

Southern Gold Coast Tweed ZONTA NEWS JULY 2024

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dinner Meeting

15TH July

6.00pm Secret Garden
South Tweed Sports Club

Thought for July:

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

Coretta Scott King

Birthday Wishes

Carol and Susie.



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President's Message



Attending the 4-day Zonta International Convention was inspiring, informative and made me feel pleased to be part of such a worthwhile organization. There were many highlights.

-The touching Flag Ceremony where representatives from each country dressed in their traditional clothing, took their flag to the stage, standing together and showing the Zonta unity of nations.
-Listening to the amazing stories of the keynote speakers showed courage and determination from two inspiring Australians.

Rabia Siddique is an Australian Muslim of Indian descent who is a criminal and human rights lawyer and a retired British Army officer. In 2008, she successfully sued the UK Ministry for Defence for discrimination after it failed to acknowledge the role she played in the rescue of two captured SAS soldiers in war-torn Iraq. Rabia has written the book 'Equal Justice'.

Lisa Blair, an adventurous Australian sailor has turned her many solo sailing world records into a campaign for Climate Action. Lisa has written the book 'Facing Fear'.

Hearing about the international projects that were undertaken in the last two years showed the difference that Zonta has made. The proposed projects voted to be undertaken in the next biennial were presented by our partners in UNFPA and UNICEF. Continuation of the work on Ending Child Marriage and new projects focusing on Gender Equal Climate Action and the potential for the Laaha platform to reach the most vulnerable and hard to reach globally.

Connecting and conversing with the diverse Zonta family from Australia and countries throughout the world was interesting, entertaining and heart-warming. As was hosting 38 Zontians, through Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on the day after the convention.

Thank you to Pauline who organised our June fundraiser to attend the play 'Crazy Ladies'. It brought much laughter and fellowship.

Looking forward to our dinner meeting next Monday 15 July 6.00pm for 6.30pm start at South Tweed Sports Club. All welcome.

*Warm regards,
Yvonne*



PAULINE'S REPORT ABOUT THE CONVENTION

Kaye, Lesley- Anne, Yvonne , Ronda and I attended the Convention. It was a fantastic experience. Highlights for me were the very impressive keynote presentations by Rabia Siddique and Lisa Blair. Other highlights for me were the updates on the international biennial projects. It is very enlightening to see what Zonta has achieved for women and girls with the help of our partner organisations.

The presentations by the winners of the awards, (Amelia Earhart, Jane M Klausman, Women in Technology) made me feel that the younger generations of women are more than capable of moving us towards a better world for women and girls. Sanui De Silva (Jane M Klausman) is working towards financial literacy for women, empowering women entrepreneurs and closing the gender gap in business leadership. Shayna Spence (Women in Technology) is a 4th year engineering and industrial design student at Griffith University here on the Gold Coast. She received the Griffith University Student Guild Award for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion for her efforts in supporting, encouraging and celebrating women in engineering. Dipisha Bhujel (Young Women in Public Affairs) is a menstrual equity advocate who has successfully found a way to convert banana leave to menstrual pads. She has also spear headed a campaign to educate young women in Nepal about menstruation as a normal part of life, and helping to debunk myths that have led to young women and girls from missing school and work during their periods. A remarkable achievement for a person so young in a very patriarchal country.

The Queensland Governor General lit up Government House Orange during the Convention, and the Victoria Bridge and the Story Bridge were also lit up orange. And the sea of orange at Southbank during the Walk was fantastic!! The Zonta Says No Walk had approximately 1600 Zontians walking through Southbank wearing very distinctive orange clothing, banners and placards. I might feel inspired to attend the next Convention in Vancouver in 2 years time.



Pauline and Lesley marching.



District 22 Auction

The District 22 online silent auction raised \$5360 which will go towards the Zonta Foundation for Women and establishing Zonta Australia.

Birthing Kit Foundation Australia

The fundraising site 'My Cause' is still open to donate to [Zonta Gold Coast Tweed for Birthing Kits](#) campaign. Please let friends and relatives know about how they can support this worthwhile appeal, as we have raised limited funds.

Our Clean Birth Kits are a valuable resource in emergency and humanitarian settings to help prevent infection for mothers and newborns. Kits are fundraised and assembled by our club the Zonta Club of Southern Gold Coast Tweed.

We are thrilled that the kits are environmentally friendly! Treated with an organic compound, the plastic bag and sheet are biodegradable in microbe rich environments, such as a landfill. A cleaner birth and a cleaner earth.

https://www.mycase.com.au/p/346206/zonta-gold-coast-tweed-for-birthing-kits?popup=1&utm_source=Personal+Cause+-+Transactional+Emails&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Personal+Cause+-+273321+Weekly+help+reach+goal&utm_content=SHARE

Zonta International Service Project: End Child Marriage

During Convention, Mansi Mehta from Global Cause Partnerships for UNICEF USA, presented a progress report on the Global Program to End Child Marriage. Zontians voted to continue funding this program for the 2024-2026 biennium. The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Program to End Child Marriage promotes the rights of adolescent girls to avert marriage and pregnancy and enables them to achieve their aspirations through education and alternative pathways. Examples of achievements (ref: UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage | UNICEF)

- Girls participate in life skills education, increasing their ability to negotiate the delay of marriage
- Community members participate in discussions to promote gender equality, including specific sessions engaging men and boys
- Community welfare assistant committees established to train members in case management, sexual and reproductive health, and social protection programs
- Local women development groups supported to drive change
- Advocating for laws and policies that protect girls' rights

Mansi spoke of the success of girls accessing education – reporting 2.9 million girls have been able to delay marriage and to stay in school. Zonta has supported ending child marriage since 2014, contributing US\$2 million to delay early marriage in Niger from 2014-2018. From 2018-2022, Zonta contributed US\$3.5 million to the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Program to End Child Marriage, and in 2022-24, Zonta International committed US\$1.2 million to UNICEF USA to support Phase II of the project.

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons: 30 July 2024

Trafficking of people is a serious crime and violation of human rights. Almost every country is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. The theme for this year's global campaign is 'Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking'. 1 in 3 victims of human trafficking globally is a child, with girls disproportionately affected. There is a call for accelerated action to end child trafficking. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - 30 July (unodc.org)



Brisbane City Council colored two bridges and Parliament House orange on Saturday night for 'Zonta Says No to Domestic Violence'. And

On Sunday night, yellow, also for Zonta

