

# Z Files

August 2023

## From the President:



## Diary Dates

Date	Event
<b>18 August</b>	Breast Cushion Workshop
<b>12 Sept</b>	Dinner Meeting
<b>FYI</b>	Movie afternoon
<b>10 Oct</b>	Dinner Meeting
<b>4 Nov</b>	Afternoon tea in memory of Joan Moller

Hello Fellow Zontians and friends,

I write this as I prepare to attend my first District 23 Conference in Bunbury. I have a great sense of anticipation and look forward to new learnings and making many new friends.

The past 3 months have been extremely busy for members, and I thank them for their efforts. Our Vintage / Sustainable Fashion Parade was a wonderful event and a major enabling fundraiser for us. This event is a great example of the “Zonta says Now” on climate action. It also raises the profile of the work of Zonta and challenges women to take on roles outside of their comfort zones.

On a cold winters afternoon in July a small group of members and friends folded and packed 1000 Birthing Kits – outstanding! Two of our members, Prue Cowled and Jenny Weaver, were recognised for their wonderful, long-term commitment to the Birthing Kit Foundation and Jenny Weaver was further acknowledged with an OAM. Congratulations – inspiring role models for service to women.

We held a social afternoon creating new earrings from recycled pieces and were delighted the Area Director Lesley was able to join us. Some of the pieces were for sale at our fashion parade.

*Continued on next page*

## President's Report (continued)

Plans are well underway for the 16 Days of Activism and Burnside Council is working collaboratively with us. One of the major focus areas will be a trail of Orange shoes – each pair in memory of a woman who lost her life to domestic violence in the past twelve months. I think it will be quite a statement and draw to the attention of ordinary citizens passing by, this horrendous issue.

My mind has been recently focused on the challenges of attracting and retaining new members; an issue facing many service and sporting organisations. To this end I have been speaking to a marketing expert who impressed upon me the need to really publicise ZONTA to the wider world. We know what great work we do but for an organisation that has been in existence for over 100 years we are not widely known. Charitynavigator.org rates Zonta 100% - a Four -Star rating for being a good charity/ organisation. As President this is my challenge – leading my club to raise the ZONTA profile.

In February we lost a valued member Joan Moller and we are holding an afternoon tea in her honour on the afternoon of the 4th November. If you knew Joan and would like to attend, please watch out for our future communications.

Judy Lovett  
President  
Zonta Adelaide Torrens

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## Fundraising

Entertainment Books are always available for purchase online. To order books online, use the QR Code below or go to:

<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/160042m>



## Fashion Parade



Our recent Camilla Louise Fashion Parade was a great success!

Thank you to all who supported our "Camilla Louise" Fashion Parade - and especially to our club members pictured below, who all contributed to creating a fabulous fusion of fun and fashion.





## Area 2 Advocacy Forum



### **A Roof over my Head:**

### Actions not Words

A very informative workshop was well attended by members on 29<sup>th</sup> July. The Advocacy committee organised an excellent range of speakers who shared their thoughts about what is happening and what is needed to address the major issues surrounding homelessness and older women.

- Dr Victoria Cornell – Churchill Fellowship – “Study of Alternate Housing Solutions” Victoria studied homelessness initiatives overseas and the benefits of mixed aged and socio economic housing. Victoria is currently working at Onkaparinga Council.
- Bridget Mather (ZC Adelaide) – “Sharing with Friends” Bridget spoke about this interesting Zonta initiative happening in Queensland. More information about this project can be found online.
- Helen Sands (ZC Gawler) – “Gawler Community Housing Project” Helen spoke about the well-established community housing model in Gawler and how it is changing to meet current needs.
- Leann Symonds (ZC Victor Harbour) – “Local Government Toolkit for Ending Homelessness” Leann spoke about the role of local government and how homelessness is everyone's business.
- Joy O'Hazy spoke about the role of Habitat for Humanity and what they are doing here in South Australia, helping people to rebuild, renovate and develop sustainable housing. They are hoping to work with Women's Shelters to build houses.

Information from the workshop was actioned by forming a group of 7 attendees who will draft a submission to State and Federal governments, putting forward the view that there must be a National Housing Strategy. The guest speakers were willing to support the committee members in the preparation of the submission.

**The day gave us lots of food for thought and action.**

After the workshop we received information from the Federal Government with an invitation to participate.

“Thank you for your interest in the development of the National Housing and Homelessness Plan (the Plan). We are pleased to advise the Australian Government has released an Issues Paper on Housing and Homelessness in Australia.

The Issues Paper provides a brief overview of some of the known issues in different parts of the housing and homelessness systems and poses a series of discussion questions.

You are invited to share your ideas and experiences by either responding to guided, short-form questions or lodging a written submission **by 11:59pm AEST, Friday, 22 September 2023.**

There will also be opportunities to contribute to the plan through a range of face-to-face workshops and online forums across the country.

To view the Issues Paper, or to receive updates on consultation opportunities, please visit <https://engage.dss.gov.au/developing-the-national-housing-and-homelessness-plan>



Judy Lovett

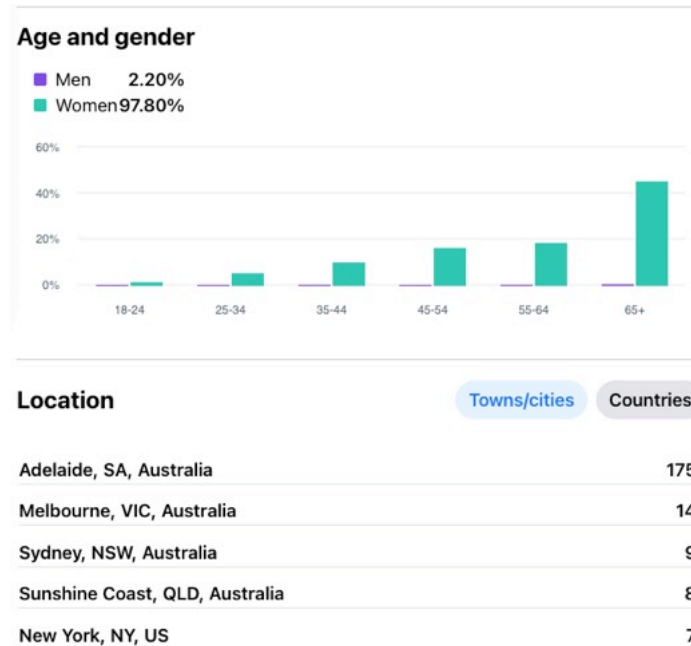
## Breast Cushions

Another successful breast cushion workshop was held on 18 August at President Judy Lovett's home. A group of willing workers stuffed, sewed and wrapped 20 cushions ready for delivery to Burnside Hospital before enjoying lasagne, fizz and Zonta fellowship. Thanks to all that were able to attend.

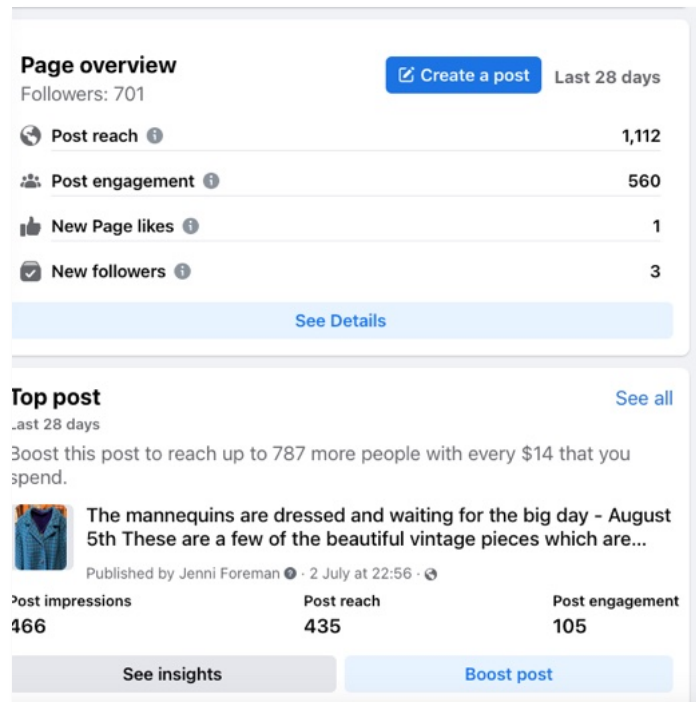


## Public Relations

Facebook continues to be a very effective means of connection to the wider community. Here is some interesting data on who is looking at our posts.



The post with the highest number of hits was a Camilla Louise Posting!



## Birthing Kit News

Our 2023 Birthing Kit Assembly Day was held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July at The Basil Hetzel Institute, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We thank Imogen Ball, Facility Manager for the use of the seminar rooms and kitchen for the event, it's a great venue! Despite relatively low numbers we successfully assembled all 1000 kits and also enjoyed a very nice afternoon tea. The kits have been shipped and I recently received from the Birthing Kit Foundation notification of where kits were shipped in August (including our kits), see the table below. Many thanks to all who participated, it's a great project!

*Prue Cowled  
Birthing Kit Coordinator.*

You'll be pleased to know that we distributed kits to the following field partners in August.

Thank you so much for your support.

Kit Distribution Report

Country	Partner organisation
DR Congo	Women Glory
DR Congo	SOS Jeunesse et Enfance en Detresse
	Beaton Foundation Initiative
Nigeria	Golden Change Concerned Youth Forum
Papua New Guinea	Living Child Inc.
Uganda	Foundation for Development and Relief Africa
Nigeria	Diocesan Health Initiative
	Hacey Health Initiative
Uganda	Ourganda Ministries
Uganda	Partners in Community Social Action





## ZCAT out and about in the community

President Judy Lovett and member Carol Pearce visited "Care & Share" at Trinity on Wednesday and spoke about the projects and activities of the Club.

This group works to create community connections for isolated seniors. The members have been busy knitting baby blankets which will be included in our "Baby Bundles" which are donated to new mums who need support.

Thanks to these wonderful women at Trinity for supporting our ZONTA project



## Support to St Andrews by the Sea



Thanks to Club Member Marnie Joyce for delivering our donations and thanks to all Club Members who donated food items! Donations of non-perishable food are collected at all our meetings for subsequent delivery to St Andrews. They are particularly happy to receive “treats” for their clients as well as pantry staples.

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Embrace your different perspective':  
Dr Fang Chen on the power of women in AI



***Inclusive leadership and transformative impact needs to occur across all industries, and involve all genders, races, ages and abilities. YWCA Canberra's She Leads Conference, taking place on August 4, will bring together a host of incredible female thought leaders across advocacy, politics, academia and science.***

When it comes to new technological advances, we can't escape the growing impact of AI and its frightening reaches. For distinguished Professor Fang Chen from the UTS' Data Science Institute, the most critical aspect in working towards transformative impact is embracing inclusivity and diversity in AI.

Dr Chen believes that inclusive leadership needs to be the kind that is adaptive to changes while also enabling women to embrace their leadership potential. "Today, not only do we see more challenges in leadership, we also see more technological challenges, and these transformations need to be made so that they no longer perpetuate inequality," she said. "How are we going to disrupt the status quo to foster some positive changes?"

Dr Chen has combatted bias perception in the past by focusing on her own skills and capabilities rather than on her gender.

Several years ago, Chen was introduced by a male speaker on a panel with a question — "As a female, how you convince people to trust the business intelligence?" Chen hit back, saying that such a question simply diminishes her complex personhood. "I'm not only female, I'm also Asian, and English is not my first language and I'm skinny as well, I'm short, relative to other people, but I prefer to focus on the skills I've acquired," she said. Despite this, she adds that women are perhaps more observant, and "better at looking at things from a different angle."

Chen, who won the Australian Museum Eureka Prize in 2018 for Excellence in Data Science, started out as an electrical engineer before pursuing a PhD in AI focusing on speech recognition. She emigrated to Australia and is now one of the world's leading AI and Human-Machine Interaction expert, promoting ethical, human-centred AI.

In the years she has worked in the industry, she has seen a remarkable shift in the perception of women in AI. "Even back in 2013, I was often the only woman at the table talking to all male colleagues," she said.

"Now, AI is absolutely a welcoming atmosphere, and the boundary of the profession is blurring. In the past, AI was very strictly just about computer science, but now...there are different skills involved, and women bring a range of very unique strengths to the field."

Chen commends Australia's tertiary education system for leading the way in global AI research, though admits that we are also "a very risk averse nation...we tend to follow the suit of a lot of people rather than trying to jump on being the leader." "We can do better," Chen says.

As an internationally-recognised leader in AI and data science, Chen has mentored many young scientists and budding PhD candidates. She tells her students the importance of never underestimating their abilities, and to notice self-doubt when it creeps up on them. "Nothing can save you more if you keep your focus in doing what your heart wants, and trusting you can do it," she said. "My advice is to trust yourself. You're not less capable than anyone else."

Reprinted from Women's Agenda

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## Vale Dr Mary- Louise McLaws

A great woman of STEM and a wonderful leader.

"Renowned epidemiologist **Mary-Louise McLaws** [has heartbreakingly lost her fight to cancer](#), after first being diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2022. McLaws had an illustrious life and career and was pivotal to Australia's navigating of the COVID-19 pandemic. To say she will be sorely missed is a gross understatement."

Reprinted from "Women's Agenda"

Zonta Club of Adelaide  
Torrens

Leadership Team 2023-2024

President: Judy Lovett

Vice-President: Jenni Foreman

Treasurer: Jenny Weaver

Secretary: Prue Cowled

Board Members:

Jenny Hatchard

Marnie Joyce

Lisa Vardon



Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at The Republic Hotel, 120 Magill Rd, Norwood. 6.00p.m. for 6.30p.m.

Website:

[www.zontaadelaide.com.au](http://www.zontaadelaide.com.au)

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## OBJECTS OF ZONTA

- To improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women at the global and local level through service and advocacy.
- To work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of executives in business and professions.
- To promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- To be united internationally to foster high ethical standards, to implement service programs and to provide mutual support and fellowship for members who serve their communities, their nations and the world.

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**ZONTA SAYS NO**  
**TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**