

01 June 2022 – 31 May 2023

ABN: 51 605 623 392

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Area Director: Robyn Liddell
Club President: Patricia (Trish) Collins
Vice President: Meredith Sutherland
Minutes Secretary: Janice (Jan) Landsberg

Correspondence

Secretary/Director: Elizabeth Acton

Treasurer: Valda Fitzgerald

Director: Jenny Baker

Club Membership:

Numbers of members at 01 June 2022:	10
Number of member inductions:	8
Number of resignations:	0
Number of members as at 31 May 2023:	18

Meetings:

The first club meeting of the year was held on the third Thursday of the month, however, due to clashes with a number of members' commitments the following monthly club meetings were moved to the fourth Thursday between 6pm and 7pm. Fellowship and opportunities for guest speakers and information sharing was held between 5pm and 6pm.

Significant effort was made to ensure that all members had access to meetings. This is evidenced by the use of ZOOM to conduct hybrid meetings. A grant from Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC) Community Assistance program facilitated the purchase of a portable conference speaker phone, an audio recorder and web camera. The Frenchville Sports Club (FSC) has also provided access to free wifi at their venue.

Thanks is extended to the RRC for the grant funds and to the FSC for their ongoing generous support of Zonta.

Governance:

The club adopted the District 22 annual plan by aligning club activities and adding club specific actions. Board and Club calendars were prepared and shared to highlight the club's key activities and governance tasks. Agendas were designed to reflect the key work to be undertake at International, District and Club level. These actions assisted the alignment of club activity with our ZI mission and goals.

To ensure alignment with amended ZI Bylaws and club practice, a review of the club's Constitution was undertaken by myself and Board Secretary, Jan, and presented to members for ratification.

Committees:

The 2022-2023 Zonta year continued the comprehensive approach to club activities with a shared responsibility for undertaking Advocacy, Service and Membership tasks – guided by Coordinators. This was felt the most productive use of members' time until the club was able to attract new membership.

Deliberation at Club level continues to be informed by recommendations from the Board in conjunction with coordinators. I coordinated matters relating to Membership with assistance from Berenice Payne and Valda Fitzgerald, while Jan Landsberg coordinated matters relating to Service and Advocacy.

Members have supported the activities and participated in working parties established when available.

Highlights of the Year

June 2022 – Meeting: Frenchville Sports Club (3rd Thursday)

The first meeting of the year did not have a quorum and the planning session discussion, with recommendations for the adoption of the plan and action, was held over for ratification at the July meeting.

Outcome: Finalisation of Club plan held over for further input following receipt of ZI post-convention updates.

July 2022 – Meeting: Frenchville Sports Club (4th Thursday)

Prior to the meeting a **presentation** was made to the manager of the **Women's Shelter** on behalf of the winner of the *2022 Living Treasure Awardee*, Margie Tomlinson.

We welcomed new member, Liz Drumm, who was inducted via ZOOM.

I spoke at a CQ Law Society meeting about Zonta to raise awareness and encourage membership. We did not attract any members though interest was shown by one lawyer who engaged with us at a club information session on YWPA and club meeting. Unfortunately, she accepted a new position in another location and could not commit to membership in Rockhampton.

An **MOU with Anglicare** was signed with funds committed to pay for the fit-out of one of their new *Safe Places* homes – *Karen's Haven* - which will provide safe homes for women and children who have experienced Domestic and Family Violence.

Outcomes:

- New member inducted
- Naming rights of one of Anglicare's new *Safe Places* homes – plaque design approved in February 2023



August 2022 – Meeting: Frenchville Sports Club

Our **meet and greet session** prior to the August club meeting was attended by representatives from secondary schools who were presented with information about the **Young Women in Public Affairs Award (YWPA)**.

Outcome: The session proved to be very worthwhile with interest in the award spreading to schools that had not previously engaged with it.

A grant of \$1,000 was received from The Capricornian Banking Corporation to fund Networking events for the purpose of sharing our club's work and inviting membership.

September 2022 – No meeting due to clash with coverage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's funeral – matters held over to October meeting

A **Spring High Tea** was held at Callaghan Park, with the venue provided in-kind by the Rockhampton Jockey Club. Attendees were entertained with various quizzes during the afternoon

Outcome: A net profit of \$1,900 was made by the club which was approximately \$200 more than the previous year's event. Use of the club's Square reader for sale of raffle tickets is credited for increasing the raffle profit.

October 2022 – Meeting: Frenchville Sports Club

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month, information was shared by Jan on Facebook and Nyree included a mention of our breast cushion project in an article she wrote for CQ Today.

Trish and Jan meet with the three **CQU Award recipients** for a coffee at the Frenchville Sports Club.

Outcome: The meeting demonstrated the importance of supporting women to achieve their goals.

November 2022 - Meeting: ZOOM

The first Networking Event was held on 24 November at Coco Brew, which kindly provided the venue free of charge. This was a free event, supported by a grant applied for and received from The Capricornian Banking Corporation. 39 registrations were received with 23 attending on the night.

Outcome: **One new member**, Melissa Mills, joined following the event.

The networking event was used to launch the club's **16 Days of Activism**. During the 16 Days of Activism the club arranged for the historic buildings on Quay Street in Rockhampton, and the Singing Ship on the Capricorn Coast, to be lit by orange light each night. Our club Zonta banners were hung on RRC community advertising boards in two locations in Rockhampton.

Outcome: The use of orange lighting and banner displays **raised awareness** in the community.

Members supported the annual **Share the Dignity - It's in the Bag** campaign through collection of items and packing bags for delivery to Bunnings. The club purchased items to the value of \$299 and \$647 worth of product was donated by various friends and family of club Treasurer, Valda. A special thank you to Valda for coordinating the activity and providing her home once again for packing by members, and to Elizabeth and Jenny for delivery of the bags.

Outcome: Packed bags were delivered to Bunnings.

A **Blue Illusion** fundraiser was held on 24th November with thanks to Valda for her coordination of this event and to Meredith and our conscripted models who gave their time and talent.

Outcome: \$147.00 was donated to the club by Blue Illusion from the percentage sale of fashion items on the day.

December 2022

No club meetings was held in December due to insufficient number of members being available for a quorum. A Christmas Dinner was held at Skyring's Restaurant in December in lieu of the club meeting.

The club Board was available to meet as needed, via ZOOM, to manage club business.

New **Business Cards** were organised that included a section on the back of the card for a member's name and mobile number to be added by individual members.

January 2023

Local Rockhampton Grammar School student, Molly Cottan, held **Molly's High Tea** on behalf of our Zonta club in late January. Molly initiated this fundraiser with support from her family and friends. We are very grateful for Molly's generosity of spirit and support of Zonta.

Outcome: \$4,175 was raised and donated to the club

An unidentified amount of \$490 was deposited into our bank account. The transfer was reported to the relevant banking institutions with advice provided that we hold the amount until such time that it is reclaimed or banks advise the funds can be used by the club.

February 2023 – Meeting: Frenchville Sports Club

Area 2 Director, Robyn Liddel, visited the club and shared her insights into how the club may attract new membership and recognised the commitment of current members.

Membership Dues were set for the 2023-2024 Zonta year.

March 2023 – No Meeting: Held over to April due to lack of quorum

District Governor, Lyn Agnew, was our guest in March and joined attending members for a casual conversation about Zonta followed by dinner with the group.

As a quorum was not achieved to hold a meeting, the opportunity to converse with Lyn was well received by those in attendance. Club business was held over to the April meeting with matters requiring member endorsement forwarded via email to enable action and recorded in the April minutes.

International Women's Day Breakfast – March 2023

Our International Women's Day Breakfast was, once again, the most financially successful event for the year and was held on Tuesday 8 March 2023 at the Frenchville Sports Club to promote our Zonta Says YES to Gender Equality message. 205 attendees were catered for with a plated breakfast, replacing a buffet service. This proved to be very successful and allowed for a more relaxed and smooth start to the morning.

My thanks to Chrissy Arthur, Deputy Editor Regional Queensland for the ABC and previously Chief of Staff of ABC Capricornia for returning as our Master of Ceremonies and keeping attendees engaged in the morning's activities.

The UN theme – "Cracking the Code: Innovation for a gender equal future" - was chosen to set the mood for the morning and was supported by an inspiring presentation by our guest speaker, Elize Hattin.

Funding received via the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's Investing in Queensland Women grant supported the cost of our guest speaker as well as the free attendance of 20 secondary school students to the breakfast.

We celebrated the contributions to community made by our five Young Women in Public Affairs applicants (winner, Renee McKeering – St Ursula's College) and the club's Living Treasure for 2023 (Norelle Shuker). Norelle was presented with a plaque and was invited to

nominate a charity to receive a donation of \$200 in her name from the club. Norelle chose to have the club make the donation decision.

Along with the opportunity to purchase tickets in and win beautifully presented raffle prizes and lucky door spots, guests were given an opportunity to donate to Zonta International projects via colourful donation boxes on each table.

Decorations for the morning were kept simple and meaningful, with the re-use of table runners sewn by member Jenny Baker, representing artwork of Australian women.

As well as expressing our gratification to sponsors Ergon Energy and the Frenchville Sports Club, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's Investing in Queensland Women grant, the commitment of our small band of Zontians was acknowledged at the event.

Outcomes: Increase in participation of students from local secondary schools

- ♦ \$5,278.54 net profit;
- ♦ Zonta profile raised;
- ♦ Advocacy for and celebration of women;
- ♦ Greater participation of local secondary schools – 15% of total attendees; and
- ♦ Approximately 10% male attendees.

Women's Health Wellness Expo – 9 March

Jenny, Berenice and I manned an information booth at the Women's Health Centre's Wellness Expo held at the Rockhampton Leagues Club.

Outcome: The expo proved to be a productive networking and PR opportunity.

District 22 Area 2 Workshop March 2023

Two members of the Rockhampton Club, Berenice and I, travelled to Maryborough for the Area 2 Workshop. Participating in the Area 2 meetings once again provided the opportunity to reflect on club practices and our own contributions to the mission of Zonta. The presentation from LG, Petra, informed the approach taken at our Networking Event (membership drive) the following week.

Second Networking Event – 30 March

Once again Coco-Brew provided access to their function room and funds from The Capricornian Banking Corporation grant funded the nibblies for participants. Registrations for the event was 40 with 28 in attendance.

The focus of the short presentation made by Nyree and myself was the "WHY" of joining Zonta. This approach appealed to a number of attendees and we successful attracted six new members – with payment made on the night.

Outcome:

- ♦ 6 new members, including our first 2 male members.
- ♦ Successful contribution to the *ADD YOUR VOICE* campaign

April 2023 – Meeting: Frenchville Sports Club

A motion was carried to put \$500 towards a **Women in STEM Scholarship** in lieu of a local JMK Award.

Induction of new members: Shane Latcham and Ellen Smith in person and Jorja Rapkins via ZOOM.

A **grant** was received from **Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance program**.

Outcome:

- ♦ Purchase of audio-visual equipment to support club ZOOM meetings - a JABRA conference speaker phone, a Philips Audio Recorder and a Logitech Web Camera.

May 2023 - Meeting: Frenchville Sports Club

With membership numbers increasing, a return to a more formalised Committee Structure was proposed with a draft overview of responsibilities provided for member consideration and input.

A donation of \$366.02 was kindly received from staff of Rockhampton Grammar School following a school staff fundraiser.



International Service Projects

♦ *Zonta Foundation for Women*

The club continues to support Zonta Foundation for Women (ZFW) with donations in 2022-2023 totalling \$2,500.00.

Award and Scholarship programs for women

♦ *Zonta Encouragement Awards*

The Zonta Club of Rockhampton continued support for encouragement awards to the value of \$1,500.00 for women in the areas of Engineering, Paramedic Science and the STEPS program through Central Queensland University. The Awards are presented to the full – time female student with the highest GPA entering the final year of the under-graduate program. The winner of the Engineering Award was Abbey O'Brien. The Paramedic Science dual recipients were Lucinda Buttenshaw and Tamara Hamschen and the STEPS recipient was Tace Ellis.

A review of the supported areas of study revealed that the following information had not significantly changed – with regards gender balance – for the past 3 years:

- ♦ Bachelor of Engineering – female students accounted for approx. 15-20% of all students
- ♦ Bachelor of Paramedic Science – female students accounted for approx. 60-65% of all students
- ♦ Bachelor of Information Technologies (IT) – female students accounted for approx. 20-25% of all students.

Given this information, it was resolved that club support would change from Paramedic Science to Information Technologies to help improve the gender balance in IT studies.

♦ *Young Women in Public Affairs Award*

Five applications were received for the Young Women in Public Affairs Award, with two applicants attending The Rockhampton Grammar School, two attending Glenmore SHS and one from St Ursula's College. Renee McKeering from St Ursula's College was the successful recipient of the club award and her application was forwarded for District 22 judging. Unfortunately, she was not successful at District level.

Ongoing Local Service Projects

♦ *Breast Care Cushions*

The club continues the service project of making and supplying approximately 100 breast care cushions annually to the Cancer Fund for distribution to women who have had breast surgery. Member, Jenny Baker has taken responsibility for this activity and, with some volunteer help, has ensured that the club's donations to Breast Cancer survivors is ongoing. The number

beautifully wrapped by Elizabeth Acton and provided by our club over the past few years has dropped due to other organisations contributing to the supply chain. Support from Yeppoon volunteer, Marilyn Rosa, is greatly appreciated.

♦ ***Clothing Packs for Sexual Assault Victims***

Donations to Queensland Police Services are currently being organised for the new Zonta year. Our previous year's RRC grant allowed us to purchase sufficient kits to cover a couple of years and the need for more has recently been identified for action.

Support for Local Service Organisations

- \$350 was donated to iCare, Yeppoon Community Centre to purchase non-perishable goods for homeless women and children.
- \$350 was donated to Homeless Connect for purchase of required goods.
- Jan Landsberg's ongoing attendance and networking at local DFV meetings in Yeppoon and communication with Yeppoon agencies is greatly appreciated.

Ongoing Fundraising

♦ ***Sale of Eco Bags***

These activities have continued to be successful fundraising projects for our Club. Thanks to Valda Fitzgerald for taking responsibility for purchasing of the bags and Jenny Baker for assisting with additional sales via market stalls.

Outcome: A profit of \$721.59 has been achieved with all stock on hand fully paid for.

Grants and Sponsorships

Applying for grants and sponsorship has proven to be crucial to maximising fundraising profits that enable our awards and service projects. Of the club fundraising profit of \$8,137.15 (not including profit from Molly's High Tea – which is to be donated locally) for the past year grants and sponsorships accounted for \$3,740.

Communication and Publicity

♦ ***Website/Facebook/Media***

Sincere thanks is extended to Berenice Payne, Jan Landsberg and Nyree Johnson for continuing their diligence and commitment to sharing our club activities and information online and in the local newspaper.

Berenice continues to managed the club's webpage within the District 22 website and keeps our information updated and informative.

Jan ensures that our Facebook page is dynamic and informative as she continues to post of information about our local activities, shares interesting posts by other clubs and Zonta international activities. including keeping members informed about United Nations (UN) matters.

We are fortunate to now have Nyree as a member as she writes a regular column for the CQ Today newspaper. Nyree has included Zonta club activities in her articles about IWD and Breast Cancer Awareness.

A CQ Today reporter and photographer covered one Networking event and further coverage was provided by this supportive local newspaper. We are thankful that the paper is keen to share stories on club activities and events.

Conclusion

Advocating for the mission of Zonta has been at the forefront of all events during the year. The President's welcome speeches and club presentations focussed on either/or/both *Zonta Says YES and Zonta Says NO* and provided updates on local services projects and awards programs.

As we conclude another successful year for the Zonta Club of Rockhampton with a net profit of \$12,350.15 (inclusive of \$4,175 donated from Molly's High Tea) I take this opportunity to thank all members for their commitment to and support of our activities. My thanks to Board Members and Coordinators of Service, Advocacy and Membership who generously gave additional time to achieve many positive outcomes for our Zonta mission. Once again, special mention must be made of Valda's significant contribution to the role of Treasurer and her attention to detail in managing our finances so expertly. Valda's service on many Zonta club Boards over the years is greatly appreciated.

The funds we have raised this year place us in a strong position to continue our work in the community.

Our challenge – and opportunity – for the 2023-2024 year is continued membership growth and retention. I believe that key ingredients for this to occur is dynamic engagement of members in agreed club activities and fellowship and a resultant increased presence and awareness in the community.

With August 2023 marking our club's 40 years of membership of Zonta International we have further motivation to highlight the mission of Zonta and raise the club's profile in the community.

I want to share again this year how very proud I am of what our small club managed to achieve during 2022-2023 and thank all members for committing to making a difference for women and girls.

The phrase: "Can't be what you can't see" resonated with me at the recent Area 2 Meeting as it reinforced for me the importance of staying informed and current in my thinking. It also led me to consider my own mantra -"Can't achieve if I don't do".

I look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of women and girls worldwide as we contribute to building a better world.

Patricia (Trish) Collins
President
Zonta Club of Rockhampton Inc

24 May 2023