



EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

Zonta Club of Brisbane City Heart

ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by

Lisa Newman (President)

Produced for the information of ZCBCH Members at the Annual General Meeting Tuesday 23rd July 2024
24 Rupert St, Windsor Qld 4030

This document is the Annual Report of the Zonta Club of Brisbane City Heart, detailing the key objectives, initiatives and business of the club throughout the year commencing July 1st 2023 through to June 30th 2024.

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THE ZONTA MISSION

Zonta International is a global organisation of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

THE ZONTA VISION

Zonta International envisage a world in which women's rights are recognised as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis as men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been an amazing year as a Club (ZBCH), and the main reason for this has been the solidification of our club strategies, ethos and culture. Our strategy session in September 2023 was an extension of the questionnaire undertaken in the previous Financial Year, and helped us all acknowledge what it is that makes us all so passionate about our Club and Zonta International, and aim our efforts towards what we really find important and rewarding.

I want to congratulate all our club members for a year of growing fellowship within our club and extending to our wider Zonta family. This culture of friendship and respect for one another and acknowledgement of everyone's efforts and achievements within and outside our club has created a club culture to be celebrated.

This has been a very different year to previous years, in that our strategy session helped us focus on what is truly important to us all, our strengths and areas for improvements, our opportunities and our challenges. We also solidified our long term goals and how we wished to endeavour to achieve them. These culminate in the aim to increase our Club and Foundation's exposure to the wider community and build our Club Brand, in order to achieve ORGANIC growth of our Club membership and also our Foundation funds.

Our event calendar has been tweaked to ensure we do not overwhelm our members and supporters too much and too early in the year, and therefore there is a situation where the dates of the main annual club fundraising event have straddled this financial year, rather than sit within it. A vagary that will rectify itself after this financial year. This explains the drop in fundraising and the accompanying drop in outgoing donations from the Foundation, but again this vagary will be rectified in the subsequent year.

We have to also acknowledge the impact of cost of living challenges generally within our community, and this has been a huge impact on fundraising abilities, but again we are pivoting and looking at changes to our fundraising endeavours and style, and will assess those results in the latter months of 2024 through multiple fundraising endeavours.



EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

However, regarding fundraising, whilst this is an integral and important part of our Club's focus, we also wish to acknowledge that our Club's success is not measured just in dollars. We unanimously have agreed that while dollars are important in supporting our target charities, our success will be measured through our ability to increase the awareness within our community to the challenges that women and girls are facing both here and abroad, as well as our relationships with each other as Club members, where respect and nurturing of friendship is a sign of success that we feel is just as important as anything else. I feel that this Club has become my Zonta Family, and after these past years of challenges that is very precious indeed.

OUR BOARD

I wish to thank our Board for all their incredible hard work, and great support and advice to me as President, but also their amazing commitment to this Club, ensuring the continuing compliance and focus of responsibilities, as well as contributing to the focus on our great Club culture.

My heartfelt thanks to our amazing long serving Secretary – Denise Hawthorne – who has ensured we stay on the right side of regulatory compliance, where she is such a wealth of knowledge. But most importantly, thanks so very much for all your help in so many far and reaching ways, and always with such wise advice and guidance.

Thank you also to our fabulous Treasurer Nicole Johnston, for looking after all things financial and keeping us under control and compliant, all while juggling work and motherhood FABULOUSLY.

Our Assistant Treasurer and Board member Elaine Harrington – oh we cannot do without you and your support and great knowledge in all things Zonta, with much needed guidance and advice.

Renee Connolly – our PR & Events Committee Chair. You have absolutely flourished in this role and we thank you and the all the fabulous committee members so very much for what is admittedly a challenge in times of cost of living crises generally in the community, but showing that you are up to the task and have taken it on with gusto, putting together events we can all be so very proud of.

Rosemary Crilly – our Service & Advocacy Committee Chair. Thank you for your efforts and those of your fabulous committee team the sourcing and undertaking of Due Diligence of the amazing charities of choice we have supported in 2023 and 2024, and your committee's efforts in continuing our fellowship activities of tangible support for global and local endeavours.

Sarah Newman – Membership Chair – thank you for supporting me in reaching out to potential members and extended friends of our club, and for helping with the recording of all the information from our Strategy Session, as this document is a great resource for our club as an aid in ensuring we continue to focus on what is important to us all. Also, many thanks in representing young members on the Zonta International Membership advisory group.

SEPTEMBER 2023 STRATEGY SESSION – This was a most productive evening of wide ranging thoughts and processes and we thank Maree Clancy so much for convening and moderating, and I have attached the analysis document which we will continue to use as our focus and also will continuously develop.

MEMBERSHIP – We currently have 13 very committed and hard working members, but over and above this we are growing our community of 'friends' of our Club and enjoy their input and inclusion in our social and fundraising endeavours.



EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE AND ADVOCACY & FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Birthing Kits – August 2023: We continue to enjoy supporting this great initiative towards reducing mother and child mortality and infectious rates in less developed countries and regions globally.

Trivia Night – October 2023 – plus being recipient of the venue's fundraising for that month, which added to the overall success of the October fundraising efforts. What a great night had by all at Stone & Wood brewery – successful in fundraising but also successful in awareness raising.

Carinity Christmas Hamper collections, wrapping and delivery: We are all continuing our commitment to put together amazing Christmas gift hampers for the students in years 7-10 at Carinity Southside Education, and this initiative is not only successful in bringing joy to the students, but also in growing our community of 'friends' of ZBCH.

Christmas get-together/fellowship dinner – It's always a great way to end the year together at dinner close to Christmas where we reflect on the great year past and look forward to excitedly to another year ahead with huge potential.

JUNE 2024 ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONAL IN BRISBANE

Thank you to the members of our Club that put their hands up to help as volunteers for the ZI Convention in late June 2024 – special mention to Elaine Harrington for her significant commitment, and also to Rosemary Crilly for her creative commitment 😊

We had a great Club representation at the Convention – with pretty much half of our ZBCH Club in attendance. This Convention was an amazing experience and it was a joy to be able to meet so many of our global Zonta family, as well as hear from the many and varied global initiatives that ZI are committed to. It created such a sense of belonging to something quite significant and just reinvigorated our commitment to ZI and our initiative here at home. It was also a thing of pride to see our global Zontians enjoy our home town hospitality too.

I encourage all club members to join our local District and Area conferences and meetings in the future, as well as consider the next ZI Convention in 2026 if feasible. Its an incredible experience.

YWPA Award and Z-CLUB at Hillbrook High School

We had a successful application from a very worthy recipient of our Club's Young Women in Public Affairs award this year from ELLEN BRIEFFIES – President of Hillbrook High School Z-Club (Enoggera). It was great to have an opportunity to acknowledge her community support through this award, and the school community were very excited at the Assembly where our Club representatives presented the certificate to Ellen, and we appreciated this opportunity to meet and get to know the Z-Club members.



EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

This Z-Club was in the process of searching for a new Zonta Club to take on the role of mentor/sponsor and this was taken to our Club for consideration, as their existing club sponsor were finding it challenging to continue the connection due to distance.

It was so exciting to see our ZBCH Club support wholeheartedly taking on the mentorship/sponsorship of the Z-Club at Hillbrook High School (Enoggera). This Z-Club is a very inspiring cohort of students, with great support from the school staff and community, and we look forward to this relationship going forward, nurturing the community spirit of these students going forward.

CONCLUSION

Here we go team – another great year to look forward to ahead, all of us together enjoying making whatever difference we can to women and girls in need and facing great challenges both here and abroad; all the while enjoying doing this together in a Club whose culture of friendship, respect and commitment we can all be so very proud of.

So looking forward to continuing on this journey with you all,

Lisa Newman

President - Zonta club of Brisbane City Heart