

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

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

Editor: catherine.taylor888@bigpond.com

OCTOBER 2017

District 23 Area 4

**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 23rd November 2017
 Phone Hilary Pope on 0411 402 557**
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**PRESIDENT Catherine Taylor**



Dear Zontians,

This week our Club celebrates its 39<sup>th</sup> Birthday, which is an awesome achievement!

Since our Club was chartered on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1978, (United Nations Day), there have been many Dinner and Board Meetings, many Breast Cushion Stuffing Days, which have helped many men and women with breast cancer to be more comfortable. We have assembled many toiletry bags for Berry Street to assist women who are forced to leave their homes because of domestic violence. We have also contributed many food items and gifts to the 3BA Christmas Appeal and the 3BA Christmas in July Appeal.

There have been many young women nominated for our Young Women in Public Affairs Awards, I am sure, they and our winners, are better for having gone through this experience. We are now in our tenth year of holding Ballarat's Great Women and in this short time, 175 women have been honoured.

Our Amelia Earhart Garden Parties have been great afternoons and raised significant funds for Zonta International's Amelia Earhart Fund.

Many fundraising events have been held and our Club has contributed with donations to approximately 140 clubs and organisations around Ballarat.

Over the years, many Members have travelled to Zonta International Conventions and to Conferences here in Australia. These are great learning experiences and a great time to catch up with friends made on previous occasions.

As time has passed, members have come and gone, all making a contribution and being richer for the experience.

I have only been a member of this Club for the last six years and I am genuinely in awe of the contribution our Club has made in our Community and I am proud to be a part of its achievements and history.

And there has also been a lot of fun and laughter!

I thank you all for your contributions of time, energy, donations and money and for making our Club what it is today!

Onwards and upwards for another 39 years, I say!

**Yours in Zonta  
 Catherine**

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**INDEX:**

- Pages 2 – 8 Our Members and their time in Zonta
- Page 9 – No Violence Day / Rotary Raffle
- Page 10 – Zontians Honoured / Ballarat's Great Women
- Page 11 – Diary Dates / The Story of Binda Sunar
- Page 12 – Breast Cushion Stuffing Afternoon

## *The Zonta Club of Ballarat is Celebrating 39 Years*

Our Club is celebrating its 39<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and I asked our Members to contribute by answering some questions? The first person is Val Sarah, who was our Club's Charter President.

Catherine Taylor

### *Val Sarah*



"In the mid-70's I'd just finished working at BTV6 after 15 years of a career in production and presentation of programs for women in rural and remote parts of the viewing area, with the freedom of choice and challenges of long-term forward planning which went with the job. Even though we had two young daughters and a burgeoning business to fill the hours, the stimulation of an ever-changing career was no longer there. Not having been brought up or educated in Ballarat, I had no close women friends, and was finding it difficult to adjust.

Zonta, introduced by six members of the Melbourne Club under the leadership of Elizabeth Lucas, came to the rescue! Joining them for an informal lunch with 5 other local women including Mary Campbell and Anne Smail, was such a joy - at last, women on the same wavelength, women with spirit and a shared sense of purpose!

It was like being part of a big family, and an international one at that. An added bonus was the fact that our Charter Date was UN Day, the 24<sup>th</sup> October – we felt really special.

The Charter Dinner in April 1979 introduced us to visitors from New Zealand, Canada and the USA, and the District 16 Conference in Melbourne the following weekend brought us into contact with Zontians from all over Australia and New Zealand. We were truly blessed to have such an overview of Zonta from the very start.

Our Club has been represented at every Convention since 1982, and this single fact has resulted in a core of members with knowledge of how Zonta operates and its impact upon communities worldwide.

I owe everything to the membership of our Club – without their support from the beginning, opportunities for leadership would not have been a possibility. Zonta has enriched my life, and although we have experienced our ups and downs, the Club has achieved much in our local community because of the commitment of *all* those who have served it since inception in 1978."

### *Donna Campbell*



*Left is Donna with Maureen Menhennet*

What drew you to joining Zonta initially?

My mum was a charter member and I was approached by Elizabeth Lucas to join the club. Elizabeth was pivotal in forming our club.

## *The Zonta Club of Ballarat is Celebrating 39 Years*

What do you like about being a member of our Club?

The impact we are having on women locally and through our hands on activities for breast cushions and birthing kits where we are able to combine service, fellowship, advocacy meeting Zonta ideals while enjoying a chat and laughter in a relaxed atmosphere.

Is there any one Dinner Meeting or Club Event or Activity you particularly enjoy participating in?

These vary but I do like it when we have visitors. Over the years I would have to say our Garden Party has always been a highlight for me.

What do you get from your participation in Zonta?

A highlight of this for me is that I have the opportunity to mix with women not of my profession, friendship and on an international level meeting women from all over the world.

women's issues. My friend Pam Davies, whom I knew through the Ladies' Committee at Ballarat and Clarendon College, was a member of Zonta and asked me to come to a meeting – the rest is history!

What do you like about being a Member of our Club?

The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of women and girls, in a group of like-minded women.

Is there any one Dinner Meeting or Club Event or Activity you particularly enjoy participating in?

I enjoy all Zonta activities, but my favourite is the Young Women in Public Affairs Award, which brings us as a club into contact with young women, their teachers and families, and allows us to share with them our ideals and programs.

What do you get from your participation in Zonta?

What I most appreciate from my participation in Zonta are the friendships and connections I've made over the last 28 years, and the values I share with my fellow Zontians, values which ignore differences in age, nationality, race and beliefs.

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### *Stella Coffey*



*Left is Stella and friends*

What drew you to joining Zonta initially?

As I was working with my then husband in our family business, where all the staff were male, I was looking for an activity which would both appeal to me on an intellectual level as well as supporting my interest in

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### *Jenny Debnay*

What drew you to joining Zonta initially?

I felt that I was coming to a point where I needed a new interest. My thesis writing and research on the life of Dr Fanny Reading was drawing to an end. I had belonged to a Probus club since I retired from teaching. I felt that I had out-grown the club although I still valued my friendships with the women. However, I was irritated by the casual way the club ran its financial affairs, and the unprofessional way the club held its elections. So, I contacted Val Sarah who I knew well from my National Theatre days to have a chat. She suggested that I look at what Zonta offered a person like me.

What do you like about being a Member of our Club?

As a new member, I have enjoyed meeting the other

## *The Zonta Club of Ballarat is Celebrating 39 Years*

Members, so it meets my social needs. I enjoy and appreciate the well-run meetings. Since this was a bone of contention for me with Probus I appreciate the formality and processes of Zonta's Ballarat meetings.



*Jenny at our recent YWPA Awards Dinner Event*

Is there any one Dinner Meeting or Club event or Activity you particularly enjoy participating in?

I enjoy the dinner meetings. For a retired, single woman social meetings are important and there are limited things in Ballarat for this group, although golf or bridge are enjoyed by many. I have enjoyed the 'hands on' activity that I have participated in because I have the necessary skills and I can donate my time. I look forward to being involved in more of these in the future.

What do you get from your participation in Zonta?

At this stage I am still learning about Zonta, its structure, its mission and the people in it. At the local level I am enjoying a new group of people to work with and to socialise with. I can see that some of the members enjoy the globalisation of Zonta but I do not intend to fly overseas to conferences. I can understand that members draw their energy and their enthusiasm from these international conferences

but I do not want to travel widely any longer. I do leave the door open though to learning some new and useful skills.

## *Helen Eyres*



*Left is Helen at our recent Birthing Kit Assembly Day*

What drew you to joining Zonta initially?

I joined Zonta on the invitation of a fellow pharmacist that I was working with at the UFS in 2001. That was Elizabeth Bren and also on the recommendation of Anne Smail, another fellow pharmacist. I could relate to Zonta's Mission and vision and particularly the advocacy of promoting women.

What do you like about being a member of our Club?

I like being a member of the Ballarat Zonta Club because of the community work that we do in making the Breast Cushions for patients, providing toiletries for Berry Street and our overseas project of packing the Birthing kits. I also value working with like minded people.

Is there any one Dinner Meeting or Club Event or Activity you particularly enjoy participating in?

## *The Zonta Club of Ballarat is Celebrating 39 Years*

I enjoy most of the Club events and dinner meetings and especially the Amelia Earhart Garden Party early in the year, and also Young Women in Public Affairs. Each event has its own particular emphasis, so they are all meaningful and enjoyable.

What do you get from your participation in Zonta?

By participating in Zonta, I feel that I am contributing to the community and also helping to advance the status of women both locally and internationally.

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### *Caroline Nolan*



*Left is Caroline with Stella selling raffle tickets*

What drew you to joining Zonta initially?

I think I attended a Ballarat's Great Women or International Women's Day event and thought that is something I should be involved in; as I preferred being involved in a service club that focussed on women.

What do you like about being a Member of our Club?

I like that we celebrate the achievements of local women through the BGW and YWPA dinners.

Is there any one Dinner Meeting or Club Event or Activity you particularly enjoy participating in?

I really enjoyed the Birthday meetings where we had a presentation about the Victorian suffragette struggles. I like learning about new things. Also, the drama presentation about the Women of the Goldfields.

What do you get from your participation in Zonta?

Probably not as much as I could. I love that it is an organisation that works both locally and internationally. I know I would also learn a lot and develop friendships with members of other groups, and feel part of the bigger network, if I could ever get to a conference. Sadly, timing and finances make that difficult.

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### *Alison Round*



*Left is Alison with Stella at a recent Bunnings Day*

What drew you to joining Zonta initially?

The Sandgate branch of Zonta had an information stall at the local fete. I was visiting from overseas, but my son-in-law thought that I might be interested in joining them and gave them my details. They duly contacted me upon my return.

Is there any one Dinner Meeting or Club Event or Activity you particularly enjoy participating in?

I particularly enjoyed the YWPA meeting (at both Sandgate & Ballarat). It is heart-warming to see such young capable girls who have already achieved

## *The Zonta Club of Ballarat is Celebrating 39 Years*

so much, but who have the enthusiasm and potential for great things.

What do you get from your participation in Zonta?

Friendship; learning about the lives of others overseas and being able to contribute in a small way to improving their lives.

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### *Hilary Pope*



*Hilary with Marilyn at Conference*

What drew you to joining Zonta initially?

The chance to be involved in regional and international projects and networking as well as local projects.

What do you like about being a Member of our Club?

The chance to continue involvement at all levels and a variety of projects. I would like it **more** if we could all be more concentrated on our own areas of interest, rather than everybody having to be involved in everything and having to cover so many "odd jobs" to get things done.

Is there any one Dinner Meeting or Club event or Activity you particularly enjoy participating in?

I enjoy the variety of meetings and activities.

What do you get from your participation in Zonta?

Sometimes rather more work than I would prefer, but working on projects which fit my interests is good. I also enjoy the chance to work on a wider area, such as PPG, District and internationally. It also continues my interest in the UN, particularly UN Women (with which I was involved as UNIFEM).

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### *Maureen Menhennet*



*Maureen at Conference*

What drew you to joining Zonta initially?

I wanted to join a service organisation and Zonta appealed to me as its focus is on improving the lives of girls/women from the local level through to the international stage.

Is there any one Dinner Meeting or Club event or Activity you particularly enjoy participating in?

## *The Zonta Club of Ballarat is Celebrating 39 Years*

We can make a difference in Ballarat by putting our efforts in to the local community by donating to the Christmas in July Appeal and being involved in the school community in seeking out nominees for the Young Women in Public Affairs award, to the breast cushion project supporting our local hospitals and the birthing kits at international level. I have been to the past two August dinners where the winner of the YWPA award is announced. The nominees show great leadership and follow a path that is close to their heart. This is a wonderful event and it is inspiring to see what these young women can achieve.

### *Maria Sozanski*



*Left is Maria with Helen and Val*

What drew you to joining Zonta initially?

I have been aware of the work of Zonta for many years and was delighted when my application for Membership was accepted.

What do you like about being a member of our Club?

I have enjoyed the opportunity to learn more of the work of Zonta both internationally and locally. It has also been a good way to meet some interesting and like minded people.

Is there any one Dinner Meeting or Club Event or Activity you particularly enjoy participating in?

The dinner highlights for me are the Ballarat's Great Women and Young Women in Public Affairs dinners. I always come home feeling quite humbled and in awe of the amazing contributions to society made by the awardees. The "usual" dinner meetings are always enjoyable and I admire the efficient manner in which they are run. A good opportunity for some brief social chat too.

What do you get from your participation in Zonta?

I enjoy feeling I have made a contribution to the betterment of the situation of women and feel encouraged to try to do more.

### *Sharelle Knight*



*From right is Sharelle with Kate, Edwina, Lucy, Stella and Catherine*

What drew you to joining Zonta initially?

Encouraged by fellow Zontian, Caroline Nolan, I was encouraged by the activities of the Ballarat Zonta Group and fellowship with other like minded women.

## *The Zonta Club of Ballarat is Celebrating 39 Years*

What do you like about being a Member of our Club?

I enjoy the opportunity to contribute to my community in a different way to my other commitments. I also enjoy the opportunity to make a difference to women on a global level.

Is there any one Dinner Meeting or Club event or Activity you particularly enjoy participating in?

I particularly enjoy the Young Women in Public Affairs Award – I get great enjoyment from listening to the aspirations, thoughts and activities of local young women. It is reassuring to know that there are wonderful young female leaders with aspirations to achieve on a personal level and also within their community.

What do you get from your participation in Zonta?

I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet other women from outside my usual networks.

coming up and decided Zonta would be a good fit for me.

What do you like about being a Member of our Club?

The first meeting I attended, I liked the friendliness of everyone and a huge plus, comparing Ballarat to Geelong, was the Ballarat Club did not have a fines session. Since then, there have been many Club activities to get involved in which keep me busy.

Is there any one Dinner Meeting or Club event or Activity you particularly enjoy participating in?

I like all our dinner meetings and club events and activities, they are different with some requiring different skills.

What do you get from your participation in Zonta?

A sense of satisfaction that I have helped someone or made a contribution to something. I also like the fact that different clubs have different events and fundraising events and they all come under the Zonta International banner – all empowering women and girls.

### *Catherine Taylor*



*Left is Catherine with Val, Donna and Maureen*

What drew you to joining Zonta initially?

When I was living and working in Geelong ten years ago, I met Phillipa Challis at a business breakfast and we got talking. She asked me to attend their next dinner meeting and I did. Over the next few days, I thought about what had been discussed and what was

Thank you, everyone for your answers and participation!

**Catherine Taylor**



Happy Birthday to you  
Happy Birthday to you  
Happy Birthday to  
Stella Coffey, who is celebrating on 7<sup>th</sup> November  
and Sharelle Knight, who is having her celebration  
on the 8<sup>th</sup> November!  
Have a great day, ladies!

## Bunnings "No Violence" Day – Monday 2nd October 2017

Following a request to Bunnings for support for our YWPA Raffle, I received an email from them offering us the opportunity to participate in their "No Violence" Day on Monday 2nd October.



*Left is Jenny Debney with Stella Coffey*

We were able to set up a stand with our banner, and distribute Zonta information to passing customers; also, we were given a \$50 Bunnings Gift Voucher to raffle.

President Catherine and I looked after the stand, and Jenny Debney kindly called in to relieve us so that we could take a short break. Alison Round also surprised us mid-morning with home-made cake, and tea and coffee from the Bunnings café – thanks so much to Jenny and Alison for your support.

We raised \$22 from the raffle and gave out a few brochures. The raffle was drawn at the Board meeting and our winner, Alison Round, now has \$50 to spend at Bunnings!

**Stella Coffey**

## ROTARY COMMUNITY RAFFLE

As previously advised I now have the raffle tickets for this year – great prizes (Ford cars as first and second prizes, and a \$5000 travel voucher from Escape Travel as third prize – how good would that be to travel to Convention 2018 in Japan!!).



*Stella Coffey selling raffle tickets*

We have 750 tickets; books will again be available at this week's dinner so please take a book (or two) to sell to your friends and contacts. If you're not going to be at the dinner, please contact me for any tickets you require. Many thanks to those members who have already taken some books to sell. As usual we sell the tickets for \$2 each and retain 80% (\$1.60 per ticket) with the remainder going back to Rotary. There are 10 tickets to a book, so each book you sell/buy raises \$16 for Zonta projects. That's \$1200 if we sell our 750!! The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

I have applied to Rotary for 3 selling days with the display car, and have been allocated the following dates – **25<sup>th</sup> November, 16<sup>th</sup> December and 27<sup>th</sup> January** (all Saturdays as that seems to suit most of us best). Rotary are still finalising locations, but have told me that the first date, **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, will be either at Big W or Lucas Shopping centre.** The second date, 16<sup>th</sup> December, will possibly be Lucas or the new Delacombe Town Centre shopping centre. I'm sorry that I don't have more definite information, but Rotary apparently haven't firmed up the locations as yet. I will let everyone know as soon as the locations are confirmed; meanwhile I'll circulate rosters for all 3 dates by e-mail and will also have them at the October, November and December dinners. Please give some thought to helping out on one or more of the Saturdays – contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks everyone

**Stella Coffey**

Phone: 0409 022 427

Rotary Raffle Coordinator

Email: [stellbell@nashish.com](mailto:stellbell@nashish.com)

## Zontians Honoured

Two reports have appeared on Facebook this month about Zontians being honoured for their community work.

The first item included photographs of Phillipa Challis and her daughter Michelle at Government House in Melbourne. Phillipa was receiving her OAM and Michelle accepted the OAM awarded to her late father Derek.



The second article outlined Margaret Bird's contributions to the community through her career in education, her membership of Zonta and work with COTA and other community groups, leading to her inclusion on the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women.



Hearty congratulations to both Zontians!

**Hilary Pope**

## Ballarat's Great Women 2018

During the month Val, Catherine and I have met and finalised the paperwork and timetable for BGW 2018:



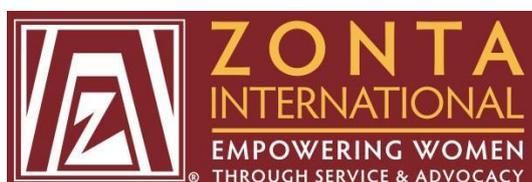
*From left Judith Pickford, Lidia Aitken, Melissa Cunningham, Auntie Marlene Gilson and Gorgi Coghan*

- We have been through our list of suggested nominees and allocated them for letters to possible nominators.
- The closing date for nominations is 1 December and we have set a date for a preliminary assessment of the nominations received.
- A notice calling for nominations appeared in My Ballarat, but it has not been picked up elsewhere yet. I am sending it out again.
- The nomination form is on the website for downloading, together with a complete list of the honour roll so far.
- I have received four requests for nomination forms so far from people who were not contacted by us. Of course, I don't yet know who these people are thinking of nominating.
- I did not send nomination information to other Clubs because we have notices in BAZ, which all Clubs receive.

**Hilary Pope**  
**Convenor**  
**Ballarat's Great Women**

## Diary Dates

|             |                                                                                            |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 26  | Dinner meeting – 39 <sup>th</sup> birthday                                                 |
| November 8  | Zonta's 98 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary –<br>Founders' Day                                    |
| November 9  | Board meeting                                                                              |
| November 11 | Breast Cushion Assembly<br>afternoon at Mt Clear                                           |
| November 23 | Dinner meeting (Christmas 3BA<br>appeal)                                                   |
| November 24 | Ballarat White Ribbon Day<br>Breakfast                                                     |
| November 24 | ZC Mornington WRD Breakfast                                                                |
| November 25 | Rotary Community Raffle –<br>selling tickets for Club                                      |
| November 25 | International Day for the<br>Elimination of Violence Against<br>Women and White Ribbon Day |
| December 1  | Close of Nominations for<br>Ballarat's Great Women 2018                                    |
| December 5  | Judging of BGW nominations                                                                 |
| December 16 | Rotary Community Raffle –<br>selling tickets for Club                                      |
| January 13  | Rotary Community Raffle –<br>selling tickets for Club                                      |
| January 18  | Planning Meeting                                                                           |
| February 11 | Amelia Earhart Garden Party                                                                |



### The story of Binda Sunar

A strong aroma of bamboo shoots tingles your senses as you enter the small hut through a makeshift door. A modern gas stove is stacked in the middle of the room. On top of that is a kadahi half-filled with bamboo shoot soup. This is home for 25-year old Binda Sunar, who is blowing to light up the fire for cooking.

Binda left abroad for work in 2011. "I had always wanted to go abroad, hoping to escape poverty and hardship," she said. However, her life in Kuwait was extremely challenging. She had to work for 18 hours a day to earn NPR 18,000 (US\$180) per month. She kept on enduring inhumane working conditions and separation from family with a hope that her son could study and live a life of dignity.

Two years after she left Nepal, her mother-in-law got seriously ill. Binda returned home when her contract ended in 2013. "I had no interest to extend my contract any longer as my mother-in-law was not in a condition to take care of our 4-year-old son," she said. Binda's family is now complete. Her mother-in-law's health has considerably improved, and the couple gets to spend quality time with their son.

However, having run out of her savings, Binda recently began thinking of working abroad for the second time. Fortunately for Binda, a friend told her about a tailoring training program run by UN Women for women migrant workers who have returned home. The program provides women with 390 hours of vocational training on tailoring. Binda enrolled immediately, and got a chance to learn a new skill set, together with 12 other returnee women migrant workers. It has just been a week at the training centre. However, she is happy with the pace of her learning.

Binda is currently learning to sew simple garments such as caps, vests and trousers. "I receive a lot of support from my peers, especially when I miss classes and need to catch up," she said. "Also, the trainer is always there to provide extra time and support if any of us are lagging behind," she added.

For Binda, the provision of a child-care facility is the best thing that motivates young mothers like herself to come to work every day. Currently, two women have brought their small kids to the training centre, where a friendly child attendant is available to take care of them.

With the festivals coming up, her son will have a month-long holiday, and Binda plans to bring him to the training.

Binda thinks having a skilled workforce is crucial to the country's future, and would provide an alternative to hundreds of women who migrate from Nepal for work every day. Personally, this training is a dream come true for Binda, who aspires to open her own tailoring shop and generate income to pay off the debt the family took to pay for her husband's flight and visa to Malaysia. Participants of the vocational training for tailoring listen carefully to their trainer as she teaches them ways to sketch designs. The tailoring training is part of the "Future We Want" project funded by Zonta International and supported by UN Women.

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



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## **Breast Cushion Stuffing Afternoon**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Mount Clear Primary School**

**1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.**



*At the back is Stella Coffey, Sue Bartlett and Donna Campbell and in front is Helen Eyres and Pat Fraser  
Some of our helpers at our last stuffing day!*

The Zonta Club of Ballarat is holding a Breast Cushion Stuffing Afternoon and we need your help to fill the 97 casings our wonderful volunteer sewers have produced.

When the Breast Cushions are completed, they are given to St John of God Hospital and Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre to support men and women who have breast cancer surgery.

If you can support this very worthy project for its entirety or a couple of hours, please call Catherine on 0439 711 451 by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Light refreshments will be provided.