I am proud to announce that Lucy McDonald has been appointed by Wendy Quinn (District 23 Governor Elect) to the position of District 23 Greater Visibility Coordinator from July 26 - July 28. Lucy also promotes Blind Date with a Book at our meetings, providing beautifully wrapped surprise packages to support our club!

Congratulations on the election of Australian Sandy Venn-Brown to the position of Zonta International President 2026-2028.

I will be asking for member input into the motions at the ZI Convention via email. Rosie, Bridget, Kaye, Thelma and Di are attending this Vancouver event.

Adelaide Zontians attended a successful Birthing Kits afternoon at the Church of Latter-Day Saints at Fulham Gardens on 9 May, where Gerry, Melissa, Di, Heather, Helen, Mel, Bailee, Maxine, Jo, Mary and Rosie assisted with the event. Organiser Alexandra Dalman was honoured at Saturday's workshop for her excellent commitment to this cause.

Thelma, Rosie and Melissa attended the Pathways to Prevention - Body Safety Conference at the Adelaide Convention Centre on 11 May. It was wonderful to be part of the 100 sector experts, from government and policy leaders to community organisations from across South Australia attending, with the forum creating a shared space for connection and commitment to preventing domestic, family, and sexual violence.



Thank you to Kaye and the Committee Convenors for their hard work and expertise in compiling the 2025-2026 Annual Report, outlining another successful year.

Our May meeting featured Fiona Dorman and Bridget Mather, who spoke of their experiences in representing Zonta Australia and the National Council of Women at international conferences. Fiona is Chairperson of Premier's Council for Women and President of the National Council of Women, Australia and Bridget is the Chair of Zonta Australia, NCW National Policy & Advocacy Leader, and Member of the Australian W20 delegation at the CSW70 in New York March 2026.

The presentation reflected the connections between Zonta Australia and NCWA in national and international advocacy spaces where international connections and shared commitments work to advance gender equality, human rights and women's leadership.

As this is my last Zephyr article as your president, I'd like to thank everyone for supporting me in this role. It has been an incredible privilege to lead the club over the last two years. The values of Zonta are very dear to me, as it is more important than ever to advocate for women's and girls' rights in an increasingly challenging world.

## **ZONTA SAYS NOW ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Thelma Harvey**

Zonta says now on climate change: Thelma, Bridget, Kaye, Bev and Wendy

Our committee will be meeting on Saturday, 6th June to discuss plans for the year and to organise a way of marking Plastic Free July.

The Zonta says now Think Tank meets on the second Saturday of even-numbered months. Check the website for meeting dates and links. The website itself carries many links and stories which are relevant and of interest.

Some good news:

- a) Green Adelaide network reports that a coastal daisy, once common along Adelaide's beaches, is making a comeback, thanks to dedicated seed conservation work.
- b) SA's National Parks and Wildlife Service provides information about our parks and ways for people to get involved in helping preserve them. There is also information on walking trails, even those which are pram or wheelchair friendly, which you can visit and enjoy.

Check out their website for all the details.

World Environment Day occurs on Friday 5th June. You can join the free webinar to hear what Greening Australia is doing to rebuild nature. Check the Greening Australia website to sign up.

At our May meeting we welcomed two new inductees, Rosemary & Helen. Please make them welcome and introduce yourselves in due course. There are several other people who are interested in membership and have visited our meetings and events. It is possible we will induct more new members in the very near future.

### Helen Tunbridge

“During my career with the Education Department of South Australia, I enjoyed many leadership roles in Special Education, as a Principal, a Superintendent of Schools and as an Assistant Director. The role I enjoyed the most was when I was Superintendent of Social inclusion. I worked with seven government agencies and the Social Inclusion Unit to implement programs across the state to support 15-year-old students to stay at school or in study, when the government increased the school leaving age from 15 to 17 years of age.

Whether I was working in the country, in the southern suburbs or the city, I joined the local Women In Educational Leadership group which gave women support and encouragement to take up leadership roles. For six years, I was also the Chair of the Statewide Women in Educational Leadership Committee.

I am blessed to have three grandchildren and I support them by taking them to hockey and gymnastic training. My interests include Pilates and yoga. I play Canasta - hand and foot, weekly, and I knit scarves for the Hutt Street Centre.

In Zonta, I am interested in joining the Young Women’s Leadership Programme. I would like to help in other areas, once I have a better understanding of the many aspects of Adelaide Zonta.”

### Rosemary Carroll

“I have been retired for five years and am thoroughly enjoying this phase of life. I am an avid reader, and enjoy gardening and cooking, especially preparing meals that can be shared with family and friends along with good wine and conversation. I like to stay fit so I walk and take Pilates classes.

My husband and I came late to overseas travel, but it has become a shared pleasure and a highlight of our year. We like trying new foods, having new cultural experiences and especially slowing down to visit the countryside and smaller villages on self-guided walking tours.

As an English and history teacher, I spent twenty years in coeducational high schools in Sydney and then twenty years at Annesley and Walford. Providing opportunities and the skills for girls to think critically and to articulate their thoughts was the most rewarding part of my work. Having the confidence to speak and believing that your ideas are worth communicating is an important step towards equality.

I have appreciated the time to follow my interests over the past five years but am looking forward to getting involved in Zonta initiatives this year.”



## YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS PROGRAM

This year's program began on 14 and 15 May, welcoming 20 enthusiastic Year 10 students and five dedicated Zonta mentors. We were delighted to have Melanie Tate, CEO of Puddle Jumpers, return to lead the training sessions, ably supported by Bailee Phillips. It was also wonderful to have young Zonta club member Cody Obst attend both days and help lead activities with the students. Cody has been involved with Puddle Jumpers for the past four to five years, supporting camps and building her leadership skills through their Minties camps. This program provided a valuable opportunity for her to continue that growth under Melanie's guidance while working with a new group of young women. We were very fortunate that her work roster allowed her to be part of both days.

On the second day at Adelaide High School, students heard from Sophy Crowley, a 2024 ZYWL graduate, Year 11 student, current Year 12 AHS scholarship winner, and recent recipient of a Premier's Scholarship at Teen Parliament. Sophy spoke warmly about her experience in the ZYWL program and the confidence it gave her to apply for Teen Parliament. Her story clearly resonated with the students, who were keen to ask questions and learn more about what she had gained from the program.

From May through to the end of August, the Zonta mentors will be working closely with their student project teams on the following topics : Life After Prison; Global Materna Health; Starting Over in Australia; Defence Families; Women, Power And Change.



## BREAST CUSHIONS

On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May we held our second Breast Care Cushion sewing day for the year. It was a wonderful, but busy day with the Silent Sewers, yet again, working hard to produce 160 breast cushions to top up supplies at St Andrew's Hospital.

This time we had a few extra dynamics happening in that the aim was to both sew and gift pack the cushions on the same day because of the date-clash with Club's commitment to the Birthing Kits Assembly on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup>.

This time we included a young student who wanted to help with the BC packing as part of her school project so that became our impetus to get it all done on the one day to solve the problem. Every person present put in extra effort into getting this goal achieved.

We were fortunate to receive 40 beautifully made breast cushions from the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills, via Sharon Gu. As Ashford Hospital no longer performs breast cancer surgery so the Adelaide Hills club now makes lung cancer cushions. The 40 ZAH breast cushions were included in our hospital delivery on Saturday morning.



## BIRTHING KITS

There is mention of the Birthing Kit Assembly in Rosie's President's Report and the photos have also been shared on our Club Facebook page.

Brief details are: 130 women from The Mormon Church gathered at the church at Fulham Gardens with the aim of assembling 2,000 kits. This is a significant increase to the 1,000 assembled last year. The women gathered from various diocese all around South Australia.

A big thank you to Bev Gum who has fostered our connection with the Mormon community, and this will be an ongoing activity.

It was a lively and focused group working together to achieve our objective and the amazing team from Zonta and Puddle Jumpers made it happen.

Rosie has mentioned the names of those who helped on the day, but I add my personal thanks to all of those who cheerfully and determinedly gave up their time to contribute on a significant level. A big thank you to former member Mary Burford who stepped in at the last minute to replace Bev Gum and manage the whole birthing kit packing process for the afternoon. Mary's experience in demonstrating and directing what was required enabled the 2000 birthing kits to be completed .

## EADVS THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS

A beautiful morning tea to express thanks to our Zonta volunteers was held at the Eastern Adelaide Domestic Violence Service on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May. There were many groups involved including Campbelltown Rotary, three church groups, Soroptimists, philanthropic businesses, Campbelltown Council and all of those who soften the edges of demand on the often hard and responsible work done by the case workers.

It was utterly amazing to hear what kind people do. Donating money, essential living supplies like toiletries, household essentials, food, clothing choices and things as humble as supplying tracksuits to the women that can double as day wear as well as something to wear to bed at night.

Some charities supply cash to the women who have no money at all. This means they can make feel the dignity of making their own choices.

The whole concept of giving to others who are in dire need is a drive that certainly is on display with the support of Domestic Violence victims. Our Zonta team has this attitude in abundance and believe me, this does not go unnoticed



## Report on the June Meeting

Meeting opened with Bridget Mather giving her presentation from CSW70 and Women Deliver as per our AGM on the 6th.

### Business

Resolutions for the Mid Term Conference have been submitted to NCWA.

Resolutions: To standardise and harmonise laws to prevent and prosecute domestic, family and sexual violence including coercive control.

And work collaboratively to share information about those prosecuted for sexual, domestic and family violence offences across state policing entities.

It was also advised that the meeting in Canberra has been moved to the 28th and 29th of June.

Since the state election letters have now been sent to new MP's and ministers. From these a number of replies have been received and meetings are currently being set up

The council is requesting that members and organisations update their information at the following

<https://forms.gle/Ta64eYbitkHMqTfW8>

NCWSA has also set up an Instagram account [www.instagram.com/ncw.southaustralia](http://www.instagram.com/ncw.southaustralia)

Volunteers would be greatly appreciated for anyone that would like to help with setting up and organising any future events. Looking at setting up an Events Sub-committee.

Would also like to hear from anyone who could help with setting up two upcoming seminars or can help us connect to potential speakers and venues.

Next meeting 12/6/26

New speaker Dr Terese Edwards and researchers from Swinburne University on child support and abuse

**JUNE**

**3 Club meeting. Induction of new Board.**

**Speaker: Amanda Martin Zahra Foundation**

**15 Board meeting**

**JULY**

**1 Club meeting Speaker Georgina Tenny on her experience at US Congress**

**11-14 Zonta international Convention, Vancouver**

**20 Board Meeting**

**AUGUST**

**5 Club meeting Club directions discussion**

**17 Board meeting**

**SEPTEMBER**

**2 Club meeting, Graduation of Young Women Leaders' Programme**

**21 Board meeting**

**OCTOBER**

**7 Club meeting Speaker Vicky Welgraven one of the Women of Achievement**

**19 Board meeting**

**NOVEMBER**

**4 Club meeting**

**16 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, Carol Summers

### 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 May**

**May**

**6 Linda McKenzie**

**9 Rosie Egan**

**22 Angela Vandellis**

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

**[www.zontaclubofadelaide.org.au](http://www.zontaclubofadelaide.org.au) 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**

