

# East-Enders

**September 2024**

***“Building a Better World for Women and Girls”***



## ***President's Patter***

I am fortunate to be at that stage in life that if I don't enjoy or feel there is any benefit from doing something, I can just say no. (Medical stuff that comes with this stage of life and privilege is of course exempt)!

Feedback from Convention Workshop presented by ZI Membership Committee has me thinking why I joined Zonta and why I stay in Zonta.

So, why did I join? The simple answer is that I had retired and was looking for a purpose and something to occupy my time. I checked out a few options and contacted Zonta: an organisation that I had heard of but knew very little about. I was fortunate to receive a call from Jacinta, our amazing Membership Chair who invited me to morning tea with Sarah for a chat. That was it, I was hooked. These two amazing people, their enthusiasm, knowledge and the information they supplied made me feel that this was an organisation that I wanted to be a part of.

Next Question – Why do I stay? After five short years, there is still a lot to learn and even more to do. I have always tried to live by the ethos of - If Not Me then Who? Fortunately, in Zonta there is always support from members who are willing to stand up and be counted when it comes to the challenges. We are never alone in facing these challenges. Whether it is giving time to make breast cushions or working with other organisations to support victim / survivors of domestic violence, or the causes that Zonta works nationally and internationally to support and make this world a better place for women and girls.

Of course, there is another important reason - I enjoy the company of the members of Brisbane East; they challenge, support and care for each other. So yes, I stay because I enjoy it and there is a benefit from what we do!

I would love to hear from other members. So tell me why did you join, and why do you stay?

*Susan*

## ***Editorial***

Information about the Zonta International Service Programs endorsed at our recent Convention continues in this edition. Members will be keen to read about Climate Empower: Community Empowerment and Innovation for Gender-Transformative Climate Action.

This week, I attended La Trobe University's The Ideas and Society Program webinar on Domestic Violence: Why? What is to be Done? Moderated by Annabelle Daniel (CEO Women's Community Shelters), conversation between Jess Hill (journalist, author, advocate), Michael Salter (Director of Childlight UNSW) and Angela Taft (Director Judith Lumley Centre La Trobe) raised questions and challenges about advocacy for prevention, impact of family violence on children, impact of violence on women's health. Each was asked what urgent action should be taken; they discussed strategies to hold perpetrators to account, to regulate harmful industries, and protect victim-survivors. Their insights included needs analysis of the system; workforce training in conjunction with structural reform; minimize risk factors for violence (poverty, alcohol, gambling, pornography); increase awareness of coercive control behaviours; prevent maltreatment of children and increase programs for their recovery from family violence. You may be interested in reading these reports: [Unlocking the Prevention Potential: accelerating action to end domestic, family and sexual violence \(pmc.gov.au\)](http://pmc.gov.au) [Rethinking Primary Prevention \(substack.com\)](http://substack.com)



Kirsten was installed as one of Zonta Brisbane East Board Directors at our August meeting. Thanks to Beverley, one of our Charter members, for conducting this ceremony.

As a Director, Kirsten has pledged to actively participate in all club board meetings. She will make board decisions according to the merit of the issue, with consideration of governing documents and for the benefit of all club members.

At our August meeting, I attempted to summarise the ZI Convention workshop on Wow Membership – and thank you Susan for featuring one of the ideas in your 'Patter' this month. Members may like to access some resources: [ZontaMembershipWow - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) Look forward to further discussions on membership in our future meetings.

My thanks to Ros and Jo who will distribute this month's newsletter, and compile and edit the October edition. Please forward photos and articles of interest to them – it makes it much easier to write the newsletter with all members' contributions!

## *Jacinta*

What is Zonta? Ask me and find out how I work with members in 64 countries to build a better world for women and girls! [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

*(Reminder: use the Zonta suggested line as part of your email signature; this one can be used until 14 October)*

## Service

### Carina Police Station Soft Room Project

Susan and Lesley have led this project – they are looking forward to being able to share photos of the refurbished room at Carina Police Station. Changing the furniture and adding some ‘soft touches’ results in a room that is more comfortable for women reporting domestic violence.

### Birthing Kit Assembly



Our Zonta Club packed 400 birthing kits with students at Cannon Hill Anglican College (CHAC) on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Many thanks to Sarah for coordinating this service project, and liaising with CHAC.



### Dignity Bags Delivered to Open Haven

Another boot-load of handbags delivered to Open Haven during August. Members donate handbags and toiletries – each bag contains soap, deodorant, toothbrush and paste, shampoo and conditioner, sanitary items, tissues and extra products we donate (e.g. perfume, hairbrush, hand sanitiser, body lotion). The case managers at Open Haven gift a

bag (on our behalf) to a women who has escaped domestic violence. For information on Open Haven: [Open Haven Domestic](#) | [Open Haven Domestic Violence Charity](#) | [Brisbane](#)

### Fundraising:

Councillor Lucy Collier, Morningside Ward, recently donated \$500 to our Club for our Birthing Kit Assembly. We sincerely appreciate Lucy’s interest in our Club’s activities, and her willingness to support us in a range of ways – promotion, publicity, attendance at events, and financial contributions.



### Sausage Sizzle: 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Our next Sausage Sizzle will be Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, at Rocklea Bunnings. Please check your diaries, and let Jo know if you will be available for a shift. We will need many workers, so ask your family and friends if they would like to work with us!

## Fellowship:



For our August fellowship activity, members attended Villanova Players production: *The Importance of Being Ernest*. Members enjoyed the humour of this classic, supporting quality community theatre, and each other's company.

While no fellowship activity has been booked for September, members are keen to attend *Galvanised – A Festival of Heritage* in Ipswich, and *Carnival of Flowers* in Toowoomba.

We have planned a *Breast Cushion* working bee for our fellowship activity in October. Again, at Jo's place – and all members and friends welcome to attend.

End of year function: plans afoot for *Barefoot Bowls / Pizza Night*.

## Zonta International Project: Climate Empower



Delegates at the ZI Convention voted for this Service Project for 2024-2026 Biennium.

The goal of the *Climate Empower: Community Empowerment and Innovation for Gender-Transformative Climate Action International Service Project* is to prevent climate-induced gender-based violence (GBV) and other harmful practices in Madagascar, Mozambique and South Sudan. Zonta International has pledged \$1 million for this project.

It is interesting to read how gender equality and climate change relate: pregnant women and children disproportionately experience impact on nutrition and health; access to food, water, shelter and livelihoods disrupted; services focused on safety, protection and healing from violence disrupted; girls abruptly stop attending school; exacerbation of drivers of child marriage and intimate partner violence.

[9.2 2024-2026 Project Description Climate Empower.pdf \(zonta.org\)](#)

## Items of Interest:

### **QUT Online: Graduate Certificate in Domestic Violence**

Are you, or anyone you know, interested in postgraduate study? QUT offers a 6 months full-time (or part-time equivalent) online course to acquire skills in domestic violence prevention and trauma care. The next entry is in October. For information, and to enrol:

[Graduate Certificate in Domestic Violence Responses Online - QUT Online](#)

### **Emerging Women in Construction**

The Master Builders *Emerging Women in Construction* (EWIC) program provides female trade apprentices in Queensland's building and construction industry with access to support and advice from experienced industry members and advisors with a goal to supporting women and their careers in the industry. These female apprentices can access a mentoring program, regular webinars and training events; receive practical support and information via an advice line; join an online community of female construction workers. For further information, or to join this program: [Emerging Women in Construction \(EWIC\) | Master Builders Queensland \(mbqld.com.au\)](#)

### **Women of the World (WOW) Schools Day 2024**

WOW Australia is partnering with QPAC to host 200 secondary students in a full day of workshops, performances and Speed Mentoring. This is being held on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

### **International Day of the Older Person: 1 October**

### **International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October**

## *Diary Dates*

05 September 2024 – Board Meeting – ZOOM

16 September 2024 – Club Meeting (attend at library, or ZOOM) – Guest Councillor Lucy Collier

03 October 2024 – Board Meeting – ZOOM

11 October 2024 – UN International Day of the Girl Child

21 October 2024 – Club Meeting (attend at library, or ZOOM)

24 October 2024 – United Nations Day

27 October 2024 – Breast Cushion Working Bee

06 November 2024 – Board Meeting – ZOOM

18 November 2024 – Club Meeting (attend at library or ZOOM)

23 November 2024 – Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, Rocklea

25 November 2024 – Zonta Says No to Violence – City Walk

29 November 2024 – Paint the Bayside Orange Breakfast, Wynnum Manly Leagues Club

05 December 2024 – Board Meeting – ZOOM

09 December 2024 – Barefoot Bowls Pizza Night (TBC)