



Zonta Club of The Riverland Inc

Member of Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Historical Summary of our 28 years

When the Zonta Club of the Riverland was chartered in 1985 with a membership of 46 women from the South Australian towns of Loxton, Berri, Renmark, Barmera and Waikerie the long held goal of many for a Service Club for professional women in this rural area was realised.

MEMBERSHIP

Throughout the ensuing 28 years to 2013 with a Club Membership average of 23 members, over 125 women in this community have taken the opportunity to support the Advancement of the Status of Women both locally and Worldwide through Zonta International.

LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS and ADVOCACY – STATUS OF WOMEN

Our most **outstanding project** in this area has however been the Riverland Women in Business Awards held on 6 occasions since 2004. The Presentation Dinners with a high profile woman speaker have attracted over 150 people each occasion and have well publicized through the local press. Over **48** enterprising and hardworking women business leaders have been recognised through these prestigious awards for which sponsorship is canvassed from local Community Businesses, so these awards are self-sustaining. A finalist in RWIB in 2012 is now a finalist in the 2013 SA Telstra Women in Business Awards

Our **longest standing** project has been the Awards to Year 11 students who are progressing to Year 12 at our four local high schools. Since 1986, **108 young women** have been acknowledged through these Awards. In 2004 we also made available a Young Women in Public affairs Award to a Year 12 student in each school (allowing a further **36 young women** to be acknowledged), then each year these 4 students can enter for the Riverland YWPA Award. Two young women nominated by our Club have been District 23 winners and one of these a ZI Awardee. The cost of these awards to the Club is \$1000 per year.

“Say No to Violence” - our two **outstanding Advocacy Events** related to the prevention of Domestic Violence against Women have been the **2006 “Walk in my Shoes” Exhibition** in 2006 and the **“Shout from the Bridge”** events held on White Ribbon day in 2009 and 2010.

SERVICE

On **UN Women’s Day** we have held a fundraising Breakfast or Dinner for UN Women donating a total of **\$7250 direct to UN Women from 2000 to 2013.**

At these events we have acknowledged women with longstanding service in providing support to women in disadvantaged groups in our community eg Disabled, Indigenous, Migrants and Refugees and Workers for DV Survivors.

We have funded, made and delivered **over 650 Breast Cushions** to local and Metropolitan Hospitals for women recovering from breast cancer surgery. Recently we have designed and made bags to carry drainage equipment for those recovering from surgery for **Colon Cancer.**

14000 Birthing Kits in the past **8 years** have been funded, made & despatched

Continuing support both financial and in kind over many years has been provided to the **Riverland Women’s Shelter and Domestic Violence** unit and more recently to the **Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Team** with the provision of a cupboard of Women’s Clothing in the Emergency Dept of the local Hospital.

FUNDRAISING - Each year the Club raises approximately \$6000.

In 2010/11 our most successful year over \$8000 was distributed.

Our most **successful and most longstanding Fundraisers** have been Annual Fashion Parades in many differing guises. The “latest” fashions, together with Bridal, Vintage, Retro, Millinery and Historical have all been paraded, mainly due to enthusiastic fashion retailers being longstanding members of our Club.

The next most successful Fundraisers have been **Annual Bowls Days** (80-100 players on each occasion) with Golf Days and Tennis Days in earlier years

As most Riverlanders have a predilection for lamingtons we, as “savvy” Business Women, have honed in on this “market” to produce and sell **dozens of lamingtons to raise approximately \$1000 each year.**

Other major “money makers” have included Raffles of all types, Garden Parties & Old-fashioned Afternoon teas and “Walks for Women’s Health.

PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION

In 1996 Zonta Rose Gardens in three Riverland towns were established and are still in good heart today.

In 1996 SA Australia Day Awards the Zonta Club of the Riverland Inc was acknowledged for its **“Women in War” Project** which recorded the experiences of local women during World War 2 as part of the 40th Anniversary of the ending of that War.

Our Monthly Newsletter for members **“Z to A”** has been published and maintained throughout the Club’s existence.

A Website for our Club has this year 2013 been designed and launched

UNITED NATIONS

Zonta International Biennial Goals have been fully supported by our Club with a third of our fundraising being forwarded to **ZI to support these Projects every year for 28 years.**

*This **Historical Record** of the **Zonta Club of the Riverland Inc** has been collated and written in **September 2013** by current Treasurer, Past President and Past Secretary, **Sharyn Schlein** of Loxton SA, together with Charter Member and immediate Past President, **Margaret Colby** of Berri SA.*