

# WHAT IS ZONTA EXPECT RESPECT?

*Zonta Expect Respect* is an Advocacy and Education initiative which aims to heighten awareness in children, adults and the community of the need for respect in relationships, especially towards women and girls. It works with schools to develop positive attitudes in young people before poor interpersonal relationship habits can form.

Elements of the project include recognizing bullying and coercion behaviours, learning skills to combat bullying, learning how to be safe and asking for help and supporting friends in need.

## ABOUT ZONTA

Zonta International is a global organisation that aims to empower women through Service and Advocacy.

Zonta's vision is that of a world in which women's rights are recognised as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential.

**Domestic Violence is a major barrier to achieving that vision.**

*Zonta Expect Respect* is designed to help our young people develop positive relationship skills to move closer to a world where no woman lives in fear of violence.



# WHY MOUNT BARKER?

**The Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills** had been working in the Mount Barker community since 2007 by providing and funding the monitoring of duress alarms to assist Police in keeping Women safe.

This was a time when Mount Barker was growing rapidly. There was concern around community dysfunction and increasing incidences of Domestic Violence resulting in Women and Children living in distress.

The club was looking for proactive, primary prevention initiatives to address the poor social attitudes and gender bias which are at the heart of bullying and harassment. Local Police were interested in addressing this in much younger students than had previously been the focus to raise awareness before bad behaviours could develop and at an age where social/ community attitudes were in the early stages of development.

The newly formed **Zonta Club of Mount Barker** joined the project in 2015 extending the project to two school clusters in the region. The **Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills** is proud to have been active in the Mount Barker district for 9 years and is moving focus now to schools in Blackwood in the Adelaide Hills.

**This is our story ...**

South Australia had been shocked by the murder of Zahra Abrahamzadeh on 21 March 2010 at the hands of her estranged husband in front of 300 witnesses.

The media began to shine a light on Domestic Violence in local communities.

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# 2011

## Expect Respect begins

*Expect Respect* was first run by the **Beaudesert Zonta Club**, Queensland. It was originally an art competition for the whole of the school with the theme of respectful relationships. The **Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills** brought the idea to South Australia in 2011 and redesigned it to suit the situation in the Mount Barker Region.

2011 was spent working to build support in the community and approaching schools with the idea. With guidance from the local **Police Crime Prevention** staff and local health and wellbeing agencies, we established the key ingredients to the project.

- *Education based on local needs,*
- *Student activity to embed the learning,*
- *Celebrate and reward student work,*
- *Involve local Community.*

*Relationships Australia,  
South Australian Branch launches  
a website for Culturally and  
Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people  
in need to link with homelessness  
and Domestic Violence services*

*Relationships Australia supports  
Children, Couples and Communities  
with positive relationship  
building skills*

# 2012

## The Pilot Project

We found one teacher in the Mount Barker Primary School willing to give Expect Respect a chance. **James (Jim) Kimber** and his class of Year Four and Five students worked with us on a **Pilot project**.

We had no money but plenty of help from locals. **Senior Constable Jane Pink** from Mount Barker Police and **Vina Hotich** from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) presented a workshop about bullying to the students and then Jim took over in the classroom.



**Class:** Year 4/5

**Students:** 29

**Education by:** Snr Constable Jane Pink, CAMHS counsellor Vina Hotich.

**The event:** 1 week exhibition at the Wallis Theatre foyer and a morning tea for the students on White Ribbon Day, 25 November.

*The Courier Mail published an article in the local paper.*

**Adelaide holds one of the largest White Ribbon Breakfasts in the world and continues to receive well over 1,000 people yearly.**

**White Ribbon Oath:  
"I will stand up, speak out and act to prevent men's violence against women."**

**2014**

**Mount Barker Zonta Club begins negotiations to commence *Expect Respect* with the Eastern Fleurieu R-12 School.**

Expect Respect received two awards:

- 1) 4th place for an Advocacy Project at the Zonta International Convention, Orlando, USA, and displayed to a global group of Zonta members.
- 2) SA Premier's Awards winner, "Community Education"

A handout was created to describe how the project works with primary school students.

We began giving talks to Neighbourhood Watch and other community groups in the Hills area to gain wider community support.

*In Mount Barker:* the display time was extended to 3 weeks.



**Classes:** Year 4, 5

**Students:** 57

**Education by:** Snr Constable Jane Pink, CAMHS counsellor Vina Hotich.

**The event:** 3 week exhibition at Mount Barker Community Library, morning tea, guest speakers: Michael O'Connell (Commissioner for Victims of Crime), David Hutton (Sammy D Foundation) Derrick Mc Manus (White Ribbon Ambassador)

**Rosie Batty is named  
Australian of the Year.**

**The Zahra Foundation Australia  
launched on the 5 September 2015,  
at the Adelaide Convention  
Centre as a way of reclaiming  
the space for Zahra  
and her family.**

# 2015

## 3 Schools now

**Mount Barker South & the Eastern Fleurieu Schools of  
Strathalbyn joined Mount Barker Primary School to do the  
project. Three calendars were produced, one per school.**

Events were reported in 2 local newspapers both before and after  
the event. We have had great support from the local media.

*Expect Respect* was presented at the Zonta District 23 Conference,  
connecting with Zontians from WA, Vic, Tasmania, NT and SA.



**Classes:** Year 4, 5, 6

**Students:** 193

**Education by:** Snr Constable Jane Pink, CAMHS counsellor Vina Hotich.

**The events:** **Mount Barker:** Exhibition and event, Mount Barker Community Library, with community leaders  
**Strathalbyn:** Student artwork was celebrated at a community event on White Ribbon Day -  
25th November.

*After a family tragedy,  
Port Lincoln mother,  
Melissa Little raised funds and  
wrote a book called  
'Yesterday You Were Here'  
to help children cope with grief.  
It was published in 2018*

# 2016

*In Mount Barker:* The Mount Barker Anglican Mothers Union began to support the project financially.

*In the Fleurieu:* Art Coordinator of the *Eastern Fleurieu School* **Paul Steele** took on the management of the project's graphics, resulting in excellent Posters and Calendars.

The White Ribbon Day Assembly at the School included both Year 6 and Year 9 students, a Community Shout "Say No" to Domestic Violence and a Silent Time to acknowledge the Women and Children who have lost their lives to Domestic Violence.



**Classes:** Year 4, 5, 6

**Students:** 196

**Education by:** Snr Constable Jane Pink, CAMHS counsellor Vina Hotich.

**The events:** **Strathalbyn:** School Assembly with community guests, School Principal,  
**Mount Barker:** Community Library Exhibition and Calendar Launch. with community guests.  
White Ribbon Ambassadors and community Leaders attend both events.

*All intervention orders became nationally recognised and enforceable.*

*This means, wherever an order is issued, it will apply in all states and territories so that victims are protected anywhere in Australia.*

# 2017

**Both public schools in Mount Barker and the Eastern Fleurieu School continued to do Expect Respect with Years 4, 5 and 6 students.**

The project continues to benefit from continued support by our Zonta Club members, SAPOL officers, CAMHS staff, White Ribbon Ambassadors regular sponsors and inspiring guest speakers.



**Classes:** Year 4, 5, 6

**Students:** 172

**Education by:** Constable Libby Bruce, CAMHS counsellor Vina Hotich

**The events:** **Strathalbyn:** School Assembly with community guests.

**Mount Barker:** Community Library Exhibition and Calendar Launch  
White Ribbon Ambassadors and community Leaders attend both events

**#MeToo**  
goes Global, following  
sexual-abuse allegations  
against Harvey Weinstein.

**“Me Too” was used since 2007**  
on Myspace, by sexual assault  
survivor and activist Tarana  
Burke to unite and empower  
victims of sexual abuse.

# 2018

*In Mount Barker:* Mount Barker Primary School completed their 7th year of *Expect Respect*.

*In the Fleurieu:* the White Ribbon Day was attended by the Year 9 students who had been the first Year 6's to be part of Zonta's first *Expect Respect* program in the school.

It had been the Eastern Fleurieu School's aim from 2015 that the students would have the opportunity to be reminded of the issues and concepts of Domestic Violence as part of their Year 9 Personal Development Program. **This was achieved in 2018.**



**Classes:** Year 4, 5, 6

**Students:** 190 approximately

**Education by:** Constable Libby Bruce, CAMHS counsellor Annegret Lackman.

**The events:** **Strathalbyn:** White Ribbon Day School Assembly with all Year 6 and 9 students.  
**Mount Barker:** Community Library Exhibition and Calendar Launch. Children shout a resilience message.  
White Ribbon Ambassadors and community Leaders attend both events

**No More campaign began. After the 4th Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. It included this recommendation: Implementation 3 – ...targeted primary prevention activities designed by, and tailored for, the communities they are intended to support.**

# 2019

## Renamed - Zonta Expect Respect

**With other projects also named Expect Respect, we added Zonta to the name to become, the ZONTA EXPECT RESPECT PROJECT.**

*In Mount Barker:* St Francis De Sales College joined the project and Mount Barker South Primary school continued.

A digital display of the calendars was shown at the Mount Barker Library and a website design began to share how to run the Project.

*In the Fleurieu:* Year 9 students and student leaders ran the assembly and provide the morning refreshments to guests after the ceremony. Zonta Orange Lady cut-outs were displayed at the assembly.



**Classes:** Year 4, 5, 6

**Students:** 210

**Education by:** Snr Constable Jane Pink, CAMHS counsellor Vina Hotich.

**The events:** **Strathalbyn:** School White Ribbon Assembly with community guest and school leaders  
**Mount Barker:** Community Library Calendar Launch, morning tea and 'Fight the Fright' oath.  
Guest speaker: Ali Clarke (ABC breakfast announcer),

**The United Nations  
16 Days of Activism to  
reduce violence against women  
starts on November 25th.**

**Orange is the colour of the  
campaign and Orange Lady  
cutouts are often used to  
promote the cause.**

*Zonta International is a  
consultative member of  
UN Women.*

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**2020**

## COVID-19 Impacts

*In Mount Barker:* The project was cancelled because SAPOL was unable to commit personnel for the education workshop and we were unable to meet for the community event in a way that complied with social distancing rules.

*In the Fleurieu:* The *Zonta Expect Respect* project continued although Zonta, the Police and CAMHS physical presence was not possible due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The Year 6 students at Eastern Fleurieu School produced truly relevant artwork which was used in a calendar. The calendar was made available to members of the public.



**Class:** Year 6

**Students:** 100

**Education by:** Specialist Teachers at Eastern Fleurieu School

**March 2021 -  
Women's March 4 Justice:  
Thousands march at rallies  
around Australia protesting  
against gendered violence.**

**Our Watch emphasises “..all  
schools need respectful  
relationship education”**

September 16, 2021,  
Our Watch media

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**2021**

## A New Community begins the Project

**Launch of the *Zonta Expect Respect* website.  
[www.zontaexpectrespect.com](http://www.zontaexpectrespect.com)**

**COVID - 19 again restricted the involvement of community groups to deliver the Respect Workshops, however schools have been able to continue with education in-house.**

*In Mount Barker:* St Francis De Sales College Year 5 students continued with this valuable learning and we have been able to run a public Art Competition so that the local community can experience the work students continue to do on respect in relationships.

*In the Fleurieu:* Trained staff continue working with the Year 6 students to present the program. During Term 4 they will be holding the workshops and will work on Posters for the Calendar. The Zonta Club of Mt Barker will be providing financial support.

This year the **Zonta Club of Riverland** in collaboration with **Life Without Barriers** and **Headspace** will run *Zonta Expect Respect* at Glossop and Renmark High Schools. Their aim is to expand the program to all Riverland schools.

**Classes:** Year 5, 6, +High School Students of Glossop and Renmark

**Students:** 100 +

**Education by:** Specialist Teachers at East Fleurieu School, Riverland SAPOL,  
Jac Campbell art therapist, Headspace (resilience and wellbeing/mental health information)

*Across Australia  
community groups unite  
to voice anger and frustration  
at the lack of action on  
Domestic Violence.*

*Federal and State  
Governments begin royal  
commissions.*

## **2022- 2023**

### **Reality of the post COVID world**

**The reverberating impact on resources after the COVID years hit Australia hard. Finances were stretched, and teachers, police and volunteers were exhausted.**

The Fleurieu schools continued with their in-house programme, but the new Riverland regional project collapsed and the schools at Mt Barker withdrew from the project sighting lack of teacher time to engage with the programme.

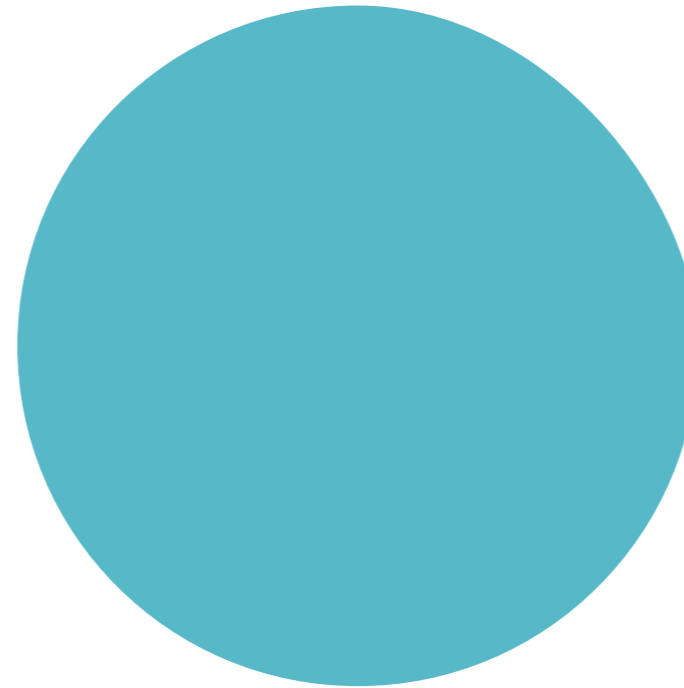
The Adelaide Hills Zonta Club. Began to engage with schools closer to their natural geographic area of the Adelaide foothills. This presented an opportunity to update some of the project activities and gather new research.

*In the Fleurieu:* Trained staff continue working with the Year 6 students to present the program.

*In the Adelaide Hills:* The club worked with schools in Blackwood to add elements to support teachers, include a scholarship, and realign it to a younger cohort of students in grade three (age 8 - 10). Research was showing that awareness of relationships between peers is emerging at this age and teachers recommended this approach to raise awareness at this emergence stage.

*Expect Respect* was run at one school (Bellevue Heights Primary School) in one classroom in 2023.

The website is currently being reworked to fit the new direction.



# THANK YOU

The history of the Expect Respect Project shows that it is not an easy or straight forward path, education is difficult to evaluate and quite individual. However, The Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills continues to promote the idea of education of the very young as a primary action in the fight to eradicate disrespect and violence against women to other Zonta groups.

We believe the wider community will engage with the idea with our persistence and perseverance.

*We thank long term supporters of the Zonta Expect Respect Project:*

Mount Barker Police

Derrick McManus, White Ribbon Ambassador

Mt Barker Anglican Mothers Union,

Tif.Image Design

Courier Mail, Mount Barker

Inaugural Teacher of the project, James (Jim) Kimber.

School Principals, School Counsellors, Teaching Staff and Support Staff at all of the participating schools