



ZONTA
CLUB OF
MELTON INC

President: Bianca Heaney
Secretary: Julie Handford
Treasurer: Pauline White
Email: info@zontaclubofmelton.org.au
Website: www.zontaclubofmelton.org.au

MelZon News

Editor: Barbara Reithofer

October 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Everyone,

This month I thought I'd have a look at what is happening internationally. The United Nations has embraced International Days and uses these as an advocacy tool. International Days and Weeks are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.



So, I have selected two International Days that are very topical at the moment:

1. EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE - 18 SEPTEMBER



Women in the health and care sector face a larger gender pay gap than in other economic sectors, earning on average of 24 per cent less than peers who are men (ILO/WHO 2022). **PHOTO:** ILO/Crozet M.

International Equal Pay Day, celebrated on 18 September, represents the longstanding efforts towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. It further builds on the United Nations' commitment to human rights and against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls.

Across all regions, women are paid less than men, with the gender pay gap estimated at around 20 per cent globally. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls continue to be held back owing to the persistence of historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty and inequalities and disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities that limit women's and girls' capabilities. Progress on narrowing that gap has been slow. While equal pay for men and women has been widely endorsed, applying it in practice has been difficult.

Achieving equal pay is an important milestone for human rights and gender equality. It takes the effort of the entire world community, and more work remains to be done.

2. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD - 11 OCTOBER



Give girls an opportunity to lead by putting them in the forefront of change efforts; hearing their voices; responding to their asks; and welcoming them in decision-making spaces - it is one of the ways to invest in a future that believes in girls' agency.

PHOTO:© UNFPA Burkina Faso/Théo

Our Club recently celebrated the Charter of the BMZ Club in Bacchus Marsh. The establishment of the Z Club has gained momentum. The Charter members are busy working on projects which have inspired others to join. So it is fitting that the new members will be inducted on Wednesday 11 October - The International Day Of The Girl Child. They chose the date, and I wonder if they realise the significance of this special day!

NEW MEMBERS

At our September meeting, we inducted three new members, which was another great celebration for our club. I am sure that Katie, Gerry & Alex will enjoy their Zonta journey.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN MELTON?

18 October - We have been invited to participate in the **Victoria Police CommSafe Forum**. This is a great opportunity to talk with police about what issues are important in our community.



26 November - Members are organising two events for the **16 days of Activism**:

- "Walk with Her" at Hannah Watts Park; and
- A cricket match where the Melton Central Women's Cricket Team will wear orange to highlight the campaign to end violence against women.

Another couple of busy months, but it has been great and worth all the efforts put in by members.

Today's inspirational wisdom

"Give yourself permission to live a big life. Step into who you are meant to be. Stop playing small. You're meant for greater things".

Let's embrace what is to come, learn from it and let it empower you!



Yours in Zonta,

Bianca Heaney
President



MEMBERSHIP & PR COMMITTEE

Director: Sharon Cook

Members: Julie Handford, Chris McBride, Karen Wright, Janet Stewart, Gerry Addicott



Fellowship

Coffee Mornings:

Don't forget our regular gathering at Urban 35 each month. Please invite a friend along to enjoy a coffee and chat with us.

Karen sends out a reminder each month, so try and let her know if you are **unable** to come so they can set the correct number table for us.



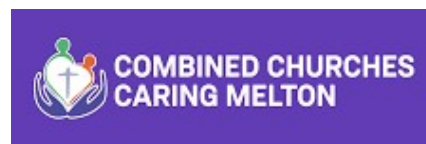
Outings:

We do not have anything planned at the moment, but a trip to Beaufort to the Cyril Callister Museum may be on the cards. He was a chemist and food scientist who created Vegemite in 1923, so it could be an interesting day out with lunch to boot, not necessarily a Vegemite sandwich!!!

Club Meetings

Our Guest speaker for October has cancelled – Smeeta Sing from Orange Door has left the organisation and she has not yet been replaced. They will contact me at a later date, so hopefully next year we will hear a representative speak. So instead, we will invite our 3 new members, or one of them at least, to take part in a “Getting to Know You” session.

We will hold a raffle this meeting with the proceeds going to CCCM - tickets will be 3 for \$5.00, winner takes all. Pauline will have the Square Reader available if you wish to pay by card.



We still have a guest speaker booked for November, with the BMZ Club joining us – we have the Certificate from ZI so will present that to them at that meeting.



Please order your meals at the Bistro as per usual and **advise of any non-attendance and guests to Chris McBride, by 12 noon on the Friday prior.**

Don't forget to arrive at MCC by 6pm for a 6.30 dinner and meeting start at 7pm.

BMZ Club

We have received the Charter Certificate from ZI and will present it to the BMZ Club at the November meeting. The girls are on school holidays now, but I am looking forward to hearing all about their “RU OK Day” activities.



Stay safe and well.

Cheers,

Sharon Cook

Director, Membership & PR Committee

Fundraising Committee

Director: Barbara Reithofer

Members: Jenny Adams, Judy Carter, Jane Sultana, Deepti Alurkkar Bagasrawala, Alexandra El-Khishen



Bunnings BBQ Sunday 24th September:



As this report was written before the BBQ has taken place, I can't give a fundraising result. However, everything is arranged and ready to go. We hope that, with the weather predicted to be a sunny 24C, the pleasant spring day will bring a steady stream of hungry customers. The absence of blustery winds and heavy rain should mean there will be none of the challenges experienced last time! Thank you to the members and partners who have volunteered to work at the BBQ on Sunday; the fundraising team is very grateful for your help.

"Zonta Cup Carnival" Race Night, Saturday 14th October:

Melton Phoenix Soccer Club clubhouse, 6.30pm for 7pm start.

Seats must be pre-booked by emailing Judy at cargo1@bigpond.com by Friday 6th October.



For those who haven't experienced this type of fundraising event before, be assured that it's a very enjoyable night, and you don't need to know anything about racing or gambling! It involves televised "phantom races" called by Greg Wheelahan (Trivia Master/Race Caller Extraordinaire!) Some interesting challenges and twists will build the tension and competitiveness between the teams, and there will also be other games and activities to enhance the fun.

Please invite your family, friends & colleagues along to join you for a fun-filled night, while helping to raise funds for our Zonta projects. Please refer to the flyer at the end of this newsletter for all the details.

The committee will sell "Lucky Straws" as an additional fundraiser at the Race Night event; therefore, we will be grateful for any donations of small items (new or in "as new" condition) that can be used as prizes. Members, please bring your donated goods to the October club meeting.



Trivia & Burger Night: Sunday 26th November at Grill'd Restaurant, Woodgrove SC.

A flyer will be distributed once the Race Night is done and dusted.

Watch this space for more details in next month's newsletter.

Regards,

Barbara Reithofer
Director of Fundraising

SERVICE

Director: Suzanne Leahy

Members: Lyn Hill, Meredith Martell, Annette Pedersen, Jane Warren, Pauline White, Katie Lynde



We welcome our new member to our committee, Katie Lynde - Katie will be a great addition to our group.

16 Days of Activism - 25 Nov to 10 Dec:

Jane S and I had a zoom meeting with Candace from the Melton Women’s Cricket Club who are happy to participate - they have applied for a grant and suggested that the money be used to purchase the following - orange shoelaces, orange caps for the girls to wear, posters around the ground, orange cupcakes for afternoon tea. A decision will be made once we know the outcome of the grant application.



Jane S and I also had a zoom meeting with Trinity, the Health Promotion Officer from Western Health. She is proposing a ‘Walk with Her’ around Hannah Watts Park with a possible date of 26th November.

This is the same date as the cricket game, so we are looking at options to hopefully combine the two events.

Kirrip Indigenous Group:

Janet, Bianca and I met with the ladies from the Kirrip Indigenous Group to find out how we can help the homeless and those who are in need. They were very appreciative of the Dignity Bags and will advise us when they need some more. Sanitary products would also be very useful. They would also appreciate some grocery donations for their food bank. If members would like to donate non-perishable food items, please bring them to our meetings to give to either Janet or me.



Birthing Kits:

I am hoping to order 300 (\$1,500) Birthing Kits within the next few weeks. Assembly day will be mid-October. Waiting to hear from Phoenix to see if we can use their clubrooms and also a delivery day from BKF.

International Women’s Day 2024:

Save the Date - 14th March 2024. Kerry Cue has confirmed that she will be our speaker.



Dignity Bags:

Melton dentist, Dr Andrew Maimur, has been very generous in donating quite a lot of goods as in toothbrushes, toothpaste, small clear plastic zip bags etc. We have quite a few dignity bags in stock so if you know of any organization that can use them, please let me know.

Suzanne Leahy
Director, Service & Advocacy Committee

ADVOCACY SUB-COMMITTEE

Chair: Jane Sultana
Committee: Bianca Heaney, Annette Pedersen, Janet Stewart



Behind the Toilet Door: We will continue distribution of the financial literacy posters.

16 days of Activism:

- Refer to the Service Committee report regarding our plans for this annual campaign.

Jane Sultana, Advocacy Chair

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023 (as at 23/09/2023):

MONTH	DAY	EVENT / MEETING	PURPOSE
SEPT 2023	1st - 3rd	2023 District Conference in Bunbury, WA	General
	4th	Club Dinner Meeting 6pm	General
	16th	Coffee Morning at Urban 35 – 10am	Fellowship
	24th	Bunnings BBQ	Fundraising
OCT 2023	2nd	Club Dinner Meeting 6pm	General
	14th	“Zonta Cup Carnival” Race Night – Melton Phoenix Clubrooms	Fundraising
	21st	Board meeting - 9am	General
	21st	Coffee Morning at Urban 35 – 10am	Fellowship
	29th	Birthing Kit Assembly Day – Melton Phoenix Clubrooms	Service
NOV 2023	1st -30th	Local Matters Token Jar – Grill’d, Woodgrove SC	Fundraising
	6th or 13th	Club Dinner Meeting 6pm – TBC (Melb Cup Day on 7 th Nov)	General
	18th	Coffee morning at Urban 35 – 10am	Fellowship
	18th	Board Meeting - 9am	General
	26th	Grill’d Burger & Trivia Night – details to come	Fundraising
DEC 2023	4th	Club Dinner Meeting 6pm – TBC	General
JAN 2024	11th	ZI Amelia Earhart Day – details to come	Fellowship
FEB 2024	5th	Club Dinner Meeting 6pm	General
MAR 2024	14th	International Women’s Day Function – details TBA	Service

Meeting Apologies & Guests

If you are **unable to attend**, or are bringing guests to,
the Club meeting on Monday 2nd October 2023,
please inform **Chris McBride** before **12noon** on **Friday 29th September**

Chris’ mobile is 0403 648 404



Birthdays Wishes to:

Barbara Reithofer 4th Oct
Meredith Martell 31st Oct

Anniversary Congratulations to:

Margaret Hinks 1997 (Life Member)

From The Editor:

16 Days of Activism - recent issues requiring action!



i) Victorian Victims Register

In 2018 a young woman was murdered by her former partner only hours after he was released early from jail. She had not been aware that he was out, and she was still living in the home they had previously shared. She didn't know that if she had been on the Victorian Victims Register, she would be told when he was to be released. Currently, victims of abuse must apply to sign on to the register, but many victims do not even know that the register exists. In 2022-23, 209000 victim reports were made to the police, and yet only 691 applications were made to the Victorian Victims Register.

Following the recent court case in which her former partner was convicted of manslaughter, the woman's family has raised awareness of the shortcomings in the Victim's Register system and are calling for it to be changed to an "Opt-Out" process. This will mean all victims of serious violent attacks are automatically placed on the Register so they will be notified of the offender's release unless the victim elects to withdraw from the register.

Fortunately, because this issue was raised in the media and caused public outcry, the State Premier and the Victims of Crime Commissioner, Fiona McCormack, have now agreed to a review of the register system. Hopefully, this matter is given the government's urgent attention, before another woman is killed by a released offender!

ii) Abuse or Homelessness?:



Apart from the lack of notification, another problem with the current legal system is that women who are victims of domestic abuse, cannot always leave the family home as they don't have anywhere else to live. They are often not in a financial position that allows them to pay out their former partner for his share of their joint

home, or to buy or rent another property in her own name.

Their only real options are to become homeless or to try to find a room in a refuge or hotel, and suitable accommodation isn't always available immediately, nor affordable, especially if there are children to find shelter for as well. Even if they can move in with a relative or friend, they are often reluctant to, for fear of putting them in danger too if the perpetrator knows the address.

So victims need a safe haven so that their former partners cannot locate them when they are released from jail.

Therefore, during their review of the Victims Register, the State Government also needs to look into the issue of providing safe homes for women & children who are victims of family violence, and perhaps consider providing them new identities and a system of protective services, similar to the "witness protection program".

After all, the women usually have to give evidence against their abusive partner in order to have him charged and placed in remand.

Furthermore, bail should not be available to a perpetrator of serious violent attacks so that he cannot return to the family home to re-abuse, intimidate or threaten the woman for reporting him to the police.

iii) Lenient Sentences:

In my opinion, another perplexing query & concern regarding this case (& all cases of serious violence) is the leniency of the sentence. Why was the woman's partner, who had previously been jailed for a violent attack on her, only charged with manslaughter and not murder? Why was he only sentenced to 8 ½ years, for brutally beating and savagely attacking her then leaving her to die? It seems apparent, from the reported facts, that he had a complete disregard for her life and had gone to the family home with a malicious intent to seriously hurt her. Even if he hadn't planned to kill her, he didn't make any attempt to help save her life once his vicious attack had ended. How does this leniency equate to justice for the victim and her family? How will a lenient charge and short sentence deter others from perpetrating acts of serious violence? It seems that there is very little chance of reducing the rate of violence in our country unless the federal and state justice systems are reviewed and the length of mandatory sentences for serious violent crimes is substantially increased. Too many women have died already. Now is the time for action to stop the violence!!!



Close to Home

It's always sad to hear of women being killed or seriously injured by their partners, or someone known to them, particularly as it is occurring far too often. It's especially upsetting and disconcerting when the most recent death was a young woman from our own community of Melton.

Sincere condolences to the victim, her family and friends,
and to all who have been affected by domestic violence.



WOMAN OF NOTE

To much happier news - it was great to read recently in the local paper that Leonie Patterson, a previous recipient of the Zonta Club of Melton annual "Woman of Note" Award, has been recognised again for her amazing efforts in fostering over 300 children, this time receiving the "2023 Protecting Children Carers Award".

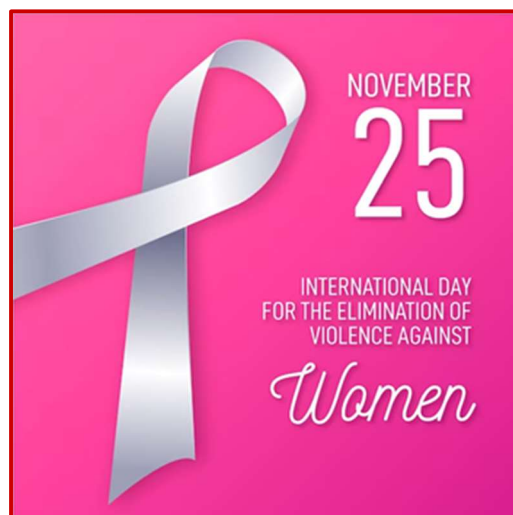
Leonie was presented the award at the start of "Foster Care Week" on 10 September. Congratulations, Leonie!

On an average night there are over 1500 children in foster care in Victoria. More carers are needed, particularly in Melbourne's West. Further information can be found at fosteringconnections.com.au.



Photo: Melton Moorabool Newspaper

*Barbara Reithofer,
Editor*



Zonta Cup Carnival

ENJOY A FUN-FILLED FUNDRAISING NIGHT AT THE "RACES"!!!

Saturday 14th October 2023

Arrive 6.30 pm for 7pm Start

**Venue: Melton Phoenix Soccer Club
MacPherson's Park, Coburns Road, Melton**

ENTRY \$20pp



- ❖ Bet on favoured horses -
(using "virtual" money allocated to each table)
- ❖ Watch phantom races on a big screen with "live" race calling
- ❖ Fundraising activities
- ❖ "Fashions on the Field" prize so dress to impress!
- ❖ BYO Snacks only - Drinks available for purchase at "Nix Bar".

You don't need to know anything about horse racing or betting to have a good night.

It is table vs table so get a group together for a night of fun.

Reserve your seat or table (max 8) by email cargo1@bigpond.com
by Friday 6th October 2023

(Note: Entry fee is payable by cash or EFT at the door, but seats are limited so you must pre-book)



All proceeds raised go towards Zonta Club of Melton community projects.

