

East-Enders

February 2024

“Building a Better World for Women and Girls”



President's Patter



WOW! That was my first reaction when I turned to page 23 of The Zontian – The Voice of Zonta International. This page recognised 25 Years + Members. The information that really caught my attention was the list of 5 members who joined from 1950 to 1961. Members with 60 and 70 years of membership. Amazing!

So, I spent a rainy afternoon wandering around the International Website browsing the history of Zonta. What a journey! An afternoon well spent, not only covering the history of Zonta, but the global history and how Zonta evolved from inception in 1919 to the present day. I really recommend that if you find yourself at a loose end browse these pages.

Here are a just few take aways from my afternoon.

I am not sure I would have qualified for membership in 1950.

“It is not the purpose of Zonta to get as large a membership as possible, but to have recognized businesses and professions of the highest type represented in Zonta by women of the finest caliber who are the most truly representatives of those businesses and professions.”

By 1956, it had changed to the following *“It is the purpose of Zonta to secure as large a membership as possible composed of women of the finest caliber representing recognized businesses and professions.”* Whew, I might have made the cut by then!

There have of course been many changes to membership qualifications and categories since then.

Talking about membership, while the number of Clubs has increased dramatically to around 1200 world-wide the membership of these clubs could still be seen as small with 30,000 members; average club membership is around 25. Obviously, there are many clubs with more members but also many smaller clubs throughout the world.

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What does this tell us in 2024, I believe that the message is that members of Zonta Clubs are, and always have been, dedicated women from all walks of life who are passionate about the core values that Zontians embrace. We don't necessarily need numbers to make a difference. It just takes One Person, One Step, One Act!

In 1963 the International President wrote:

"The aims and objectives of Zontians are the same the world over. We may approach these differently in some areas, but we are agreed on our purposes. Service is our reason for being. Service, in the largest sense of the word, motivates us in all we do.

We do not see service as being confined to the charitable and philanthropic act, worthy as that is. We know that all we can do to help women help themselves is service in every sense of the word. We must do all in our power to improve the legal, economic and social status of women; we must give women our loyalty and cooperation when they achieve positions of influence in our communities and our countries. We recognize the fellowship we develop among Zonta members within a district and in Zonta International as a means to the kind of understanding, which points the path to peace among peoples of the world. What greater service can be ours?"

I look forward to joining you in this service to women 2024.

Susan

Editorial

Keeping my Zonta engagement goals – In this edition, I have included information on Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program, and an extract from a paper forwarded by our District 22 Housing and Homelessness Working Group.

Please come to our **Club Planning Day, Saturday 10th February**. We are meeting in Bulimba Library from 1.00 – 4.30 p.m.

Start thinking – what do we do well and must continue, what do we do that could be improved, what new ideas and strategies could we consider? We want your feedback and suggestions in relation to meetings, fundraising, membership and fellowship, service projects, and communication, and anything else that's driving you crazy! If you are not able to attend, please still send your ideas to any Board member prior to the meeting.

Jacinta





Zonta Brisbane East appreciates the significant assistance given by family and friends who are recognised as 'HonZons' - their support and practical assistance make our events and service projects successful.

HonZon Spotlight: John Papa

Why am I a HonZon?

John says "That is because I am married to Lyn!"

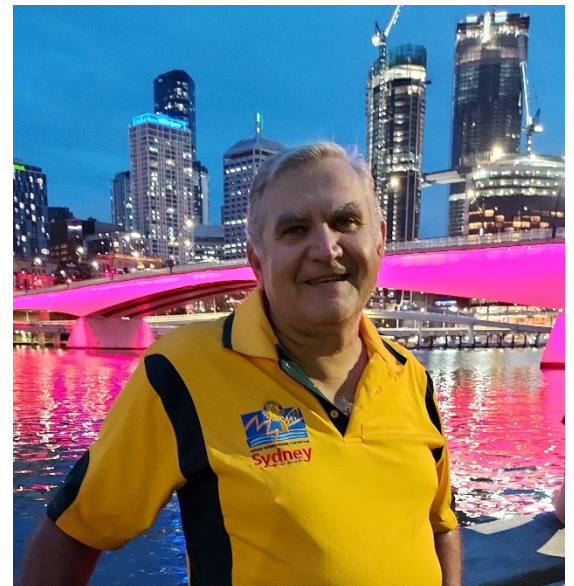
John is not a morning person as a rule but will happily start the morning shift at the Bunnings sausage sizzle with Lyn as she is a morning person. Although he does enjoy cooking a BBQ but he won't admit it.

John belongs to another community service club so he is used to volunteering. Lyn's father was in the same organization for many years as well.

John also enjoys the City Walk for the 16 Days of Activism each year and to chat to other Hon Zons. He also enjoys the other social functions that the club holds including our annual Christmas dinner. John is always keen to help out Zonta in whatever way he can.

Having 2 daughters himself, he is keen to "Build a better world for women and girls".

(Ed: Thanks John for your support, and for sharing your story and photo. This was taken at 2023 Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women City Walk – the bridge was actually lit orange! We look forward to your ongoing contribution as an HonZon to Zonta Brisbane East).



Service:

Morningside Police Station Soft Room Project



Officer-in-Charge, Dave Buttrum, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Zonta Club of Brisbane East for our assistance, support and donations in creating the room at Morningside Police Station for interviewing victims of domestic violence.

We heard feedback about what has worked well, and how some previous work practices have been modified through the reburishment of this room.

Fellowship:

Due to excessive heat, and then wet weather, our planned picnic in New Farm Park was changed to lunch at Lovewell Café.

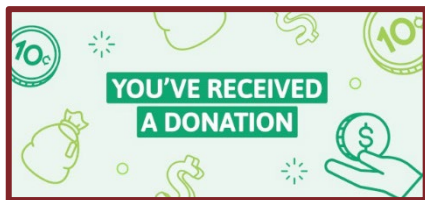
Did you know that Lovewell works with women who are rebuilding their lives- the café provides a safe place and community for them; changing one woman at a time, one coffee at a time.

As Zontians, we are keen to support organisations that empower women. And it was a great venue to bid farewell to Divya, as she is about to transfer to another Zonta Club.



Zonta Club of Brisbane East 35 Year Anniversary:

Zonta Club of Brisbane East Inc will be celebrating our anniversary in March. The committee has been busy formulating plans for how we celebrate. We will hear details – very soon!



Fundraising: Containers for Change

For those who are helping with our fundraising via “Containers for Change”, please collect cans and bottles (with 10c return label) and wine and spirit bottles (these do not have the 10c return label).

Drop your bag of recyclable bottles and cans to a Containers for Change depot and quote the number **C10671310**.

The funds raised will then go direct into our Fundraising Account.

Do we need a target? As of 31 January, \$208.80 has been raised. Thank you! That’s another 400 containers donated over December and January. That goal of \$500 seems illusive with still **\$291.20 to go!** But hopefully, members have collected containers and will bring to either our planning meeting or Club meeting, so that they can be dropped at a depot.



Sausage Sizzle: 9th March 2024

Members and Hon Zons will soon be contacted. Please contact Jo if you are available to be on the roster.

Thanks to everyone who volunteers their time to purchase items, to cook and serve at Rocklea Bunnings Sausage Sizzle.

Zonta International Convention, 27-30 June 2024:

Convention Early Bird Registrations has opened, (extending to 15th March). Register online: [Zonta International | Brisbane 2024 | Women's Rights Convention \(zontaconvention.com\)](https://zontaconvention.com)

You will need to know your Zonta Membership Number – this was included in the email you have received from Zonta International on 18th January, or contact if you need assistance.

Remember that the ticket prices are in US dollars, and GST will be added at online checkout.

District Governor has advised that District 22 will hold a Welcome to Convention gathering on 26th June at Charming Squire. This event is open to all D22 Zontians (even if not attending the convention), partners and friends. Cost will be \$58 pp. Tickets will be available online.

Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award

The goal of the Zonta International YWPA Award Program is to encourage young women to participate in public affairs by recognizing their commitment to the volunteer sector, evidence of volunteer leadership achievements and a dedication to building a better world for women and girls through service and advocacy.

Who is Eligible?

Women, aged 16-19 on 1st April each year, living in a Zonta district, who demonstrate evidence of the following,

- Active commitment to volunteerism.
- Experience in local government, student government, or workplace leadership (paid or unpaid).
- Volunteer leadership achievements.
- Knowledge of Zonta International and its programs.
- Support for Zonta International's mission of building a better world for women and girls.

If you would like to learn more about the Young Women in Public Affairs Award, or to encourage a young woman to apply for this award, go to [Young Women in Public Affairs Award \(zonta.org\)](https://zonta.org)

(Ed: Note that Clubs must forward their 2024 YPWA winner applications to District 22 by 1st April. So applications need to be submitted to Clubs – asap).

Zonta District 22 Ltd Housing and Homelessness Working Group

The 2016 census found that older women were the fastest growing group of people facing homelessness. By 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, census data showed the rate of homelessness for women increased by 10.1%, compared with a much slower increase of 1.6% for men. Queensland agencies and housing service providers have reported an increase in homelessness of up to 22% over the past four years, compared to the national increase of 8%. Why is this an issue for Zonta? Zonta International has as its central mission, gender equity and the right of women and girls to basic human rights such as safe and affordable housing. Women are particularly vulnerable to housing stress and homelessness because they face a range of economic and social structural inequities (limited superannuation, the gendered wage gap, uneven distribution of unpaid care work between the genders, and gendered violence). Women's homelessness is often hidden - they are more likely to "couch-surf" or live with family;

they are more likely to keep their lack of housing private; the reasons for homelessness are often linked to domestic violence.

What can we do about this situation? The Zonta International District 22 Ltd. Housing and Homelessness Working Group (HWG), created in September 2023, acknowledges that many clubs have been engaging in activities and liaising with service providers within their local communities. A coordinated approach between clubs will mean a stronger voice to government and housing stakeholders. Current services and club involvement is scattered but can be identified in one of three areas:

- Crisis accommodation – women fleeing domestic violence situations or at risk of homelessness due to economic stress
- Transition accommodation – medium term solutions
- Permanent solutions.

Zonta clubs tend to be mostly engaged in reactive responses at the first level (crisis accommodation) particularly in supplying products, gift vouchers and financial donations. However, the HWG believes a more strategic, long-term, and state-wide approach to our advocacy across all levels, is now necessary. This paper is the first step in helping clubs identify the issues and principles behind our involvement in an advocacy campaign to help rectify the growing trend of women's homelessness in Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

The HWG believes that housing should be approached as a human right. To this end, the following key principles will help guide work in our communities:

- Local action must be informed by an understanding of the local housing and homelessness situation. We engage in evidence-based action. We destigmatise homelessness and lift the lid on the invisibility of women
 - Zonta clubs need to act as allies to people in housing need and form partnerships with local services. We work with our community
 - Zonta clubs are aware of innovative effective local solutions. We build on what works and seek innovative solutions to the crisis
 - Zonta will focus on advocacy, raising awareness and supporting local services. We will be influential allies guided by local "experts"
 - Where possible clubs will support long term solutions. We use our networks to grow housing supply
- Systemic and structural inequities require a concerted and deliberate response, especially where those inequities are driving the largest increases in homelessness across Australia.

Next steps: The HWG meets monthly and will conclude its work in June 2024. The group has responsibility for pulling together information and data on the extent and effect of women's homelessness in Queensland. This information and related toolkit will be used to guide and coordinate our club advocacy efforts and help members understand the extent and nature of homelessness in their community.

The members of the group are – Sandy Venn-Brown, District Advocacy Chair and Zonta International Board member, Stanthorpe Jade Cronan-Thompson, Brisbane Sue Cumming, Brisbane River Glynnis Gartside, Pine Rivers Melissa Keogh-Lancaster, Toowoomba Garden City Mark McConnell, Ipswich Carissa Tarawhiti – Hervey Bay

Contact us: Your feedback or communication with us is encouraged.

Email: zontad22hwg@gmail.com or phone: Sandy – 0437 643 722

Diary Dates

10 February 2024 – Club Planning Meeting – Bulimba Library, 1.00 – 4.30 p.m.

19 February 2024 – Monthly Meeting – Hybrid

08 March 2024 – International Women's Day

09 March 2024 – Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, Rocklea

11 March 2024 – Board Meeting

15 March 2024 – Last Day for Early Bird Registration for Zonta International Convention

16 March 2024 – Combined Area 1 & 3 Meeting, Beaudesert

18 March 2024 – Club Meeting

04 April 2024 – Board Meeting

15 April 2024 – Club Meeting

26 June 2024 – District 22 Welcome to Convention – Charming Squire, South Brisbane.

27-30 June 2024 – Zonta International Convention, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

