

Zonta Club of Roma 16 Days of Activism Campaign 2017

*Breakfast Speaker Tessa Jetson,
Report prepared by Katie Garbutt*



One in four. That is the awful reality of how many women experience physical abuse or sexual violence or emotional abuse at the hands of an intimate partner. Women are three times more likely than men to experience violence from a partner. One in four equates to nearly 6 million Australia women and half of them have children in their care. A current or former partner murders one woman on average, each week. This year, 68 women have lost their lives as the result of domestic violence. The worst parts of all these statistics are not the numbers, but the fact that each and every one could have been prevented.

These appalling statistics were presented to a room full of women at Zonta Club of Roma's annual 16 Days of Activism Breakfast. These statistics became more than just numbers, these numbers became a person in Tessa Jetson who shared her story and experience of physical and sexual violence at the hands of her husband.

Tessa shared some of the terrible things she was subjected to at the hands of her husband and explained that she didn't talk to anyone about the abuse she was suffering. She recounted an experience where she smashed the living room window to escape and ran from the house cut and bleeding to ask the neighbours to call the police. After 5 minutes she went back to the neighbours to ask if the police were coming and was met with the response that they didn't call as they didn't want to get involved.

Thankfully another neighbour called the police, but the attitude that Tessa met was that it's not something you should talk about, and what happens at home stays at home. Thankfully this attitude is changing and while it is still difficult for some women in this situation to reach out, there is a lot more awareness. Tessa is an advocate for the women's refuge 'Embrace', and encouraged anyone who needs to talk about domestic violence, or needs help, to call 1800Respect.

While confronting, Tessa's story is not one of despair. The way Tessa explains it; her story didn't start until she found the courage to walk away. In fear for her life, she left behind everything and fled with her children to a women's refuge. While this experience left Tessa battling depression and feelings of helplessness, it was from rock bottom that her story truly began.

Tessa saw this as a change that her life desperately needed, a chance to improve her life and that of her three children. Whilst at her lowest in the refuge, Tessa wrote a list of goals which she kindly shared that list at the breakfast. Some were dreams she gave up on when she married her husband, like being an air hostess. Others were born through the adversity of her situation such as owning her own home, and forming a charity to assist women in similar situations.



The one thing that became clearly evident as Tessa went through this list is they were no longer just dreams and goals. This was a list of accomplishment, with each and every goal written at the refuge now achieved.

Tessa did indeed put a face to the statistics of domestic violence, a person behind those numbers. She stood before a room full of women not as a statistic, but as a woman of courage and inspiration.



Yuleba Council Workers Support the 16 Days of Activism Campaign

Zonta Club of Roma's Public Displays One in Four ...



Zonta Club of Roma's 16 Days of Activism Workshop - L –R Ree Price, Teresa Badgery, Ninette Johnstone, Wendy Jensen (President), Sue Sands, Christina Waldron, Heather Hall and Megan Devlin (photographer).

Zonta Club of Roma set up a public awareness display to run through the 16 Days of Activism campaign, at the traffic lights on Roma's main street. It had everyone scratching their heads. Ree Price wrote, "In the vacant allotment, standing in huddles of four are orange and white wooden lady cutouts. Three white and one painted orange. Whilst quite pleasing to the eye it is a stark reminder of our society's deep dark secret. One in four women today endure some type of physical or mental abuse in their own home."

A billboard scrolled through its message as people sat at the traffic lights; "1 IN 4 WOMEN SUFFER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ZONTA SAYS NO!"

A few days later, Teresa Badgery reported, "10 out of 12 ladies were smashed up. It was sad to see the ladies smashed - but hey, Zontians rise above adversity and we will be successful in spreading our message." And we were, public outrage created discussion, we had great news coverage and Facebook support.

Christina Waldron recounted later, "I have received massive feedback from the incident with the display, people from all walks of life wanting to know if they could help in any way... somehow the destruction of our efforts made more impact even than the display itself!"





That's no way to treat a lady

SHAME: Zonta members Katie Garbutt, Teresa Badgery, Christina Waldron and Megan Devlin with the smashed silhouettes. PHOTO: CHRISTIAN BERECHREE

A POWERFUL
Symbol of support and
strength for women
has been destroyed.
The “Zonta Ladies”,
plywood figures

representing the one in
four women affected
by domestic violence,
were smashed during
an anti-violence
campaign.

This happened just
days after White
Ribbon Day asked the
community to take an
oath against violence. •
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Turning a Negative into a Positive ...

Western Star News 2 December, 2016 p. 9



SHATTERED: Zonta's Teresa Badgery and Christina Waldron inspect the damage to the Zonta Ladies. PHOTO: CHRISTIAN BERECHREE

Domestic violence victim figures in pieces after attack

A SYMBOL of the stand against domestic violence has been destroyed.

Anyone stopped at the traffic lights in Roma in the last week would have noticed the "Zonta Ladies".

The plywood figures stood in groups of four, representing the one in four women impacted by domestic and family violence.

Zonta member Teresa Badgery was shocked to drive past and see

them destroyed on Wednesday.

"It's devastating, violent and unbelievable," Ms Badgery said.

Ms Badgery believes the artwork was intentionally destroyed.

She worried about the message this might send to women suffering from domestic violence.

"The sign says 'stop violence to women', and the portrayal of those women has now

been violated," she said.

Ms Badgery said the figures were attached to the ground with heavy pegs so it was unlikely they fell over by accident.

The incident occurred a few days after White Ribbon Day, the international day for the elimination of violence against women, and during Zonta's 16 Days of Activism campaign. Police are investigating.



Our “Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women” banner, was hung from the first floor verandah of Roma’s new main street hotel, “Royal on Ninety-Nine”.

Community support for Zonta’s work during the 16 Days of Activism was evident as we called for volunteers to donate to Care Packs. A raffle run to raise money for Care Pack items raised over \$900 in the first three days. Members of the community offered donations of goods after a Facebook post explained what we were doing.

Katie Garbutt said, “We had a few people donate cash on Saturday instead of an item ... it certainly was a fantastic morning. A gorgeous young lady by the name of Lucy who at 10(ish) years old saw what we were doing and told her mum she wanted to help. She went to Woolworths and picked out the items on her own to donate, which was just beautiful.” Katie was heartened; “To know that someone so young can understand what we’re doing and want to help shows we are making an impact where it matters.”

 **ZONTA**
Care Packs

