



Chapter 43

District XVI – Australia and New Zealand (1974–1989)

Since 1920, Zonta International has grouped clubs by district. The following is information on the formation of District XVI. As of 2019, District 16 (New Zealand) has 28 clubs.¹

Timeline of district history highlights

1973: In August, at the Region III Conference, held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Auckland, New Zealand, the 17 Zonta clubs present voted unanimously to form District XVI. Zontians elected Judith Dey AO, from the Zonta Club of Sydney as the first district Governor-Elect. Beverley Shore Bennett MBE, Zonta Club of Wellington, was elected as Lieutenant Governor and Anne Gambrill, Zonta Club of Auckland, was the first District Treasurer.

1974: On 20 June, the existence of the new District XVI was formally declared at a pre-convention meeting of the Zonta International Board in Boston, USA.

No areas were organized in District XVI

1977: The Wellington Conference decided that District XVI would be divided into four areas with Areas 01 and 02 for Australia, and Areas 03 and 04 for clubs in New Zealand.

Leneen Forde, Zonta Club of Brisbane, Heidi Taylor Zonta Club of Adelaide, Valerie Webster Zonta Club of Hawke's Bay and Ann Mallinson from the Zonta Club of Wellington, were elected by postal vote as District XVI's first Area Directors and installed at a district workshop in Sydney in September 1977.

¹ Research compiled by Eva Nielsen.

1978: 38 clubs in four areas. There were 22 clubs in Australia and 16 in New Zealand.

1,129 members.

1980: 57 clubs in five areas. Areas 03 and 04 remained New Zealand areas, but Area 05 was added to Areas 01 and 02 in Australia.

1983: 67 clubs in five areas.

1986: 80 clubs with a total of 2,464 members. In total, Australian members counted 5.03 per cent and New Zealand members counted 2.01 per cent of Zonta International's membership.

1989: At the District XVI Conference in Auckland in September, Australian and New Zealand Zontians voted to divide District XVI into three separate districts; District 16 for clubs in New Zealand and Districts 23 and 24 for clubs in Australia.

History of formation of District XVI clubs (1974 to 1989)

Australia

Australian Capital Territory

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 1980	Closed
1969	0626	Zonta Club of Canberra Inc.	05	

New South Wales

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 1980	Closed
1966	0557	Zonta Club of Sydney Inc.	05	
1972	0687	Zonta Club of Sydney North Inc.	05	
1975	0762	Zonta Club of Warringah Area *	05	
1976	0782	Zonta Club of New England Area **		
1977	0802	Zonta Club of Newcastle Area	05	1999
1977	0803	Zonta Club of Tamworth Area Inc.		
1978	0824	Zonta Club of Illawarra Area Inc. ***	05	
1978	0859	Zonta Club of Sydney South Area	05	1991
1979	0884	Zonta Club of Sydney East Area Inc.	05	
1979	0892	Zonta Club of Parramatta-Ryde Area Inc. ****	05	
1979	0902	Zonta Club of Dubbo Area	05	2004
1979	0907	Zonta Club of Central Coast Inc.	05	
1980	0935	Zonta Club of Sydney West Inc.	05	
1980	0939	Zonta Club of Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai Area Inc.	05	
1980	0957	Zonta Club of Orange Area Inc.	05	
1982	1024	Zonta Club of Wagga Wagga Area	05	1990
1988	1227	Zonta Club of Albury-Wodonga Inc.		

*Name changed to Zonta Club of Northern Beaches Inc.in 2003.

**Name changed to Zonta Club of Armidale Inc. Date uncertain but known to be before publication of 1988–99 District Directory.

***Name changed to Zonta Club of Wollongong. Date unknown but the club is listed as Illawarra in 1992-1993 District Directory and as Wollongong in the 1993-1994 edition.

**** Name changed to Zonta Club of Sydney Hills in 2001.

Northern Territory

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 1980	Closed
1983	1059	Zonta Club of Alice Springs Inc.		2013
1983	1060	Zonta Club of Darwin Inc.		2017

Queensland

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 1980	Closed
1971	0680	Zonta Club of Brisbane Inc.	01	
1977	0811	Zonta Club of Gold Coast Area Inc.		2011
1978	0814	Zonta Club of Sunshine Coast Area		1988
1987	0825	Zonta Club of Toowoomba Area Inc.	01	
1978	0852	Zonta Club of Brisbane North Inc.	01	
1979	0870	Zonta Club of Brisbane South Inc.	01	
1979	0900	Zonta Club of West Moreton Area Inc.*	01	
1980	0932	Zonta Club of Redcliffe Area Inc.	01	
1980	0960	Zonta Club of Tweed Valley Area Inc.**	01	
1981	0988	Zonta Club of Wynnum Redland Inc.	01	
1983	1054	Zonta Club of Rockhampton Inc.		
1983	1057	Zonta Club of Cairns Inc.		
1984	1089	Zonta Club of Townsville Inc.		
1985	1115	Zonta Club of Brisbane West Inc.		2008
1988	1197	Zonta Club of Beaudesert Area Inc.		
1989	1232	Zonta Club of Caloundra City Inc.		
1989	1235	Zonta Club of Brisbane East Inc.		

*Name changed to Zonta Club of Ipswich Inc. Date not confirmed, but believed to be 2013

** Name changed to Zonta Club of Southern Gold Coast Tweed Inc. in 1981.

South Australia

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 1980	Closed
1969	0627	Zonta Club of Adelaide Inc.	02	
1978	0821	Zonta Club of Para District Area Inc.	02	
1978	0837	Zonta Club of Fleurieu Peninsula Area Inc.	02	
1981	0983	Zonta Club of Adelaide Torrens Inc.	02	
1981	0993	Zonta Club of Adelaide Flinders Inc.	02	
1984	1087	Zonta Club of Noarlunga Southern Vales Area Inc.		

1985	1116	Zonta Club of Riverland Inc.		
1987	1180	Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills Inc.		
1988	1193	Zonta Club of Adelaide West		2003

Tasmania

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 1980	Closed
1971	0682	Zonta Club of Hobart	02	
1977	0809	Zonta Club of Launceston Inc.	02	
1980	0934	Zonta Club of Glenorchy-Derwent Valley	02	2002 ²

Victoria

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 1980	Closed
1966	0555	Zonta Club of Melbourne Inc.	02	
1973	0724	Zonta Club of Melbourne Yarra Inc.	02	2004
1978	0861	Zonta Club of Waverley Inc.	02	
1978	0863	Zonta Club of Ballarat Inc.	02	
1979	0879	Zonta Club of Geelong Inc.	02	
1980	0913	Zonta Club of Frankston Inc.	02	
1980	0954	Zonta Club of Bendigo Inc.	02	
1981	0989	Zonta Club of Melbourne's West Inc.*	02	
1983	1064	Zonta Club of Latrobe Valley Area		1999
1984	1096	Zonta Club of Mornington Peninsula Inc.		
1985	1134	Zonta Club of Shepparton Area		1996
1988	1196	Zonta Club of Wangaratta Inc.		
1988	1200	Zonta Club of Sale		1992

*Name changed from Zonta Club of Footscray

Western Australia

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 1980	Closed
1971	0685	Zonta Club of Perth Inc.	02	
1979	0891	Zonta Club of South of Perth	02	1997
1981	0979	Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs Inc.	02	
1984	1068	Zonta Club of Darling Ranges		1993
1988	1194	Zonta Club of Bunbury Inc.		

New Zealand

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 1980	Closed
1965	0549	Zonta Club of Auckland	03	
1969	0629	Zonta Club of Wellington	04	

² ZI Directory 2007

1970	0656	Zonta Club of Hamilton-Waikato	03	
1970	0657	Zonta Club of Christchurch-Canterbury	04	
1970	0661	Zonta Club of Dunedin-Otago	04	
1973	0723	Zonta Club of Hawke's Bay Area	03	
1973	0728	Zonta Club of Whangarei	03	
1973	0729	Zonta Club of Marlborough Area	04	1994
1973	0731	Zonta Club of Rotorua	03	
1975	0772	Zonta Club of Manawatu Area	04	
1976	0779	Zonta Club of Auckland West	03	
1976	0795	Zonta Club of Lower Hutt Valley Area	04	2005
1977	0801	Zonta Club of Bay of Plenty Area	03	1985
1977	0807	Zonta Club of Christchurch North	04	
1977	0808	Zonta Club of South Auckland Area	03	
1978	0823	Zonta Club of Nelson Area	03	2008
1979	0885	Zonta Club of Tokoroa Putaruru	03	1996
1979	0893	Zonta Club of Mana Area	04	
1979	0895	Zonta Club of Auckland North Shore Area	03	
1979	0899	Zonta Club of Christchurch South West Area	04	
1980	0953	Zonta Club of Wanganui	04	
1984	1099	Zonta Club of Auckland II		1992
1987	1184	Zonta Club of East Auckland Area		
1988	1221	Zonta Club of Tauranga Area		
1989	1243	Zonta Club of Timaru Ara		
1989	1269	Zonta Club of Hibiscus Coast Area		

Zonta International Conventions in District XVI

1984: Sydney, New South Wales

District XVI Zontians on International Committees 1975–1990

Biennium	Name	Position
1970–1971	Cherry Raymond	International Relations Committee
1972–1974	Ann Mallinson	Membership and Classification Committee
1972–1974	Janet Eales	Status of Women Committee
1974–1976	Cherry Raymond	International Nominating Committee Editorial Board of <i>The Zontian</i>
1976–1978	Jeanne Edgar	International Relations Committee
1976–1978	Laurie Swindel	Public Affairs Committee
1976–1978	Cherry Raymond	Editorial Board of <i>The Zontian</i>
1978–1980	Dawn Manley	International Relations Committee
1978–1980	Beverley Bennett	Nominating Committee Public Affairs Committee
1980–1982	Margaret Sparrow	District XVI International Nominating Sub-Committee – chairman
1980–1982	Glen Price	Resolutions Committee

1989–1982	Cherry Raymond	Status of Women Committee – chairman
1982–1984	Glen Price	Bylaws/Resolutions Committee.
1982–1984	Jeanne Edgar	Convention Committee Nominating Committee Membership & Classification Committee – Co-chairman
1984–1986	Glen Price	Bylaws/Resolutions Committee
1984–1986	Jeanne Edgar	Long-Range Planning Committee
1984–1986	Valerie Webster	Organization and Extension Committee.
1984–1986	Susan Laidlaw	Z Club Committee – Co-chairman
1986–1987	Jeanne Edgar	Long-Range Planning Committee
1986–1988	Sally Mills	Convention Committee
1986–1988	Valerie Webster	District XVI International Nominating Sub-Committee
1986–1988	Yvonne Watson	Public Relations Committee – Chairman
1986–1988	Susan Laidlaw	Z Club Committee Membership and Classification Committee
1988–1990	Susan Laidlaw	Organization and Extension Committee
1988–1990	Brenda Cutress	Status of Women Committee
1988–1990	Joan-Mary Longcroft	International Development Committee

History of District XVI from 1974–1990³

During the 1974–1976 Biennium, District Governor 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.

In 1975, Cherry Raymond, accompanied by Margaret Sparrow from the Zonta Club of Wellington, participated in the United Nations International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City which inaugurated the UN Decade for Women.

District XVI presented USD\$5,000 towards the Pan African Women's Volunteer Task Force in 1976, exceeding the goal set at the Perth District Conference.

From 1976 to 1978, Beverley Shore Bennett's governorship was notable for the rapid growth of the district, with 15 Australian and New Zealand clubs chartered and a steady growth in membership. Beverley was honored at the following convention in Denver for her part in organizing the greatest number of new clubs in any district of Zonta International

In October 1981, Hanny Van Til, from the Zonta Club of Christchurch North, participated in the first Zonta International Study Tour to the Far East. During Jeanne Edgar's biennium in 1980–1982, Australian and New Zealand Zontians began an ongoing relationship with the Zonta Club of Bangkok I to improve the lifestyle of Thai families at the Zonta Dairy Village in Chombung, Thailand.

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 in 1983.

³ Jennifer Loughton, District 16 Historian and Archivist, March 2016

Governor Leneen Forde oversaw the organization of the very successful Zonta International Convention at the Sydney Opera House in June in 1984, with Jeanne Edgar as New Zealand coordinator and New Zealanders at every level of organization in the 21 organizing committees.

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 rose breeder, R. Harkness and Co.

In 1984, the Zonta International Convention adopted the establishment of the Zonta International Foundation.

Cherry Raymond encouraged all clubs to make their status of women committees the most stimulating of all program committees.

In 1982–83, District XVI clubs contributed their fundraising efforts to the Zonta International Sri Lankan Wells Project.

District XVI's first Z Club was formed at North Rockhampton High School by the Zonta Club of Rockhampton in 1984. Governor Valerie sent greetings and congratulatory gifts for the club's special charter evening held on 17 May 1985.

From 1984 to 1986, Governor Valerie Webster became the first District XVI governor not appointed from a large Australasian city and she oversaw almost 80 Zonta clubs throughout the enormous district, with membership, retention and consolidation as her priorities. Valerie introduced both Australian and New Zealand co-chairmen for many of her district committees.

Zonta International commenced its Zonta International Status of Women Study in 1985, giving each club in District XVI a unique opportunity for input.

From 1986 to 1988, Governor Val Sarah 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 computerization of District XVI records and the compilation of a property register.

In March 1987, Governor Val Sarah undertook a 'whirlwind' tour of New Zealand clubs, traveling over 3,500 km and giving 19 news media interviews during her journey.

The district conference in 1987 made important decisions about district archives and an associated anniversary publication about a district project and about Zonta Rose cards. The Zonta Club of Auckland was officially recognized 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.

On 23 October 1987, the first Z Club in New Zealand at Marlborough Girls' College, sponsored by the Zonta Club of Marlborough Area, was officially welcomed into District XVI at a ceremony conducted by Lieutenant Governor Susan Laidlaw.

From 1988 to 1990, Governor Susan Laidlaw was an official presenter at the Helsinki Convention's International Relations Workshop. During this biennium, Hazel King agreed to write the history of District XVI from 1965 to 1989, leading to the publication of *Zonta in the Antipodes* in 1990.

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 and 90 clubs. At the District Conference in Auckland in September 1989, Zontians voted to divide District XVI into District 16 for clubs in New Zealand, and Districts 23 and 24 for clubs in 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 honor the pioneering Zonta Club of Auckland. Wanganui Zontians made a friendship quilt for the new International Headquarters Building.

Governor Susan Laidlaw attended the final Area 05 Workshop in Canberra in 1990, which included the launch of the first District XVI history book, *Zonta in the Antipodes*, written by Hazel King, Zonta Club of Sydney.

Professor Jean Fleming, a molecular biologist, was the inaugural recipient of the Zonta Club of Wellington's National Science Award for an emerging woman scientist, with the award medal designed by Wellington Zontian and artist Tanya Ashken.

District XVI Conferences from 1975–1989⁴

- 1975: Perth, Western Australia
- 1977: Wellington, New Zealand. ZI President France de la Chaise Mutin attended the Conference
- 1979: Melbourne, Victoria. ZI President-Elect Shirley Schneider attended the Conference
- 1981: Christchurch, New Zealand. ZI President Cornelia Hodges and ZI Executive Director Valerie Levitan attended as guests of honor. District XVI gave the largest donation for international service ever presented at a Zonta District Conference. Past Governor Judith Dey also presented a brief historical outline of the district. At the following Convention, District XVI received an award for outstanding membership extension during Jeanne Edgar's 1980–1982 Biennium.
- 1983: Brisbane, Queensland
- 1985: Rotorua, New Zealand
- 1987: Adelaide, South Australia⁵
- 1989: Auckland, New Zealand.

Research compiled by Jennifer A. Loughton and Eva Nielsen.

⁴ Jennifer Loughton, District 16 Historian and Archivist, March 2016

⁵ See History of District XVI