Welcome to the story of the Zonta Club of Ballarat, from inception in 1978 to 2018 and the years in between, celebrating 40 years of friendships forged, community partnerships created, and delivery of service and advocacy locally and internationally.
As a member club of Zonta International, we are joining almost 30,000 Zontians in 63 countries worldwide planning celebrations for the centennial anniversary of Zonta International, 1919 - 2019
It’s amazing to think that this Organisation grew from a casual conversation between 5 women at a Christmas Party in 1918....

illustrating how true it is that mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow!
Marian de Forest, a journalist and playwright, was the force behind the establishment of Zonta, in Buffalo, upstate New York....
... and now Zonta flourishes in countries large and small, rich and poor, with one Mission at heart...
Our Mission

Zonta International is a leading global organisation of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.
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.
In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.
Every Club starts with a ‘mother club’ – an organising team from an established Club. In our case, the organiser was Elizabeth Lucas from the ‘mother club’ of Melbourne.
Our Charter Dinner was held at Craig’s Royal Hotel on the 3rd April 1979.

The Charter was presented by International President-Elect Dr Shirley Schneider from the USA to Charter President Val Sarah.
37 Charter Members were privileged to count among the distinguished guests from all over Australia and New Zealand, Dorothy Thompson from the Zonta Club of Toronto 1 in Canada, who founded the first 12 clubs ‘Down Under’.
Equally exciting for us was our official Charter date held earlier in 1978 on the 24th October, United Nations Day. Perhaps for this reason, we have always taken a keen interest in developments at the UN.
We owe the longevity of our Club to its Presidents, each of whom has brought her individual expertise and life experience to the exacting task of leading the club.
Our Club Presidents Over 40 Years

1978-1980 Val Sarah
1980-1982 Anne Smail
1982-1984 Kay McFarlane
1984-1986 Mary Campbell
1986-1987 Bonnie McDonald
1987-1989 Pam Davies
1989-1991 Donna Campbell
1991-1993 Di Gibney
1993-1995 Anne Boag
1995-1996 Mary Chappell
1996-1997 Barbara Spring
1997-1998 Margaret Russell/Albert

1998-2000 Stella Coffey
2000-2001 Anne Smail
2001-2002 Maria Bamford/Langford
2002-2003 Yvonne Watson
2003-2004 Michelle Jorgensen
2004-2005 Kate Pepplinkhouse/Owen
2005-2006 Judy Snowden
2006-2009 Hilary Pope
2009-2011 Lee Belcher
2011-2013 Stella Coffey
2013-2016 Donna Campbell
2016-2018 Catherine Taylor
2018- Donna Campbell
We have enjoyed working with many members from different walks of life throughout the forty years, and we acknowledge the richness of their friendship and their contribution to Zonta and to our City.

Members 1978 – 2018

Margaret ALBERT/RUSSELL  Vicki ALLAN  Eileen ANDERSON  Lille BAKER  Pauline BAKER  Pauline BALL  Marie BAMFORD/LANGFORD  Sue BARTELL  Esther BARTRAM  Shona BECHER/GIBBS  Jenny BECK  Lee BELCHER  Raelene BENSON  Phyll BERRY  Margaret BLAKELEY  Linda BLAND  Anne BOAG  Claire BOLSTER  Carol-Lynn BOND  Alison BOOTHROYD  Beverley BORLEY  Marie BOXHALL  Elizabeth BRENNAN  Gwynne BRENNAN  Alison BROOKMAN  Phyllis BROWNLEY  Julie BURT  Jane BUTSON  Marie BUTSON  Yvonne BUTSON  Adela BYRNE  Janine BYRNE/ROSBERGEN  Pam BYRNE  Cynthia CALDWELL  Donna CAMPBELL  Linda CAMPBELL  Mary CAMPBELL  Gillian CANAVAN  Fiona CARLAND  Joan CHAMBERS  Mary CHAPPELL  Wanda CHAPMAN  Greta CHRISTIE  Maureen CHRISTIE  Dorothy CLEMENCE  Stella COFFEY  Janis COOK  Marisa COPPERWAITE  Judith COULL  Rosemary COUSINS  Carol CRAWFORD  Anne-Marie CULLINAN  Kathryn CUMMINS  Robyn CUNNINGHAM  Jo-Anne DARBYSHIRE  Debbie DAVEY  Pam DAVIES  Maria DE VAN DER SCHEUREN  Colleen DEAN  Lillian DETHRIDGE  Helen DOUGLAS  Deidre DOWNIE  Mary EELES  Kathryn EGAN  Joan ENNIS  Helen EYRES  Christina FAY  Ros FAHEY  Maureen FOLEY  Marjory FOO  Eileen FORBES  Marlene FOX  Pat FRASER  Trish GALLIVAN  Di GIBNEY  Margaret GILBERT  Robyn GILLIS  Anita GODFREY  Sally GORDON  Sharon GOVAN  Dianne GOW  Sue HANLIN  Sandy HARBISON  Robyn HARCOURT  Pat HART  Marie HELSBY  Glenys HENRICKSON
Narelle HIBBERD  Glenyce HILL  Wilma HOPPEN  Lynette HORRIGAN  Ruth IZARD  Hyemi Jacka  Val JAMIESON  Jennifer JELLEFF  Sue JOHN  Laurel JOHNSON  Grace JOHNSTON  Megan JONES  Michelle JORGENSEN  Penny KAYE  Kate KELLY  Jennifer KEOGH  Sandra KENNEDY  Ann KERR  Jeong-ah KIM  Joan KIMBERLEY  Gayle KING  Margaret KNEZ  Alice KNIGHT  Sharelle KNIGHT  Susan LA PIRA  Sue LABBETT  Olive LAMONT  Alison LANIGAN  Veronica LAWSON  Sarah LIA  Nola LISTER  Sheila LOUREY  Kay MACAULEY  Joan MAHNG  Olivia MALCIVIC  Libby MALKIN/MORRISH  Margaret MARTIN  Nan MARTIN  Pauline MARTIN  Pearl MAY  Jan MCCLELLAN  Bonnie MCDONALD  Kaye MCFARLANE  Cheryl McGrath  Helene McKENZIE  Suzanne McKENZIE  Lynne McLENNAN  Cath MCLEANEHAN  Carolyn McMICKAN  Gillian McMOMISH  Barbara MCPHERSON  Irene McVEY  Jenny MEE  Maureen MENHENNET  Alexa MENZIES  Jacki METCALFE  Edwina MILGATE  Glenda MILLER  Betty MONTGOMERY  Samantha MOORE  Jan MORGAN  Marilyn MORLEY  Anne MORRISH  Margaret MORRISH  Kaye MURRAY  Leesa MYERS  Pearl MYERS  Bernadette NAGLE  Ellen NEIL  Anne NELSON  Caroline NOLAN  Carole NORTON  Rachael NUTTALL  Rosamond O'BRIEN  Susan O'REILLY  Kate OWEN/PEPPLINKHOUSE  Rebecca PEEL  Barbara PERRY  Belinda PLAYSTED/KEATING  Dorothy PLUNKETT  Marny POOLE  Carolyn POPE  Hilary POPE  Jennifer PRESTON  Dorothy PUNSHON  Catherine QUIRK  Ruth RICE-JONES  Simone RICKETTS  Marion RIMMER  Elys ROBBERECHTS  Karen ROBINSON  Alison Round  Thelma RUNGKAT  Janelle RYAN  Olivia SARAH  Val SARAH  Carmel SCARF  Trish SCHOCROFT  Jan SEARY  Alexa SEIDEL  Lea SENIOR  Kaaren SEPHTON  Bren SHAW  FRANCIS  Lindy SHAW/CHAPMAN  Vicki SHEEFFIELD  Val SHEIL  Anne SMAIL  Judy SNOWDEN  Maria SOZANSKI  Joan SPENCER  Barbara SPRING  Elizabeth STAYT  Julie STEPHENS  Jayne STINTON  Barbara STREET  Meredith SUTHERLAND  Catherine TAYLOR  Sandra TAYLOR  Debra THOMSON  Cindy TILLBROOK  Joyce URQUHART  Nicola VAN BERKEL  Adri VAN DER KNYFF  Iris VERSO  Desma WANNENMACHER  Jennifer WARNER  Deborah WALKER  Gabriele WALLER/BOEHLE  Jo WATSON  Yvonne WATSON  Helen WEADON  Trudi WEBB  Orietta WHEATLEY  Margaret WHIBLEY  Miriam WHITEHEAD  Janet WHITHAM  Voi WILLIAMS

Honorary Member (1978-1979)  Nina Valentine, OAM
As you can see, we have provided funds and hands-on service to an infinite variety of local and international causes, and although our Club is small in membership today, we always hope to “punch well above our weight”.

Service Directory of Donation Recipients 1978 – 2018

3BA Christmas and Christmas in July Appeal Aging through the Lens Amelia Earhart Foundation Apex Asthma Foundation Austin McCallum Centre Australia Day Committee Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust Ballarat Arts Foundation Ballarat & District Aids Working Party Ballarat Association for Disabled Ballarat Base Hospital Ballarat Branch of Asthma Foundation Ballarat Children's Home Ballarat Children's Homes and Family Services Ballarat Fine Art Gallery Ballarat Foundation Ballarat Performing Arts Foundation Ballarat Regional Women’s Festival Ballarat South Senior Citizens Ballarat Winter Relief Appeal Ballarat Writing Council BCFS Young Mothers BCSCC Begonia Park Special Development School Berry Street Refuges Bone Marrow Donor Register Bosnia Parcel BRADDA Breastscreen Camp Quality Catherine Maher Central Highlands Family Aid Program Central Highlands Hearing Impairment Group Central Highlands Regional Library Child & Family Services Children’s Protection Society Comm. Road Safety Council Courier Winter Relief Appeal Creswick Light Horse Crop a Cop CYSS Dragons Abreast East Timor Association Eureka Project Capital Appeal Fred Hollows Foundation Gandarra Palliative Care Haemophilia Foundation Headway Heart Foundation Hurricane Andrew Hyperactive Association Jacinta Gruer Joanne Saunders Leanne Johnson Life Education Victoria Lifeline/Youthline Lighthouse Foundation Linton Fire Appeal Lisa Lodge McCallum House Mission of St James & St John Motor Neurone Disease Association Mount Clear...
Primary School Breakfast Club  NESB Links  Newcastle Earthquake Appeal  Nicholle McNeice Foundation
Osteogenesis Imperfects Association  Oxometer – Geelong Paralympics  Peer Support Scheme – Mt Clear Sec.
College  Pennyweight Park  Peplow House  Pinarc Toy Library  Plan International  Playhouse  Police
Youth Club  Project Five O  Project Orca  Queen Elizabeth Geriatric Centre  Red Cross  Riding for the
Disabled  Rotary Club Wendouree  Rotary House  Royal Flying Doctor Service  Royal South Street Society
Ryder Cheshire Foundation  Ryder Cheshire Support Group  S.C. Play Group  Salvation Army  Sensory Garden –
Botanical Gardens  School of Mines Ballarat  SOFUY Solace  Somalia Relief Fund  Soroptimist  Cselenyi Appeal
Sovereign Hill (Chernobyl Children)  Sovereign Hill Dancers  St John of God Hospital  St Vincent de Paul
Society Stroke Support  UNIFEM Australia / UN Women Australia  Uniting Church Outreach Centre  Uniting
Church Family Housing Program  Uniting Church Family Refuge  University of Ballarat  Victims of Chernobyl
Victorian Women’s Trust  Vision Australia  WDTC  WellComing Women Health Service  Wendouree Children’s
Centre  Wheels for Ghana  White Ribbon Foundation and Ballarat Committee  Winter Relief Appeal
Women Living Alone  Women’s Archive Project  Women’s Emergency Accommodation  Women’s Health
Grampians  Workskill Australia  World Women’s Congress for a Health Planet  WRISC Family Violence Support
YMCA School Holiday Program  Young Mothers Group (Uniting Care)  Zonta Club of Geelong – Amelia Earhart
Airshow  Zonta International – Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund  Zonta Club of Geelong – Amelia Earhart
Endowment Fund  Zonta International Foundation  Zontian Fire Relief Appeal  Ballarat Retirement Village
Community *support* includes the creation of breast cushions for cancer patients in post-operative care.....
...toiletry bags for women in local refuges, and.....
birthing kits, saving the lives of women and their newborn babies in remote communities in 19 countries worldwide with a growing focus on East Africa and South Asia
In addition, we provide non-perishable food, clothing, and toys for the Winter Relief and 3BA Christmas Appeals,
and have participated in planning White Ribbon Day each November
Our community engagement includes the creation of the Zonta Art Collection of works by Australian women artists at the Art Gallery of Ballarat, and adoption of artworks for restoration.
We initiated the Zonta Sensory Garden in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens with funding from the Pinkerton Bequest,
and an exhibition celebrating Zonta locally and internationally at the Gold Museum in 2008 over a period of 5 months, which was viewed by 50,000 visitors from 49 countries worldwide.
Since 1983, we have funded Encouragement Awards for young women competing in the Royal South Street Eisteddfod
After the introduction of the Young Women in Public Affairs Award by International President Leneen Forde in the biennium 1990-1992, we have recognised the potential of senior student leaders in our community,
and future women business leaders through the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship,
also, since 2008, we have acknowledged the outstanding contribution of local women nominated by their peers in the Honour Roll of Ballarat’s Great Women
We are privileged to have supported the organisation of other Zonta Clubs in our area. Footscray in 1982, Kyneton in 1994, Melton in 1997, and the Zonta Club of Central Goldfields in 2012.
As part of an international organisation, we support the broad range of international service programs;
The Amelia Earhart Fellowships,
Young Women in Public Affairs Awards,
Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships,
and the ZONTA says NO to Violence Against Women Campaign
We support the International Service Projects focusing on issues such as Health, Education, Equality and human rights, Economic Empowerment, Gender-based Violence, Child Marriage and Human Trafficking.
One of our most recent programs is “Women in Technology” to acknowledge our young professional leaders in the field.
Our Club was one of the first in Zonta to contribute to the Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign, recognising that ‘Giving NOW for the Future’ will ensure that Zonta can continue and enhance its support for women and girls and their communities worldwide, into the future.
This has been a snapshot of the History of the Zonta Club of Ballarat,

Thank you for sharing this journey with us!

Val Sarah and Catherine Taylor
on behalf of our members