



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

**BAZ**

**ZONTA CLUB OF BALLARAT INC.**  
 (A0018802W)  
 PO Box 1223, BAKERY HILL, VICTORIA 3354



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**MAY 2021**

District 23 Area 4

**Our Dinner Meetings  
 are held the fourth Thursday of the month.  
 This Thursday it is at Barkly's Restaurant,  
 Corner Barkly Street & Main Road,  
 Bakery Hill, 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm  
 Our next meeting will be 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
 Phone Maureen on 0408 346 596**

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**PRESIDENT  
 CAROLINE NOLAN**



Dear Zontians,

It has been a busy start to the year for the members of Zonta Club of Ballarat.

There wasn't an edition of BAZ in March, as our editor Catherine focused on the 2021 Booklet for the annual Ballarat's Great Women (BGW) celebration. This March, we recognized the achievement of another six Ballarat women, including our own Helen Eyres, and we now have almost two hundred BGW Honourees. The BGW committee is now working to have an Honour Role established at the Ballarat Town Hall and hopefully we will see this eventuate. In recent days, Loretta and I have been trolling through the list and searching through Facebook and LinkedIn to explore the activities of our relatively recent Honourees as we plan for a potential 'Great Girls meet Great Women' event, we hope to hold in August.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> May, I was privileged, along with Sharelle and Loretta, to be invited to a local 'Being Fearless' event hosted by local MP, Juliana Addison. This event was described as a timely conversation between Hon Jill Hennessy, former Victorian Attorney General, and Juliana.

Unfortunately, Covid restrictions meant that the numbers were restricted but it was a pleasure to see so many of Ballarat's Great Women Honourees in attendance and also to see them prepared to step up and speak out for the women in our community. I congratulated Juliana for this great initiative and look forward to seeing this followed up with more events in the future. My only disappointment was that I couldn't capitalize on the enthusiasm for change by giving out some Zonta information; maybe there will be an opportunity next time.

In April, we had our AGM and we were able to meet at our old familiar venue of the Barkly Restaurant for a face-to-face meeting. It was uplifting to see in print the many things we were still able to achieve despite the challenges of the last twelve months. At this meeting the incoming Board was elected and it with pleasure that I will continue on in the role of President with Catherine Taylor continuing as Vice-President and Sharelle Knight continuing as the Treasurer. After four years on the Board, Maureen Menhennet will step down from the role of Secretary and this position will be taken up by Loretta Kaval. We thank Maureen for her great work on the Board and appreciate that she will join Alison Round on the Nominating Committee, replacing Helen Eyres. We also thank Helen for her work on the nominating committee in recent years. Our Handover Dinner is on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May, where we have Marianne Hendron, Chief Executive Officer of Women's Health Grampians, joining us as our guest.

Loretta, Catherine and I began the new Zonta year with a road trip to the District 23 Area 1&4 Meeting on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May. It was an extremely informative day

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with great guests both from within our District 23 body as well as local speakers such as a Ramnik Sood from Shakti International. We congratulate our leaders and Area 1 Director, Trish Mclean, and the team for such a well organised event.

At all the Area Meetings, the Zonta Says NOW initiative was launched and there was already a noticeable change in some of our habits as members were expected to BYO their own cups/water bottles and paper packaging used for the lunches. Catherine and Val represent our Club at the Zonta Says NOW meetings and at a recent meeting, Val talked about the local organisation known as Hidden Orchard. It a group that reduces waste by picking fruit from trees that may otherwise be left to rot and addresses the issue of food security by supplying food relief agencies with fresh fruit. We have invited the President, Ellen Burns, as a guest to our June Dinner Meeting to share more about the group as well as her journey as a young businesswoman and leader.

After the Handover Dinner we will begin the migration away from the Zonta Club of Ballarat email address, [zontclubofballarat@gmail.com](mailto:zontclubofballarat@gmail.com), to use email addresses through our web address. This will mean that Board members will have specific email addresses that will pass on to subsequent members when positions of responsibility change.

The new addresses are [president@zontaballarat.com](mailto:president@zontaballarat.com) that will be used by the Club President, [secretary@zontaballarat.com](mailto:secretary@zontaballarat.com) will be used for all formal club communication from the Secretary and Treasurer and monitored by the Secretary. A third email address, [info@zontaballarat.com](mailto:info@zontaballarat.com), will be used for information, for example BAZ and all membership enquires. This will be monitored by the Vice President, Catherine who is also BAZ editor.

We anticipate that there may be a few hiccups in this rollover and appreciate your patience over the next few months. We will also move to have our current club documents, such as minutes and agendas, stored in a private area of the website until the stage where they are downloaded and relocated to the archives. We acknowledge the support of Gavin Nash, Mulcahy and Co., and hope that this will lead to a more professional and safe handling of emails and documents in the future as we move away from using personal emails.

**Yours in Zonta  
Caroline Nolan**

## **A Follow Up.....**

After our Club's Ballarat's Great Women 2021 celebration, an email to our Club email was received from Sharon Vis, Volunteer Coordinator from the Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health, wanting to contact Georgina Vagg, one of our Honourees. Emails were exchanged and .....

### **Special Ballarat's Great Women 2021 Guest for National Volunteers' Day at Sunbury-Cobaw Community Health**

Georgina Vagg one of the year's Ballarat's Great Women was invited to be the Guest Speaker at Sunbury-Cobaw Community Health as part of their National Volunteers' Week celebrations.

Sharon Viz, the Centre's Volunteers' Co-ordinator read about Georgie in The Ballarat Times as one of Ballarat's Great Women. She thought that she would be a wonderful speaker and would have lots of volunteering stories to share.



Georgina Vagg, BGW 2021 Honouree, Sharon Vis, Volunteer Coordinator and Dianne McGrath – Georgina's Nominator

The Zonta Ballarat's Great Women word spreads far and wide. Georgina held a captive audience of volunteers and management with her volunteering work.

The main question she was asked was 'How did you manage to do all of this? Many of the volunteers came up afterwards and thanked Georgina with big hugs. She was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a box of goodies.

Georgina was accompanied by her BGW nominator, Dianne McGrath, her cousin, Faye Calow and driver for the day, Terry Warr.

**Dianne McGrath  
Ballarat's Great Women Honouree 2016**

## CLUB ARCHIVES

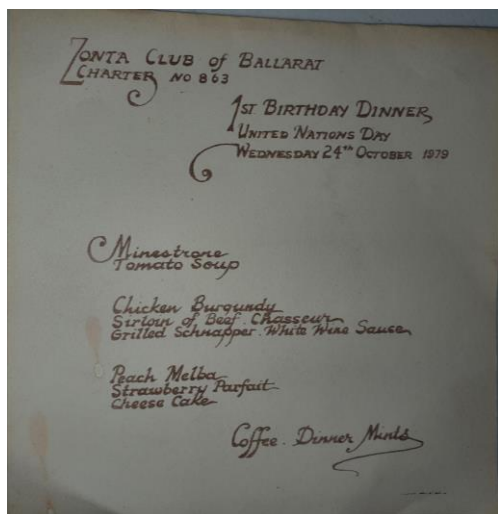
Recently, Val Sarah and I spent a wonderful few hours at the Ballarat Gold Museum, where our Club Archives have been held for many years.

It is wonderful going through past events our Club has held, looking at flyers, Minutes of Meetings and all the many treasures collected over the last forty-two years. And if you like history, as I do, all of our archives are just so exciting!



Years 2010 and 2011

I worked on years 2010 and part of 2011. Our collection is sorted in Zonta's operational year, rather than calendar year, which is June to May and sometimes, this complicates things when you are sorting. We also have one bound album of press cuttings which is huge, and has to stand up in one of the cabinets – what were we thinking when we purchased that!!



Among many of the Club treasures, this is the menu from the Club's First Birthday Dinner on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1979

While we were there we learned from Michelle Smith, who is the Head of Collections and Curatorial, that the Gold Museum as such no longer exists, and that the exhibition areas and gift shop have been cleared to make way for research areas in the future.



This image is the work area below where our archives are stored, in the bottom centre is a landscaping camera lens which is extremely old. It was only used outside to cover large areas and a horse and dray would have been used to move it around.

From June 2021 through to June 2022, the entire area we have been working in, and where our two storage cabinets are held, will be cleared, with items safely stored while the space is completely transfigured to make way for the Australian Centre for Gold Rush Collection, which will encompass Ballarat and the surrounding Region.



Looking very neat and tidy after our mornings work

It's a huge undertaking, and is just part of the overall plan to subsume the former Gold Museum into Sovereign Hill, allowing for a streamlined management system, more efficient movement of visitors and an enhanced visitor experience.

An awesome trip down memory lane!

**Val Sarah & Catherine Taylor**



## AREA 1 & 4 MEETING

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2021**

Let your voice be heard.  
Creating Opportunities with Passion.

This very busy meeting began with an introduction as to how to hold an Acknowledgement of Country. We are encouraged to start all meetings with this welcome and a useful proforma was given to attendees.

District 23 Governor, Sandra Burns gave an enthusiastic welcome to all and outlined the Global Initiatives for this year:

Working to eradicate Child Marriage  
Addressing VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
Closing the gender gap in Education



Area 1 Director Trish McLean with District 23 Governor Sandra Burns

Sandra also reminded us all of the international website: [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org) and that we have all been asked to update our details.

Di Hillman, Chair of the D23 Service Committee spoke of the importance of returning to hands-on activities for Zontians.

She talked about creating new opportunities for service particularly in relation to refugee women, children and family violence, homelessness amongst older women, women in aged care and women with mental health issues, finding and supporting organisations who work in these areas.

Guest speaker Ramnik Sood, from Shakti International Australia, said it began in England, then New Zealand, and started in Melbourne in 2011. Another speaker from the Migrant and Refugee Women's Support Group said their focus is on Asian, African & Middle Eastern women to support and empower them within a culturally competent manner.

They spoke of many situations where it is essential to understand the culture of the family and the communities involved. They assist in situations of family violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation and even honour killing. Sadly, they also spoke of the resistance their work is met with in their communities.

Their slogan is -  
New beliefs Observe  
Awareness Balance Unique, Storytelling  
Empowerment

Fay Dukes reported on what was happening with Advocacy and said the definition of Advocacy is - choosing our voices and actions to champion on behalf of others. Getting Zonta's voice heard by those who make decisions and joining with other groups: the louder the voice the better.

Tamara Wilson presented on the Mental Health First Aid Project. This project has been championed by the Kyneton Zonta Club, and aims at improving mental health first aid. Training courses can be found at [mhfa.com.au/courses](http://mhfa.com.au/courses)

Former District 23 Governor Jane Adornetto, spoke about the value of donations to the Zonta International Foundation for Women. In particular, the response to women in Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea. One third of club-raised funds go to the Foundation.



Former District 23 Governor, Jane Adornetto

After a yummy Covid friendly packaged lunch there were many updates.

Chair of the District 23 Bylaws & Resolutions Committee, Beryl McMillan OAM, addressed Fit 4 The Future – which is all about ensuring clubs remain viable and growing, and especially about encouraging younger members. She referred us to the Tools section of the ZI website for ideas.

District 23 Lieutenant Governor Kay Stewart, followed on with Membership and said a new E-club will be launching shortly. This is a response to members who are unable to attend regular meetings. Kay stressed Recruit, Receive, Retain

Sue Lees (& Carol Theobald in absentia) reported on Zonta Says NOW: our time, our century, stressed the impact of climate change on women around the world: displacement, vulnerability of food providers and care givers, increased violence against women, increased forced prostitution and child marriage. But she also spoke of the opportunities that climate change can bring: renewable energies and new technologies. Our response should be to gather facts & advocate. For more information [zontasaysnow.org.au](http://zontasaysnow.org.au)

District 23 Nominating Committee Member, Ronda Walker, enlightened us about the benefits of being on the Board, ensuring a succession plan is in place.

Incoming District 23 Area 4 Director Chris Denmead, was inducted into her new role by Governor Sandra Burns and spoke about how to keep your club viable via good PR and Communications. How do we respond to the question: "What is Zonta?" More information on PR at [PR@zonta.org](mailto:PR@zonta.org)



Governor Sandra Burns and Chris Denmead, our new Area 4 Director

UN Coordinator: [alwynyard@bigpond.com](mailto:alwynyard@bigpond.com) can be approached with any questions re this role.

Sanduni Hewa from the Victorian Women's Trust - Rosie was briefly introduced and spoke about issues concerning the safety of women and gender diverse people in Victoria.

Finally, after Door prizes were announced (sadly no Ballarat Zontians were winners), a reminder was given about the District 23 Conference in Bendigo 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> September. Jess Hill was announced as the keynote speaker on Saturday and Natalie Isaacs on Sunday morning.



Former District 23 Governor Jane Adornetto encouraging everyone to attend the District 23 Conference in Bendigo from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021

After a very busy, news filled day we headed off home into the western sunset.

**Loretta Kaval**

## ADVOCACY

During the lunch break at the Area 1 & 4 Meeting, I sat with members from other Clubs in Area 4 and we discussed issues that Area 1 are working on. These include –

- Homelessness in Women
- Family Violence
- Environment – Zonta Says Now
- Closing the Gender Gap

It was suggested that we join with Area 1 clubs and work as a group. At this stage, this suggestion has been put to all nine clubs in Area 4 and I am awaiting a response.

**Catherine Taylor**



Here is a brief overview about climate change and gender equality.

## Why is our climate changing?

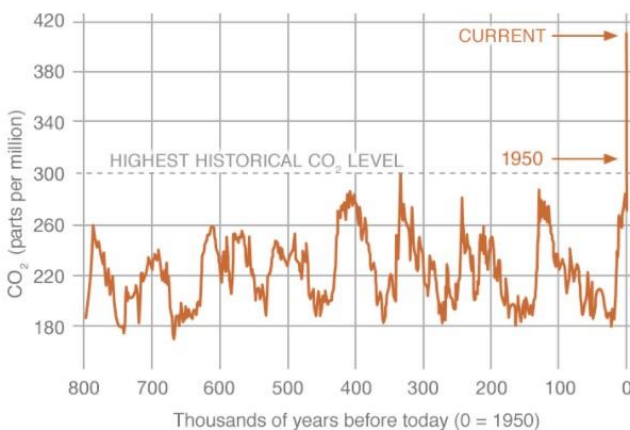
Climate change is caused by having too much heat-trapping greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. The main **greenhouse gases** are carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, water vapour, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons.

The greenhouse gases help to warm the planet, resulting in loss of sea ice, accelerated sea-level rise, and longer, more intense heat waves. This is why we are experiencing more severe droughts, floods, fires and storms.

The **graph** below shows how, for thousands of years, the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was below 300 parts per million. Since 1950 the level has rapidly increased to 414 parts per million.

### PROXY (INDIRECT) MEASUREMENTS

Data source: Reconstruction from ice cores.  
Credit: NOAA



CO2 levels have risen dramatically since 1950s.

Each day we hear of more extreme weather events around the world impacting people's lives, devastating their homes, and destroying biodiversity. We are living in a climate crisis.

According to the International Panel on Climate Change, the **next decade is critical**. We need to take action to keep the global increase in temperature to less than 1.5 degrees above the pre-industrial age.

We need to halve emissions by 2030, halve them again by 2040 and keep going until we achieve zero emissions around 2050. If we don't take action, global temperatures will continue to rise and this is **what is at stake**.

What does climate change have to do with gender equality?

Women and girls are more heavily impacted by climate change than men.

- 80% of people displaced by climate change are women;
- Women, as caregivers, and food providers, are more vulnerable when flooding and drought occur;
- Women face systematic violence that escalates during periods of instability and can precipitate early marriage or forced prostitution as a way to survive;
- During extreme weather events, women are at greater risk of being injured, killed, displaced and unemployed.
- Globally women have less socioeconomic power than men, so it is harder for them to recover from disasters; and
- The UN highlights that gender-sensitive responses to climate change are needed – but average female representation on negotiating bodies is well below 30%.

Much of this disadvantage can be rectified through Zonta's existing health, education, and violence eradication programs. However, we need to ramp up our activities to ensure that girls are educated, child marriage is ended and women are supported to take on leadership positions in the workplace, community and political spheres.

Christiana Figueres, a former diplomat from Costa Rica, headed up the UN Paris climate conference and is a total inspiration. She explains that building gender equality is an important part of the climate solution:

**Educating young women and empowering women to come to decision-making tables is the strongest thing that we can do for the climate. When there are more women in boardrooms and in high-level positions in institutions, you get decisions that are wiser and longer term.**

Christiana Figueres



Parliament House Canberra

## Gender Climate & Parliament

Did you know that the [four most climate-resilient countries](#) in the world are led by women? They are Norway, New Zealand, Finland and Denmark and congratulations go to their Prime Ministers Erna Solberg, Jacinda Adern, Sanna Marin and Mette Frederiksen on their nation's achievements. Interestingly, the proportion of women in all of their parliaments is above 40%.

In contrast, the four least climate-resilient countries are led by men and have much lower numbers of women in their parliaments: Eritrea (22% women in parliament), Central African Republic (9%), Somalia (24%) and Chad (15%).

To give humanity the best chance of surviving the climate crisis, we need more women around decision-making tables in community groups, workplaces, and all levels of government.

How does Australia fare?

There are 16.7 million people on our nation's electoral roll, and 51% of them are women. Australia's Federal Parliament consists of [227 members](#), 86 of whom are women (38%). Women make up 51% of the Senate and 31% of the House of Representatives. Currently, there are 6 women in the 22-member decision-making Cabinet (27%).

Recent [events](#) in Parliament House will not help to make politics an attractive career choice for women. However, to get fairer representation, we must support more women to take on leadership roles at all levels of society and government.

Here are a few of the ways that you can help women take on leadership roles.

- Acknowledge young girls for their leadership potential (replacing the language of bossiness with leadership).
- Encourage young women to be informed and share their views openly and confidently.
- [Mentor](#) women in your workplace, so they are prepared for leadership positions.
- Champion women in their careers.
- Learn how, through [following a leader](#), you can create a movement.

## Starting the Climate Change Conversation

Do you find it hard to start a conversation about climate change? Here are a couple of facts that may help break the ice. Did you know that:

- Renewables represented 21% of [Australia's](#) total electricity generation in 2019.
- [China](#) has more than 400,000 electric buses, about 99% of the world's total.
- In the last 30 years, the [UK](#) has grown its economy by 75% while cutting emissions by 43%.
- In [Australia](#), in the last 30 years, energy emissions have increased by 48%.
- The [European Union](#) has decided to cut its emissions by at least 55 per cent by the end of this decade.
- [Carbon dioxide](#) remains in the atmosphere for between 300 and 1,000 years.
- [Climate Analytics](#) points out that: When emissions from Australia's current coal, oil and gas exports (3.6% of global total) are added to domestic emissions (1.4% of global total), Australia's contribution to the global climate pollution footprint is already about 5%. That's equivalent to Russia's total greenhouse gas emissions, the world's fifth-biggest carbon dioxide emitter.

However, Australia is also at the forefront of producing renewable energy at a massive scale:

Find out what is happening with the [Sun Cable solar farm](#) in the Northern Territory; the [Oakajee Strategic Industrial Area](#) north of Perth and The BIG ONE – [The Asia Renewable Energy Hub](#) in WA wind and solar.

Check out how climate relates to gender equality by visiting [ZontaSaysNOW](#) You can also join the next meeting on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 3 pm. An email with the Zoom link will be sent out beforehand.

## Birthing Kit Assembly Day

The Zonta Club of Ballarat has registered to hold a Birthing Kit Assembly Day on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Venue yet to be confirmed.

The Clean Birth Kits are a valuable resource in emergency and humanitarian settings to help prevent infection for mothers and newborns. Kits are fundraised and assembled by Australian volunteers through the Clean Birth Kit Initiative. Our kits have been re-designed to include more environmentally friendly contents, including biodegradable plastic components.



An assembly day is when volunteers gather to bring the clean birth kits together from the component parts. The supplies arrive in bulk and volunteers assemble them into separate birthing kits. We have ordered 200 kits at a cost of \$1000.

If you are interested in being involved in this assembly day, please contact the club.

**Caroline Nolan**

## Diary Dates

|                                                  |                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 27 <sup>th</sup> May                             | Dinner Meeting                           |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> June                             | World Environment Day                    |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> June ??                         | Board Meeting                            |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> June                            | Dinner Meeting                           |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> July                             | Board Meeting                            |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> July                            | Dinner Meeting                           |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> August                          | Board Meeting                            |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> August                          | Dinner Meeting                           |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> September?                       | Board Meeting                            |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup><br>September | District 23 Conference<br>in Bendigo     |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> September                       | Dinner Meeting                           |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> October                         | Board Meeting                            |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> October                         | 43 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebration |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> November                        | Board Meeting                            |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> November                        | Dinner Meeting                           |

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



**Congratulations to  
Alison Round, who will celebrate  
another candle on her birthday  
cake on 5<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Have a wonderful celebration!**

