

ZONTA

CLUB OF NORTHERN RIVERS INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

Build a Better World for Women and Girls

Zonta Club of Northern Rivers Newsletter

February 2024

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE ALSTONVILLE BOWLING AND SPORTS CLUB @ 6pm Every THIRD Wednesday of the Month

President's message

The last Newsletter in May 2023 suggested it was my last however I find I am again preparing a newsletter in order to gather together news of our club over the past 9 months.

There is obviously a vacancy in our club for a member to prepare our newsletter – it would be good to have one every 3 months but each 6 months would also be great bearing in mind we have communications also via our social media sites.

It has been a busy year. We continued our local club response to assistance to flood victims. Our club received donations from other clubs in Australia and we therefore endeavoured to use those monies directly in helping women and children affected by the flooding.

We have been establishing the displaced and homeless women and children short term accommodation project. I would like to acknowledge the speech given by our local member of State Parliament, Tamara Smith, on 8 February 2024 acknowledging our work (and the tremendous effort of the Ballina Rotary Club) in the campaign against gender based violence and the assistance offered to those dislocated by it. See the link below for full transcript of speech.

<https://fb.watch/geSP4H2TuO/?mibextid=wWqvZr>

I would also like to thank The Alstonville Bowling and Sports Club for providing a venue for our monthly meetings.



Bobbi with Alstonville Bowling and Sports Club Manager who is very happy to support our Orange Lady during the 16 days of activism

We celebrated a busy year with a social gathering for our December meeting. It was great to mix socially and share a meal with partners of Zontians who assist us in many ways each year. It also provided me the opportunity to thank each of our members present for the contributions they have made to our club this year.



Membership

We currently have 16 members. Hopefully some prospective members will join up in May. Since last May, Katrina (Trina) Jones has joined us.

Thanks to Maggie for doing such a wonderful job in her membership and Board role.

In the last newsletter I detailed each members role however I need to make some small changes so I will reprint as below:

Committee Roles for 2023 - 2024

The new **Board** elected at the May 2023 AGM are: Bobbi Crane, Lyn Crehan, Lyndall Smith, Julie Burton, Ellen McGirr and Maggie Cross with the following specific roles:

President : Bobbi Crane

Vice President : Lyn Crehan

Treasurer : Julie Burton

Secretary/Media Releases/ZI correspondence : Lyndall Smith

Minute Secretary: Rotating (to be appointed each meeting)

Membership Chair : Maggie Cross (other members – Judy Smith and Stephanie Hunt – Stephanie has indicated she is taking a break from Zonta so there is a vacancy here). This also operates as a social committee and Maggie has some great ideas on how to promote us getting together for fun and friendship at times other than our meetings. I would therefore like any member interested in this committee role to nominate or simply approach Maggie and offer assistance to her.

Service Projects/Fundraising : Lyn Crehan (other members – Rosalie Kennedy, Anne Flanagan, Lynne Shailer). Always a lot of hard work so anyone who wishes to join this committee would I'm sure be welcome. Not that we will leave it all up to the committee members!

Advocacy : Ellen McGirr (other members Beth Hamilton and Trina Jones)

Social Media : Samone Ellem

Archives and Photos : Jenni Binns

Nominating : Ellen McGirr

Stillbirth/LBH Ambassador : Di Goldie

Newsletters : to be filled. STILL!

Club Projects and Activities

Our club's projects consist of the many worthy causes both supported either financially or through advocacy.

In the past year our club has **funded** the following:

#Older Women's Project with North Coast Community Housing (NCCH) by

- Providing phone vouchers, personal care packs, supermarket vouchers to NCCH tenants identified as older women;
- Provided Manchester for older women moving into temporary pod accommodation in Wardell and Wollongbar;
- Provided toys for children's activities to the Wardell temporary housing pod;
- Provided care packs and hosted a morning tea for 12 women moving into the newly constructed permanent accommodation at Mullumbimby for displaced older women.

#Commenced our Displaced and Homeless Women's project (with the assistance of Ballina MP Tamara Smith, Mary's Place and Catherine Firkin at Tasman Holiday Park)

#Heartfelt House (for adult survivors of sexual abuse) by monetary contributions to NORWACS

#Ukraine Appeal

#LAM Research

#Refurbishing the Stillbirth Room at Lismore Base Hospital



#SCU Scholarship – we have recently launched an annual scholarship for a final year or Honours student of Southern Cross University.

#We investigated whether we could contribute to the setting up of Victim's Soft Interview

Rooms as we were aware some other clubs in our District (in Queensland) had been doing this.

This is a project whereby a room for women and girls who may present at local police stations as victims of sexual assault or domestic violence is (softly) furnished. We invited our local Police Commander to a Zonta meeting (August 2023). We then learned that the NSW Police Service had set up such a room in Lismore. Commander Tanner provided us however with some other ideas we may be able to exploit if wanting to offer assistance to women and girls in domestic violence situations.

In our advocacy role

- we have participated in the 16 days of activism against domestic violence (Nov-Dec 2023) by dressing and distributing the Orange Ladies to venues in the Northern Rivers; participating in the Ballina Rotary Walk against domestic violence on 1 December 2023; and placing our banner at a local site.

Maggie Cross with her Orange Lady at Ballina Police Station



Judy Smith at Lismore Police Station





Ellen and Maggie leading the Zonta contingent in the Ballina Rotary Walk Against Domestic Violence.

- continued to celebrate and commemorate Pregnancy and Infant Loss day (with a gathering on 15 October 2023) as well as maintain the Memorial Garden for these infants;



- liaised with the office of local MP Tamara Smith to encourage the establishment of a Women's Forum (ongoing);
- currently planning an International Women's Day celebration breakfast;
- attended Ballina Bunnings Community Appreciation event and were gifted a BBQ for raffle or sale.



Fund Raising

2024 Major Fund Raiser – Open Garden January 2024

Another successful Open Garden was held in January 2023 at Lyn and Broni's home at Uralba. Funds raised were around \$5,000 which we can now use for our 2023-24 projects. A huge thanks to Lyn and Broni for all the work they do for this very important event.



We have also successfully raised funds through a Cake Day at Ballina Bunnings (October 2024). During this financial year we have also received many donations from those who feel some connection with our aims and projects. We are very appreciative of those donations.

Diary Dates for 2024

March 8	IWD Breakfast, Buckleys Chance Alstonville
March 20	Monthly Meeting Alstonville Bowls Club 6pm
April 17	Monthly Meeting Alstonville Bowls Club 6pm
May 15	AGM and Monthly Meeting Alstonville Bowls Club 6pm
June 19	Monthly Meeting Alstonville Bowls Club 6pm
June 26-30	Zonta International Conference – Brisbane Convention Centre
July 17	Monthly Meeting Alstonville Bowls Club 6pm
August 21	Monthly Meeting Alstonville Bowls Club 6pm
September 18	Monthly Meeting Alstonville Bowls Club 6pm
October 16	Monthly Meeting Alstonville Bowls Club 6pm
November 20	Monthly Meeting Alstonville Bowls Club 6pm
December 18	Monthly Meeting Alstonville Bowls Club 6pm

Zonta Northern Rivers Board 2022-23:

President:	Bobbi Crane
Vice President:	Lyn Crehan
Secretary:	Lyndall Smith
Treasurer:	Julie Burton
Membership:	Maggie Cross
Advocacy :	Ellen McGirr