



**Zonta Club
of Ballarat Inc**

Member of Zonta International

BAZ

**ZONTA CLUB OF BALLARAT INC.
PO Box 1223, BALLARAT, VICTORIA 3354**

Editor: s.harbison@bigpond.com

District 23 Conference Edition Oct 2009

Area 4 District 23

Ballarat Dinner Meetings
are held the fourth Thursday of the month 6.30pm for
7.00pm at The Barkly Motel, Main St., Ballarat.
~~~~ Phone Pat Fraser on 03 5332 2995 ~~~~

**PRESIDENT Lee Belcher**



**From the President's desk.....**

The District 23 Conference went off with a bang over the weekend of 23-27 September, and I attended as Club Delegate and a first-timer. Hilary and the Conference Committee deserve a whole chest full of medals for all their hard work, everything was planned to a "T" with a heterogeneous group of invited speakers, workshops and business sessions interspersed with good food, great venue and great company! The only thing that could have been better was the weather.....if anyone had been selling thermal underwear at their market table they would have sold out!!!

149 registrants from 32 out of the 36 clubs in District 23 were represented, and it was good to put a name to a face for all the D23 Board Members and meet a ridgey-didge Zontian from Texas – Gloria Stootman Wristen who attended as our ZI International Representative. The theme of the Conference was "STARZ" - Successful Teamwork Advocating Women's Rights Through Zonta- and this was reflected in the content of the key note speakers. On Friday Libby Lloyd spoke about her work as Chair of the National Council to reduce Violence Against Women Advisory Group, on Saturday Fiona Krautil focussed on aspects of leadership citing her own experiences during her career path leading to her current position as CEO of Girl Guides Australia. On Sunday a highlight for me was the address by Ruth Bollard, as she took us along her 18 year journey from medical student to Consultant Surgeon that was anything but smooth as she tackled obstacles encountered when

a woman is determined to succeed in a male-dominated profession. The workshop sessions broke into 4 streams; Elimination of Violence Against Women, Advocacy, Women's Health Issues, and Leadership. The D23 Officers and Board Members presented their reports on Friday, our own Maureen Christie was honoured at the Ceremony of Remembrance when Pat Fraser placed a Zonta Rose in her name in the Remembrance vase which remained at the front of the hall for all to see throughout the Conference. Val Sarah was completely unflappable as the Conference MC and was awarded her 30 years of Service certificate by District Governor Alison Martin.



*PIP Val Sarah AM receiving a certificate for 30 years of service to ZI at the Conference. Anne Smail was also recognised for her 30 years of service. She will be presented with her certificate on her return from France.*

During the Business Sessions the slate of candidates for the District positions for 2010-2011 was presented, and Candidates were given the opportunity to present themselves. Voting by delegates was conducted at Sparrows Tweet on Saturday morning, and the results announced at 11am as follows:

|                     |                   |                   |                |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| District Governor – | Jane Smith        | Area 3 Director – | Leanne Sultan  |
| Lt Governor         | Cintra Amos       | Area 4 Director – | Margaret Hinks |
| Treasurer –         | Carolyn Colquhoun | Area 5 Director – | Carol Fuller   |

Area 1 Director – Robyn Scholes  
Nominating Committee:  
1. Judith Rothe (Chairman)  
2. Sally Gordon  
3. Georgie Hutchison

Area 2 Director – Erica Majba  
Vice Area 2 Director - Anna Siebert

I hear from those sober enough to remember that the Dine Around on Friday night (especially “Blood On the Southern Cross”) was a great success and that the Gala dinner was a real buzz. If you would like to read more details of the conference please ask to see the Programme Handbook or visit the District 23 website: [zontadistrict23.org.au](http://zontadistrict23.org.au). The next Conference will be in Melbourne in October 2011...if you can't wait that long dig out the 10-gallon hat and the cowboy boots and head off to San Antonio for Convention in June 2010!

Lee Belcher, President, Zonta Club of Ballarat

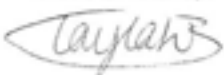
The response below from Taylah, a recipient of local Zonta support makes it all worthwhile!

Zonta Club Ballarat  
PO Box 1223  
BAKERY HILL 3354

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Taylah Bordonaro. I am fourteen years old and live in Traralgon. This year was my first year performing in the Speech and Drama section of the Royal South Street Eisteddfod. I was awarded the inaugural Zonta Prize which was truly overwhelming. I had a very enjoyable time in Ballarat and hope to return and perform next year. Thankyou so much for sponsoring the 2009 Royal South Street Society Eisteddfod and I hope you will continue to sponsor the Royal South Street Eisteddfod, and give other young female actors the opportunity and fabulous award I have received.

Yours sincerely,



Taylah Bordonaro

## Ballarat conferences go green

A Zonta Conference is the latest event in Ballarat to have reduced its carbon footprint. Throughout the year Council has been offering to plant a tree for every delegate that attends a conference in Ballarat.

The Zonta International District 23 Conference was held last month. It attracted 150 delegates from across Australia and overseas.

Since the initiative was introduced earlier this year, trees have been planted to make four conferences more environmentally sustainable.

A carbon footprint is the direct effect that your actions and lifestyle have on the environment in terms of carbon dioxide emissions. People can reduce their carbon footprint by adjusting their consumer habits and planting trees. When people attend conferences their carbon emissions accumulate because they travel to the event and then energy is used for accommodation, supplies and staging of the event.

One tree can absorb around six kilograms of carbon dioxide per year, which is the equivalent to 120 black balloons. Council is planting the trees along creeks, waterways and in public open spaces.

For further information about this initiative contact Council's Tourism and Business Events Officer Rachael Houtsma on 5320 5757 or email [conference@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:conference@ballarat.vic.gov.au)

Below: Zonta Conference Chairman Hilary Pope, District Governor Alison Martin, Zonta International Treasurer/Secretary Gloria Stootman and Cr Cheryl Bromfield planting a tree.



City of Ballarat Community Magazine October 2009

## PRAM Report for BAZ

PR - promotions and public relations A - Advocacy and Archive M - Membership



Committee Chair – Val Sarah

Committee: Eileen Anderson, Sandy Harbison, Anne Smail & Carol Norton.

A Most Successful Fireside Meeting for New and Prospective Members held at Anne Smails beautiful home "Lauderdale"



Standing L – R: Val Sarah, Norma Byrne (P), Karen Eaton (P), Carol-Lynn Bond (P), new member Carole Norton, President Lee Belcher, Eileen Anderson and new member Carolyn McMickan.

Seated L – R: Anne Smail, Pat Fraser (P) denotes prospective member



## WOMEN WHO KNOW THEIR PLACE

Barbara Walters, an American reporter, did a story on gender roles in Kabul (Afghanistan) several years before the Afghan conflict.

She noted that women customarily walked five paces behind their husbands.

She recently returned to Kabul and observed that women still walk behind their husbands. Despite the overthrow of the oppressive Taliban regime, the women now seem to,

and are happy to, maintain the old custom..

Ms.Walters approached one of the Afghani women and asked, 'Why do you now seem happy with an old custom that you once tried so desperately to change?'

The woman looked Ms.Walters straight in the eyes, and without hesitation said, 'Land Mines.'

Moral of the story is (no matter what language you speak or where you go): BEHIND EVERY MAN, THERE'S A SMART WOMAN

## Zontians' thanks for

### Ballarat welcome

ON BEHALF of the members of District 23 of Zonta International attending the district conference in Ballarat on the last weekend in September, I would like to acknowledge the warm welcome given to Zontians from Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

We deeply appreciated the opportunity afforded by the City of Ballarat to "green" the locality with the planting of a tree in honour of each of the 150 attendees.

Local business houses offered us admirable support, and local speakers at our business sessions and workshops added an insight into the vibrant life of this city and community, and its concerns for the well-being of women and family both locally and globally.

ALISON MARTIN  
Zonta International  
Doublebay, WA

## Don't take life so seriously!

### DANCE



## Status of Women and Service Committee Report



**Committee Chair: Pat Fraser**

**Committee: Judith Coull, Judy Snowden, Gillian Canavan and Helen Eyres**

Our next dinner meeting will be our last for the year and will be our Christmas celebration. Please bring non perishable food items and an unwrapped gift for a child for families less fortunate than ours.

There will be an unloved present auction – bring along your unloved items, wrapped beautifully and for a small donation you can choose a gift to take home. You never know, you may love it!

White Ribbon Day celebrations will be held over a sixteen day period from 25 November beginning with a BBQ at Alfred Deakin Square. More detail from Gillian soon.

Ribbons and arm bands available from Hilary for \$2 each.

### Members Moments

Pat is expecting her 18<sup>th</sup> Great Grand Child!  
Well done Pat

#### Birthdays

**October:** Sam Moore 30<sup>th</sup>

**November:** Carole Norton 5<sup>th</sup>, Stella Coffey 7<sup>th</sup>,  
Norma Byrne 10<sup>th</sup>

**December:** Greta Christie 6<sup>th</sup>, Gillian Canavan 10<sup>th</sup>,  
Judy Snowden 12<sup>th</sup>, Carolyn McMickan 27<sup>th</sup>

### Have You Ever Felt This Tired?



**Sandy has, when she has finished BAZ for another month!**



**New Member Carolyn (left) pictured with Guest Speaker Fiona Reeves**

Fiona was appointed Ballarat's first fulltime McGrath Breast Care Nurse in June this year and in recognition of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, she spoke about the McGrath Foundation and her role at St John of God in Ballarat.

Fiona has seen 90 clients since June which include men as well as women, also partners and the families of clients. Fiona sees an ongoing need for community support.

Fiona noted that the survival rate for sufferers is good and although treatment can be brief the impact is long term. It is important to monitor changes and seek early intervention.

The breast cushions provided by our members make such a difference, said Fiona as they are seen as a sign of consideration of others and are a comfort to sufferers. Fiona passed on their thanks to our members.

### District Conference and IWD/Fundraising Committees



**Chairman Hilary Pope**

**Fund Raising:** Hilary gave us a few more hints re the mystery bus trip to take place on Sunday 15 November. It will leave Ballarat at 10am and return between 5 and 6pm. The trip *may* include visits to gardens, lunch and Christmas Shopping. **Bookings to Hilary ASAP.**

**IWD:** March 11 2010 has been chosen for the IWD dinner to be held at Midlands Golf Club. The raffle prize is a fabulous painting being donated by artist Carol-Lynn Bond.

**White Ribbon Day: A Reminder:** A Family day will be held on 25 November followed by sixteen days of awareness of White Ribbon Day and of violence against women. The Family Day will include BBQ, stalls, band and guest speakers. Graphic Design students from SMB will undertake a project to produce images and graphic work for the concept.

**Conference:** Please pass completed evaluation forms to Hilary ASAP.



Carol Norton (left) chats with Guest Speaker Sue Searls.

In June 2008, Sue was appointed Diocesan Director for Caritas Australia in Ballarat. Sue chairs the committee hosting a travelling exhibition coming to Ballarat between November 4 and 18. **Blueprint for a Better World** addresses the 8 Millennium Development Goals with particular reference to poverty. The exhibition is being taken throughout Australia to raise awareness of the international role of Caritas involving work with “the poorest of the poor”

Sue spoke of “The Power of One” and the responsibility we have – along with Government in supporting these people.

Our club will have a stall at the exhibition, which is free. The Hypothetical on Sunday 8 November is entry by gold coin and the theme will be “Food, a fundamental right”

Sue thanked Val Sarah for her support and noted that “Val is a dedicated and committed member of both the Exhibition and the Hypothetical committees”



Above is the award received by our club for the IWD event organised each year in Ballarat

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# A healthy ambition for women

By Marcus Power

A BALLARAT surgeon has a simple message for women aged 50 or older: get your breasts checked.

Ballarat general surgeon and breast and endocrine specialist Ruth Bollard said more women in the Grampians region needed to take advantage of the Breastscreen program.

For the program to be deemed successful in a given region, more than 70 per cent of women in the target age range need to participate.

But the ideal rate of participation is more than 90 per cent.

“We’re not far above 70 per cent in the Grampians region, (so) we’re within targets but it’s not ideal,” Ms Bollard said.

She said in rural areas, fear and denial of breast cancer symptoms meant women tended to present later with breast cancer symptoms.

Ms Bollard was the keynote speaker on the final day of the Zonta International District 23 conference yesterday.

She spoke of her experiences working in a traditionally male-dominated field in Britain and Australia.

When she began her career, only three per cent of surgeons in the Britain were women.

Today, the figure has improved slightly to six per cent in the UK, and 7.8 per cent in Australia.

The amount of training required to become a surgeon — it took her 18 years to become a specialist — made it difficult for many women.

“Most women want to have children and that doesn’t make it easy to do.

“Although there are flexible training arrangements, it’s still seen as a second-class way of training.”

Despite this, she said surgery was no longer a boys’ club.

“I don’t think there is a glass ceiling. But I think there was in my day.”

More than 150 delegates from across Australia took part in the three-day conference.

Ballarat Zonta club member and past Zonta International president Val Sarah was presented with a certificate to mark her 30-year membership of the organisation.

It was the first time the event had been held in Ballarat.

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Carolyn McMicken and Carol Norton

Our two new members spoke at our birthday dinner about their first District Conference experience. Carolyn described the event as successful, celebratory, historical, steeped in tradition, professional and social. Carolyn said she met some amazing women from all walks of life, 103 really positive, confident women. Both Carol and Carolyn said “I felt proud to be a Zontian”

# People & Places

## CONFERENCE

**WHAT:** Zonta International District 23 Conference  
**WHERE:** Mercure Ballarat  
**WHEN:** September 25-27

**RIGHT:** Past district governor Elizabeth Woodgate with keynote speaker Fiona Krautl.  
**BELOW:** From left, Young Women in Public Affairs co-ordinator Bianca Heaney, Zonta district governor Alison Martin, 2008 YWPA winner Aleksandra Sladojevic, and 2009 YWPA winner Ditta Teng.



**ABOVE:** From left, Val Jameson, conference chairman Hilary Popat, YWPA winner Ditta Teng and district governor Alison Martin.

**RIGHT:** Libby Lloyd, who was a keynote speaker on the National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children.

**ABOVE:** From left, Zonta past district governor Rozmi Anand-Raschke, Zonta International director Cheryl McMillan, international representative Gonsa Wisden and Alison Wisden.

## DATES TO REMEMBER in November

- 4 November Geelong Club's dinner meeting – "The Impact of Violence on our Community"
- 7 November Bendigo Club's Christmas Market (details from Hilary)
- 11 November Board meeting
- 15 November Mystery Bus Trip (bookings to Hilary please)  
Amelia Earhart Fellowship applications close
- 26 November Christmas Dinner meeting



**President Lee (left) with Sam Moore, who has just transferred from the Zonta Club of Alice Springs**

Val Sarah introduced Sam and told us a little about her very interesting background.

'Sam was born in Melbourne, and was educated in Werribee, at RMIT and ACAP.

After training in New York and living in Georgia, she returned to Australia, and moved into the Department of Justice working as Finance Officer in the Supreme Court of Victoria.

She worked in the Prothonotary's Office for ten years in civil case management which included Corporation Law, Commercial Law, Probate and Administration, Listings and Criminal Law, and eventually became Deputy Prothonotary and Team Manager of Listings while conducting Pre-Trial conferences and studying an Advanced Diploma in Business Law.

After giving birth to her daughter, she worked for then Premier, the Hon. Steve Bracks on secondment as a member of his legislative and administrative team before returning to courts where she clerked for Magistrates and managed listings.

Two years ago she moved to Alice Springs, where she joined Zonta while working as the Manager of the Central Australian Women's Legal Service where the clientele were women affected by domestic violence.

Sam now works as Governance Officer with the Ballarat City Council.'

**A BIG WELCOME TO YOU SUE FROM US ALL!**