



Zonta Yellow Rose courtesy of Zonta International  
[www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

**Celebrating**  
**Ballarat's Great Women**  
**25<sup>th</sup> March 2021**



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
BALLARAT INC  
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY



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Our Zonta Club is a member of District 23 of Zonta International, which includes Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory. In October this year, we celebrate our 43<sup>rd</sup> birthday since inception in 1978, and continue to be inspired by Zonta's Mission and Vision.

**OUR MISSION** Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

**OUR VISION** Zonta International envisions 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 with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.

In our Zonta life today, we are focussed on two initiatives –



ZONTA says NO to Violence Against Women



ZONTA say NOW to Gender Equality and Climate Action

**THEN AND NOW** Since the initial concept of celebrating the contribution of local women nominated by their peers was introduced by Women's Health Grampians in 2006, close to 200 women have been recognised on the Honour Roll. Our Zonta District is now leading the way on Climate Action with a Think Tank exploring ways in which we can do something to save our Planet.

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people of the Koolin nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## **BALLARAT'S GREAT WOMEN 2021**

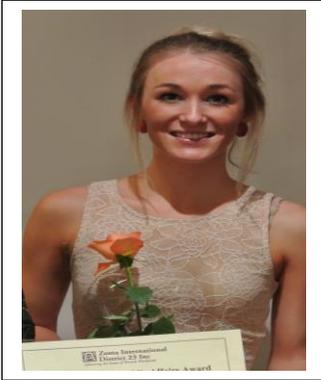
### **HONOUREES AND NOMINATORS**

<b>KIM ANDERSON</b>	<b>Nominated by Paula Nicholson for The Ballarat Arts Foundation</b>
<b>HELEN EYRES</b>	<b>Nominated by Caroline Nolan for the Zonta Club of Ballarat</b>
<b>WENDY JACOBS</b>	<b>Nominated by Dianne Gow for the Ballarat Branch of the National Trust of Australia</b>
<b>SHIREE PILKINTON</b>	<b>Nominated by Marianne Hendron for Women's Health Grampians</b>
<b>JUDITH POTTER</b>	<b>Nominated by Judy-Ann Quilliam for Loreto College, Ballarat</b>
<b>GEORGINA VAGG</b>	<b>Nominated by Dianne McGrath, Ballarat China Community Committee of the City of Ballarat</b>

## Zonta Club of Ballarat

The Zonta Club of Ballarat has served the Ballarat community for over 40 years, undertaking **programs** to honour outstanding women and **projects** supporting women and their families locally and globally, many in partnership with organisations worldwide.

### Club Programs and Projects



#### Young Women in Public Affairs Award

This Award recognises young women aged 16-19 who demonstrate superior leadership skills and a commitment to public service and encourages them to continue their participation in public life. Shani Cain received a local and subsequent District Award, and now Works as CEO of the international OakTree Foundation.

#### Ballarat's Great Women

Since 2008, close to 200 Ballarat women have been nominated by their peers for significant and varied contribution to the local community.



#### Breast Cushions for Post-Operative Care

Offering comfort to women and men recovering from breast surgery, these soft and supportive cushions are created by volunteers and distributed to the Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre and St. John of God Hospital.



#### Helping Women at Risk – Toiletry Bags

These toiletry bags containing essential care items offer urgent support through Berry Street for women who need to leave the security of their homes suddenly – many with young children - due to domestic violence.

#### 3BA Winter and Christmas Appeals and Salvation Army

Our members donate items in cash and kind such as non-perishable foodstuffs and clothing, and Christmas gifts for young children.



#### Birthing Kits

Since 2003, our Club has supported the Zonta Birthing Kit project assembling essential items to assist Birthing Attendants in over 20 countries worldwide, saving the lives of thousands of women and babies who would otherwise die from preventable diseases.

As with our other projects, we enjoy community partnerships, such as with Staff and Students of Ballarat Grammar, on Assembly Day in 2019.

For further information, please visit [www.zontaballarat.com](http://www.zontaballarat.com) or email [zontaclubofballarat@gmail.com](mailto:zontaclubofballarat@gmail.com)

## Special Guest Speaker Matilda Goodbourn



Matilda, after her interview with Amy Tsilemanis,  
a former Ballarat's Great Woman in 2018

**ONCE UPON A TIME ...** there was a young girl called Matilda Goodbourn.

One day, Matilda went shopping with her Mum, Sarah, and discovered a magazine with lots of pictures and stories called The Big Issue. It intrigued her. Sarah explained that it was a magazine for adults, and Matilda wondered why it was called The Big Issue.

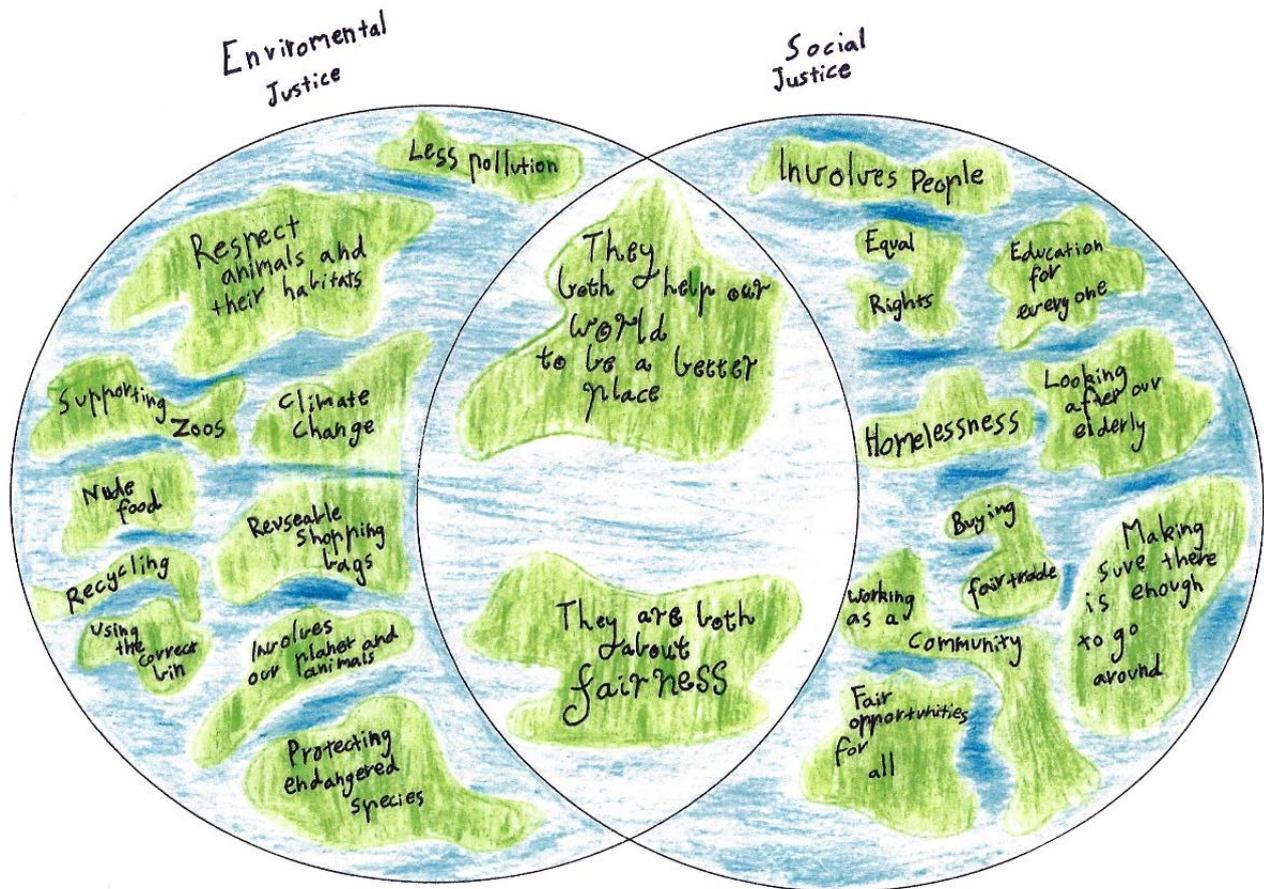
She says, "I was lucky enough to interview the hard-working Amy Hetherington, editor at The Big Issue, who explained how it started and why it was called The Big Issue".

Long story short: it started in the UK in 1991 and in Melbourne, Australia in 1996. Amy explained that The Big Issue is a clever play on words. "The big issue for us is homelessness and disadvantage. What we are trying to do with the magazine is create work opportunities for the people who are selling it. It's also The Big Issue because we tackle big issues that people are talking about."

Our Matilda liked this idea, and thought of all the great stories, puzzles pictures and interviews which might appear in a Little Issue, with the money from sales going to a local charity. When she raised the idea with her Emmaus Catholic Primary School community, they fully supported her, and in November 2018, "with the help of some brilliant people" the very first issue was published, selling for a modest \$5 with all proceeds being donated directly to The Soup Bus.

Student Zoe Newman wrote an article headed "If I were Prime Minister for a Day" and walked her readers through her imagined day – focusing on refugee issues, homelessness, Global Warming, and thoughtful disposal of rubbish. She asked her readers to "seriously consider what you could do to make our Australia a better country".

## SOCIAL JUSTICE & CLIMATE JUSTICE: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?



Incredibly, Jo O'Kelly reports in Issue 2, a response from Prime Minister Scott Morrison, with congratulations on the initiative and commenting that "we need more young people willing to engage in the respectful debates about our future. As young Australians, you represent our country's future hopes".

Thinking of the future, you'll recall 15-year-old Greta Thunberg from Sweden who became a global phenomenon in 2018 protesting for 3 weeks outside the Swedish Parliament and going on to inspire young people worldwide to take action on what is now being described as our 'Climate Crisis'.

Locally, we have our own inspirational young person who, with her peers, took part in the Global Climate School Strike in Ballarat, with colourful banners messaging 'Help our Climate, Save our Planet' and 'Love The World'.

During the ZOOM meeting to celebrate Ballarat's Great Women 2021, we have an opportunity to meet Matilda. She appears in a recorded interview with Amy Tsilemanis, who was nominated by her peers as one of Ballarat's Great Women in 2018. Amy is a cross-artform practitioner and producer, working across the fields of theatre, radio, installations, writing, multimedia and curation.

Imagine the scene... Matilda is sitting comfortably in Amy's home studio, and their interview begins. As the interview unfolds, we hear the voices of these young people, authors, creators, illustrators, reviewers and interviewers nailing the problems and presenting solutions.

What is the lasting impression from this encounter? "You're never too young to change the World".

## **KIM ANDERSON**

**Fine line: Regional artist Kim Anderson in her practice.  
Photo: Supplied**



**Anderson inspiration for emerging artists  
BY RUBY STALEY**

ACCLAIMED visual artist Kim Anderson has another achievement to add to her list.

Among the group of six honourees for Zonta's Ballarat Great Women for 2021, Anderson said she's honoured to be recognised in this form for her work.

"All I feel like I do is hide in my studio and make art work so it's nice to know that what I do has some sort of intrinsic value to people," she said. "It means a lot when people get something out of my work and something like this is really unbelievable, I just draw pictures. It's great that Zonta actually acknowledge all of the great women in Ballarat as well because there are a lot."

Although Anderson primarily works with finely detailed drawings, over the years her work has taken on many forms beyond paper including textiles, projections and installations.

"My work recently has been about the experience of grief and anxiety in the face of climate change, she said. I go out into the landscape and photograph myself in the landscape enacting these rituals of mourning or breathing and then use those photographs as the basis for my drawings. Drawing has been at the heart of my practice even when its huge installation pieces or drawings on the wall."

Having been awarded a multitude of grants and prizes over the years including small grants from the Ballarat Arts Foundation and the Eureka Art Prize, Anderson said one of her proudest achievements was signing to a gallery in Melbourne.

"I signed to Flinders Lane Gallery in 2019 which was huge to have formal representation, and they are really supportive of my practice and was a massive step up," she said.

"I also spent a couple of years on the BAF grants committee which was really nice to do and be on the other side of it and support other emerging artists."

Having faced her fair share of rejections and disappointments throughout her decade-long career, Anderson said her advice for emerging artists is to take every chance you can.

"It's been hard but you have to keep generating your own opportunities and getting your work out there," she said. "There's lots of disappointment and rejections, even living on the poverty line, but you have to keep doing it and pushing on. I do it because I love it and I have no idea what else I would do."

With a show coming up in June in Melbourne, Anderson said she hopes as we come out the other side of the pandemic, that the public will have an increased appreciation for art and creativity in all its forms.

"Art has so many benefits for your mental health whether you do it as a career or not," she said.

"A lot of people now understand the value of doing some sort of creative activity for your own personal wellbeing, that's part of the reason why I do it."

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## HELEN EYRES



**Desire to help: Helen Eyres at home in Ballarat where she lives with her husband of 50 years, Graeme  
Photo: EDWINA WILLIAMS**

**Serving community and sharing knowledge  
BY EDWINA WILLIAMS**

IN the 1950s, Clarendon Presbyterian Ladies College student Helen Eyres could often be seen riding her bike from the Mair Street campus to Sturt Street's Ballarat College.

Then Helen Gear, she regularly visited the boys' school to study chemistry and physics, with aspirations to become a pharmacist like her encouraging father, her uncle, and herbalist grandfather.

This family tradition and their local business, Gear's Pharmacies always captured her interest. "From a very early age, I went to the pharmacy with my father, and I just loved doing that. It was second nature to study pharmacy," she said.

In 1966, Mrs Eyres graduated from the Victorian College of Pharmacy, picking up a position at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Travelling to London, she worked at the University College and Hammersmith hospitals.

At the end of 1969, Mrs Eyres was drawn back to Ballarat to be part of Gear's Pharmacies. In 1972, she became a partner.

The brand was sold in the mid-90s, so Mrs Eyres returned to "rewarding" hospital pharmacy. At St John of God Hospital, she trained as an oncology pharmacist, working on the cancer ward and preparing chemotherapy treatments.

Going back to retail pharmacy in 1999, she worked at UFS Dispensaries until retirement in 2015, mentoring students and "sharing knowledge."

The next year, she became a life member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Mrs Eyres enjoyed her working life and said pharmacy's a "wonderful" career-path women should explore.

"I had an interest in the science, but I really liked working with people. In the pharmacy, you have great interactions with a lot of people across all walks of life," she said.

Born and bred in Ballarat, Mrs Eyres grew up in a "community minded" home. "Learning to contribute to community, during my school years I became a Queen's Guide. Guiding had a very big influence on my life," she said.

Since her Guides days, Mrs Eyres has had a strong "desire to be of service to the community" behind the scenes. The Zonta Club of Ballarat is celebrating this attitude, having named her one of Ballarat's Great Women for 2021.

Mrs Eyres has been a member of the Club for 20 years. She's also part of the Rotary Inner Wheel Club of Wendouree, where she is a passionate raiser of funds for cord blood research. "I've always enjoyed the hands-on work of Zonta's service committee; the breast cushion project, supplying toiletry bags to Berry Street, and making birthing kits," she said.

"I enjoy collaborating with other women... to advance the status of women. Embrace all opportunities to be of service to your community. It's important to draw on your strengths and share your knowledge."

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## WENDY JACOBS



**Ancient appreciation: Heritage specialist and seasoned architect Wendy Jacobs at her Ballarat home**  
**Photo: RUBY STALEY**

**Old buildings the pillar of Jacob's career**  
**BY RUBY STALEY**

WITH a significant portfolio of heritage conservation work under her belt, architect Wendy Jacobs has been named one of Zonta Ballarat's Great Women honourees for 2021.

Having graduated initially from Melbourne University in architecture in 1976, Ms Jacobs commenced the firm, Jacobs Lewis Vines with university mates Nigel Lewis and Elisabeth Vines. "We had done heritage studies as part of our course and been very interested in it," Jacobs said. "Nigel had landed one of the early heritage studies in Melbourne so we started working together and formed the firm, which was one of the earliest workers in the field for heritage.

"We did the Ballarat heritage study in 1978 and that piqued my interest in Ballarat." Having undertaken the first heritage review of the city, Ms Jacobs said she decided to move here in 1987 and start her own practice working with residential alterations and restorations around town. "I loved it, since then that's where I've stayed," she said.

"I'm pretty proud of things like the reconstruction of the verandas both at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute and on the outside of the Gallery which are reconstructions of the originals, they were not in the street scape 30 years ago and have really added to it. The project I've enjoyed the most is Reid's Coffee Palace,

which was amazing, I've done a bit of repair work over the years and finally getting the money to restore the interior was breathtaking."

Although several Ballarat based projects stand out to her, Ms Jacobs said it's always interesting to work the life story of any building and the personalities that have been there. "This house of mine has a good feminist feel, it was the home of Joan Lazarus, who became Joan Rosanove, the first female QC in Victoria," she said. "Understanding the people who lived there is utterly fascinating as to why the house and the building has evolved to where it is, it's a reflection of the people."

"Appreciating and have a deeper understanding about what is significant is really important, not just what is pretty and what is in poor condition, sometimes that is more interesting to appreciate."

Over her years as a working architect and conservation researcher, Ms Jacobs said in contrast to when she finished her degree, the industry has developed to become increasingly encouraging of females within the field. "I followed what I was interested in and I was lucky to have been able to make choices about what work I took on and where I went and was very supported," she said.

"It's much better now, once people knew that you were doing the best you could and knew what you were talking about, they accepted you on the site and I've had amazing contractors, builders and engineers who I've had great working relationships with.

"I haven't made heaps of money but it's been really interesting and exciting, and the places I've seen and the people along the way have been great, there's things much more important than a company car or a corner office."

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## SHIREE PILKINTON



**Lending a hand: The eldest child and grandchild in her family, Shiree Pilkinton has always been instinctively caring and nurturing to those around her.**

**Photo: EDWINA WILLIAMS**

**Empowering women to thrive  
BY EDWINA WILLIAMS**

AS a young woman in rural New Zealand, Shiree Pilkinton dreamed of becoming a journalist.

With on-air aspirations, she nervously walked into an audition for a radio course. This was the moment she experienced her first "bout of sexism." "I was the only female on the day. The man leading the auditions... made a comment. 'Come on in, but you do realise the listening audience prefers a male voice'," Ms Pilkinton said. "I thought, this is what I'm up against already? I hadn't even gone in to do the audition tape."

This experience lay at the back of her mind for years, prompting reflection. "It made me aware of what others were experiencing, who may not have had the language or understanding of what is okay, and what's not. It made me really passionate and aware to support others," she said.

With a desire to see others thrive, Ms Pilkinton is one of the Zonta Club of Ballarat's 2021 Great Women. A qualified teacher, she has educated and nurtured people of all ages and varying cultures in England, Wales and Australia. For the last 20 years, her focus has been the arts, refugees and migrants.

Moving to Ballarat in 2007, she took on a French-speaking role, supporting West African refugee families as they settled in the community. "I was curious... fascinated. Those families had been in camps for more than a decade. It raised my awareness of what was happening politically in the world."

"My own great-grandfather migrated to New Zealand from Yugoslavia by boat as a 16-year-old. Why were similar things still going on in the world?" Ms Pilkinton said. With Māori, Croatian, and English heritage, she's passionate about diversity and intercultural understanding. A Centre for Multicultural Youth team leader, she offers opportunities for "dynamic" 12 to 25-year-old "changemakers" to skill-up.

At Women's Health Grampians she established programs for diverse women who were "falling through the cracks" isolated at home, lacking education or language, or experiencing family violence. "The women I worked with were from 14 different cultures. They insisted on bringing food from their homelands," Ms Pilkinton said.

Those meetings sparked intercultural cookbook, *It Takes Courage*, improving contributors' literacy, numeracy, employability, and hospitality skills.

Then Ms Pilkinton's "baby" arrived; social enterprise *A Pot of Courage*. Now a café and catering service employing multicultural Ballarat women, it's their space to share knowledge, gain employment opportunities, the confidence to launch their own business, and thrive.

"I've learnt... to not over-help people. We want to assist and support someone's development so it's empowering, not creating a dependency," she said.

"It's about women taking control of their own lives. You can make a huge difference...by just giving them a go. That's all it takes."

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## JUDITH POTTER



**Strong principles: Former Loreto College Principal Judith Potter in her school office.  
Photo: SUPPLIED**

**Education first for empowering principal  
BY RUBY STALEY**

LORETO College Ballarat's longest serving principal in almost 150 years, Judith Potter has been named as an Honouree for the Zonta Ballarat's Great Women 2021.

Widely recognised as a leader in girl's education and an advocate for equality, Ms Potter said while she's humbled to be acknowledged, none of her achievements were done on her own accord.

"I'm very lucky to have had a career that I have loved the area that I chose and anything that I've achieved has been in working in collaboration with a whole lot of people," she said. "I don't think we've achieved equality for women yet and I don't think women realise the amazing things they can do, so that's how that passion in education developed over the years."

"Equality is there so people are accepted for who they are and are not ranked in different lanes, we all have different gifts and talents, and we should be celebrating that, not looking through narrow criteria, that for me is something at the heart of my passions."

Advocating for women's right to education from a young age, Ms Potter said much of the spark behind her hard work comes from her family.

"My original passion for education comes from my parents, I come from a large family and we were given the understanding that the legacy they could give us was our education," she said. "My parents were strong on the sentiment of it wasn't about the gifts you were given but what you did with them and that if you have gifts, you have a responsibility to develop them, not only for yourself but for the good of others."

"I'm also one of the last generations who, when I had my job in high school didn't get the same pay as the boys so that's where some of my passion comes from."

Over 14 years at Loreto Ballarat, Ms Potter saw campus amalgamation, inclusion of rowing, as well as the building of the Mary's Mount Performing Arts Centre and the Mulhall Centre as well as more recent planning of a new campus.

Although Ms Potter admitted it was exciting to have a part to play in building this infrastructure, she said the most important thing for her was always opening possibilities to allow the pupils to develop and explore interests.

"Getting people to understand how amazing the people in Loreto are over the years, these are amazing girls who don't realise how amazing they are," she said.

"At the end of my last year at Loreto, I said to the girls don't let the negativity of someone else diminish you and that there are enormous possibilities inside you. I said they should all have the courage to try things out, sometimes the thing that might not work can be a pivotal point to lead you towards what you want to do."

In addition to her role at Loreto, Ms Potter was also awarded the Australian Council for Educational Leaders Vic Fellowship in 2016 as well as being a longstanding member of The Invergowrie Foundation Council.

"The Foundation that was set up with a quest for the education of girls and women across Victoria and what we can do to enhance their education opportunities," Ms Potter said.

"We commissioned research that was undertaken by Melbourne University and Deakin University on what is currently being done at STEM particularly for females. Because I think the language around STEM has put some people off but it's actually essential to know the basics to live in the world."

Having retired from her role as principal, Ms Potter plans to continue giving back through her position of a Melbourne education Board.

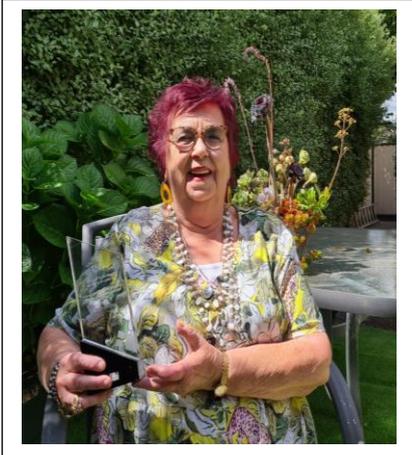
"I appreciate education so much so if I can give back on the Board, that's something I would be very happy to do," she said.

"I will balance my time unfortunately due to some health issues but I'm someone that always needs a focus and something to work on, I'm not someone who can just step right back." When asked for some final words of inspiration, Ms Potter said it's important for girls and women to break the trend line of gender roles and bias.

"Don't say I have to tick off every criteria to put myself forward but to have the confidence that you will learn on the job," she said.

"Know that the world is a better place for your involvement in it and how important you are."

## GEORGINA VAGG



**Celebrated: Georgina Vagg is a previous winner of the State Government's Service delivery to Multicultural Victoria – Community Services Award  
Photo: EDWINA WILLIAMS**

### **People and cultures boost BRMC stalwart BY EDWINA WILLIAMS**

GEORGINA Vagg was recently described by her friend Dianne McGrath as being, "like a tapestry."

As a young woman, Mrs Vagg was a 'Jill of all trades.' She loved dancing and music, was a champion hurdler and relay runner for the Ballarat Harriers, and held many beauty contest titles including Miss Burrumbeet, Miss Sebastopol, and Miss Learmonth.

Midway through a School of Mines secretarial course, she was hired by the Wendouree Woollen Mill, before shifting to Ballarat's Victorian Railways station, where she was a teleprinter and Morse code operator. Mrs Vagg lived in Ross Creek for decades with her late husband John.

In the farmhouse kitchen, she discovered a passion for creating food, and sharing it. "We had sheep, I had pet pigs, chooks for eggs, and I'd milk two cows of a night. I'd make my own butter, which was the best for cooking, and I loved making cakes.

"When the children were at school at Ross Creek, the hall committee would have euchre evenings, and I would take trays of sandwiches and cream cakes," she said.

"Cooking became my forte and creative expression. I loved baking for people and being with them. That was my hobby and way of helping out." Offering help where needed ever since, Mrs Vagg has been named a Zonta Club of Ballarat Great Woman for 2021.

A former tourist guide at Ballarat East's Old Curiosity Shop, she has always enjoyed the arts, especially the Royal South Street Society Eisteddfod's National Dance section. "I thought, wouldn't it be lovely if Ballarat's different cultural groups all came together like this? Not long after that, I heard that the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council was forming."

"I was invited to be on the founding steering committee in 1989, and I was with BRMC for almost 30 years, as publicity officer, fundraiser and women's officer," Mrs Vagg said. "I wanted cultural groups to be at home, welcomed, included and valued here."

Involved with the City of Ballarat's China Community Committee, she's a life member of the Chinese Australian Cultural Society of Ballarat, and member of the Filipino Australian Association of Ballarat, sending supplies to the Philippines.

An experienced event coordinator, Mrs Vagg hosted many memorable multicultural fundraisers, gala dinners, balls, dances and trips, helped put together the BRMC recipe book, and held celebrations for children of the local African community.

"I always made functions special. I wanted people to feel special and valued, whatever their background. I did it all because I loved meeting people, and those of different cultures. I made so many likeminded friends. BRMC gave me a boost, and we learnt from each other," she said.

"I just love to help people."

# Ballarat's Great Women Honour Roll

## 2008 Honourees

Janice Allitt OAM	Patricia Anderson	Sandy Anderson
Fayth Andrews	Mother Mary Gonzaga Barry	Brenda Beck
Desley Beechey	Anne Beggs Sunter	Linda Brumley
Angela Carey	Rhonda Cator	Joan Chambers
Wanda Chapman	Eleanor Chisholm	Gerardine Christou
Litsa Chung	Martha Clendinning	Barbara Cole
Marianne Collins	Elsie Coutts OAM	Constance Coward-Lemke
Sulaika Dhanapala	Isabel Dowling	Barb Dunlop
Emily Eeles	Ira Effrett	Kathryn Elliott
Fiona Elsey	Amalie Feild-Colquhuon	Breta Fraser
Heather George	Clare Gervasoni	Wendy Gray
Guillian Gregor	Lisa Harris	Trudy Harris
Eady Hart	Sister Rita Hayes RSM	Karen Heap
Barbara Hughes	Belinda Jakiel	Laurel Johnson
Sister Margaret Kelly RSM	Catherine King	Sharon Knight
Genevieve Lacey	Dominique Lemon	Janet Low
Gladys Mackenzie	Sister Beverley Malcolm RSM	Emily Martin
Mary Lilian McArdle	Bonnie McDonald	Dr (Hon) Margaret McIver
Colleen McKay	Lynne McLennan	Margaret McManamny
Monica Miller	Deepika Monga	Monica Morgan
Elsie Morison	Anne Morrish AM	Myrtle Muir
Mother Mary Stanislaus Mulhall	(Ivy) May Nelson	Dianne Nikkelson
Marjorie Oddie OAM	Susie O'Neill	Karen Overington
Anna Owczarenko	Marion Parsonage	Tara Pearson
Paula Pither-Mills AM	Sister Rachel Pratt MM	Molly Reynolds
Margaret Rich OAM	Dr Patti Rogers	Alison Rucco
Karma Rumbelow	Jodie Ryan	Charlotte Sapwell
Val Sarah AM	Jessie Scott MBE	Alwyn Searle
Liz Sheedy	Emily Elsie Simper	Anne Smail
Nola Squire	Julie Stafford	Lynette Standish
Anne E. Stewart	Madame Lija Svalbe	Deborah Sykes
Amanda Marise Taylor	Dr Caroline Taylor	Keryl Thomas
Florence Towl	Lena Trevenen MBE	Edith Heather Turner
Lillian Turner	Nina Valentine OAM	Judy Verlin
Pamela Waghorn	Sister Valda Ward	Anne Watson
Leeanne White	Dorothy Wickham	Merle Widmer
Wavie Williams	Virginia Wise	Judith Yates
Lorraine Yoemans	Amy M. Young OAM	

## 2009 Honourees

Veronica Kelly	Kylie Kennedy	Anne Lynch
Alexandra Tascas		

## 2010 Honourees

Maureen Christie	Judith Coull	Janet Dale
Wendy Holgate	Alice Knight OAM	Elizabeth Lewis-Gray
Kay Macaulay	Voi Williams	

## 2011 Honourees

Sadie Adaway  
Sister Marie Davey  
Jemma Mathers  
Sister Marie Vagg  
Marge Welsh

Sari Baird  
Dianne Gow  
Carole Oliver  
Shirley Viner

Kirstie Clark  
Joanne Guerts  
Matron Annie Roberts  
Elsie Walsh

## 2012 Honourees

Deb Bain  
Mary Campbell  
Elizabeth Green  
Thelma Rungkat

Emma Barrance  
Val D'Angri  
Jessie Harman  
Lee Squire

Tamara Boyd  
Rosemary Garth  
Samantha McIntosh  
Kate Torney

## 2014 Honourees

Sue Anderson  
Pat Fraser

Prof. Patrice Braun  
Karen McCraw

Pam Davies  
Kim Quinlan

## 2015 Honouree

Jessica Simon BEM

## 2016 Honourees

Ruth Bollard  
Dianne McGrath

Jane Cowles

Fiona Henderson

## 2017 Honourees

Lidia Aitken  
Janet Dore

Gorgi Coghlan  
Auntie Marlene Gilson

Melissa Cunningham  
Judith Pickford

## 2018 Honourees

Lisa Hayden  
Claire Rasmussen

Patty Kinnersly  
Joyce Ryall

Mary-Rose McLaren  
Amy Tsilemanis

## 2019 Honourees

Heather Browning  
Dr Joan Hunt (posthumous)  
Geraldine Roberts

Dr Shantini Deutscher  
Paula Nicholson  
Janet Rundell

Sheilagh Kentish  
Robyn Reeves  
Leading Senior Constable Janine Walker

## 2020 Honourees

Donna Campbell (posthumous)  
Buckingham  
Jodie Gillett  
Lorraine Harvey

Judith Bailey

Melissa

Deanne Gilson  
Bev Horwood

Dianne Hadden

## 2021 Honourees

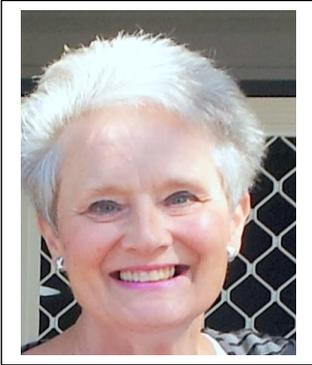
Kim Anderson  
Shiree Pilkinton

Helen Eyres  
Judith Potter

Wendy Jacobs  
Georgina Vagg

## VAL SARAH

Charter President 1978, awarded Zonta's highest honour, ZI Meritorious Service Award, 2020  
Thank you for 42 years of dedication to changing the lives of women and girls



I was at work in June 1978 when the letter arrived – a simple thing that changed my life. It was an invitation to lunch with a group of Zontians led by Elizabeth Lucas from the Zonta Club of Melbourne – ZONTIANS? ZONTA? What was all this about? My curiosity was aroused!

More than 42 years, I'm still amazed at what a group of like-minded women (and men) can achieve through working together in service and advocacy, and blessing that letter which has enabled friendships akin to 'family' around the world.

On United Nations Day October 24, 1978, our Club was chartered with 37 members, women of all ages, backgrounds and life experience. We lost no time raising funds for local and global causes, creating community partnerships, and initiating a Combined Service Clubs' group here in Ballarat to understand just what we could all do to 'close the gaps' in service to our City.

My knowledge and understanding of Zonta grew as Area Director, as Lieutenant Governor and as Governor of what was then District 16 of Zonta International, serving 81 Zonta Clubs and 2 Z Clubs throughout Australia and New Zealand. It was a bit complex, because it was pre-emails, and 'snail-mail' was really just that – it could take up to a month for mail to and from HQ in Chicago!



Val with daughter, Olivia Sarah-Le Lacheur, also, a Zontian and Past Governor of District 24



With Empress Michiko in Japan in 1999

My first international experience came in 1982, managing PR for the 1984 ZI Convention in Sydney, which was exciting, exhausting ... and exhilarating in the rollout. Since then, I've been fortunate to serve in various capacities almost continuously at the international level, including 8 years on the International Board as Director, Vice-President, President-Elect and President 1998-2000.

Those years on the International Board were amazing – sometimes a bit busy working fulltime, but always memorable with opportunities to meet Zontians around the world, at Conferences and Conventions, but with more immediacy in their workplaces or during visits to their projects.

Top of mind are a thriving creative enterprise for former prostitutes in Chennai (Madras), India; a very basic hospital in the north of Togo, West Africa, supported by Zonta and Rotary Clubs in Lome; a home for 11, 12 and 13 year-old mothers with their babies and toddlers, who were empowered to use sewing machines for a prospective adult livelihood in the unforgiving streets of Mexico City, and a centre for destitute young adults in Chile, South America, who had started their own bakery ...

Zonta began when 5 women met at a Christmas Party in Buffalo, New York in 1918. Within a year, in 1919, Mary E. Jenkins was serving as the first Zonta President. It has been such a privilege to follow in the footsteps of our Founders, and in particular to commission the first History of Zonta published in the year 2000 at Convention in Hawaii, and to lead a dedicated team working together from 2010 to 2020 to create our Centennial History.

As important as this proud history of service is the challenge to secure the safety and wellbeing of future generations of women and their families. I was appointed to serve on a small committee of five to help raise 10,000,000 US Dollars between 2014 and 2020 for an Endowment Fund, the untouched capital amount of US\$1M being the source of accumulative interest-on-investment into perpetuity. The initial target still stands, and its future growth is our challenge for biennia to come.

None of this journey would have been possible without the support of family, friends and members of this Club. Thank you, for the richness of this experience in Zonta!

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We are grateful for the support of our sponsors and community partners:

**Ballarat**  
TIMES NEWS GROUP

Special thank you to Alistair Finlay and photojournalists, Edwina Williams and Ruby Staley for profiling the Honourees in the Ballarat Times.

**Special Guest Matilda Goodbourn of The Little Issue and her Interviewer Amy Tsilemanis.**

#### **Donors of our Raffle Prizes**

##### Prizes

\$100 Gift voucher from Showcase Jewellers and Allan Bros

\$100 Gift voucher from Elysium Day Spa

\$60 Gift voucher from The Ballarat Golf Club



**Funds raised tonight will go towards our Birthing Kit Project and  
The Zonta Foundation for Women**



.....and Attendees of our Zoom Meeting for helping us to save the lives of mothers and newborn babies through The Birthing Kit Foundation Australia, and future generations of women and girls through The Zonta Foundation for Women Endowment Fund. **Thank you all!**