



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 16
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 16 NEW ZEALAND

EARLY ZONTIANS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

Zonta International was introduced to the Southern Hemisphere in the early 1920s with the establishment of the original Zonta Club of Sydney by Dr Rosalie Slaughter-Morton, Charter President of the Zonta Club of New York, who was married to an Australian. In 1931, it became a non-districted club under the presidency of Dorothea McKellar, a famous Australian poet. No precise disbandment date is known, but the initial Zonta Club of Sydney is mentioned in Zonta International records for the last time in 1935.



The Board of the Zonta Club of Auckland, May 31st 1966

*L to R:
Beverley Simmons (Secretary),
J Maria Pierce Zonta International President,
Cherry Raymond (President),
Joan Kerr (Vice President),
Marie Studdard (Director),
Anne Gambrill CNZM (Treasurer).
Christine Wynne (Director) absent.*

THE FIRST 'NEW' ZONTA CLUB IN AUCKLAND

Sponsored by the Zonta Club of Toronto I, the organisational meeting for a new Zonta Club in Auckland was arranged by Canadian Zontian, Dorothy Thompson, on October 19th 1965. With the signing of its Charter by Zonta International on November 15th 1965, the Zonta Club of Auckland, Club No. 549, became the first of the post-war Australasian Zonta clubs and the first one in New Zealand. Anne Gambrill CNZM, currently the longest-serving past office-holder in New Zealand, became foundation treasurer at the inaugural meeting. Joan-Mary Longcroft organised the new Club's Charter Dinner on May 31st 1966 when Zonta International representative, past International President and 'Organisation Chairman', Mrs J Maria Pierce, presented its charter to President Cherry Raymond. Zontian, Christine Wynne, first represented New Zealand at an International Convention (Miami Beach 1966), with Auckland Zontians then present at every Convention after 1970. The Charter Presidents of the Zonta Clubs of Wellington (Beverley Shore Bennett), of Hamilton (Dame Silvia Cartwright) and of Rotorua (Judge Cecily Rushton) all took up their foundation roles as a result of their friendship or professional association with lawyer, Anne Gambrill. The Zonta Club of Auckland was responsible for the later formation of Zonta clubs of

Whangarei, West Auckland, South Auckland, Auckland North Shore and Auckland 2. Charter Zontians Anne Gambrill CMNZ, Joan-Mary Longcroft QSO JP and Lillian Chrystall CBE are still active members of the Zonta Club of Auckland. Their long service to the Zonta Club of Auckland was recognised at the District 16 Conference in Rotorua in September 2015 and at a special Dinner to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Zonta Club of Auckland on November 15th 2015. The 50 years of service to Zonta by these remarkable women has also recently been acknowledged by Zonta International.

THE EXPANSION OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL IN THE ANTIPODES



*Dorothy Thompson, (Toronto),
originator of Zonta International
in Australasia*

Between 1965 and 1971, Dorothy Thompson (Zonta Club of Toronto 1), sponsored by Zonta International and her own club, organised five Zonta clubs in New Zealand as well as in all Australian state capitals. New Zealand clubs included the Zonta Clubs of Wellington (May 19th 1969: Charter presented by Zonta International President, Helvi Sipila, Finland), Hamilton-Waikato (November 2nd 1970), Christchurch-Canterbury (November 24th 1970) and Dunedin-Otago (December 22nd 1970). In November 1969, six Australasian Zonta clubs, including the Zonta Clubs of Auckland and Wellington, celebrated Zonta International's 50th birthday at their first Area Meeting in Canberra where Dr Joyce Fildes OAM (Canberra) was elected Area Representative and Australian and New Zealand clubs began to work together as part of Zonta



*Dr Joyce Fildes (Canberra),
Area Representative*

International's Area III (Asia Pacific). In 1970, Joyce Fildes was appointed Area Observer at the 50th Zonta International Convention in Chicago.

FROM AREA TO REGION TO DISTRICT



*Cherry Raymond (Auckland),
Regional Representative*

In 1972, Area III became Region III at the Zonta International Convention in Portland, with Cherry Raymond (Auckland) appointed as the Australasian Regional Representative. The Region then had 9 Australian clubs and 9 in New Zealand. In April 1972, 13 Australian and New Zealand Zonta clubs met in Sydney for the first Area Three Workshop and advised International President-Elect Harriette Yeckel that they were ready to form a District. On July 2nd 1972, the Zonta International Board agreed that Region III was to be granted District status. At the Region III Conference held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Auckland in August 1973, the 17 Zonta Clubs present voted unanimously to form District XVI. Zontians selected Dr Judith Dey (Sydney) as the first District Governor-Elect, with Beverley Shore Bennett (Wellington) as her Lieutenant Governor and Anne Gambrill (Auckland) as the first District Treasurer. On June 20th

1974, the existence of the new District XVI was formally declared at a pre-Convention meeting of the Zonta International Board in Boston, USA. Other New Zealand Zonta Clubs established during

the early 1970s included Hawke's Bay Area (5th June 1973), Whangarei (26th June 1973), Rotorua (25th July 1973) and Marlborough Area (August 11th 1973).

DR JUDITH DEY AO. (Sydney): DISTRICT XVI GOVERNOR 1974-1976



Dr Judith Dey was installed as the first Governor of District XVI at the Zonta International Convention in Boston by International President Harriette Yeckel (USA) and, with assistance from her Lieutenant Governor, Beverley Shore Bennett, worked to establish the new District, then covering both Australia and New Zealand. Anne Gambrill (Auckland) became the first District XVI Treasurer. In October 1974, the first District Board meeting took place during a seminar for New Zealand Zonta Clubs in Christchurch. The first District XVI Conference took place in Perth, Western Australia, in September 1975, where Beverley Shore Bennett was elected as the first New Zealand District Governor-Elect. This began the process of alternating Australian and New Zealand Governors that continued until the division of the District in 1990. At this time too, Cherry Raymond, accompanied by Dr Margaret Sparrow (Wellington), participated in the United Nations

International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City which inaugurated the UN Decade for Women. During her biennium, Judith Dey visited more than two-thirds of clubs throughout District XVI, also hosting a return visit by Dorothy Thompson in 1975, ten years after the founding of the Zonta Club of Auckland. Judith Dey also made a major contribution to researching District XVI's history. The Zonta Club of Manawatu Area was chartered on August 14th 1975, along with the Zonta Club of Auckland West on February 24th 1976.

BEVERLEY SHORE BENNETT MBE. (Wellington): District XVI Governor 1976-1978



Beverley Shore Bennett was installed as the first New Zealand District Governor during the Zonta International Convention in Wiesbaden, Germany in 1976. At the Convention, Cherry Raymond missed becoming First Vice President of Zonta International by two votes. District XVI presented \$5000 towards the Pan African Women's Volunteer Task Force, exceeding the goal set at the Perth District Conference. The Convention decided that from this time two copies of *The Zontian* were to be mailed to each Zonta club president so that all Zontians would be well informed. International President France de la Chaise Mutin (1976-1978) attended the District XVI Board Meeting in Wellington a few hours before representing Zonta International at the Second District XVI Conference from April 1st-3rd 1977. The Wellington Conference decided that District XVI would be divided into four areas with Areas Three and Four covering New

Zealand. In September 1977, as well as Leneen Forde (Brisbane) and Heide Taylor (Adelaide), Valerie Webster (Hawke's Bay) and Ann Mallinson (Wellington) were installed as the first New Zealand Area Directors at a District Workshop in Sydney. A number of New Zealand Zonta Clubs were established during this period, including Hutt Area (November 17th 1976), North Christchurch Area (June 29th 1977), South Auckland (July 7th 1977), Bay of Plenty Area (October 12th 1977) and Nelson (March 1st 1978). Beverley's governorship was notable for the rapid growth of the District, with 15 Australasian clubs chartered and a steady growth in membership. By March 1978, there were 1129 Zontians in 35 clubs, a doubling of the number of Zonta clubs existing at the 'birth' of

the District in 1974. Beverley was honoured at the following Convention in Denver for her part in organising the greatest number of new clubs in any district of Zonta International. Beverley continues to express her great appreciation of the support and fellowship of Australian Zontians, a sentiment shared by many in New Zealand. Beverley is now an Honorary Member of the Zonta Club of Wellington.

ELIZABETH TODD OAM. (Sydney): DISTRICT XVI GOVERNOR 1978-1980



Elizabeth Todd was installed as District Governor at the Zonta International Convention in Denver in June 1978, with Jeanne Edgar (Christchurch) as her Lieutenant Governor. Elizabeth travelled widely around her vast District, visiting many Australian and New Zealand Clubs. In April 1979, the Third District XVI Conference took place in Melbourne, with Dorothy Thompson and International President-Elect, Shirley Schneider, in attendance. New Zealand Zonta Clubs chartered during this period included Tokoroa-Putaruru (30th April 1979), Mana Area (3rd July 1979), Auckland North Shore (13th July 1979) and South West Christchurch Area (7th September 1979). In 1979, New Zealand marine

scientist, Kaye Burnett, was presented with the first of the three Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowships she was to receive. Elizabeth Todd taught at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music for many years, training some of Australia's finest opera singers.

JEANNE EDGAR QSM. (Christchurch-Canterbury): DISTRICT XVI GOVERNOR 1980-1982



Jeanne Edgar was installed as District XVI Governor at the Zonta International Convention in Washington on July 17th 1980. Jeanne stated that her personal goal was to support the International aim of 'Goal plus two for 92'. She brought much vitality, innovation and humour to her office. Beverley Shore Bennett and Cherry Raymond were elected to the Zonta International Board, with Cherry appointed Chairman of the International Status of Women Committee. Beverley was elected to the Editorial Board of The Zontian. In August 1981, the Fourth District XVI Conference was held in the Christchurch Town Hall with Zonta International President-Elect Cornelia Hodges and Zonta International Executive Director Val Levitan as guests of honour. Here District XVI gave the largest donation for international service ever presented at a Zonta District Conference. Past Governor Dr Judith Dey

also presented a brief historical outline of the District. A new Zonta club was established in Wanganui on October 28th 1980. At the following International Convention, District XVI received an award for outstanding membership extension. Jeanne Edgar continued her extensive Zontian and wider community involvement until her death in 2007.

LENEEN FORDE AC. (Brisbane): DISTRICT XVI GOVERNOR 1982-1984

In July 1982, Leneen Forde was installed as Governor of District XVI at the International Convention in San Diego. Valerie Webster (Hawke's Bay) became Leneen's Lieutenant Governor. Leneen Forde's governorship was enhanced by her sense of humour and her organisational ability. Cherry Raymond encouraged all clubs to make its status of women committees the most stimulating of all programme committees. District XVI clubs contributed their fundraising efforts for the Zonta International Sri Lankan Wells Project. In September 1983, the District XVI Fifth Biennial Conference was organised in Brisbane, attended by International President-Elect, Annikki Makinen

(Finland). Hawke's Bay Area, Christchurch-Canterbury, South Auckland Area, Hutt Area and Christchurch North received club achievement awards. District Historian Valerie Webster (Hawke's Bay) was commended for her extensive work on District Archives and for extending knowledge of the District's history. The organisation of the 47th Zonta International Convention in Sydney became a major District responsibility with Jeanne Edgar as New Zealand Co-ordinator on the Planning Committee, and New Zealanders represented at every level of the 21 organising committees. The very successful Convention opened at the Sydney Opera House in June 1984. A major feature was the formal introduction of the Zonta Rose (Hartanna), from an idea originated by Valerie Webster, and developed by Mary Mason (Manawatu) in association with well-known UK horticultural firm, R Harkness and Co. The approval to establish a Zonta International Foundation was announced and the International Board was restructured to 11 members. As well, the new Zonta flag became part of the International Flag Parade. Ruth Brown (Christchurch-Canterbury) organised the Open House Programme in New Zealand at the end of the Convention. Leneen Forde was the first Australasian Zontian to become Zonta International President (1990-1992). The Hon. Leneen Forde AC later became Governor-General of Queensland (1992-1997) and has recently retired as Vice Chancellor of Griffiths University, Queensland.



VALERIE WEBSTER (Hawke's Bay): DISTRICT XVI GOVERNOR 1984-1986



Valerie Webster, installed at the Zonta International Convention in Sydney, became the first District XVI Governor not appointed from a large Australasian city. She oversaw almost 80 Zonta clubs throughout the now enormous District. Valerie identified membership, retention and consolidation as her priorities. Valerie also introduced both Australian and New Zealand co-chairs for many of her District Committees. She made a major contribution as District Archivist and Historian during preceding and following biennia. The new Zonta Club of Auckland 2, organised by Joan-Mary Longcroft, was chartered in October 1984, while in April 1985, the Bay of Plenty Club became the first club to be disestablished in the District. Joan-Mary also suggested the idea of having a District Project. In January 1985, the Zonta International Foundation was formally initiated by Zonta International.

On March 15th 1985, the United Nations recognised Zonta International with Category One Consultative status with ECOSOC, the highest recognition given by the UN to an NGO. Zonta International also commenced its Zonta International Status of Women Study, giving each club in District XVI a unique opportunity for input. In September 1985, the Sixth District XVI Conference began in Rotorua, with Erlinda Villaneuva as International representative. Susan Laidlaw (Manawatu) was the official District XVI flag-bearer during the Opening Ceremony of the International Convention in Toronto in June 1986 where District XVI received a number of club awards. With 2464 members in 80 clubs, Australia now comprised 5.03% of Zonta International's membership while New Zealand represented 2.01%. Yvonne Watson (Auckland) became Chair of the International Public Relations Committee while Susan Laidlaw (Manawatu) joined both the International Z Clubs and Membership and Classification Committees. Sadly, past Governor Valerie Webster died suddenly in Tauranga on August 1st 2015, immediately before the District 16 Conference in Rotorua which she had planned to attend.

VAL SARAH AM. (Ballarat): DISTRICT XVI GOVERNOR 1986-1988



Val Sarah was installed as District XVI Governor at the International Convention in Toronto in 1986. Her biennium was characterised by a defining and refining process. Val worked to increase Zonta's professionalism in all areas, to streamline District procedures and to provide easier access to updated information for all Zontians. She introduced club worksheets and produced District networking files to enhance communication and to define job specifications and guidelines for every District and club office. Her tightly-worded quarterly District newsletters provided a supportive and informative background for club presidents and members alike. Many new ideas for membership education were implemented to encourage member retention and expansion. Val initiated the computerisation of District XVI records and the compilation of a property register. Area Directors were encouraged to visit isolated clubs, with strong support networks also set up for small membership and at-risk clubs. In

March 1987, Val made a 'whirlwind' tour of New Zealand clubs, travelling over 3,500 km and giving 19 news media interviews during her journey. District XVI's international focus became more pronounced as clubs were involved in fundraising for the new Zonta headquarters building and increasing numbers of Australasian Zontians began to serve on Zonta International committees. Members and delegates from 81 Zonta Clubs and two Z Clubs attended the Seventh Biennial District Conference in Adelaide in September 1987 where Dorothy Ng represented Zonta International. Important decisions were made about District archives and an associated anniversary publication, about a District project and about Zonta Rose cards. The Zonta Club of Auckland was officially recognised as the first Zonta Club in District XVI, while the Zonta Club of Hawke's Bay received a special award for Valerie Webster's initiation of the Zonta Rose. The Conference voted to establish Area Three (North Island Clubs) and Area Four (South Island Clubs). Cherry Raymond, Leneen Forde and other District XVI Zontians attended Ribbon-Cutting Day at the new International headquarters in Chicago. The Zonta Club of East Auckland was chartered on July 27th 1987. The first Z Club in New Zealand at Marlborough Girls' College, sponsored by the Zonta Club of Marlborough Area, was also officially welcomed into District XVI at a ceremony conducted by Lieutenant Governor Susan Laidlaw on Oct 23rd 1987. Val Sarah was elected Zonta International President for the 1998-2000 biennium and is currently Chair of the Zonta International Centennial Anniversary Committee and a member of the Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign Committee. She recently attended the 2015 District 16 Conference in Rotorua, New Zealand.

SUSAN LAIDLAW JP. (North Christchurch Area): DISTRICT XVI GOVERNOR 1988-1990



Queensland-born Susan Laidlaw, initially a member of the Zonta Club of Manawatu and later of both the Christchurch North and Waimakariri Clubs, was installed as District XVI Governor at the International Convention in Helsinki, Finland in 1988. Susan was also an official presenter during the Convention's International Relations Workshop chaired by Val Sarah. Susan expressed her intention to establish an active membership and a streamlined administration during her governorship, visiting as many clubs as possible and making maximum use of new technology. Dr Hazel King agreed to write District XVI's History (1965 to 1989), leading to the publication of *Zonta in the*

Antipodes in 1990. The District XVI Board considered that the Friends of Zonta group then operated by the Zonta Club of Auckland might have merit for adoption by other clubs. Joan-Mary Longcroft, now a member of the Zonta International Development Committee, urged Zontians to contribute to the Burn the Mortgage Fund for the new International headquarters building in Chicago. By May 1989, all clubs were informed of the proposed restructuring of District XVI to alleviate the problems associated with its very large geographical area consisting of 90 clubs. At the District Conference in Auckland in September 1989, Zontians voted to divide District XVI into District 16 (New Zealand), and Districts 23 and 24 (Australia). Susan Laidlaw's wide experience, unique Trans-Tasman perspective and skilled moderation generated continuing goodwill between Zontians of both nations. New Zealand retained the title of District 16 to honour the pioneering Zonta Club of Auckland and the new District was divided into three Areas. A Friendship Quilt made by Wanganui Zontians was presented to Zonta International for the new International headquarters building in Chicago. The Zonta Club of Wellington's prestigious Zonta National Science Award for an emerging woman scientist was inaugurated in May 1990 by Sharryn Waters and her organising committee. During Susan Laidlaw's biennium, new clubs were established in Tauranga (August 7th 1988), Timaru (July 7th 1989) and Hibiscus Coast (December 13th 1989). Susan Laidlaw was later appointed co-Chair of the International Z Club Committee and was a member of both the International Membership and Classification Committee and the International Organisation and Extension Committee. Susan was the first New Zealander elected to the Zonta International Board (1990-1992). Susan Laidlaw is no longer a member of Zonta but continues to support all Zonta activities.

CHERRY RAYMOND QSO. (Auckland): DISTRICT 16 GOVERNOR 1990-1992



Cherry Raymond was installed as the first Governor of the newly-formed New Zealand District 16, with Joan-Mary Longcroft as her Lieutenant Governor, at the International Convention in Dallas in June 1990. The Convention ratified the new District structure and adopted International bylaw changes to simplify the classification system and to enhance variations in operation for clubs, such as the admission of male members. It was resolved to identify more specific International service goals to lift Zonta's public image, as well as to improve the relevance of international and local service for club members. New Zealand Zontians also arranged a special ceremony of friendship with their District 20 'Finn Twins', while Kimberley Campbell, nominated by the Zonta Club of Christchurch North, became the first International Young Women in Public Affairs Awardee. Valerie Webster was later designated as a District 16 Centurion. Governor Cherry Raymond advocated careful financial management within District 16 since the three new

Districts had each received a third of existing District funds. In May 1991, District 16 also began participation in the Double Twin Project with Districts 6, 13 and 20 to pay the annual dues of new Estonian Zonta Clubs. Joan-Mary Longcroft became District Liaison for the Australian-New Zealand Vocational Exchange Programme, and, with Carol Healey (South Auckland), organised a distinctive brooch to raise funds for the Burn the Mortgage Fund. The First Biennial District 16 Conference was held in Wellington from September 20-22 1991 where past International President Leneen Forde, then Queenslander of the Year, was the Zonta International representative. The Conference sent a message of support to Dame Silvia Cartwright, nominated by the New Zealand Government as a candidate for the UN CEDAW Committee. The District began to consider ideas

for a District project, while clubs were encouraged to join together for inter-club and Area projects. Cherry Raymond was strongly supportive of the National Cervical Screening Programme launched in 1990. District 16 had a considerable expansion in membership, with six new clubs formed during the biennium: Bay of Islands (March 23rd 1991), North Canterbury (29th May 1991), Thames Valley (January 21st 1992), Hamilton-Waikato 2 (February 10th 1992) New Plymouth (May 1992) and Port Nicholson (July 1992). With her life cut short by illness, Cherry Raymond's loss to District 16 in 2006 is still felt deeply by her many Zontian friends. The Cherry Raymond Award was established in her honour by the Zonta Club of Auckland and is awarded annually to a woman living or working in the Auckland area for a project best epitomising the objectives of Zonta International. The District 16 Cherry Raymond Award is presented at District Conference to the best club service or advocacy project.

JOAN-MARY LONGCROFT QSM. JP. (Auckland): DISTRICT 16 GOVERNOR 1992-1994



Joan-Mary Longcroft, a Charter member of the Zonta Club of Auckland, continued her long and dedicated service to District 16 and to Zonta International when she was installed as District 16 Governor at the Zonta International Convention in Hong Kong in July 1992. A new Capital Campaign was planned to pay off the mortgage of the new Zonta International headquarters building by the time of Zonta's 75th birthday. Important International bylaw changes were adopted, along with an Environment Resolution encouraging each club to establish an Environment Committee. Joan-Mary drew up 13 objectives for her biennium, with 1000 members her goal by the time of her District Conference in Christchurch. Dr Margaret Bailey (Mana) chaired the first District 16 Environment Committee. Joan-Mary also

established the District's first Amelia Earhart Committee, chaired by notable aviator, Yvonne Loader (Christchurch-Canterbury) as well as its first District United Nations Committee chaired by Leona Gibb (Marlborough). Joan-Mary encouraged all Zontians to have an international focus and to support Zonta's international projects, with both the District Twinning Programme and the Double Twin Project proving to be exciting and important international contacts. In later 1992, the mid North Island clubs became the new Area Four. After 1992, District 16 became closely involved with the New Horizons for Women Trust. The Suffrage Centennial resulted in substantial District 16 donations to the Kate Sheppard Memorial Appeal, and the award of Suffrage medals to 15 Zontians. Other Zontian events to celebrate women's suffrage included the Zonta Club of Auckland's National Women Print-Makers' Travelling Exhibition. District 16 made submissions and recommendations about the Criminal Justice Law Reform Bill and the Films, Video and Publications Bill. In October 1992, Lynn McKenzie and Pauline Wagemaker organised a District 16 Club Survey to provide useful statistical information. Joan-Mary compiled a handbook for club presidents, as well as another for area directors with Loes Walker (Wellington). The Second Biennial District Conference was organised in Christchurch from September 17th–19th 1993, with past International President Sonia Renfer as International representative. The Mediaeval Dinner was a never-to-be-forgotten highlight, while the Conference ended with a march to the unveiling of the Kate Sheppard Memorial by Governor General Dame Catherine Tizard. The post Conference 1993 Study Tour of New Zealand, organised by Susan Laidlaw and the District Study Tour Committee (Carol Burton, Yvonne Loader and Caroline Marks) raised international Zontian awareness of New Zealand to its highest ever level. UNIFEM New Zealand launched the first of its

annual fundraising breakfasts, soon to become a fixture on Zontian calendars. New Zonta clubs organised during this biennium included Port Nicholson (November 14th 1992), Hatea-Whangarei (August 3rd 1993), and Ashburton (January 24th 1994). This was also a period of expansion for Zonta's work in secondary schools with new Z Clubs formed in Whangarei (sponsored by the Zonta Clubs of Whangarei and Hatea-Whangarei), Mana College (Zonta Club of Mana) and at Avonside Girls' High School, Christchurch (Zonta Club of Christchurch-Canterbury). Sadly, the Zonta Club of Auckland 2, formed in 1984, was disbanded in 1992, unable to form a new Board for the 1992-1994 biennium. Zonta membership in District 16 reached a peak of 937 in 1994. Joan-Mary Longcroft was elected as a member of the Zonta International Foundation Board in May 1995 and continues to be an active Zontian. She was named as inaugural Zontian of the Year at the 8th Biennial District 16 Conference in 2005 and is an Honorary Member of the Zonta Club of Auckland.

MARY KINCAID (Christchurch South): DISTRICT 16 GOVERNOR 1994-1996



Mary Kincaid was installed as District Governor at the 52nd Zonta International Convention in Detroit. New International President Chief Folake Solanke (Nigeria) announced her Triple H Agenda for Action, supported by all District 16 clubs during the biennium. Experienced educators, Eleanor Stewart (Christchurch North) and Jennifer Familton (Christchurch South), were appointed as Area trainers. District Governor Mary Kincaid represented District 16 at the ZISVAW Summit in Washington in June 1995. In mid-1995, District 16 Zontians Joan-Mary Longcroft, Glenys Searancke (Rotorua), Adrienne Stewart (Christchurch-Canterbury) and Joan Williams (East Auckland) received Queen's Service Medal Awards for outstanding community service. In October 1995, the Fourth Biennial District Conference took place in Dunedin, attended by International Director, Mary Magee (Brisbane). New Zealand

clubs nominated Val Sarah (Ballarat) as International President, Jeanne Edgar (Christchurch-Canterbury) to the International Nominating Committee and Donna Lane (USA) as International Treasurer. Minister of Women's Affairs, Jenny Shipley, Conference keynote speaker, discussed the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The Zonta Club of Christchurch West was chartered in October 1994. The Zonta Club of Marlborough was disbanded in December 1994, with a new Marlborough Club re-established in June 1995 by District Organisation and Extension Chair, Eleanor Stewart. In early 1996, the Zonta Club of Tokoroa-Putaruru was disbanded. Mary Kincaid was later appointed to the International ZISVAW Committee and was elected to the International Nominating Committee. Mary Kincaid is no longer a member of Zonta but continues to support Zonta activities. She attended the 35th anniversary of the Zonta Club of Christchurch South in September 2014.

JOAN READY (Auckland): DISTRICT 16 GOVERNOR 1996-1998

Joan Ready was installed as District 16 Governor at the International Convention in St Louis in July 1996. Joan had already served as District Secretary and as Mary Kincaid's Lieutenant Governor. Following the International President's exhortation to 'make membership your business', Joan Ready focused both on attracting new Zontians and retaining existing membership with the assistance of her Lieutenant Governor, Jean Corbin Thomas, and District Chair for Organisation, Extension and Retention, Eleanor Stewart. Area Workshops also focused on membership issues. District 16 membership reached 921 members. Christchurch and Auckland Zontians explored increased inter-club cooperation.



The Fifth Biennial District Conference took place in Whangarei from September 12th –14th 1997 with the theme, Programmed for Growth. Hosted by both the Zonta Clubs of Whangarei and Hatea-Whangarei, Dianne Curtis, District 9, was the Zonta International representative. The message to the Conference from International President Josephine Cooke updated the progress of the International Long-Term Planning Committee and announced the establishment of the Jane M Klausman Scholarship for women in business management. The Zonta Clubs of Whangarei and Auckland North Shore proposed that District 16 should establish its own website and email address to improve the distribution and sharing of information. District 12 was announced as District 16's new twin district. The new Zonta Club of Metropolitan Dunedin was chartered on August 28th 1997. Joan is no longer an active Zontian but continues to support Zonta activities. Joan attended the 50th Anniversary Dinner of the Zonta Club of Auckland in November 2015.

JEAN CORBIN THOMAS MNZM JP. (Manawatu): DISTRICT 16 GOVERNOR 1998-2000



Jean Corbin Thomas became District 16 Governor at the Zonta International Convention in Paris in July 1998. The Convention adopted ZISVAW as an on-going programme of Zonta International. The establishment of an International Footprint of Service and of the International Legislative and Advocacy Committee under past International President Leneen Forde were further innovations. Jean Corbin Thomas's biennial objectives were to increase membership, to improve communication and to explore ways of enhancing the status of women. Governor Jean recommended that all Zontians explore Zonta International's new website. Jean and her Lieutenant Governor, Jan Bowman, managed to visit most clubs in District 16. Jean initiated the

formulation of a District 16 Strategic Plan, as well as a comprehensive financial review. Clubs were asked to contribute to a survey in preparation for the Beijing+5 Conference as well as to participate in raising contributions for Women's Loan (Angel) Funds as a District Millennium Togetherness Project. In September 1998, International Headquarters announced the death of Dorothy Thompson, at the age of 103. At the suggestion of District Environment Chair, Susan Laidlaw, a tree-planting ceremony in Dorothy Thompson's honour took place at the Auckland Domain on October 29th 1999, also celebrating Zonta International's 80th Birthday. In partnership with Australian Districts, District 16 Zontians began work on Quilt 2000 to be raffled as a fund-raiser for Zonta International projects at the International Convention in Hawaii. The Zonta Club of Christchurch East was disestablished in April 1999 and the Zonta Club of Port Nicholson voted to go into recess. Zonta International and the Ninety-Nines Inc. Organisation of Women Pilots agreed to collaborate in honouring the legacy of Amelia Earhart, with many District 16 clubs participating in related activities and projects. The 5th Biennial District 16 Conference took place in Wellington in September 1999, with an opening speech by Dame Silvia Cartwright. The District Governor discussed the worldwide challenge of falling membership. Clubs celebrated the new Millennium in various ways. The Dove booklet about overcoming domestic violence, compiled by the Zonta Club of Hawke's Bay, was chosen by the District Governor as District 16's best Footprint of Service to take to the Convention in Honolulu. Jean was later appointed as a Zonta International Foundation Ambassador and Literacy Co-ordinator, and has served as a member of the International Status of Women Committee, the ZISVAW Committee, and of the International Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. Jean is an active member of the Zonta Club of Manawatu and continues her distinguished career of service to women and the wider community.

JAN BOWMAN MNZM. (Auckland): DISTRICT 16 GOVERNOR 2000-2002



Jan Bowman became District 16 Governor at the Zonta International Convention in Honolulu in July 2000. Jan applied her lifelong commitment to the empowerment of women and the poor to her work for Zonta, with a firm belief that busy women should 'work smarter, not harder'. With a strong team behind her, including Lieutenant Governor Lynn McKenzie, Jan set out to methodically work towards achieving her biennial goals. She made considerable gains in further implementing the District Strategic Plan, underpinned by the newly introduced quarterly club reports. Lynn McKenzie's establishment of a District membership, service and fundraising database meant that for the first time the national impact of Zonta was quantifiable, with total service and fundraising hours undertaken by Zontians, funds raised and their distribution, and

the reasons why people joined and left, clearly itemised. The database informed business planning and advocacy and enhanced Zonta's credibility and visibility within New Zealand. Jan Bowman's Vision for the Future: Inspired by the Challenge of Change, released in March 2001, and outlined her desire to reshape District 16 into a vital organisation with an inspirational future. Greater International awareness by District 16 Zontians, improved public relations and better marketing strategies, as well as more effective communication with club membership and presidents, were also achieved during Jan Bowman's governorship. Jan initiated District NewZ to enthuse and inform District Zontians, as well as producing her regular Action Update for Presidents to deal with 'house-keeping' matters. Her aim was 'to communicate as little but as effectively as possible, so that clubs and presidents will want to read what is sent'. The long-anticipated report of the District Finance Committee was released, with recommendations for economies and other budgetary guidelines. Jan continuously challenged clubs to evaluate their activities, programmes and projects against the aims and objectives of Zonta, with members encouraged to give maximum support to activities that advanced the status of women, Jan was especially proud of the latte bowl method of fundraising she introduced. Jan replaced the earlier Area Workshops with Area Forums, moving away from a training emphasis towards an occasion intended to stimulate and enthuse all Zontians. Although District 16 Zontians were unsuccessful in their applications for ZISVAW project funding, many clubs ran programmes with an anti-violence theme. At the District Conference in Christchurch in October 2001, delegates approved the release of the District Marketing Plan. A new Area 5 was created in the South Island. The appointment of Dame Silvia Cartwright as New Zealand's Governor-General was a moment of great pride for District 16, with celebratory functions hosted by Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin clubs. District 16 decided to nominate Dame Silvia as an International Honorary Zontian. In recognition of Zonta's nationally important contributions, a rose garden was established at Vogel House, the official residence of the Governor General, organised by Zonta clubs in the Wellington area. The Zonta Club of Port Nicholson was disbanded, with a few members joining the Wellington Club. The Zonta Clubs of North Canterbury and Christchurch West amalgamated to form the Zonta Club of Waimakariri on August 12 2002. Jan was elected as an International Director (2003-2005), and was appointed as a member of the International Strategic Planning Task Force, the International Organisation, Membership and Classification Committee, and the International Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Committee. Jan passed away in June 2009, leaving the proceeds of the sale of her house to furthering the education of women in Papua New Guinea.

LYNN McKENZIE ONZM. (Wellington): DISTRICT 16 GOVERNOR 2002-2004



Lynn was installed as District 16 Governor at the International Convention in Gothenburg, Sweden, in July 2002. As well, Jan Bowman was elected to the International Board as District 16's second International Director. Effective communication, a greater emphasis on advocacy and an enhanced international focus were all hallmarks of Lynn's biennium. Lynn's governorship was characterised by her effective leadership, excellent communication with all members and her advocacy for women's issues. Governor Lynn adopted 'Making a Difference for Women' as the theme for Area Forums and the District 16 Conference. Lynn and her Board also aimed to make Zonta the preferred service club for women in New Zealand, to recruit, retain and rejuvenate a diverse membership, to align all fundraising and service activities to those that advance the

status of women, and to ensure full participation by District 16 in all aspects of Zonta International. Lynn saw a need to place greater emphasis on Zonta's advocacy objectives, where the influence of almost 800 women had the potential to bring about much change in the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Lynn was also an active fund-raiser for the New Horizons for Women Trust and served as both Trustee and Trust Chair. 2003 International Liaison Officer, Beryl Sten (Sweden), later International President, complimented Lynn and her Lieutenant Governor, Maxelyn Tudman, on their outstanding communication skills in regularly updating clubs via monthly presidential updates and a renewed District website. A new more flexible classification system introduced by Zonta International in 2003 broadened the range of membership as well as updating classifications for the 21st century. Governor Lynn noted that classification was 'at the heart of Zonta', creating diversity in the occupations of its professional and business women members, which in turn improved fellowship and enhanced networks. As well as increasing membership, District 16 clubs achieved a 77% increase in contributions to the Zonta International Foundation. The District Conference in Wanganui in September 2003 presented the inaugural Zonta Award to Aucklander, Ruth Filler, while Dame Margaret Sparrow, Zonta Club of Wellington, received the initial Zontian Award. The Conference also voted to establish a District 16 Project, with New Zealand Teen Parent Schools later selected as the District choice. Lynn's governorship ended at the International Convention in New York in 2004. Lynn went on to contribute internationally as International Director (2004-2006), as International Vice President (2010-2012) and as Zonta International President (2012-2014), the highest elected position in Zonta International attained by a District 16 Zontian. Lynn is currently Chair of the Zonta International Nominating Committee for the 2014-2016 biennium and is an active member of the Zonta Club of Wellington.

MAXELYN TUDMAN (Auckland North Shore): DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2004-2006



Maxelyn Tudman was installed as District 16 Governor in New York in July 2004. Maxelyn and her Board advocated greater Zontian bicultural awareness and placed a Maori translation of Advancing the Status of Women on the District letterhead. Membership was Maxelyn's first priority, with specific recruitment targets suggested in line with International objectives, as well as a broad range of classifications, ages and ethnicities. Maxelyn oversaw the regeneration of the Nelson and Hutt Valley Zonta clubs, although both eventually went into recess. As well as encouraging fundraising to assist tsunami victims in Districts 17 and 25,

District 16 clubs supported other causes, including the Burns Unit at Middlemore Hospital (South Auckland), and the Royal Foundation for the Blind (Dunedin Metropolitan). A District Raffle was initiated by Helen Guthrie (Auckland) which provided funding to both the Zonta International Literacy Project in Afghanistan and Teen Parent Schools. All clubs demonstrated their enthusiasm and commitment. Maxelyn encouraged 'active advocacy', with Zontians encouraged to join and support like-minded organisations such as the National Council of Women, UNIFEM and the New Horizons for Women Trust. At the District Conference at Takapuna Beach in September 2005, International Representative Dandy Gomez presented Joan-Mary Longcroft with the inaugural Zontian Award, while Nikki Denholm became the Zonta Woman of the Biennium. District 16 agreed to approach Zonta International with Auckland North Shore's proposal for celebrating International Women's Day (March 8th) as Zonta Rose Day and as an opportunity for Zontian advocacy, as well as to proactively support UNIFEM's White Ribbon Day (November 25) to publicise violence against women. Governor Maxelyn obtained a number of commercial sponsorships for District 16 activities although she reminded members that sponsors in turn expected support from Zontians. District 16 agreed to continue its District Project with Teen Parent Schools until 2007. Both International and District website experienced greatly increased use, with all clubs encouraged to appoint web co-ordinators. International President, Mary Ellen Bittner, was welcomed by Zontians during her visit to New Zealand in 2006. In April 2006, the District celebrated the end of Dame Silvia Cartwright's term as Governor General with Zonta-organised events in all major New Zealand cities. In May 2006, Joan-Mary Longcroft organised a 40th Anniversary Dinner for the Zonta Club of Auckland, just as she had done for all previous anniversaries of her Club. During this biennium, District 16 achieved 100% club participation in support of Zonta International Projects and Awards. Sadly, Cherry Raymond passed away after a long illness in 2006. The annually presented Cherry Raymond Award was established by the Zonta Club of Auckland in her honour in 2009. The District 16 Cherry Raymond Award for the best club service or advocacy project is announced at each District Conference. Maxelyn Tudman was later appointed as a member of the International Membership Committee (2008-2012) and of the International Z and Golden Z Club Committee (2012-2014). She is currently Club Historian and Archivist of the Zonta Club of Auckland North Shore.

LYNETTE GRAVE: (Metropolitan Dunedin) DISTRICT 16 GOVERNOR 2006-2008



Lady Susan Satyanand and Lynette Grave at Government House

Lynette Grave (Metropolitan Dunedin) was installed as District 16 Governor at the International Convention in Melbourne in 2006. Dame Silvia Cartwright was guest speaker at the Opening Ceremony while former Young Women in Public Affairs awardee, Kimberley Boyce-Campbell also gave an address. Annette Boddy (Wellington) received a commendation for her work as District 16's Zonta International Foundation Ambassador. Lynette and Area 5 Director, Janya Lobb (Timaru), organised the new Zonta Club of Oamaru, with its Charter Dinner held on April 12th 2008, the first new club

formed in District 16 for 11 years. New clubs in Franklin, Mangawhai and Central Otago were also being explored. A new Z Club was established at Corran School (sponsored by the Zonta Club of Auckland). The Zonta International Membership Satisfaction Survey showed a high level of satisfaction throughout District 16. The District 16 Charitable Trust was launched at the end of 2006 with Leah Watson (Bay of Islands) as Chair. Teen Parent Schools continued as the District

16 Project, with Endometriosis New Zealand chosen by clubs as the District Project for the next biennium. Lynette hosted the District 16 Conference in Dunedin in 2007 where, for the first time, registrants were offered pre-Conference activities. The District decided to combine the Zonta and Zontian Awards into one Zonta Woman of the Biennium Award, open to both Zontians and women in the community, with fashion designer and philanthropist, Annah Stretton chosen as the 2006-2008 Awardee. The Conference also heard master weaver, Ranui Ngarimu, Christchurch, describe the processes used in the creation of the District 16 kakahu, a traditionally-woven prestige Maori cloak, named Tohu Aroha (Gift of Love), soon after accepted on behalf of the District at the Area 5 Forum. This title was chosen by the weavers in recognition of the work of Zonta for women nationally and internationally. District 16 Zontians contributed as individuals towards the purchase of the kakahu, subsequently worn by District Governors on all important Zontian occasions. Lynette commissioned Jennifer Loughton (Christchurch South) to begin researching District 16's history. Lynette Grave went on to become District Zonta International Foundation Ambassador and is currently in her third term of office. Lynette is also a current member of the District Centennial and Semi-Centennial Committee.

ANNE WALKER (MANAWATU): DISTRICT 16 GOVERNOR 2008-2010



Anne Walker was installed as District Governor at the International Convention in Rotterdam, Netherlands in 2008. Anne focused strongly on advancing the status of women through service and advocacy. The global credit crisis coincided with Anne's biennium and the resultant impact was felt by women and children in all New Zealand communities, including Zontians. Anne concluded that Zonta International's mission was as valid in 2008 as it was at its formation 90 years before. In October 2008, a new Z Club was chartered at Carmel College (sponsored by the Zonta Club of Auckland North Shore). Despite the economic downturn, there was a healthy increase in membership to 770, with the Zonta Club of Mangawhai chartered on June 1st 2010. The District Conference was held in Wellington in 2009. Highlights included the Opening Ceremony at Parliament, hosted by the Hon. Pansy Wong, Minister of Women's Affairs, and the Conference Dinner at Te Papa National Museum. Dr Judy McGregor, Human Rights Commissioner, and Heather Henare, CEO of the National Coalition of Women's Refuges, were guest speakers, as well as Deborah Bush, CEO Endometriosis New Zealand, and an International Family Planning representative. Many Zontians later attended the WOW/World of Wearable Arts event marketed by the Zonta Club of Wellington. During Anne's biennium, District 16 met the goal of achieving donations to the Zonta International Foundation from 100% of clubs. District 16 club support for the District project with Endometriosis New Zealand enabled the provision of the 'All about Me' teaching module to secondary schools across the country, the first biennium of a four year commitment to raising awareness of the debilitating effects of endometriosis on young women. District funding was also provided to the Patient Partnering Programme, resulting in a high level of community engagement for all Zontians. Anne Walker arranged a partnership with Family Planning International to deliver *Sistas Savve*, a health education, life skills and work training programme in the Solomon Islands. Initial funding for a pilot programme to commence in July 2010 was provided by the New Zealand Government, with Zontians donating sufficient funding to enable programme graduates to receive microcredit loans. Jane M Klausman District Awardees, Genevieve Cooper and Valeria Maw, achieved Zonta International awards in 2008 and 2009, generating a growing interest in this business scholarship. 50% of District 16 clubs participated in

the Young Women in Public Affairs Awards, with Charlotte Davis and Sue Wei Chan the District Awardees. The Cherry Raymond Award was established in memory of this well-loved foundation Zontian, with the Zonta Club of Auckland North Shore judged the initial winners, recognised for their White Ribbon Day project. This project has now been adopted throughout the District, with all clubs annually supporting White Ribbon Day on November 25th. Adrienne Lady Stewart was chosen as the 2008-2010 recipient of the Zonta Woman of the Biennium Award. District 16 continued its advocacy for issues affecting women, including New Zealand's Plan of Action to Prevent People Trafficking, and the Pacific Women's Survey on progress toward the Beijing+15 goals. District 16 also formed an association with the Heart Foundation's Go Red for Heart campaign. Joan-Mary Longcroft was awarded Honorary Membership of the Zonta Club of Auckland in recognition of her length of service to Zonta International. At the International Convention in San Antonio at the conclusion of Anne' Walker's biennium, District 16's highlight was the election of Lynn McKenzie, (Zonta Club of Wellington) as Zonta International President-Elect for the 2012-2014 biennium. Anne Walker is currently a member of the Zonta International Future Development Committee for the 2014-2016 biennium and is an active member of the Zonta Club of Manawatu.

ANNE McMURTRIE: (Christchurch South) DISTRICT 16 GOVERNOR 2010-2012



After serving as District Status of Women Chair for three biennia and as Area 3 Director, Anne McMurtrie was installed as District Governor at the International Convention in San Antonio, Texas in 2010. Anne aimed to increase the membership base, improve advocacy about issues facing women, embark on service activities that met the Zonta mission, encourage donations to the Zonta International Foundation and raise the visibility of Zonta International within District 16. Her membership goal was to have a net increase of one member per club, and a target of u\$75,000 for donations to the Zonta International Foundation. Clubs were consulted about a new District Project and decided to continue District partnership with Endometriosis New Zealand until December 2010. Zontian, Philippa Jacobs (Christchurch-Canterbury), designed a new District website. Important

Zonta occasions included a cocktail party in Wellington to honour Lynn McKenzie's election to the International Board. As well, Zontians celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Zonta Club of Hamilton-Waikato with Charter President, Dame Silvia Cartwright, as guest speaker. A combined Zonta Club of Wellington/ UN Women New Zealand function took place at Parliament hosted by Women's Affairs Minister, Hon. Hekia Parata. Anne's biennium was severely affected by the Christchurch earthquakes, with the 2011 District Conference in Christchurch eventually transferred to Auckland through the exceptional effort, generosity, determination and hard work of Auckland Zontians and their organising committee chaired by Lieutenant Governor Maureen Heine and Area 1 Director, Anne van der Straaten. Held at the Waipuna Hotel in October 2011, the District Conference, 'Together We Can Soar', was opened by Auckland Mayor Len Brown. Highlights included the International President's address delivered by International Director Beryl McMillan, noted lawyer Mai Chen's speech about 'How I Can be an Advocate to Improve the Status of Women', Christchurch South Zontian, Dr Margaret Currie's presentation about her work as a cancer researcher, and the Gala Conference Dinner held in the Heritage Hotel. The new District 16 Website was launched and Zontians voted for the New Zealand Gynaecological Foundation as the next District Project. The service highlight of the biennium was the huge White Ribbon Bike Ride organised by the new Zonta Club of Mangawhai which achieved the Cherry Raymond Award for best District advocacy project. A Fashion Show run by the Zonta Club of Metropolitan Dunedin,

raised \$32,000 for the Otago Youth Wellness Trust. In March 2012, Deborah Bush, CEO of Endometriosis New Zealand, became Zonta Woman of the Biennium, with her Award presented at the District Conference. Soon after, Governor Anne also attended the 2012 International Women's Day breakfast held at the Ellerslie Flower Show, Christchurch, as a fund raiser for Endometriosis New Zealand and presented Deborah Bush, CEO and Zonta Woman of the Biennium with a tribute yellow rose. New Z Clubs were established during the biennium at Auckland's International College, chartered in August 2011 and sponsored by the Zonta Club of Auckland, and at St Hilda's Collegiate School, Dunedin. This was chartered in May 2012, and sponsored by the Zonta Club of Metropolitan Dunedin. The biennium ended with the International Convention in Torino, Italy, where Anne McMurtrie was elected to the International Nominating Committee. The Torino Convention was a special occasion for District 16 because Lynn McKenzie was installed as the Zonta International President. Anne is currently District 16 Jane M Klausman Chair.

MAUREEN HEINE (South Auckland): DISTRICT 16 GOVERNOR 2012-2014



Maureen Heine (South Auckland) was installed as District Governor in Torino, Italy, in July 2013. To launch Maureen's biennium, a dinner was held to honour the newly installed Zonta International President, Lynn McKenzie, and the 2012 Amelia Earhart Fellow, Zerrin Turkeli Ramadan, a PhD candidate at the University of Auckland. Dr Marilyn Waring became the second New Zealand International Honorary Zontian in June 2013, with a luncheon held in her honour in Auckland. Lynn McKenzie was created an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in June 2014. The District 16 Strategic Plan, covering the International goals of 'Organisational Capacity and Capability' and 'Credibility and Visibility', was adopted by the District 16 Board on 16 June 2013, with additional objectives established to suit local conditions. Leadership training was undertaken at District Board level

and Area Directors proceeded to offer training for club officers and members, with ten Area meetings held to update members about club and District activities. The District's Service Partnership Project with the New Zealand Gynaecological Cancer Foundation (NZGCF) was submitted under the District Project category for the newly introduced Zonta International Service Recognition Award. Members contributed \$52,192 from club fundraising activities and supported a group of women cycling from Bluff to Cape Reinga to raise funds for NZGCF. On 4 July 2012, District 16 donated NZ\$5,365 to Family Planning International for distribution to six communities in the Solomon Islands that had participated in the *Sistas Savve* training programme to ensure a continuation of their activities. The Sophie Elliott Foundation was chosen as the District Project for the 2014-2016 biennium. This fitted in well with the Zonta International 'Zonta says No' campaign with a new 'Zonta says No' banner, created by Area 2 Director Barbara Pope. Encouraged by Janet Hope, District Advocacy Chair, the District and some individual clubs made written submissions to Government Select Committee hearings about issues vital to women. Membership was Dianne seriously affected by the ongoing Christchurch earthquakes with a 25% membership decrease in Area 3 although later member numbers stabilised. In Area 5, all clubs increased membership. The possibility of new clubs in Taupo and Queenstown was explored, while there was some club formation progress in Whakatane. District 16 ended the biennium with 28 clubs, 5 Areas, and approximately 679 members. The chartering of the Rutherford College Z Club in April 2013 (Zonta Club of Auckland West) was a biennial highlight, bringing the total number of operational Z Clubs in New Zealand to five. Both the Jane M Klausman and Young Women in Public Affairs Chairs were encouraged by the calibre of applicants and by the increase in applications forwarded by clubs. In 2013, Zerrin Turkeli Ramadan, University of Auckland, was

awarded a second Amelia Earhart Fellowship. The District Conference took place in Queenstown in July 2014 with keynote speakers including Dr Marilyn Waring, later International Honorary Zontian. A panel discussion examined violence against women in New Zealand. All enjoyed the Glitz and Glamour Evening held at the historic Walter Peak Station. The Zonta Club of Metropolitan Dunedin was chosen as the recipient of the Cherry Raymond Award for its project, 'An Evening of Extraordinary Fashion 2013', which raised funds for Stopping Violence Dunedin. Heather Henare, CEO of Refuge New Zealand, became the Zonta Woman of the Biennium. The biennium concluded with the 62nd International Convention in Orlando, Florida, where District 16 was well represented by 35 Zontians, all there to help celebrate the end of Zonta International President Lynn McKenzie's biennium. Maureen is a member of the Zonta International Leadership Development Committee for the 2014-2016 biennium, is current District 16 Centurion and, after her long membership in the Zonta Club of South Auckland, has recently joined the Zonta Club of Auckland.

JANETTE IRVINE (Rotorua): District Governor 2014-2016



Janette Irvine was installed as District 16 Governor at the International Convention in Orlando, Florida in 2014. Highlights of Janette's current Governorship include working with the District 16 Board and Committee Chairs to achieve biennial goals in service, advocacy and resources. Leadership development programmes and an active District Advocacy Committee have helped to increase Zonta's credibility and visibility. Most clubs are participating in 'Zonta Says No' to violence against women activities with increased promotion in the social media and on the 'Zonta Says No website. This was stepped up in later 2015 with a nationwide 'walk' on November 28th, with participants wearing orange 'Zonta Says No' t-shirts. The District 16 campaign was organised by Area 1 Director, Liz Holsted. Zontians, Dame Adrienne Stewart (Christchurch-Canterbury), Anna Jackson ONZM (Wellington) and Liz Evans ONZM (Marlborough), were all awarded New Year's Honours in

early 2015. As its 2014-16 District project, District 16 supports the Sophie Elliott Foundation, raising funds for the 'Loves Me Not' books distributed to secondary school students participating in the Foundation's innovative and nationally-hailed workshops in schools, run by the police and teachers for year 12 students, educating about the warning signs of violence in relationships. A record number of clubs have submitted applications for the YWPA awards and also supported the J M Klausman Women in Business scholarships. In 2014, Danielle Newton was an International YWPA awardee and Kate McCaw achieved an International JMK Scholarship, with Katie Keir also awarded an International JMK Scholarship in 2015. Clubs took part in International Women's Day activities in March 2015 and 2016. The Zonta New Zealand 50 Women of Achievement Awards, to commemorate Zonta's 50 years in New Zealand, were announced on March 8th 2016. These were selected from nominations received from Zonta clubs, other organisations and individuals. The new District Centennial and Semi-Centennial Anniversary Committee continues to pursue publication of the District 16 History and associated projects, as well as to co-ordinate commemorative awards and District and International anniversaries. Five well-attended Area meetings featured stimulating speakers and engaging programmes. In July 2014, a new Z Club was chartered at Macleans College, sponsored by the Zonta Club of East Auckland, while work continues on the organisation of new Zonta Clubs, Whakatane and Waitangi Awa.

In September 2015, the Zonta Club of Rotorua hosted a very successful District Conference with the theme 'Embracing the Challenge', celebrating 50 years of Zonta in New Zealand. This was attended by Zonta International representative, Winnie Teoh, from Hong Kong, as well as by past International Presidents Val Sarah and Lynn McKenzie. Keynote speakers included the Minister for Women, Louise Upston, EEO Commissioner, Dr Jackie Blue, the Mayor of Rotorua, Hon. Steve Chadwick, and several of our District YWPA and JMK awardees. The Cherry Raymond Award was received by the Zonta Club of Wanganui for its ShineGIRL project. Past International President Lynn McKenzie led a panel entitled 'Challenges for the Future'. At the 'Night of Gold' Gala Dinner, the Zonta New Zealand Woman of the Biennium award was presented to Lesley Elliott, Chair of the Sophie Elliott Foundation.

District 16 is well on the way to achieving its biennial goals of raising \$50,000 for the District 16 Project and US\$85,000 for the Zonta International Foundation. District 16 has a new website which will be easier for members to use and is mobile device friendly.

District 16 Zontians look forward to participating in the 2016 Zonta International Convention in Nice.



Foundation Zontians, Joan-Mary Longcroft QSO.
JP. and Anne Gambrill CNZM. (Auckland),
Rotorua, 2015



Past District 16 Governors with current Governor, Janette Irvine, at the District Conference in Rotorua, September 2016.
L to R: Maureen Heine, Maxelyn Tudman, Lynette Grave, Jean Corbin Thomas, Janette Irvine, Joan-Mary Longcroft,
Anne Walker, Anne McMurtrie and Lynn McKenzie.

Compiled by Jennifer Loughton, District 16 Historian and Archivist, March 2016.

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