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Zonta celebrates a century of work to inspire women in variety of fields

Stanthorpe Border Post, Stanthorpe



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ON the weekend of September 6-8 the Zonta Australia and New Zealand Centennial Anniversary Conference was held.

At the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre at South Bank, it was attended by more than 800 Zonta members. These women came from all over Australia and New Zealand for a weekend of comradeship and the sharing of ideas and inspiration.

Zonta, started 100 years ago in America, came to Australasia in the 1970s. At that stage there was only one district to cover all of Australia and NZ; now there are four districts and each one comprises many areas. In Stanthorpe we are part of Area 4 in District 22 which is Queensland and Northern NSW. Each district has a Governor; our district 22 has as its Governor Sandy Venn Brown, a member of our own



Stanthorpe club.

The current Zonta International president Susanne von Bassewitz came from Germany and spoke movingly of her Zonta commitment and one of her passions, the moves to end child marriage worldwide.

Other speakers included Dame Therese Walsh from NZ who is passionate about supporting women and enabling them to reach their full potential; Dame Quentin Bryce whose career has spanned human rights advocacy, community building and mental health

issues; Dr Airlie Chapman who is a Mechatronics lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Melbourne, a twice recipient of an Amelia Earhart Fellowship and is a committed advocate for women and girls in the STEM sectors; Professor Lisa Harvey Smith, the Australian Government's Women in STEM Ambassador and who works in gender equity issues across all STEM disciplines.

Equally inspiring were our four 2018 ZI Young Women Public Affairs award recipients, Sara Khatau from Auckland (D16), Madison Birtchnell from Brisbane (D22), Hibra Shujaat from Adelaide (D23) and Jorga Attard from Sydney (D24). Another young award winner was Emma Beal from Brisbane who is the 2018 International Jane M Klausman Scholarship recipient, a worthy winner.



Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs award recipients: Sarah Newman who was the meeting facilitator, Sara Khatau from Auckland, Hibra Shujaat from Adelaide, Jorga Attard from Sydney and Madison Birtchnell from Brisbane.
PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED