

East-Enders



April 2024

“Building a Better World for Women and Girls”

President’s Patter



The 35th Anniversary for Zonta Club of Brisbane East has given members a chance to celebrate and reflect on the many achievements of our club.

The Club was chartered on 13 March 1989 and we are fortunate to still have two Charter Members, Beverley Farley OAM and Denise Conroy active in the club.

In 1993, Club members recognised higher education as key in raising the status of women socially, politically and economically. The members initiated a scholarship for a student completing Year 12 at Balmoral SHS with aspirations for higher education. Ruth Harvey was awarded \$250. The number of scholarships increased to two per year the following year valued at \$500 each. In 2009, the students were supported for three years. The scholarship program has increased over the years to its current level of \$750 each year for 6 students. The scholarships have been named the Beverley Farley Zonta Scholarship and the Jill Hedley Scholarship in recognition of these members’ work in the club and as champions of education. Since the first student, the Club has helped over 50 young women pursue their careers through higher education. The amazing club members and Hon Zons have thus far raised \$80000 in support of the scholarship program.

The Club has successfully encouraged and funded young women to participate in educational awards conducted at the Zonta International level e.g. the Young Women in Public Affairs Award, the Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship and Women in Technology Scholarship. These scholarships are run at Club, District and International level.

The Club initiated a breast cushion project in 2003 to support women and men post breast surgery. More than 12000 cushions have been cut out, sewn, stuffed, wrapped and given to the Mater Private Hospitals at South Brisbane and Redlands. The efforts of club members and HonZons also provide drainage bags to these hospitals.

In 2020, the Club started a collaboration with Cannon Hill Anglican College to pack birthing kits. To date, the Club has contributed \$4000 and supplied 800 birthing kits which have assisted in providing a safer birthing environment for women in developing countries.

Since 1994 Club, members have also provided support to women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence. Supporting survivors of DV, the Club has provided home starter kits, clothing, hampers and Christmas and Mother's Day gifts to Women's refuges. Since 2020, members have donated Dignity Bags to a service which supports women to rebuild their lives after escaping domestic violence. Members support DV services with the printing of safety cards which have been distributed to a range of community services including GP surgeries and politician's offices.

Zonta Brisbane East has packed 72 Christmas Hampers, 144 gifts for Christmas and Mother's Day for the women's refuge, Madonna House. Over the last 12 years these donations have total \$15000.

The Club has supplied clothing for the Sexual Assault Unit at the Logan Hospital enabling women and men some dignity after their clothes have been taken for testing.

These are but a few of our many calculable achievements. There have been many more which cannot be attributed a dollar value. Support and advocacy for women, Saying No to domestic and family violence, Saying Yes to Equity, and building a better world for women and girls.

As President of Zonta Club of Brisbane East and a relatively new member (5 years), I am in awe of these achievements. I am also proud of the dedication and support for the club projects that all members have shown. On behalf of the many women and girls who have benefitted from your hard work, I wish to thank each and every member. You have made a difference.

(Thank you to Jo Diessel and Ros Kinder for providing the historical information for this article).

Susan

Editorial

A rewarding time of the Zonta year, as we have just

- acknowledged remarkable women at a number of International Women's Day events
- acknowledged remarkable members who have been building a better world for women and girls throughout the past 35 years of Zonta Brisbane East.

We prepare for

- meeting remarkable women who are currently receiving Zonta Brisbane East tertiary scholarships
- welcoming remarkable members into leadership positions on our Zonta Brisbane East Board at our May meeting

While reflecting on Remarkable Women, I have just listened to the Powerful Stories interview with Tahina Booth (refer to article later in this newsletter). Truly inspired!

Jacinta

Zonta Club of Brisbane East 35 Year Anniversary:



We celebrated this anniversary on 18th March, and were honoured to be joined by Zonta District 22 Governor, Lyn Agnew, Zonta Area 3 Director Michelle Turner, and Councillor for Morningside Ward, Lucy Collier. Unfortunately Member for Bulimba, Di Farmer, was unable to attend, but her message has been included at the end of this newsletter.

Our thanks to the committee, headed by Lesley, who ensured that we had a great night. Thanks to our valued HonZons Michele and Cindy for making and decorating the celebration cake, and to Stella for the delicious cupcakes. We appreciated gathering members and HonZons to commemorate the service and advocacy projects, fundraising successes and fellowship over the past 35 years.

Thanks to Ros for displaying memorabilia – she has shared with members an electronic copy of *The Story of the Zonta Club of Brisbane East*.- it's a very interesting read.



Service:

A number of working bees coming up in the next couple of months.

Breast Cushions Working Bee: 13th April and 19th May

Jo will be hosting these working bees, so please let her know if you are able to attend.

Breast Cushion Working Bee: 22nd May, at Cannon Hill Anglican College, from 3.00 p.m.. Students will be supported by members and HonZons of Brisbane East to stuff, and wrap cushions.

Dignity Bag Assembly: 13th May

Kerstin is coordinating this assembly at Academy Science, Mathematics and Technology. Students will be donating handbags and toiletry items, and members of Zonta Brisbane East to promote Zonta Says No to Violence against Women campaign, and to assist collation. Bags will then be distributed to survivors of domestic violence through local services.

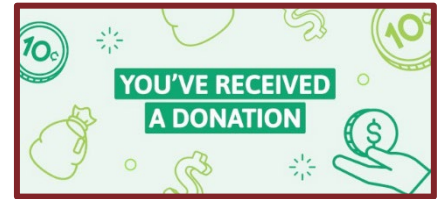
Fundraising:

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 to 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. So far this year, we have received \$287.50. If you have been collecting bottles, but haven't been able to drop to a deposit site, please bring these to the next Zonta meeting.



Sausage Sizzle: 21st July 2024

Bunnings Rocklea has cancelled our shift planned for 26th May, and instead offered us 21st July. So please try to keep your diary open to volunteer at this sizzle.

Many thanks to all who assisted at our last sizzle on 9th March – it looks as if you were kept very busy!

BAYSIDE DV CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Organised by Joan Pease MP, with support from Zonta, Rotary and SCOPE



May is Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Awareness month. Each year, Joan Pease holds this Candlelight Vigil to send a clear message that Domestic Family Violence in the Bayside suburbs will never be tolerated. Insightful guest speakers will present before lighting of candles and walking onto the sand at Pandanus Beach for a moment of reflection.

Registration for the Bayside DV Candlelight Vigil is free and open to all.

Bring your friends and family as we take a stand against DFV together!

Event Details:

When: Thursday, 9 May 2024

Where: Pandanus Beach, Wynnum (*Proceedings start in the park behind Pandanus Beach*)

Time: 5:30pm - 6:15pm

Members of Zonta Brisbane East, and our HonZons are encouraged to attend.

Zonta International Convention, 27-30 June 2024:

Although Early Bird registration has passed, you can still register to attend convention – [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 Ros if you need assistance. Remember that the ticket prices are in US dollars, and GST will be added at online checkout. Book into workshops, and social events and tours.

Note tour – Recipe for a Circus in a Teacup on 26th June 0800 – 1200; \$60 per person.

Welcome to Convention Dinner for District 22 members.

26th June 2024, from 6:30pm – 9:30pm at The Charming Squire, 3/133 Grey Street, South Bank, Brisbane. This event is open to all D22 members (even if not attending the convention), partners and friends.

Purchase tickets at this site: [ZI D22 Welcome to Convention - Sticky Tickets](#)

Convention Key note speakers:

Rabia Siddique



Australian criminal and human rights lawyer, retired British Army officer, author, professional speaker and hostage survivor.

Rabia sued the British Government for sexism and racism – this was a catalyst for policy change for fairer workplace for women and cultural minorities in the British military.

Rabia is a sought after coach and mentor. She has provided equality and diversity training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Her first book – Equal Justice.

[Rabia Siddique](#)

Lisa Blair



First woman to sail solo around Antarctica with one stop after surviving a dramatic dismasting at sea. Her yacht named *Climate Action Now* – this reflects her commitment to a sustainable future and inspired others to take action through her post-it note campaign.

Numerous sailing accolades:

2017: led the first all-female team to compete in the 2017 Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race in 16 years.

2018: sailed solo, non-stop and unassisted around Australia.

2019: first double-handled female team to finish the Melbourne to Hobart

Yacht Race. 2022: fastest person to sail solo, non-stop, and unassisted around Antarctica, shaving 10 days off the previous record.

She has continued to amplify her message of Climate Action Now and collaborated with the Bureau of Meteorology, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and the Seabed 2030 project. In partnership with Ocean Ops, Lisa's expedition to collect round-the-clock ocean health readings and gather 180 microplastic samples, earned recognition as a United Nations Decade of Ocean Science initiative.

Author of Facing Fear, and Speaker on Resilience and Mental Agility.

[Lisa Blair — Lisa Blair Sails the World](#)

District 22 Areas 1 and 3 Meeting

Four members of Zonta Brisbane East attended our Area Meeting on 16th March. Here's a brief report:

Guest Speaker was Donna Rowe from Better Together Housing, a shared housing community for women aged 55 years and older. This program is currently operating in the Sunshine Coast and Mackay areas.

We heard how the Zonta Clubs in Sunshine Coast are collaborating with Better Together Housing, through assisting with their Get It Together initiative. [Welcome to Better Together Housing | Better Together Housing](#)



Stimulating presentations

- Zonta International Strategic Plan. Interesting to reflect on strategies to achieve a credible and visible voice in our communities; recognising self-determination of clubs; linking to networks and collaborating across boundaries.
- Zonta Spirit. The Zonta Spirit Working Group has produced the first of a series of short videos that clubs can use in promoting the Zonta Spirit to all members. The Zonta Spirit Working Group will also provide some ideas, activities and tools for clubs to discuss and promote the Zonta Spirit to all members. You can access these resources in the My Zonta/Tools section of ZI website (you will need to log into this section).
- Each club presented a report on 1-2 activities that have been successful, or challenges they are facing. While all clubs' activities are similar, it was interesting to hear how each club is partnering with community. Common theme was difficulty fundraising, and clubs reported opportunities for seeking sponsorship / community donations / grants / developing business partnerships

Zonta International: Remarkable Women Powerful Stories

Have you had a chance to listen to March 2024 interview with Tahina Booth?

Tahina is a distinguished athlete, representing Papua New Guinea in Rugby League, and Australia in Olympic weightlifting and powerlifting. She is an advocate for gender justice through sports; established Grass Skirt Project to combat gender-based violence and promote gender equity in PNG.

Tahina speaks on the importance of engaging men and boys raising awareness and action against gender violence; the importance of mentorship to build resilience; establishing partnerships with school and church systems to create supportive structures for trauma-informed care; empowering leadership from grass-roots level.

Access this interview : [Remarkable athlete and gender justice advocate shares her powerful story \(zonta.org\)](#) (45 minutes well spent!)

Here's information about Grass Skirt Project: [Grass Skirt Project | Empowering Change Through Sport: Reshaping Narratives, Eliminating Gender-Based Violence.](#)

Diary Dates

04 April 2024 – Board Meeting - TEAMS

13 April 2024 – Working Bee for Breast Cushions

15 April 2024 – Club Meeting – Hybrid

28 April 2024 – Fellowship – Celebrate with Belle (details to be forwarded)

02 May 2024 – Board Meeting – TEAMS

09 May 2024 – Bayside DV Candlelight Vigil, Pandanus Beach Wynnum

13 May 2024 – Dignity Bag Assembly, Academy Science Mathematics and Technology

19 May 2024 – Working Bee for Breast Cushions

20 May 2024 – Club Meeting and AGM - Hybrid

22 May 2024 – Breast Cushion Working Bee, Cannon Hill Anglican College

02 June 2024 – Working Bee – Orange Ladies

06 June 2024 – Board Meeting – TEAMS

09 June 2024 – Ampol Rotary Fun Day, Wynnum Manly

17 June 2024 – Club Meeting – TEAMS

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

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



DI FARMER MP

YOUR HARD WORKING LOCAL



18th March 2023

To the wonderful Zonta Community,

Unfortunately, I'm not able to be there tonight but I wanted to send my heartfelt congratulations on your 35th anniversary!

As the State Member for Bulimba, it has been my pleasure to see firsthand the wonderful work that Zonta does supporting women across our community and beyond.

You have built a wonderful group of volunteers, and your tireless efforts in the community are so inspiring. Whether it be scholarships for school students, delivering hampers to a women's refuge or campaigning to end domestic violence, I am so impressed by the care and respect that goes into everything you do.

You should be so proud of all that you have achieved over the past 35 years.

I hope you enjoy your well-deserved celebration.

Warm regards

Di Farmer MP
Member for Bulimba
Minister for Education
and Minister for Youth Justice

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

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