



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

**BAZ**

**ZONTA CLUB OF BALLARAT INC. (A0018802W)**  
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**MARCH 2018**

District 23

**Our Dinner Meetings  
 are held the fourth Thursday of the month  
 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm at  
 Barkly's Restaurant, Corner Barkly Street  
 & Main Road, Bakery Hill.**

**Our next meeting will be 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
 Phone Hilary Pope on 0411 402 557**

**PRESIDENT Catherine Taylor**



Dear Zontians,

At our Dinner Meeting this Thursday, we are celebrating the lives of many very inspirational and dynamic Ballarat women, I feel sure you will enjoy reading and listening to their achievements.

Special 'thank you' to Hilary Pope and Val Sarah over the last few months, for all their time and help in organising and putting this event together.

Earlier this month, Maureen Menhennet, Hilary Pope, Stella Coffey and I attended the Areas 1 & 4 Combined Meeting at Maryborough, which was a great day! Zontians travelled from all parts of Victoria to attend and while there were many familiar faces, there were also many new ones. See pages 9 and 10 for Stella Coffey's report.

Another pleasure this month, was attending the Zonta Club of Geelong's International Women's Day Dinner. This was held at the Davidson Restaurant at Gordon TAFE.

Fellow Zontian, Beryl McMillan, spoke about the origins of International Women's Day. Did you know there are several overseas countries where there is a public holiday for International Women's Day? This holiday applies to both women and men! In other countries, there is a holiday for women only and in other countries, a half day off is given to women.



*Left is Beryl McMillan with Jane Adornetto,  
 District 23 Governor-Elect*

Guest speaker, Deb Carter, owner of sustainable business Magic Meadows, spoke about her passion for local, organic, fresh produce.

A very enjoyable evening was had by all!

**Yours in Zonta  
 Catherine**

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## ZONTA SAVES LIVES!

Recently, Donna Campbell, our Club's Birthing Kit Coordinator, received this letter from Hilary Carruthers, Assembly Day Coordinator.

Dear Members,

Thank you for hosting an Assembly Day for BKFA. We are so grateful for every group who fundraises for and volunteers their time to pack Birthing Kits for us. Thanks to this dedication and ongoing generosity, we sent almost 200,000 Birthing Kits overseas last year.

### Why is your contribution so important?

Joan, a 22-year-old woman living in Uganda, tells the heartbreaking story of childbirth in Uganda and demonstrates the hope and empowerment that a Birthing Kit brings. Thanks to you, women like Joan can have the opportunity of a clean and safer childbirth.

But, our work is not done. We are overwhelmed with requests from overseas organisations seeking more Birthing Kits and to help fulfil this great need, kindly invite you to consider hosting another Assembly Day.

If you've already started planning your next Assembly Day, thank you! As you know, Assembly Days are great fun, empowering and so significant with every kit packed contributes to the achievement of our vision.

Thanks so much for considering this invitation and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

*Hilary Carruthers*  
Assembly Day Coordinator



**"Every woman has the right to a clean and safe childbirth"**

[www.bkfa.org.au](http://www.bkfa.org.au)

In June last year, our Club held a Birthing Kit Assembly Day, where some of our members and some visitors assembled 400 birthing kits.



*The job complete!  
Left is Helen Eyres, Maureen Menhennet, Val Sarah  
and Stella Coffey*

So, you may be asking, what goes into a Birthing Kit? A large piece of black plastic suitable for protection from the bare earth, a pair of plastic gloves, a small piece of soap, a razor blade, three pieces of string and five pieces of gauze... all in sterile conditions to ensure a safe birth.

We are now in the process of raising funds for our next Birthing Kit Assembly Day and have commenced with a very generous donation from Nashish Marketing & Design, who contributed \$500 towards our Birthing Kit Fund.

We will keep you posted about fund raising events and our next Assembly Day date!

**Donna Campbell**  
**Birthing Kit Coordinator**

## BREAST CUSHION UPDATE

Recently, our Club held its Breast Cushion Stuffing Day, with several Members donating their time and sewing skills in support of a very worthy project.



*Our afternoon's work complete!  
From left is Jenny Debney, Donna Campbell, Hilary Pope,  
Val Sarah, Maureen Menhennet and Stella Coffey*

The Zonta Breast Care cushions provide comfort to women and men in the post-operative phase of breast surgery. Cushions are supplied to St John of God and the Ballarat Base Hospitals for distribution by the McGrath Breast Care Nurses. We have received many cards and letters over the years, thanking us and the feedback received from recipients has always been positive, with one woman noting that receiving the cushion was a turning point for her in helping to change her outlook and feel more positive.

Thank you to everyone for their time and support!



*Our Breast Cushions packed and ready for distribution*

Recently, presentations of Breast Cushions were made to the McGrath Breast Care Nurses at St John of God Hospital and Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre.



*Left is Jo Carta and Carolyn Mornane from  
St John of God Hospital Ballarat*

Carolyn said, "The cushions for our breast patients are so very much appreciated and we thank yourself and the amazing work from Zonta to make these cushions".

**Catherine Taylor**

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## Breast Cushion Thank you

Dear Ladies,

I wanted to send this small note of appreciation for the gift of a pillow I was given when diagnosed with Breast cancer. It has been so wonderful to use after surgery. I am most grateful for your kindness.

Thank you, God bless each of you!

Signed Trish

# Ballarat's Great Women 2018

## LISA HAYDEN

Business woman, writer, cancer survivor, fundraiser and advocate



Lisa was born and educated in Warrnambool and studied speech pathology at the Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences in Melbourne.

After working with the Lincolnvile School Support Centre in Melbourne, she served as Manager of the Queen Elizabeth Occupational Rehabilitation Service and as Senior Speech Pathologist at Pennyweight Park Spastic Centre and Ballarat Specialist School.

Her talent as a Communication Consultant led to work as a Contributing Writer to the glossy Ballarat Lifestyle Magazine and marketing the Ballarat Mechanics Institute.

Lisa's community activity is impressive. She says that much of her work has come about because of her breast cancer diagnosis. *"I could either succumb to the challenges of a life-threatening illness or find an opportunity to develop my own resilience to make a difference".*

Her autobiography 'Refusing to Die' is due for publication in 2018.

Lisa serves on the Board of the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute as an advocate and significant fundraiser. A member of the Human Resources committee, she helped to develop the FECRI documentary 'Faces Behind the Fight'.

She is a member of the Committee for the Ballarat Mothers' Day Classic and serves as Trustee of both the Shorter Brothers Foundation providing practical support for and raising awareness of Motor Neurone Disease, and the Aron Siermans Foundation supporting a child whose mother was murdered.

For the past three years, she has also been a valued member of the judging panel for Zonta's Young Women in Public Affairs Award.

Lisa is described by her Nominator Janet Robinson, as *"a positive advocate for those in the community experiencing adversity, with the ability to make a grass roots contribution to the community via fundraising and using the vehicle of writing to advocate to a wide audience"*.

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## MARY-ROSE McLAREN

Actor, author, communicator, director, lecturer, initiator, collaborator

Born in Leongatha and educated in Ballarat, Associate Professor Mary-Rose McLaren was the first recipient of the Plain English Speaking Award established to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee (1977). She has since been an honoured judge of this award at regional, state and national levels.

In the late 1990's, having completed a PHD in Medieval History at the University of Melbourne, Mary-Rose began lecturing at Victoria University in Melton. She established Kinda Kinder, a preschool experience for children not otherwise attending preschool – a concept spreading to more than 30 centres in Melbourne's west and north.

## Ballarat's Great Women 2018



Returning to Ballarat in 2006, Mary-Rose became involved with Ballarat National Theatre and the Royal South Street Society, teaching Drama classes in the evening and at Ballarat Centre of Music and the Arts on weekends. After chairing South Street's speech and drama section for many years, Mary-Rose joined the Board and is their representative on the Board of Her Majesty's Theatre.

In 2015, Mary-Rose and Alexandra Meerbach started Mad Swan Productions staging *Chatroom* aimed at teenage suicide prevention which included a Q&A after every performance with representatives from Headspace, SOS, and community workers.

At Victoria University, Mary-Rose is now Head of Program for Pathways and Early Childhood courses, and chairs the Diploma of Education Studies Course challenging students to engage with learning in new ways. She and colleague Anne Harris developed Culture Shack, an arts program for refugee and recent arrivals in Melbourne's West, empowering people to engage in their communities.

On a personal note, Mary-Rose is a consumer representative for the Grampians integrated cancer service.

Nominated by Brett Macdonald, CEO of the Royal South Street Society, Mary-Rose believes that the Arts and learning make individuals happier and communities stronger.

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### CLAIRE RASMUSSEN

Influential VET leader, Educator, Problem Solver, Agent of Change, Artist and Musician



Claire was born and educated in Ballarat. A lifelong learner, her particular skill lies in linking information from diverse sources and synthesizing the strands into innovative and unconventional solutions to solve problems or develop proposals for new services or systems. She thinks both laterally and at a global or helicopter level, to determine not only *what* needs to be done but *how* it might be done.

Her work has focused on improving the quality, capability and status of the VET teacher workforce, looking at systems in Switzerland and the United Kingdom and outlining potential improvements to the vocational education and training (VET) architecture in Australia.

# Ballarat's Great Women 2018

In April 2017, Claire was awarded the prestigious Berwyn Clayton Award in recognition of distinguished long-term and exemplary contribution to research and developmental activities relating to the Victorian public TAFE system, the broader VET sector and its teachers and learners. Andrew Williamson, Executive Director of the Victorian TAFE Association said *"This Award recognises the achievements of a highly capable and dedicated individual"*.

Claire is a Board Member of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (a Ministerial appointment) and a Fellow of the International Specialised Skills Institute (ISSI). As Director of VET Practice at Federation University Australia (FedUni TAFE), and member of the University's Academic Board, Claire is driving cultural change in a complex workforce.

Her many qualifications include a Master of Education and Bachelor of Arts; she served as an active Board member of the Ballarat Arts Foundation, and is a Member of the Ballarat Art Gallery. As a musician, she played with the Ballarat Symphony Orchestra, and served on its Committee. She is a keen supporter of all things 'Ballarat' including Sovereign Hill, Fiona Elsey Cancer Research, and more recently, a Friend of the Botanical Gardens.

Claire was nominated by Associate Professor Barry Wright, Executive Director TAFE.

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## JOYCE RYALL

Business Woman, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist

Nominator Tolinne Haroutunian says, *"I believe Joyce to be Ballarat's own Business Woman and Entrepreneur who for many years has dedicated her talents and vision to develop several of the most iconic businesses and tourist attractions Ballarat enjoys, significantly helping to make Ballarat a primary tourist destination recognised locally, nationally and internationally"*.

Born and educated in Ballarat, Joyce began her working life as a telephonist with Myer Ballarat. *"From an early age"*, Tolinne continues, *"she reflected a true Australian pioneer determination to succeed, her self-motivation and vision underpinning all other strengths"*.



Among Joyce's many achievements are the inception and creation of several unique businesses, such as The Silver Lockett, Shady Acres Caravan Park, Galaxi Interiors and the Mountain Inn. Working with others in the community, she helped to restore the Begonia Festival and ensure its ongoing future.

We know Joyce best for her commitment to the development of Kryall Castle, where she created the wedding suites and the Castle's first Souvenir and Gift Shop.

She has been the driving force following her husband Keith's diagnosis with Alzheimer's, running the Castle while caring for him. As Keith's condition deteriorated, Joyce sourced all available treatments, held fundraising events for research, and secured a place for him at the John Curtin Centre in Creswick.

For Joyce, it was a natural progress to join the Board. Since Keith's passing, she remains a contributing member, knowing that her fundraising efforts are contributing to a cure for the disease.

All Joyce's achievements have brought significant benefit to our City, such as provision of employment opportunities in her various ventures, revenue from

# Ballarat's Great Women 2018

the influx of tourists and long-term plusses for allied businesses.

Joyce's philosophy is simple: *"a foundation of family, friends and community is the true inspiration for the future and for happiness .."*

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## AMY TSILEMANIS

Key motivator in our city's arts and culture



Amy hails from Melbourne, and was educated at Ivanhoe Primary, completing her tertiary education at La Trobe and Federation Universities.

Having absorbed visual and creative arts working in cinemas and bookshops, Amy soon made her mark with innovative projects pushing out the boundaries of artistic activity and always connecting with an increasingly receptive audience.

For 3 years she presented Tinderbox Radio on Voice FM, and Arts Sparks events for Ballarat Arts Alive.

Amy and her contemporaries swiftly helped to create a flourishing and connected local arts and culture scene. There is little doubt that recognition of the value of the arts and culture in Ballarat has forged ahead in the past decade, and is proving a significant drawcard for tourists to the City for such events as

the Heritage Weekend, in which Amy has played an important role.

Since becoming the first Curator with the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute, Amy has overseen the introduction of the 3000-item Max Harris photographic collection into the fabric of the BMI.

Institute President Phil Roberts says that *"she has been a 'live-wire' conduit to the younger people in Ballarat through her enthusiasm and social media skills"*, while *"her colourful personality has led to many Ballarat people accessing the BMI for a series of cultural events"*, many for the first time.

Amy has been the BMI representative on City Council's advisory committee for the city's heritage. She was invited to present a paper at a global conference in California on Mechanics' Institutes in other parts of the world in 2017. Her very professional presentation was well received.

Amy is using her experiences at the Institute as a central part of her studies as a PhD student in the Education and Arts Faculty of Federation University.

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## BIRTHDAYS



Congratulations to these three beautiful women who are celebrating birthdays in April!

Donna Campbell on the 6<sup>th</sup>,  
Val Sarah on the 9<sup>th</sup> and  
Hilary Pope on the 17<sup>th</sup>

Another candle on the cake  
and have a great day!

## Toiletries for Berry Street

Our Club has a proud history of providing packs of necessities – toothpaste, tooth brushes, combs, tissues, hair shampoo and conditioner, soaps, body lotion and many other items and donating them to Berry Street.

I have looked through current stocks and we are in urgent need of facewashers, tooth brushes and toothpaste and small packs of tissues. If any of you can make a donation of these items that would be really wonderful.



*Staff from Berry Street receiving the Toiletry Bags from Catherine Taylor and Helen Eyres*

Our next packing day will be in May, and I will keep you posted with the date! Last year we donated 40 packs and we are looking at doing the same again this year.

These packs are distributed to victims of family violence.

**Catherine Taylor**

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## ANNUAL REPORT

Our Annual Report needs to be ready for our April Dinner Meeting.

Can you please send all reports to me by 6<sup>th</sup> April, so they can be put together and printed? We have achieved many things throughout this Zonta year and our Annual Report is a great record of these accomplishments.

**Catherine Taylor**  
**Chair – Nominating Committee**

## SAVE THE DATE!

The Zonta Club of Ballarat  
is celebrating its 40th Birthday on  
Sunday 21st October  
1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.  
for High Tea  
at Craig's Royal Hotel  
19 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat  
\$70 per ticket

If you would like to join us and  
help our Club  
celebrate this great achievement,  
booking information will be released soon.

If you would like to register your interest,  
please contact Catherine on 0439 711 451

40th Birthday Committee  
Zonta Club of Ballarat PO Box 1223,  
Bakery Hill, Vic 3354

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## Slate of Nominees for the Zonta Club of Ballarat Board 2018 – 2019.

The following members have agreed to govern our Club over the next Zonta year. Thank you to everyone for agreeing to take on this onerous responsibility and also thank you to the Nominating Committee for all their hard work.

**President –**  
Donna Campbell

**Vice President –**  
Alison Round

**Treasurer –**  
Sharelle Knight

**Secretary –**  
Maureen Menhennett

**Director -**  
Val Sarah

## AREA 1 AND 4 MEETING – “LEAVE NO MEMBER BEHIND”

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Catherine Taylor, Maureen Menhennet, Hilary Pope and I joined Zontians from other Victorian Clubs at our Annual Area Meeting, held this year at the Maryborough Community Hub.

**Area Directors Jasmine Koch (Area 1) and Lyn Symons (Area 4)** welcomed Zontians, after which **District Governor Judy Gorton** updated us on happenings in the District and Zonta International. Judy also gave a thought provoking presentation on Risk Management as it applies to Zonta.

**Lieutenant Governor Jane Adornetto** spoke to us about her recent attendance at the District Governors' training at ZI Headquarters in Chicago, where the temperature didn't rise above zero for her entire 4 day stay. Despite the weather Jane and the other Governors Elect were able to enjoy some social time as well as visiting Zonta HQ and learning about their new roles, and plans for the coming biennium. Jane also delivered a presentation on membership, gave us an update on our District membership figures, and some new information about the combined District Conference to be held in Brisbane in September 2019, where we will combine with Districts 22, 24 and 16. It was pleasing to learn that Ballarat is one of the clubs in our District which has experienced a 5% net increase in membership during the current biennium.



*On the left of screen is District 23 Governor-Elect  
Jane Adornetto*

**Beryl McMillan** then updated us on the preparations in progress for Zonta's centenary year (2019); we were shown an image of the centennial logo, and

given details of the Centennial Awards currently being developed. The Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign, launched in 2014 with a goal of US\$10million, to fund a signature project, has to date reached US\$2million. The 2019 District Conference will feature a Centennial celebration, and alumnae of Zonta's educational awards and programs will be invited. November 2019 will be the "Anniversary Month", to include the anniversary on 8<sup>th</sup> November and the International day to end violence against women, on 25<sup>th</sup> November. The Centennial website will be launched soon, where Clubs and Zontians can access the Centennial logo, guidelines for logo use, tools, ideas and support to enhance local celebrations – Clubs and Districts will have maximum autonomy in determining their local activities.

**Area Director Lyn Symons** gave us a presentation on "the Art of Recognition", explaining how people really value being appreciated and recognised for what they do. By recognising each other in our organisation we can improve productivity and morale, retain our members, and grow our club. By making recognition a habit, we can empower others, increasing their capacity to serve the community and raising awareness of the need for community service. Lyn left us with the following "If you want to lift yourself up, lift someone else".

After a short exercise session and lunch, for many of us outside in the sunshine, **Jasmine and Lyn** started the afternoon session by introducing news of the **UN Women "He for She" movement**, for which **ZI President Sonja Honig Schough** has announced ZI's support. This initiative provides education and tools to assist men and boys contribute to gender equality. Zonta Clubs are invited to check "He for She" on the ZI website and follow the steps to the "Count me in" tab to source ideas for ways in which Clubs can be involved in this movement in their local community.

We were enlightened by presentations from several District Coordinators on their portfolio responsibilities:

- **Margaret Lynch, on behalf of the Nominating Committee** reminded us that there are roles for which we can nominate, at District and International levels.
- **UN Chair Kay Stewart** spoke of her visits to clubs throughout the District.
- **Lyn Symons on behalf of Z Clubs/Golden Z Clubs Coordinator Judy Rothe** presented an update on the development and

progress of Z Clubs throughout the District, and announced that the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra is sponsoring a Golden Z Club at Monash University Caulfield Campus.



*In front of screen on the left is Area 1 Director, Jasmine Koch, Area 4 Director Lyn Symons and on the right is District 23 Governor, Judy Gorton*

- **International YWPA Committee member Kay Stewart** spoke of her enjoyment in being part of the international committee and advised that some changes have been made to the application evaluation guidelines; she also hinted at a possible change of name for the Award.
- **Debbie Schmidt**, representing the **District Advocacy Committee**, passed on the hope that Advocacy is being discussed at every Club, and reminded Clubs that activities should be reported back to the District Committee.
- **Ronda Walker – Bylaws and Resolutions** reminded members that proposals for Bylaws changes, to be discussed at Convention, will be circulated soon, and it is important that all members have an opportunity for input into this.
- **Jane Adornetto, on behalf of ZI Foundation Ambassador Erica Majba**, gave an overview of the International projects being supported during the 2016-2018 Biennium – updates on these projects can be found at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)
- **District Projects** it was announced that two District Project Coordinators, **Margaret Bird and Julie Monis Ivett**, had recently been awarded OAMs. **Kerry Cameron** reported that 27 Clubs in District 23 Clubs had made

3000 Breast Cushions in the last 12 months, and thanked **Jasmine Koch** for distributing cushions to hospitals throughout Melbourne

- **Debbie Schmidt** reported on the **Past Presidents Group**. The next event for the PPG will be Building Better Boards to be held at Eltham College's City Campus, on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May**.
- **District Treasurer Trish Mclean** reported that there will be no increase in annual fees for the 2018/19 year.

Following a roundup of clubs' coming events, the day ended with drinks at the venue, and more Zonta fellowship for some members over dinner at the Railway Tracks café at Maryborough Station.

Congratulations to **Area 1 Director Jasmine Koch and Area 4 Director Lyn Symons** for organising a really great day!

**Stella Coffey**

## DIARY DATES

22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Ballarat's Great Women Dinner
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Board Meeting
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Film night – The Guernsey Literary Society
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Dinner Meeting and AGM
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Board Meeting
20 <sup>th</sup> May	ZC Kyneton Antique Evaluation Day
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Dinner Meeting - Changeover
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Building Better Boards (Melbourne)
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Board Meeting
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Dinner Meeting
29 <sup>th</sup> June –	64 <sup>th</sup> International Convention –
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Yokohama Japan
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Board Meeting
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Dinner Meeting
9 <sup>th</sup> August	Board Meeting
23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Young Women in Public Affairs Dinner
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Board meeting
27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Dinner Meeting
11 <sup>th</sup> October	Board meeting
21 <sup>st</sup> October	40 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration
25 <sup>th</sup> October	40 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner meeting
8 <sup>th</sup> November	Board Meeting
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Dinner Meeting
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	White Ribbon Day