



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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NOVEMBER 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
 26th November 2020
 Phone Maureen on 0408 346 596**

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**PRESIDENT  
 CAROLINE NOLAN**

Dear Zontians,

As I sit to write this, my thoughts are with our sisters from the Central Goldfields Club who may be finding things a little quiet this morning without the crowds and noise, which they would be usually experiencing this time of the year. If 2020 had been a normal, I would have been waking up in my tent in Maryborough, possibly with only a few hours of sleep, to the sounds of the last few hours of the Energy Breakthrough race. Although, we did have our own little Energy Breakthrough challenge at school yesterday, Maryborough was another event that students missed this year.

When our club discussed whether we should proceed with the YWPA this year, we were conscious of the disappointments that young women have experienced and we were keen to continue with the award, albeit differently and with concerns about our limitations when it comes to technology. Despite all our careful planning our YWPA online presentation evening did not go quite as we planned and apologies to all our Zonta friends who hoped to join us but were unable to join the Zoom meeting. The unexpected issues with passwords, speakers and microphones, highlighted the limits of my technology capabilities and was definitely a test of our resilience.

I will not share the details but it was a classic Bridget

Jones experience. In the end, however, we were able to hear the impressive presentations of our four applicants and the Ballarat YWPA award was eventually given to Clarendon College student, Eloise Amirtharajah, who embodies the qualities of a YWPA winner and we will forward her application onto District 23 early in 2021.

Throughout November, we have been planning for the '16 Days on Activism'. Yet again, we have had to display an ability to be flexible as we have lots of stops and starts and divergence from the original plans, we had at our initial brainstorming session a few months ago. That said, we have been working cooperatively with the Wendouree Cricket Club, Women's Health Grampians and the City of Ballarat to create a plan for the sixteen days, beginning with our launch and awareness walk on the 25<sup>th</sup> November and we anticipate that together we can provide an informative experience for the Ballarat community. I acknowledge the work of Ballarat Zonta member, Alison Round, who has also organized our orange Zonta Says No t-shirts, and we still have a few spare if any members would still like to purchase one. We also look forward to hearing from Dr Carolyn Evans, CSC, past District 24 Governor, as she shares her knowledge of Child Marriage in Australia.

Finally, having Dr Carolyn Evans, CSC, as our guest speaker, was a recommendation from Val Sarah and it is with some sadness that, our Board received notification that Charter Member and Past International President, Val Sarah, has made the decision to step down as an active member of the club. She will continue the connection as an Honorary Member after our Ballarat's Great Women event in March 2021. We hope to have an opportunity to show our appreciation for Val's service to the Zonta Club of Ballarat in 2021.

**Yours in Zonta  
 Caroline**

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## Young Women in Public Affairs Award

Our Club celebrated our Young Women in Public Affairs Award at our October Meeting and it was great hearing what these young women are interested in and the activities they are contributing to in our community, whilst also excelling in their studies.

As I listened to each of these women, it was a reminder that even though they are just starting their journey in life, how committed they are to helping others, donating their time and supporting those less fortunate than themselves. Their interest in students in other countries and knowledge of world events is wonderful!

This year our Award was different with Loretta Kaval delivering a long-stemmed yellow rose and certificate to each of the participants at their schools on the morning of our meeting and I hope they felt special!



Left is Catherine Taylor with our winner, Eloise Amirtharajah and Michaela Settle, Member for Buninyong

### Eloise Amirtharajah

Eloise is a Year 12 VCE student at Ballarat Clarendon College. She is the 2020 Senior Community Service Leader and a member of the City of Ballarat Youth council. She has been tutoring with Culturally Diverse Homework Clubs and fundraised for Aussie Action Abroad. She is hoping to go on to do a Bachelor of International Studies with a focus on global politics, gender studies and environmental policy.

### Leah Young

Leah is a Year 12 VCE student at Damascus College and a member of the school's Student Representative Council. She coaches Soccer and has volunteered at the Edmund Rice Camps. She is hoping to go on to study Psychology with the career goal of working in

equine assisted therapy for kids with learning difficulties.



Tola Obadina, on the right, with one of her teachers

### Nadrah Ayotola Obadina

Tola is a Year 12 VCE student at Phoenix College and a member of the school's Student Representative Council. She volunteers regularly at the Vinnie's Op Shop and assisted with the Helping Hand out of school care program in Sunshine. She is hoping to go on to study a Bachelor of Science at Deakin University with a long-term plan of studying pediatrics in the future.



Ashleigh Goossens with her rose and certificate

### Ashleigh Goossens

Ashleigh is a Year 12 VCE student at Ballarat Grammar School. She is the Year 7 mentor captain for her house and an outdoor education leader at her school. She has been volunteering as a leader at 1st Sebastopol Girl Guides, Pinarc and at the Holy Trinity Op Shop. She is hoping to go on to study a Bachelor of Education (Primary), at ACU Ballarat to become a primary school teacher.

**Sharelle Knight, Caroline Nolan, Loretta Kaval, Maria Sozanski and Catherine Taylor  
YWPA Committee**

## **Natasha Stott Despoja Elected to UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**



Natasha Stott Despoja  
Image from her website

Former Democrats leader Natasha Stott Despoja has been elected to a top-level United Nations committee fighting for equality for women. The former South Australian senator was early this morning voted onto the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The committee is a body of 23 independent experts who monitor the progress of UN member states' efforts to eliminate discrimination against women. Ms Stott Despoja will be the first Australian member for 28 years. "I'm very proud of my country today," Ms Stott Despoja said.

The South Australian was one of 11 people elected to the committee, out of 19 candidates, including nine incumbents. She said her "passion for gender equality and human rights" and hard work campaigning got her elected. "It's been a long night, but I'm very happy that Australia has a spot on the committee," she said.

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women was adopted by the UN in 1979 and entered into force in 1981. Foreign Affairs Minister and Minister for Women, Marise Payne congratulated Ms Stott Despoja on her election.

"Ms Stott Despoja's candidacy was supported by the Australian Government following an open, merit-based selection process," Senator Payne said.

"It builds on Australia's global leadership in advancing women's rights and demonstrates Australia's commitment to eliminating discrimination against women and girls in Australia and globally. Australia has a proud record of advocacy on gender equality with a focus on ending violence against women and girls, promoting women's economic empowerment and enhancing women's leadership choices."

Ms Stott Despoja will be on the committee for four years and will be the only representative from Oceania.

She was a senator for South Australia from 1995 to 2008. She was Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls from 2013 to 2016 and is the current chair of Our Watch, a group which focuses on the prevention of violence against women and their children. She became an Officer of the Order of Australia last year.

From <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-10/natasha-stott-despoja-elected-to-un-cedaw-committee/12866484>>

10th November 2020

Natasha was awarded the District 23 Centennial Award at the District 16, 22, 23 and 24 Conference held in Brisbane in September 2019 and was presented with her Award at an Area 2 Gala Dinner by District 23 Governor, Jane Adornetto, last year.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



**Congratulations to  
Maureen Menhennet, who will  
celebrate another candle on her  
birthday cake on 13<sup>th</sup> December.  
Have a wonderful celebration!**

## Guest Speaker on Child Marriage in Australia - Dr. Carolyn Evans, CSC



It is a great pleasure to introduce Carolyn to you. I've known her for more than a decade, as she followed my daughter Olivia as Governor of District 24 in the biennium 2010-2012.

Dr. Evans was previously a senior decision-maker in commercial and non-profit enterprise, after an early career in the Royal Australian Air Force which culminated in the award of the Conspicuous Service Cross.

She is presently a researcher and teaching fellow at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, with current interests in International law – particularly in relation to her forthcoming book, *'Towards a more accountable United Nations Security Council'* (Brill/Nijhoff, December 2020).

In parallel to her doctoral research, on which the book is based, Carolyn has had the opportunity to contribute to projects on 'The partiality of international peacekeeping', and 'Scenario-based training for Senior Leadership in Peace Operations – Sexual Exploitation and Abuse', among others.

To be brief, Carolyn holds degrees as a Master of Business Administration, a Master of Legal Studies and Doctor of Philosophy, and her research interests cover Public International Law, International Law, Comparative Law, Global Governance, Populism, Constitutional Democracy, and the topic she is sharing with us during our November Meeting is forced marriage in Australia which dovetails in with our Zonta International Global Program to End Child Marriage.

**Val Sarah**

## Diary Dates

26<sup>th</sup> November Meeting  
10<sup>th</sup> December Board Meeting

### 2021

30<sup>th</sup> January Planning Meeting  
11<sup>th</sup> February Board Meeting  
25<sup>th</sup> February Dinner Meeting  
11<sup>th</sup> March Board Meeting  
25<sup>th</sup> March Ballarat's Great Women  
8<sup>th</sup> April Board Meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> April Dinner Meeting  
8<sup>th</sup> May Area 1 & 4 Meeting  
13<sup>th</sup> May Board Meeting  
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> September District 23 Conference  
September 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



Violence against women and girls has long been one of the most widespread violations of human rights.

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.



[www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

## Zonta Says No Tee Shirts



Our printed orange tee shirts arrived in plenty of time for the start of the forthcoming 16 Days of Activism on 25<sup>th</sup> November, and have been delivered to our own Members and those fellow Zontians who placed orders. We will all look a vision in orange!

Some limited stock is still available in sizes medium, large and extra-large. To order contact me directly.

Alison Round  
alison.round5@icloud.com  
0468 407611

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## 16 Days of Activism

Our Club celebrated the launch of 16 Days of Activism with a partial walk around Lake Wendouree, finishing at the Sensory Garden in Ballarat's Botanical Gardens and it was a great morning for a walk.



Participants in our walk!  
From left are Alison Round, President Caroline Nolan, Sarah Robinson, Janet Robinson, Bernadette Duffy, Sharelle Knight and Catherine Taylor



Cathy Oddie joined us in the Sensory Gardens with her beautiful dog, and on the back of her tee shirt are the words, I'M TAKING STEPS TO END FAMILY VIOLENCE

It was wonderful to see so many people wearing their orange tee shirts with Zonta Says NO, contributing to create awareness against domestic violence and getting fit at the same time. Other activities will occur as well as posts on Facebook and Instagram.

On the PR front, photographers from The Courier and the Ballarat Times News Group came and took many photos, which should appear in the respective publications over the next few days. Also, one of the television stations was interviewing our President, Caroline Nolan.

Well done everyone!

**Catherine Taylor**

**16 Days of Activism:  
25<sup>th</sup> November – 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
[www.zontasaysno.com](http://www.zontasaysno.com)

**ZONTA SAYS NO**  
**TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**



### **WOW! What a Year!**

At the start of this year, none of us would have predicted how this year would turn out, but most of us have survived to live through a 100-year event.

Yes, I have missed seeing everyone at our dinner meetings and other events, however, many of us have learned new technology and different ways of doing things and our resilience has certainly shone through.

I hope you have enjoyed reading BAZ and hope that it has kept you informed.  
Thank you to everyone for your stories and, Val, for her excellent eye for detail when proof reading these editions and making corrections at very short notice.

I wish you all a great Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year and look forward to a wonderful 2021!

My thoughts are with those that aren't enjoying good health and wish them a speedy recovery.

*Catherine X*