



CLUB HISTORY

Acknowledging the clubs achievements in this 100th anniversary year of Zonta International

The Zonta Club of Southern Gold Coast Inc will celebrate its 40th Anniversary in 2020. The club was originally called the Zonta Club of Tweed Valley Area. The Zonta Club of Brisbane Inc was our sponsoring club. An organisation meeting was held on 9th October 1980. The Club was chartered by Zonta International on 17th November 1980 with the Club Charter Number 0960. The first meeting of the club was held on 18 December 1980. Dorothy Andrew served as the Charter President. The club changed its name in 1981 to the Zonta Club of Southern Gold Coast Tweed Inc. From 1980 until 2008, the Zonta Club of Southern Gold Coast Tweed Inc was allocated to District 24. In 2008, District 24 was split into District 22 and 24, with the club allocated to District 22, Area 3.

The Club has had 17 Presidents over the past 39 years. Some of these amazing women have served as President more than once and some for several years consecutively. Jill Mindam served for 3 years from 1981 – 1984; Alice Hill served for 3 years from 1988 – 1991; Merle Stevens served for a total of 5 years over 3 periods of time from 1993-1995, 1998–1999, and 2003-2005. Lesley Anne Marsh served for 4 years from 1995–1997 and 2005–2007. Kaye Lollback served for the longest unbroken period of 8 years from 2010-2017, a marathon effort!!! Linda Phelp, Helen Ferguson, Cathy Floyd, Shirlee Whipps, Jan Ingwersen, and Rhonda Allen all served for 2 years. Dorothy Andrews, Dorothea Gale, Barbara Laird, Ursula Long and Janet Risdon served one year each. All of these women have made a significant contribution to Zonta and have ensured that the Club has contributed significantly to our community and to Zonta International.

The Zonta Club of Southern Gold Coast Tweed co-hosted the District 24 Conference at Nara Sea World Resort with the Gold Coast Club in 1991, and the District 24 Conference at Twin Towns Services Club in 2008. It co-hosted a successful Area Meeting with the Zonta Club of Northern Rivers at Kingscliff Bowls Club in 2019.

The 20th 25th and 30th anniversary dinners were significant events attended by District and Area dignitaries and members of Zonta Clubs and Service Clubs in the area.

In 2018, the club was fortunate to host ZI Director Ute Schutz for 4 days. A dinner was held in her honour, attended by Zontians and friends.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

FUNDRAISING

The club has been active in fundraising activities over the past 39 years, with all members contributing fundraising ideas, and participating in and supporting our fundraising events. The key activities include:

- Hosting the extremely successful International Womens' Day Breakfasts on the Gold Coast from 1993 until 2006. The first event was held at the Sheraton Hotel. Merle Stephens initiated this event. Many significant women were guest speakers at these functions, which were attended by over 100 people and high school students from Gold Coast high schools each year. The events raised over \$125,000 used to support local and international service projects;
- Book launch of Lady Flo Bjelke-Petersen' book;
- Bunnings BBQ's from 2013 to present;
- Blue Illusion Fashion Parades twice yearly from 2013 to present;
- Combined Service Dinner with other Zonta and Service Clubs in 1995;
- Other fundraising activities include other fashion parades, art shows, street markets, lamington drives, theatre and movie nights, car rallies, sale of items at International and District Conferences, race and golf days, Tupperware parties, Xmas in July, Body Shop night, sale of products, wine and cheese nights, Big Day Out, bulb sales, DFO shopping trips, chocolate drives, jewellery sales, car boot sales;
- Donations from women who received breast cushions, Marymount Interact Club, Ride for Pink Motorbike Club, crystal art to raffle from Jim Frazier, and Mfest donation for Birthing Kits program.

SERVICE PROJECTS

- The Club held a "Health and Women" Seminar in Murwillumbah in 2008. This seminar attracted a lot of media coverage in Tweed newspapers;
- We organised and conducted the Women's' Health and Wellbeing Expo held at Robina Community Centre in 2011;
- The "Zonta Against Cancer " breast cancer education program from ran from 1993–1997. The club produced the "Zonta Against Breast Cancer" books. Pamela Pickard distributed these and spoke to over 2000 women in our area about early detection of breast cancer. The Government later took up this idea. The clubs participation in this program received significant local media attention in print, radio and television;
- Annual Birthing Kit Assembly Days have been hosted from 2009 – present. This project has been led by Susie Dunn, who completed a 25 km walk for "Big Steps for Birth" in September

2012 to raise funds for the birthing kits, and awareness of the need for these kits;

- Merle Stephens initiated the Breast Cushion Project in 2003 and has provided support and mentorship to this project until this day. In 2008 the ladies at the RSL Broadwater Retirement Village in Banora Point commenced making the breast cushions and drainage bags for the Club and this support continues. Breast cushions and drainage bags are provided to Gold Coast Hospitals. The ladies are now also making colourful bags for the Care Packs;
- The Club participated in “Project Now”, a collaborative project between Zonta District 22, Salvation Army, and Rotary Planetarium to fund a 22 bed purpose built facility to accommodate women recovering from addiction;
- We provide care packs, knickers and footwear to hospital emergency rooms for use by victims of domestic and sexual violence; and have collected bras for the Oxfam Bra Roundup and more recently for the Days for Girls program on the Gold Coast;
- In 2018, the club sponsored the Family Unit at the Sanctuary Refuge for Women, Children and Pets escaping domestic Violence and volunteered to paint units and provide other help including donations of clothing, linen, baby goods etc.;
- The Club has provided donations for several community projects and organisations over the years. These include Coolangatta Special School; Currumbin and Kingscliff Air Sea Rescue; Blair Athol bush fire relief; St Josephs Community House in Tweed Heads; Sri Lankan water wells; Pregnancy Help; Red Cross; womens’ refuges; Camp Quality; Riding for the Disabled; Leukemia Foundation; Salvation Army; Homeless Street Kids; a two-way radio for the Tweed Community Bus; Rockhampton flood relief; Rosies Canteen; Vaccine for Cancer research project; St Vincent de Paul; UNIFEM; Paradise Kids; Palm Beach Currumbin Lions Club; various domestic violence services; the Gold Coast “Heroes Don't Hit” project; Zonta Internal Foundation (ZIF) “Burkina Faso project, Hear and Say Centre, Child Abuse Trust; Palliative Care, Queensland, the Queensland Institute of Medical Research; UNIFEM “Reinventing India” program; Pat Rafter Foundation; Sisters Inside; ZIF project “Education of Women in Afghanistan”; Queensland Blood Bank; Immunology Cancer research; Professor Frasers Research Institute; Annette Duffy's Aang Serian Home for girls escaping genital mutilation; Tweed Shire Womens’ Service; Older Womens’ Network; Dragon Boats Abreast; a safe room at Tweed District Court House; UN Fund for Elimination and Reduction of Obstetric Fistula program; ZIF reduction of maternal morbidity in Liberia project; Pink Pilates program; Bali Pink Ribbon Project to purchase a second mammogram machine; Sarah King Sierra Leone Project for women; Cherish the Children Fund; Bridget Maher for the Genome research project; Obstetric Unit at John Flynn Hospital; Leneen Forde Scholarship researching the Epstein- Barr Virus;
- We have provided several bursaries and scholarships at Kingscliff TAFE and local high schools to help disadvantaged girls and women to complete their education. ZIF programs supported have included the Amelia Earhart Fellowship, YWPA Award, and the JM Klausman Women in Business Scholarship;

Club scholarships and bursaries include:

- A bursary in 2011-2012 to support a female Bond University student with her studies in Forensic Science and Criminology in regard to women who have suffered DV;

- A bursary to Marlene Karene, a student with cerebral palsy, to help her with her studies in journalism in 2003;
 - Sponsorship in 2014 for Jenna Dearness Dark to attend an auditioning workshop in Brisbane. Today Jenna is an accomplished opera singer and performs around the world, and has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York; and
 - In 2019, the club, in conjunction with the Zonta Club of Northern Rivers, provided financial support for Charlie Priest, a talented flautist, to attend workshops in Edinburgh, Scotland; and.
- Members volunteered at the International Transplant Games held on the Gold Coast in 2008;

ADVOCACY

- The Club initiated the United Nations Refugee Picnic in the Park Picnics for refugee families. The Zonta Clubs of Logan, Paradise Point and Gold Coast participated in this event, which was held at the Spit from 1992 until 2006;
- We participated in the “Girls Night Out” in 2009, Mini Field of Women in 2011 and 2015, “Sistas against Violence” lantern parade in 2014 and Walk for Respect at Broadwater Parklands in 2016. All these events raised awareness of violence against women;
- Participated in the walk supporting International Midwives Day in 2011;
- The Zonta Club of Southern Gold Coast Tweed Inc facebook page was established in 2011
- Hosted “An Evening With Dr Luc” at which he provided information about his work to support and help women in the Congo;
- Club members staffed displays at Elanora Library and in the Tweed Mall in 2018 during the 16 Days of Activism

MEMBERSHIP

The Zonta Club of Southern Gold Coast Tweed Inc, like most clubs, has experienced many ups and downs with membership. At its peak, the club had over 20 members. At the District 24 Conference in 2005 it received an award for increased membership.

The lowest membership was 6, and the club was in danger of dissolution. Fortunately membership grew and now in 2019 the membership is 12 with a potential of 2-3 new members. Regular membership drives and dinners are held to try to encourage more members.

Colleen McCullough, renowned Australian author, joined in 1998 as an honorary member.

AWARDS RECEIVED

- At the District 24 Conference in 2005, the club received the District United Nations Committee Award for the clubs 5th United Nations Refugee Picnic as well as the Award for recruitment of new Members;

- President Kaye Lollback received the “Wonder Woman of the Year International Womens’ Day Award” sponsored by the Tweed Shire for her work with women in the district; and
- In May 2014, the Zonta Club of Southern Gold Coast Tweed Inc received an award from the Gold Coast Centre for Prevention of Domestic Violence in recognition of the clubs contribution to ending violence against women.

Over the past 39 years, this club has distinguished itself through its contribution to improving the lives of many women in our community. It is the dedication and enthusiasm of all members over the years that has been the driving force behind the success of this club.

