



Chapter 44

District 16 – New Zealand (1990–2019).¹

Since 1920, Zonta International has grouped clubs by district. The following is information on the formation of District 16. As at January 2020, District 16 has 30 clubs, all in New Zealand

Timeline of district history highlights

1990: The Zonta International Convention in Dallas, Texas, approved the re-districting of District XVI² into the Districts 16, 23 and 24. The three new districts divided the funds of the original District XVI.

Because the Zonta Club of Auckland, club 0549, had been the pioneering club in District XVI in 1965, the original district number was given to the new District 16 formed in New Zealand. District 23 encompassed the clubs in the Australian states of Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, and District 24 the clubs in Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

25 clubs and 950 members.³

Clubs in District 16 were grouped in three areas:

- Area 01 the top of the North Island
- Area 02 the lower half of the North Island
- Area 03 the South Island

1992: The mid-North Island clubs became the new Area 04.

1 Information drawn from Jennifer A. Loughton, *Empowering Women, A History of Zonta District 16 1965–2016*, p.173 (published by Zonta International District 16, New Zealand, 2017. ISBN 978-0-473-40242-6); *District 16 History in Brief* researched and written by Jennifer Loughton as District 16 historian and archivist, March 2016; additional research compiled by Eva Nielsen; and contributions from Souella Cumming.

2 Zonta International Board changed Roman to Arabic numerals in 1990. District XVI became District 16.

3 *The Zontian* 1990–1992 Program Issue

1994: District 16 membership reached a peak of 937.⁴

1998: District 16 membership started declining. Membership was at 921.⁵

1999–2008: Eight clubs disbanded, and membership numbers decreased.

2001: Lower South Island clubs were grouped in the new Area 05.

2008: In April, the Zonta Club of Oamaru was the first club chartered in 11 years.

2010: The Zonta Club of Mangawhai was added, taking membership to 770.

2014: 28 clubs, organized in five areas. Membership numbers were approximately 679.⁶

2016: 27 clubs, organized in five areas.

2018: 598 members.⁷

2019: The Zonta Clubs of Invercargill and Whakatane chartered – the first since 2010, taking membership to 653.⁸

History of District 16 1990–2018⁹

From 1990 to 1992, Governor Cherry Raymond advocated careful financial management within District 16 since the three new districts had each received a third of existing District XVI funds.

In May 1991, reflecting the political changes in Europe, clubs in NZ were included in the Double Twin Project with Districts 6, 13 and 20. These districts were to pay the annual dues of new Estonian Zonta clubs until they were able to process their money through stringent exchange control regulations and to exchange information and letters¹⁰.

Joan-Mary Longcroft became District Liaison for the Australian-New Zealand Vocational Exchange Programme, and, with Carol Healey from South Auckland, organized a distinctive brooch to raise funds for the Zonta International Burn the Mortgage Fund. On December 31 1986, the Zonta International Foundation had purchased the building at 557 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois, USA. A contractor who had carried out renovations on the building threatened Zonta International with a long and expensive lawsuit. Clubs around the world rallied to the cause, but Zonta International's financial situation was generally not well received by District 16.¹¹

4 District 16 History in Brief

5 District 16 History in Brief

6 District 16 History in Brief

7 Zonta International Directory online

8 Zonta International Directory online

9 Jennifer A. Loughton

10 Ibid. p 183

11 Ibid. pp. 184–185

The District Board 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 Program launched in 1990.

In 1991, District 16 Young Women in Public Affairs Awardee Kimberley Campbell, nominated by the Zonta Club of Christchurch North, was the first international recipient of the inaugural Zonta International YWPA Award.

As District 16 Governor from 1992 to 1994, Joan-Mary Longcroft from the Zonta Club of Auckland aimed to have 1,000 District 16 Zontians by the time of her District Conference and, as noted above, gave her strong support to Zonta International's Capital Campaign to pay off the mortgage of the new Zonta International Headquarters.

Governor Joan-Mary established the first District 16 Environment Committee chaired by Margaret Bailey, as well as the district's first Amelia Earhart Committee, chaired by notable aviator Yvonne Loader, and its first District United Nations Committee chaired by Leona Gibb.

Joan-Mary also promoted an international focus and support for Zonta's international projects, including both the District Twinning Programme¹² and the Double Twin Project. The centenary of women's suffrage in New Zealand in 1993 resulted in the award of New Zealand Suffrage Centennial Medals to 15 Zontians and substantial District 16 donations to the Kate Sheppard Memorial Appeal named in honor of one of the country's leading campaigners for women's suffrage. UNIFEM New Zealand launched the first of its annual fundraising breakfasts, soon to become a fixture on Zontian calendars, and District 16 also became closely involved with the New Horizons for Women Trust which provides grants for women in New Zealand to develop their potential through education and research. Joan-Mary also expanded Zonta's work in secondary schools with new Z Clubs formed: Whangarei (hosted by the Zonta clubs of Whangarei and Hatea-Whangarei), Mana College (hosted by the Zonta Club of Mana), and Avonside Girls' High School (hosted by the Zonta Club of Christchurch-Canterbury).

In October 1992, Lynn McKenzie organized a District 16 Club Survey to provide useful statistical information.

From 1994 to 1996, Governor Mary Kincaid from the Zonta Club of Christchurch South, gave her strong support to International President Chief 'Folake Solanke's Triple H Agenda for Action, supported by all clubs throughout the district.

In 1995, then-past Governor Joan-Mary Longcroft joined the Zonta International Foundation Board. At the Fourth Biennial Conference in Dunedin in October 1995 – attended by International Director Mary Magee – New Zealand clubs nominated Val Sarah from the Zonta Club of Ballarat in Australia, as International President; Jeanne Edgar from the Zonta Club of Christchurch-Canterbury in New Zealand for the International Nominating Committee; and U.S. Zontian Donna Lane as International Treasurer. Jenny Shipley, Conference keynote speaker and past New Zealand Prime Minister, discussed the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The Zonta Club of Marlborough Area (club no. 0729) was disbanded in December 1994,

¹² For a period in the 1990s, Zonta International had a Twin Project. The international Board decided which districts should cooperate in order to encourage friendship. 1992-94 District 16's twin was District 20 (Jennifer A. Loughton, p. 200).

but a new club, the Zonta Club of Marlborough (club no. 1505) was established in June the following year by District Organization and Extension Chairman, Eleanor Stewart.

In June 1995, Governor Mary Kincaid represented District 16 at the inaugural Zonta International Summit on Violence against Women in Washington D.C., which resulted in the establishment of the ZISVAW International Service Program.

From 1996 to 1998, Governor Joan Ready from the Zonta Club of Auckland focused on both attracting new Zontians and retaining existing membership with the assistance of her Lieutenant Governor and District Membership Chairman Jean Corbin Thomas and Eleanor Stewart, district chairman for Organization, Extension and Retention. Area Workshops also emphasized membership issues. Christchurch and Auckland Zontians explored increased inter-club cooperation. The Fifth Biennial District Conference in Whangarei in September 1997 was hosted by both the Zonta clubs of Whangarei and Hatea-Whangarei, with Dianne Curtis, as 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 Women in Business Scholarship. The Zonta clubs of Whangarei and Auckland North Shore proposed that District 16 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. In August 1997, the new Zonta Club of Metropolitan Dunedin was chartered.

From 1998 to 2000, Governor Jean Corbin Thomas 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 World Conference on Women as well as to participate in raising contributions for Women's Loan (Angel) Funds as a District Millennium Togetherness Project.

At the suggestion of District Environment Chairman Susan Laidlaw, a tree-planting ceremony took place at the Auckland Domain on 29 October 1999, in honor of Dorothy Thompson who had brought Zonta to New Zealand in 1965. The event also celebrated Zonta International's 80th birthday.

In partnership with Australian Districts 23 and 24, District 16 Zontians began work on Quilt 2000. With a design based on the logo for the forthcoming International Convention in Hawaii, the quilt was designed and hand-dyed in Australia and the component blocks stitched and quilted in both New Zealand and Australia. The quilt was raffled at the convention and funds contributed to international service.¹³

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.

In September 1998, Zonta International Headquarters announced the death of extraordinary Canadian Zontian, Dorothy Thompson, at the age of 103. Dorothy had been responsible for the establishment of Zonta in New Zealand.

¹³ Jennifer A. Loughton, p. 25

From 2000 to 2002, Governor Jan Bowman from the Zonta Club of Auckland, applied her lifelong commitment to the empowerment of women and the poor to her work with Zonta, with a firm belief that busy women should “work smarter, not harder”. Jan further implemented 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. This informed business planning and advocacy and enhanced Zonta’s credibility and visibility within New Zealand. Jan Bowman’s *Vision for the Future*, released in March 2001, outlined her desire to reshape District 16 into a vital organization with an inspirational future. Jan initiated a newsletter, District NewZ, to enthuse and inform Zontians, as well as her regular Action Update for Presidents. Her aim was to communicate as little, but as effectively, as possible.

During her biennium as governor, the long-anticipated report of the District Finance Committee was released, with recommendations for economies and other budgetary guidelines. Governor Jan Bowman encouraged Zontians to give maximum support to activities that advanced the status of women. In recognition of Zonta’s nationally important contributions, a rose garden was established at Vogel House, the official residence of the governor general of New Zealand, organized by Zonta clubs in the Wellington area.

In April 2001 the appointment of Dame Silvia Cartwright, a charter member of the Hamilton-Waikato club, as New Zealand’s next Governor-General was a moment of great pride for District 16, with celebratory functions hosted by Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin clubs.

From 2002 to 2004, Governor Lynn McKenzie from the Zonta Club of Wellington aimed to make Zonta the preferred service organization for women in New Zealand and to recruit, retain and rejuvenate a diverse membership. She aimed to align all fundraising and service activities with those that advanced the status of women. Lynn saw a need for 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 fundraiser for the New Horizons for Women Trust and served as both Trustee and Trust Chairman. As well as increasing membership, District 16 clubs achieved a 77 per cent increase in contributions to the Zonta International Foundation. The District Conference in 2003 voted to establish a District 16 Project, with New Zealand Teen Parent Schools later selected as the district choice. Zontians also voted to establish a new district website and a nationally printed directory of members to aid networking. Lynn’s governorship ended at the International Convention in New York in 2004. Lynn went on to contribute to Zonta as an International Director, International Vice President, President-Elect, and President.

At this time, District 16 introduced two awards: the Zontian Award for an exceptional District 16 Zontian, and the Zonta Award for a non-Zontian. In September 2003, at the District 16 Conference in Wanganui, the inaugural District 16 Zonta Award was presented to Ruth Filler from Auckland for her leadership and dedication to the struggle against racism and religious prejudice. Later she became a Zontian. Dame Margaret Sparrow from the Zonta Club of Wellington received the first Zontian Award for her outstanding work in family planning and numerous other areas ensuring that women are never denied their rights.¹⁴

¹⁴ Jennifer A. Loughton, pp. 296–297

From 2004 to 2006, Governor Maxelyn Tudman from the Zonta Club of Auckland North Shore advocated for greater Zontian bicultural awareness and placed a Maori translation of “Advancing the Status of Women” on the district letterhead. Maxelyn encouraged fundraising to assist tsunami victims in Districts 17 and 25. A district raffle was initiated by Helen Guthrie from the Zonta Club of Auckland, which provided funding to both the Zonta International Literacy Project in Afghanistan and Teen Parent Schools. Maxelyn advocated “active advocacy,” with Zontians encouraged to join and support like-minded organizations such as the National Council of Women, UNIFEM and the New Horizons for Women Trust. District 16 agreed to approach Zonta International with Auckland North Shore’s proposal for celebrating International Women’s Day on 8 March as Zonta Rose Day and as an opportunity for Zontian advocacy. They also agreed to proactively support UNIFEM’s White Ribbon Day on 25 November to publicize violence against women. Governor Maxelyn obtained several 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. District 16 achieved 100 per cent club participation in support of Zonta International projects and awards.

In April 2006, District 16 celebrated Dame Silvia Cartwright’s farewell as Governor-General of New Zealand at Zonta-organized events in all major New Zealand cities.

In May of that year, Past Governor Joan-Mary Longcroft organized the Zonta Club of Auckland’s 40th anniversary dinner just as she had its charter dinner in 1965.

In 2006, Governor Lynette Grave from the Zonta Club of Metropolitan Dunedin began her biennium with the Zonta International Membership Satisfaction Survey showing a high level of satisfaction throughout District 16. The District 16 Charitable Trust was launched at the end of 2006 with Leah Watson from the Zonta Club of Bay of Islands as Chairman. Teen Parent Schools continued as the District 16 project, with Endometriosis New Zealand chosen by clubs as the district project for the next biennium.

Governor 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 a single award, the Zonta Woman of the Biennium Award. Open to both Zontians and women in the community, the award recognized a woman who epitomized the values of Zonta and who had made a significant personal contribution to women through service and advocacy¹⁵. Governor Lynette organized the creation of the District 16 kakahu, a traditionally woven prestige Maori cloak, accepted on behalf of the district at the Area 05 forum. Its weavers named it Tohu Aroha, or Gift of Love, in recognition of the work Zonta does for women nationally and internationally. It continues to be worn by district governors on all important Zonta occasions. Governor Lynette established a new Zonta Club of Oamaru, the first in 11 years.

In July 2006, Dame Silvia Cartwright was keynote speaker at the Zonta International Convention in Melbourne.

At the District 16 Conference in Dunedin in October 2007, fashion designer Annah Stretton was chosen as the Zonta Woman of the Biennium for 2006–2008.

¹⁵ Jennifer A. Loughton, p. 347

From 2008 to 2010, Governor Anne Walker from the Zonta Club of Manawatu focused strongly on advancing the status of women through service and advocacy. District 16 club support for the District 16 project with Endometriosis New Zealand enabled the provision of the “All about Me” teaching module to secondary schools across the country. Funding was also allocated to updating patient information resources and materials, as well as supporting the Patient Partnering Programme¹⁶. This was the first biennium of a four-year commitment to raising awareness of the debilitating effects of endometriosis on young women.

Governor Anne arranged a partnership with Family Planning International to deliver Sistas Savve, a health education, life skills and work training program in the Solomon Islands. The project ended 2012.

In October 2008, a new Z Club was chartered at Carmel College, supported by the Zonta Club of Auckland North Shore. At this time, a new Z Club was also established at Corran School, supported by the Zonta Club of Auckland. However the Corran School lapsed when the school merged with St Kentigern Girls’ School in 2009.

The Cherry Raymond Award was established in memory of this well-loved District 16 Zontian, to recognize the best advocacy and service project undertaken by a club during the judging period. It was presented to the Zonta Club of Auckland North Shore in recognition of their successful community-based White Ribbon Day project which has been adopted in other clubs.¹⁷ All clubs now give annually to support White Ribbon Day on 25 November. 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.

In July 2010, an initial pilot program funded by the New Zealand Government for Sisters Savve in the Solomon Islands commenced. Zontians donated sufficient funding to enable program graduates to receive microcredit loans.

At the Zonta International Convention in San Antonio in 2010, Lynne McKenzie from the Zonta Club of Wellington was elected as Zonta International President-Elect.

Governor Anne McMurtrie from the Zonta Club of Christchurch South commenced her biennium from 2010 to 2012 with a cocktail party in Wellington to honor Lynn McKenzie’s election to the International Board as President-Elect. There was also a combined Zonta Club of Wellington/ UN Women New Zealand function at Parliament hosted by Women’s Affairs Minister Hon. Hekia Parata.

Zontians also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Zonta Club of Hamilton-Waikato where Charter President Dame Silvia Cartwright was guest of honor. The biennium was severely affected by the Christchurch earthquakes, with the 2011 District Conference in Christchurch transferred to Auckland through the exceptional effort, generosity, determination and hard work of Auckland Zontians.

¹⁶ Jennifer A. Loughton, p. 346

¹⁷ Ibid, p.347

The service highlight of the biennium was the huge White Ribbon Bike Ride organized by the new Zonta Club of Mangawhai, which achieved the Cherry Raymond Award for best district advocacy project.

The new District 16 website was launched and Zontians voted for the New Zealand Gynecological Foundation as the next district project.

New Z Clubs were established during the biennium at Auckland's International College (since closed) and at St Hilda's Collegiate School in Dunedin.

In March 2012, Deborah Bush, CEO of Endometriosis New Zealand, became Zonta Woman of the Biennium.

At the International Convention in Torino, Italy in July 2012, Lynn McKenzie was installed as the Zonta International President.

From 2012 to 2014, Governor Maureen Heine from the Zonta Club of South Auckland, undertook comprehensive leadership training at district and club levels. Members contributed NZD\$52,192 to the District's Service Partnership Project with the New Zealand Gynecological Cancer Foundation (NZGCF), including support for a group of women cycling from Bluff, New Zealand's most southerly point, to Cape Reinga at the tip of the North Island, a distance of more than 2,000 km. This was later submitted under the District Project category for the Zonta International Service Recognition Award.

The Sophie Elliott Foundation, named in memory of a young woman killed through domestic violence, was chosen as the District 16 Project for the 2014–2016 biennium, fitting in well with the Zonta International Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign. Encouraged by District Advocacy Chairman Janet Hope, the district and some individual clubs made written submissions to Government Select Committees about issues vital to women¹⁸.

Membership in this biennium was seriously impacted by the ongoing Christchurch earthquakes with a 25 per cent membership decrease in Area 03, although numbers later stabilized. In Area 05, all clubs increased membership. The chartering of the Rutherford College Z Club in April 2013, supported by the Zonta Club of Auckland West, was a biennial highlight, bringing the total number of operational Z Clubs in New Zealand to five.

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.

In July 2012, District 16 donated US\$3,398 to Family Planning International for distribution to six communities in the Solomon Islands that had participated in the Sistas Save training program, to ensure a continuation of their activities.

¹⁸ Select committees oversee government actions and policy and examine bills in detail. They are empowered to hold the Government to account, with ministers presenting evidence and answering questions as necessary.

In June 2013, Marilyn Waring became the second New Zealand International Honorary Zontian with a luncheon held in her honor in Auckland.

From 2014 to 2016 during the biennium of Governor Janette Irvine, Zonta Club of Rotorua, most clubs participated in Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign activities with increased promotion on social media and on the Zonta Says NO website.

As its 2014–2016 district project, District 16 supported the Sophie Elliott Foundation, raising funds for the Loves Me Not project which distributes books to secondary students participating in the Foundation's innovative and nationally-hailed workshops in schools. These were run by the police and teachers for Year 12 students, educating them about the warning signs of violence in relationships.

The District Conference in Rotorua in 2015 celebrated fifty years of Zonta in New Zealand. The Cherry Raymond Award was received by the Zonta Club of Wanganui for ShineGIRL, a personal development and group mentoring program for teenage girls.

In July 2014, a new Z Club was chartered at Macleans College, sponsored by the Zonta Club of East Auckland. In May 2017, Governor Janette also initiated District 16's association with the New Zealand Women's Empowerment Principles Committee, which engages with businesses to promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

At the District Conference in Rotorua in September 2015, the Zonta New Zealand Woman of the Biennium award was presented to Lesley Elliott, founder and chairman of the Sophie Elliott Foundation.

In November 2015, a nationwide walk took place when Zontians wore orange Zonta Says NO T-shirts, with the District 16 campaign organized by Area 01 Director Liz Holsted.

On 8 March 2016, District 16's 50 Women of Achievement list was announced on International Women's Day at the combined breakfast in New Zealand's parliament. The breakfast was a collaborative event between the Zonta Club of Wellington and UN Women and celebrated fifty years of Zonta's work in New Zealand.

In 2016 until 2018, Governor Janet Hope QSM, from the Zonta Club of Hibiscus Coast, upheld the theme "Shaping our future depends on what you do today."

All 28 clubs continued to support Zonta Says NO campaign activities with some imaginative ideas to showcase the Zonta message. Some of these included "knit-bombing", decorating a local landmark with knitting, as well as lighting up the control tower at Christchurch Airport in the color orange.

The Sophie Elliott Foundation continued as the district project, with the program extended across secondary schools throughout New Zealand. The District Conference returned to Christchurch in September 2017, six years after the earthquakes prevented the Conference taking place there in 2011. The program included a dinner at the Transitional Cathedral and a number of younger, inspirational women speakers.

Zontians selected Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Aotearoa as the district project for the 2018–2020 Biennium. Lawyer Mai Chen received the Zonta Woman of the Biennium award.

The Cherry Raymond Award was presented to the Zonta Club of Mana for its Women Behind the Wire project at Arohata Prison. A new district position, Vice Area Director, was established.

With some generous funding from the Lotteries Commission Environment and Heritage Fund, the District 16 history, "Empowering Women: A History of Zonta International in New Zealand 1965–2016," was written by District Historian Jennifer Loughton. It was also launched at the Conference.

District 16 continued its participation on the New Zealand UN Women's Empowerment Committee with Past District Governor Janette Irvine on the Executive Committee and Governor Janet Hope and Advocacy Chairman Christine Cook serving on the general committee.

In association with the Women's Empowerment Committee, District 16 assisted in selecting winners of White Camelia awards for the promotion of gender equality in the workplace. and organizing presentation events in Auckland and Wellington. In February 2017, a five-year sponsorship of the Young Women in Public Affairs Award and Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship was donated by New Zealand financial services company, KEPA Investments, with 2016 and 2017 district awardees going on to success at the International level.

A further highlight of Governor Janet Hope's biennium was the acceptance of Zonta International Honorary Membership by former New Zealand Prime Minister, the Right Honorable Helen Clark, in July 2017.

2016 District Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) awardee Loren Skudder-Hill, sponsored by the Zonta Club of Rotorua, was awarded a Zonta International YWPA Award.

2016 District Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship (JMK) recipient Sarah Michelle Washer, sponsored by the Zonta Club of Hamilton-Waikato, was selected as a Zonta International JMK Scholarship recipient.

2017 District YWPA awardee Emily Fan, sponsored by the Zonta Club of Auckland North Shore, won a Zonta International YWPA Award.

2017 District Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship recipient Kanika Solanki, sponsored by the Zonta Club of Auckland, was selected as an international JMK Scholarship recipient.

On 8 March 2018, Governor Janet Hope presented Zonta International Honorary membership to the Right Honorable Helen Clark at the International Women's Day Breakfast held at the New Zealand Parliament in Wellington.

During the 2016–2018 biennium a new Z Club was established at Rotorua Girls' High School, sponsored by the Zonta Club of Rotorua, and District 16's first Golden Z Club was established at Lincoln University, sponsored by the Zonta Club of Christchurch-South.

A further Z Club was established at Howick College in 2019, sponsored by the Zonta Club of East Auckland, bringing the total number of Z Clubs in District 16 to seven as at January 2020.

District 16 conference locations

- 1991: Wellington
- 1993: Christchurch
- 1995: Dunedin
- 1997: Whangarei (Conference theme: Programmed for Growth)
- 1999: Wellington
- 2001: Christchurch
- 2003: Wanganui (Conference theme: Making a Difference for Women)
- 2005: Takapuna Beach
- 2007: Dunedin
- 2009: Wellington
- 2011: District Conference in Christchurch eventually transferred to Auckland because of the Christchurch earthquakes.(Conference theme: Together We Can Soar)
- 2013: Queenstown
- 2015: Rotorua (Conference theme: Embracing the Challenge, celebrating 50 years of Zonta in New Zealand)
- 2017: Christchurch

Lynn McKenzie, Zonta Club of Wellington, in Zonta International leadership roles:

- International Director 2004–2006
- International Vice President 2008–2010
- International President-Elect 2010–2012
- International President 2012–2014

Zonta International Directors from District 16

- **1990–1992:** Susan Laidlaw, Zonta Club of North Canterbury
- **2003–2005:** Janice Bowman, Zonta Club of Auckland
 - Her term commenced midway through the 2002–2004 Biennium. Jan was in the second-to-last group of International Directors who served a term that straddled more than one Biennium.
- **2004–2006:** Lynn McKenzie, Zonta Club of Wellington

District 16 Zontians serving at the Zonta International level from 1990 – 2018¹⁹

- **1990–1992:** Paula Bayley, Zonta Club of Marlborough
 - Member of Zonta International Z Club Committee and Judge of the Emma L. Conlon Awards
 - Chairman of Timekeepers, Zonta International Convention, Dallas and Hong Kong
- **1994–1996:** Gwendoline Ross, Zonta Club of Rotorua
 - Zonta International Membership Committee

¹⁹ District 16 History in Brief

- **1995–1999:** Joan-Mary Longcroft, Zonta Club of Auckland
 - Zonta International Foundation Board Director
- **1998–2000:** Jeanne Edgar, Zonta Club of Christchurch-Canterbury
 - Zonta International Nominating Committee
- **1998–2000:** Mary Kincaid, Zonta Club of Christchurch South
 - ZISVAW Committee, International Nominating Committee Zone 03
- **1998–2000:** Alison Cook, Zonta Club of Wellington
 - Zonta International Status of Women Committee
- **1998–2000:** Kath Croy, Zonta Club of Ashburton
 - Zonta International Service Committee
- **2000–2002:** Jean Corbin Thomas, Zonta Club of Manawatu
 - Zonta International Literacy Sub-Committee
- **2002–2004:** Jean Corbin Thomas, Zonta Club of Manawatu
 - Zonta International ZISVAW Committee
- **2004–2006:** Jean Corbin Thomas, Zonta Club of Manawatu
 - Zonta International Bylaws and Resolutions Committee
- **2006–2008:** Lynn McKenzie, Zonta Club of Wellington
 - Chairman of Zonta International Status of Women Committee
- **2006–2011:** Maxelyn Tudman, Zonta Club of Auckland North Shore
 - Zonta International Membership Committee
- **2010–2012:** Souella Cumming, Zonta Club of Wellington
 - Zonta International Finance Committee
- **2012–2014:** Maxelyn Tudman, Zonta Club of Auckland North Shore
 - Zonta International Z Club/Golden Z Club Committee
- **2012–2014:** Souella Cumming, Zonta Club of Wellington
 - Chairman of Zonta International Finance Committee
- **2012–2014:** Janine Gould, Zonta Club of Wellington
 - Chairman of Zonta International Jane M Klausman Committee
 - Mistress of Ceremonies 2014 International Convention
- **2012–2014:** Anne McMurtrie, Zonta Club of Christchurch South
 - Zonta International Nominating Committee
- **2012–2014:** Jenny Brash, Zonta Club of Mana
 - Zonta International Advocacy Committee
- **2012–2014:** Therese Marie, Zonta Club of Whakatane
 - Zonta International Public Relations Committee
- **2012–2014:** Annette Boddy, Zonta Club of Wellington
 - Zonta International Convention Timekeeper, Orlando, 2014
- **2014–2016:** Lynn McKenzie, Zonta Club of Wellington

- Chairman of Zonta International Nominating Committee
- **2014–2018:** Maureen Heine, Zonta Club of Auckland
 - Zonta International Leadership Development Committee
- **2014–2016:** Anne Walker, Zonta Club of Manawatu
 - Zonta International Foundation Development Committee
- **2014–2016:** Janine Gould, Zonta Club of Wellington
 - Zonta International Jane M. Klausman Committee
- **2016–2018:** Judith Ray, Zonta Club of Auckland
 - Zonta International Service Committee
- **2016–2018:** Lynne McKenzie, Zonta Club of Wellington, and Lynette Grave, Zonta Club of Metropolitan Dunedin
 - Regional Representatives, Centennial Endowment Fund Committee

Zonta International Honorary Members from District 16

- **2001:** Dame Silvia Cartwright
 - First woman appointed Judge of the High Court of New Zealand; Governor-General of New Zealand; Charter President of the Zonta Club of Hamilton-Waikato Inc.
- **2014:** Dr. Marilyn Waring
 - Activist for female human rights; principal founder of feminist economics; author and academic; entered the New Zealand parliament at age 23 and served from 1978 to 1984; nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.
- **2017:** The Right Honorable Helen Clark
 - Former Prime Minister of New Zealand; former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; Chairman of the United Nations Development Group.

District 16 projects

- 2003–2007: Association of Teen Parent Schools of New Zealand
- 2008–2010 & 2010–2012: Endometriosis New Zealand
- 2012–2014: New Zealand Gynecological Cancer Foundation (NZGCF)
- 2014–2016 & 2016–2018: The Sophie Elliott Foundation
- 2018–2020: Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Aotearoa (PADA)

District 16 Amelia Earhart Fellows

- 1979, 1980 & 1981: Kaye Burnett, ocean science
- 1989: Kaylene Murdoch, astrophysics
- 1990: Karen Pollard, astrophysics
- 1994: Karen Willcox, engineering
- 2012 and 2013: Zerrin Turkeli-Ramadan, mechanical engineering
- 2016: Maedeh Amirpourmoll, mechanical and aerospace engineering

History of formation of District 16 Zonta clubs

| Year Chartered | Club Number | Club Name | Area as of 2018 | Closed |
|----------------|-------------|---|-----------------|--------|
| 1965 | 0549 | Zonta Club of Auckland Inc. | 01 | |
| 1969 | 0629 | Zonta Club of Wellington | 02 | |
| 1970 | 0656 | Zonta Club of Hamilton-Waikato | 04 | |
| 1970 | 0657 | Zonta Club of Christchurch-Canterbury | 03 | |
| 1970 | 0661 | Zonta Club of Dunedin-Otago | 05 | |
| 1973 | 0723 | Zonta Club of Hawkes Bay | 02 | |
| 1973 | 0728 | Zonta Club of Whangarei | 01 | |
| 1973 | 0729 | Zonta Club of Marlborough Area | | 1994 |
| 1973 | 0731 | Zonta Club of Rotorua | 04 | |
| 1975 | 0772 | Zonta Club of Manawatu | 02 | |
| 1976 | 0779 | Zonta Club of Auckland West | 01 | |
| 1976 | 0795 | Zonta Club of Hutt Area | | 2005 |
| 1977 | 801 | Zonta Club of Bay of Plenty Area | | 1985 |
| 1977 | 0807 | Zonta Club of Christchurch North | 03 | |
| 1977 | 0808 | Zonta Club of South Auckland | 01 | |
| 1978 | 0823 | Zonta Club of Nelson Area | | 2008 |
| 1979 | 0885 | Zonta Club of Tokoroa Putaruru | | 1999 |
| 1979 | 0893 | Zonta Club of Mana | 02 | |
| 1979 | 0895 | Zonta Club of Auckland North Shore | 01 | |
| 1979 | 0899 | Zonta Club of Christchurch South Inc. | 03 | |
| 1980 | 0953 | Zonta Club of Wanganui | 02 | |
| 1984 | 1099 | Zonta Club of Auckland II | | 1992 |
| 1987 | 1184 | Zonta Club of East Auckland Area | 01 | |
| 1988 | 1221 | Zonta Club of Tauranga Area | 04 | |
| 1989 | 1243 | Zonta Club of Timaru | 05 | |
| 1989 | 1269 | Zonta Club of Hibiscus Coast Area | 01 | |
| 1991 | 1311 | Zonta Club of Bay of Islands Area ²⁰ | | 2008 |
| 1991 | 1326 | Zonta Club of Waimakariri Area* | 03 | |
| 1992 | 1352 | Zonta Club of Thames Valley Area | 04 | |
| 1992 | 1358 | Zonta Club of Hamilton-Waikato | | 2000 |
| 1992 | 1366 | Zonta Club of New Plymouth** | | 1994 |
| 1992 | 1390 | Zonta Club of Port Nicholson | | 2000 |
| 1993 | 1427 | Zonta Club of Hatea-Whangarei | 01 | |
| 1994 | 1454 | Zonta Club of Ashburton | 05 | |
| 1994 | 1480 | Zonta Club of Christchurch West* | | 2003 |
| 1995 | 1505 | Zonta Club of Marlborough | 03 | |
| 1996 | 1539 | Zonta Club of Christchurch East | | 2000 |
| 1997 | 1578 | Zonta Club of Metropolitan Dunedin | 05 | |
| 2008 | 1838 | Zonta Club of Oamaru | 05 | |

²⁰ *Down Under and Across the Ditch*, 2019, Appendix 1 cites 1992 as the charter year but no date. As club 1326 was chartered in 1991, it can be assumed that 1311 was also established in 1991.

| | | | | |
|------|------|----------------------------|----|--|
| 2010 | 1865 | Zonta Club of Mangawhai | 01 | |
| 2019 | 1988 | Zonta Club of Invercargill | 05 | |
| 2019 | 1991 | Zonta Club of Whakatane | 04 | |

* In August 2002, the Zonta Club of North Canterbury (no. 1326) and the Zonta Club of Christchurch West (no. 1480) amalgamated to form the Zonta Club of Waimakariri Area (no. 1326).

** Sponsored by the Zonta Club of Wanganui, the new Zonta Club of New Plymouth was chartered on 20 March 1992. On 1 May 1992 Governor Cherry Raymond presented the charter at a special dinner. Unfortunately, this club did not thrive and by July 1994 it was in recess with its decision to disband occurring a month or two later.²¹

History of formation of District 16 Z Clubs

As of January 2020, the district had 7 active Z Clubs and one Gold Z Club.

Z Clubs

| Club Name | Charter date | Sponsoring Club | Notes |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Marlborough Girls' College | 3 October 1987 | Marlborough Area | Inactive |
| Z Club of Whangarei | 3 June 1993 | Whangarei | Inactive |
| Mana College | 1993 | Mana | Inactive |
| Avonside Girls' High School | 1 March 1994 | Christchurch-Canterbury | |
| Corran School | 2008-2010 biennium | Auckland | Closed 2009 |
| Carmel College | 15 October 2008 | Auckland North Shore | |
| Auckland International College | 15 August 2011 | Auckland | Inactive |
| St Hilda's Collegiate School | 8 May 2012 | Metropolitan Dunedin | |
| Rutherford College | 17 April 2013 | West Auckland | |
| Macleans College | 26 July 2015 | East Auckland | |
| Rotorua Girls High School | 2018 | Rotorua | |
| Howick College | 14 March 2019 | East Auckland | |

*Clubs marked 'inactive' may have closed but date of closure is unknown.

Golden Z Clubs

| Club Name | Charter date | Sponsoring Club |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Lincoln University | 23 April 2018 | Christchurch-South |

²¹ Jennifer A. Loughton, p.190; District Minutes, 20 July 1994; District Minutes, 9 October 1994.