



**President:** Bianca Heaney  
**Secretary:** Julie Handford  
**Treasurer:** Pauline White  
**Email:** [info@zontaclubofmelton.org.au](mailto:info@zontaclubofmelton.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.zontaclubofmelton.org.au](http://www.zontaclubofmelton.org.au)

# MelZon News

Editor: Barbara Reithofer

December 2023

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Everyone,

Well, the 2023 year has just flown by and so much has happened!

The Joy of Christmas is just around the corner. When I looked back at last year's newsletter, I had included a photo of our second grandson who was just born! He turned one last week! To me the joy of Christmas is now watching our grandsons grow up into beautiful and cheeky boys!



## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

This event starts on 25<sup>th</sup> November on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ends on 10<sup>th</sup> December on Human Rights Day. Our members have been busy participating in the "Walk with Her" on 26<sup>th</sup> November at Hannah Watts Park, Melton. The weather wasn't kind to us and numbers were down. But this did not deter us from promoting all the good things that Zonta does during this important event. It gave us the chance to also show off our new banners, speak with participants and make a presentation at the official opening. Our "orange ladies" were also in attendance and later that day left to be on display at Western Health. "Orange ladies" have also taken up residence at the local libraries and community centres around Melton. (More photos at end of newsletter).



On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December we will be supporting the local women's cricket team during their match at the Melton Central Cricket ground, Reynolds Place, Melton South. 3 Banners will be placed around the cricket ground:

- **Zonta says NO to violence against women.**
- **UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls.**
- **How's that! ... violence against women is OUT!**

We have been very busy promoting Zonta through service and advocacy. We might even see our activities included in Zonta International's "Sharing our Story". We recently appeared in the local newspaper, Melton Moorabool Star Weekly, in an article about the "Walk With Her" event (see photo at end of newsletter).

## Endeavour Awards 2023

The awards are presented to two Year 11 girls at 3 local schools, Melton Secondary, Kurunjang Secondary & Staughton College. The purpose of the Endeavour Award (\$500 scholarship) is to help the recipient purchase educational requisites for their Year 12 studies. The 2023 Endeavour Awards will be presented at each of the schools' Awards Night being held during the next 2 weeks.

The following feedback was received from one of the school's re last year's award ... *"Miss XYZ faced many challenges, especially financially. She has worked very hard to support herself and purchase the school resources she needs. However, she would not have been in a position to purchase her own laptop had she not had the scholarship. This purchase will ensure she is able to commence her studies at University and be able to study effectively".*

## BMZ Club

BMZ Club members are doing really well. A number of them came with two teachers to our club meeting in November. Our guest speaker spoke on human trafficking, and this certainly got the students' attention as they asked a lot of questions. See Sharon's report in this newsletter.

## Ageing Well Forum

the  
**Ageing Well in Melton**  
Network

We attended the "Ageing Well in Melton" Forum on 29<sup>th</sup> November, run by Darren Cunningham, the

Positive Ageing Officer at Melton City Council.

He organised a range of guest speakers, providing an update on projects such as the Melton Hospital, Council programs for seniors, and Melton Library services.



The committee reports include more activities!

Yes, we have been busy this year, but we have had fun along the way.

A quote to wrap up 2023 and Christmas....by Beau Taplin

*"The true spirit of Christmas is a reminder that our most precious gifts cannot be found wrapped in ribbon or tinsel or beneath a tree draped in lights, but in the hearts and laughter of those that gather beside it."*

**Merry Christmas to you all. Enjoy time out with your families, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all next year. Thanks for all your help and contributions to a fun and enjoyable year, providing service to women and girls in our community!**

Yours in Zonta,



**Bianca Heaney**  
President

---

## MEMBERSHIP & PR COMMITTEE

**Director: Sharon Cook**

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



We held our last meeting for the year at Back to Bacchus, unfortunately Karen and Janet were unwell so Chris, Julie, Gerry and I enjoyed lunch and made some plans for our final club meeting on 4th December. We will all catch up again soon.

I would like to thank all the members of the Membership Committee for their hard work, support and friendship over the past year, I could not have done it without you.

## Fellowship

### Coffee Mornings

We had our final morning coffee for the year on Saturday Nov 18<sup>th</sup>; it was great to see so many members turn up.

Thank you to Karen for arranging the mornings all year, it's a pity she missed the last one due to illness! Look forward to many more in 2024.



## Upcoming Outings

- **January 2024:** An outing in mid-January is being planned to celebrate Amelia Earhart Day – details will be emailed to members asap.
- **March 2024:** Eleven members will be heading to Ballarat in March to see comedian, Ahn Do.

## Meetings

Our November meeting was a very special one for 2 reasons:

1. We heard from Liz Payne from ACRATH regarding Human Trafficking and the horrible toll it takes worldwide on the lives of women and girls.

AND

2. 5 of the BMZ Club members, Jasleen, Myra, Gizelle, Pravaluka and Sammy, attended along with their teachers Caitlyn and Rufaro. It was a great pleasure to have them there and for them to see how a meeting is run. Jasleen spoke to us and filled us in on their activities for R U OK Day and Pinktober as well as their plans for preparing Dignity Bags and Christmas Hampers before the school closes in December, We then presented the girls with their Charter Certificate from Zonta International. The girls were inspired and want to come back, so hopefully they will visit us each term in 2024; in that way, we can continue to encourage each other and work together to improve the status of women and girls in our community and worldwide.



And, of course, we had to have cake!



## December

Planning is well under way for our Christmas meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December at the Melton Country Club:

- Members **MUST** advise Chris McBride by 30<sup>th</sup> November of their attendance (or absence), the number of guests they are bringing, and any dietary requirements, for MCC's catering purposes.
- Remittance of \$35pp to the Club's bank account is required asap, as the Club will be invoiced.
- Please remember to bring a \$15 gift for a child between the ages of 1 -12 years, wrapped and with the age and gender written on the front of the parcel.
- We are, as usual, collecting non-perishable food items for the Combined Caring Churches Melton (CCCM), so if you could bring a couple off items to donate that would be great.
- We are not having a KK, but some fun activities, hopefully, are planned for the evening.
- Dress to impress, as there will be a prize for the most Christmassy person and a door prize or two! 😊

Note: there is no Club meeting in January; next meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.



## BMZ Club

They have now collected lots of goods for Dignity Bags to be donated to organisations in Bacchus Marsh. They held a competition in the school and the class that donated the most goods won a Pizza lunch - or similar



The items came in thick and fast. so I went to the school on 28<sup>th</sup> November to see/sort out what they had and on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>, we packed the Dignity Bags.

I contacted the Food Bank in Bacchus and the Uniting Church who are both happy to receive bags to hand out to residents with the greatest need.

Photos and further details of the Dignity Bags assembly and distribution will be included in the next newsletter.

The support the girls get from the staff is amazing; Miss Caitlyn Stephen and Miss Rufaro Zivave are there every meeting and after school and giving advice and help, thank you so much for your assistance. The Club would not be anywhere as successful if not for your help.

At our November Club meeting, we presented Caitlyn and Rufaro with a gift and Certificate of Appreciation for all their hard work.

To Bacchus Marsh Grammar and Melton Zonta Club, thank you for all your support with the Z Club this year, it takes a combined effort to ensure the success of a venture like this.



Stay safe and well.

*Cheers,  
Sharon Cook & Team*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Fundraising Committee

**Director: Barbara Reithofer**

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



### Zonta Phoenix Race Night – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November

40 people attended this event and all seemed to enjoy themselves, and our enthusiastic host/race caller Greg Wheelahan certainly managed to rev up the interest, and competition, amongst the teams.



❖ A prize was awarded for “Best Dressed Female” to Sharon Lord (in a red outfit with matching hat that had been to lunch with Queen Lizzie at Buckingham Palace!) and “Best Dressed Male” to David McBride (debonaire as usual in his scottish kilt and bow tie!).

❖ During the last horse race, the “grand final event”, we were all cheering and shouting at the screen, urging our horses over the finish line. There was so much excitement and exuberance in the room, you would have thought we were really at the races, and gambling with real money!!!

❖ “Orange Lady”, a long shot, bolted first to the finish line in the last few metres of the race, bringing victory, and the spoils, to its “owners”! The winning team of Annette, Ed, Jan & Joe were each presented with a “Zonta Phoenix Cup” as well as chocolates and wine (see more photos below).

Thank you to Melton Phoenix FC for allowing us to share their Race Night and for use of the clubrooms. And a huge thank you to the members and friends who came along and made it a fabulous night and successful fundraising event. With entry fees, donations, sale of Lucky Straws and drinks purchased from the Nix Bar, the total result, after expenses, was \$1133, which Zonta and Phoenix will split 50/50.

## Trivia & Burger Night: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November



35 people attended Grill'd last Sunday night and enjoyed a delicious meal before participating in 4 rounds of Trivia relating to Pop Culture, General Knowledge, Famous Movie Scenes and a "Who Am I" challenge, all with a focus on women.

It was a close competition up to the end, but it was hardly a surprise which table triumphed - congratulations to the very knowledgeable & formidable team of Jenny Adams and friends, who each received a Grill'd voucher!

We also ran a small raffle, with some lovely prizes given out to 4 very happy winners.

Thank you also to the members who could not be there but generously donated funds to the event.

A huge thank you to the members and friends who did attend - without your support we would not have had another successful fundraiser... I hope you all had a lot of fun too! I had so much fun that I forgot to take photos!

Casey from Grill'd did an amazing job in supervising the prompt food service and running the trivia rounds. She had also spent a lot of her own time at home preparing the questions.

So, thank you to Casey and Grill'd for organizing this event – from the entry fees, the raffle and donations we raised an amazing \$615.

This is one event that the next fundraising committee should consider holding again in 2024!

**"Local Matters" Token Jar:** Thank you to everyone who ate at Grill'd during November and placed their tokens in the "Zonta" jar. As of last Sunday, it seems that our jar has received the most tokens, and therefore, we should win the \$300 prize.

Thank you to Grill'd Local Matters for giving our club the opportunity to participate in this fabulous fundraising initiative.



**Rotary of Ballarat South Community Raffle 2023-2024:** We have taken delivery of 100 books (1000 tickets) for this raffle which are available for sale from now until end of April. The raffle will be drawn in May 2024.

o Tickets cost only \$2.00 each.

o 1<sup>st</sup> prize is a Hyundai Tucson valued at \$38,600.

o 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is a \$1000 Bunnings Home Improvement Voucher.

o The club will receive \$1.60 (80%) for each ticket sold.

o At the December meeting, members will be asked to take at least 1 book (10 tickets) to sell to their family & friends – the tickets make a great "Xmas stocking stuffer"!



- o The committee will look at options for selling the tickets in shopping centres and other venues around Melton, Caroline Springs, Sunbury and Bacchus Marsh, over the next few months.

I sincerely thank the committee members for their unending contribution, enthusiasm and support for all the fundraising activities during the year, especially since I took on the role of Director. We couldn't have held so many successful events without your amazing hard work. I look forward to working with you all again next year, at least for the remaining 5 months of the 2022-2024 biennium.

*Barbara Reithofer*  
*Director of Fundraising*



## SERVICE

Director: Suzanne Leahy

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



## Dignity Bags:

Large bags have been distributed to Kिरrup, Bunnings Melton and Bunnings Sunbury.

A small number were also given to each of the Neighbourhood houses in Sunbury who were very appreciative.

We will have another packing day early next year as there are lots of goods and bags to fill.



### 16 Days of Activism - 25 Nov to 10 Dec:

I have distributed various sizes of the Orange Ladies throughout the Neighbourhood houses and Library in Sunbury.

Jane S. has distributed them throughout Melton.

We also used them at the 'Walk with Her' event at Hanna Watts Park on 26th November.

More details re the "16 Days" are in the Advocacy report.

### International Women's Day Dinner 2024

This annual event will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> March at Melton Country Club, with Kerry Cue as the keynote speaker. Final planning and organisation will commence early to mid-January when tickets become available for purchase on Trybooking.

All relevant information will be distributed by email and on the club's social media pages at the start of 2024. Mark the date in your 2024 diary and please remind your family and friends to do the same!

*Suzanne Leahy*

Director, Service & Advocacy Committee

\*\*\*\*\*

### ADVOCACY SUB-COMMITTEE

Chair: Jane Sultana

Committee: Bianca Heaney, Annette Pedersen, Janet Stewart



We met on Monday Nov 27th via Zoom.

- **District Advocacy Group** did not meet this month; the next Zoom will be in December.
  - **16 Days of Activism Nov 25 to Dec 10** – many "Orange Ladies" figurines of differing sizes, with their messages against family violence, have been distributed around libraries and community centres in Melton, Caroline Springs and Sunbury for the duration of the 16 days. Look out for them around your area!
- Pertinent information is being sent out daily on our social media platforms during the 16 days. Two "Activism" events have been organised, as follows:



- **Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Walk** - our first event, marking the start of the Activism period, was the "Walk with Her" activity at Hannah Watts Park, held in conjunction with Western Health Promotion Team. The weather was cloudy and cool, but fortunately no rain or wind, and the enthusiastic group of approx. 80 walkers headed off for 1, 2 or 3 laps of the park track. Our new banners and bright orange caps added to the visibility and messaging on the day! Rotary provided a welcome BBQ sausage at the end of the walk. Well done to all involved in organizing the event and displays!
- **Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Cricket Match** - The second event, on the last day of the Activism period, is being held in conjunction with Melton Women's Cricket Club will have an orange theme. Players will wear orange caps and shoe-laces, and spectating Zonta members will wear orange caps. The banners will be displayed again. Orange coloured food/ fruit is planned for the half-time break! Details of the starting time and location will be sent to members shortly.

· **Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation.** Members are generously purchasing toys for children aged 0-12 in lieu of our usual Kris Kringle at our Dec Christmas meeting. Janet will deliver these to Kirrip before their Christmas Party in mid-December. A quantity of completed dignity bags also will be supplied to them.

The Advocacy Sub-Committee wishes all members a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

*Annette Pedersen,  
on behalf of Jane Sultana & the Advocacy team*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023-2024 (as at 30/11/2023):**

MONTH	DAY	EVENT / MEETING	PURPOSE
DEC 2023	4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Xmas Dinner Meeting 6pm – payment of \$35pp to club bank account required in advance	General
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Community Raffle starts – tickets available to members for sale	Fundraising
	TBA	Endeavour Award presentations at 3 secondary schools	Service
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Melton Central Women’s Cricket “Orange Stumps Day” for end of “16 Days of Activism” – details to come	Advocacy
JAN 2024	TBC	ZI Amelia Earhart Day – details to come	Fellowship
FEB 2024	5 <sup>th</sup>	Club Dinner Meeting 6pm	General
MAR 2024	4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Dinner Meeting 6pm	General
	14 <sup>th</sup>	International Women’s Day Function – details TBA	Service
JUNE 2024	25 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup>	ZI Convention, Brisbane – details available on website (ZI advice is to book accommodation in early 2024 to secure a hotel close to the event)	General

**Meeting Apologies & Guests**

If you have not already done so, you must confirm your attendance at, or absence from, and if bringing any guests to, the Club Christmas Dinner on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to Chris McBride before 12noon on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

**Chris’ mobile is 0403 648 404**



**Birthday Wishes to:**

Alexandra El-Kishen                      19<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Margaret Hinks (Life Member)      31<sup>st</sup> Dec

**Anniversary Congratulations to:**

Pauline White                              2011  
Jane Sultana                                2013

\*\*\*\*\*

***From The Editor: What a Year it has been!***

**Globally** - Sadly, it has not been a good year in terms of world peace. Apart from verbal clashes between various world leaders in relation to trade, human rights concerns, climate change and defense issues, the number of countries that are actively engaged in war has grown rapidly during the last 12 months. Russia continues to attack the Ukraine, and now, Israel and the Hamas are fighting over Palestine, while in Sudan local conflict has escalated since April. In each of these civil wars, there is widespread destruction of homes, factories, hospitals and resources, as well as an enormous loss of life and serious injury to the population. So, we must wonder if there will be anything left that is worth having, once the fighting stops!

A quote from Bertrand Russell (British mathematician, philosopher and pacifist):  
**“War does not determine who is right - only who is left!”**

Let’s hope that 2024 will bring peaceful and long-lasting resolutions to the many conflicts currently raging around the world, so that there is an end to the enormous loss of life and suffering of innocent civilians.

## Locally

As Bianca reported, our club has had a very busy year ...

- ❖ working on our various service projects,
- ❖ building membership, fellowship and a Z Club,
- ❖ keeping members and the wider community informed about the Club's activities and projects,
- ❖ lifting our profile through workshops, advocacy, partnerships and local newspapers, and
- ❖ raising funds through various events, activities and barbeques.



Yet we still managed to have fun, maintain friendship, and keep our sanity and good humour, and, more importantly, we delivered on the Zonta mission to support, educate and empower women and girls locally, national and internationally!

So, we all deserve, and probably need, to have a short break from Zonta, to spend time with our family and friends, to relax and rejuvenate, and to relish the joy, love and laughter of those we gather around us over the festive season. By the time Amelia Earhart Day comes around in January 2024, we should all be ready and eager to work tirelessly for Zonta for another 12 months!

Note: There will not be a newsletter for January, but members will be kept informed of upcoming events or important information by email, so please keep checking your inbox, while you're enjoying the short break.



***Wishing you all a safe and joyful festive season,  
and an amazing 2024 full of hope, peace, good health and  
exciting projects!***

***Barbara Reithofer  
Editor***

## PHOTOS FROM OUR RECENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

### 1. 'Walk With Her' story in local newspaper:

Zonta Melton members Suzanne Leahy, Lyn Hill, Sarah King, Julie Landford, Jane Sullana and president Bianca Heaney. 3/71334\_02 (©Anjan Janera)

## Women walking against violence

The Zonta Club of Melton is inviting the community to walk together against family violence on November 26 at Hannah Watts Park.

The free Walk With Her event will get underway at 10am and include a two-kilometre walk, a range of activities and giveaways, talks from special guests and a barbeque lunch.

The Walk With Her event will mark the beginning of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign led annually by UN Women.

It runs every year from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, to December 10 which is Human Rights Day.

During the 16 Days of Activism, communities around the world join the call to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls.

Zonta International is an organisation that has worked to build a better world for women and girls for more than 100 years.

Zonta Club of Melton president Bianca Heaney said this in-person event aims to create a safer, more respectful and equal community and raise awareness of the prevalence, impacts and severity of family violence.

"Family violence is gendered - overwhelmingly most perpetrators are men and victim survivors are women, children and young people," she said.

"While gender inequality is the root cause of violence against women, family violence can, and does occur within a range of relationships."

"We encourage the whole community to walk together in solidarity to help change the story and to demonstrate support for all victim survivors of family violence."

Details: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/walk-with-her-tickets-734407481547?aff=oddtcreator>



## 2. Zonta Phoenix Cup Carnival fundraising event:



Greg Wheelahan & Bianca



## 3. 16 Days of Activism: "Walk With Her" event



Zontians out and about at Hannah Watts Park, with some of the Orange Ladies

And some 4-legged friends too!

