



**ZONTA**  
 CLUB OF  
 BALLARAT INC  
 MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
 EMPOWERING WOMEN  
 THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

**BAZ**

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**AUGUST 2020**

District 23 Area 4

**Our Meetings are held the fourth  
 Thursday of the month  
 at 7.00 pm currently via Zoom  
 Our next meeting will be  
 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
 Phone Maureen on 0408 346 596**

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**PRESIDENT Caroline Nolan**



Dear Zontians,

It is another cold wet Saturday morning in Ballarat, and as I sit at my desk in my warm house writing this report, I hope that you are all keeping well and looking forward to spring, which is in theory just around the corner.

Before sitting down to write, I read the Zonta Club of Kyneton's Newsletter and as I share the thoughts of Donna Fabris, (Kyneton President), about the pleasure of seeing the daffodils in flower; particularly the daffodils outside my front door.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Clubs in our regions for their creativity at this time. We support all those clubs who are busily sewing

sewing masks as fundraisers and to support those of us who are challenged when it comes to textiles creations. It was also a great pleasure to the join the online trivia competition held by the Zonta Club of Bendigo. Although we thoroughly enjoyed the event, my relationship with my daughter may be permanently damaged as a trigger-happy mum was repeatedly reprimanded for answering the questions too quickly and incorrectly. Well done, Bendigo!

At our July Dinner meeting, we had the great pleasure of inducting a new member, Loretta Kaval as a member of our club. We were also able to have Cathryn Ryan from Uniting Ballarat as our guest speaker and she spoke passionately about the work Uniting is doing in the community where individuals are welcomed, respected and heard. This was a Zoom meeting and it was decided by Club members that we would donate the money we would normally spend on a dinner, and extra if we felt appropriate, to either the 3BA Winter Appeal or to Uniting Ballarat, this initiative raised \$410. Thank you to everyone for their generosity. Our next dinner meeting will be focussed on looking forward to November and planning for the Zonta 16 Days of Activism.

We continue to be limited in our endeavours by the restrictions of the Covid-19 virus. It is with regret that the Ballarat's Great Women 2020 Committee had to cancel the postponed dinner that was rescheduled for October from its original date in late March. They have devised an alternative way of acknowledging the honourees for 2020. Plans are now underway for accepting nominations for Ballarat's Great Women 2021 with a dinner planned for 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Although, it was necessary to delay the application process for the Club's Young Women in Public Affairs Award (YWPA), the committee and club members, felt that it was still important for the young women in our area, that we accept nominations for the YWPA Award.

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The application forms have been sent out to schools and the applications close at the end the Victorian school term. Our October meeting will now be an online presentation evening for the YWPA applicants.

Finally, this month has been a time to celebrate, both Alison Round and I became Australian citizens within a few days of each other. Fellow member, Sharelle Knight, was the witness for both applications. We were also able to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Helen and Graeme Eyres.

May you all continue to keep warm and safe.

Caroline Nolan

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## Welcome Loretta



*Pictured in the centre is President Caroline Nolan and our newest member, Loretta Kaval. Loretta was presented with her name badge, 100 Year Pin, a folder with lots of Zonta information and a yellow rose.*

*Top left is Helen Eyres, Catherine Taylor, Maureen Menhennet  
Centre is Val Sarah, Caroline and Loretta, Sharelle Knight  
Bottom is Alison Round and Cathryn Ryan from Uniting*

At our July meeting, we were very pleased to welcome Loretta Kaval as a new Member.

Loretta retired in December as Head of Library at Damascus College. Over the years, she has had a wide and varied career in teaching, although still finding the time somehow, to raise a family, complete various post grad courses and obtain a Master of Theology. She has also been involved in community groups and has volunteered on boards and committees in the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

We are thrilled to welcome you aboard Loretta!

**Alison Round**

## Our Newest Citizens Alison and Trevor Round



*Alison Round with husband, Trevor*

My husband Trevor and I were delighted to become Australian Citizens on 10<sup>th</sup> August. Due to the current COVID 19 restrictions the ceremony needed to be conducted 'online' rather than the usual large group gathering, with family and friends in attendance. However, it proved to be a wonderfully intimate – (if brief) – ceremony with the Ballarat Mayor, Mr Ben Taylor.

We initially obtained residency visas after our daughter Becca met and married David, a Grafton boy, when he was working in London. They settled in Brisbane, and our annual visits to them over the years cemented our love for this country.

We were told the granting of visas would be a lengthy process, so we started it early. However, in fact we obtained our "Self-Supporting Aged Parents" visas in a little over three months. The "Aged Parents" however were still actually working very hard! Therefore, to begin with we were only able to spend part of the year here.

Upon retirement, we settled well into life in sunny Queensland, enjoying the coastal life, and being so close to family. I joined several organisations and groups including Zonta. However, five years ago, David's Company transferred him to Melbourne, so inevitably two years later the decision was made to follow them to Victoria. After visiting many towns and areas, we found beautiful Ballarat and decided this was the place to FIRMLY plant our roots (again!)

**Alison Round**

## Caroline Nolan



*Caroline ready to celebrate*

I grew up in Manchester in the North of England. If you had told me in my teens that I would spend most of my life living in Australia, I would have laughed. Although I love to travel, Australia was not really on the list and I thought Manchester was the coolest place on the planet at the time. I studied Maths and then Maths education at University. In between the two courses, I lived for a while in Israel and thought that I would end up working in the Middle East somewhere.

I met my Australian ex-husband in 1990 in a little country pub when I was working as a Maths teacher in the Midlands. The school was pretty tough and I wasn't sure that I would have survived long as a teacher if I had stayed there.

I had also grown weary of the UK after a decade of Thatcherite policies that had left that particular community with a sense of hopelessness; I was teaching young people who had never known either parent employed after the mines closed. One weekend the village where my ex stayed was snowed in and there was no electricity and the roads were blocked for the whole weekend (all quite romantic really), and that was when I decided to move with him to Australia. It was easy to get permanent residency as Australia needed Maths/Science teachers and nothing has changed in 30 years.

I moved to Australia in Christmas 1991 and left Manchester in one of the coldest winters and arrived in Rochester on a day when the temperature was almost 40 degrees. I thought I was going to die. We moved to Ballarat in the March and after a short period of relief teaching, I started working at Ballarat Grammar in 1992. We got married in 1994 and had three children together but the marriage ended in 2001. It took a long time to decide to become a citizen

as I always assumed that I would go back to the UK eventually.

Australia is quite possibly the best place in the world to raise a family and I have been lucky to have developed some great friendships over the decades.

I did, however, after a bout of melancholy and homesickness, take my two younger children back to the UK for six months in 2008. It was in the middle of the Global Financial Crisis and the North of England was struggling, so on our return, I decided to apply for citizenship. I completed all the paperwork, passed the test and satisfied all the medical and police checks but then hit a road block.

I had to list all the places I had visited outside Australia, with dates and reasons for travel, since getting permanent residency and at that time I had a role which involved a large amount of overseas travel so it proved an impossible task. The citizenship was postponed. The rules were relaxed a little so I was able to reapply again a few years ago. It still took over two years. It was a standing joke that my mate, Peter Dutton, had my file on his desk labelled, "over my dead body" and was only actually approved when he was sick with Covid-19.

I do love Australia but still suffer from bouts of homesickness for the UK. The connection to country doesn't ever die and I feel that a part of me will always be tied to the North of England.

Raised by a mother who loved the works of the Bronte sisters, there is a little bit of Catherine Earnshaw in me and Saddleworth Moor may always be my Wuthering Heights... *"Heaven did not seem to be my home; and I broke my heart with weeping to come back to earth; and the angels were so angry that they flung me out into the middle of the heath on the top of Wuthering Heights; where I woke sobbing for joy."*

None of my immediate family live in England anymore. My mother, step-father and sister live in New Zealand and my step-brother is based in South Africa. My father's family live in Ireland. I still like to go back and catch up with school friends when I return to the UK and to visit the places of my childhood.

## Caroline Nolan

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**Congratulations to Alison, Trevor and Caroline,  
we are grateful you are here with us and  
thank you for sharing your journeys!**

## ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



### ISSUE IN FOCUS

Gender-based violence, or violence against women and girls, is a severe violation of human rights. Violence not only negatively affects women; it also affects their families, communities and countries. It knows no national or cultural barriers; it takes place at home, in the workplace and in open spaces, and affects millions of women and girls in peacetime and in conflict. Gender-based violence includes psychological, physical and sexual violence, and harmful practices such as intimate partner violence, sexual violence and harassment, child marriage, female genital mutilation and human trafficking, according to UN Women.

- 35% of women worldwide have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime
- 30% of women who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence by their partner
- 38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner
- The first sexual experience of some 30 percent of women was forced. 45% of those under 15 at the time of their sexual initiation report the experience was forced
- Children who grow up in families where there is violence may suffer a range of behavioural and emotional disturbances. These can also be associated with perpetrating or experiencing violence later in life

### ZONTA IN ACTION

Zonta International envisions a world in which no woman lives in fear of violence. For 100 years, we have contributed to help achieve a world free of violence against women and girls through service and

advocacy. Though many countries have laws against domestic violence, sexual assault and other forms of gender-based violence, there are challenges in implementing these laws.

We have a history of partnering with United Nations agencies or recognized NGOs on programs that promote and protect the human rights of all women and girls and reduce the incidence of violence. Zonta International currently supports the Global Programme to End Child Marriage, which brings together governments, civil society, families and young people in a collective effort to prevent girls from marrying too young and to support those already married as girls. Read more about the projects we have supported through the Zonta International Strategies to end Violence Against Women program.

Our ongoing advocacy impact is built around the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women advocacy campaign. Launched in 2012, the campaign has raised awareness of the global pandemic of women's rights violations and has united Zonta clubs worldwide in conducting impactful advocacy actions to fight violence against women and gender inequality.

During the 16 Days of Activism, 25<sup>th</sup> November-10<sup>th</sup> December, all Zonta clubs and districts are encouraged to take part in the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign and to take local, national and international actions to influence the making and implementation of laws, as well as changing gender-based attitudes and behaviours to end violence against women.

Throughout the year, we encourage our members to take advocacy actions that work to promote the human rights of women, promote Sustainable Development Goal No. 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" and end violence against women and girls.

In addition, the Zonta International Advocacy Action Center is a tool for our members in the United States and other individuals who share our commitment to gender equality to take action to improve the lives of women and girls. U.S. residents are invited to join more than 8,000 advocates across the nation to fight for legislation to address issues such as child marriage, Title IX and sexual assault on college and university campuses.

**Stand with women and girls worldwide.**  
**[www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)**

**2020 Beirut Explosion**



On Wednesday 4th August 2020, at around 6pm (Beirut time), two explosions occurred at the Port of Beirut causing widespread casualties and material damage. As of 12th of August, 220 people lost their lives, over 100 remain missing, and more than 5000 people are injured. Based on the estimates from the government, more than 300,000 people have lost their homes – with 50,000 housing units affected. Local NGOs and CSOs, including various local women-focused NGOs have mobilized, supporting search, rescue and cleanup efforts, and the provision of emergency support – medical, food, cash, shelter and mental health support.

Food prices have been rising steadily due to Lebanon’s economic crisis, which – with COVID-19, collides and deepens the impact of the explosion.



*Young people distribute essential food to families in the Gemmayze neighborhood, Beirut on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2020  
Photo: Dar Al Mussawir*

The food security of the poorest households and of those who had just enough to provide for their families will be increasingly threatened; multiple assessments in recent years have shown food security higher amongst female headed households and such gender inequality around food insecurity will need to be monitored closely. The Port of Beirut, significantly affected by the explosion, accounts for about 68 percent of the country’s trade in goods (imports plus exports).

In Lebanon, women are more likely to be food insecure, more likely to be unemployed, more likely to be in public school (rather than private school), more likely to be a survivor of gender-based violence, more likely to not have legal residence (if you are a refugee), and more likely to not have access to adequate shelter, (if you are the head of a household). Taken in its totality, this makes women less resilient to shocks – they are less likely to have savings, a bank account, extensive social network beyond their family and access to urgent social protection – all things critical in enabling individuals and families to respond to disasters such as the Beirut blast.

It is therefore crucial to make sure that the response to the explosion as well as longer term recovery work takes into consideration the needs of women and girls and ensures that women are included in and benefit from in the response both as decision-makers, active participants in the design and implementation, as well as recipients.

The war in Syria has meant that as near neighbours Lebanon and Jordan have a large number of refugees, according to Amnesty International, Lebanon hosts the second highest number of refugees at 134 per 100 000 population.

Zalloukh Al Maraanazi, a Syrian refugee now living in Beirut, Lebanon, was resting on the couch when everything started shaking in the afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> August. “My son was playing on the balcony when it happened; he literally flew up and landed on the deck. Thankfully, he only has mild bruises,” she said. Zalloukh Al Maraanazi had barely overcome the trauma of escaping the violence in Syria. She had just started a soap and candle-making business after taking vocational training provided through a UN Women program for refugees and local women. Now, she is terrified, and her livelihood opportunities are compromised, again.

The economic crisis in Lebanon, deepened by COVID-19 and now the Beirut blasts, is estimated to reduce women's participation in the economy by 14 to 19 per cent. The implications are particularly bleak for a country with high gender gap (Lebanon ranks 139 out of 153 countries in the World Economic Forum Gender Gap report 2020), and with one of the lowest rates of women's labour force participation. These inequalities are echoed in refugee and migrant communities across the formal and informal labor market in Lebanon.



## Zonta Club of Beirut

The Zonta Club of Beirut has approached District 23 for assistance.

Given Zonta believe in making the world a better place by empowering women, this can only be done by supporting these women of the Beirut community in a professional, efficient, dynamic and empathetic framework. Accordingly, Zonta Lebanon acted immediately in response to this disaster within the resources available mobilizing the youth of its Z Club. Its main objective during this crisis is to help the homeless to recuperate their houses and by doing so help them gain back their dignity and right to a decent life. This can be done by establishing a tight collaboration with governmental committees and volunteers who have already offered to help for free and or at cost only. Zonta has already been approached by several trusted real estate developers and contractors being committed to offer their expert services with prices at cost. The scope of this mission is home restoration and basic home furnishing.



*"We know that on average, women have fewer tools and resources to recover from external shocks. This is due to existing gender inequalities which relegate them as secondary to men,"* said Rachel Dore-Weeks, UN Women's representative in Lebanon. "Women are more likely to not have bank accounts, savings, pensions and access to social protection." In the aftermath of the crisis, UN Women is scaling up its resilience and recovery programming in Lebanon, while also strengthening its work on women's leadership and peace and security – key factors for stability in the country and the region.

UN Women has five programs in Lebanon, funded by the Governments of Croatia, Finland, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden, the Ford Foundation, the Rebecca Dykes Foundation, the UN SDG Fund and the UN Human Security Trust Fund. The programs have pivoted their focus to addressing Lebanon's economic crisis and COVID-19, and are now adapting to also support longer-term recovery of those impacted by the Beirut blast.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/un-women-2020-beirut-explosion-response-plan>



Zonta members will be leading Z Club members in teams of 5 to be spread geographically per area of operation to make sure site visits are taking place from the start and till the completion of any project. Restoration projects will be divided into phases and Zonta members will be receiving reports confirming the start and end of each phase.

Please contact the Zonta club of Ballarat on our email address, if you would like more information about how to donate to support this Zonta Club of Beirut initiative.

[zontclubofballarat@gmail.com](mailto:zontclubofballarat@gmail.com)